

Widow Near 70 Succeeds at Writing

Ettie Stephens Prichard Waited Sixty Years to Realize Dream.

BY MARY MARGARET McBRIE
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—When the copy of "Old Farm," her first book, came from the publishers, Ettie Stephens Prichard, who is 67, couldn't bear for a whole day to look at it or even touch it.

There was the deepest wish of her life fulfilled, a novel actually written and published, yet now that it was done, she suddenly felt that nobody ever would buy it.

Finally, at midnight, she nervously picked up the volume and, from then until dawn, when she finished the last word, she laughed and cried by turns.

At the end: "Why, I've written a book," she said to her daughter, Margaret, in a wondering tone, wiping her eyes.

"You see, I couldn't realize it then and I can't even now," she explained, wistfully. "But when you've wanted anything as much for sixty years as I've wanted to write, then it takes a little time to get accustomed to the knowledge that you have done it at last."

"After that, everything happened so fast that I hadn't time even to think," Mrs. Prichard confided, her candid gray eyes bright with the excitement of remembering.

Until two years ago this budding author was just an average housewife in an average small Illinois home. Her husband was county judge, and one daughter married and went east to live. The husband died, the old home was broken up and Mrs. Prichard and her younger daughter Margaret, who also sold a series of stories, came to New York.

"I brought two trunks with me," Mrs. Prichard relates. "One contained my clothes and the other was full of manuscripts that nobody except my husband and children and one or two neighbors had ever heard of."

"I was afraid to send any of my precious manuscripts to a magazine. I was too much in awe of the fine writers with grand names whose works they published. But I suppose I must have had a little hope tucked away in my heart; otherwise I'd have left that second trunk behind when Margaret and I set out on our great adventure."

The things Mrs. Prichard had always written about were those she knew best—the sights and sounds and smells of the farm where she was born.

"Old Farm"—the motion pictures are interested in it, by the way—gives a series of pictures of a little girl named Dood in Illinois sixty years ago and the people who surround the little girl are prototypes of the people who surrounded another girl whose name was Ettie.

It isn't quite exact to say that Mrs. Prichard began writing after she reached her sixties. The truth is that she has been writing all her life. But she never began selling until a little while ago when Helen Hull, in whose Columbia university short story writing class she had enrolled, told her she had talent.

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Jumper Entered in Horse Show at Fair



Miss Martha Wheeler, up on Big Canada

In the jumping events at the Indiana state fair horse show this week, Miss Martha Wheeler is riding Big Canada, jumper owned by Fred Sharp, Franklin. Mr. Sharp is one of the players in the polo game series, a feature of the show.

A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

LATELY I've gone traveling, through Arkansas, where out of every four citizens asks government aid, through Texas and Oklahoma, and their panhandle, where it looks as if every individual would have to be fed by some body this winter; through New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Wyoming.

I saw miles upon endless miles of land where not a sprig of green could be found. Land that can raise forty-five bushels of wheat to the acre lies dead and dead.

When you drive through these portions of your country which God seems for a while to have forgotten, your mind turns instinctively to elemental facts. The depressions men manage to make, the misfortunes they inflict upon themselves, are of no consequence beside those nature sends.

If people starve amid plenty as they have been during the last five years, that is stupidity. If they starve because the earth refuses its fruits—that's disaster. The person who starves does not stop to analyze the difference, I am sure, but unless those who eat are completely brainless, no individual ever will hunger again while there is a surplus of food in our land.

Reunion Scheduled

Twenty-first annual Wood-Elmore reunion will be held at the Danville city park next Sunday. Officers are M. L. Stout, Clayton, president; George Clark, Danville, vice-president, and Mrs. Glen E. Gabhart, Indianapolis, secretary-treasurer.

Veterans' Reunion Set

Veterans of the Persimmon bridge, composed of 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th Indiana infantry, will hold their forty-ninth annual reunion tomorrow morning in Ft. Friendly. Samuel Fulton, chairman.

For the farmer isn't eating this year, either. In many instances the small supply of milk, butter and eggs is his only revenue. So he sells them while his own children go without.

But one tremendous event has happened. The drought has put the government into relief work in a really big way. And you won't hear so much fussing about it from anyone who has seen the devastated regions.

I'm sure I can't imagine who could take care of these unfortunate people except Uncle Sam. His is the only organization large enough to cope with the situation. So once there will be few complaints when he takes from those who have.

Homecoming Scheduled

Koran Temple, Daughters of the Nile, will hold a home-coming meeting at 8 tonight at the Lincoln. Mrs. Mae Marcus Jacobs will preside.

Garden Party Set

Mrs. Katherine Higgins, 3860 Central avenue, will be hostess Friday night at a garden party for Koran Temple, Daughters of the Nile. Members families and friends will attend.

Nursery Board to Meet

Board of managers of the Indianapolis Day Nursery will hold its regular meeting at 10:30 tomorrow in the home 542 Lockerbie street. Mrs. R. A. Dennis will preside.

Mrs. Willis Jackson, who had been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Pier, has returned to her home in Flint, Mich.

Mrs. Badger Williamson, 1855 North Pennsylvania street, has returned from a trip to Chicago.

Alpha chapter, Pi Sigma Tau sorority, will sponsor a card party tomorrow night at the Omar Baking Company plant. Final plans will be made tonight at a meeting at the home of Miss Sue Harkins, 5511 Pleasant Run parkway.

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Day's Menu

Breakfast

Orange juice, cereal, cream, crisp toast, milk, coffee.

Luncheon

Green pea soup, croutons, green carrots sandwiches, egg lemonade.

Dinner

Baked salmon trout, casserole of eggplant, lettuce and cucumber salad, rice pudding with strawberry sauce, milk, coffee.

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