



Do you have any information about my aunt?'

So many requests sent to the IHM Archives begin this way: Do you have any information about my aunt? Or my favorite teacher? Or the Sister in our parish?

One such request this summer came from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. A gentleman e-mailed president Jane Herb to ask for background about his aunt, Martha Helen Remski. He knew she was the 10th child in the family and they said she had a “magic” birthdate: 03/03/03. He knew her as an exceptional woman in and of higher education.

The e-mail was forwarded to Archivist Jennifer Meacham. Within an hour, he received a reply from Jennifer listing specific dates, degrees, and a complete ministry record for Sister Marie Fidelis Remski. His quick response back was, “WOW!!!”

Sister Marie Fidelis did, indeed, have an unusual career. She entered the community on June 24, 1920. She was sent to the University of Michigan to study science and received her BA degree in botany in 1924 and an MA degree in biology in 1936 while also teaching at St. Mary Academy. She earned a Ph.D in botany in 1953. She spent the summer of 1963 in Peru where she climbed the Andes to find the particular cactus she wanted to research.

Her nephew said he was in college himself in 1961 when Sister participated in a 60-day invited conference on radiological mutations in plants. He was excited to hear about her experience, but when he asked about it she said, “It was really wonderful. I finally got to ride in a Volkswagen Beetle!” He added that because of her humility she rarely spoke about herself or her work. She taught



— *Detroit News photo*

Sister Marie Fidelis Remski studying the cells of cacti.

almost 20 years at Marygrove and after “retirement” spent another 18 years at colleges in Florida. She died March 27, 2000, at the age of 97.

Her grateful nephew said he is sharing details

of her life with his sons’ generation “to have her story serve as inspiration for them and their children.”

The Archives is privileged to preserve the story of the IHM Sisters and community.

*From the Motherhouse Chronicles:*1953
August

More canning data. In view of the fact that a new deep freeze is about to be installed, and Sister Mariella says that it will reduce the canning to a minimum, posterity might like to look back to the peak year of 1953. Before the end of the season Sister Mariella had these figures at hand:

plain tomatoes	- - 2065	2 quart cans	one day's output late
juice	- - 1567	" " "	in season:
corn	- - 80	" "	444 - 2 qt. tomatoes
beets	- - 24	" "	165 - " plums
catsup	- - 450	" "	18 - 2 corn
Chili sauce	- - 70	" "	24 - 2 catsup
creole sauce	-- - 106	" "	26 - 2 pickles
green gages	- - 277	" "	
red plums	- - 246	" "	
peaches	- - 281	" "	
peaches	- - 320	" "	(601)
grape juice	- - 316	" "	
Crabapple	- - 51	gal.	
plum jam	- - 18	gal.	
rhubarb	- - 306	" "	
strawberries	- - 500	" "	
strawberry jam	- - 115	gal.	
whole cherries	- - 160	" "	
pitted cherries	- - 129	" "	
Cherry juice	- - 20	qts.	
currant jelly	- - 64	gal. plus	
black berry jam	- - 22	"	
redraspberries	- - 207	2 quart cans	
cherry - orange jam	- - 27	gal.	
raspberry jam	- - 78	"	
dill pickles	- - 80	2 quart cans	
dill slices	- - 51		
bread and butter	146	quarts	
sweet split	- - 52	"	
sweet dill	- - 120	"	
slits	- - 10		
beet pickles	- - 27	"	
small sweet pickles	- - 36	"	
relish	- - 116	"	
pear	- - 7		
asparagus	- - 9		
black cherries	- - 5		
green and wax beans	96	2 qt.	
broccoli	9	"	
corn	14	"	
cauliflower	29	"	

See back page for photo of Sisters canning

**This little flower
garden is dedicated
to Marie André
Walsh, IHM, who
holds the title of
*Motherhouse
Chronicler
Emerita***

**With sincere thanks
from the staff of the
IHM Archives.**

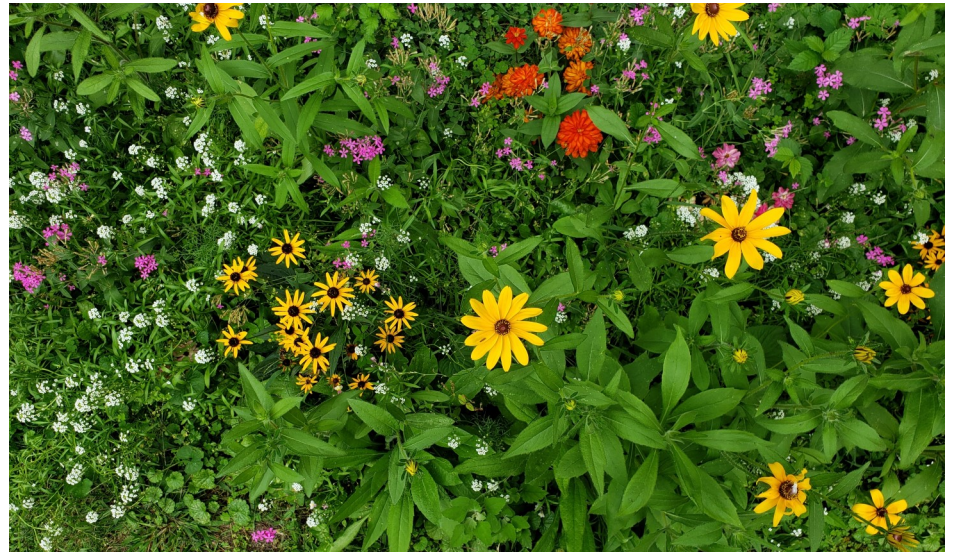


Photo by Archivist Jennifer Meacham

Have you seen this colorful patch of flowers?

Sister Marie André Walsh cherishes the IHM story and spent 13 years preserving it as official Motherhouse Chronicler. Her contribution to the historical record was celebrated with a small departmental party. As a gift she received a certificate printed on biodegradable paper embedded with flower seeds that was “planted” this summer by Archives staff. The seed paper came from a company called Botanical Paperworks in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and included catchfly, sweet alyssum, snapdragon, bird’s eye, black-eyed Susan, and clarkia. Take a peek at Marie André’s garden next time you’re near the Activities office. It’s just outside the window!



*Mystery photograph:
Now we know the story*

Thank you to Sister Brigid Wade for pursuing information for this Mystery photo. IHM Sisters were teaching at St. Michael the Archangel School in Miami, FL, when they spent a free day visiting the Seminole tribe on March 19, 1966. The Sisters are (left to right): Brigid Mary Wade, M. Donatus (Mary Ann) Karle, M. Cleora Villaire, Marie Adrian Cousino, Kathleen Cephias Murphy, Mary Gilbert Rinke, Ann Patricia McGee, Frederick Marie Weiss, Kevin Marie Hannon, Unidentified, Ann Justine Beauvais, Unidentified. Also on mission that year were Mother M. Clarine Krause, Sisters Mary Cecil Law, Mary Claude Dunn, Marie Mark Hinks.

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Since 2000, all IHM sisters have been encouraged to submit individual chronicles to the IHM Archives. These records about your own life and ministry over the course of a year or more add breadth and depth to the documented history of the IHM Sisters. Your contribution will enrich the future record of the IHM, so please be sure your life's story is included in the community's story.

Facebook favorites: A popular recent Archives post

Many IHM Sisters have memories of being in the fields, but here is a memory from a Facebook friend:

Jeanne Byron

Piotrowski: I grew up at the end of Borgess. There were 9 of us in my family. We ate dinner in the summer on a very small screened in porch. I can remember the sisters picking in the field across the creek next to our house. I loved it when they would talk in their low voices. It was a beautiful hum. Was even better when they would sing. Dinner music was the best!



The names we have for this photo: Sisters Mary Coughlin, Evengeline Nestor, Vita Marie Engel, Mary Kinney, Angela Beauvais, Eileen Shaw, Verita Scofield, Mary Laubacher and Berchan Murray.