

After Long Wait, Lillian, Tippy Marry In Speedy Tempo

Civil Nuptials Follow Family Ceremony

By LILLIAN TRUAX EGILMEZ
ISTANBUL, Dec. 20 (By Mail).—Dec. 16, 1948, was a gray, cold, rainy day in Istanbul. Yet it was beautiful to me, for it was my wedding day.

It was typical of our erratic life, that after an eight and a half year courtship, our wedding was sudden and hasty. Our earlier well-laid plans had gone astray when the investigations by the Turkish government, dragged from weeks into months.

Then, they came to an unexpected close a bare five days before my residence permit expired. To obtain another permit might have incurred additional delay, the very thought of which drove us heading to the altar. Now, as an alien married to a Turkish citizen, the troublesome permit is no longer required.

This unforeseen turn of events had a silver lining, for it enabled us to have the kind of quiet wedding we both preferred but which in Turkey is most unorthodox. Ordinarily friends and relatives would have been insulted that we should be so ungenerous about the whole thing. Under the circumstances our haste was forgiven, and a huge dinner party later smoothed the remaining rough edges of protocol.

Lillian Truax of Clermont went to Istanbul, Turkey, to marry her Indiana University sweetheart, Ismail Hakkı Egilmez, is now Mrs. Lillian Truax Egilmez. The ceremony was performed in Istanbul after months of official red tape delayed the wedding. Mrs. Egilmez, a graduate of Ben Davis High School and now the wife of a Turkish businessman, has been describing her life in Turkish capital. In this article, she relates the story of her wedding and the celebrations which followed it.

ENTERING the "holy state" in Turkey involves two ceremonies. There is the family ceremony, which is the big social affair, and the austere civil one, recognized by the government. Generally, the civil ceremony is performed first and is followed by the family celebration. To simplify matters for us, we had the civil ceremony in the afternoon after the family one in the morning.

The social or family ceremony is reminiscent of the days of veiled women and patriarchy in Turkey. The bride and groom exchange vows between themselves and place the wedding rings on the third finger, left hand. The rings are then removed and re-

placed, with appropriate words of blessing by the head of the bridegroom's family. This is usually done in the presence of friends and relatives but, in keeping with our wishes, only the family was present for our ceremony.

The bride is customarily presented with a precious gift on behalf of the bridegroom. In olden days this gift was given when he was permitted for the first time to see the face of his bride. Nowadays the veil is gone but the custom remains. Thus I became the recipient of a beautiful ring of six exquisite diamonds. It was given many years ago to Tippy's mother by his father. As it was one of her treasured possessions, so it shall be mine.

IN THE AFTERNOON, after our private ceremony in the morning, we went to the Marriage Bureau for the civil ceremony. The Marriage Bureau for our precinct is located in Eminonu square. The front of the building houses the offices of the bureau. A side entrance off a narrow cobblestone street leads to the "salon" where the marriages are performed.

Contrary to its elaborate name, the salon is a huge bare room with rows of bare benches and straight chairs arranged as in a classroom. There are no draperies, no rugs, no adornments of any kind. The tiled floor, which is the

room's one distinctive characteristic, was tracked with mud and water from the street. An overhead radiator was leaking and the steady drip, drip of water into the pail on the floor sounded lonesome and forlorn. The gloom of the dreary day outside, permeated the room making it even more cheerless.

In spite of the drabness of the room and the cold, blowing rain all was gaiety, warmth and smiles. And, though usually deeply affected by surroundings, I felt content and happy.

I CHATTED with Mr. Custin of the American Consulate as Tippy arranged last minute details. Since regular hours are held here, as in any civil office, there were many other people in the room. Having retained my nosegay of roses from the previous ceremony, my identity was obvious. Much whispered conversation and benevolent curiosity was directed at the foreign office by the strangers.

We had not planned for anyone, other than the two required witnesses, to be present; but some 20 of these "strangers" were Tippy's friends who came to wish us luck.

Nejat Key, an ex-classmate of Tippy and mutual friend from Indiana University days, was to be his witness, and Mr. Gustin, the American vice-consul was to be mine. Mr. Gustin had to be present to fulfill the duties of his office, and I liked the idea of having an American as my witness.

The official who was to perform the ceremony sat in a high backed chair behind a table upon which a huge book lay opened. Tippy and I were seated in ornate chairs opposite him. Tippy's witness sat at one end of the table and Mr. Gustin at the other. Who, asked the official, would interpret for me? Tippy said he would. And who would interpret for Mr. Gustin? Tippy couldn't do both. Nejat was disqualified since he was Tippy's witness. One of the unexpected guests, an old college friend named Orhan came to the rescue. Seating Orhan next to Mr. Gustin, the ceremony began.

The witnesses were asked, each in turn, their names and addresses. Then I was asked my name and birthdate, and the names of my parents. The

5,535,089 Cars Produced in '48

DETROIT, Jan. 1 (UP).—The automobile industry in the United States and Canada produced 5,535,089 cars and trucks in 1948, the total being second only to 1929 output, Ward's Automotive Reports said today.

The statistical agency said production for the final week of 1948 slumped to 82,978 units, compared with 94,668 last week, 65,573 for the same period last year and 76,690 in 1941. The December volume was estimated at 501,306 units.

Ward's said the industry in both countries may produce a record-breaking 5,800,000 cars and trucks in 1949, compared with 5,621,715 made in 1929.

Estimates for 1949 included 4,425,000 passenger cars and 1,175,000 trucks in U. S. plants and 175,000 cars and 85,000 trucks in Canada.

CONDUCTOR RESIGNS
MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 1 (UP).—Yves Chardon today announced his resignation as associate conductor and first cellist of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Chardon's announcement came only two days after the resignation of conductor Dmitri Mitropoulos who will become conductor of the New York Philharmonic next season.

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Lillian Truax and Ismail Hakkı Egilmez... bride and groom.

answers were checked against the forms which bore the approval of the police department. Tippy furnished the same information about himself, and the official checked it.

ACCORDING to Tippy's interpretation the official then said "The records of each of you have been investigated. According to the laws of Turkey there has been found no cause why this marriage should not be performed."

He continued, with Tippy still interpreting, "Do you, Lillian Truax, enter this marriage freely and take this man for your husband?" In true American manner I replied, "I do." It is customary to say, "Yes." The official repeated the question to Tippy, who properly answered "Evet" (Yes).

The witnesses signed the marriage register. Then I signed it with "Lillian Truax" in one space and "Lillian Truax Egilmez" down below. Tippy signed his name in the proper places. "A sign from the official we stood."

He said, "According to the powers of my office, I pronounce you husband and wife. Congratulations." We shook hands, were handed our marriage license and turned to receive the "congratulations of our friends."

SO, ACCORDING to God, man, the Turkish government and the District of Columbia, U. S. A. (thanks to Mr. Gustin's official capacity) we are legally, finally and irrevocably Mr. and Mrs. Ismail Hakkı Egilmez. (In Turkish is pronounced "Is-mah-ill Hah-kuh' Eh-yil-mez").

After the innumerable delays, the war, the five thousand mile trip and finally the frustrating three month long investigations, we are content to breathe a sigh of happiness that the impossible has happened and we are married at last.

Sun Ignites Fire In Car Through Bottle

MINERAL WELLS, Tex., Jan. 1 (UP).—Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cochran were returning home from a trip when they smelled smoke. It was the carpet flooring in the back seat of their car, set afire by sun rays shining through a large water bottle on the floor.

THIS FINDER WEEPS

ANDOVER, S. D., Jan. 1 (UP).—It was "finder's weepers" when Albert D. Vaughn found a pen. He had picked up a "bawl point" pen—a pocket size tear gas cartridge.

Ambulance Kept Busy

GRAPFORD, Tex., Jan. 1 (UP).—Mrs. Carl McAlally, manager of the telephone exchange here, needed an ambulance herself a few minutes after calling for one to pick up three members of a family hurt in an accident. She fell and fractured her hip after making the call.

GETS STUNG PLENTY

BIG STONE CITY, S. D., Jan. 1 (UP).—If your job's disagreeable, you should sympathize with Grover Lothrop. He's really getting stung. Mr. Lothrop is a state bee inspector and has been "stung" 504 times this year while checking 12,264 bee colonies.

Never a Sour Note Among These Couples

OKLAHOMA CITY, Jan. 1 (UP).—At least seven Oklahoma City couples have found a way to keep married life harmonious. They play together in the Oklahoma State Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Victor Alessandro says there's never a sour note.

WHERE THE MEAT GOES

MUNICH, Germany, Jan. 1 (UP).—More than 3000 tons of meat disappeared into the black market here in a two-month period, the American military government announced.

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