

What Sort of a First Lady Should We Have?

Like Mrs. Roosevelt . . . Says Fannie Hurst

EIGHT YEARS ago a long and shuddering gasp shook this country from coast to coast.

What—ho! A personality instead of a housewife in the White House! What have we here?

Then, with one gargantuan impulse, the composite tongue of the nation began to wag: "The First Lady's place is in the White House."

"Stop her," cried the ladies of the land, who behaved as if London Bridge were falling down. "The First Lady's place is in the White House, seeing to it that the guests don't steal napkins; entertaining cabinet wives and visitors from Duluth; deciding the color scheme of guest soap; and joining the Easter Egg Romp on the lawn."

"Shades-Of-The-Gentle-First-Ladies-Of-Administrations-Gone-By, what have we here?" As a matter of fact, we have a First Lady who immediately solved the problem of guests stealing napkins by substituting linen that did not bear the White House insignia. We have a First Lady who does pass on the color scheme of guest soap; who designs visiting ladies from Duluth on a frequency scale that has probably never been approached before, and whose Easter Egg activities are second to none in zest and conformity.

Nevertheless, that long shuddering gasp of eight years ago, which is true, has now subsided into a coast-to-coast purr, was real and disturbing to the American people.

Now, what has this personality-plus, whose interests range from bathroom curtains to affairs of empire, done to the tradition of First Ladies? Mr. and Mrs. Man-in-the-Street, take it and like it, (and I believe you do), she has smashed it to smithereens.

This is not to say that there will not, in the future, be First Ladies who will resort to the easy atavism of slipping back into just the role of gracious lady.

Those Who Follow Will Be Destined

INEVITABLY those to follow in her illustrious shadow will be destined to the odiousness of comparison. Down through the pleasant corridors of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue will roll long reverberations of the name of the woman who, with reverence and humility, did many things because they "had been done," and with courage and initiative, did many things because they had not been done.

"That dates back to Eleanor Roosevelt," or "Eleanor Roosevelt was the first one to do that," will be colloquial phrases on the tongues of generations of First Ladies to come.

Should they be grateful phrases on the tongues of a progeny that stands fair to profit because back here in the troubled years between 1932 and 1940, a personality who was housewife, humanitarian, gracious lady, pathfinder; who was a many-faced woman, destined to let her intelligent interests range from bathroom curtains to yogi, to social security, to wife and motherhood, to folk dances, to baby formulas, to housing, to coal miners, to equal suffrage, to peace, to rich men, poor men, beggar men, thieves, doctors, lawyers, merchants, chiefs; to ivory, apes, peacocks, sealing wax, airships, democracy, babies, spoon-bread, higher education, knitting, domestic service, adult education and grandchildren.

The present First Lady isn't a "fine hand" in affairs of state, or in that circuitous exercise of feminine influence as we know it to exist in European politics. She is as forthright as a lad, more intelligent than intellectual, does things for simple, uncomplicated reasons such as the greater good for the greater number.

When she errs, her mistakes are built on solid gold impulses and her successes outnumber them overwhelmingly.

This is a Lady hard to beat. Her successors, whether they are to be disturbed by it or not, are never going to be allowed to forget that in nineteen hundred and thirty-two, she walked into the White House, put it in order, kept it in order, and did one of the most astonishing



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT . . . "a personality instead of a housewife."

side jobs in the history of First Ladies, or for that matter, in the history of American ladies.

She would not recognize intrigue if she met one on the street. Her basic motives are uncomplicated. She likes hot dogs for the pleasant democratic reason that she is like that.

The chances are she has never thought much one way or another about this housewife or personality business.

She happens to be both, and that's just one reason why I am voting her a third term.

Like Mrs. Willkie . . . Says Rita Weiman

MORE words than any statistician could estimate have been used to tell the American people what kind of man this coming election must place in the White House.

A few words covering the essential qualities our next First Lady should possess must, I believe, be of equal interest to women voters.

Never before in the history of these United States has the wife of a President taken on a more difficult task.

As a public person, and equally as a private individual, every move she makes, every word she utters, will be examined through the magnifying glass of criticism.

The First Lady who enters the White House as its mistress in 1941 must fit herself perfectly to the mantle of discretion. Like a prisoner on trial, anything she says may be used against her.

We have a free press. No censor cuts out the sting of rash statements by persons in public life. By the same token, the wife of the President must indulge in no reckless opinions, acts or affiliations. Whatever her temptation, she must never forget that she holds the greatest position of any woman in the world; a position far more important than the individual who occupies it. This requires a mind always on the alert, active every minute to sense when silence is the better part of valor.

Often she will have to hold back comments and opinions which might have unfavorable repercussions. No matter what the provocation, her wit must never turn acid.

She must not lend her name to anti-social movements. However impersonal her interest, such group movements may use the patronage of the wife of the President for purposes of which she cannot possibly have full knowledge.

Must Remain in 'Political Background'

She must keep in mind the fact that whatever her status socially, politically she is background. This does not imply that she be a negative personality. On the contrary, she must keep informed on all questions of national import. Yet at no time throughout her years as mistress of the White House should she assume a voice in governmental problems unless called upon to do so by some crisis nobody can foresee.

Her charm must be like that of a garden, so that everyone who comes into her presence senses graciousness and fragrance. The thorns should never be more prominent than the roses.

She will have ample opportunity to commercialize her position. But each time she accepts a "job" that pays well, no matter how charitably she may apply this payment, she submits her acts to the columnists and cartoonists; and lampoons can destroy a national figure (when that figure is feminine) with aim as fatal as the most deadly lethal weapon.

A world ridden by fear and lashed by the whip of nervous exhaustion looks to the United States for rescue. The woman who stands at the side of our next President shares that responsibility.

We cannot definitely state in advance how Mrs. Wendell Willkie would fill the exacting position of mistress of the White House. But judging by past performances, it is a safe guess that Mrs. Willkie possesses the first requisites of a First Lady.

Since her husband's nomination she has never been out of the picture, yet never conspicuously part of it. Content to take her place with dignity, she has made no mis-step.

She has a son to whom she is devoted; yet not once throughout Mr. Willkie's tour of the country has she played up the role of



EDITH WILLKIE . . . "never out of the picture . . . never conspicuously part of it."

mother, even though it might have gained favorable attention and possibly votes. She has vitality; yet does not turn it on in a blaze for publicity purposes. She has charm, grace, taste and good looks, a rare combination dear to the hearts of press agents; she uses none of these to foster interest in herself.

Above all, she has proven that she understands the essential gift of the wife of a man in public life—the value of silence.

Society—

Luncheon and Tea Will Precede McKay-Stafford Rite Tonight

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM T. MCKAY of Ft. Wayne were to entertain with a luncheon today at the Indianapolis Athletic Club for their son, George William McKay, and Miss Barbara Stafford who are to be married at 8 o'clock tonight in a ceremony at the Propylaeum.

Guests with the couple were to include Miss Stafford's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bradford, and members of the bridal party, Miss Catherine McKay, Ft. Wayne, Misses Prudence Ann Brown, Nina Brown, Mary Sheerin Kuhn and Alice Vonnegut; Edward G. Hoffman Jr., Ft. Wayne, David Palmer Close, New York, Jesse Boynton, Baltimore, William Cribben Wilkinson, Oak Park, Ill., and Neil McKay, Chicago.

Other guests were to be Mr. and Mrs. John Mead, Mr. and Mrs. William Rastetter, G. Ward Beers, Daniel Murray Ninde, Miss Marjorie Paulson and Mrs. William J. Vesey, all of Ft. Wayne; Mr. and Mrs. William Thomson, Garrett; Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Decker, Sewickley, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Walter F. Stafford, Buffalo; Mrs. G. M. B. Hawley, Geneva, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Bish, Seymour, and William H. Stafford Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas H. Noyes will have a tea this afternoon at their home for Miss Stafford and her fiance.

Joy Geupel Names Attendants

WEADING ATTENDANTS have been chosen by Miss Joy Geupel and Richard Bruce DeMars who are to be married at 8:30 p. m. Nov. 30 in the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church with Dr. Roy Ewing officiating.

Miss Marjorie Geupel will be her sister's maid of honor and bridesmaids will be Mrs. William J. Stout, Mrs. Hiram T. Sexson, Mrs. Conrad A. Baldwin, Yardley, Pa.; and Miss Lulu McWhirter. Dan Fisher, Anderson, will be Mr. DeMars' best man. Robert DeMars, brother of the bridegroom-to-be, Robert Garrett, Max Bartley, Joseph Inman, Claude Smith, Kenilworth, Ill., and Clifton Marke, Evansville, will be ushers.

Miss Geupel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Geupel, Williams Creek Estates, and Mr. DeMars is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arch E. DeMars.

The bride-to-be will be honor guest at a luncheon and personal shower given tomorrow by Miss Sally Dunlap of near Covington, assisted by her mother, Mrs. William B. Dunlap. Guests from Indianapolis will be Mesdames Geupel, DeMars, Sexson and Stout and Miss McWhirter.

Junior Assembly Committee Named

THE FLOOR COMMITTEE for the Junior Assembly program dance at the American United Life Insurance Bldg. Friday was announced by Mrs. William Byram Gates, assembly sponsor. Members of the committee are the Misses Fatty Bishop, Susan Courtney, Margaret Fish, Caroline Jones, Margaret Rogers and Barbara Winslow and Gilbert Browning. Charles A. Bookwalter II, James Noonan, William McWilliams, Richard West and Robert Rudess.

Players Club Opens Season Tonight

THE PLAYERS CLUB will open its season tonight at the Civic Theater with three one-act plays, the first of which is "Ballroom," with Mr. and Mrs. Larry Willson as its only characters.

"Green Room" will serve to introduce new club members; Messrs. and Mesdames E. Francis Bowditch, Luther E. Brooks, David V. Burns, Jack Daugherty, Richard Hoover, Vernon C. Roth, G. Vance Smith and Larry Willson. Misses Elizabeth Blanche, Patricia and Townsend Eaglesfield, Kathryn B. Hadley, Constance Lewis, Ruth Osborne, Nancy Socwell, Betty Tharp, Alice Vonnegut and Mary Anne Wells; H. Foster Clippinger Jr., Richard Fowler, Harrison Green, C. Otto Janus Jr. and Malcolm McDermott, Percy Weer, John I. Kautz and Robert S. Wild, club president, also are in the cast.

The concluding playlet, "Stateroom," will present Miss Vonnegut, Mr. Janus and Charles M. Wells. Club members will dance at the Woodstock Club following the show.

Entertaining informally at their home before going to the theater will be Mr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Boozer. Dr. and Mrs. G. B. Jackson will have a dinner party for a few friends before the performance. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Richey are co-chairmen of the committee in charge of the opening, assisted by Messrs. and Mesdames Howard J. Lacy II, Wells and Claude C. Jones Jr. Three other productions of the club will be given Jan. 18, Feb. 22 and April 5.

Medical Society Auxiliary to Meet Monday

MISS ANNA HASSELMAN of the John Herron Art Institute will be the speaker before the Auxiliary to the Marion County Medical Society at its meeting at 2 p. m. Monday in the Methodist Hospital Nurses' Home.

Reports of the state medical convention held recently at French Lick will be given by Mrs. Louis Beldon and her committee. Mrs. F. E. Gifford, president, will preside. The program will be followed by a tea with Mrs. H. C. Ochsner, social chairman, in charge.

Mayflower Descendants Assistants to Lunch

Mrs. Tilden F. Greer, governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, has called a luncheon meeting of the board of assistants for noon Monday in Ayres' Tearoom.

Lee Burns Speaks Monday

Lee Burns will read a paper on "The Century of Progress" at the monthly Ladies' Night meeting of the Indianapolis Literary Club Monday in the D. A. R. Chapter House.

D. A. R. Chapter Will Hear Talk On National Defense Thursday

"National Defense" will be the subject of John G. Coulter speaking before the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution at 2 p. m. Thursday at the Chapter House. Henry E. Ostrom, co-chairman of the Indiana committee of the Civil Aeronautics Authority, will speak on "Aviation" and introduce Mr. Coulter.

Invitations have been issued to D. A. R. state chairman of national defense, and to regents and defense committee chairmen of other Indianapolis chapters—Mrs. Harvey J. Elam, regent, and Mrs. Daniel Layman, chairman, Gen. Arthur St. Clair Chapter; Mrs. W. P. Evans, regent, and Mrs. Oliver H. Stout, chairman, Jonathan Jennings Chapter; Mrs. Raymond G. Stilz, regent, and Mrs. Richard G. Miller, chairman, Marion Chapter; Mrs. Walter H. Montgomery, regent, and Miss Marguerite Dice, chairman, Cornelia Cole Fairbanks Chapter.

Mrs. G. B. Taylor, regent of the Caroline Scott Harrison Chapter, will preside. Mrs. Maxine H. Wall is music chairman. The Boy Scout saxophone octette with Raymond G. Oster, conductor, will play. Mrs. W. O. Weber will be the pianist.

Mrs. Russell Bosart will be chairman for the tea following the program. Mrs. Eugene H. Darrach and Mrs. Frederick E. Taylor will pour.

Hostesses will be Mesdames Robert M. Bryce, O. P. Bundy, Sidney J. Hatfield, Anna C. McLain, Anna M. Meek, George D. Thornton and Edson T. Wood, Miss Margaret M. Day and Miss Della Dearborn.

The event will be under the direction of the chapter's committee on national defense through patriotic education of which Mrs. Felix T. McWhirter and Mrs. John W. Moore are co-chairmen with the following members: Mesdames Grantham, Hazel K. Baker, John W. Clark, Roy C. Coats, Clarence A. Cook, Austin Flint Denny, Brandt C. Downey, George B. Elliott, Lawrence F. Orr, E. H. Hankins, Frank F. Hutchings, D. H. A. Kolff, Charles H. Smith, Albert E. Sterne and Frederick M. Terry, Miss Anna May Locke and Miss Ethel Mae Moore. Mrs. Leroy H. Millikan is chapter program chairman.

Mrs. Lowell S. Fisher is to report on the 20th National Safety Congress held in Chicago last month. Mrs. Arthur Brown, recreation chairman, will bring Col. Ralph E. Rogers of Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Washington will assist Richard Hoover, director, by taking charge of property collections. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Cunningham.

Among those who will attend the opening night are Mrs. Harry V. Wade whose husband will appear in the show. She will entertain a group of friends. Others holding standing reservations for first night performances are Mrs. Stephen T. Bogert, Mrs. W. H. Tefft, Messrs. and Mesdames R. Kirby Whyte, Chauncy H. Eno II, Mortimer C. Fuscott, Paul Richey, Thomas L. Neal and C. B. Stone.

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Mrs. Lowell S. Fisher, program chairman, will present as guest speaker Dr. Clyde E. Wildman, DePauw University president. His subject will be "Higher Education Faces the Future." Special guests for the afternoon will be Mrs. Wildman and Mrs. Edward Todd of the education department of the American Association of University Women.

Mrs. Todd will explain the Human Engineering Laboratory of the Stevens' Institute at Hoboken, N. J., which the A. A. U. W. is bringing to Indianapolis the week of Nov. 11.

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Mrs. Clayton Ridge, municipal affairs chairman, will present Miss Marie Matuschka of the Dairy Council of Indianapolis. Miss Matuschka will explain the purposes of the Dairy Council.

At the afternoon session, Mrs. Lowell S. Fisher, program chairman, will present as guest speaker Dr. Clyde E. Wildman, DePauw University president. His subject will be "Higher Education Faces the Future." Special guests for the afternoon will be Mrs. Wildman and Mrs. Edward Todd of the education department of the American Association of University Women.

Mrs. Kathryn Turney Gerten will give the second in her series of three book reviews for the Business Women's Club of the First Friends' Church Tuesday evening. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p. m. in the church dining room and the program will begin at 8 o'clock.

Review Is Booked By Churchwomen

Mrs. Kathryn Turney Gerten will give the second in her series of three book reviews for the Business Women's Club of the First Friends' Church Tuesday evening. Dinner will be served at 6:15 p. m. in the church dining room and the program will begin at 8 o'clock.

"As I Remember Him," the biography of R. S. ("Hans Zinsser") will be reviewed by Mrs. Gerten. Mrs. W. Wells church organist, will give a short organ recital preceding Mrs. Gerten's talk and Miss E. Leona Wright will preside.

King's Daughters Supper Is Monday

The Earliest Circle of the King's Daughters of the Memorial Presbyterian Church will meet Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Richard George, 3015 N. Pennsylvania St. A 6:30 p. m. supper will be followed by a business meeting and program.

Mrs. J. G. M. Hill will give a report of the recent state convention in Evansville and Mrs. J. O. Miller will discuss the lesson. Leader of the group is Mrs. Howard M. Stradling.

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