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Anne O'Hare McCormick

(Courtesy of Ohio Dominican University Archives; photographer unknown)

A School and a Scholar: An American Story

by Margaret E. Mooney

(Concluded, from Vol. XXVIII, No. 12)

The World at Home, edited by Marion Turner Sheehan (New York: Knopf, 1956), contains a selection of Anne's columns about "The American Scene" from 1925 to 1935, including columns about the early New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt, whom she knew well, and who trusted her and enjoyed her company. He could never deny her yearly requests for "tea and conversation." Her insights from their last interview were published a week after his death on April 12, 1945.

McCormick wrote about America as viewed from abroad, and significantly about the American South. "Her writings about the South," Reston writes in his introduction to the book (also quoted above), "are among the finest newspaper dispatches of this [20th] century. They were written over a quarter of a century ago; yet such were her instincts for the durable things of life that they are almost as fresh now as when they were written."

Perhaps for American Catholics the book *Vatican Journal 1921-1954* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1957) still holds special interest. Marion Turner Sheehan again compiled and edited Anne's columns, this time those filed from Rome. The book opens with her eyewitness accounts of two historic events in July, 1921: Benedict XV's last consistory, and Benito Mussolini's political debut. The book ends in April, 1954 with a message of hope. Clare Booth Luce wrote in the Introduction, "The last essay in the book ['An Atmosphere of Hope,' April 19, 1965], the very last time Anne put pen to paper before she died, reminds us that as long as there is the Easter renewal, whether in free countries, or occupied countries, men can continue to look to The Light. They will find warmth in these reflections of the Light that burned so brightly in the mind and heart of Anne O'Hare McCormick."

There is in one of the Sr. Monica Kiefer's 'Historiettes' of the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, titled *Undimmed Lamps*, a telling account of Anne's generous gift of time: The Academy Alumnae Bulletin for 1923, "Love and Loyalty," details an account of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae Convention held in Louisville Kentucky, to which Anne O'Hare McCormick and Mrs. Lydia Esterline had gone as St. Mary's of the Springs delegates. Anne wrote in detail of their visit to St. Catharine's and the nearby old Motherhouse of St. Rose near Bardstown, Ky.

This fragment tells of her love. "The St. Mary's girls felt at once at home in the familiar atmosphere. The flock of white habits, the smiling welcome, the somehow reminiscent corridors and dormitories, took us back to our own school days. We felt almost a family pride in the delightful 'convent tea'.... Afterwards we all knelt on the front lawn and assisted at an impressive open-air Benediction rose-lighted by the sunset."

In 1937 Anne had the honor of being the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for foreign correspondence. Two years later she was named "The Woman of 1939" by the American Women's Association. In the Archives of Ohio Dominican University is a large medal commemorating the event. On one side is engraved, "VISION, INTEGRITY, VALOR". The citation reads, in part, "Anne has endeared herself to her countrymen by the combination of accuracy and the brilliancy by which she has kept them informed.... They feel that when she states a fact that it becomes as close to that elusive quality...the truth...as human endeavor can make it.... The women journalists of tomorrow will rise up and call her blessed." In 1939 Anne won the Woman of The Year Award from The National Federation of Business and Professional Women. In 1944 the University of Notre Dame awarded Anne the prestigious LAETARE award. There is lovely symbolism here, for Mother Stephanie Mohun's loving, encouraging grandmother, Anna Hansen Dorsey, had been the seventh Laetare Medalist in 1889.

In her lifetime Anne received 16 honorary degrees; St. Mary of the Springs College was her first. Anne returned to St. Mary's in 1941 as a speaker for the renowned Erskine Lectures. In 1944 she was Commencement speaker at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut, sister college to Ohio Dominican University.

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick were noted for their consideration and great tenderness for each other. C.L. Sulzberger, who took over Anne's column, "Abroad," after her death, renaming it "Foreign Affairs," wrote in his memoirs, *A Long Row of Candles* (New York: Macmillan, 1969) while relating an incident that occurred in 1940, "Already over sixty, she still retained boundless energy and feminine charm. With plain, merry face, square jaw and upturned nose, she radiated

warmth and kindness; everyone loved her and, what was more important for a journalist, also confided in her. As always Anne was accompanied by her elderly husband who had suffered a stroke some years past and was a shadow of his former courtly self, yet she never traveled without him, pretending (now) to rely on his counsel...."

Anne's mother, Teresa Beatrice O'Hare died in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 15, 1931 at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Paul Gill (Mabel O'Hare, one of Anne's younger sisters). Mrs. O'Hare was also survived by her other daughter, Mrs. J. B. McCalley, and, of course, Anne and Frank McCormick. Her funeral was at the same church, St. Agnes, about which Anne had written 11 years earlier.

Early Saturday evening, May 29, 1954, Anne O'Hare McCormick died in New York's Doctors Hospital. She was seventy-two. Her husband, Frank, was at her side, as was her sister, Mrs. Paul Gill. Her other sister, Mrs. James B. McCalley of Havana, also survived. Anne's Requiem Mass was offered at New York's Jean Baptiste Church on Lexington Ave. and Seventy-sixth St. She was buried in The Gates of Heaven Cemetery, Mount Pleasant, N. Y. There were many beautiful tributes in *The Times*.

Cardinal Spellman, in Rome for the canonization ceremonies for Pope Pius X, had a special Mass there for Anne. An anecdote was told that a fellow *Times* Board member had an audience with Pope Pius XII the year before her death. The gentleman had mentioned to the Pope that he was a colleague of Mrs. McCormick, who had been a friend of the Pope when he was Cardinal Pacelli. "Oh yes," the Pontiff replied, "She comes to see me every time she is in Rome."

Arthur Sulzberger praised Anne: "With the death of Anne McCormick, a brilliant, sensitive mind and a warm and gracious heart is taken from this

world. The extent of her interests, her keen analysis of events, her buoyant spirit, her depths of perception...the clarity of style with which she presented her views of the changing scene, all contributed to placing her in a unique position to serve her fellow man. This she did untiringly until the end. Those who knew her, loved her. Those who read her writing relied upon her."

On September 23, 1954, in her tower room at St. Mary of the Springs Motherhouse, Mother Stephanie Mohun died of cancer. Mother had retired in 1947, taking back the name Sister M. Stephanie, just as Anne O'Hare had called her when Anne began school at St. Mary's. She remained "Mother" in everyone's heart. The Sisters recalled her beautiful love, expressed in the poem, "Driftwood," written by Mother many years before. They remembered especially the lines, "Let my love be a light to guide your steps/ Through the night of the coming years...."

On Friday, October 29, 1954, Francis J. McCormick died in the Brandywine Convalescent Home, Briarcliff Manor, N. Y. at the age of 82. He had been ill since early July. *The New York Times* announced the death on 30 October.

Frank, as Anne had called him, was a graduate of The University of Dayton. His mother, Bridget Gibbons McCormick was a cousin of the late James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore. Frank's father, also Francis J., had also been a prominent Dayton business man. The article reads, "He retired in 1936. That year Mrs. McCormick became the first and only woman member of the editorial board of *The Times*. Free of business responsibilities, Mr. McCormick was her constant companion on all her travels. Though she went alone on many of her interesting visits to the leading figures of the world, Mr. McCormick was always somewhere nearby, arranging schedules and smoothing her path. On social occasions he always was present with his wife.

Their companionship occasionally involved rugged going for both. In 1944, in eastern France, they received an invitation to dine with Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. Although the shell-torn road to the general's head-quarters was under bombardment, they made the trip none-the-less."

So 1954 became the year of the reunion of The Courageous Faithful with each other, and with their courageous and faithful Lord.

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"Yet there is a Western civilization, based on spiritual values even when it does not practice them, and it is this that freedom-loving people are beginning to rise out of their callousness and confusion to value and defend. The clearer the issues become in this struggle, the more apparent it is that they can never be answered by war, but only by a reaffirmation and demonstration of respect for the God-given rights of man. The side of the angels always wins in the end."

- Anne O'Hare McCormick, "The War on the Side of the Angels," The New York Times, April 5, 1947.

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Many Thanks!

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- * Laura Masonbrink, Access Services Librarian, Ohio Dominican University, for her interest and welcome to the Rare Book Room.
- * Patrick Mooney, a patient and generous fellow-researcher and husband.

SOURCES

Anne O'Hare McCormick Collection. Spangler Library, Ohio Dominican University.

Columbus, Ohio
 Archives. Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio
 Development Office. Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs. Columbus, Ohio
 Ohio Memory Project. Ohio Historical Society. Columbus, Ohio

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Periodicals:

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- New York Times*. May, June and October, 1954.

Abstracts from *The Catholic Telegraph*

(Continued, from Vol. XXVIII, No. 12)

January 29, 1853

Subscriptions: S. D. Workman, Chauncey; Jacob Fink and Peter Dittoe, Somerset; T. J. English, Dresden

February 5, 1853

The good Dominican Sisters at Somerset have lately added a splendid building to their former accommodations for young ladies at the academy under their direction. We anticipate for the institution a large amount of patronage and prosperity. It cannot be greater than what they deserve.

February 12, 1853

A long letter from Father James Meagher in Columbus discusses the current education question -- "an unfair taxation for the support of schools to which our Catholic children do not at all resort...[and] the exclusion of religious instruction from the schools."

Subscriptions: A. J. Lilly, Ph. B. Ewing, Susan G. Beecher, and Ch. F. Garaghty, Lancaster; John Brady, James McGinnis, Daniel McConnell, and Val Owsney, Steubenville; John Gallagher, Edmund Gallagher, and Chris. Gallagher, Temperanceville

Statistics for 1852: Holy Cross Church, Columbus: 160 baptisms, 52 marriages, 113 deaths.

February 19, 1853

Statistics for 1852: St. Thomas Church in Zanesville: 105 baptisms, 15 marriages, 28 deaths. Monroe County missions: 53 baptisms, 9 marriages, 23 deaths.

Subscriptions: Rev. E. O'Flaherty and Denis McConnell, Chillicothe; James Pulton, New Haven.

February 26, 1853

The building of the new church at Marietta will commence the 1st of March. God prosper it!

W. Barrett and Henry Lange were ordained deacons last Saturday and priests on Thursday by Archbishop Purcell. Rev. Mr. Barrett will be the assistant of Rev. Dr. Rosecrans at St. Thomas' Church, Cincinnati.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Columbus, notwithstanding the repeated calls made in that place on the charity of the faithful, for the new church; and for the large amount lately contributed to purchase a bell, has given the very handsome sum of \$170 to the Catholic University of Ireland.

The following names have been sent us for publication.

Rev. James Meagher \$5, in addition to \$25 paid before; Mrs. Purcell \$10; Richard Clarke \$2.00; M. Callaghan 2.00 James O'Halleran 1.50. The following, one dollar each: Miss Mary Moore, Michael Harding, Johanna Denoven, Pat Fitzgerald, John Shea, Anastatia Lawler, Robert Roe, Pat Nolan, Bess Nolan, Catherine Nolan, Laurence Farrell, Mrs Sullivan, Patrick Farrell, Bernard Bergin, Mrs. Bergin, Wm. Naughtin, James Berry, James Stenton, Hugh Joyce, Mary Quinely, John McCormick, John Joyce, John Farrell, Stephen Farrell, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Crystell.

[See the *Bulletin* of March, 1986 for some background on this collection.]

Subscriptions: Peter Dugan, Gallipolis; Rev. F. N. Wachter, Pomeroy

Statistics for 1852: Pomeroy, 45 baptisms, 5 marriages, 18 deaths

March 5, 1853

Statistics for 1852: Steubenville, 30 baptisms, 56 adult deaths, 45 children; Lancaster and

missions, 95 baptisms, 18 marriages, 30 deaths; Marietta, 27 baptisms, 3 marriages, 8 deaths; Meigs Creek, 2 baptisms and 4 deaths.

Subscriptions: Rev. J. M. Young, Lancaster; P. McMullen, Rehoboth; Richard McAuliff, New Lexington; Martha Clarke, Columbus

Subscriptions in the following issues:

March 12 - Susan D. Stambaugh, Lancaster

March 19 - Margaret Moran, Portsmouth; John

Howard, Chillicothe; James Taylor, Duncan's Falls

April 2 - Richard O'Kearney, Lancaster

April 16 - James Cunningham and Michael Cunningham, Roseville

April 30 - Henry Brenan & Son, Marietta; John Slevin, Barnesville; Michael Dittoe, Somerset; Martin Miller, Delaware; Michael Rigney, Chillicothe

(To be continued)

Chapel Hill, Perry County, Baptismal Register

1840-1850

In brackets following the date has been placed the most likely location of the baptisms, based on the residences of the persons involved. Sunday Creek or Chapel Hill St. Francis is indicated by [SC], Monday Creek St. Peter by [MC], Deavertown St. Michael by [D], Chauncey Seven Dolors by [C], and Athens County St. John the Baptist by [A].

1841, continued

same day [May 15], Christina, daughter of Eusebius and Catherine Wise; spon. Hilary [Eli] Wise and Joanna Mester

May 22 [SC], conditionally, James, 6 months old, son of Joseph (protestant) and Susan George; spon. Aeg. Olivetti and Catherine Thompson

May 23 [SC], James, son of Michael and Bridget Molan; spon. Peter Corn and Mary McScheanan

May 25, James, age 11 months, son of Patrick and Ann Burns; spon. Aeg. Olivetti and Helen Cunningham

May 30 [SC], Rose Ann, daughter of John and Bridget Cunningham; spon. Thomas Duffy and Ann Mourtough

[page 4 probably begins here]

June 2, Martin, son of ---- Kenny; spon. Michael McCullough and Bridget ----

same day, I supplied the ceremony of baptism for James, son of Hugh and --- Greaslin [Breaslin?]; spon. Daniel Braslin and Catharine ----

June 4, Alice, daughter of John and Helen Daily; spon. Nicholas Welch and Helen Lion

same day, Catherine, 15 years old, daughter of John and Eve Crasy?; spon. Edward Dulan and Mary ----

same day, conditionally, Richard George, 36 years old, son of Christopher Morassen; spon. Richard and Margaret Geordan

same day, Catherine, daughter of William and Catherine Devis; spon. Edward Kensley and Catharine Crogan

June 13, James, son of Edward and Bridget Moley; spon. William and Catharine Mcloy [Moley?]

June 15 [SC], Mary Eugenia, daughter of Patrick and Mary Feagan; spon. George Thompson and Elenora Hos---

June 20 [SC], Mary Helen, daughter of Thomas and Helen Skennen; spon. Thomas Walpol and Mary Skennen

same day, James, son of William Kreecbaum, 15 years old; spon. John Olan and Alice Burk

same day, Mary, daughter of William and Barbara Kreebam, 10 years old; spon. John Olan and Alice Burk

same day, Richard, 11 years old, son of William and Barbara Kreekboum; spon. John Olan and Alice Burk

June 23, Andrew, son of Peter and Bridget Gallagher; spon. Peter Gallagher and Ann Wales

June 24 [A], James, 12 years old, son of Joseph and Mary Rachel Cross; spon. Aeg. Olivetti

same day, Joseph, 10 years old, son of Joseph and Mary Rachel Cross; spon. Aeg. Olivetti

[top of page 5]

----, Emmanuel, son of Joseph and Mary Rachel [Cross]; spon. Aeg. Olivetti

[page 5 from photocopy:]

---- [A], conditionally, Mary James, age 25 years, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth James; spon. Edward and Ann Sheredan. Aegidius Olivetti

June [7 or 17] [SC] Hugh son of John and Catharine Mccabe; spon. Matthew and Ann Walpol AO

July 13 [C], Helen, daughter of James and Mary Handbau [Handiboe]; spon. Jerome [H]Arringthon and Elizabeth Turner? AO

July 15 Mary Julia, age 19, daughter of deceased James and Janice Hiler; spon. Michael Mcgraw and Catharine Bury AO

same day, Mary Ann, daughter of the above Mary Julia Hiler, spon. John Powers and Bridget Gallegher AO

same day, conditionally, David, age 28 years, son of David and Helen Genkins; spon. John Water and Elizabeth Morasen. AO

same day, William son of Jeremy and Ann Skely; spon. Patrick Mckewn and Bridget Konlan AO

July 16 I supplied baptism ceremonies for Bridget, daughter of Edward and Mary Kendrik; spon. James Collins and Mary Newgent AO

[remainder of page 5 and page 6 as transcribed by Msgr. H. E. Mattingly:]

July 18 [SC], Henry, son of Patrick and Catherine Masterson; spon. Michael Molligan and Elizabeth Walpol

same day [D], Mary, daughter of Frederick and Sarah Ann Gosman; spon. John and Freny Gosman

July 26 [SC], John, son of Michael and Mary Ann Brena?; spon. John Skennan and Catherine Walpol

same day, William, 5 years old, son of John and Emily pr[otestant] Prenah; spon. John Skennan and Catherine Walpol

same day, Ruben, 3 years of age, son of John and Emelia Prenah; spon. John Skennan and Catherine Walpol

same day, Mary Ann, 11 years of age, daughter of John and Emelia Prenah; spon. John Skennan and Catherine Walpol

[page 6 probably begins here]

July 26 [SC], Philip, 7 years of age, son of --- and Emelia Prenah; spon. John Skennan and ----

same day, Michael, 9 years of age, son of --- and Emelia Prenah; spon. John Skennan and Catherine W---

Aug. 17, James, son of Peter and Anna Gallagher; spon. Patrick Powers and Bridget Kinsley

Aug. 18, (Ceremonies supplied) John, son of Charles and Fenicis? McAlister; spon. Michael McDaniel and Ann ----

Aug. 21 [C], Mary, daughter of Samuel and Rose Workman; spon. John OMeany and Ann Mary Denman

Sept. -- [SC], (Sub conditione) Edward, son of Thomas and Mary Duffy; spon. Bernard Masterson and Anna Masterson

Sept. 10, (Sub conditione) Mary Anna, 16 years of age, daughter of n. n.; spon. Ml. Olivetti and M-- Ryan

same day, George, son of Patrick and Bridget Sairons?; spon. Thomas McCoy and Bridget Done

same day, John, son of Frederick and Mary Newgent; spon. Thomas Bean and Catharine Ben

Oct. 14 [C], Anna Mary, daughter of Matthew and Lydia Howard?, protestants; spon. Michael Mealy and Susanna Denman

Oct. 11, Bridget, daughter of John and Catherine Powers; spon. Martin Clennen and Catherine David

Oct. 12 [C], John, son of Michael and Mary Gallavan; spon. Michael McDaniel and Mary Lee

same day, (Sub conditione) Susanna, daughter of Michael and Ann Onealy; spon. Ml. Olivetti and Susanna Denman

Oct. 13, Edward, son of Edward and Ann Kennen; spon. James Done and Mary Endlan

Oct. 14 [D], Elizabeth, daughter of Cornelius and Agatha Clegar; spon. Flavian and Agatha Shrater [by Rev. Mr. Henni]

same day, Most Rev. Bishop Purcell baptized James Burgoon, 35 years of age; spon. John Geiger

page 7

Oct. 22 [SC], Most Rev. Bishop Purcel baptized Catharine, daughter of James and Ann Martin; spon. M. Sager and C. Martin

Nov. 28 [D], Mary, daughter of Daniel and Mary Dikes; spoons. John Geiger and n. Peron AO

Dec. 30, conditionally, Mary Sower, age 35; spon. John Cassidy AO

1842

Jan. 14 [SC], Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Susanna Fox; spon. Helen Kyhan? and Michael Doyle AO

Jan. 15 [C], Mary Sarah Collins, age 25 years; spon. n. n. and Susanna Denman AO

Jan. 24 [MC], Elizabeth, age 10 years, daughter of Jesse? and Helen Kuffy; spon. Michael and Mary Ann Trenah

same day, conditionally, Agnes, 9 years old, daughter of the late Jesse and living Helen Kuffy; spon. Ml. and Mary Ann Trenah AO

same day, Charlotte, age 4 years, daughter of late Jesse and living Helen Kuffy; spon. Michael and Mary Ann Trenah AO

same day, Patrick, age seven years, son of late Jesse and living Helen Kuffy; spon. Michael and Mary Ann Trenah AO

same day, Mary, daughter of deceased Jesse and living Helen Kuffy; spon. Michael and Mary Ann Trenah AO

same day, Mary Ruth, 6 months old, daughter of late Jesse and living Helen Kuffy; spon. Aegs. Olivetti AO

Feb. 6, I supplied ceremony of baptism for Mary Ann George, age 50 years; spon. Aegs. Olivetti AO

Feb. 7 [SC], Mary, daughter of Patrick and Mary Skennan; spon. George Thompson and Ann Walpol AO

(To be continued)