

Serving Five Bishops All in a Day's Work

By Joan M. Smith

Nora Sullivan, born in Tarbert, County Kerry, Ireland, celebrated her 81st birthday, June 21. She has spent the last 39 of those 81 years as a member of the Notre Dame Retreat House family.

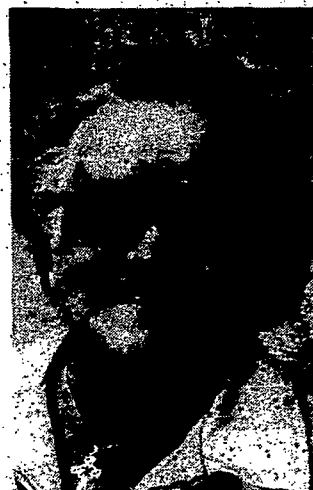
Nora has a bright Irish smile and personality to match. She enjoys nothing better than to reminisce about her years as cook at the retreat house, her homeland, and especially her shipboard passage to the U.S. in 1921. It was, she said, a trip she would gladly take again. Balmey weather allowed the immigrants to spend their time on deck where the Irish played

their violins and accordians, and danced and sang.

After eight days at sea, she disembarked at Ellis Island and within a few hours was in New York and on her way to Geneva where she would stay with an aunt she had never met. Once settled she became a cook for a private family; and in 1941, when the retreat house first opened in Geneva, she was hired as cook. During her years in that position, (she now is housekeeper for the Redemptorist Fathers at the Canandaigua establishment), she served meals to groups sometimes numbering as many as 120 people. Among her diners were Bishop James E. Kearney whom she described as a nice man and friendly, Bishop Dennis Hickey, and Bishop John McCafferty whom she remembered as an acolyte for Bishop Hickey when he was a priest at St. Stephen's parish in Geneva. She also served Bishop Joseph Hogan, and met Bishop Matthew Clark on one of his visits.

In her four decades at Notre Dame, Nora has worked for eight Redemptorist rectors and named them without hesitation — a tribute to her fine memory — a memory that still recalls the harsh days of her youth in Ireland. She remembers the tragic years, 1914-21, when there was civil strife and rebellion against England; and she especially recalls the 'Black and Tans' who were English convicts sent to Ireland to cause havoc. She shakes her head over the present Irish problem and insists that until the British Army leaves Northern Ireland there will be no end to the troubles.

The fact Nora was the oldest of 11 children and there wasn't a future in the endless days of backbreaking work, led to her decision to emigrate. But she still has family ties in Ireland: two brothers and a sister. When the Courier-Journal recently talked with her, she had just



NORA SULLIVAN

returned from visiting with them. She also has sisters here in the U.S., a son, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

A source of pride for Nora is the fact she is an Oblate of the Redemptorists, an honor she said, that entitles her to the benefits of all prayers and Masses said by the congregation. "God has given me a good life," she declared. When asked if she had a special devotion she answered, "Yes, to the Blessed Virgin," and then with a grin quickly added "and of course to St. Patrick."

College Information

More than 4,000 high school students and their parents are expected at a College Information Night at Nazareth College, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 23, in the Otto A. Shults Community Center. Admissions representatives from about 75 colleges will take part.

Open to the public at no charge, the information night is sponsored by Nazareth College, the Rochester Diocesan Guidance Council and the Catholic College Coordinating Council.

Guests will hear about programs, costs and special features of colleges in the East and Midwest, including most of the colleges in the Rochester area.

A special workshop on financial aid will be presented by Dr. Bruce Woolley, director of finance aid at Nazareth.

Parish Festival

St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece is planning its second annual Parish Picnic for Sunday, Sept. 14 at Hamlin Beach State Park, Area 4, Cabin 2.

The event opens at noon and will conclude at 8 p.m. Organizers have devised entertainment for the entire family. Further information is available by calling Dolores DeConinck, 225-6260.

Jubilee Noted

Sister Marie H. Kalb, a member of the New York Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart, will celebrate the golden jubilee of her final profession as a religious on Aug. 30 at Bloomfield Hills, Mi., where she has been stationed since 1960. Prior to her entry into the convent, Sister Kalb and her family were members of both St. Boniface and Blessed Sacrament parishes. She has a sister, Kathryn J. Weaver, and two brothers, Frederick W. and Robert H. Kalb Sr., all living in Rochester.

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