

Inside Indianapolis

NOT TOO MANY weeks ago the board of safety was holding its somewhat informal weekly meeting when a towering, rather formidable-looking woman sailed into the room. She took a chair, flung open a large sheaf of papers, looked up, and in a clear unmistakably firm voice, said something like this:

"Now, I have a five point program here that I want to read. I want no interruptions until I have finished reading it. Then you may ask questions."

There was a gulp or two around the table of somewhat startled city officials. But nobody interrupted until Mrs. Edna Harrington had quite finished reading her report on what was wrong with the stray animal program of Indianapolis.

An 'Iron Will' Look

AS A MATTER of fact, almost no one ever interrupts Mrs. Harrington. Even if they talk above the ringing clear voice that she developed as concert contralto, there's an "iron will" look about her that discourages opposition. As one city official at the meeting put it:

"She's six feet tall but she looks about twice that when you think about arguing with her."

There are few city officials who haven't had occasion to be on the other end of Mrs. Harrington's ire, in her role as president of the Indiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

As far as she's concerned there's only one pertinent fact in the stray animal picture in Indianapolis: The city has a slovenly, politics-ridden method of handling stray animals that's about 5 years outdated. It's no good, therefore somebody must do something. And Mrs. Harrington is the one who intends to see that they either do it or bear the criticism for not doing it.

Against Cruelty and Abuse

THE SURPRISING FACT about the champion of the stray dog and cat is that she is not much of an animal lover. Most people picture SPCAers as fanatics who think animals should be carried on velvet cushions and fed nightingales. But not so Mrs. H.

"I like animals, of course," she says. "But I'm not so much interested in the animals themselves as I am against cruelty and abuse. I think if people own something they should be made to take care of it. And I think if the city collects dog tax they should be made to take care of their stray animals."

Mrs. Harrington was born in a suburb near Boston, Mass. Her clipper "Baha'ain" accent caused one city councilman to ask: "Who's that foreign woman?" one of the first times she stormed a council session to protest inadequacies of the dog pound. "I know they make fun of me," she says. "They say Boston around here as if it were a cuss word."

She came to Indianapolis about seven years ago when her husband, Howard Harrington, was appointed manager of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. The two met when they won a contest under Fabien Sevitzky in Boston and starred together on the concert stage for several years. Mrs. Harrington still sings as soloist and in the choir of All Souls Unitarian Church but she quit the concert stage when her husband became orchestra manager. Before taking up singing she was a kindergarten teacher and a social worker.

When they first moved to Indianapolis Mrs. Harrington was appalled by the number of strays around the Circle. Then she began hearing how the city council had not appropriated enough money to feed dogs, how the pound could not cope with the stray problem and of the regular "rabies scare" cries.

"In Boston they have no strays because they have a good program and they have no rabies because they vaccinate the dogs and take care of strays," she says. "They took the pound out of politics 50 years ago, and it's about time they did it here—nothing flesh and blood should be in politics."

As is typical of her, Mrs. Harrington thought something should be done and she did it. She joined a group of women and men similarly appalled by the animal situation here and the SPCA was born. Even when she was president Mrs. Harrington was the one who was out fighting for better animal care.

"I don't do nearly as much work as a lot of people who never get their names in the paper,"



Hoosier Profile

"LET'S GET SOMETHING DONE"—That's the battle cry of Mrs. Edna Harrington, SPCA president. These strays are just a part of the usual half-dozen which she takes care of because of the city's "inadequate" stray dog program.

she says. "It's just that I'm able to go out and make speeches and represent the group that I get a lot of the credit."

She has helped organize Bands of Mercy in Indianapolis grade schools, and is even now working on a project that she thinks will eventually give Indianapolis A-1 animal care. She's given up trying to get the city officials to "run things right." "I think we'll have to get in and establish things so well that the city will have to follow our lead."

Tax Doesn't Help the Pooch

WHAT SHE and a lot of animal lovers would really like to see is legislation which would turn some portion of the dog tax back to take care of the dogs themselves. "Now paying the dog tax in no way helps the animal," she says. "It's just as bad as if no one paid a tax and as a matter of fact, only a few do." She'd like to see an animal hospital replace the pound with competent, rather than political, management. She would have regular vaccination of dogs as they get their tags to eliminate rabies.

These are some of the things she mentions when she talks to city officials and makes speeches to promote the SPCA. And frequently, she runs into criticism. She recalls:

"Not so long ago after I had made a speech a minister came up to me and said:

"Mrs. Harrington, how can you spend your time talking about animals when there is so much misery and starvation among humans in the world?" She squared off and answered:

"Rev. . . . I came here this morning after I finished six dresses for my little girl, got her off to school, got my little boy off to school, drove my husband off to work, cleaned my house, got my dinner ready to be put on when I get home, I manage a large home without any help, do my own washing, ironing and cooking, entertain large groups frequently, find time to work in the SPCA, sing in the church and help in every worthy drive that comes along. I have two adopted English children and I send a package of either food or clothes to Holland every two weeks."

"Now, what do you do besides stand and preach to a lot of people who don't pay a bit of attention to what you say? Because if they did such cruelty and abuse couldn't exist."

The minister spluttered somewhat and answered: "Well, Mrs. Harrington, after all I have a creed."

Her answer was typical.

"Damn the creeds Rev. . . . I say, let's get something done." (By Donna Mikels.)

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★ DEMOCRACIES VS. COMMUNISM—Five European nations sign defense pact; Pope rallies Catholics against Communism; ex-Secy. Byrnes urges United States to prepare for war; U. S. Secretary of State George Marshall says world situation "very serious."

Scientist Churches List Program

"Matter" is the subject of the lesson-sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, tomorrow.

The golden text is: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15.

The lesson-sermon also includes the following passage from the Christian Science textbook:

"Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy: "Every object of material thought will be destroyed but the spiritual ideas whose substance is in the mind is eternal." p. 267.

Legion of Mary Rites Tomorrow

The annual Achies ceremony of the Legion of Mary will be held tomorrow at 4 p. m. in the SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. The Rev. Fr. Francis Early, pastor of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, will give the address.

The Achies is a world-wide function held on the day or near the Feast Day of the Annunciation, Mar. 25. Then, active and auxiliary members meet to renew their promise of loyalty to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ship Movements

By United Press

No arrivals in New York—Departing from New York—African Grove, Tenerife; Batory, Copenhagen; Suez; Karachi; Hooper Strait; Trieste; Novorossiysk; St. Mary; Southampton; S. Thome; Lisbon; St. Thomas; Caribbean; Bay of Biscay; Cristobal; Esquimalt; Puerto Rico; Ft. Amherst, Bermuda; Laniero, Buenos Aires; Santa Barbara; Cristobal; Santa Clara; Cartagena; Santa Teresa; Puerto Cabello.

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