

Missionary Sister Home

From Crocodiles to Locked Doors

By MOLLY JUDGE

The Solomon Islands. Where crocodiles prowl the rivers while their cousins, the ferocious sea crocks, and sharks patrol the shore. Bugs as big as saucers aggravate the inhabitants and each day is a life and death struggle.

This deadly, primitive, yet beautiful, land is home to Sister Mary Isaac Jogues, SMSM, a former Rochesterian.

"I always had a yearning to go to the foreign missions — even as a little child," Sister said. After her graduation from Mercy High, Sister enrolled in Our Lady of Mercy College in Portland, Maine, a missionary training institution operated by the Marist Missionary Sisters. Upon her graduation in 1949, Sister was assigned to the South Pacific.

Her order conducts about 57 missions in the South Seas, South America, Africa and Jamaica. There are 10 missions in the New Guinea area with Sister Isaac serving at a mission in Bougainville, a large island in the Solomon chain.

At her arrival in the island jungle, Sister met a primitive culture where the inhabitants mainly concerned themselves with day-to-day living and the cultivation of their most prized possession, the land. Although more than 700 languages are spoken in Papua (or New Guinea) and more than 29 native dialects in Bougainville alone, Sister overcame the language barrier without difficulty. "Most people understand pidgin English. So, it was rather simple to pick up," she said.

Though the people were extremely primitive, Sister found them happy. "The only reason for poverty and starvation on the island would be due to sheer laziness. The people all raise crops and have livestock, and if they go hungry, it's usually their own fault," she says.

Adjusting to a new culture was no problem for Sister since she is enthusiastic and loves her work. "The insects don't bother me either although sleeping under a mosquito net is something I don't especially like," she said. "But one Sister at the mission lives in constant fear of the large lizards that like to grasp onto our legs as we walk to chapel at night. So Sister stamps her feet loudly to discourage them from jumping on her during our nightly walk."

The sharks and crocodiles present little, if any problems. "The people learn to live with the danger and take precautions. When they cross the river they always go in a group, a crocodile will not attack a group. During World War II, the sharks used to attack the people but now, since they haven't tasted blood in the water, they usually leave the kids alone," Sister said.

Sister adapted to the food with sufficient ease. Kau kau (sweet potatoes) is the major staple crop of the country. Citrus fruit, pineapple, papaya, bananas, and greens, such as pumpkin leaves, spinach leaves and wild greens comprise the local diet. "They

cook Kau kau and greens in coconut milk and it's very tasty. The people also eat fish."

The islands sustain themselves by exporting dried coconut and cocoa. Also minor crops such as coffee, tea and rubber bring financial resources.

A majority of Sister's mission work centers around the training of Sisters. "For 12 years, I have trained indigenous Sisters. These young girls are unsophisticated and simple with a low level of education, although now the level has risen. For the main part, they have noticed the work of the missionaries and want to help their own people. Christianity is widespread on the island," she said. As a result of Sister's instruction, the 45 island Sisters of Nazareth achieved autonomy last year. They have their own major superior and train their novices themselves.

For the past two years, Sister has been teaching at St. Mary's Regional High School, a boarding school in the island's first missionary station at Asitavi. The 40 Sisters supply their 230 pupils with average high school curriculum which includes religion but they also prepare the students to survive. "I teach Christian living, art, guidance and agriculture," Sister said.

According to Sister, the country is petitioning for independence this year. She believes that since the islands are under the trusteeship of the United Nations and under the supervision of Australia, independence should be easily achieved. The country is planning to write a constitution and four major political parties have been formed. Nevertheless, Sister believes that many of the people are not ready for independence since they don't know the implications of freedom.

The people are particularly disillusioned and confused with the swift changes that have recently occurred. "Bougainville was a country composed of small tribes clustered throughout the island. But now with the coming of the Europeans to the copper mine, the people are frightened that the Europeans will take over their lands. As a result, more and more people are moving off by themselves to establish farms in the jungle," Sister said.

The discovery of copper in Bougainville has not only brought a surge of foreigners and their technological advances but it has developed an awareness in the natives that their culture is disintegrating. "Now the government is strict on who can emigrate to the island and is discouraging Europeans from coming mainly because they see their land being torn apart by the open pit copper mine, something they don't understand. But also their lives are being destroyed by the white man's vices," Sister said.

Sister admits that the in-

roduction of alcohol has been a major disaster. "Many people never drank before. Now many of them are experiencing the problems of alcoholism. And many eagerly look forward to 'spark' or getting drunk."

Sister has been living in the Solomons for 19 years. And now, after a nine-year absence from home, she has returned for a year of spiritual renewal, continued education and a visit to her family. Since her arrival on Feb. 11, she has been staying with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kircher of Irondequoit.

Returning to Rochester was quite an experience. "I am really shocked at the crime. I never remember locking the doors but now I guess you have to," she said. The suburban malls and modern grocery stores greatly impress Sister. "I can't get over the grocery stores! I never saw so much food in one place."



Two Sisters of Nazareth who received religious instruction from Sister Isaac, show off their cow, an animal they raised with the help of Marist Missionary Sisters.

COURIER WANT ADS pay off

BUSINESS SERVICE

FLOOR sanding, Refinishing, Dependable service since 1921. Reasonable. Cy Callemeyn: 865-1353-458-6685.

CARPENTER WORK: Porch steps, small jobs, remodeling, paneling, cabinets, wind damage repairs. Dependable. Very reasonable. Free estimates. 24 hour answering service. ROBERT BULLUCK, 865-2448.

PAINTING and Paper hanging. Textured. Swirl ceilings. Free estimates. Quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 663-0827.

CARPENTER Contractor — Additions, remodeling, free estimates. Call 621-1751.

ODD Jobs: Storm windows removed, washing walls, floor waxing, cleaning gutters, etc. 436-4421.

CARPENTER Work — Additions, porch enclosures, paneling, doors & windows, electrical work. 28 years experience. Prompt, free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros., 227-4635. Call Anytime 352-4756.

MASON Work — Patios, brick steps, chimneys, sidewalks, garage floors, planters, additions. Compare our prices. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros., 227-4635. Call Anytime 352-4756.

ROOFINGS — Emergency repairs, insurance claims, new roofs, high quality materials. Gutters, chimneys. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros., 227-4635. Call Anytime 352-4756.

CHIMNEYS — Repaired, pointed, plastered, rebuilt, new. Best prices in town. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Check our reputation. DiNapoli Bros., 227-4635. Call Anytime 352-4756.

PAINTING — Exterior, interior. Free estimates. Insured. Call JOHN WAFER, 338-7296 or 288-6169.

PAINTING — Excellent workmanship. Senior Citizen discounts. Insured. Ray Weber, 342-9066.

TREE-LAWN Service: Spring clean-up: 19

yrs. experience. Free estimates. GREENSCAPE ENT. 342-2020.

ENTERTAINMENT

JAN Corsio Orchestra — Dance music, weddings, parties, banquets. 654-8914.

FROM Rock to Bach — For Everyone. George Manning Orchestra. 467-6749.

FREDDY Beck Orchestra. Finest music. Weddings, parties, banquets. 247-6328.

FOR both listeners and dancers. THE HERB WHITE QUARTET. 637-3479.

BAND: Available for Weddings, Parties, Social Functions. 865-1518 or 663-7969.

FOR RENT

RIDGE Road East — Two bedroom apartment. Wall-to-wall carpeting, air conditioning, stove, refrigerator. \$205. Call 467-0024.

APARTMENT lower — Lake Avenue, Charlotte. Newly redecorated, 2 bedroom. No pets. 663-0827.

4 ROOM furnished, all utilities. 1 month security, no children. 621-4973: Upper.

FOR SALE

CHILI: 2826 Chili Ave. 4 Bedroom Cape Cod. Living room, dining area, new kitchen, 2 full baths, den, finished basement and deep attached garage. Fully landscaped 60x210 lot. Aluminum siding and trim. Blacktop driveway. 247-2761.

1970 FORD Van: Clubwagon, 6 cyl., stand, 19 mpg, window van, carpeted throughout, cabinets with counter top, 110 electrical hookup, trailer hitch, Perfect for Camping, \$900, 247-4625 after 5 p.m.

REXVILLE, N.Y. — Approx. 5 acres woodland on Hard Road, 3 miles from Potter County, PA owner to finance. Phone (607) 225-4242.

CEDAR Chest, box of assorted plumbing tools, three tires, aquarium. 247-7932.

UNCLAIMED layaway — 1974 Zig-Zag Sewing Machine. Makes button holes, blind hems, sews stretch materials, 20 year guarantee. Balance due \$39 or 8 payments of \$13 monthly. Call Necchi-Eltra Sewing Center. 244-0830.

SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

SO YOU WANT TO GO TO WORK! Workshop: Dome Arena (Monroe County Fairgrounds) APRIL 10, 9:30 to 3:00. Registration \$5.75 (box lunch included). Sponsored by Business Personnel Services. For registration information call: 461-2350 or 334-4000.

RUMMAGE SALE — Holy Angels Home, 1326 Winton Road N. April 4 & 5.

INSTRUCTIONS

TUTORING all subjects. Qualified teachers. PROFESSIONAL TUTORING SERVICE. 244-9155-271-7707.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES, entire or partial contents of old homes, attic accumulations. Marie Wallner, 663-5573-663-0288.

OLD quilts and pedestal plant stands. 342-3515.

PRIVATE COIN COLLECTOR, will buy gold & silver coins, call 247-7999.

CONFERENCE table for meeting room. Call 607-776-6945 after 4 p.m.

VIOLIN — Old, may be in disrepair. Reasonable. Call 352-5804.

ANTIQUES, one piece or complete household, Mr. Erdle. Phone 271-6762.

PLAY SCHEDULED

Fiddler on the Roof, the popular Broadway musical about pre-revolution Russian life, will be staged at Nazareth Academy Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2-4.

RUMMAGE SALE

Auburn — The St. Aloysius Altar and Rosary Society will hold a rummage sale Friday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ramp to St. Aloysius Church. Donations of items are welcomed.

National Hotel
Routes 20A and 39, Cuylerville, N.Y. Host to travelers since 1837. Located in historical Genesee Valley. Two miles southwest of Genesee. Steaks, chops broiled in the open pit. Prime ribs, seafoods, large entree selection. Open weekdays 5 to 11 P.M. Sun. 12 to 9 P.M.

Chas. G. Lembo Sam J. Lembo
ESKA
OUTBOARD FISHING MOTORS
Sales & Service
20% OFF
New 3 H.P. to 15 H.P. Eskas
Authorized McCulloch & Elgin Repairs
LEMBO & SONS
492 Fernwood Avenue
Rochester, New York 14609
342-7827

VALUABLE COUPON

***1.50 for a 10 Word Want Ad**
Only with this coupon
PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER
10¢ Each Additional Word — Deadline Friday Noon

Print One Word in Each Box

Enclosed Find \$
Please Run My
Want Ad For _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Week(s) _____

MAIL TO: **COURIER JOURNAL WANT AD DEPT.**
67 Chestnut St., Rochester, New York 14604
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COURIER JOURNAL

Subscriber Special