



Tom Riordan

## Is there really a 'Terrible Jean'?

*Terrible Jean said she would kill me if I wrote about her joining the floor show (at the Woodbridge bar in downtown Detroit) to give her singing imitation of a chicken laying an egg.*

— Jim Fitzgerald, Detroit Free Press columnist

So did he write about the floor show? Of course. Then Jim explains, "I feel the public had a right to know what a 52-year-old mother of five will do to break into show business."

Is there really a Terrible Jean? You bet there is. She's alive and well, living in Southfield at 29672 Somerset Drive, and I give you the address so you sensitive readers will know where to send cards of sympathy the next time her brother picks on her in one of his Free Press columns.

Her formal name is Mrs. William Fitzgerald. It might seem odd that she never lost her cherished maiden name. Well, the truth is that Jean was into women's lib long before that movement was born. She decided she wanted to stay a Fitzgerald and the best way was to look around for a husband until she found a guy named Fitzgerald.

HOW DOES the affable Jean feel when her brother writes about her and her two sisters?

"Each time I pick up the Free Press off the front porch in the morning I pray there will be nothing about the family."

But often there is. Terrible Jean is the best known of the three put-upon sisters, but Mary Lou and Linda get their

share of jibes, however never as regularly as poor Terrible Jean.

Maybe that's because on one occasion Jim wrote that Linda, who now lives in San Antonio, Texas, was so pregnant that she "couldn't get through a tunnel sideways."

Linda was sincerely incensed. She said she would never again speak to her brother. Jim for once was so thunderstruck that he drove to Port Huron, the Fitzgerald hometown, where Linda still lived. He searched for her, finally locating the miffed Linda in the Fogcutter restaurant. There, in front of the amazed patrons, he pled for forgiveness.

ONCE HE teased in print his sister Mary Lou, who with her husband and children, try to live quietly in Bloomfield Hills. Jim informed his readers that Mary Lou is his wealthy sister and when he parked his Volkswagen in her exclusive driveway her burglar alarm went off.

Ever since that article, when Jim and his wife Pat are guests at Mary Lou's, her husband, an IBM executive, refuses to mix a drink for Jim. "You're on your own," he'll say, apparently only half kidding.

When Jim, a weekly editor for 25 years and known for spilling family secrets in print, landed his present plush assignment as a four-times weekly columnist for the Free Press three years ago, the sisters huddled.

It was Mary Lou who told Jean, "The only thing for us to do is move."

Until then, Jim had been doing his column writing for the Lapeer County Press, a weekly with 18,000 circulation. Often he had lampooned his family, but

they knew the family-closet stuff was localized to the Lapeer area.

But with the move to Detroit, Jim was going statewide.

JEAN EXPLAINS that when the families of Jim, Jean, Mary Lou and Linda get together, "it's all in the paper."

It reminds her of the days when she was a preteen and Jim, who constantly stalked his older sister, "would throw my diary to the mob."

Jean has special praise for Jim's wife. "Pat is a real saint. If anyone has taken a beating, it's her. It doesn't seem to bother her. She goes along to his crazy movies, sees everything, even the rotten ones."

It should be explained that Jim is an incurable motion picture addict, with an apparent thirst to see every movie that is produced.

TERRIBLE JEAN isn't exactly tongue-tied when it comes to dealing with her brother. The only problem is that her barbs to him are limited to oral thrusts in small circles of friends and families.

Once while he was Lapeer editor he felt charitable and turned over most of one column to her. Jean made the most of it:

*You devoted your entire little life to making me miserable. You should have grown up to be G. Gordon Liddy. Your literary career began when with your fat little hands, you recorded in your ever-present notebook all of my transgressions for future blackmail use.*

*Witness your life of complete sloth around*



"Terrible Jean" Fitzgerald is a mild-mannered commercial artist with an Irish twinkle in her eyes. She posed for this "halo effect" picture in front of what happens to be the trademark for her present employer, Western World Wide Agency, Inc., located on Civic Center drive in Southfield. Before getting married, Jean, a Marygrove College graduate, was an illustrator for the Kresge advertising department. (Staff photo.)

the house. If your wife Pat — God bless her — hadn't come to the rescue you would probably be living in our basement now and following me around the house — a typical no-good Irish bachelor.

But Jim reserved the last word for himself. "I'm glad she wrote that violent letter. It proves I wasn't kidding you about my black and blue childhood."

And that's the last Jim Fitzgerald's readers saw of any sisterly rebuttal.

## Fetus can't drain teeth's calcium

A misconception still persists that a developing fetus can draw calcium from the mother's teeth and thus cause cavities.

The old wives' tale, "For every child, a tooth," is not true. While the fetus does require calcium and will rob the mother of her calcium if the supply from the diet is not sufficient, the mineral does not come from the dental enamel.

Instead, there is much more available supply in the mother's skeletal bones. The mineral contained in the enamel cannot be withdrawn into the bloodstream and circulated to another tissue, organ or to the growing fetus.

Calcium is fixed in the enamel and can only be removed by external action such as acid forming on the tooth surface as in dental caries or by cutting with dental instruments.

THERE IS NO evidence that women who have borne large families have experienced dental decay than have comparable women of similar ages who have never been pregnant.

If decay becomes more active during pregnancy, it is more likely to be because of a letdown in oral hygiene, particularly where there has been an increase between-meal snacks and milk drinking.

If there has been frequent acid regurgitation with bouts of so-called "morning sickness," the natural acid-neutralizing agents in the mouth may be used up or less able to combat the acids forming in fermenting food.

That is why the pregnant woman should practice meticulous oral hygiene and rinse her mouth thoroughly with water if it is inconvenient for her to brush after eating.

THE PREGNANT woman may experience some inflammation of the gums. Here again, the degree of cleanliness and the removal of tartar, rough cav-



Dr. Joseph DeFrancesco

ity margins, and other sources of irritation will reduce the amount of swelling and inflammation.

When the teeth are in good condition, the gum tissue usually returns to normal within a short time after the baby is born and the hormonal balance returns to normal.

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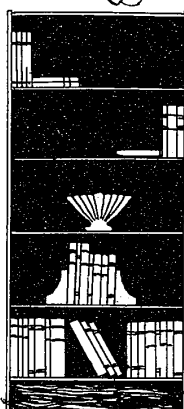
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