





# **GIRLHOOD DAYS**

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By Kaarina Linnamo

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# GIRLHOOD DAYS

PRINCESS ULLA ARRIVES AND MAKES AN  
UNFORGETTABLE IMPRESSION

WALKING TO AND FROM THE SCHOOL

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GRANDMOTHER

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## PRINCESS ULLA ARRIVES AND MAKES AN UNFORGETTABLE IMPRESSION

September 1933. School work keeps us busy.

Because of rain we were not permitted to go out. Instead, we were sitting on steps leading to the attic. The girls were wearing cotton aprons. Our teacher arrives, a slender girl comes with her.

“This is Ulla, your new classmate”, said the teacher.

We look at Ulla in amazement. She looks like a princess! Her dress is made of p i n k s a t i n with rows of b l a c k satin ruffles. When we learned that she had arrived from Helsinki, we thought automatically, that schoolgirls in the capital of Finland were dressed in silk only.

This first impression was so strong, that Ulla held her princess status both at the elementary school and at the high school.



Suomalainen nukkekaunotar

MY FINNISH DOLL

## WALKING TO and FROM THE SCHOOL

Rain, storm or snow did not hinder us from walking. Nobody was arriving by bicycle. Nobody was brought by car. School buses had not been invented. Returning from the school we had two delightful events:

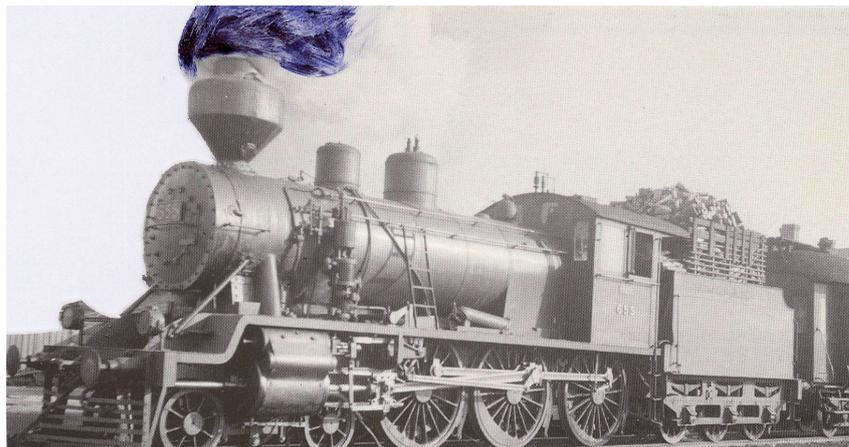
I

A garrison situated near the school. If we noticed that the gate was open, we knew something was going to take place. We decided to wait. If a marching group appeared, we wished: “Song, song, song!”. Soldiers hearing this, smiled and fulfilled the request of their child audience singing one of their hits:

“Heijaa, scarlet-red roses”

II

Usually we walked in groups. Some boys ran towards the bridge built over the railroad to see, if there was a train leaving the station. If a train was coming, they waved to us. We hurried to the bridge and the locomotive crew saw us. They, in turn, knew what was wished. When the train was nearing the bridge black smoke rose from the pipe. It was so dense that we could not see each other. We screamed with joy. The crew surely enjoyed their skilled performance.



## GRANDFATHER

Our Father called him Pappa. So did we.

He was a self-made man, who started as an errand boy. His first employer was a rural shopkeeper. He praised the boy's speediness to his acquaintances. Grandfather told our father the real reason. The road to the villa lingered through a dark forest. At that time robbers were hiding behind trees or huge boulders. He was so afraid that he ran on the way there and back as fast as he could.

Grandfather liked the trade and started planning for his future. He must have had good recommendations. By the time he was 40 years old, he had established himself as a notable businessman owning a four-story building in a choice location of the city. St.Petersburg and Berlin were the capitals he visited frequently to buy merchandise of good quality. When traveling elsewhere he bought oil paintings from Holland and furniture from Paris. The walls in the dining room were covered with paintings. I remember sitting quietly during family dinners and looking at the dark landscapes and skilfully detailed still life paintings. He had a valuable collection of Finnish paintings and sculpture in the salon.

## GRANDMOTHER

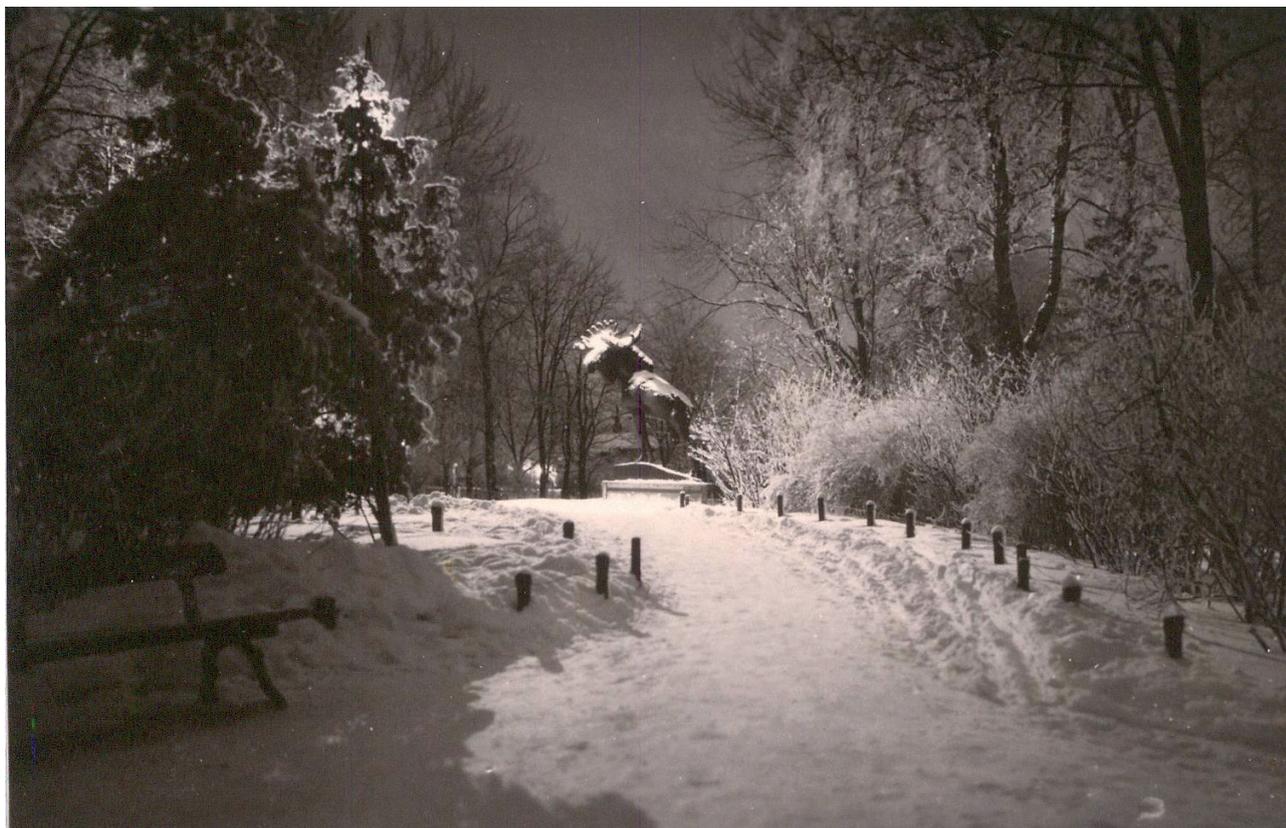
Mother called her Mamma. So did We.  
Thus we had Mother and Father, Mamma and Pappa.

Mamma was religious, truly and beautifully. She went to church every Sunday. When we came home after school, she was waiting us sitting in her rocking chair. While we were doing our homework, she would sit quietly deep in thoughts. Every now and then we heard her quoting ethic truths:

Good conscience is dearer than gold.  
Truth overcomes fire.  
Honesty inherits the land.  
Lies have short tails.  
Do not ridicule a person, if he does not know something  
because he will know something you do not know!

Mamma felt that card games are a sin. We were allowed to play popular childrens' card games. Mamma said radio was a noisemaker. TV, Internet. Playstation and today's phones in her opinion would have been products of

GOOD AND EVIL KNOWLEDGE  
had they been available in the thirties.



THE ELK HILL

## CITY FATHERS WERE WISE

I

They understood that children needed sport activities during winter months. A man-made hill was placed in the central park. It was called

### The ELK HILL

On the top of the hill stands a magnificent life-sized sculpture of an elk. The sculptor is Jussi Mäntynen, who worked with architect Eliel Saarinen in Bloomfield, Michigan. There are two lynxes sculptured by Mäntynen. They flank the steps leading to The Museum and Library of Cranbrook Art Academy.

The Elk Hill was a toboggan slide. Children loved it. On the left were toboggans and on the right chair-sledges. Sometimes eager children did not follow the rules. This caused irritation. Angry voices were heard by the parkkeeper, who walked with a stick. When he was seen approaching, order was quickly restored. In the late afternoon, children had returned to their homes. In the evening new arrivals were seen: they were young guardsmen on leave. They had no toboggans. There was no need for those. They had their boots. They did the trick - standing. First each one alone, then two - then three together. The skills were developed further and when seven guardsmen side by side succeeded, they roared with laughter.

## II

When the city bay was iced over, it offered a splendid area for skating. An oval plateau was sawed off, the snow covering it was plowed into a high embankment. The outer, oval track was reserved for race skaters. Another area was for figure skating. Sonja Henies's fans skated there. Somehow, we were not interested in horizontal skating. Standing on one leg only!

Our skating area was the largest. During the day boys from different schools played ice-hockey. In the evening it was a popular place for meeting classmates and friends from other schools.

Specific evenings were reserved for ballroom type dancing. The couples (young adults) arrived wearing winter shoes suited for dancing on ice. The music played was adapted to different types of dances.

## NO SHOPPING - NO BROWSING

Why not?

Because there were no department stores, no shopping centers or malls.

Children without elders were not expected to enter specialty stores carrying textiles, costumes, hats, shoes etc. If someone erred to do it, the child was ushered out firmly but politely. There were strict rules for grown-ups, too. They were not permitted to touch the merchandise in boxes or on shelves.

No self-service!

A salesperson stood behind counter asking  
"May I help you?"

You had to describe , what you were looking for.

If you were ready to purchase, you paid in cash. A handwritten receipt with a stamp marked PAID was handed to you with thanks. Credit cards or installment payment system did not exist.

Stores for childrens' clothes were rare. Mothers and home seamstresses with their skills were able to dress the children. Factory-made outfits included sportswear. Schoolgirls did not wear long pants unless they went skating or skiing.

## A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE

Ulla's father pampered his beautiful daughters.

Once Ulla invited us to come and see what her father had brought her from Helsinki. A brown suitcase was on the table. Ulla opened it.

Aaah, we gasped.

On the left side stood a doll resembling Shirley Temple. It was wearing a tailored overcoat and a hat of the same material. On the right we saw a collection of dresses. Below were two drawers for a nightgown, hosiery etc. Party shoes and an evening purse were placed on the top drawer.

Ulla said the name of her new doll was "B a b y".

Although we were no longer playing with dolls, we knew that this doll was a treasure.

## M O R E S U R P R I S E S

Ulla's sister stayed in Helsinki, when her parents moved to our town.

In our opinion, E n s i looked like Myrna Loy, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's beloved star. Ensi's eyes, smile, soft voice and nice manners were charming.

As saying was "she could wring everyone round her little finger". Ulla told us that Ensi had many admirers. She could not count how many, but she said that 12 was the minimum.

Once her father gave her a larger than usual sum of money for unexpected expenditures. These unexpected expenditures "happened" sooner than her parents expected. Ensi called from Helsinki and told she had bought a half-length furcoat.

A schoolgirl with a furcoat!

Schoolgirls had woollen wintercoats with a fur collar, if their families could afford it.

When Ulla had told her newsy news, we just could not stop laughing at this funny handling of monetary matters.

## PRINCESS SOURPUSS and SMILING PRINCESS

Acting in a play interested us. A suitable fairy tale was found. It told of a princess who was constantly displeased. People called her Princess Sourpuss. The King and the Queen knew this, but did not succeed in correcting her behavior. One day the princess met a boy who had a merry heart and who was smiling. The princess was impressed and asked him to teach her how to feel happy. The boy helped her and the princess learned how to be THE SMILING PRINCESS.

Rehearsals took place in our room and we let (politely) Ulla decide, who she liked to be. The princess, of course. Maija was the queen. I was the king (with a deep voice) and the boy (with natural voice).

Rehearsals were well under way, when Ulla said that she did not want to be the princess. Who then? The queen. O.K. Maija took the role of the princess and rehearsals continued. Until Ulla said she would like to be the boy b u t she did not want the role of the king.

Now we had a miserable dilemma. We had learned each others lines while making these adjustments and could have performed the whole play in chorus. Our parents had not been informed of the premiere and we were spared telling them why "PRINCESS SOURPUSS and SMILING PRINCESS" were never seen.

## PAPER DOLLS

Nice-looking paper dolls in sheet form to be cut out were drawn by able artists. The coloring was rich and skilfull. My doll had a skating outfit with white fur trimmings and a white muff.

Once, when we were at Ulla's home, her sister was scetching something. After a while she took the scissors and cut out a figure. It was a paper doll. She handed it to Maija saying:

"This is Lady Violet Valerie Roehen"

"Ah!" Maija thanked Ensi for her amiable gift. Ulla and I asked Ensi to draw similar paper dolls for us, too.

"No. I won't"

was the answer.

Despite Ulla's sisterly pleas, the answer was 'No'.

There we were: three girls and one paper doll. Maija found the solution: she was to tell the story and Ulla and I would be the dressmakers.

Since Lady Violet was wearing a strapless bathing suit, she needed clothes. Ulla started to draw them, I took the task of coloring with watercolors.

Knowing that Lady Violet was married to a wealthy banker Loord Bluumkohl (we had no dictionary to help us spell his name correctly) Maija felt that Lady Violet should have a wardrobe consisting of 100 outfits.

”100 ?” we gasped.

”100 ” Maija confirmed.

Hereafter the two dressmakers were busy creating dressing gowns, dresses, suits, coats, sporting outfits (tennis, golf, riding, sailing), glamorous evening dresses and ballgowns. She even had a full-length cape of red velvet with ermine trimmings.

Ensi read ELOKUVA-AITTA movie magazine regularly. Ulla said we could get good ideas looking at pictures of movie actresses. At that time photos were black-and-white. Watercolors offered us a wide selection of different shades. In our opinion, the following movie stars wore beautiful dresses:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Joan Crawford     | Myrna Loy          |
| Marlene Dietrich, | Jeanette MacDonald |
| Deanna Durbin     | Ginger Rogers      |
| Janet Gaynor      | Norma Shearer      |
| Jean Harlow       | &                  |
| Carole Lombard    | Loretta Young      |

Hollywood's famous costume designers

Adrian

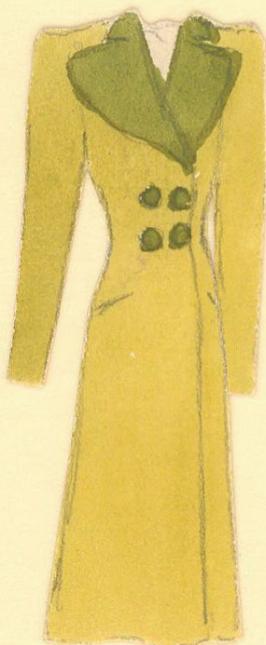
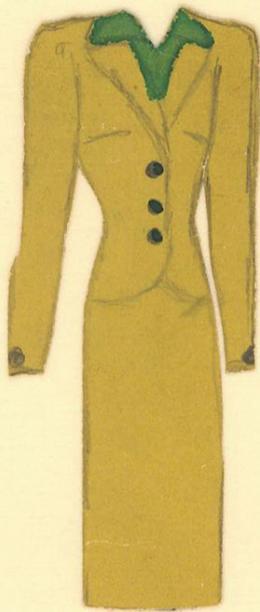
Irene &

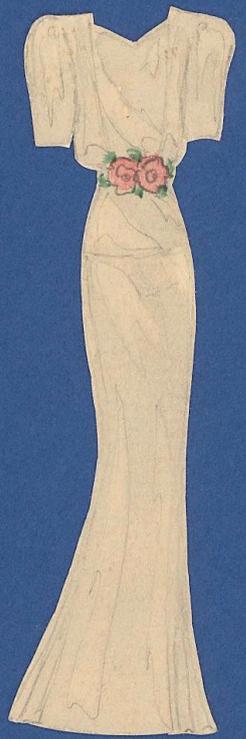
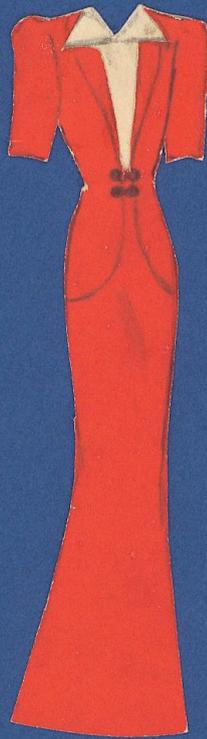
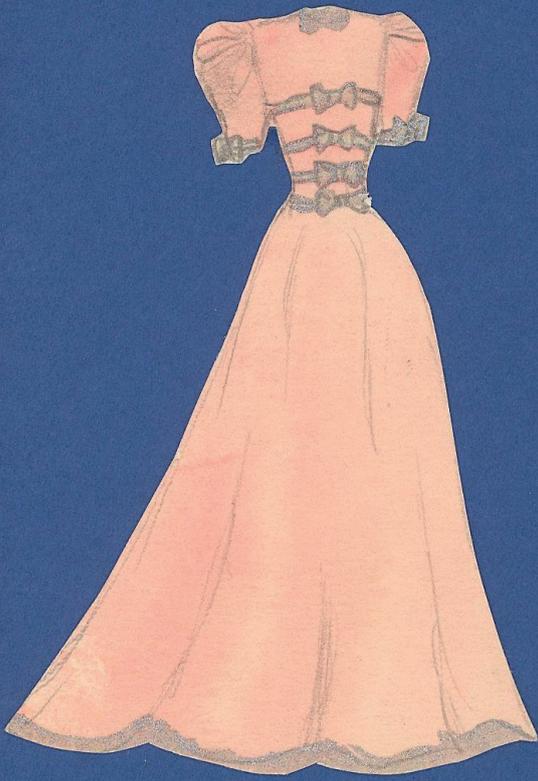
Orry-Kelly

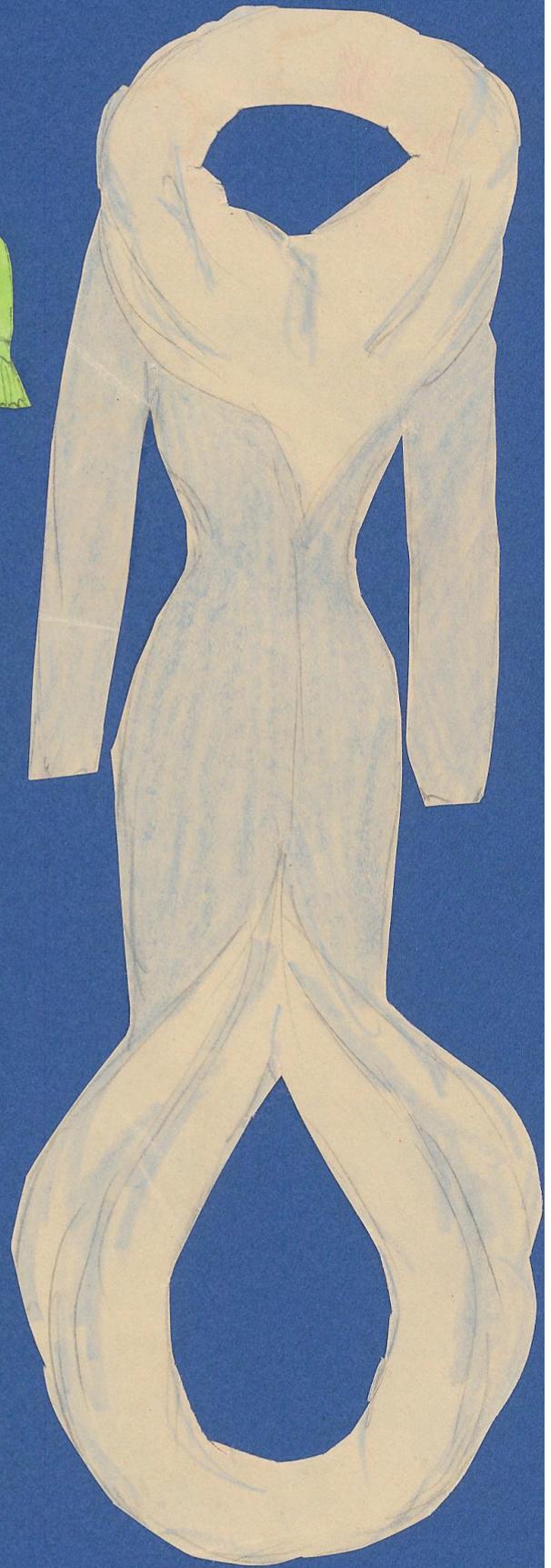
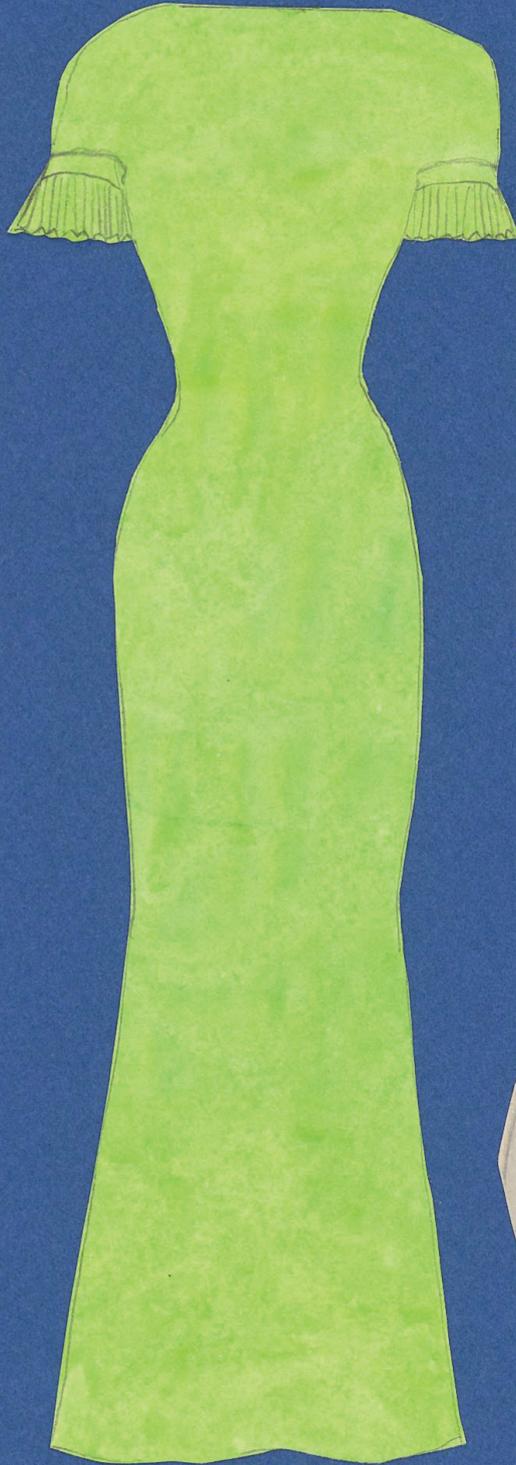
had universal influence. Style was their trademark.

Lady Violet, Maija, Ulla and myself, we were very happy when the ordered 100 costumes were delivered to Lady Violet's large dressing room (which was imaginary).









## ENCHANTMENT of IMAGINATION

Ulla's imagination was very vivid. She described dresses she was "wearing". We "saw" them. She was able to tell about most delicious dishes she was tasting. We listened with awe. We had never thought that you can entertain yourself imagining things you would like to have. Soon we, too, took off and landed in our make-believe world.

Our fathers had no inkling, how lucky they were having daughters whose luxuries did not cost them a penny.

We had great fun with our alter ego. Maija said her name was Else Were de Were. She was like Marlene Dietrich, a woman of world dressed in an elegant suit.

Her motto was:

The past is dead.

The present is parties, parties, parties

The future ??? Hm.

This stunning motto was her own invention!

Ulla said her name was Drusilla (Drusy) Le Vallon Hanapier. Her noble French name she had found in their kitchen. There was a wooden crate with wine bottles her father had ordered.

My name was like an omen of memorable events many years later. Father had a textile machine journal and there was an impressive name

Bay State Tread Works  
of Boston, Mass.

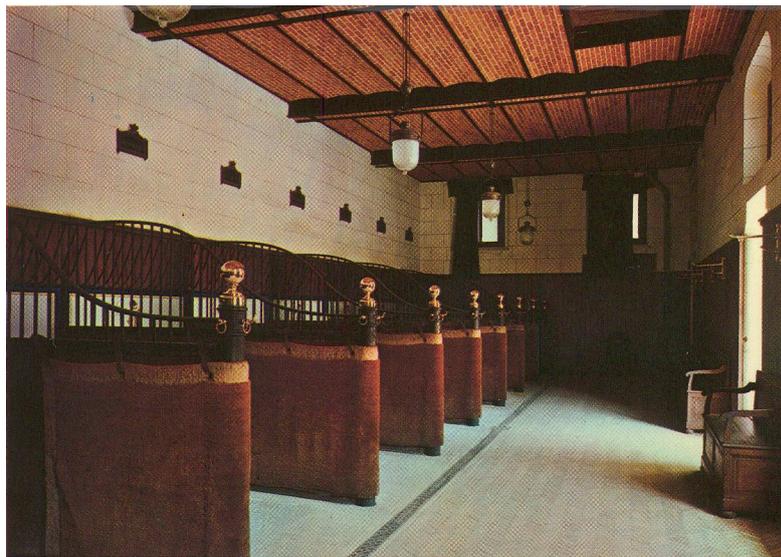
Ah, that's for me. I was Bay, living in Boston. Hollywood movies often had stories of fine families of Boston. They had a butler, a beautifully curving staircase, mother was a socialite and Eugene Palette was the good-humoured father. Deanna Durbin, a lyric soprano, was the youngest daughter who sang at her mother's parties.

The journal had a list of French names:

Chambord  
Chaumont  
Chenonceaux  
Cheverny  
Chinon  
Amboise  
Langeais  
Loches  
Usse  
Villandry

Fine, they will be Bay's French cousins. Chaumont was her favorite cousin.

Years later, when I lived in Boston, I was astonished learning that Bay State means the State of Massachusetts. Bay's cousins turned out to be French châteaux in the Loire Valley. Famous tourist attractions.



THE STALLS FOR  
THOROUGHBRED HORSES

## CHAUMONT

Chaumont is linked to the American history. During the War of Independence Chaumont was owned by

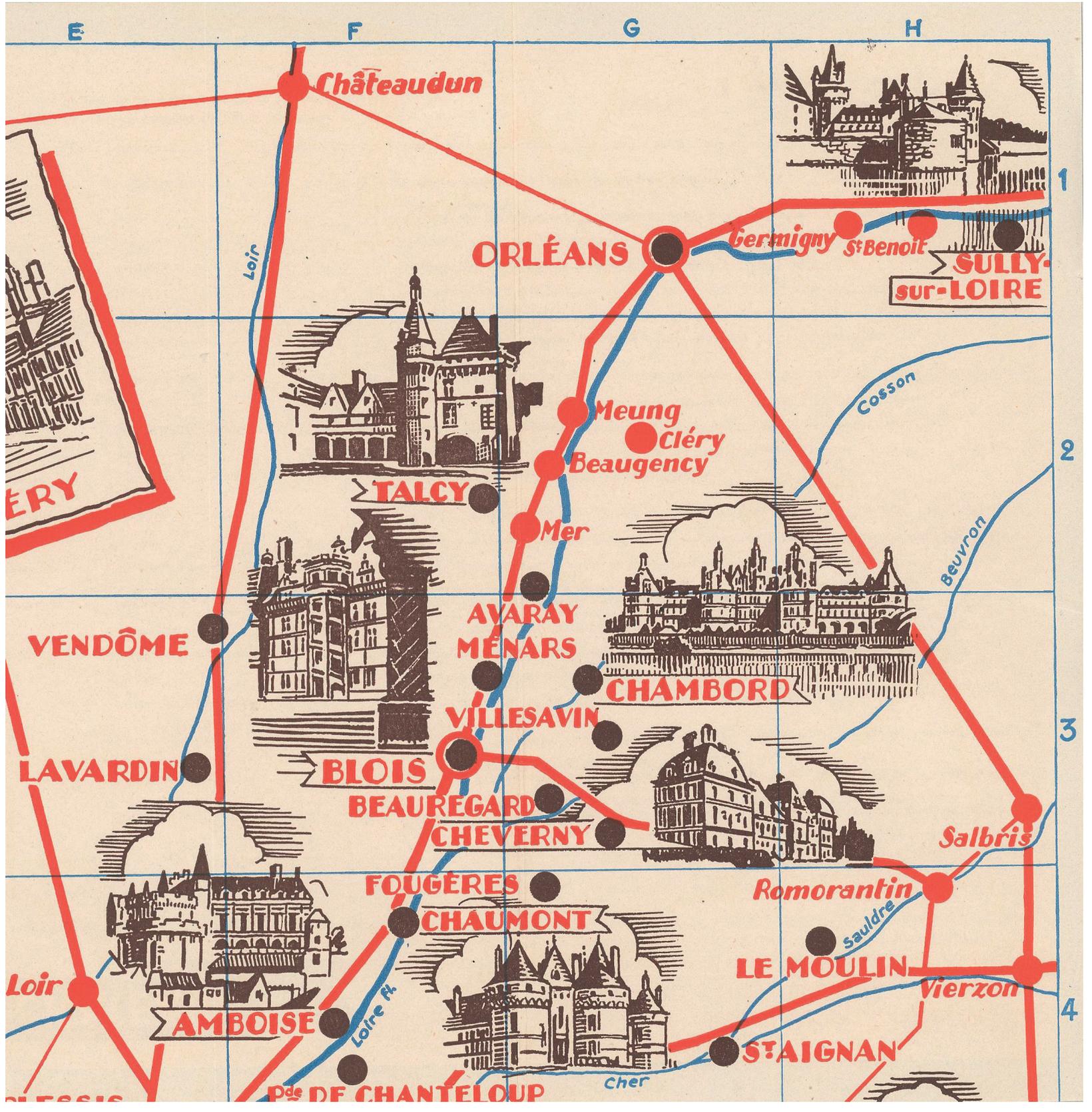
Jacques Donatien Le Ray

known as Le Ray the American.

In France, Benjamin Franklin was negotiating treaties of amity and commerce between France and America. In 1785 he was appointed Minister at the Court of Louis XVI. During those years he visited Chaumont. In the library there is a collection of terracotta medallions. One of them depicts Benjamin Franklin. Chaumont was not looted during the French Revolution. Le Ray the American was able to save his castle, because it was widely known, that he had been a powerful supporter of the American Revolution!

In 1875 Chaumont was bought by Marie-Charlotte Say, heiress to the sugar fortune of Say. She married prince Amédée de Broglie. Money was no obstacle, when the newly-weds started to improve Chaumont.

Today's visitor is impressed by the stables. The thoroughbred horses had upholstered stalls with their name plates on the wall. Magnificent cedars thrive in the volcanic soil of Chaumont (= "monts jetant des flammes").



Châteaudun

ORLÉANS

SULLY-sur-LOIRE

TALCY

Meung  
Cléry  
Beaugency

Mer

VENDÔME

AVARAY  
MÉNARS

CHAMBORD

VILLESAVIN

LAVARDIN

BLOIS

BEAUREGARD  
CHEVERNY

Salbris

FOUGÈRES  
CHAUMONT

Romorantin

Loir

AMBOISE

Pds DECHANTELOUP

LE MOULIN

STAGNAN

Vierzon

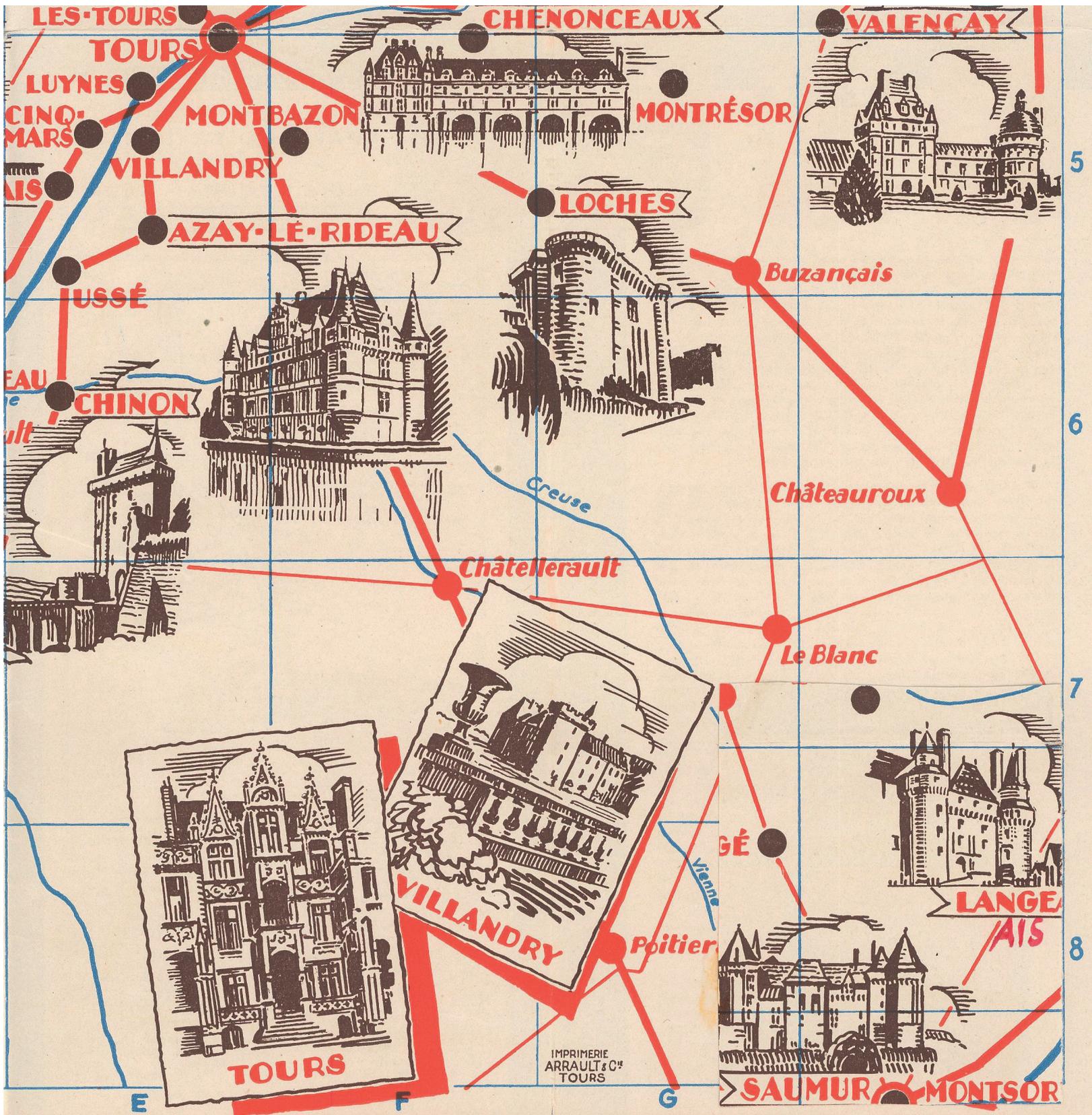
Sauldre

Cher

Loire

Cosson

Beuvron



## FATHER'S MANEUVERS

We had a summer villa by a lake. The veranda was the place where father and daughters spent hours together.

Father's hobbies were reading and crossword puzzles. We were sitting on the floor playing with paper dolls.

I had drawn new persons needed for Maija's story. One day we were in the midst of a crisis shattering Lady Violet's inner circle. Suddenly father's voice was heard:

"Maija, what was the word you said?"

"Divorce", answered his daughter.

"Where have you heard that word?"

"It was in WEEKEND."

WEEKEND Magazine was a newcomer from U.S.A. translated for women readers.

Father: "How did you get it?"

Maija: "We cycled to the station to buy PERJANTAI and NYYRIKKI and bought WEEKEND, too."

Above mentioned Finnish magazines offered nice love-stories to rural readers.

Father: "The word divorce will not be mentioned in this family and WEEKEND IS FORBITTEN."

Father must have realized, that we had no books to read during summer vacation. Three months - not a single book!

We were supposed to enjoy outdoor activities: swimming, fishing, sunbathing and playing childrens' games. Father corrected the situation quickly. He started to buy books for us to read.

The first book was

Zane Grey's "BETTY ZANE".

More books followed, when we told him we were ready for next novels by Zane Grey.

Maija's favorite was "LONE STAR RANGER"

My favorite was "UNDER THE WESTERN STARS".

Other novels suitable for young girls followed. In year 1939 we were allowed to read dramatic love-stories written by

Daphne du Maurier "REBECCA"

Margaret Mitchell "GONE WITH THE WIND"



VILLA LINNAMO

Maija was approaching teenage.

We knew that girls older than she had lipstick ready as soon as the schoolday was over. Mother did not "paint her lips". Maija pondered and pondered. Then she took a strawberry and a mirror, got the result she wished.

She ran up the steps to the veranda(h) where we were. She was excited. Would anyone notice how red her lips were. Father noticed in a minute and said:

"Go wash your mouth in the lake."

Maija obeyed.

Father's next concern was smoking. One day someone, maybe, would teach his girls to smoke. He decided to prevent it. He asked, if we would like to try smoking. Maija stepped forward, father gave a lighted cigarette. Maija had Marlene Dietrich in her mind, when she inhaled the smoke. Terrible coughing was the price she paid for Marlene's example.

Father asked if I wanted to try. Shake of my head was the answer.

## ZANE GREY, HOPALONG CASSIDY and MAIJA

Zane Grey's novels fascinated Maija. When she saw movie posters featuring Hopalong Cassidy, she suggested that we should see him. He was the man, who brought law and order to troubled townships of The Wild West.

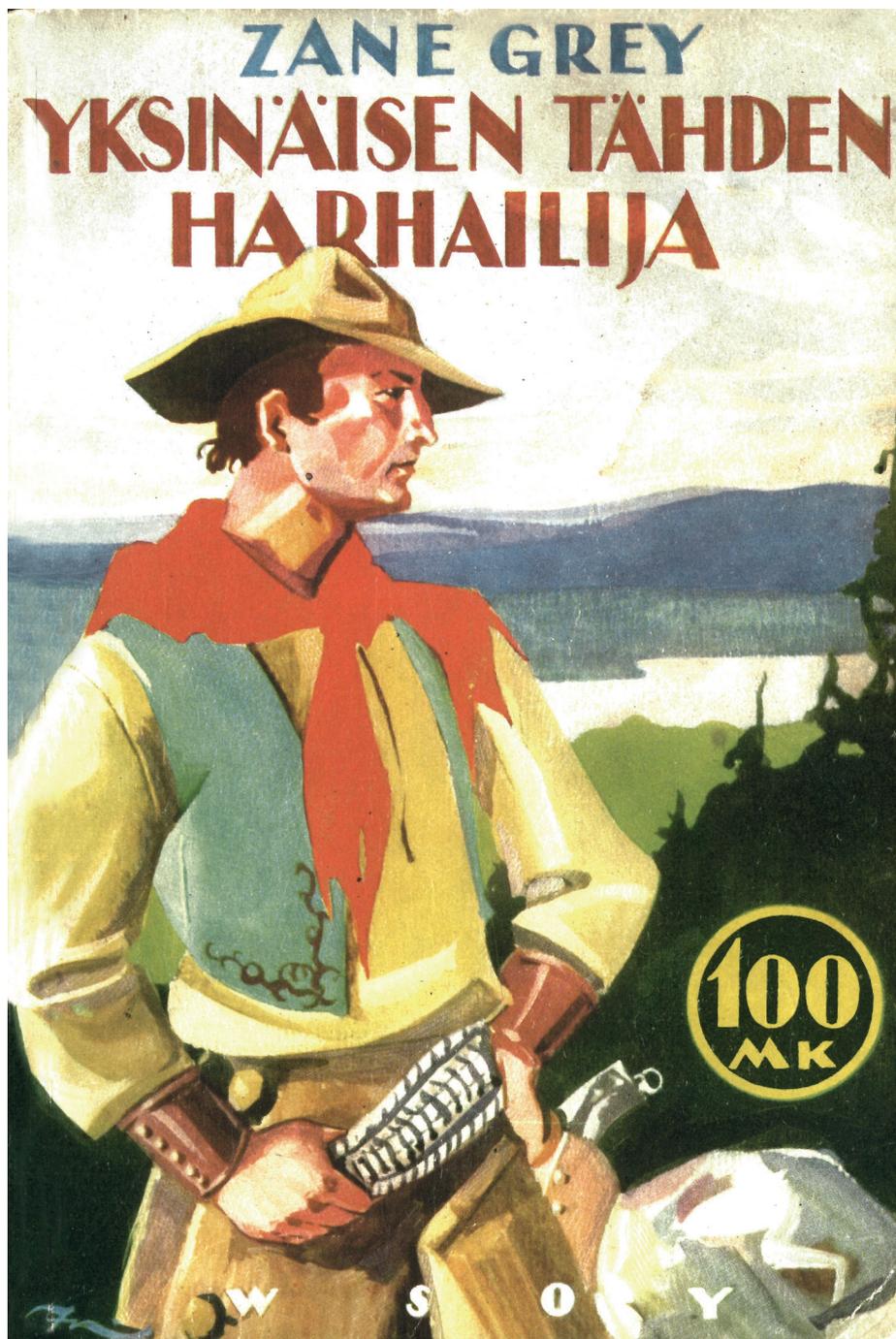
We went to "Salama". This movie theater specialized in B Westerns.

To our surprise, schoolboys crowded the place. They stared at us, did not say anything, but we felt we were unwelcome. Hopalong Cassidy was t h e i r hero. Their hero n e v e r kissed the heroine (who hoped he would).

Movie after movie Hopalong Cassidy would never kiss the heroines. Instead of a HAPPY END, he would ride off to another western sunset.

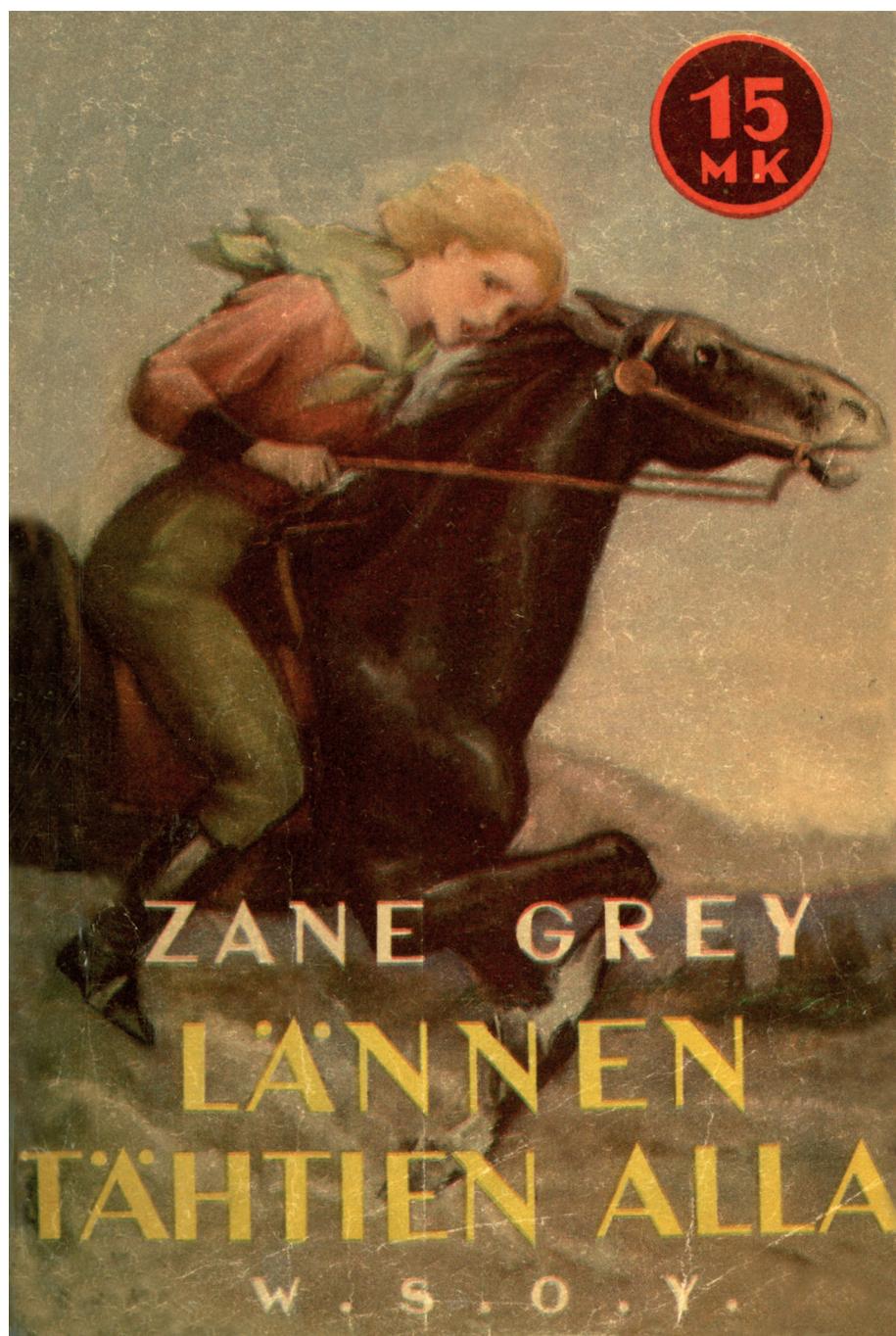
We went home.





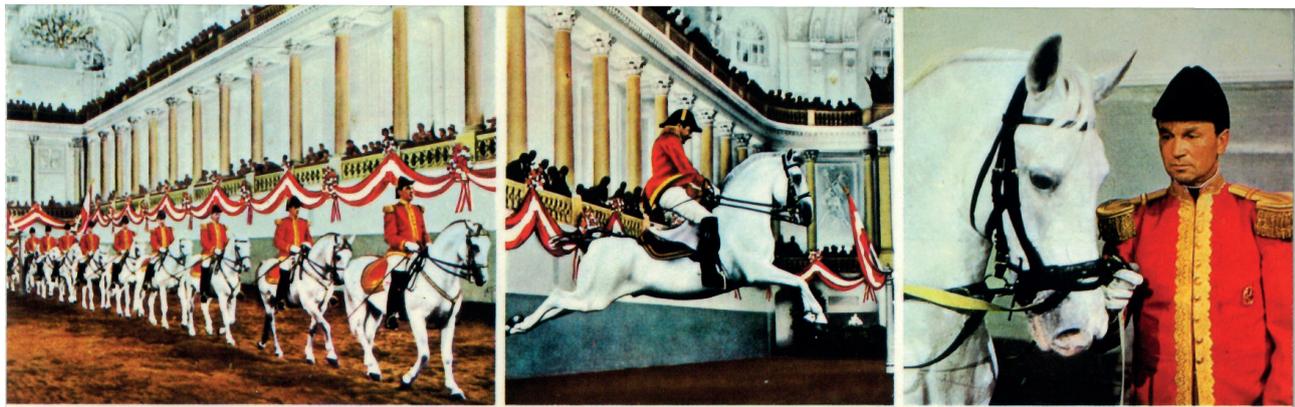
MAIJA'S FAVORITE  
"LONE STAR RANGER"

Buck Duane

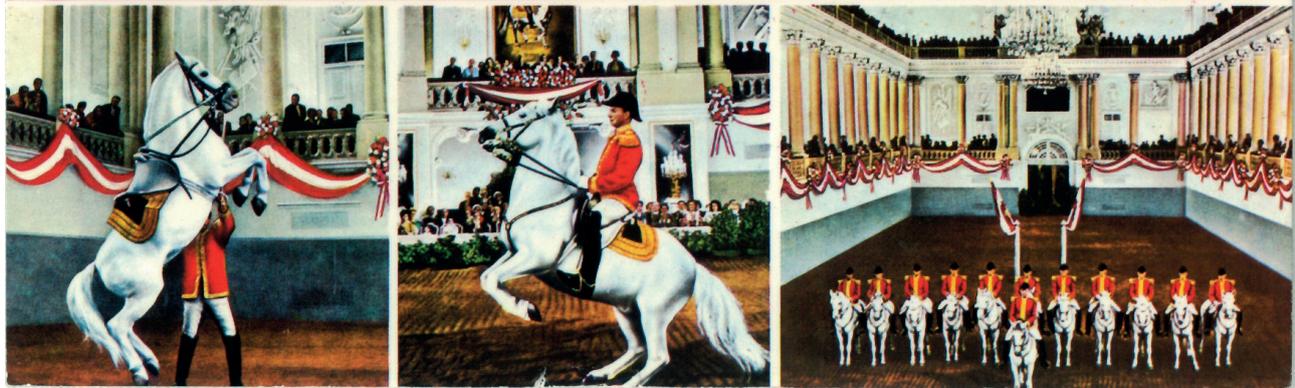


KAARINA'S FAVORITE  
"UNDER THE WESTERN STARS"

Madeline Hammond and Gene Stewart's "Majesty"



Wien SPANISCHE HOFREITSCHULE *Austria*



## WHITE HORSES

### Fascinate in Fairy Tales and in Real Life

It is assumed, that the girls interest in horses can be traced back to fairy tales. Most often the prince comes riding a white horse. My first diary shows that a horse was included in my plans for the future.

Maija's plans differed from mine. She wanted to take riding lessons. After her first lesson, she handed the bill to Mother, who said that riding as a hobby was too expensive.

No more riding.

BUT:

In real life, white horses have fascinated monarchs, too.

During the Hapsburg Empire the ruler decided to bring great Andalusian horses from his westerly region to Vienna. Skilful breeding produced the famous white imperial horse, The Lipizzaner.

Today The Spanish Riding School in Vienna represents the original classic riding culture. The riders traditional outfit: brown top-coat, white breeches and the cocked hat. Music by Mozart. Their festive uniform is in Austrian colors.

Andalusian horse was saved from extinction by the Carthusian Monastery.

Today these white horses represent The Royal Riding School in Jerez. Their performance is called

”Como Bailan Los Caballos Andaluces”

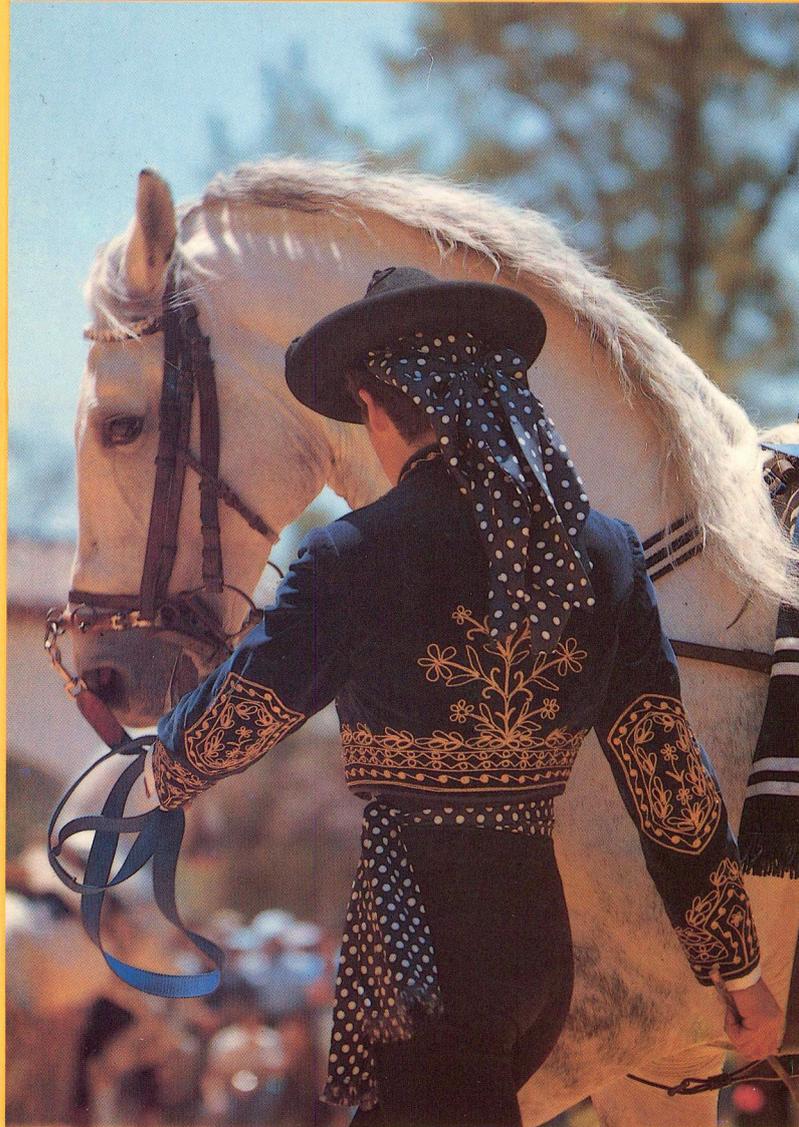
=”How Andalusian Horses Dance”

They, too, are a great tourist attraction. The music played is composed by Spanish musicians. The riders outfit: dark green jacket, breeches, white shirt with a pink scarf and embroidered west. Their deep green tasselled sombrero is something to see!

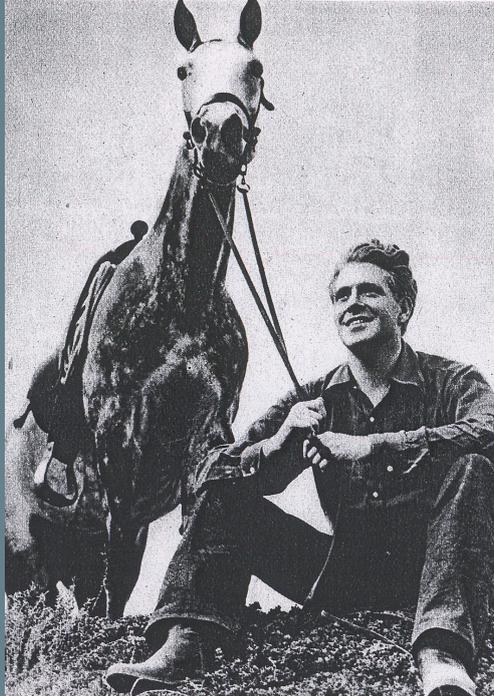
Andalusian sombrero, without tassel, arrived in The New World together with the three-cornered scarf.

Under the hot sun of Andalusia, the scarf was worn under the sombrero and protected the neck. Cowboys from Mexico to South America used it for the same reason.

American cowboys fastened the scarf round the neck to protect them from dust and sandstorms.



Nelson Eddy  
VALLOITTA SYDÄMET  
LAULULLAAN



## NELSON EDDY WAS OUR FAVORITE MOVIE STAR

Miss Lily Leino was ELOKUVA-AITTA's reporter in Hollywood. She wrote that a new star had been found by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

"His name is NELSON EDDY and he conquers ladies' hearts with his song".

"When "ROSE MARIE" (1936) arrived, we decided to see the movie.

Nelson Eddy, in the uniform of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was in search of a fugitive. Jeanette MacDonald was a famous opera star trying to find her criminal brother. Nelson falls in love without knowing who she was and what was the purpose of her being in the wilderness.

When Nelson Eddy starts to sing, his u n i q u e baritone is filled with masculine tenderness. Music and lyrics of "Rose Marie" tell of feelings, when

enchantment falling in love

have deepened into

TRUE LOVE

"Rose Marie" and "Indian Love Call" were soon heard over radio. "Saturday Requests" program started in the thirties and its popularity continues. When they celebrated their 70th anniversary, Nelson Eddy was the only singer with two records. "NAUGHTY MARIETTA" was also a successful movie with beautiful songs:

"Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life"

"I'm Falling in Love with Someone"

"MAYTIME" - we were in tears, when Nelson and Jeanette sang

"Will You Remember"

The final scene is unforgettable.

Father and mother had nothing against our one-sided devotion to Nelson Eddy. Father even wrote a letter, which Maija copied and sent to Nelson Eddy, adding the required postal coupons. What a joy, when Nelson's photo with signature arrived!

Of course, another letter was written by myself. When Nelson's new photo arrived, we were allowed to frame both pictures and hang them next to our book-shelf.

Apparently, father and mother were relieved, that California, where Nelson Eddy was riding, was beyond two seas, one ocean and The Rocky Mountains.



# Nelson Eddy

## VALLOITTA SYDÄMET LAULULLAAN

ELOKUVA-AITALLE KIRJOITTANUT LILY LEINO

Yleisö tunsu syvää pettymystä, kun esirippu avautui ja lavalle ilmestyi nuori, vaalea jättiläinen. Eihän tämä ollut se mies, jota he olivat tulleet kuulemaan! Mutta kun ensimmäiset pehmeät sävelet olivat väreilleet yli parrasvalon, yleisö asettui kuuntelemaan onnellisena. Tässähän oli todellinen löytö!

Seuraavana päivänä studiot alkoivat tehdä tarjouksia, ja viikon sisällä hän ei ollut ainoastaan allekirjoittanut sopimusta, vaan oli esittänyt ensimmäisen laulunsa Joan Crawfordin filmissä »Dancing Lady» (Suurkaupungin tytär). Sitten yht'äkkiä Hollywood päätti, että se oli valmistanut kylliksi musiikkisiiä filmejä.

Eräässä M.G.M.-studion pienessä mainoskonttorissa vähän aikaa »Rose Marien» valmistumisen jälkeen Nelson Eddy kertoi meille niiden päivien katkerista pettymyksistä.

»En voinut uskoa, että minut niin vain oli työnnetty syrjään. Olihan minulla sopimus; miksi en siis saanut työskennellä? Ymmärsin kyllä, että musiikkifilmejä ei enää valmistettu, mutta eihän se selittänyt, miksi en voisi näytellä. Vihdoin eräänä päivänä päätin mennä tuottajamme Louis Mayerin luo, ja pyytää suoraan häntä vapauttamaan minut, jos ei kerran löytynyt paikkaa minulle filmimaailmassa. Mutta Mr. Mayer kieltäytyi jyrkästi. Hän lupasi, että niin pian kuin oikea filmi löydetäisiin, saisin tilaisuuden siinä. Hän myös ehdotti, että opiskelisin näyttelemistä.

Sen rohkaisevan keskustelun jälkeen studio antoi minulle luvan mennä konserttikiertueelle. Palattuani lauloin taas eräässä vähäpätöisessä filmissä, mutta se ei johtanut sen pidemmälle. Kävin uudelleen Mr. Mayerin puheilla, ja uudelleen hän kehoitti minua kärsivällisesti odottamaan. Innostuin sitten valokuvaamiseen ja äänitykseen — edelliseen sen takia, että halusin tietää, millä lailla minut sitten joskus edullisimmin filmattaisiin, jälkimmäiseen siksi, kun puhetapa konserttilavalla eroaa suuresti filmin vaatimuksista. Valmistin itseäni uskollisesti sitä »suurta osaa» varten, mutta mitään ei vain näyttänyt tapahtuvan. Ensimmäisen kerran elämässäni tunsin katkeraa pettymystä. Olihan minulla kyllä konsertti- ja radiotyöni, mutta oli vaikea myöntää, että tässä uudessa yrityksessä olin hävinnyt. Ja sitten, vihdoin, tuli »Marietta».

Hänen siniset silmänsä kirkastuivat tätä muistellessa, ja hymy värähteli hänen huulillaan. Oli helppo nähdä »Mariettan» suuren merkityksen hänen elämässään. Hän muistuttaakin hyvin paljon *Kapteeni Warringtonia* — hänessä on samaa rohkeutta, samaa välitöntä huumoria. Mutta kaiken alla Nelson Eddy on vakava, sillä vastukset ovat muovailleet hänen luonteensa sellaiseksi. Ja kun hän hiljaisella äänellä kertoo ponnistuksistaan, huomaa hänen kasvoissaan niin päättävän ilmeen, että heti ymmärtää, miksi tämä tähti ei tunne sanaa »häviö».

Nelson syntyi Providencessä, Rhode Islandin valtiossa heinäkuun 29 p:nä 34 vuotta sitten. Hänen isänsä, William Darius Eddy, on sukellusveneen osien keksijä. Hänen äitinsä oli aikansa tunnetuimpia oratoriolaalajia ja Nelsonin ensimmäinen opettaja, mutta kumpainenkaan ei huomannut pojan omaavan mitään erikoisempia lahjoja. Neljäntoista vuotiaaksi asti Nelson eli tavallisen pojan elämää. Hän suoritti silloin kahdeksanvuotisen kansakoulukurssin, ja sen jälkeen hän ei ole koulun penkillä istunut. Silloin hänen vanhempansa päättivät erota, ja kun Nelson jäi äitinsä huostaan, hänen täytyi luonnollisesti auttaa elatuksen hankkimisessa.

Hänestä tuli enonsa omistaman rautatehtaan puhelinkeskiksen hoitaja, ja myöhemmin hän suoritti erilaisia töitä samassa paikassa. Nuoren ikänsä ja epämääräisen toimensa takia hän joutui kaikkien halveksimaksi. Vaikka hänellä ei ollut vähintäkään aavistusta tulevasta elämänurastaan, hän päätti jo silloin, että milloinkaan enää hän ei antautuisi toisten potkittavaksi.

Nelson huomasi, miten puutteellista hänen koulusivistyksensä oli ja hän alkoi ostaa käytettyjä kirjoja historian, tieteen, psykologian ym. aloilta. Myöhemmin hän otti kursseja kirjeen-

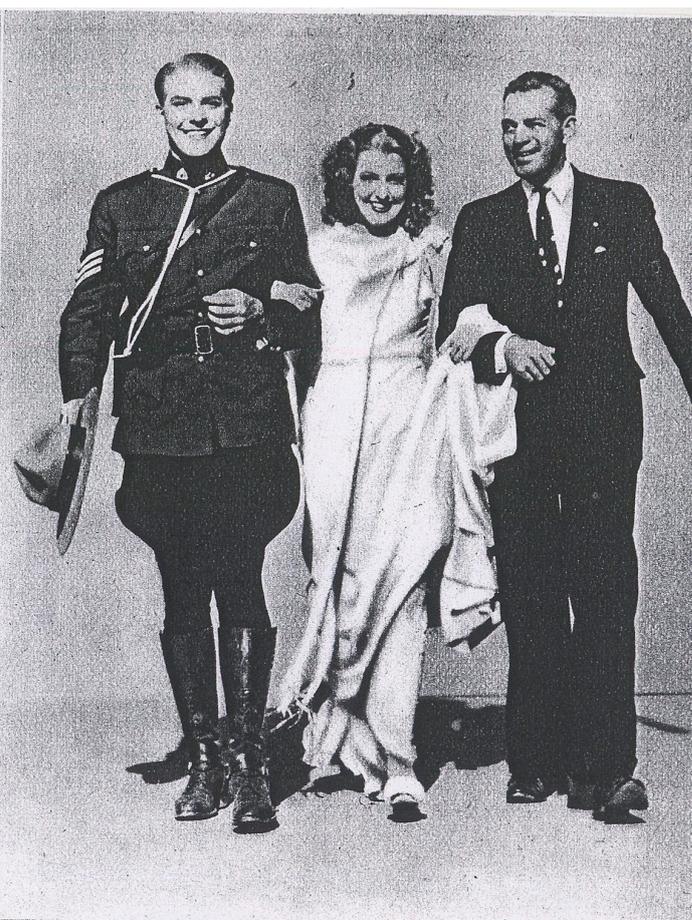
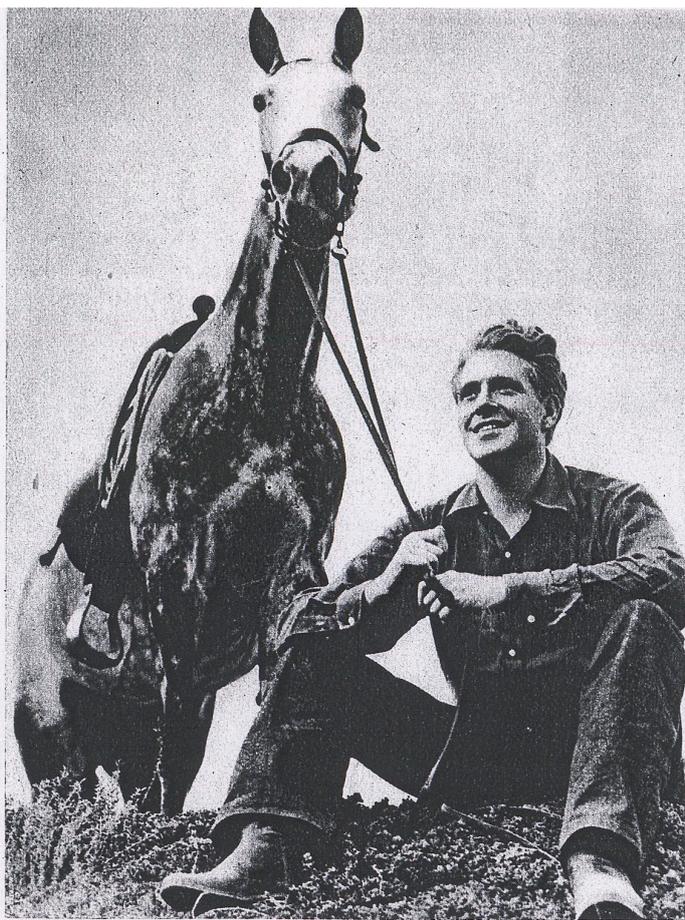
**O**nkohan olemassakaan sellaista elokuvissa kävijää, joka ei joskus olisi luullut »keksivänsä» jonkun uuden tähden valkokankaalla? Tuskinpa, sillä me, jotka rakastamme filmiä, pidämme aina silmämme auki, ja jos huomaamme lupaavat kasvot, ilomie lin ilmoitamme löydöstämme studioille ja julkaisuille. Kuinka ylpeitä olemmekaan, kun arvostelukykyimme todistetaan päteväksi ja suosikkimme yht'äkkiä kohoaa maineen kukkulalle!

Juuri sillä tavalla me ajattelemme Nelson Eddyä. Kun »Marietta» näytettiin ensi kerran Hollywoodissa, ne onnelliset, jotka sattuiivat olemaan läsnä tilaisuudessa, olivat suorastaan haltioissaan tästä uudesta vaaleasta sankarista. (Ehkä tässä on sopiva paikka selittää, että täällä jokainen filmi esitetään kaikkein ensimmäiseksi salaa jossakin määrättyssä teatterissa, ja yleisö ei etukäteen tiedä, mitä tulee näkemään. Tämän ensimmäisen »preview'n» jälkeen tehdään tarvittavat korjaukset, ja sitten filmi esitetään yksinomaan arvostelijoille ja kirjeenvaihtajille, tavallisesti studioitten omissa pikku teattereissa. Vasta tämän jälkeen valmis tuote lasketaan markkinoille.)

Uutiset uudesta löydöstä levisivät nopeasti, ja millä jännityksellä odotimme sitä kohtausta, jossa Nelson Eddy astuisi kameran eteen ensimmäisen kerran! Niin mielenkiintoinen kuin »Mariettan» alkuosa olikin, tuntui siltä, että Eddy ei milloinkaan esiintyisi. Ja kun vihdoin saimme kuulla hänen mahtavan äänensä — olikohan ainoatakaan, naista tai miestä, joka ei tuntenut sydämensä lyövän hiukan nopeammin?

Tämä ei kuitenkaan ollut ensimmäinen kerta, kun Nelson Eddy on »keksitty». Siitä päivästä alkaen, kun hän itse huomasi omistavansa laulunäänen, näytti siltä, että joku aina oli keksivinään hänet. Hämmästyttävintä seikka kuitenkin on se, että hän oli ollut sidottu jo kaksi vuotta Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studioon, ennenkuin tämä suuri tilaisuus »Mariettassa» avautui. Mutta saattaa olla, että jos hän ei olisi odottanut niin kauan, hänen menestyksensä ei ehkä olisi ollut niin suurenmoinen.

Ymmärtääksemme tämän on ehkä parasta mennä ajassa taaksepäin ne kaksi vuotta kohtalokkaaseen iltaan noin viikko ennen filmisopimuksen allekirjoittamista. Sinä iltana musiikkia rakastava yleisö oli kerääntynyt erääseen Los Angelesin auditoriumiin kuuntelemaan tunnettua oopperatähteä. Yleisö odotti turhaan, sillä tähti oli äkkiä sairastunut, ja lentokone oli par'aikaa tuomassa San Diegosta sijaisen. Sijainen oli Nelson Eddy, siihen aikaan melkein tuntematon laulaja länsirannikolla.



Vas. Nelson Eddy ja hänen hevosensa »Beauty», jolla hän tekee pitkiä ratsastusmatkoja Kalifornian kukkuloilla. Oik. Eddy kahden hyvän ystävänsä, Jeanette MacDonaldin ja ohjaaja W. S. Van Dyken seurassa. Valok. M.-G.-M.

vaihdon kautta melkein kaikilta aloilta, liikekurssista taidekurssiin saakka.

»Väitänkin olevani ahkerin kirjeenvaihtokurssilla opiskelija tässä maassa!» hän kertoi nauraen. Hän voi nyt jälkepäin nauraa, sillä tuloksena pitkien tuntien ahertelusta vanhojen kirjojen ääressä on, että hänet nyt lasketaan Hollywoodin älykkäimpien miesten joukkoon.

Kun hän oli jättänyt rautatehtaan, hän sai iltatyötä sanomalehdessä *Philadelphia Press*. Sen jälkeen hän päätti ruveta reporteriksi, ja kun hän sanoi toimittajalle olevansa 18-vuotias, vaikka todellisudessa olikin 16, hänet otettiin kokeeksi. Oltuaan reporterina useita vuosia hän rupesi mainos-kirjoittajaksi. Näihin samoihin aikoihin hän alkoi huvikseen opetella lauluja gramofonilevyistä. Hän oppi ooppera-aarioita ja lauloi niitä iltaisin äitinsä vieraille.

Silloin vasta Eddy päätti ruveta ammattilaulajaksi. Hän meni kuuluisan barytonin, David Bisphamin puheille, kysyen hänen mielipidettään. Tämä oli niin innostunut kuullessaan pojan laulavan italialaisen aarian, että heti nimitti häntä »Amerikan tulevaisuuden barytoniksi».

Bisphamin kuoleman jälkeen Eddy koetteli useitakin opettajia, lauloi opereissa, kirkoissa, filmitattereissa, missä vain dollarinkin ansaitsi, mutta edelleenkin jatkoi mainosten kirjoittamista. Vihdoin Philadelphian oopperan johtaja »keksi» hänet, ja hän lauloi kaiken kaikkiaan 28 osaa siellä. Mutta johtaja ymmärsi, että jos Eddy halusi menestyä, hänen oli uhrattava kaikki aikansa laulamiseen. Eddy, kuten Lawrence Tibbettkin, lainasi muutamia tuhansia dollareita eräältä pankkiirilta. Mutta hän lähti Eurooppaan opiskelemaan, sen sijaan että olisi opiskellut täällä, kuten Tibbett teki.

Dresdenissä hän eli hyvin vaatimattomasti ja opiskeli, opiskeli, yhtämittaa. Hän oppi kaikkien tärkeimpien oopperoiden barytoniroolit, ja laulaa nyt englannin, ranskan, saksan, espanjan, venäjän ja hebrean kielellä. Kun Eddy sitten palasi Euroopasta, eräs tunnettu konserttimestari huomasi hänen äänensä ja järjesti hänelle kiertueen solistina maan johtavimpien sinfonia-orkestereiden mukana. Radio auttoi hänen nimensä tunnetuksi tulemisessa, ja sitten tuli Hollywood.

Mutta entä Nelson Eddy'n romanssi? kysytte. Varmaan niin komea ja kuuluisa nuori mies on ollut rakastunut monia kertoja. Hän myöntää ainoastaan yhden naisen olleen hänen elämässään.

Hän ei puhu siitä paljon, mutta tulemme sellaiseen käsitykseen, että se rakkaus loppui traagillisesti. Hän oli vielä nuori poika, ja nainen oli hänen sunnuntaikoulu-opettajansa. Se ymmärtämys ja hellyys, jolla tämä nainen ympäröi häntä, saattoi kaikki muut naiset varjoon. Sen takia hän ei koskaan seurustellut ikäistensä tyttöjen kanssa, ja siksi hän ei ole koskaan ollut avioliitossa eikä kihloissa. Hiljattain hänet kuitenkin on nähty Frances Marion'in, kuuluisan scenariokirjailijan seurassa. Tämä on ollut kahdesti avioliitossa ja on myös vanhempi laulajaa, mutta omaa naisellisen viehkeyden ja älykkyyden, joka soveltuu Eddy'n tapaiselle luonteelle.

»Ja miltä tuntuu, kun tietää omaavansa voiman, joka liikuttaa miljoonia?» kysyimme. Tämä keskustelu tapahtui muutamia päiviä hänen täällä antamansa konsertin jälkeen, johon sali oli niin loppuun myyty, että oli pakko asettaa tuoleja lavalle.

Hän hymyili hillitysti. Hänessä ei ole mitään dramaattista eikä teeskenneltyä. Hän ei vielääkään näy olevan tietoinen suurista lahjoistaan tai ulkonaisesta komeudestaan. Hänen vastauksensakin osoittaa sitä:

»Olen luonnollisesti iloinen, että äänestäni pidetään, mutta en ole niin itserakas, että uskoisin olevani varustettu millään jumalallisilla voimilla. Olen tehnyt työtä ankarasti, ja tunnustus, jonka olen saanut, antaa minulle ainoastaan sen tyydytyksen, jonka kuka tahansa tuntisi vuosien ja vuosien ponnistelujen jälkeen. Olen aina ollut sitä mieltä, että työ, olkoon se mitä hyvänsä, on pääasia ja että on uhrattava kaikkensa sen kunnolliseen suorittamiseen.»

Kun luette tämän, Nelson Eddy on konserttimatkalla maan ympäri ja palaa takaisin Hollywoodiin toukokuun lopussa valmistamaan »Maytime»-nimistä filmiä.

Hän ei välitä paljon seuraelämästä, ja hänen muutamaani läheisiin ystäviinsä lukeutuvat W. S. Van Dyke, »Mariettan» ja »Rose Marien» ohjaaja, Jeanette MacDonald, hänen laulunopettajansa Edward Lippe ja Gene Raymond. Hän pitää erittäin paljon Genestä, ja he pelaavat usein tennistä ja tekevät metsästysmatkoja yhdessä. Mutta hänen rakkain ystävänsä on ollut aina ja on edelleenkin hänen äitinsä.

Kaiken kaikkiaan Nelson Eddy, suuri sydänten valloittaja, on ankarasti työskentelevä nuori mies, joka on saavuttanut maineen kukkulan yksinkertaisesti siksi, että hän ei tunne sanaa »häviö».



## M O T H E R's T H E S I S

Pirkko recalls, that Mother was talented in mathematics. Her thesis on fundamental rules concerning marriage is not (yet) universally known. It could save marriages, if it were included in the text of the marriage formula.

One day Maija was waltzing round the table and wished she were 21 years old and married. Mother had heard these wishes often enough. Now she felt she had to tell us some facts of life:

When you are unmarried, your rights and duties are about fifty-fifty.

When you are married, your o w n rights will diminish to 25%.

The other 25% will be added to your duties.

The end result:

25% rights

75% duties

Our constant wish was:

”Ah, how wonderful it would be, if we were grown-ups already”!  
(at 20 you were still a minor)

Father's aunts smiled and assured gently: ”You will have ample time to be grown-ups.”

They were right.





