

family legend returns

AUNT MARY CAME to town re-

experience.

It had been at least 20 years since I had last seen her, on a visit to my grandmother in Indiana. Aunt Mary had driven up from Florida for the oc-

These days, it's not unusual for women to travel alone, but back then, before expressways, it was unheard of. Making the trip even more remarkable was Aunt Mary's age. She already had retired from her job as a school teach-er. That meant she had to be some-

er. That meant she had to be some-where around 70.

No one really knew her age, howev-er. The story was that she had lied about her age to get a job. The lie com-pounded liself over the years, and, the storytellers insisted, Aunt Mary no longer knew her real age.

THERE WERE other things Aunt Mary was known for, such as her an-tiques. It was said that she mortgaged her antiques to buy her house in Flori-

But in my memory, Aunt Mary was best known for being a health food fa-natic. To be blunt, as a teen-ager, I thought she was a real kook. After all,

thought she was a real kook. After all, my mother was convinced of it.

Aunt Mary had committed the unpardonable sin of growing sprouts in my mother's refrigerator during one visit to Michigan.

Sandra Armbruster

"Tell her to get those things out of there," my mother instructed Dad. A woman well-ahead of her time, Aunt Mary extolled the healing prop-erties of alum and aloe decades ago. "Break off a piece of the plant," she would advise, "and just rub it on your skin."

ATTITUDES HAVE changed in the years since I last had seen Aunt Mary. Restaurant salads and sandwiches aren't complete without sprouts, and my hand lotion now comes with aloe vera listed as a prominent ingredient.

While I have embraced holistic med-icine, I'm aware there are other ways than drugs to treat allments. Frankly, I was looking forward to picking her brain on the subject.

But Aunt Mary had to be somewhere around 90. What could I expect from a woman that age?

Quite a bit, as it turned out.

THE WOMAN who walked into the living room was the same person I had seen 20 years ago. She hadn't changed

23352 Farmington Rd. Farmington, MI 48024

Monday, September 10, 1984

track of her age.

Aunt Mary still dressed well, talked a lot and was forever on the go.

She was as full of advice as I had

hoped on everything from a dog's coat to human weight control. Irate that my father had placed some books she had sent in the basement, she took them home with her.

home with her.

What do you suppose she would remember from her whirlwind trip to the
metro area? The visit included a full
day at Greenfield Village and the next,
at Aunt Mary's insistence, in the Henry
Ford Museum. She also toured Fairlane, went shopping in Ann Arbor and
saw the RenCen.

NONE OF THOSE things made a lasting impression with Aunt Mary.
"This is what I'm going to remember from my trip to Detroit," Aunt Mary said, setting her drink on the table.
We were at the Summit, ogling the view,

"What do you call these? Pina Cola-das?" she asked.
Another tale added to the Aunt Mary

What I'll remember most about Aunt
Mary's visit was the drive home with

my nearly teen-age son.
"I like her," he said. "She has some good ideas."
I'm glad he didn't have to wait 20 years to find that out.

from our readers

Reader likes column on 'Sister Mary'

To the editor:

I have been in the Detroit area for about a year now. There are very few things I enjoy about this area, however, your column in the Farmington Observer is one of them.

Your thoughts on the censorship "Raise the curtain on free speech; Show "Sister Mary" was very good. Maybe because it reflected my views, be that as it may, I just wanted to express my thanks for enjoying your column. I also enjoy your views on city council meetings.

ligs.

Just like I've always been going to write a letter like this and never do. I keep talking about attending a council meeting and never do. So I depend on you to keep me abreast of what our elected officials are up to.

I've now written thy first letter. Maybe I will not to a council meeting a

will get to a council meeting.

Fred DeLong, Formington Hills

Decries Barnaby's column about play

Steve Barnaby might better express his sympathy for members of the Catholic Church than for Harry Nederlander, owner of the Birmingham Theater. I strongly disagree with his editorial. Sister Mary' play should get showing (Plymouth Observer, Aug. 30, 1984). One hears a great deal these days about censorship and in the main I, too, am opposed to it. However, it is not censorship to forbid that which offends and degrades any segment of American society. I don't believe "encouraging different ideas" should include religious sacrilege, bigotry, or pornography.

sacrilege, bigotry, or pornography.

If the Birmingham Theater were to run a play gloritying the Nazi's persecution of Jews or depicting blacks as shiftiess and lazy, you

can bet the public outcry would be tremendous, as it should be. Why, then, should Catholics not expect equal treatment?

Much more is at stake than that "these folks aren't interested in seeing the play." The third interested in seeing the play." The Rights, representing the rights of a large group of Christians, is interested in stopping any action which displays Catholic prejudice, and insults its members.

This is no more or less than what the NAACP would do for its members and I wonder if Mr. Barnaby would criticize them in a similar situation.

similiar situation.

The play Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You should not be shown.

... Alice Radwick

Cancels newspaper because of column

To the editor:

Mr. Barnaby's splendidly eloquent defense
of free speech (Raise the curtain on free
speech; show 'Sister Mary,' Thursday, Aug. 30
deserves applause.
One cannot help but wonder, however, how
staunch the editor's stand might have been
had the group targeted been any other culturait, religious or ethnic minority.
We are canceling our subscription of lifteen
years. Such hypocritical display of libertarianism is an insult to intelligent readers of any
denomination.

denomination.

Guy H. Morel Farmington Hills

Farmington: readers' forum

Send letters to: the editor, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Fármington 160041 48024 6811 1

oral quarrel

Opinions mixed on cancellation of video

ers: How do you feel about the pageant video being canceled by state repre-sentatives of the Miss Michigan

Pageant?
Following are the responses:

In regards to that question. I saw the

PRE—TEEN and TEEN LINGERIE

Pageant in person and you can rest assured that the state representatives of the Pageant are doing you a favor by not airing it.

Well rules are rules and if that is their rules then you can't argue about, can you?

Who cares, I have to admit this is a stupid question.

I feel it is not fair and I feel it is pretty typical of the way Michigan State Representatives and everything

else is run.

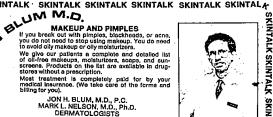
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