

Sisters of Mercy Enjoy Days Spent at Summer School



Still Able To
Greet The
World With
Warm Smiles

Bundles And Books
Just Like School Girls

SEPTEMBER days will soon be here, and when they come the path to the parish school will quickly be worn clear of the grass that is now growing over it; little feet will patter along it, joyously taking their early steps up the great hill of Knowledge, under the guidance of a gentle woman whose face denotes the peace that is within her and whose kind demeanor betokens her devotion to the cause of those little ones who seek her out. Her garb bespeaks her one of those women who have given over things that are of earth earthy, and have set themselves apart from the ordinary existence of the world, consecrated to the most noble of tasks, that of doing the work that only a woman can do in the world, and with the self-effacement that is only possible to one who has professedly renounced all worldly interests save such as touch upon her duties as a devoted Christian. These nuns or "sisters" will soon again open their schools, and further pursue one of the greatest of their functions, that of opening up the infant minds of the children who are sent to them to be taught.

sweetly termed but positive refusal the quest was abandoned. But it was not all dull work at the summer school, as witness the laughing group that left the building one day at noon. One of these "grin" and preserve her dignity, but with poor success, while the sister who walks by her has allowed her laughter to burst forth without restraint, and the other two are also very much amused over something. It may be a source of some astonishment to some youngsters somewhere to know that the gentle but austere woman who directs their efforts as the assault on the mysteries of the language and multiplication tables has in her those elements of risibility that may be touched by a human incident—but she has.

And some of these same youngsters may wonder at the sight of the patient sister with her arms full of books, endeavoring to hoist a sunshade for protection against the direct rays of a blazing July sun. She has not appeared to them as other than the devoted saint whom they revere and in whose presence they stand in unconcealed awe, because she embodies in her person those mysteries they may never hope to understand, but it will not hurt any for them to know that she is first of all a woman. Her devotion is all the more sincere because it takes on the form of trying to perfect her skill and ability as a teacher to the end that she can in better effect serve those who are placed within her charge for their early mental training. And that is why she carried books and papers in her arms as she went to and from the school room while in Omaha during those hot weeks.

School Days of Interest.
And the school had its compensations, too, such as the youngsters never dream of. The lectures were of the highest order, on topics that were not only pertinent but intensely of interest to the teaching nuns, while novelties unknown to the quiet seclusion of the convent were shown under such conditions as made them doubly of value. Among these were the "movies."

"And now, where do you think we're going?" said the spokeswoman of a visiting delegation to the editor of The Bee. "We're going to see the movies," she answered herself, and then quickly explained they were the moving pictures that were being shown each afternoon in the main assembly room at the college of law. This was the first glimpse the great majority of these women had had of this wonderful invention of modern times, and the subjects were such as gave them newer and better and broader ideas of the great world about which they are expected to inform the children they teach. And so their days were spent in work that had its serious purpose, and yet was made part pleasurable because of its rare interest and novelty.

The summer school at Creighton was not confined to the limits of a religious sect, but was open to the world. It is one of two great summer schools conducted by Catholic-controlled universities, the other being at Washington. Its convenience for the uses of the nuns who are domiciled in the western part of the country was proven by the numbers who attended the sessions. They came from north, south, east and west in search of higher education. During the summer, while the convents are closed, is the only time that the sisters have an opportunity to devote their entire time to study, and they came from 100 different orders in the United States to avail themselves of this time for study. The summer school is established for all, regardless of creed and sex, who have not the time during the year to devote to study that they would like to have. It appealed to the sisters first because it was under the patronage of the Catholic church, and secondly because the directors of the university had made the tuition



Sweet Faced
Sisters Who Seek
For Instruction.

Come Here to Study.
And school room tasks will be taken up this time with greater zest and a better understanding, for many of these good sisters are now in possession of more modern equipment for the pursuance of their work. This is the result of a summer school that has just closed its sessions in Omaha. It was unique in its way, because it was attended so largely by nuns who are devoted to teaching. Its sessions were held at the college of law of the Creighton university, and were attended daily by hundreds of nuns who came from all over the west and southwest to be given the instructions afforded by an able corps of lecturers on the most modern and approved methods of teaching. It was the science of teaching that was set before these women at the daily sessions of the schools, and the instructors were those best equipped for the purpose, regardless of any sectarian difference that might exist.

Daily for weeks, morning, noon and night, these women in the garb of their order gathered for the purposes of the school; they came on foot and in street cars, and some even rode down in automobiles, for they were the guests while in the city of the several religious orders here and of various families, whose hospitality was bestowed without stint. On the street cars they were noted counting over their lessons, making ready for the quiz of the class room, with the assiduity they may expect from their youthful charges during the school season. In all essential regards they were "pupils" themselves, and they seemed at all times to recognize the force of this fact, too, and gave close attention to the business that had brought them together. But not so close that they entirely overlooked the things about them that were novel or unusual. The interesting points about the city were visited and carefully inspected, for of such is the knowledge of the teacher made up, and on her experience rests her value.

Also They Enjoyed Their Stay.
That a closely religious life does not destroy the sweetness of a good woman may be determined from some of the faces shown in the snap shots taken of these nuns as they passed in and out of the college building. Let it not be thought they knew they were being photographed; far from that. The pictures were taken unknown to the subjects and show them just as they came and went from and to school. When the photographer was finally discovered, he was incontinently "chased," and the reporter who sought to get some "human interest good women is trying her utmost to 'swallow her ace'" from these grown-up pupils met with such

for the term so nominal that it made it possible for them to take advantage of it.

Faithful in Attendance.
Each day from June 23 until August 2 eighty-eight nuns climbed the stairs leading to the class rooms at the Creighton university law school. So pleased are they with the work of the classes that many have made their plans to return next summer. The classes began at 8 o'clock in the morning—soon after the school had opened business men and women, who were going to their offices at that hour, noticed the sweet faced women gowned in the simple garb of the church making their way toward the college of law. The keen look of interest was most apparent, and even after they had left the class room one passed them on the street he could observe the expression of gratification on their faces. It is a little far to travel to Washington, D. C., for the western sisters, and when the Creighton university announced the open-

candidates for degrees. The local convents were most generous with their invitations to the visiting sisters to make their stay in the city at these places.

School Work Made Interesting.
Classes were held in the morning from 8 until 12, and in the afternoon entertainment was provided for them in the form of lectures which were illustrated with moving pictures. Some of the subjects included "Yellowstone Park," "A Trip in the Valley of Vesuvius," "Audiences with Pope Pius," "The Inauguration of President Wilson," "The Panama Canal" and many other topics. It was with the keenest interest that these women listened to the lectures and observed the views of the foreign countries and pictures of world-wide known people. In many instances it was the first time they had witnessed the motion pictures, and all felt that as well as entertaining they were most interesting. To see the wonderful geysers in the great Yellowstone park in action and still be several hundred miles away from them; to see the construction of the Panama canal, the greatest piece of engineering work of the day, and to be given the privilege of seeing His Holiness, Pope Pius X, was a most wonderful experience for these women.

With the exception of the summer school at Washington, D. C., the only other similar school opened by a university under the patronage of the Catholic church for the summer months is the one which has just finished its sessions at Creighton university. All members of the teaching staff have had a great deal of experience. Many of the sciences were taught by the instructors in the several departments of Creighton university; the two women members of the staff of teachers are both members of the Omaha High school faculty, Miss Pearl Rockefeller and Miss Theodora Borglum. Dr. I. Curtis Arledge, who was instructor in botany and other sciences, came from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Charles F. Crowley, professor of chemistry, is a graduate of Michigan.

School a Great Success.
Paul L. Martin, dean of the law school, was director of the summer school. Mr. Martin in speaking of the success of the work of the school said that it had been an experiment, but had been a most successful one from every standpoint.

"We expect to have twice the number of attendants at the session next summer," said Mr. Martin. "Many of the sisters came to me as they left and said that they had gained so much through the work of these few weeks that they would return next year and bring many others with them. Some of them came from the south as far as Texas, others from Indiana, several from North and South Dakota and many from Montana and Wyoming."

The sisters who came here from the smaller places in the west were greatly interested in the skyscrapers of Omaha. Not only did they marvel at the height of the buildings, but the interior decorations and the architecture of them. During the hours not occupied with study, they visited many of the public buildings of the city. The public library interested them very much, and the fact that one could have the privilege of such a splendid reference room appealed strongly to them. The visitors were greatly interested and expressed much sympathy for those who had suffered losses in the tornado. Many of them visited the Sacred Heart convent and were told of the experiences which pupils and sisters had in the tornado.

Upon several occasions they were addressed by Bishop Scannell, who encouraged their attending the summer school and said that he hoped they would bring many more with them next summer.