



Father Don Murray explains the controls of a plane to one of the boys finding new interests at his unique "Sky Ranch."

Liquor Sends JDs' Hopes Sky High

Rapid City, S.D. — (CP) — There is a place near here where juvenile delinquents from throughout the country regularly get high on Scherley, Seagram, Old Grand-Dad, Hiram Walker and the rest—and a Catholic priest doesn't mind joining them.

Their high-flying escapes take place in two single-engine Cessna planes that take off and land at Sky Ranch for Boys, a unique youth-rehabilitation center directed by the Rev. Don Murray and supported by the American liquor industry, which picks up most of the tab.

Since 1960, liquor distillers, wholesalers, retailers and tavern operators have poured almost \$700,000 into building Sky Ranch and re-building trouble-prone boys, many of them serious offenders who had been written off by the courts as incorrigible.

Sky Ranch, 100 miles north of Rapid City, was founded by Father Murray, who at first saw planes as merely a good way to cover sprawling mission territory. But the priest, who long ago dedicated his life to helping delinquent youths, soon reasoned that "plane therapy" just might work. And it has. Of more than 300 boys who have been referred to Sky Ranch, 90 per cent have been rehabilitated — a success percentage that amazes sociologists, judges and others who work with problem youths.

It doesn't surprise Father Murray, who is himself the

product of a broken home. He believes many boys turn to crime as a way of striking back for being unwanted and unloved.

"But nothing they can imagine can compare with flying a plane, with zooming to, say, ten thousand feet and throwing the plane into a dive. That's real daring, real adventure, and the boys know it," says the 49-year-old priest. "It's not only a challenge to their courage, but it gives them a feeling of confidence and accomplishment."

Therapeutic Effects

Sky Ranch also gives the boys a chance to go galloping over the plains on horseback (which Father Murray thinks is another deep-seated ambition most boys have) and the wide-open country itself also has some therapeutic effect.

"Most of my boys are from the cities," says Father Murray. "From tenement sections where grass and open spaces are just a dream, where playgrounds are usually back alleys and concrete sidewalks. So you can imagine what the wide open spaces mean to the boys."

But although he got Sky Ranch slightly off the ground in the mid-fifties, it was in 1960 that the liquor industry set him up. A Sioux Falls liquor distributor was among the first to hear of Father Murray's Sky Ranch and rallied other South Dakota liquor-industry people. One result was an invitation to speak to a national convention

of the Licensed Beverage Industries, which was being held in Las Vegas.

Father Murray told the industry leaders that thrill-seeking via crime is a big nothing once a boy knows the excitement of piloting a plane through the skies; that herding cattle, riding horses, tending animals and raising crops contributes to a boy's feeling of manliness, self-confidence and belonging; even that guns and knives have a place in a boy's life—if he is hunting for game, which Sky Ranch boys are allowed to do.

Raising Funds

Among the most impressed was B. C. Ohlandt, executive vice president of the National Distillers and Chemical Corporation, whose enthusiasm for Father Murray's venture led to the creation of the Sky Ranch Foundation, which has been raising funds within the liquor industry ever since.

By 1962, the foundation raised enough money to purchase 3,000 acres of land and start a building program. Today, there is a combination dormitory-administration-and-recreational building (Ohlandt Hall), a chapel, a plane hangar, an animal barn, a vocational-trades workshop and a grade school, since most of the boys coming to Sky Ranch are as young as seven years old.

The National Women's Association of Allied Beverages, Inc., has donated a bus—which transports older youths to a nearby high school—and built a guest-house for overnight visitors and a residence for Father Murray and his assistants.

Aiding with the administrative and supervisory responsibilities at Sky Ranch are several members of the Poor Brothers of Saint Francis, an order that specializes in working with problem youth. But Sky Ranch is non-sectarian, is open to youths of all creeds and races and is staffed largely by lay people: cooks, teachers, farmers, ranchers.

In fact, in addition to the support Sky Ranch receives from the liquor industry, Father Murray required an extra \$1,200 per youth per year (there are from 25 to 50 boys at Sky Ranch at any one time), which he tries to raise monthly by mail appeals.

Always, his appeal is the same: if you help a mixed-up boy to reach for the sky, he'll come back down to earth—but never as far down as the gutter. (Catholic Press Features)

Sermon by Baptist At Catholic Mass

Beaver Dam, Ky.—(RNS)—A Southern Baptist minister gave a 20-minute sermon on Baptist beliefs in Holy Redeemer Catholic Church here just prior to the celebration of a Sunday Mass before a packed congregation.

Preacher was the Rev. Wesley O. Hanson of Hartford (Ky.) Baptist Church, who spoke on what Baptists believe about the Church, God, salvation and the "security of the believer."

Mr. Hanson occupied the pulpit at the invitation of Father Joseph O'Donnell of Holy Redeemer Church, a close friend. The invitation had the approval of Bishop Henry J. Somer of Owensboro and lay leaders of the parish.

War Study Meeting Southern Tier Citizens Group concerned about Vietnam, a group studying methods of showing opposition to the war, will hold their monthly meeting March 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the Chamung Valley Savings and Loan Association Community Room.

Deaths

Sr. Agnes Teresa

Funeral services for Sister Agnes Teresa O'Brien of the Sisters of St. Joseph were held March 11 at the Motherhouse in Pittsford, Mass. was offered by Father Albert Ryan of Peterboro, Ont., a cousin.

Born in Canada, Sister Agnes Teresa entered the order in 1915 and taught instrumental music for 50 years. She received her music degree from St. Elizabeth's College, and B.A. from St. Bonaventure University.

Surviving are two sisters, both of Toronto, Sister Agnes Joseph, S.S.J. and Miss Nettie O'Brien, and a brother, Dan O'Brien of Peterboro.

Esther Butler

A funeral was conducted March 11 for Esther Butler of 198 Chilli Ave., who ran the St. Mary's Hospital laundry for many years.

Monsignor John M. Duffy celebrated the requiem at St. Augustine's Church.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Frances Eaton, with whom Mrs. Butler lived, and a niece and three nephews.

John McVeigh

A Requiem Mass was offered March 13, at St. John the Evangelist Church, for John J. McVeigh, 20, of 160 Marion St. His uncle, Father Thomas McVeigh, was the celebrant.

John was a 1967 graduate of Edison Technical High School and was employed by Howe and Bassett Plumbing Co.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS MONDAY NOON FRIDAY DELIVERY

International Dinner At Mercy Hospital

An international dinner, prepared and served by a committee of students of the freshman sociology class of St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, was held recently for class members, instructors and guests in the hospital cafeteria.

Following a study of major food customs of the different nationalities of their class members, students obtained recipes from magazines and cookbooks, preparing the meal under the direction of Sister Mary Patrick, dietitian.

How To Hold FALSE TEETH More Firmly In Place

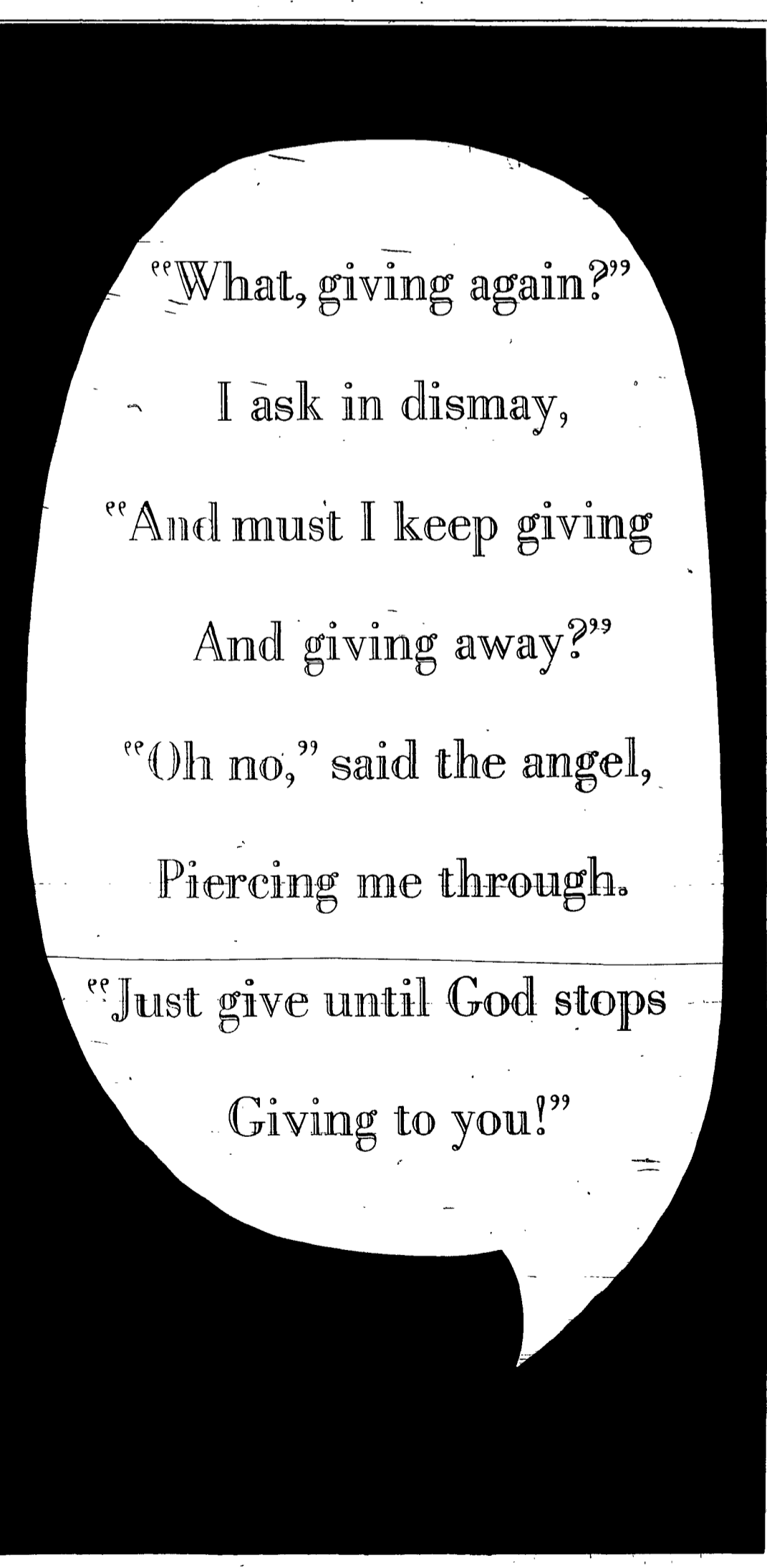
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Mercy, McQuaid Present 'Oliver'

Eighty McQuaid and Mercy High School students will present Lionel Bart's award-winning Broadway musical "Oliver" on March 28, 29 and 30 in Mercy's auditorium.

Kevin Cawley plays the innocent Oliver, lured into a life of crime by the unconvincingly villainous Fagin (Thomas Hodges). Nancy, a lady of

doubtful virtue but incandescent heart, is portrayed by Caroline Yeager. Mark Smith plays the Artful Dodger, Richard Wheelan is Mr. Bumble, and Lance Dever is Bill Sikes. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets are available through students of McQuaid and Mercy, at the McQuaid switchboard, or at the door.

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THE PROSTRATION: Bishop McCafferty lie on a mat after while the con of the Saints for th

THE PRINCIPALS: F and crowd at the cath Sheen, Archbishop R Casey

THE IMPOSITION OF I kneeling before the ca hands of Archbishop Ra of the consecration. Bish ney standing beside the consecrators also place Bishop's head and said-

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