



KATHRYN HULME and her German Shepherd, "Lady," look over a copy of her much-feted book, "The Nun's Story." The book, which appeared two weeks ago, is already ninth on the best-seller lists and has been named a Book-of-the-Month Club selection, Catholic Book Club choice, and will appear in the October Reader's Digest. (News-Herald Photo).

Local Author Is Surprised By Success Of Her New Book

By **TOM RISCHÉ**

A story which she didn't think would be of any particular interest, but which she "had to write" has brought rave notices and widespread acclaim to a local woman.

"I still haven't recovered from the shock. I feel like a struck ox," declared Kathryn Hulme (pronounced without the "L"), author of "The Nun's Story," published this month.

The book has been named a Book-of-the-Month Club Selection, a Catholic Book Club choice, and will appear in abridged form in the October Reader's Digest. It is currently in ninth place on the best-seller list in Los Angeles, although it appeared only two weeks ago.

Wades Through Mail

Miss Hulme, who has written four books previously, is still wading through a deluge of mail congratulating her on her new book. She has lived high on a hill overlooking the area at 1430 Wildwood Dr. for the past five years. She finds the somewhat remote atmosphere conducive to her writing.

"I have wanted to write ever since grade school," she declared, "and have been trying to write ever since. Thank heavens I was blessed with a Jack-of-all-trades nature which has enabled me to support those tries."

At any rate, "The Nun's Story" has catapulted Miss Hulme into the limelight of the literary world.

After World War II, she spent six years in Germany, as a relief administrator with the United Nations Rehabilitation Association and it was there that she met the woman who is the central character in "The Nun's Story."

Story About Nun

The story concerns a woman, who for 17 years was a nun,

servicing both in Belgium and in the Belgian Congo. When World War II came along, Sister Luke, as she was called, decided that she was no longer strong enough in will to continue the monastic vows. Although she left the convent, she remained a Catholic.

Miss Hulme met Sister Luke in the relief camp for displaced persons at Wildflecken, where the former sister was her assistant. The two women became fast friends, exchanged confidences, and when Miss Hulme came back to America, the former Sister Luke came with her.

That was five years ago, and Sister Luke is now living in Southern California, working in a hospital. She is now an American citizen.

Catholic Convert

A life-long Protestant, Miss Hulme is a recent convert to the Catholic Church, partly through the influence of her new-found friends and partly because she felt the need for "a disciplined approach to life."

It was, perhaps, her search for a concrete philosophy which led her to write "The Nun's Story." It was, she said, a story she had to write, although she was told by many of her friends that it would never sell.

Although she has always wanted to write and has had four books published previously, Miss Hulme has been enabled to devote her full time to writing only recently, through the success of her book.

For many years, she was director of advertising for the "Ask Mr. Foster" Travel Service, touring the United States. In the course of her work, she traveled to Africa and told of her experiences in a travelogue called "Arab Interlude" published in 1930. This was follow-

ed by "Desert Night" and in 1938, "We Lived As Children," the story of Miss Hulme's childhood in San Francisco.

Worked As Welder

During World War II, Miss Hulme donned an electric arc welder's mask and went to work for Henry J. Kaiser. Toward the end of the war, she joined United Nations forces and went to work in displaced persons camps.

As a result of her experiences in the camps, she wrote the "The Wild Place," published in 1953. This work gained for her the Atlantic Prize, and spurred her to continue her writing career.

With the money she won from this book, she built herself a study in the basement of her hillside home. With the money she received from advances on "The Nun's Story," she added a new sink to her kitchen and improved the drainage system.

Prefers Sinks To Minks

"There are the authors who go for minks and the authors who go for sinks," she noted slyly.

Literally a jack-of-all trades, she has made many of the improvements around her home by herself. She has built many of the cement walks which go through the rock gardens surrounding her home and even a kennel for her two German Shepherd dogs.

When she felt that the price some contractors asked to build a wire fence around her home was too high, she bought the materials herself and did the cement work, digging, and stringing of the fence.

Her major interest, however, continues to be writing and she is now working on a book about California. When requests for her to speak and her huge volume of mail have diminished somewhat, she plans to resume her writing in earnest. She answers all of her mail personally, despite suggestions from her friends that she hire a secretary. When she writes, she spends her entire day at the typewriters.

"Most people think that writing is inspiration," she declared. "The fact is that it is hard work, day after day. You can't sit around and wait for inspiration."



KATHRYN HULME
Literature

"As I wrote each word," she said, "I prayed that the book would offend no one."

Proof that her prayers were answered is the reception given her remarkable story of a nursing sister and the inner conflict that forced her to renounce her vows.

Written with great warmth, pity and understanding, Miss Hulme's book has been on the best-seller lists for four months, was a Book-of-the-Month selection, a Catholic Book Club selection, was chosen by the Reader's Digest for its condensation series and has been purchased by a Hollywood producer for transference to the motion-picture screen.

Inherited Wanderlust

Born in San Francisco a few years before the earthquake of 1906, Kathryn Hulme is the granddaughter of Capt. J. M. (Jack) Cavarly, salt-water skipper and captain of the Great Republic, a sailing ship that held a record for runs to Hong Kong and Yokohama. From him she inherited her wanderlust.

Since she was not blessed with riches, she always chose

Turn to Page 14, Column 4

Continued from Page B

a job that involved travel. For many years she was director of advertising for the Ask Mr. Foster Travel Service, a position that enabled her to visit almost every corner of the globe.

Writing, however, was her first love.

"I have wanted to write ever since I was a girl in high school," she said. "I have been trying to write all those years. Thank heavens I was blessed with a jack-of-all-trades nature which has enabled me to support those tries."

Drew on Own Childhood

In 1938, she wrote "We Lived as Children," a story of an American family in San Francisco before and during the earthquake and which delineated many of her own childhood experiences.

This was her third book and first real success. Her first book was a collection of travel essays titled "Arab Interlude," and the second was a novel she prefers to forget.

When the war came, 5-foot 4-inch, slim, hazel-eyed Kate donned 19 pounds of the horsehide "leathers" of the electric arc welder and went to work stitching steel plates for ships and planes at the Henry Kaiser plant.

She was still working there in 1945 when she was appointed to a 12-man team by the United Nations to take over the DP camps as they were liberated by the Germans.

Sent to Bavarian Alps

The camp she was assigned to was Wildflecken—the Wild Place. It was high in the Re-

print and is working happily here today.

"She brings to her nursing in America some kind of plus thing that nobody can exactly put a finger on . . . a caring for the soul first, then of the body.

"She would be, the last one to say she was instrumental in my conversion to the Roman Catholic Church, but I will say that living with a practicing Christian is a completely disarming experience."

Ennobling Friendship

But it was that friendship, which Kathryn Hulme found so ennobling, that was the inspiration for her conversion to Catholicism and which has contributed so much to the distinction of her book.

Miss Hulme and her friend live in the hills above Eagle Rock. Their redwood house is secluded in an acre of wild gardens and burgeoning shrubbery. They are both avid gardeners and Miss Hulme finds her welding experience coming in handy when she is faced with repairs or improvements to the house.

To date, she has built yards and yards of masonry, painted her kitchen a modern gray and yellow and fixed many a leaky faucet.

Three beautiful German police dogs, one an utterly appealing 2-month-old puppy, roam pretty well at large through the spacious yard. They are Anka, Helga and Helga's son, Bismark vom Glockenraine, and it is obvious on seeing them with her that they are abject worshippers of their equally devoted mistress.

Girlhood Dream Realized

The tremendous and unexpected success of "The Nun's Story" has made it possible for Kathryn Hulme to realize her girlhood dream. She is now able to devote all her time to writing. The book has been translated into six languages: Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, German, French and Swedish, and it is safe to say that royalties will be rolling in for many years.

Her next book will be the story of her glamorous grandfather, Captain Jack, and his exploits in the days of the sailing ships. She is working on it now and no man's life could be in safer

hands than those of this charming and gifted woman.

There will be other books, of course, because Kathryn Hulme's is a talent that will grow. Maturity has brought her a deep understanding of people and has taught her an even greater lesson, how to live at peace with herself.

"I shall keep busy within my own periphery," she said, "and I shall have a good life."

able lamps at a special
"29" tall, in polished
15" gold foil shade. Pr.
Scandinavians have perfe
et in Swedish glass, in the
reen, blue, amber, topaz,
The pitcher, stirrer and six
in a Swedish gift box.