



Makarios at UN

Archbishop Makarios [left], ousted President of Cyprus, is welcomed by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as he arrives at the U.N. to ask the world body to condemn the coup in Cyprus and demand that Greek officers be withdrawn from the island nation. In the center is the Ambassador representing the Makarios government at the U.N., Zenon Rossides. [RNS]

THE SLOT MAN

On vacation I had occasion to attend a Mass for some inner city boys at a Summer camp in another diocese. When the celebrant reached the Prayers of the Faithful he asked those in attendance to offer aloud any of their own intentions.

One boy said, "I'd like to pray that no one here will get homesick."

There we were in the middle of one of the most spectacular forest woodlands in the country on a bright and promising Sunday morning and the concern of a youngster was that no one would miss the inner city too much. Home is indeed where the heart is.

There is a lesson in this for those lacking expertise who come up with ideas for bettering the lot of ghetto dwellers. Loads of sensitivity to their needs and wants is required and, of course, such feeling is truest among inner city people themselves. That is why they must have the responsibility for improving their communities.

I don't mean to imply any criticism of so-called "do-gooderism." God knows that we must all be concerned about the plight of our brothers and sisters, who in many cases are ignored by society at large. Nor do I mean to suggest that suburban areas are not responsible for providing housing for people in low-income brackets.

Simply, those directly involved must be recognized as the foremost experts. If families want to get a piece of the greenery they must not be deterred by prejudice; if families want to move into new housing they must be given the opportunity; if those involved want to stick to their neighborhoods but want to improve them, they must be given the assistance. But they must first be masters of their own destiny.

I am reminded of the old but poignant one-liner: "When we were kids we were so poor that they tore down our house to build a slum."

The significant word in that sad but true wisecrack is "they." Someone else making the decisions. And oftentimes being either wrong or insensitive.

So until education and job opportunities are truly equal for the haves and have-nots, it would pay for all of us to ponder that inner city boy's prayer that the delights of a Summer idyll would be sufficient to ease the longing for his home, albeit in the inner city.

I had the privilege of working with Arch Merrill at the Democrat and Chronicle, although we were in different editorial departments. Though he undoubtedly is best known for his historical books, he was not strictly thought of as an author at the newspaper. Rather his forte was his attention to principle and accuracy and his handling of the troops.

Never did I think of him as an author who was a newsmen as a sideline. Rather the opposite, he was a newsmen who also happened to write books.

He was a top-flight night city editor who ran his staff with efficiency and little nonsense. But with something else.

For instance, my wife used to be a reporter on the D and C. The first thought that flew into her head upon learning of Merrill's death last week was: "He kissed me on my 25th birthday."

It's a good way to remember Arch Merrill.

Lourdes Shaken, But Not Hit In Bombings

Lourdes, France [RNS] — Though not the target, the famed Roman Catholic pilgrimage center of Lourdes was shaken by a series of bomb explosions on July 16.

A group claiming to be Spanish anarchists destroyed 13 buses, an undisclosed number of cars, and threatened Spanish riders in the Tour de France bicycle race.

Police said they had found pamphlets signed by the Groupement d'Action Revolutionnaire Internationaliste near the sites of the blasts. There were no reports of injuries. The wave of bomb blasts began in the early hours not far from the enclosure of the Lourdes shrine, which attracts hundreds of thousands of pilgrims each year to this city close to the Spanish border.

HOME SCHOOL

Auburn — The Blessed Trinity Home and School Executive Board has elected officers for one-year terms.

Officers are Dr. and Mrs. Michael Iacovino, president; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boedicker, treasurer; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Newhook, secretary. Other members of the board for the coming year are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Steigerwald, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wenzel, Mr. and Mrs. John Farrelly, and Mr. and Mrs. John Malandrucolo.

CARDINAL HONORED

Ottawa, Ont. [RNS] — Cardinal C. B. Flahiff, 69, archbishop of Winnipeg, Man., was among five persons named Companions of the Order of Canada by Governor-General Jules Leger, the Queen's representative in Canada. Companion is the highest degree of the order, to which a total of 64 persons were named.

2 Priests' Grandmother Dies Shortly after Joining Church

East Detroit, Mich. [RNS] — A 90-year-old grandmother of two priests died here two months after receiving her First Communion.

Father Smith is associate pastor of St. Mary's, Algoma. Both parishes are in the Diocese of Green Bay, Wis.

Mrs. Jessie Edwards decided to join the Catholic Church when her second grandson, Father Gregory Smith, was ordained to the priesthood.

Her other grandson-priest, Father Robert F. Gulig, traveled to Michigan from Wisconsin to baptize his grandmother and give her First Communion.

"Grandma had always gone to church with us," Father Gulig said, "but she never had actually become a Catholic."

Father Gulig is pastor of St. Bernadette's Church, Appleton.

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

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