

Winter 2021

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A collection of recent discoveries and activities in the IHM Archives



Interest in ‘nun dolls’ still comes in from researchers

One of the most recent requests for information fielded by Archives staff came from two graduate students at Bowling Green State University. Olivia Cotterman and Natalie Stitak emailed that they had a “doll assignment” and needed help. The assignment was from their instructor in museology class — the study of operations and management of museums. The “nun dolls” they were trying to identify are not representative of



Doll from the BGSU collection

the IHM, but Archivist Jennifer Meacham gave them information and suggested other sources for their research.

The Archives currently has eight

IHM dolls in the dress of candidate, novice and professed, including one in the original black

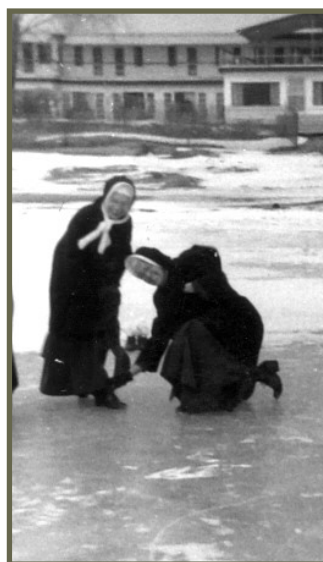
habit. One doll that often gets commented upon by visitors to Jennifer’s office is this one wearing eyeglasses. If you know who donated this doll, please contact the Archives.



Warm winter memories



Remember play equipment behind the Academy?



Slip-sliding at Crawfton



Marie Markel

What made them so ‘famous’?

It was a simple statement of fact that caught our eye. It was in the beginning paragraph of Sister Ellen Mary Green’s Remembering: “This was the famous class of 1932.”

Next, we ran across this photo and started to look up names. They all entered the community in 1932.

They shared a couple of twists that could qualify them for distinction. They were among 70 young women who entered in 1932 and they were among the 32 who remained to become novices. So, 32 in ’32. Neat. They also were in the first class entering the new Motherhouse.

This photo was likely taken in 1987 or 1988.

Here are (back row l-to-r): Helene



(Alphonsine) Barry (1915-1993),
Margaret (Anacletus) Cutcher
(1915-2002), Cleora Villaire (1912-
1997), Margaret (Malachy) Sullivan

(1916-2018) and Ellen Mary Green
(1916-2005). Front (l-to-r):
Angelique Rose (1915-1992) and
Gabrieline Wagener (1914-2006).

A tragedy revisited, revised in poem after the funeral

The Class of 1932 held another sad distinction: the deaths of two members of the class just days before their Diamond Jubilee. Sisters Helene Barry and Anne Dumas were returning home from Ishpeming July 18, 1993, when their car hit a tree and the sisters were killed.

Eleanor Fitzgibbons, IHM, wrote this poem, entitled A Double Burial in the Convent Cemetery.

Had I been standing
in the front row
facing only the stark finality
of your sudden, violent deaths

I would not, could not
have been aware
of a subtle sweetness—

The summer air fragrant
with clover blossoms
our feet had crushed.

I would have missed utterly
what the flowers were telling me!

Had I been standing up front
where I could see your white caskets
shining in the sun

I would have missed
the invisible airplanes

crossing each other’s path
and leaving in their white wake

Two long intersecting beams
on the sapphire sky —
A Saint Andrew’s Cross
pointed toward your open graves.

How it named the Mystery
and gentled the pain —

This sign of Victory
from you, my sisters,
Safe home in the arms
of our loving God.



Mystery photos

These two winter photos are unidentified in the IHM Archives. If you can offer a name for a face, a date or a location, please contact Deborah Saul at dsaul@ihmsisters.org



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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.

Among Ourselves: at Formation House

This happy group photo was featured in the October 15, 1989, edition of *Spinnaker*, the congregational newspaper. They had been in Monroe in August for a brainstorming session for future issues.

Pictured are (front row, l-to-r): Sisters Margaret Ann Henige, Christine Dobrowolski, Barbara Johns, and Helen Oprysek.

Middle row: Patricia Hogan, Ann Champagne, Helen Shondell, Chrysostom Truka, Paula Cathcart and Paraclita Schnebelt.

Standing are: Rita Archchambeau, Suzanne Molloy, Frances Manor, Joan Glisky, Mary Ann Penner,



Joyce Durosko, Ruth Glaser, Nila Neill and Judine King.

Spinnaker was published four times

a year from 1984 through 1997. Barbara Johns was the editor of the October 1989 issue.