

Young Negroes Take Catholic Vows

ST. LOUIS, Miss., Jan. 7. — Four young negro men, 14 years of study with chastity, poverty and obedience as part of their ordination into the priesthood, became members of the slowly growing band of pioneer Catholic missionaries of their own race.

After lying prostrate before the chapel altar to show humility in the sight of God, they will go forth to instruct other negroes on the Gold Coast of Africa in some dilapidated hamlet in the deep south.

They came to St. Augustine's seminary here, the only Catholic seminary for negroes in the United States, while almost children.

SERIAL STORY

CONSCRIPT'S WIFE

BETTY WALLACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Her brown eyes sparkled with merriment, her little white nose tilted adorably.

"What else?" Bill ran a casual hand through her red curls. "You think I was in love with you?"

They munched their toast, in perfect bliss. To Paul, Martha seriously, "You should rush the license bureau with Suzanne Decker, that's what you should do."

Paul grinned. "Should I? Perhaps Suzanne has other notions."

Martha and Suzanne came up freshly for dinner and bridge dancing to the radio. The of them had watched foot-games and movies together, somehow, there'd never been anything very serious about it.

Martha couldn't quite put her finger on it, but she'd sensed it. Bill, who was stupid that way, Suzanne would jump at the chance. The girl's nuts about you."

Paul raised an eyebrow. "Pass the eggs."

Martha was true, of course. Suzanne was in love with him, all right. If he didn't seem to be especially in love with her. Martha remembered how Suzanne looked sul, sometimes, when she was aware of being observed. She remembered the trembling of Suzanne's white fingers on Paul's knee, and the way she closed her eyes and almost held her breath when they danced.

"You could do worse," Bill was saying, idly. "Blonds like me don't grow on trees. Think of the Decker dough! That's what you should have done. Married her. He looks an enormous of his toast, shook his head. "Yes, sir, if I had it to do again, I'd insist on a wife with money."

"I've got money," said Martha. "I'll give you a raise."

Martha worked for Air Transport, the sprawling factory on the edge of town where the great bombers were built. They were switching to bombers, now. She was Paul's secretary, Paul was assistant to the chief engineer. Paul gave her dictation full of words like "propulsive efficiency" and "airfoil boundary" and "translational velocity." But these days he never stepped in the middle of a sentence to say, "Your hair's fine in the sun, honey."

He never kissed her, he never filed cases, any more. All that was part of the job. It had ended the night he told her, "Martha, this mug is my old from school. He used to smoke all my cigarettes, wear my tie, spend my money."

Martha was never to forget the night she first looked up at the old college chum. Some-thing happened that never happened before in all the months of being Paul's ring-in all the of laughing with Paul, of ng, "Quit making love to me. Is office hours!"

He blazed eyes in the world ed down into her own brown, and a shiver coursed through a shiver that was cold and somehow warm. Her smile d, her breath caught, her began a frightened pound- The tall man with the lean on face couldn't seem to tear fat eyes away.

When he said "Paul, I never owed your girls before. But it's always a first time." fey, wait a minute! We're en- in the end, when Paul saw it was—and in two weeks, a blind man could have seen he was awfully decent. He d in his office, turning the over and over in his fingers. It's all right, Martha," he said leasly. "I guess you couldn't it. I guess it just—just—"

er cheeks were hot, and her quivered. "Paul, I'd give any in the world not to be doing to you. But Bill and I—"

was as if all the months be- had never happened. As if never planned to marry as if the girl who'd laughed Paul and worked with him kissed him had been a dif- nt girl from the Martha Bill shall had pulled into his arms night.

know I can't hold a candle sul," Bill said. "I don't make much money, never will. I m't his brains, and—and he you first. But darling, I love so. From the first moment I you, I knew."

now, too," she whispered. now she told Paul steadily, and I are going to be mar- right away. But Paul can't n't the three of us still be id?"

Paul he said oddly. "Paul guy who brought you togeth- Good old Paul. You'll teach your kids to call me Uncle."

Germans Are Expected To Race for Tobruk

LONDON, Jan. 7. — (AP) — A dramatic race for Tobruk between the British empire army of the Nile and German air force squadrons sent to aid Italy was forecast in military quarters today as the result of Britain's capture of Bardia, a stronghold in Italian North Africa.

So important was the victory regarded here, that military experts expressed belief that Adolf Hitler would be compelled to make some new big scale move to offset the Italian defeat.

CREAM GOES

ROME, Jan. 7. — (AP) — Effective Wednesday, cream is forbidden to Italians under the first new rationing order issued by Giuseppe Tassinari, agriculture minister and food dictator.



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