

Courage Appears In Varied Ways

NEW YORK (UPI) — Courage appears in many variations. Often, in the day-to-day battle of comeback against odds that the weak would spell defeat. It is in this category that we

place the pluck of Gypsy Markoff, the Milwaukee-born accordionist. This primarily will be Gypsy's story in the 20 years since a plane crash nearly wrote her obituary. But 13 survivors of that crash on the Tagus River near Lisbon also were involved, many of them heroically. So their roles are not underplayed.

It was the crash of the Pan American Clipper carrying military personnel and a group of United Service Organizations, Inc., entertainers en route to Europe. The crash happened Feb. 22, 1943.

Friday, Miss Markoff has scheduled a reunion "brunch" for as many survivors of the crash as she can locate and assemble.

The ones she can round up will gather at the fashionable Stanhope Hotel on Manhattan's East Side, where Miss Markoff currently is appearing with her accordion act.

Name Some Survivors
Survivors included Jane Froman, the singer who later mar-

ried (then divorced) John C. Burn, then a member of the flight crew who helped save her life, now a pilot for Pan American; George Spiegelberg, then an Army major attached to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff, now a successful Manhattan lawyer; Yvette, the singer; Grace Drysdale, a former puppeteer; and Jean Rogman, whose husband-dancing partner was killed.

Today, recalling the crash in the pitch darkness of the waters, Miss Markoff remembered many details—how she realized she wasn't much of a swimmer, but another passenger produced a ka-pok-filled pillow which kept her afloat; how Yvette made her way toward lights which proved to be fishing boats whose crews gave the survivors aid; and how just before the crash, she had changed seats with Miss Drysdale so the latter could have the outside window and a chance to see a night landing.

Miss Markoff said she suffered a broken knee, broken thigh, ankle fractures, broken ribs, multiple face cuts and spinal tendon injury. She said she spent 10 years, off and on, in hospitals in Lisbon, New York, London and Paris, had had some 30 operations including skin grafts and facial plastic surgery. The second and third fingers on her left hand

were paralyzed.

Help from Mrs. FDR
Today, at 44, she's a slimmer version of the other Markoff—from her 140 some pounds to 108 on her 5 feet, 2-inch figure; the long brunette hair now is blonde. And she long since has gotten back her expertness with the accordion partly because of her own refusal to quit and partly because of encouragement the late Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt gave her.

Miss Markoff recalled that Mrs. Roosevelt in 1944 visited Harkness Pavilion, New York, "where some of us war victims were being treated." She invited several for a weekend at Hyde Park and sometime during the weekend, the then first lady took Gypsy aside and said, "Now, just tell me, is there any reason you can't use the two GOOD fingers on that hand? Why don't you try a few bass notes?"

Gypsy Markoff started trying. By 1945, she had organized a group of entertainers for another tour of the European theater. She acted as master of ceremonies.

Gypsy Markoff has been married since October, 1960, to Conde Juan Amaya, a Spanish-born gypsy who has a flamenco dance company currently appearing at the ABC Music Hall in Paris.

Miss Markoff said when her engagement at the Stanhope termi-

nates—possibly in the spring—she will fly to Spain for a vacation with her husband.

"Scared to fly? Heavens, no," she said. "I've done dozens of trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific crossings since the accident. I believe everything is fate anyway. Deep in my heart, I know things are God-planned."

Lowered Toll Rates By Telephone Co.

The federal communication commission and the American Telephone and Telegraph company recently announced a change in the inter-state long distance telephone rates. Charles D. Ehinger, president of Citizens Telephone company, has made the following statement regarding this matter: "The Citizens system joins the Bell system in furnishing interstate long distance telephone services, both as to provision of facilities, the routing of calls and the rates charged. The Citizens Telephone company will adopt the new rate schedules which are proposed to be effective April 1, 1963."

The rate change which will probably prove most interesting to the reduction in station to station inter-state rates for calls in excess of 220 miles between the hours of 9 p.m. and up to, but not including, 4:30 a.m. daily. As an example: a three minute station station to station conversation to Bakersfield, California would be; day rate hours 4:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \$1.95; night rate hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$1.50; and the new low rate hours 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. 90 cents. Another example: New York City rates would be: day rate \$1.35; night rate \$1.05; and the new low rate 65 cents. The additional minute rates have also been adjusted to maintain the same relationship to initial period rates as in the present schedule. These rates are only applicable between points in the United States mainland.

James R. Bogan Is Named Office Manager

James R. Bogan, former resident of Decatur and a graduate of the Decatur Catholic high school, has been promoted to manager of the 350 N. Michigan avenue, Chicago, office of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., investment firm.

Bogan has been account executive in the Michigan avenue office. He joined Merrill Lynch in 1953. Prior to that time he had been registrar and director of admissions at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, of which he is a graduate. He and his wife, the former Eileen Hess of Decatur, and their three children live at Park Forest, Ill. Bogan is a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zehr of near Decatur.

National FFA Week Is Being Observed

"Agriculture—Vital to America," is the theme of national Future Farmers of America Week, February 16 to 23. National F.F.A. week is held each year during the week that includes George Washington's birthday.

In 1962 there were F.F.A. chapters in 314 high schools in Indiana, with 9,638 active members. The national F. F. A. organization has 383,000 members in 9,000 high school chapters in 50 states and Puerto Rico. The national organization was formed in 1928.

The Adams Central F. F. A. chapter showed films this week on national F.F.A. week, and held a talk on the value and place of vocational agriculture in the school, advisor Martin Watson said today. The Adams Central chapter was

founded June 12, 1951, and at the present time has an active enrollment of 46 members, fifteen of whom are Greenhands and the other 31 chapter farmers.

The chapter has won numerous judging awards as well as having several good parliamentary teams. The chapter has also won many plaques for various and different contests.

The highest award in Future Farmer work is the American Farmer Degree, while the highest state recognition in Future Farmer work is the Hoosier Farmer degree.

The Adams Central has 20 boys who have held this degree, and at present five have applied for the degree.

Officers of the Adams Central chapter are Dave Sommer, president; Neil Von Gunten, vice president; Gary Workinger, secretary; Gerold Tonner, treasurer; Ron Habegger, reporter; Steve Kaehr, sentinel.

Mrs. Ella Norris Is Taken By Death

Mrs. Ella Norris, 90, mother of the Rev. L. T. Norris, former pastor of the Union Chapel E. U. B. church, died Wednesday at her home in Pomeroy, O. She had a chronic heart ailment and had been critically ill for the past 10 days.

Surviving in addition to Rev. Norris, now of Zanesville, are four other sons, one daughter, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including Mrs. Doyle (Donna) Gehres of Decatur. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at the United Brethren church in Letart Falls, O.

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COMICAL CHARACTERS—An almost perfect impersonation of the famous comedy team of Laurel and Hardy is done by comedians Dick Van Dyke, left, and Henry Calvin at rehearsal in New York for a forthcoming television show.

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