

'First NRA Lady' Leads Active Life

Mrs. Donald Richberg Puts Husband, Daughter and Home First.

By N.E.A. Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—In her own words, Mrs. Donald Richberg is "the busiest woman in Washington, without doing anything." She explains, with an infectious smile, that she is so keen about her husband, daughter, and home that she is "entirely satisfied to enjoy a vegetable life."

Besides playing chauffeur for the whole family, selecting her own lettuce and green peas and such at the market, and occasionally preparing them herself, this charming, vivacious and most attractive wife of the national recovery administrator who is often called the "assistant president" digs and plants her own garden, is a regular attendant at a gym, swims, plays golf, and sews most of 8-year-old Eloise's dresses. When there's nothing else to do she "knits and knits."

Mrs. Richberg, born Florence Weed, was born in Lansing, Mich., and spent a happy childhood with five brothers and sisters. Her father, Herbert Moses Weed, descended of English stock. Her mother's family was Dutch. That line of northern ancestors may account for Florence Weed Richberg's lovely gold-blond hair, blue eyes, and shining even teeth, but it couldn't account for her delicious sense of humor.

Trial Horse for Speeches

Mrs. Richberg went to college (Florence to Olivet), but insists there is nothing unusual about her. "I'm so normal," she says, "that my husband tries out all his speeches on me. He knows that if I can understand them, almost any one can."

She also keeps a clipping book of newspaper stories about him. As they don't subscribe to a clipping service, she must depend for out-of-town material on what her friends send to her, and is much amused when they fail to include the antagonistic pieces. She thinks they ought to know her better than that.

Both the Richbergs share an active interest in sports. They met on a Chicago golf course and have been playing together ever since, though Mrs. Richberg insists that the only reason her husband plays with her is because she's available.

Daughter Most Important

To her father and mother, cunny, blond Eloise, with the Alice-in-Wonderland hair ribbon, is "the most important thing in the world."

On coming to Washington, the three Richbergs first took over the Bob La Follette house for three months, thinking their stay here would be only temporary. Two six-month leases on another house found them more firmly settled here than ever.

Now they are living in the suburbs, with a saucy black Scottie pup named Blackie, the cat, at the storybook corner of Shadow road and Sunset lane. The driveway winds up a little knoll to a lovely stone colonial house with white shutters, which, though rented furnished, has already taken on many of the gracious qualities of its mistress.

The garden worries Mrs. Richberg, though.

"The garden of our house in Chicago was the thing I really hated to leave," she explains. "I don't know what I'm going to do with this one. It's only a rock garden, and all in the shade."

Likes People But Not Crowds

A gracious, charming hostess with a gift for making her guests comfortable and happy, she "likes people, but not crowds," and loves entertaining friends. But she is very thankful that her husband's office is too new to have gathered to itself a long round of formal social responsibilities.

She thinks the informal Washington habit, picked up from the President, of calling every one by his first name, is grand.

"Last year, when we knew almost no one who called me anything but 'Mrs. Richberg,' was pretty deadly." But now that several Chicago friends have come to Washington, and they have made many new ones to whom she is Florence, "mostly because they call my husband 'Don,'" she wouldn't mind settling down in Washington for the rest of her life.

Officers Re-Elected

All officers of the Seventh Ward Woman's Democratic Club were re-elected at the regular meeting Monday at the home of Mrs. George Connolly, 21 W. 20th-st. They include Mrs. Badger Williamson, president; Mrs. Agnes Coleman Keene, secretary; Mrs. Mary Yerger, vice president; Mrs. Brooke Clawson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John W. Cain, treasurer, and Mrs. John Donnelly, program chairman.

She Knows How to Cook



Mrs. Florence Richberg likes such homely dishes as baked spareribs . . . and knows how to make a good job of preparing them.

Contract Bridge

Today's Contract Problem

'North is playing the contract at five diamonds. West has bid clubs. What should East's opening lead be? Can five diamonds be made against a club opening?

ANSWER
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