

Alice Murray, born in 1896, attended St. Mary's School in Joliet from first to seventh grade. During that year, Alice being 11 years old at the time, her careful mother sent Alice to the Academy to board, the reason being that Mrs. Murray was expecting and did not want Alice to "learn the facts of life from the hired girl." According to Alice, the hired girl managed to impart the information anyway.

Alice calls herself "choosey." She did not marry until, ^{while} visiting friends in Maryland, she met Joseph Mahar, a captain in the army. She was forty-two, he was 38. "The marriage was ideal." During W.W.II Joseph was transferred to Air Corps intelligence and was promoted to colonel, Assistant Director of Intelligence in Denver. From Denver they moved for a year to England, then to Washington, D.C. where Joseph died, aged 65. Alice remained in metropolitan Washington for twelve years. Now she lives at Our Lady of the Angels in Joliet.

When they had been married two years, Joseph gave Alice a Hummel statue of Our Lady. It is about 12" tall and an original. Alice carried the statue by hand back and forth to Europe and wherever else they traveled. She treasures it beyond rubies. Last week Alice told me that she has decided to add a codicil to her will leaving the statue to people who will value it as she does, the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Alice also showed me a greeting card her husband had sent her. The lovely sentiment on the card, not the sentimental messages we read too often, would be a fitting close to this story. When I asked Alice if she would consider adding the card to her bequest, she was delighted. However, Alice is a very happy person, intent on counting all her past blessings. Let's pray for her and ask God to spare her for many more than her present 97 years.