

"Please God help me think of a word that begins with an 'O', any word."

This was to have been a good year and I've blown the assignment already --- It all began when --- Sister Thomas Marie gave a geography assignment. She mentioned the fact that we had forty-eight students and there were forty-eight states. We would each have a different State to which to do a report.

She started on the other side of the room and began giving out states alphabetically, while she did this I checked her count and sure enough we had forty-eight students.

It takes awhile to call a name and then a state so my attention was diverted to more important matters -- Joseph Danko catching a fly and removing its' wings.

Sister finally reached the 'M' states and I began to pay attention. Just maybe I'd get "OHIO" my home state. "M, N, O" yes there was a good chance that I would get "OHIO."

"Thomas ,Ohio" --- "Kathleen ---???"

I was so taken with the fact that Thomas, who sat in front of me, had Ohio I hadn't paid attention to the state I was given.

Panic set in. What was I to do? Sris voice droned on and I had a mental reprieve. She went alphabetically and all I need do was see what state came after Ohio. I was beginning to relax when sister started on the other side of the room, asking each student to give the name of his state. She wanted to be sure we all knew our states. (Did she know I didn't know?)

What was I to do? Raise my hand and admit I wasn't paying attention? Maybe someone else will miss and I won't be the only one. Could I get my book out of my desk? No she is watching.

Everyone knew their word, even James and HE was always messing up.

I had to have a word that began with an 'O' maybe if I said it real fast Sister wouldn't notice.

It's getting closer, "Please God, a word with an 'O' any word!"

"North Dakota -- Ohio --."

"OXYDOL"

The whole class grew quiet. Sister looked shocked then she said, "Kathleen your state is Oklahoma."

I answered, "I knew it began with an 'O'."

She glared at me and went back to the class reciting their states.

I worked hard on my report and when everyone project was handed in and hung around the room we had a steady procession of nuns, looking at our work. They all stopped to gaze at my work but they didn't fool me. I knew sister had told them about the new state of OYXDOL.