



# Barquilla de la Santa Maria

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October: Rosary Month

October, 1993

### THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART AND SACRED HEART ACADEMY

by Donald M. Schlegel

(Concluded, from Vol. XVIII, No. 8)

#### Part 4 -- Epilogue

On September 29, 1882 the Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart arrived in Galveston to open a boarding and day school in the home purchased for them by Bishop Gallagher. The first Mass in their new convent was offered on Sunday, October 1, 1882, Feast of the Holy Rosary, and was followed by the sisters' first rosary procession in Galveston. (75)

The community slowly expanded under the fatherly care of Bishop Gallagher and the nurture of Mother Mary Agnes and Sister Rose. Mother Mary Agnes realized that the strength of the community depended not on numbers but on the charity, the devotedness, and the zeal of those who composed it, so she was most vigilant in the admission of subjects. She had embodied in a prayer to the Blessed Mother a petition that she would not permit any one to remain in the house who would prove an unworthy member. Bishop Gallagher recruited several members of his own family for the order and at other times the sisters recruited in Ireland and, naturally, many vocations came from among the students in the schools taught by the community.

The community expanded beyond Sacred Heart Academy to other schools in Galveston, then other cities and towns in the diocese, and eventually beyond the borders of Texas. In Galveston, they taught at Holy Rosary School for children of the Colored Race from 1887 to 1897; and at St. Mary's Cathedral School beginning in 1893. Sisters were sent to Beaumont in 1895, Taylor in 1896, Sacred Heart Parish in Houston in 1897, Lampasas in 1900 (St. Dominic's Villa, where many of the sisters moved after the hurricane of that year), St. Mary's Seminary in LaPorte in 1901 (for domestic duties), and St. Agnes Academy in Houston in 1906.

In 1907, the silver jubilee of their arrival in Texas, the community comprised 75 sisters and was teaching 1,125 pupils. Other schools in Texas soon came under their care. In 1918, after the death of Bishop Gallagher and while the diocese was under the administration of Rev. James Kirwin, the sisters branched out to a convent and school in Riverside, California, in the Diocese of Los Angeles. (One reason for the acceptance of this school was the need for a better climate for some of the sisters.)

By 1921 the congregation consisted of 115 sisters in 14 convents in two dioceses. In 1926 the Motherhouse moved to Houston, in which city it is still located, and there the golden jubilee of the Sisters' arrival in Texas was celebrated in 1932. They then were teaching 3,599 students in Texas and 360 in California. At their diamond jubilee in 1957, the sisters were near a zenith in numbers, with 311 sisters, 20 novices, and 18 postulants; they were staffing a college, two academies, six high schools, and 28 grammar schools in the dioceses of Galveston, Austin, Lafayette, and San Diego.

After the 1970s, during which a general exodus from the community occurred, as it did in most religious communities, and the median age of the sisters rose dramatically, their centennial year found 214 professed sisters; they were stretched rather more thinly than in earlier years, in thirty schools and eight dioceses. As of 1992 the trend continued; they numbered 164 sisters working in nine dioceses. Sister Sheila Hackett's history of the congregation has made an invaluable start in tracing the events of this era.

#### Mother Mary Agnes

In the Galveston convent home, amid untold privations, Mother Mary Agnes's virtues shone. She was of a bright, spirited, lovable nature full of a keen sense of humor, wit, and originality, and it was delightful to be in her presence. Her silvery, bell-like laughter was contagious, and chased away the cobwebs of gloom and care from those who were privileged to be near her. She was deeply spiritual and those around her could not help but feel their hearts burning with love for God when in conversation with her. Her superior qualities of mind and heart, combined with culture and refinement of manners, attracted all hearts. She had a great zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, along with tender charity for the poor and unfortunate.

Mother Mary Agnes was ill for much of the last ten years of her life. In 1887, all were convinced that she was about to die and Mother Rose assembled the sisters and instructed them to take turns praying the Rosary continuously, from eight in the morning until eight in the evening. Mother Mary Agnes gradually recovered from this danger, but in January of 1891 she was confined to her bed and, after six weeks of intense agony, on March 4 her soul was released. Her last prayer was that God would watch over her little community. On receiving word of her death, Bishop Gallagher remarked, "She not only died a saint but a great one, and we did not realize how good she was." She bequeathed to her children in religion, as her most precious legacy, an unbounded, childlike confidence in the care and protection of the Mother of God. She had been consecrated in a special manner for many years as the devoted Slave of Jesus and Mary, according to the counsel of St. Louis de Montfort. She looked upon the Blessed Mother as the true superioress of her convent and upon herself as a humble servant. (76)

#### Mother Rose Lynch

Sister Rose was seventy-four years old when the Sisters moved to Texas. Though never superioress of the congregation, she was sub-prioress and was courteously called "Mother" by the community. She remained relatively active until a few months before her death. Among other duties, she taught mathematics to the sisters, as she had done through the years. In her last months, she spent her days in the Chapel, sitting in an armchair close to the

Blessed Sacrament, with her rosary always in her fingers. In the summer of 1893, the sisters built a new convent. As soon as Mother Rose's room was ready, she went there and never again left her bed. She was ready to die and only wanted to hear of God. She did not even read letters from her brother and sister...she knew the end was near. On July 13, as the sisters prayed "Depart Christian Soul," she died, "like a smoldering fire." (77)

#### Sister M. Joseph Geghan

Annie Geghan was the first postulant of the community, received by Sisters Mary Agnes and Rose in May of 1875, and she took the name Sister Mary Joseph. She had been born in Ireland about 1855 but was "from" Columbus. She was not a choir or teaching sister but was a lay sister, that is, one engaged in the household duties of the community. In May of 1877 she professed her vows for five years and received the white scapular from Bishop Rosecrans. Her perpetual vows were made on December 8, 1882.

Sister Joseph was an excellent cook, always known for her apple pies. She was said to have been "'so loved of God and man' on account of her happy, bright, cheerful disposition." In addition to the Galveston motherhouse, she served the congregation's communities in Taylor and in Port Neches, Texas. She also spent seventeen years at the Galveston diocesan seminary taking care of the "dear boys going to be priests of God." There, "Many homesick boys have been helped out of their loneliness by the tender motherly care of this



Sr. M. Joseph, left, and Sr. Evangela, standing, in 1932.  
(courtesy of Sr. Mary McCaffrey, Archivist, St. Mary of the Springs)

dear venerable Sister, who listened to their sorrows and won their hearts by the bright smile of sympathy that beamed upon them." She survived to celebrate the golden jubilee of the establishment of the community in Galveston (1932) and finally went to her Maker in 1940. Though Sister Joseph entered the community from Columbus and was allowed to visit here in 1930, it has been impossible to determine who her relatives here were. (78)

#### Sister Evangela Donohoe

Sister Evangela was born Mary A. Donohoe in Columbus about 1864, a daughter of Edward and Kate (Smith) Donohoe. She was an intelligent young lady and by her amiable disposition she made hosts of friends in Columbus. Her next sister, Elizabeth Mary Donohoe, joined the Visitation Sisters in Maysville, Kentucky in 1875 as Sister Mary Regis, the first of three cousins to dedicate their lives to God in the service of the Church. The second was Sister Evangela, who joined the Dominican Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent in 1877 as a choir postulant, and the third was their cousin, Matt Smith, who was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus in 1890. Sister Evangela professed final vows in Somerset on August 15, 1879. (79)

Sister Evangela taught at Sacred Heart Academy in Columbus, Somerset, and Galveston. In July of 1893, she was elected Sub-Prioress of the community after the death of Sister Rose Lynch. In 1900 she moved to St. Dominic Villa in Lampasas, Texas with some of the community and students after the devastating storm of that year, and continued teaching there. She retained her propensity for intellectual growth and change with the mind of the Church. In 1912 she presented a paper "Preparation of Children to Receive Holy Communion at the Age of Seven Years." In 1913 she attended the summer session at Catholic University. She moved with the motherhouse to Houston, where she taught the graduating class at St. Agnes Academy, as she had in her earlier assignments. There she was named by the students "The Walking Encyclopedia" in honor of her remarkable erudition; she was also revered for her deeply religious character. There in 1927 she celebrated her golden jubilee as a Dominican. In 1932 she celebrated the golden jubilee of the arrival of the Sisters in Galveston and that same year she was on the board of directors of the legal corporation of the community. She died in 1938. (80)

#### Sr. M. Francis Ackerman

Laura Ackerman was born in Franklin County about 1853, eldest daughter of John Ackerman, a farmer in Clinton Township, north of Columbus. She was a boarder at St. Mary's of the Springs and as a result of her experiences there she embraced the Catholic faith. Her family opposed her taking religious vows, but she persevered in her conviction that such was God's will for her. She was described as magnificent, bright, intelligent, talented. She entered the Dominican community of the Sacred Heart in Columbus in June, 1875 and immediately began helping with the work, by teaching music, sewing, and other subjects at the Academy. She professed vows for five years in August of 1877 and perpetual vows in June of 1883. At Sacred Heart Academy in Galveston, she continued her work as a teacher. In 1892, when Sister Rose Lynch was ill, Sister Francis was appointed temporary sub-prioress. She died on January 17, 1895, at the young age of about forty-one years. (81)

Sister M. Imelda Rosecrans

Mamie Rosecrans was born in Keokuk County, Iowa about 1863, a daughter of Charles Wesley (Wes) Rosecrans, brother of Bishop Rosecrans. She came to Columbus late in 1876, at the age of about thirteen, and in January the Bishop wrote to his brother, the General, that she was well and happy, though having some problems with her studies and grammar. (82) According to the Sisters, she was baptized on May 19, 1877. (There is no record of the event in the Cathedral parish register.) She received the Dominican habit on August 15, 1879 in Somerset. In Texas, she taught at Sacred Heart Academy in Galveston and also at Holy Rosary School for Colored Children. Both the Sisters and Bishop Gallagher found some opposition in Texas, because of their northern origins, but the presence of Sister Imelda made this opposition stronger, for her uncle had been one of the most successful Union generals. She died on September 6, 1902. (83)

Notes

- 75) Hackett, p. 62
- 76) The Dominican Sisters in Texas, Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Convent, Galveston, 1882-1932, pp. 95-99; courtesy of Sr. Mary McCaffrey, O.P., archivist, St. Mary of the Springs
- 77) Hackett, pp. 63,66,97
- 78) Hackett, pp. 26, 27, 30, 33, 123, 144, 148, 365. Golden Jubilee pp. 50 and 110. When she entered the convent, the only family in Columbus with a name close to hers was that of Daniel Gargan or Garrigan and his sisters and aunt. Daniel had a sister named Ann, but it has been impossible to determine whether this was Sister M. Joseph.
- 79) Newspaper clipping, probably from an August, 1877 Catholic Columbian, courtesy of Sr. M. Gerard Barry, O.P. Also, information provided by Sr. M. Veronica Haronik of the Sisters of the Visitation, St. Louis, Mo. Federal Census of 1870, Columbus, Ward 1, page 650. Letters of the Smith/Donohoe/Bergin family, made available by Mrs. Mary A. Hackett of Delaware, O.
- 80) Hackett, pp. 98, 115, 174, 176, 531, 576, and 696. Golden Jubilee, op. cit., 109-110.
- 81) Federal Census of 1870, Franklin Co., Clinton Township, page 035 reverse. Hackett, pp. 27, 31, 33, 72, 96, 115, 695, and 700.
- 82) UCLA, Special Collections, No. 663, Jan. 17, 1863
- 83) Hackett, pp. 33, 44, 63-65, 698, 700. Golden Jubilee, op. cit., p. 38.

APPENDIX

STUDENTS OF THE SACRED HEART ACADEMY  
(Concluded from Vol. XVIII, No. 7)

LEONARD, Katie, primary department, 7/75	Annie, of Columbus, 4/79
LEVITT, F., 6/80	LYONS, Ellie, 6/78
LIEBOLD, Grace, of Columbus, 4/79	LYONS, L., second senior class, 6/78;
LLIEBOLD, Nellie, of Columbus, 4/79	LYONS, Lizzie, 1st junior class, 6/78
LEITZINGER, L., 7/81	McCORMIC, M., 6/79; Maggie McCirmick, of Somerset, 6/79
LOGAN, ----, second minim class, 6/76; F., 6/78;	McDONALD, ----, first senior class, 1/79; Alice, of Columbus, 4/79;
Frankie, of Columbus, 4/79	Alice, 5/79
LOGAN, M., minim, 1/78 and 6/78;	McEVOY, M., second junior class, 1/78; Mary, 6/78
Mamie, of Columbus, 4/79	McGANNON, Jennie, 2/75; first minim class, 7/75; Jennie Magannon,
LYNCH, Alice, 6/78; of Columbus, 4/79	
LYONS, A., primary department, 1/78;	

7/75; ---- Magannon, third primary class, 6/76

McGANNON, Mary, second minim class, 7/75; Magannon, M., "little girl" 6/76

Magannon, ----, second minim class, 6/76

McGRATH, Biddie, boarder, 2/78

MMcGRATH, Mary, third junior class, 2/75; Mary Magrath, primary dept., 7/75

McGUIRE, Katie, of Columbus, 4/79; Maguire, K., 1/79

McINTYRE, Laura of Somerset, 6/79

McLAUGHLIN, M., undergraduate class, 1/78; Mary McLaughlin, 6/78; M. McLoughlin, 6/80 and 7/81

McMULLEN, Alice of Columbus, 4/79

McNAMARA, Mollie, 1/75; Mollie, second senior class, 2/75 and 7/75; McNamee, ----, first senior class, 6/76; Molly McNamara, graduate class, 6/77

McNAMEE, ----, second senior class, 6/76 [Perhaps Ellen, elder sister of Mary Elizabeth and Maggie, who became Sr. Mary Edmund, SNDN, for whom see the Bulletin, Vol. XVIII, No. 4 (April, 1993), page 220.]

MMcNAMEE, L., undergraduate class, 1/78; ----, first senior class [?], 6/78; ----, graduate class, 1/79; Lizzie, of Columbus, 4/79; Lizzie, graduate, 4/28/79 [Mary Elizabeth McNamee of Columbus, 1860-1921]

McNAMEE, ----, first primary class, 6/76; M., first senior class, 1/78; Maggie, first senior class, 6/78; ----, undergraduate class, 1/79; Maggie, 6/79 [Maggie McNamee of Columbus, 1862-1951]

McQUADE, Mary, of Somerset, 6/79; M. McQuaid, 6/80

MAC, Mollie, 7/75; 6/76

MARION, ----, third primary class, 6/76

MAY, Blanch, 6/80; B., 7/81

MEARA, Ella, third junior class [?], 2/75; Ellie, first minim class, 7/75; Ellie Marra, 7/75; ---- Mearra, third primary class, 6/76; Ella Meara, first primary class, 6/78; of Columbus, 4/79 [born ca 1865, daughter of Stephen Meara]

MEARA, Josie, 1/75; second junior class, 2/75 and 7/75; ----, first primary class, 6/76; J., first senior class, 1/78; Josie, second [?] senior class, 6/78; ----, undergraduate class, 1/79; Josie, of Columbus, 4/79 [Johanna, daughter of Stephen Meara, born ca 1862]

MEARA, Mary, first junior class, 2/75 and 7/75; Mary Marra, 7/75; ---- Marra, second senior class, 6/76 [born ca 1858, daughter of Stephen Meara]

MEARA, Nellie, 2/75 and 7/75 [perhaps Ellie]

MEARA, Sarah, of Columbus, 4/79

MERKLE, ----, 2nd minim class, 6/76

MERKLE, ----, 3rd primary class, 6/76

MILLAY, ----, 1st primary class, 6/76

MILLER, ----, second primary class, 6/76; Belle, 6/78

MILLER, C., first junior class, 1/78; Clara, first junior class, 6/78; C., 1/79; Clara, of Columbus, 4/79

MILLER, J., minim, 1/78; J., 1/79; Julia, of Columbus, 4/79

MILLER, Maggie, of Lancaster, O., 4/79 and 6/79; M., 7/79

MOHLER, F., 6/80

MOHLING, Mary, of Columbus, 4/79

MORELAND, Mamie, of Columbus, 4/79

MORGRIDGE, Tute, of Plain City, O., 4/79 and 6/79; T., 6/80; Ruth, age 17, boarder, 1880 census; Hattie, 7/81

MURPHY, Addie of Columbus, 4/79

MURPHY, Annie, 2/75; ----, second primary class, 6/76

MURPHY, M., first junior class, 1/78; Maggie, first junior class, 6/78; Maggie, of Columbus, 4/79

MURPHY, Mary, 6/78; of Columbus, 4/79

MURPHY, Mary A., first junior class, 6/78

NADDY: C. Neddy, 6/78; Clara Naddy of Columbus, 4/79

NADDY, Katie Neddy, 6/78; Katie Naddy, of Columbus, 4/79

NADDY, M. Neddy, primary department, 1/78; Mary Neddy, 6/78; Mary Naddy of Columbus, 4/79

NAGLE, ----, second primary class, 6/76; Ellie, 6/78; Ellie of Columbus, 4/79

NAGHTEN, ----, first primary class, 6/76; M., second junior class, 1/78; M., 6/78

NAUGHTON, Josie, of Columbus, 4/79 and 6/79; 6/80; age 12, boarder, 1880 census; J., 7/81

NEVINS, Mamie, 1/75 and 2/75; Mary, third junior class, 2/75; Mamie, primary dept., 7/75; ----, second primary class, 6/76

NIGHTENGALE, Florence of Circleville, 4/79

NOELL, A., 6/78; Annie Noel of Columbus, 4/79

O'BRIEN, Mary, age 12, boarder, 1880 census

O'BYRNE, Winnie of Columbus, 4/79

OHLEN, I., 6/78; Ida of Columbus, 4/79

O'SHEA, Annie of Columbus, 4/79

O'SHEA, Laura of Columbus, 4/79; L., 7/81

PELTON, Ada, 6/78

PHELAN, Johanna of Columbus, 4/79

PICKEREL, Mary of Columbus, 4/79

PIRRUNG: Lucy Pirong, 1/75; Lucy Piron, first junior class, 2/75; Lucy Pirung, 2/75; Lucy Pirung, first junior class, 7/75; ---- Pirrung, second senior class, 6/76; L. Pirrung, 6/78

PURCELL, Ellie, second senior class, 2/75; ----, first senior class, 6/76

PURCELL, Frances, second junior class, 2/75; Frankie, 2nd junior class, 7/75; ----, first primary class, 6/76

PURCELL, Mary, second minim class, 7/75; ----, first minim class, 6/76; M., 6/78; Mary of Columbus, 4/79

QUALY, ----, second minim class, 6/76; M. Quaily, 6/78

RAILY, Mary of Columbus, 4/79

REINHARD, Nellie 1/75; Tillie, 2/75; Nellie, 2nd junior class, 2/75; Tillie, 2nd junior class, 7/75; ----, first primary class, 6/76; Tillie, 1st senior class, 1/78; second [?] senior class, 6/78; ----, undergraduate class, 1/79; Tillie Rainhard of Columbus, 4/79; Tillie Reinhard, 6/79

RICHES, Aggie, of Columbus, 4/79; age 12, boarder, 1880 census

RICHES, Annie, 6/78; Annie of Columbus, 4/79; A., 6/80; Annie, age 17, boarder, 1880 census

RICHES, ----, 7/81

RICHES, Della, of Columbus, 4/79

RILEY, Katie, second senior class, 2/75; Katie Reilly, second senior class, 7/75; ---- Reilly, first senior class, 6/76

ROBINSON, ----, first primary class, 6/76

RODENFELS, Addie of Somerset, 6/79; A., 6/80

ROGERS, Phoebe, "little class", 2/75; Phebe, first minim class, 7/75

ROSECRANS, M., 1st junior class, 1/78; Mamie, first junior class, 6/78; M., 1/79; Mamie, of Keokuk, Iowa, 4/79 and 6/79; Sister I., teacher, age 17, native of Iowa, 1880 census.

ROWLEY, Fannie of Columbus, 4/79

RUSSEL, D., 7/81

RUSSEL, ----, 6/80; M., 7/81

RYAN, Mary, 2nd junior class, 7/75; ----, first primary class, 6/76

RYAN, M., second junior class, 1/78; Mary, 6/78; Mary of Columbus, 4/79

SCANLON, Katie of Somerset, 6/79; K., 6/80; K., 7/81

SCOTT, Dora of Somerset, 6/79; D., 6/80 and 7/81

SCOTT, Lizzie of Somerset, 6/79; L, 6/80 and 7/81

SCOTT, M., 7/81

SHAW, Clara of Somerset, 6/79

SHAY, Aggie of Columbus, 4/79

SHAY, Nellie of Columbus, 4/79

SHERIDAN, Mary of Somerset, 6/79; Mary, 7/81

SHERIDAN, Nellie of Somerset, 6/79; N., 6/80

SHIRNER, Sarah of Columbus, 4/79

SIKES, Alice of Somerset, 6/79; A., 6/80

SMITH, Cecilia of Circleville, 4/79  
and 6/79; C., 6/79

SOWERS, Nettie, 6/76; ----, first  
primary class, 6/76; N., first  
senior class, 1/78; Nettie,  
boarder, 2/78; second [?] senior  
class, 6/78; ----, undergraduate  
class, 1/79; Nettie, of  
Bradford, O., 4/79; Nettie,  
6/79; Nettie, 6/80; Nettie  
Somers of Covington, Ky.,  
graduate, 6/80 (Dispatch);  
Nettie, age 18, boarder, 1880  
census

STEVENSON, Laura, 2/75; primary  
dept., 7/75; ----, second  
primary class, 6/76; Laura,  
6/78; Laura of Columbus, 4/79

STONER, Mary, 2nd minim class, 7/75;  
----, first minim class, 6/76

STRICKLER, ----, third primary class,  
6/76

SULLIVAN, Abbie of Columbus, 4/79  
SULLIVAN, Ellie of Columbus, 4/79  
SULLIVAN, Katie of Columbus, 4/79  
SULLIVAN, M., minim, 1/78;  
M., minim, 6/78; M., 1/79;  
Mary of Columbus, 4/79

SWEENEY, Maggie, second minim class,  
7/75

SWEENEY, Maggie, minim, 6/78;  
Maggie of Columbus, 4/79

SWEENEY, ----, 2nd minim class, 6/76

SYKES, K., 7/81

TAGGART, ----, 3d primary class, 6/76

TURNER, Mary, third junior class,  
2/75; primary dept., 7/75;  
----, first primary class, 6/76

[probably Mary C., daughter of  
James & Ellen Turney, cousin of  
Mary L. Clarke]

TURNEY, ----, third primary class,  
6/76

TURNEY, ----, first minim class, 6/76  
[perhaps Flora, sister of Mary]

VALKOSKY, Jennie of Somerset, 6/79

WAGNER, Katie, 1/75; Katie, second  
senior class, 2/75 and 7/75;  
----, first senior class, 6/76;  
Kate, graduate class, 6/77

WALKER, J., 6/80 and 7/81

WEIBEL, ----, second primary class,  
6/76

WELSH, Annie, first minim class, 7/75

WELSH, Katie of Columbus, 4/79

WERK, Addie of Somerset, 6/79; A.,  
7/81

WHITMERR, Birdie of Somerset, 6/79

WILKINSON, Annie of Columbus, 4/79

WILLIAMS, A., 6/78;  
Annie of Columbus, 4/79

WILLIAMS, Bessie, first minim class,  
7/75; Bessie, of Columbus, 4/79

WILLIAMS, B., minim, 6/78

WILLIAMS, Katie of Columbus, 4/79

WILLIAMS, Mattie, second junior  
class, 2/75 and 7/75; ----,  
first primary class, 6/76;  
Mattie of Columbus, 4/79

WILSON, Blanche, 1/75; second junior  
class, 2/75 and 7/75

WOFEL, Katie of Columbus, 4/79

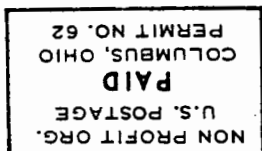
WRIGHT, Lutie of Columbus, 4/79

YOST, Laura of Somerset, 6/79; L,  
7/79; Lollie, 7/81

MONSIGNOR COTTER'S FIFTH BOOK

In 1989 the Bulletin carried a short sketch of Msgr. James Cotter. It mentioned that Msgr. Cotter had written five books, but we knew the names of only four. Recently, we were contacted by Mr. George Cregan of Beverly Hills, Fla., a great-grandson of a sister of the Monsignor, seeking information about his famous relative. We were able to help Mr. Cregan and he was able to help us by supplying the name of the unnown book, namely Travel Tabloids. The next question is, of course, can anyone locate a copy of this book for us?

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