

Her knife pared her down to size

It was one of those you-can't-get-there-from-here situations. I woke up in the Adirondacks and had to get to Milwaukee for a lecture at 7 p.m. The trip wasn't easy.

The Rent-A-Car and I set forth early and, after driving and driving, finally reached civilization at Utica, New York. There's a discount store in Utica and I decided to take a shopping break.

It was fun — an old munitions factory had been jazzed up and filled with manufacturer's outlets. I snooped through everything from bras to blue jeans and, somewhere along the way, hit the Utica Cutlery Company.

They — in case you didn't know and I certainly didn't — make cooking knives for the U.S. Army. The U.S. Army rejects looked pretty good, so I splurged 88 cents on a paring knife and jammed it into my overflowing purse. Then back to the car, the New York thruway, and finally the Syracuse Airport.

The trip's second stage progressed miraculously when the plane took off on time and landed me in Cleveland, where I had to change again.

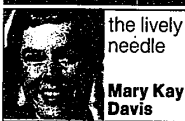
Cleveland is careful. As I went through the unimpeachable security check, every bell and buzzer in the place went off.

"Would you step over here?" I was asked. With crowds of people behind me, there didn't seem to be much choice.

"Do you have a knife?" The hundreds of people edging past perked up their ears.

"Of course . . . Oh, my heavens, yes I do, but it's really just a little bitty paring knife somewhere down here and it only cost 88 cents and I really don't need it and wouldn't you like to have it because it's such a nice little knife and I'd love to give it to you."

The beady eyes never flickered.



the lively needle
Mary Kay Davis

She knew a Lizzie Borden when she saw one. Unfortunately, so did everyone else in the security line.

I finally scuttled off to my plane, leaving the paring knife to its fate and hoping that nobody on the plane would recognize me.

No such luck. The minute we were belted the firm voice of the captain boomed over the P.A. "Would Mary Kay Davis please identify herself!"

I edged my finger tips one inch above the seat top and immediately was the object of every eye on the plane. The voice boomed on. "Mrs. Davis, you can get your knife back after we land in Milwaukee." Lizzie Borden obviously was still with us.

IT WAS A cowardly kind of flight. The stewardess didn't even offer me any peanuts, but Milwaukee finally arrived. I put my head down and wobbled off the plane on quivering high heels. The program chairman was at the gate to greet me. Enter the famous lecturer — exit Lizzie Borden.

Well, not quite. We went downstairs to the chain area for my suitcase and found an empty luggage belt spinning round and round. It was empty, that is, except for one large, brown cardboard box, sailing along in solitary majesty. Large black letters advertised its contents (which were all of four inches long): Knife — taken from Mary Kay Davis.

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- E. H. Richards



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'The City Works' conference set

Last week's column had a question about your annual conferences. A reader wanted to know when the next one was. No answer was printed. Now I'm curious. I would like to attend one of your conferences, but when and where?

M.S. Troy

Sorry about the omission. Something happened to the rest of my answer. Here's hoping this one gets into print. Mark your calendar for May 17, when Concern, Inc., Detroit will host "The City Works! People Powered Answers for the '80s." This all-day Satur-

Resistance survivors will speak

day event will include exhibits and workshops on topics such as "Solar Energy Made Practical," "Utility Bills Can Cost Less," container gardening, nutrition, health, food and more. It's all free. And the whole family is invited to workshops designed with kids in mind.

Two women who took part in Jewish resistance movements in the 1940s will be the featured speakers at the annual Spring Forum of the Jewish Welfare Federation Women's Division.

Anita Harsheben, a member of the Hagana before and during Israel's 1948 War of Independence, and Vladka Meed, who took part in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, will address the edu-

For information, call 879-1333, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Concern Inc., Detroit, 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068.

There is radioactive material in a smoke detector I recently acquired. Is it safe?

Mrs. Edward P. Rochester

The small amount of radioactive material used in smoke detectors is perfectly safe for home use, according to Dennis Sartz of the Food and Drug Administration's Detroit office.

"The smoke detector would have to

be destroyed to get at the material, which is otherwise not easily accessible," he said. However, there is some question about the safety when these items are thrown away. Accumulation of radioactive material in landfills could cause contamination problems down the road. Consumers should return defective or unwanted models to place of purchase.

ECO-TIP: Use newspapers to polish windows and mirrors which have been cleaned with a vinegar and water solution, to a lint-free, inexpensive shine.
GRACE R. GLUSKIN

national meeting, which begins at 9:15 p.m. March 26, at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. The program will end at 2:15 p.m.

Reservations are required. The \$8 registration fee includes luncheon. Bussing service is available through the Jewish Community Center, 661-1000, ext. 121. For more information or

reservations, contact the women's division at 965-3939.

Anita Harsheben, the morning speaker, was a member of the Hagana's Intelligence Corps. She worked closely with Teddy Kolek, now mayor of Jerusalem. Her specialty was gun-running, and she worked behind the scenes in Morocco, South American and the U.S. to help the fledgling Jewish state get the supplies needed for defense.

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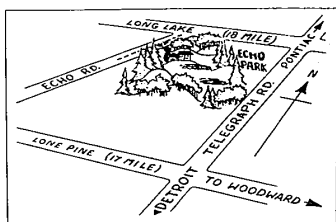


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