

The "Joy Club's" Altogether Too Joyful Members

How the Society Heiresses Who Joined Under Assumed Names Nearly Broke Up the Organization by Taking Over Fifty Admiring Men Out of It Along With Them When They Were Suspended for Misbehavior



Mrs. Mark Frazier, the fourth vice-president of the "Joy Club," who helped bring about the suspension of the five heiresses and now is said to wish she hadn't

MISS ANNALEE LIVINGSTONE, of Indianapolis, is the pretty eighteen-year-old daughter of Axon Livingstone, whose diamond mines in South Africa make him one of the richest men in the Middle West.

Her chums, Marcia Johns, Alice Lewis, Florence James and Martha Frye, have almost equally brilliant backgrounds of wealth and social position. In fact, when you have named this quintet you have named five of the richest, most fashionable young beauties of whom Western society can boast.

And they are as full of high spirits and as keen for romantic adventure as they are rich, fashionable and charming. The latest evidence of this is found in what happened when they concealed their identity under assumed names, laid aside their fine clothes for ones such as not at all wealthy girls wear and became members of an Indianapolis organization familiarly known as the "Joy Club."

This is a branch of a national society which has taken for its name the mysterious initials W. W. B. and M. It has chapters in Chicago and in a number of Indiana cities besides Indianapolis.

Although the constitution of the W. W. B. and M. does not say precisely this, the general impression is that the chief purpose of the society is to encourage romances among its men and women members. This is why it has been nicknamed the "Joy Club," and this reputed feature of its activities is what appealed to the restless imaginations of Annalee Livingstone and her chums and made them think it would be great fun to join.

Like so many other society heiresses who have more money than they know how to spend Annalee and her friends were getting insufferably bored with life. Even perilous airplane flights and trips to Russia to select the costly furs for their winter coats could not begin to supply the thrills they craved. They wanted something novel and startling, something quite different from anything to be found amid the tiresome conventions and formalities of the smart set.

So they joined the "Joy Club," all five of them, and there they not only found the thrills they longed for, but they also succeeded in thrilling the whole organization so that it was shaken to its very foundations. In the short space of a few weeks their membership produced the following results:

Fellow-women members charged them with being altogether too joyful in their relations with the male members of the chapter and had them suspended.

Mrs. Mary Leacock, another of those who brought the charges that suspended the "too joyful" girls

Fifty and more of the male members who thoroughly enjoyed the brand of joy the heiresses had been dispensing refused to attend any further meetings of the chapter until the girls were reinstated.

The chapter became so disrupted that the national president of the W. W. B. and M. started an investigation of the row.

He, too, sided with the suspended girls and ordered the Indianapolis chapter to take them back or have its charter annulled.

The suspended girls agreed to accept their reinstatement on condition that they never again be suspended and that the women who had brought about their suspension make a public apology.

By this time, of course, the identity of the heiresses had become known and great was the consternation among the fifty men who had been so thoroughly appreciative of their joy-giving qualities, and also among the women members who objected to them. Some of the latter are now inclined to feel rather sorry for having been so "catty" in their treatment of the most distinguished members the club ever had, or perhaps ever will have.

The charge on which the suspension of the five girl members was based is said to have been "too much joy in your hearts, which state is in defiance of the expressed purpose of this society." There are many different explanations of just what was meant by "too much joy." Apparently it was something far from distasteful to some fifty of the men members, for they promptly refused to attend any more of the chapter meetings unless the five suspended girls were reinstated.

The shortage of men at the meetings caused George Guge, the grand president, at Logansport, Ind., to issue an order reprimanding the Indianapolis chapter for its irregular attendance. He also threatened to withdraw the charter unless the meetings were thereafter more evenly balanced between men and women.

The girls had been fascinated by the

letters W. W. B. and M. After being duly initiated into the society they discovered that the mysterious letters stood for Widowers, Widows, Bachelors and Maids. The constitution of W. W. B. and M. specifies that its

"membership is open to that class of men and women who have been designated by society at large by the stinging epithets of 'widower, widow, bachelor and maid.'"

While the purpose of the organization is not avowedly matrimonial, still the constitution states that "no member or members shall be expelled for marrying while he or she is a member," adding that the other members "are not to intimate that the resignation of marrying parties would be in order."

The W. W. B. and M.'s give picnics at which the lonely widows and maids may exhibit their culinary prowess and at which the home-hungry bachelors and widowers frankly discuss their financial resources. Dances, too, are permitted by the constitution, and "other social gatherings of a moral and pleasant character." The constitution speaks of these parties as "social relations in the prescribed style."

One rule of the W. W. B. and M. is that all members shall "address each other by their given names." This leads, according to the constitution, to the comradeship "which speaks the spirit of our high-minded organization."

The five heiresses who joined the "Joy Club" found it easy enough to get acquainted merely by obeying this rule. They were soon calling the grand president "George, old boy," and the president of the Indianapolis chapter "Willie." The first sign of trouble came when three of the widows and two of the maids took it upon themselves to remonstrate with the girls for their "undue familiarity with their elders."

The girls giggled. So did the "boys," some of them fifty or sixty years young. The five remonstrators closed their lips at the time, but a little later they opened them to bring the charge of "too much joy," which finally resulted in the suspension of the heiresses in disguise.

Two of the five objectors were charter members of the society, Miss Mabel Churchman and Mrs. Mary Leacock. With two men, they founded the W. W. B. and M. two years ago. The other three objectors were Miss Margot Lotta, Joy doorkeeper; Mrs. Helen Hibbs, Joy musician, and Mrs. Mark Frazier 3d, Joy fourth vice-president.

Besides Joy Chapter No. 5, at Indianapolis, the W. W. B. and M. has the following chapters in Indiana: Harmony No. 2, at Kokomo; Friendship No. 1, at Logansport, where the grand council headquarters are located; Unity No. 3, Peru, and Loyalty No. 4, at Elwood. Happiness No. 6 is the Chicago chapter, which is the only one outside of Indiana.

The organization has a membership of about 1,000 persons, 200 of whom belong to the Joy chapter at Indianapolis, and 325 to the Chicago chapter in Chicago.

Marcia Johns, one of the five heiresses whom some of the "Joy Club's" members thought too joyful, inherited from her grandfather a fortune of \$10,000,000.

Alice Lewis is the only sister of Anton Lewis, the millionaire banker. Florence James is the granddaughter of Mrs. Hector Stilson-James, who is the Middle West's unquestioned social leader. She is one of three Indianapolis girls who danced with the Prince of Wales during his American visit.



Miss Annalee Livingstone, the leader of the group of fashionable Indianapolis society girls who joined the mysterious "W. W. B. and M." in search of new thrills, and found and gave a great many more than they ever expected



Miss Alice Lewis, one of the suspended heiresses



Miss Agatha Debussy, niece of the famous French musical composer, in whose honor Miss Livingstone gave the dance that is believed to have aroused a storm of jealousy in the "Joy Club"

tution of W. W. B. and M. specifically says that "an approximately equal number of men and women shall attend the meetings." Mr. Guge threatened to withdraw the charter of the Joy chapter unless matters were remedied.

Something which may have helped inspire the charge of "too much joy" was a dance which Annalee Livingstone gave at her home on Millionaires' Row for her guest, Miss Agatha Debussy, a New York girl, who is the niece of Claude Debussy, the great French composer. To this Annalee invited, to add spice to the party, several of the bachelors and widowers of the W. W. B. and M. But she failed to invite any of the maids and widows.

Long before the dance Annalee and her friends had told the men of W. W. B. and M. who they really were, and the men, being cheerful Ananiases, had replied: "We knew there was something different about you."

The withdrawal of more than fifty men shook the Joy chapter to its very foundation. At last, in order to restore the chapter to its original status, J. W. Winningham, the president, wrote the girls that their term of suspension was ended. And the girls, after talking the situation over with the fifty men, replied that they would return on condition that they were never again to be suspended and that the five objectors would publicly apologize.

The girls' conditions were met and the charter of the "Joy Club" was saved. The five heiresses may now be as active in the organization's affairs as they please, but this will probably not be for very long, as they are beginning to feel that they have about exhausted its possibilities for thrills.

For that matter, it is probable that should the heiresses be attracted to newer thrills elsewhere, the "Joy Club" will lose much of its appeal for the fifty lonesome widowers and bachelors who found them so entertaining.

Martha Frye and her brother, Alex, who were educated in Switzerland and came to the States only a year ago, will inherit from their father and grandfather a fortune estimated at \$20,000,000.

These four fashionable heiresses and Annalee Livingstone went into the "Joy Club" without revealing their true identities. They wore simple clothing and made no mention of their wealth or high social position.

Not once did Martha Frye mention to Miss Mabel Churchman, one of the charter members who objected to Martha's behavior, that her father and grandfather own the exporting business where Miss Churchman had served as employment secretary for fifteen years. Not for a minute did Florence James remind Mrs. Harry Hibbs, another objector, of the time Mrs. Hibbs had tried to "break in" to Mrs. Stilson-James's exclusive circle.

Enjoying their little laughs by themselves, the heiresses went their cheerful ways and had even more fun than they had anticipated when they joined the W. W. B. and M. Then at a meeting one night they were informed that they were "suspended until further notice." Wrapping their furs around their necks, tilting their hats to one side, with a shrug of their shoulders the girls left the room, all eyes turned their way. And to the intense dismay of the women who had framed the suspension charges, they were followed out of the hall by more than fifty sympathetic bachelors and widowers.

Because these fifty or more men stayed away from Joy chapter meetings Mr. Guge, the grand president, made an investigation. The record of the Joy meetings showed a decided surplus of women. That was unconstitutional. The consti-