

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
by Kathryn Hall Bogle



SISTER RICARDA EICH

**T**HE GOLDEN Jubilee of Sister Ricarda Eich, O.S.F. being celebrated this summer in Portland, and in a little town in Iowa, called Halbur, marks fifty years of service for this member of the Community of St. Francis. For the past eight years Sister Ricarda has been the Associate Director of the St. Vincent de Paul Child Development Center.

The many years of service mark as well a life of devotion and love for the people Sister Ricarda serves. The warmth in her eyes and her gracious manner attest to her enjoyment of her life and her enjoyment in being a part of the lives of those around her.

As a director at the Center located by adjoining properties to Immaculate Heart Catholic Church, Sister Ricarda begins each workday at 7:30 am when she meets each child at the door of the Center. Every child gets a hug and kiss on arrival and every little one knows that there is a continuity of love ahead for the day.

"I feel loved," says Sister Ricarda, "and I feel needed by our kids and their parents. They take the place of my family. I watch the children develop security with us, and I can see the parents relax as they observe that their children are happy and know that they are well cared for. That is part of our philosophy here—to build good self-confidence in children."

"We offer counselling to parents when the ask for it or if we think it would be helpful. Oh, there is nothing monotonous about my days—there is laughter and lots of it, but there are also tears sometimes. 'Grandma,' I hear often from someone who wants to tell me something."

Sister Ricarda Eich indeed has a family of her own back in Iowa. She has recently returned from Halbur to visit them and her home parish at St. Augustine Church there.

It was in January, 1983, when Elvira Eich was 17 years old, that she adopted the name of Ricarda. In 1974, she said her first vows to "live a life of gospel, poverty, celibate love and obedience" in her chosen Franciscan community. When she took the final vows in 1937 the new sister bid farewell to the close family life she had known with her parents and 11 brothers and sisters.

In the ensuing years family contacts were few and far between. The new life for Sister Ricarda took her to Dubuque to continue her schooling. She studied hard to become a teacher as Aisters of St. Francis are teachers following their 800-year-old tradition. Sister Ricarda also holds Masters Degrees in Administration and Guidance Counselling.

"The sisterhood is celebrating its own 800th Anniversary this year," Sister Ricarda pointed out, and added, "The Dubuque Franciscans are 100 years old."

"We wore brown habits when I entered the order but now we have the privilege of choosing what we wear."

"I taught in Iowa parochial schools for many years and became a principal in Ossian, Stacyville, Sioux City and Waterloo. In Waterloo there was a racially mixed school population where I taught at St. Mary's. I found rapport was easy

and remains easy for us. I guess color isn't a part of me at all.

"Here at St. Vincent de Paul Center we are licensed for caring for 120 children and I could never answer questions about our enrollment of one race or another.

"God has been good to me, and for my Jubilee it was arranged for me to return to my family in Halbur. We Franciscans are allowed to visit our families for three days every five years. My parents are deceased now but several brothers and sisters were able to get together with me for a reunion.

"St. Augustine held a Jubilee Mass, a mass of Thanksgiving for the occasion. Father Leo Reisberg was the celebrant. Some of my family, Marie, Ray and Herbert, my sister and two of my brothers, took part in the celebration of the mass. Various nieces and nephews acted as servers, ushers, soloists, and lector. One nephew, James Laughran, carried the cross. Many family friends are part of the church choir.

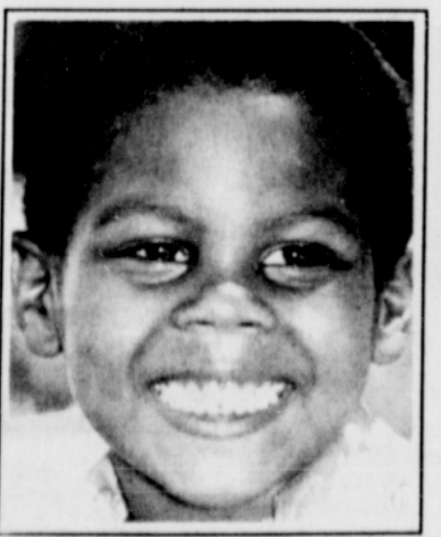
"Afterwards there was a big parish dinner at the church. It was wonderful.

"Yes," Sister Ricarda went on, her eyes glistening a little, "I renewed my vows with thanks and praise for the invitation to do so. I accepted again 'this act of total giving that my life may be pleasing to God...'"

After a moment Sister Ricarda spoke of the program at the Center. "The Center is not church-affiliated. We occupy the building of St. Vincent de Paul, but they do not support us financially.

"We are a United Way agency. We depend on fees from grants and individual and industrial contributions to keep us going. We get some funds from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. We are state and federally licensed through U.S.D.A, but money is the problem. Things will work out. I have faith. I like Portland, I like working at the Center and will stay here as long as I am allowed."

**T**HE "Hill Street Blues" and "Love Boat": what have they in common? Outside of both being successful TV series?



"B.J." LEWIS

Both have young "B.J." Lewis playing bit parts! The show roles are small, but so is B.J. He just attained the ripe age of six years. He is the first born son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lewis of this city. They also have another son, Lance, aged 16 months.

The Lewises were in Los Angeles for a while at the time B.J. was two years old. They enrolled their little son they had named Earl Lewis Jr. in a kindergarten, and during week-

ends and vacation periods, Earl Jr. attended the Kanbridge School of Dramatic Arts.

Dramatic Arts for a toddler? Well, Earl Jr. was an early-talking baby and would repeat accurately what he was asked to say, and also, he proved ready to follow directions. At age four Earl Jr. signed a contract with a real professional agent and he made an orange juice TV commercial for Minute Maid. He sat on the lap of a circus clown. Maybe you saw this on national TV.

About this time his agent changed Earl's professional name to B.J.

When B.J. was five years old, Kentucky Fried Chicken chose him for one of their commercials.

And, now at age six, B.J. has had bit roles in Hill Street Blues which, with little doubt, will be scheduled for reruns soon.

The Love Boat story with the bit

band, Walter Lawson, was killed recently in an automobile accident.

Mr. Lawson was Director of Administrative Services for the state of Alaska. Mrs. Lawson is the Equal Employment Officer for the transportation department for the State of Alaska.

**D**R. AND Mrs. Lloyd Stall of Los Angeles are in the city visiting Mrs. Stall's sister and brother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Jordan and the City Commissioner.

The Stalls brought their own three teen-age sons and a teen-age friend of theirs for the family's first trip to the Northwest. Camping and fishing at Silver Lake and general sightseeing are attracting the visitors. Who is guiding them? The Commissioner, of course. His own 12-year-old son and his 14-year-old daughter are happy to share in the happy plans.



FRANCES ODOM AND JAMES W. CALVIN

part for B.J. has not yet been released, but keep watching for this young Portlander. He is cast with Debbie Allen and plays the role of Timmy in the story.

B.J.'s agent knows B.J.'s Portland address and will send for him when there is a Hollywood part that he can fill.

Now, B.J. has to really learn to read and write and count so that he can take care of his business affairs. School bells are about to ring for him.

**A**PPROXIMATELY 35,000 Prince Hall Shriners and the Daughters of Isis from around the nation attended their annual convention August 15 through 21st in the "Mile High" city of Denver, Colorado.

James W. Calvin, Potentate of Mina Temple #68 and Frances Odom, Commandress of Mina Court #142 of Portland, represented their respective "bodies" at the Annual Imperial Session.

A charitable and benevolent organization, the Shriners give grants to programs in the area of scholarships, youth employment, hospitals, rest homes, cancer research, heart associations and sickle cell anemia research.

Temple and Court members attending the convention were Imperial Officers Eugene and Viola Bonner, Thomas and Dorothy Vickers. Past Potentates and Past Commandresses John T. Blow; Thomas Mills, Folia and Vethel Hall, Henry and Frances Johns, William B. Odom, Jr., were also there. Other officers and members attending were Charles Sanders, Asst. Recorder; Clark Dean, High Priest and Prophet; Virgie L. Tinsley, First Lt. Commandress; Daisy Calvin, and Helen E. Riley, M.W. Grand Matron of PH Grand Chapter.

In between summer lodge meetings, Mrs. Dorothy Vickers flew to Juneau, Alaska to spend three weeks with her sister, Mrs. Jacqueline Lawson, whose hus-

**C**HARLES CURRIE, a former Army man, has recently been awarded the "Golden Legionnaire" plaque, one of the highest honors given by the Smith-Reynolds American Legion Post 14 of Vancouver, Wash.



CHARLES CURRIE

The Vancouver Legion Post is the largest on the Pacific Coast with about 2,900 members. The award is given annually in recognition of "outstanding and meritorious service" to the Post. In the U.S. Army he held the position of Sgt. Major, supervising the administration of his battalion of 800 to 1,000 men.

During his membership Currie has been chairman of the post investment committee, co-chaired the legislative committee and has served three years on the executive board. Other activities have included membership in the Boy's State Committee and membership in the Drum and Bugle Corps.

Currie is employed as a histotechnologist at Emanuel Hospital. In that capacity since 1948, Currie prepares samples of tissue, bones and body fluids for microscopic slides. He is a founding member of the Oregon Society for Histotechnologists.

Originally from Ardmore, Oklahoma, Currie and his wife have lived in Portland since 1946. They have three adult children.

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