



**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

*Sarah Child*

The other day I was standing at a frozen food counter staring at some turkey breasts that were on sale.

"Hmmm," I began audibly, "I wonder how many servings I can get out of one."

Another woman bending over her cart had already placed one of the frozen carcasses on top of her groceries. She turned around, her eyes bright, her face friendly.

Ten minutes later I knew exactly how many servings I could get, the price compared to a whole turkey, how to cook it (don't thaw it, put it in the oven like this) who had originally advised her of the turkey breast's worth, how many children she had, the ages of her two oldest, and how much they all ate.

She was, in fact, a kindred soul. I have given instructions in a dime store for treating croupy babies, exchanged life histories in a public laundry and discussed the merits of pumpnickel versus Swedish limp rye at a used book stall in Scollay Square in Boston.

The old joke about small town residents calling a wrong number and talking 20 minutes? It's no joke. I've talked 125.

I come by this gregariousness naturally and honestly. My mother can do 30 minutes in a shoe store after the salesman has already bagged her purchase, give a lengthy treatise on the best grease dissolving detergent to any mechanic too timid to flee and send a unknown hairdresser begging for mercy with stories and pictures of her children, grandchildren, the neighbor's grandchildren etc.

Well trained, I have come to consider every stranger a potential acquaintance and/or a source of information and entertainment. It has paid off a thousand times over even if the encounter means nothing more than a reaching out to another human being for one second in time.

There is one small problem. I am married to a man who finds it more comfortable to drive 50 miles taking a wrong turn than to strike up a conversation with a stranger. I can understand it now although when we first wed his reticence struck me as unfriendly. It's not. It is as natural and right for him as instant familiarity is for me. I have learned to live with his quirk. And he with mine. Well almost.

There have been times in restaurants, particularly those which aspire to some pretensions, when he has acted as if an unknown woman were sharing his table. If I attempt a conversation with a sales clerk when he's along he'll walk quickly away.

Still, there may be hope. He took off his dark glasses the other day and looked me straight in the eye when I began discussing certain garden problems with the nurseryman. And when we got to the mating habits of Japanese beetles he didn't even flinch.

adequate health care and rehabilitation programs affects elderly prisoners more radically than younger prisoners. Most aged prisoners have little strength to protest or organize; militant groups of prisoners who do speak out do not represent elderly. The aged in prison must be given individual relief and systems must be reformed so that transfer to medical facilities and eventual release become possibilities.

State laws against age discrimination are in the public eye, but few of us realize that such laws usually apply to persons aged 40 to 65; once again, it is younger wage earners who wield legislative influence. Many pension plans refuse benefits to persons who work past age sixty-five. Delivery of retirement pensions is rare; one conference speaker cited actuarial tables which show that today's 20-year-old worker has less than 15 per cent chance of receiving his or her pension upon retirement. Finally, many elderly chafe under restrictions of mandatory retirement rules and Social Security regulations which penalize older persons for working.

Along with all Americans, elderly who rent from private landlords are faced with rising rent and utilities costs. Unlike elderly in larger facilities they lack possible support from tenants' organizations; upkeep of private homes is not so rigidly supervised as that of publically funded facilities. Deteriorating building conditions are often ignored and rents continue to rise because elderly tenants who do speak out are ignored or met with subtle threats from landlords.

Individuals and church groups, as well as institutions of higher learning like Syracuse University, must look to hidden abuses of elderly rights; we cannot justify lack of attention to areas and concerns ignored thus far by state and federal legislation.

[For further information in the area of elderly rights and advocacy, contact Sister Judith Reger, Office of Human Development, 750 West Main Street, 14611.]

**Homell Native 25 Years a Nun**

By STELLA DeGAETANO

Homell — Sister Mary Cabrini McKinley, the oldest of five daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Paul McKinley of Rexville, recently celebrated her Silver Jubilee as a nun of the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Another daughter, Sister Mary John McKinley, is also a nun with the same order.

Sister Mary Cabrini, born in Homell, attended the Lincoln School and Homell High School before entering the convent in 1950 at Joliet, Ill. She professed her final vows in 1956.

She is a graduate of St. Francis Academy and St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Joliet. She also attended the San Francisco College for Women and did post-graduate studies in geriatrics at U.C.L.A. At present Sister Mary Cabrini is at the Mother House in Mokena, Ill., working in the Residency for Retired Nuns as a nurse.

Through the years she has worked as a registered nurse in California, Indiana, and Illinois.

Sister Mary Cabrini's other three sisters are Mrs. Robert Fiaco and Mary McKinley of Homell and Mrs. Helen Harkenrider of Rexville.

A reception in honor of Sister Mary Cabrini was held on July 20 at the Sunset Inn, Homell.

**COMING EVENT**

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception parishioners, chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rogers, Jr., already have made many plans for their annual festival to be held Sept. 27. Committees are being formed and the Rogers welcome any and all volunteers. They can be reached at 273-3064.

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**Church And Politics**

*Sister Frances*

A conference on the rights of the elderly occurred last May and June in four different locations: New York City, Buffalo, Albany and Syracuse. Sponsored by Syracuse University, the sessions were attended by persons working with the elderly including nurses, social workers, clergy, staffs of offices for the aging and legal professionals. The program covered three areas: income, health care and protective services.

Some disregard for elderly rights in the above areas has already been spotlighted in recent years. Nursing home conditions and placement procedures for chronically ill persons are current concerns in New York State. Benefit programs like Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are also much criticized because of complex eligibility requirements which discourage and confuse applicants and their relatives. Legal assistance is a possibility in these areas, but some elderly and their families have not sought such help. Clergy and church groups must see themselves as advocates for elderly rights in much publicized areas like health care and Social Security. Only then will the benefits reaped by publicity and reform be fully available to elderly individuals.

There are, however, areas of elderly rights where abuses have not as yet been widely discussed; the conferences mentioned some of these areas. Elderly in prisons are seldom heard of, yet many older persons remain imprisoned without any recourse. Lack of



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