

Capital Capers—

# You Too Can Become A Washington Hostess With Strong Jaws

Mental Equipment, Good Taste Aren't Necessary If You Chatter Fast

By ELISE MORROW

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—If you have any curiosity as to the mental equipment and good taste required, among other things—principally dollars—to become a successful Washington hostess, with pictures in the papers, here is chapter and verse.

This is a report on the pearls of wisdom dropped by an enchanting creature who bags the very best in Senators, ambassadors, and others of the species whenever she has a party here. For a change, she was at somebody else's party, rattling along gaily over her expectantly-clutched martini glass, while a sad-eyed bystander muttered something, half under his breath, which sounded remarkably like, "She makes Perle Mesta sound like Voltaire."

Someone complimented the hostess on a little item of rocks and crockery around her neck, worth a few negligible thousands, and she said, "Well, it is sweet, isn't it? And I love it so much more than my other things because I don't feel I have to have two detectives following me around when I wear it."

Directly after this, someone else complimented her on her husband, and she bubbled happily. "Yes, he likes to wear the same old thing all the time. When we go out I look in my closet and say, 'Shall I wear my Dior, my Molyneux, my Lanvin or my Marcel Rochas—and what tie will you wear, my darling?'"

The hostess batted her eyes, made the irrelevant and somewhat incredible statement that the Atlantic Monthly is the only periodical she reads, fluttered on to tweak a Senator's nose, and declined another martini. "It makes mischief," she said, merrily. She was so right.

## Canasta Expert

General Earl (Tooney) Spaatz, former head of the Air Force, has become so proficient at Canasta, a card game which has swept Washington like a plague, that he is losing sleep over it. General Spaatz was a Washington pioneer of the game, and is probably the best practitioner in the capital. The trouble is that people have taken to calling him in the middle of the night, not on any vital matter of air strategy, but to settle some fine point about a Canasta game.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, widow of the World War I President, is also wildly enthusiastic about this refined form of gin rummy, this mah jongg of the second post-world war generation, so much so that she has devised an arrangement to fit a special board in her car, so the cards won't slip and she can play while motoring. Mrs. Mesta, also one of the Canasta pioneers in Washington, took the game along to Luxembourg when she went there recently as U.S. minister and ex-chief of the Washington party-throwers.

## Rain Maker

Incidentally, we've just run across this story about Mrs. Mesta's departure into the realm of international diplomacy. As she and her party were boarding ship for Europe, her press secretary, Dorothy Williams, got a bouquet of flowers from a friend bearing a card with this message: "Remember, Dorothy, you can't strike a woman."

One of the nobler statesmen of the United States Senate was cornered by a bore at a cocktail party here the other evening, and before long the bore became offensive. Finally, the Senator became angry. With a sweeping gesture reminiscent of an oration on the Atlantic Pact, or perhaps on what to do about the atom bomb, he declared, "Young man, if you don't stop annoying me, I'll find somebody who will."

A minor ECA official, just back from Italy, reports on how the drought situation over there was solved, recently. "First there were prayers for rain," he said, "but they didn't work. Then the Communists wrote a manifestation against the drought. That didn't work either. Finally, a State Department man came up with the solution."

"The only thing to do," he said, "is to schedule a series of garden parties. Sure enough, it started to rain the day of the first party and didn't let up for a week."

## Vodka Contest Set

A social advantage enjoyed by Latin-American diplomats in Washington is the fact they have more excuses for giving parties. For example, every time there is an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow a South American government, the event is likely to be signaled in Washington with appropriate elbow bending. Just the other day, for instance, the Bolivian ambassador and Senora de Martinez Vargas were "at home" and it was "in celebration of the government's recent victory over the Fascists."

Of course, if a government is overthrown, the party will have to wait until the new government's ambassador arrives. This trend has also become apparent among the Iron Curtain embassies. Every so often, there is a drinking, attended by almost nobody you ever heard of, given by the Peoples' Republic or whatever country feels like it, "to celebrate the anniversary of the liberation of the Peoples' Republic from the yoke of the oppressors," or words to that effect. The big moment in this social set, however, is still something over a month away, for the annual vodka contest at the Soviet Embassy, in celebration of the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, will be held early in November.

## Five Women Justices

LONDON—Five of the nine new justices of peace in Buckingham, England, are women.

# Mrs. Willwerth Begins Twenty-Second Year as Volunteer Worker for Community Fund Drive in Residential Division

By AGNES H. OSTROM  
"WHEN YOU explain what the Community Fund does, most people can be reached."

That bit of philosophy has carried Mrs. H. P. Willwerth successfully through Indianapolis Community Fund campaigning for 21 years—the longest service record for a volunteer.

Under the impressive title, associate chairman for the westside in the residential division (one of six such divisions) this undaunted optimist again will be directing activities of hundreds of women in the 30th annual drive. The 14 'intensive "Give Enough" soliciting days begin Oct. 10.

Securing team captains, helping them round up volunteers, making certain they have adequate materials, dealing with their campaign problems, answering countless telephone calls—it's all part of her job. Plus the clean-up work of contacting the prospective giver who isn't sold yet.

## Willing Victim

If any one person is responsible for this worker's initiation into Community Fund work, it is Mrs. Brandt C. Downey. As head of the residential division in 1928, Mrs. Downey sold her. She found her unsuspecting victim dusting. "That was the last of the dusting," reminisces Mrs. Willwerth.

By consenting to head the westside residential division, she joined forces with a growing group of Indianapolis men and women, who, during the



Mrs. H. P. Willwerth . . . organizes her work for the Community Fund drive in the westside residential division.

years, have given time and energy to solicit under the Red Feather emblem.

Thirty-eight agencies were on the roster then. Today 46 receive the support of local citizens.

## Luncheons Vital

The daily report luncheons she deems most important in

keeping up the workers' interest. The friendly, competitive spirit of these noon gatherings add to the workers' zeal to do a better job, as well as acquaint them with people from every section of the town.

Mrs. Willwerth feels particularly close to the fund's speakers' bureau. As incoming International Travel Study Clubs Federation president in 1936, she set up such a bureau in that group. The fund adopted the idea, one of the important cogs in the machinery since.

How do you get so many workers?

She explains school principals and PTA groups have helped eagerly. They have supplied many interested workers through the years. Admittedly this youthful grandmother "likes to stir up things."

A review of some of her activities bears its own witness. She was founder-president of the Municipal Gardens Women's Department Club, Florence Nightingale and Indianapolis Grandmothers Clubs; founder, Emerson Grove Garden Club; is secretary of the Southwest Social Center Club, an active Republican and member of the Indiana Historical Society and Indianapolis Parliamentary Club.

For 18 years she's played Mrs. Santa Claus for students in School 44 and has even observed a golden wedding anniversary.

But from Oct. 10 to 24 her lively step will hasten to a West Side home to tell the occupants: "what the Community Fund does."

# Miss Shirley J. VanCleave Is Bride of H. E. Beall

Miss Shirley Jean VanCleave and Howard E. Beall were married at 7:30 o'clock last night in the Irvington Methodist Church. The Rev. C. M. Johnson officiated.

The parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Clifford VanCleave, 6115 E. 16th St., and Mrs. Gerald Beall, 4641 Brookville Road.

Miss Patricia Ashley was the maid of honor and Miss Ruth Ann VanCleave, sister of the bride, and Miss Carol Beall, sister of the bridegroom, were the bridesmaids. Ruth Hope Marks was the flower-girl.

## Wears White Satin

The bridal attendants wore blue, yellow, green and pink taffeta frocks with matching mitts.

## Poetry Clubs to Convene Saturday

The ninth annual convention of the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs will be held Saturday, The business session will be at 1:30 p. m. in the World War Memorial. Miss June Winona Snyder, retiring president, will be in charge. Officers will be elected. Dr. Edwin Barlow Evans will be guest speaker at the 8 p. m. program in the Hotel Lincoln. He will be introduced by Miss Florence Marie Taylor. An honorary membership will be given Dr. Evans. Walter Newton Reed will preside. A musical program will be presented by Mr. and Mrs. Reed, vocalists, accompanied by Mrs. Willard Beck, and Miss Lu Ellen Dearing, dancer, accompanied by Mrs. Douglas Horne. John Cain Golden will talk on "The Matrix of Poetic Inspiration."

## PTA Unit to Meet

The PTA of Manual High School will have a meeting at 7:45 p. m. Wednesday, in the school library.

and caps. They carried chrysanthemums.

The best man was Edward Sorensen and the ushers were Eric Hedgesgard, Robert Sorensen and David and Donald Timmerman.

A gown of white satin made with a fitted bodice, full skirt and chapel train was worn by the bride. Her fingertip veil fell from a cap of net and orange blossoms and she carried an orchid on a white Bible.

The couple is on a trip west. They will make their home with the bridegroom's mother.

# Nurse to Tell Experiences

Mrs. C. O. McCormick Jr. will discuss her experiences as an Army flight nurse at a meeting of the Alpha Lambda Letaeian Club. The meeting will be Tuesday in the home of Mrs. Robert Kirk, Ralston Drive. Mrs. Robert Urban will assist.

New officers of the group are Mrs. William E. Richter, president; Mrs. Phillip Hahmann, vice president; Mrs. Albert Mendenhall and Mrs. B. Allan Sutton, recording and corresponding secretaries; Mrs. Quentin D. Wert, treasurer.

Mrs. Kenneth Peterman, parliamentarian; Mrs. Kirk, historian, and Mrs. Merlin King and Mrs. Wallace DeHart, 7th District delegates.

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