

## Women and Religion

# Took High Road From Convent to People



Marg Gregg, former nun, cuts quilt pieces from an original design that later will be quilted by women in Appalachia.

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WHERE CAN ONE best serve humanity and God—if one is a WOMAN?

Lenora Mullarney and Marg Gregg, at different times, in different cities, asked that question of themselves.

Lenora, in 1952, from her desk in Massena, N. Y., as she went about her duties as secretary to the manager of ALCOA there. She was happy with her job, but deep inside her, there was a yearning for something missing.

Some six years later, Marg, a native of Chicago, was a liberal arts major at Marquette University in Milwaukee when she, too, found herself seeking new direction, posing the same question.

What? Where? How was one to find it—that indefinable inner satisfaction that is so elusive?

The church. That was the answer that came to both. In turn, they became sisters at Glenmary, a convent in Glendale, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati.

With the taking of their vows, the donning of their habits, a new way of life began in service to the deprived people

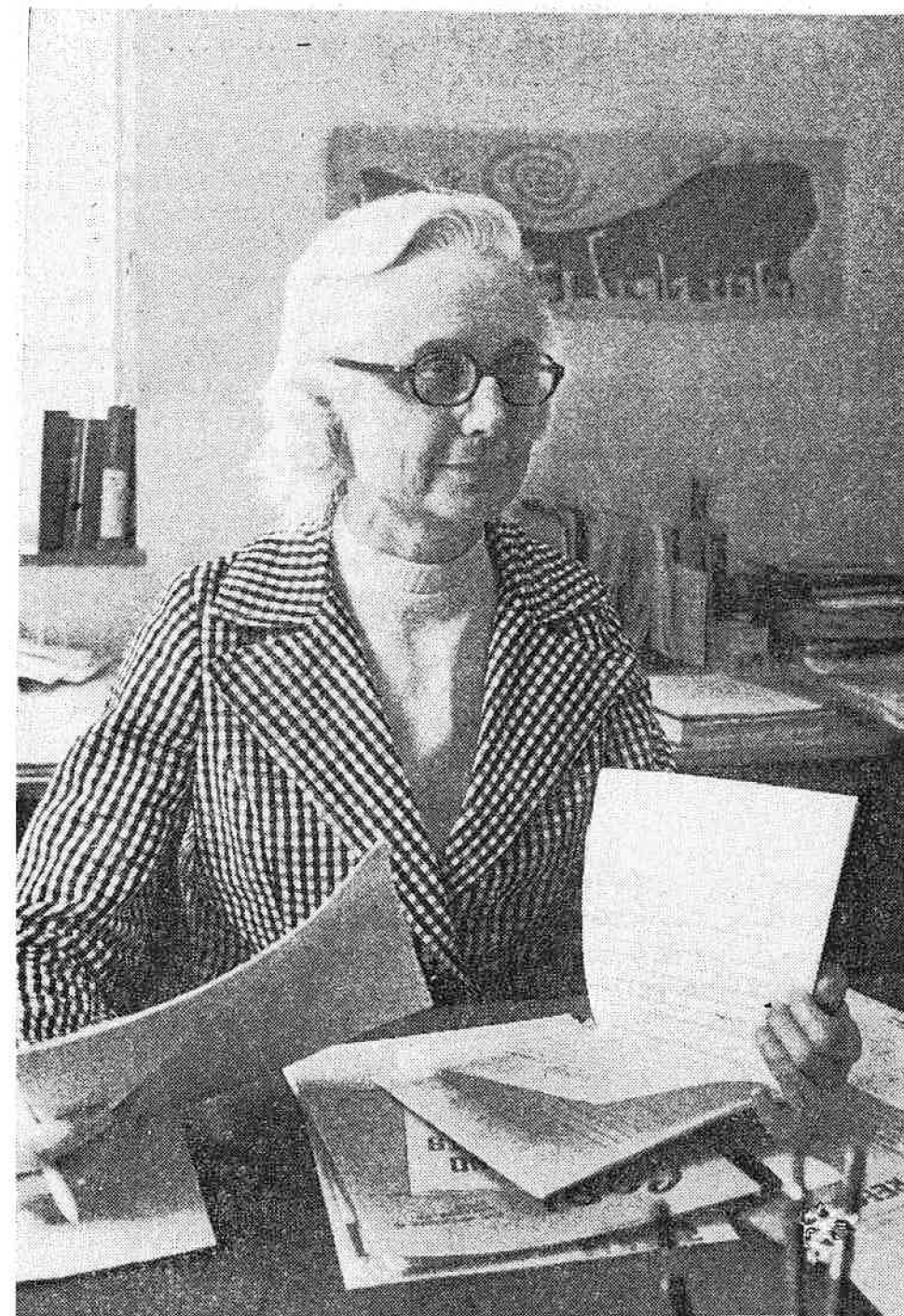
### Third of a Series

of southern Appalachia. That was pre-1967, the year of the split. The year that Glenmary rocked on its foundation. The happening that brought both of the women to Knoxville to reside — to share a house but not the same opinions — to work for a similar cause but in different ways.

### Typewriter to Convent

AFTER LENORA Mullarney quit her job with ALCOA and took her training, she was sent back to New York. To Eaton where she was placed in charge of a convent. Four sisters served the area where two pastors had both church and mission duties. The nuns worked with the people of the congregations — counseling, visiting the sick, seeing to the needs of the parishioners.

Then for a year Lenora served as coordinator of the house where sisters-in-training lived and were schooled.



Lenora Mullarney dons slacks for her administrative duties

### Patterned for Marg

MARG GREGG'S approach to life is different.

Life to her is not black and white — or even all those grayed shades in between. It is bright red and deep purple. Blue, green and a vivid chartreuse. Yellow, pink, bold orange.

Neither is life structured in square, perfectly shaped boxes. Life for Marg is geometrics and circles, rectangles running into triangles and lines shooting off in a thousand directions.

Not because Marg is an artist, but because she feels that life is to be free rather than structured. Original instead of carbon copied. Tried-for-truth rather than accepted status quo.

Through her designs — in greeting cards, posters and quilts — she conveys her message, her feelings about life.

In her studio at Epworth Ministry in the UT area, the former nun creates the items which are marketed under the label, "Patchwork Unlimited." Shops in Washington (Sign of Jonah), Bethesda, Md. (Appalachia) and Georgetown (The Third Spring) carry Marg's originals. They are also sold here and in other places in the country. Marg is a member of the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild.

The gaily colored fabric pieces cut by Marg in her quilt designs are then sent on to women in Appalachia who do the actual quilting. Monetarily, Marg is still helping in the area, fostering in these women a desire to help themselves while giving vent to a feeling of self accomplishment.

She also conducts arts and crafts classes for women in the mountain areas. Recently, she served as design consultant at Model Valley Mountain Crafts in Egan, Tenn.