

Students in Harmony: RHS Courtyard Sculpture



Students in Harmony: In the Fall of 1981, Ann Griffith and Susan Lucas approached Principal Jim Wilkens about trying to "refurbish the school's neglected courtyard." They cleared weeds, planted shrubs and flowers to make it look better. They then saw an Akron Beacon Journal profile on a local artist, Sister Evangeline Doyle of Akron (she was teaching at Our Lady of the Elms in Akron). With the help of a \$10,000 Jennings Grant, Sister Evangeline completed the sculpture and called it "Students in Harmony."

NOTE: Although the sculptor was obviously religious, the sculpture itself is not.

Sister Evangeline Doyle, well-known area artist, dies

Sculptures are familiar to thousands of people living in Summit County

By Robert Holles
Beacon Journal staff writer

The sculptures of Sister Evangeline Doyle are familiar to thousands of Summit County residents.

Sister Evangeline, a well-known artist, had been commissioned to complete many stone figures, including a 3-ton limestone piece, *The Story*, dedicated at the High Street entrance of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, and *Students in Harmony*, dedicated at the courtyard of Revere High School in Bath Township.

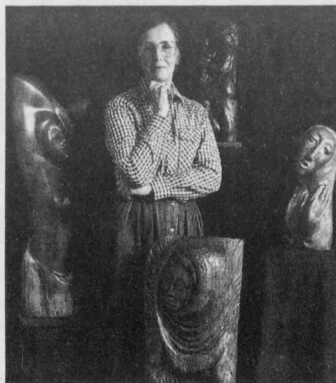
She died Wednesday after a long illness. She was 73.

Lucille Doyle entered the Sisters of St. Dominic in 1945. She exchanged her given name for the name of one of her sisters.

In a 1979 Akron Beacon Journal interview, Sister Evangeline talked about her work as an artist: "Everything else flows from art. You can use art to appreciate the beauty of God's creation. You can use art to appreciate the beauty in people, too."

She tried painting and drawing, but after getting her introduction to sculpture as a high school student, Sister Evangeline found her artistic niche.

She was a graduate of Barberton High School, St. John College in Cleveland and Catholic University of America in Wash-



Sister Evangeline Doyle created sculptures familiar to thousands in Summit County. She died Wednesday at 73.

ington, D.C.

She taught at elementary schools in Alliance, Ravenna and Akron and at Our Lady of the Elms High School in Akron. In 1976, she gave up teaching to be a full-time artist at the Elms who signed her work "Vang," the second syllable of the nickname she took from her sister.

In 1981, her work was featured in a traveling exhibit of the Liturgical Art Guild of Ohio. In 1983, she was among 10 Akron-area women honored as "Women of the Year."

Sister Bernadine Baltrinic, president of the congregation of the Sisters of St. Dominic, said Sister Evangeline once waited for two years to carve a log that

was on the Our Lady of the Elms campus.

"She said she was waiting for the log to tell her what it wanted to be," Sister Bernadine said. "There was a deep spirituality in her and it came to expression through her art."

She is survived by brothers, Fred of Reno, Nev., and Michael of Wadsworth; and sisters, Evangeline Preston of Oak Harbor, Wash., and Sylvia Doyle of Kent.

Calling hours are 3 to 7 p.m. tomorrow at Our Lady of the Elms Convent in Akron. A wake service will be held at 4 p.m. A funeral Mass will be at 7 p.m. in the Elms Chapel. Burial will be Wednesday in Holy Cross cemetery.

Students to get education 'extras'

Crestwood weather station, Revere artwork are funded

By Daniel Cook
Beacon Journal staff writer

When bad weather seems about to strike Mantua, students at Crestwood Middle School next year won't need to turn on the radio for details. They'll have their own weather report piped over the public address system.

And when the weather's good in Richfield, Revere High students will be able to spend their lunch hour outdoors in the school courtyard, watching a professional sculptor at work.

Both these activities were the offspring of ideas from within the schools and financial support from without — from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation in Cleveland.

The foundation supports unusual educational projects involving teachers and students below the college level.

THE CRESTWOOD meteorology project had been in the back of John A. Siman's mind for some time. The 30-year-old teacher believed a study of the weather would help his fifth-graders appreciate the challenge faced by area forecasters and improve their skills in other academic fields.

"Learning to read meteorology instruments helps a student understand mathematics," Siman said. "Studying a weather map ties into geography. And talking about the weather develops language skills."

"This year's fifth-graders were really interested in it, and so was the administration."

After he hashed out the concept with assistant superintendent Barbara Wickenden, the pair decided to seek aid from the Jennings Foundation.

"We've had a number of Jennings grants for our schools, and this one seemed a good candidate," said Mrs. Wickenden, herself a former Jennings scholar.

Recently, they got the good news: Jennings would contribute \$1,611 toward buying a weather station, forecasting computer, films, books and weather instruments that Siman needs to create his weather station.

"This is the kind of project



SISTER EVANGELINE DOYLE shows a model of the sculpture she will create at Revere High School to (from left) Susan Lucas, Ann Griffith and high school principal James Wilkens.

that you find when a creative teacher and a very motivated group of students come together," Mrs. Wickenden said. "After all, weather has an rural impact on a rural community and already the other classes are becoming involved."

A JENNINGS grant of \$10,000 to Revere will serve the dual function of beautifying the high school courtyard and acquainting students with the finer points of sculpting.

The grant is the culmination of a campaign by two Revere sophomores to refurbish the school's neglected courtyard.

"We're best pals, so it was a joint idea. I can't say one of us really had the idea first," said Ann Griffith, 15, who, with Susan Lucas, 16, approached principal Jim Wilkens with a courtyard proposal.

Last fall, Miss Griffith said, the girls decided the courtyard's appearance had deteriorated too far.

As they cleared weeds and debris from the quarter-acre site, they decided the shrubs and flowers that were to be planted would look better if there were a focal point to the courtyard.

A Jan. 24 Beacon magazine profile of Sister Evangeline Doyle, a Dominican nun and sculptress at Our Lady of the Elms in Akron, caught their attention. They asked Wilkens to commission her to do a sculpture.

"WE CAME UP" with the artist-in-residence concept as the second part of our project," Wilkens said. In their grant application, they suggested the artist could work on the sculpture during the school day in the courtyard and that art students from any Cleveland or Akron school could schedule a field trip to Revere to observe her at work. Jennings approved the project.

So sometime in August, when Sister Evangeline wraps up her

latest stone work for the Akron-Summit County Public Library, she'll move her workshop to the Revere courtyard.

"I hope to be done by Thanksgiving," she said as she displayed her clay mock-up of the Revere sculpture to Wilkens and the two sophomores Thursday in her studio, The Cashel, on the grounds of Our Lady of the Elms.

The limestone sculpture will be a semi-realistic portrait of students captured in informal positions, relaxing, reading and conversing.

ONE CLASS plans to videotape Sister Evangeline at work, while student photographers will be permitted to use her as a subject for photo studies.

The Jennings Foundation is currently funding several Akron public schools programs as well as projects at the University of Akron and Kent State University.

The foundation gives \$1.5 million annually for education and teacher training in Ohio.