

SARAH CHILD All In The Family



"Write about when you were a little girl, my 8-year-old suggested as she saw me sitting motionless and slightly glum over the typewriter, waiting impatiently for an idea.

Our children like their father's and my stories about our childhood days.

Just two weeks ago on a long trip to their grandparents I had entertained them for nearly 45 minutes with stories about their aunt.

Now in her early 30s and the mother of five children, there is no trace of the helter-skelter little girl in my younger sister. Her nieces and nephew see her as a warm and attractive model of composure who couldn't possibly have gone down a flight of 10 wooden steps on a sled.

But she did and there's a tiny dent still in her Roman nose to prove it.

At age 2 she climbed up to a table and fell with a glass, one piece sticking in her temple.

At 2½ she climbed up to the cupboard and ate 20 codliver oil pills.

At age 3, while playing in the snow, she sat on a piece of glass embedded in some ice and the trip to the emergency room 15

miles away in the next town left her with several stitches.

At 4, she became too friendly with a neighbor's collie. On that occasion my mother stayed with the rest of us while my father made the trip with her to repair the chewed up places.

At 5, while visiting my grandmother, she went into the woodshed where Gram had hot peppers hanging in rows to dry. First she touched them and then she rubbed her eyes and the anguished frenzy of a little girl went on for hours.

In between she used up more bandages on scraped knees and bruised elbows than the rest of us put together.

She was the one who would climb to the highest branches for the best apples, venture the farthest to find new friends and fight most fiercely against parental restrictions.

She was first to try anything, the last to stop.

I'm sure her children see her as staid and unadventurous as most offspring see their parents.

But to me she'll always be the little curly-headed, black-haired whirlwind with whom I whispered secrets at night in the double bed and whom I admired tremendously.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

In recent years, there has been much interest in lay and professional writings about "identity crisis." Teenagers, being intelligent, suggestible and faddish, have vocalized their concerns about "finding themselves." They seek the answer to the question, "Who am I?" This is part of the development of a feeling of self.

We start life without a concept of "self". The early years are a vague time of life with rapid changes in body size, in learning and in the feeling of being an individual. The period around two years of age is sometimes characterized as the first major identity crisis. The infant, approaching his second birthday begins to show his individuality by exploring, trying the knobs on the television set, tasting cigarette butts, taking the jackets off books, etc. He learns from these excursions. He is inclined to resist those who try to control his actions — and may try to control the would-be controllers.

He is developing a feeling of independence, of being an individual and is beginning to establish a concept of self we call "identity." Thus the term, "identity crisis." If the transition fails, personality maturation will be retarded. Sometimes the two year old's drive for independence results in a vigorous struggle with his parents reminiscent of the early teen years. It is no wonder that the age between two and four years has been called the "age of resistance," "the age of defiance," "the age of rebellion" and even "the age of negativism." The child's reaction to restraints may be vigorous, as many mothers can attest. Determination may become stubbornness. Temper tantrums are not uncommon.

Out of this struggle evolves the manner with which a child will deal with those feelings which get him into difficulty with those most important in his care. Personality characteristics take shape, some desirable, some undesirable.

The overindulged, undisciplined child may become confident, secure and very much the individual. However, his lack of behavior control may become a problem in his relationships with playmates and the adults in his life, especially at school and at home. The "Terrible Two's" image may persist because of poor control of feelings and behavior. His individualism may have strengths, but his image of himself may be grandiose, interfering with his ability to get along with others.

Overcontrolling in some children may result in oversubmission to authority resulting in passivity and conformity of an excessive degree. Children so raised may perceive themselves as weak, inadequate, helpless and lacking in confidence. They are prone to anxiety and overdependence on the approval of others. Theirs is a poor self image, lacking in confidence and self worth.

Others will develop the passive resistance pattern of behavior. Consciously, they give lip service to obedience, but unconsciously, resist it. This compromise attempts to preserve the feeling of self while giving the appearance of conformity. It is a great compromise which attempts to satisfy the need to feel independent and in control while simultaneously attempting to comply with the demands of those important to them as well as their feelings of guilt. If the resulting passive resistant behavior becomes entrenched, it may result in self-defeating tendencies such as resistance to learning and adapting to the rules of family and society.

The better solution is to be able to develop a feeling of competent self with realistic controls of feelings and behavior and without the need for overcompliance or resistance.

Questions on children's mental health should be mailed to: Mental Health Commentary, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, 14604.

Courier-Journal

Deaths

Fr. Eustace, Franciscan

Auburn — Father Eustace Bartoszewicz, OFM Conv., who had lived at St. Hyacinth's in retirement since 1962, died Feb. 14, 1973, in Mercy Hospital, after a brief illness. He had been a Franciscan for more than 71 years.

Mass of the Resurrection was concelebrated Feb. 16 at St. Hyacinth's by Father Edmund Szymkiewicz, minister provincial of the friars' St. Anthony of Padua province; Father Felix Bracikowski, pastor, and Father James Cholewka of Arlington, N.J., formerly of St. Hyacinth's. Priests of several area parishes were present. Burial was in Buffalo.

Father Bartoszewicz, a native of Poland, studied in Rome, where he received a doctorate in Sacred Theology. He took his first vows as a friar in 1901 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1907.

Sr. Aloysius

Sister Mary Aloysius Kleitz, a teacher for 57 years, died Feb. 18, 1973, at Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road. She was in her 64th year as a Sister of Mercy.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated last Wednesday in the motherhouse chapel.

From 1906 to 1964, Sister Aloysius taught primary grades and kindergarten in schools across the diocese.

From 1922-1935 she taught at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and from 1935-1945 at Holy Cross. Earlier she was at St. Ann's, Hornell; St. John's, Clyde; Holy Family, Auburn; and St. Mary's, Rochester. Her last teaching position was at St. Salome's, where she taught kindergarten from 1945-1964.

Sister Aloysius retired in 1964 and lived at the Mercy Motherhouse Infirmary. She is survived by a niece in Binghamton.

Father Cherry, Former Aquinas, Vice Principal

Father John T. Cherry, CSB, who served Aquinas Institute for 14 years as teacher, dean of students, treasurer and vice principal, died Feb. 21, 1973, in Gary, Ind., after a heart attack. He was 53 years old.

Father Cherry had been principal of Andean High School in Gary since September, 1971. He left here in 1970 to become vice principal of the school.

A native of Houston, Tex., Father Cherry attended St. Thomas High School there then went to Assumption University in Windsor, Ont., and St. Basil's Seminary in Toronto.

He was ordained in Houston in 1947 and assigned to teach at St. Thomas. He came to Aquinas as a biology teacher in 1956, moving into administration a year later.

"He was my right arm all the time he was here," said Father Leon G. Hart, former principal and vice principal of Aquinas.

Survivors are two sisters, both Dominican nuns, Sisters Victoria and Thomas, who teach in Houston.

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