



ON THE LINE
Bob Considine

One sometimes hears a beef from readers to the effect that the death in Brooklyn of an aunt of an assistant night city editor gets a bigger play on that paper's obituary page than the passing of a former Balkans queen. And when a reporter croaks, holy cow! — his paper plays it up like the sinking of the Lusitania.

True. But in defense of this attachment to our own, we offer our customary plea: you-meet-so-many - interesting - people - in-the - newspaper - business - and-most - of - them - are - newspaper-people.

Thus, please bear with what follows. It's about Lee Ferrero, who died in Chicago recently. The obits were much too skimpy, in his case. Lee was the Rocky Craziano of journalism. Looked like Rocky, actually. He'd literally fight for a story, tooth and nail. He was one of those reporters who never felt he was entitled to a day off. His working hours, particularly when he was with International News Service, were 24 a day. A day off made him fearful he'd be picked up as a vagrant.

In the early days of the Korean War there was a period when Ferrero's schedule went as follows: In the morning he covered the Eighth Army briefing at Taegu, filed his story, raced to the airfield where he had talked himself into the use of a light liaison plane, and flew to Corps Headquarters on the Western Front. From there, after picking up the news, the plane flew Lee across the peninsula to Eastern Front Headquarters, where he mopped up more news, then flew back to Taegu in time for the early evening Eighth Army briefing.

INS received several messages from client papers congratulating us for fine, in-depth reporting from our extensive "staff" in Korea.

Lest We Forget

Castelgandolfo [RNS] — Pope Paul VI, calling on the faithful to make "better use" of their Summer vacations, urged them not to forget the world's wretched and poor.

Speaking to pilgrims and tourists in the courtyard of his Summer residence here, the Pope said that Christians while, rightly, relaxing and refreshing themselves during their vacation period, ought to take time out to consider the needs of poor people.

"Let us look at the daily newspapers and learn about countries where people are dying of thirst and hunger and total misery, about countries where conflict and guerrilla warfare are still breaking out, about countries of the Third World..." he said, "and let us reflect in the depths of our hearts on the useless and provocative dissipation of our superfluous wealth, which — without too much sacrifice — could be used to alleviate the misery of others."

HOLY HOUR

The Padre Pio Holy Hour held each month at St. Philip Neri Church is scheduled for 8 this evening.

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I covered a lot of A-bomb tests with Lee at Yucca Flat, Nev., when the Atomic Energy Commission used to pop those things off in God's atmosphere, after which all hands would fall back 70 miles to Las Vegas' thirst-quenching, health-restoring Strip. Lee was in a trench with a company of GIs less than two miles from ground zero the morning the AEC first permitted, or committed, human beings that close to a detonation. Six miles further back, I wrote a lead that started, "Like a fiery belch from Hell, an A-bomb flamed over the heads of U.S. troops here today..." When Lee returned to the press center, dirty and thirsty, I showed him the lead and asked him if it was over-stated. Lee said, "Sure it is, but give me a little time and I'll find some slob soldier who'll agree with you." He did, too, some poor kid with eyeglasses.

Lee liked Screwdrivers, the most deceptive drink known to man. They made him happy, as opposed to martinis, which make people surly and combative. I went to a party with Lee once in Hollywood, at the home of some off-beat contractor who was engaged that week to Zsa Zsa Gabor. His cuckoo castle has an indoor swimming pool.

Lee, full of lightning, saw a newspaper gossip queen gassing in all her vanity as she stood with her back to him at the edge of the pool. He gave her a push that catapulted her halfway across the pool, then dived in — in his new suit — and rescued her.

She gave him a kiss. Which is what I'm trying to do now.

Convent to Become Hostel for Retarded

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — Holy Family Convent, vacated July 25 by the Sisters of Mercy who had staffed Holy Family School for 100 years, has been leased by the Cayuga County Chapter of the Association For Retarded Children (ARC).

The convent will offer supervised community living for mentally retarded adults 18-years-old and older, and will serve as an alternative to institutionalization.

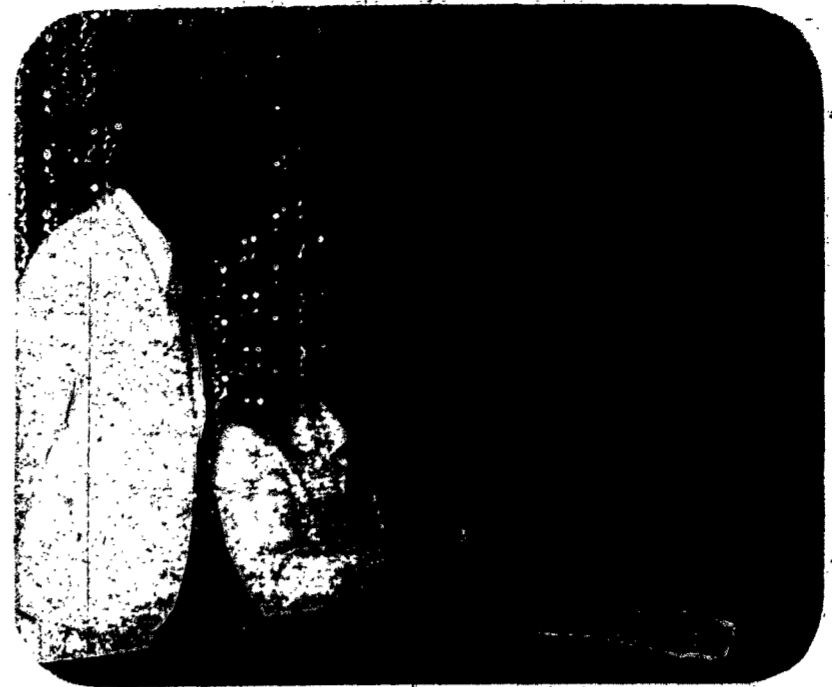
According to Anthony Terranova, director of the ARC center, the emphasis will be on preparing adults for independent living, although no limits will be put on the time they spend at the hostel. Housekeeping, social and self-help skills will be stressed in an effort to encourage the highest degree of normalcy.

A houseparent couple in full time residence will provide supervision. A counselor and part time cook will make up the staff with a recreational leader to be hired later.

The lease of the 17-room convent was signed August 1. The building will be ready about Sept. 15 for 14 occupants. Three bedrooms will be reserved for emergency use. Participants will be phased in gradually after intensive screening.

Terranova indicated advantages of the convent were its nearness to the ARC center school and sheltered workshop, and its convenience to recreation facilities, shopping, and public transportation.

Msgr. Joseph J. Sullivan, pastor of Holy Family, said he was



George Shamon, Anthony Terranova, Msgr. Joseph Sullivan and Paul Magill were present at the signing of lease.

pleased that the convent could be of use to the community.

Present at the signing of the lease and turning over of the keys to the convent were George Shamon, attorney for the Cayuga County Chapter, Association of Retarded Children; Terranova, Msgr. Sullivan, and Paul Magill, attorney for Holy Family.

Holy Family School's merger with Sacred Heart and St. Alphonsus to form Blessed Trinity School resulted in the convent being vacated.

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