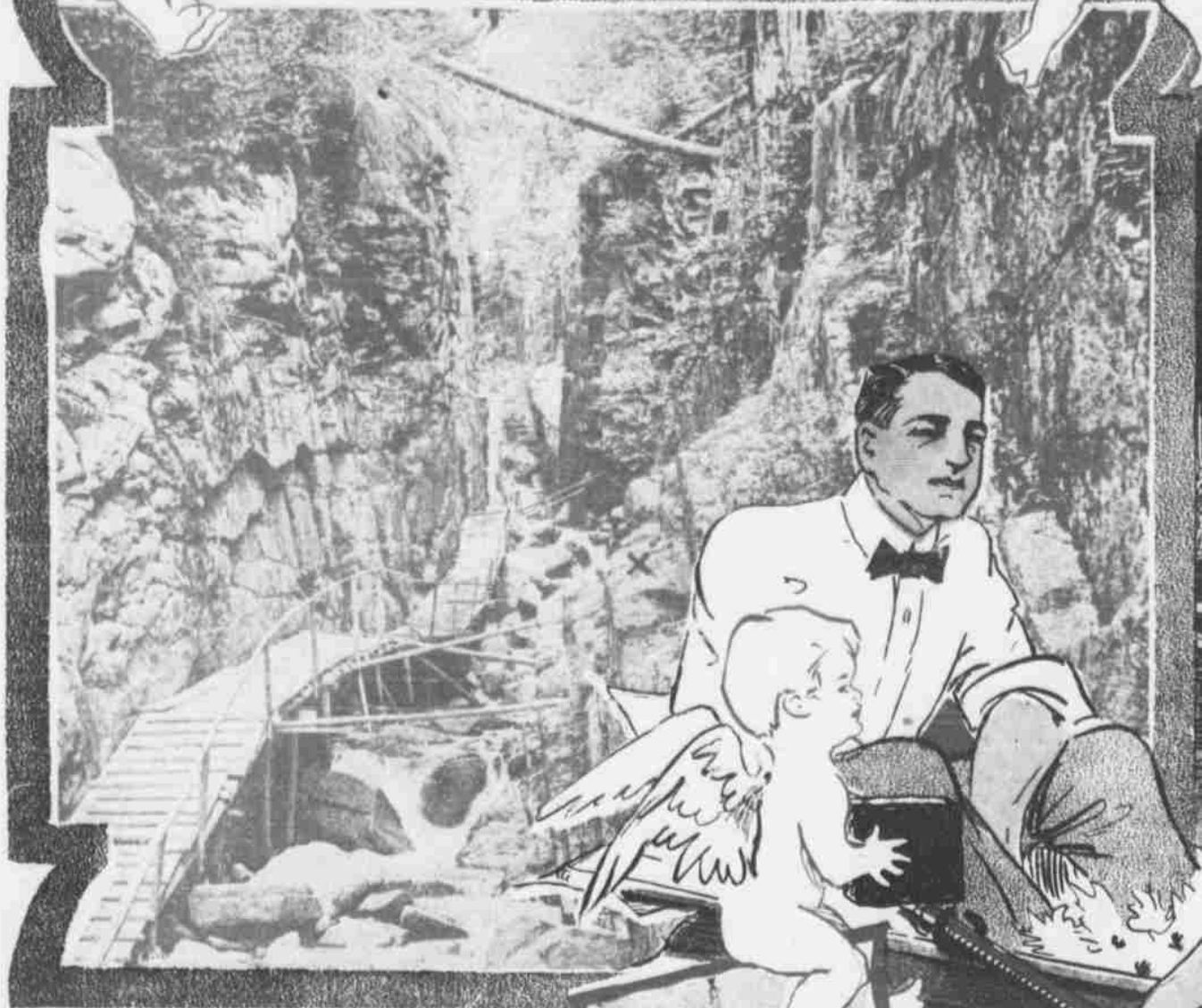


SHE KEEPS A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF ALL HER PROPOSALS

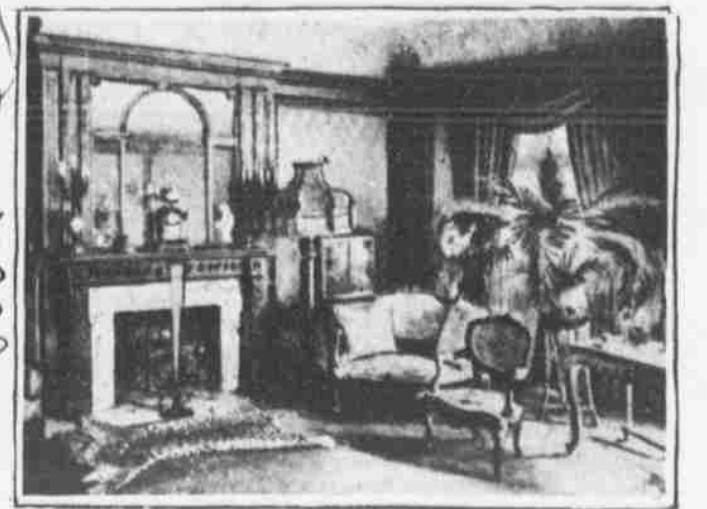
New Fad Started by Chicago Girl



The Flume, Franconia notch, White mountains - where a heart was broken



Cypress swamp in Florida where naval lieutenant came near winning bride



Reception room at Miss Reilly's home where four men were rejected

MISS ESTRELLA REILLY, one of the younger belles of Kenwood society, is the inventor of one of the newest fads for girls, and one which is likely to become popular among young women whose lives are tinged with the romance of love. Miss Reilly, now in her fourth season in Chicago society, has secured photographs of every place she ever has received a proposal of marriage, and she keeps the photographs of these hallowed spots mounted in a handsome souvenir album, and written under the photographs are brief stories of the proposal, the name of the man, and the date—and at the end of each sketch a single word: "No."

The "No" records the fate of thirteen unfortunate wooers, and Miss Reilly declares that, from present prospects the book, which contains eighteen pages, will be filled before a "Yes" is recorded.

The photographs, some of them secured at much trouble and expense, tell the story of happy outings and pleasant journeys as well as half reveal, half hide the romances of her life. She will not permit the name of the man in any one of the cases to be used, but, undoubtedly, the men themselves and the friends will recognize the spots where thirteen hopes were blighted by those "noes." The photographs, too, reveal the fact that romantic surroundings may have their influence on wooers, and also that the girl can say "no" even in the midst of beautiful scenery, in lands of romance, and in the wonderlands of nature.

May Have Its Terrors for Men.

Those of Miss Reilly's friends who have seen the "Proposal Book" have seized the idea of having one of their own and some of them already are striving to secure photographs of the exact spots on which men told them the old, old story. Some one has hinted that the men of the south side are in more peril than ever and that they may be led into proposals for the mere sake of a photograph, and several men are reported to be suffering the pangs of terror for fear the Kenwood girls may compare "proposal books" and discover strange things that may lessen their belief in the constancy of men.

Miss Reilly began to keep her proposal book in 1909, when she received the first proposal. It was in the reception room of her father's home and the young man was a University of Chicago senior, just preparing to depart for his distant home. It was he who really started the idea, for he photographed the interior of the reception room, and he gave one of the photographs to Miss Reilly. After she had said "no" just as kindly as she could under the circumstances and he had departed crestfallen, she admits that she felt sorrowful and romantic, so she took the photograph and marked a tiny cross on the spot where she sat when he poured out his story of love and admiration to her.

But on that same photograph there are now four tiny crosses, marked there in less than five years, and the notes under it tell the story of three other proposals and three other "noes" spoken in that same room.

One was a young doctor, one a junior partner in his wealthy father's business, and one a hotel man. The strange coincidence in those four proposals is that each one of the four declared his love just at the close of an evening call, which may indicate that men delay proposing to the last possible minute, trying to screw up their courage, or else that they propose when within reach of their hats, so that they can escape hastily afterwards.

Two from the Fox River.

That summer of 1909 Miss Reilly spent with a party in the Fox lake district, and there were two photographs added to the collection. The notes under these photographs are brief and to the point.

The first says: "Scene on Fox river, at Geneva. Went to gather pond lilies with Mr. — on July 9. We had a boat load of lilies and had started to row back to the cottage late in the evening. Sun was getting low. Under the railway bridge Mr. — stopped rowing and told me he loved me. The ride back to the landing was faster. Neither spoke. NO."

August 7.—Dance at hotel. Hot. Mr. — asked me to walk with him. Walked down towards the shore. I saw what was coming and asked him to take me back to the veranda. He stopped, stood directly in front of me to stop me, and then proposed, as if he was trying to bid for a new horse. Afterwards he turned and walked straight away from me, leaving me alone. NO."

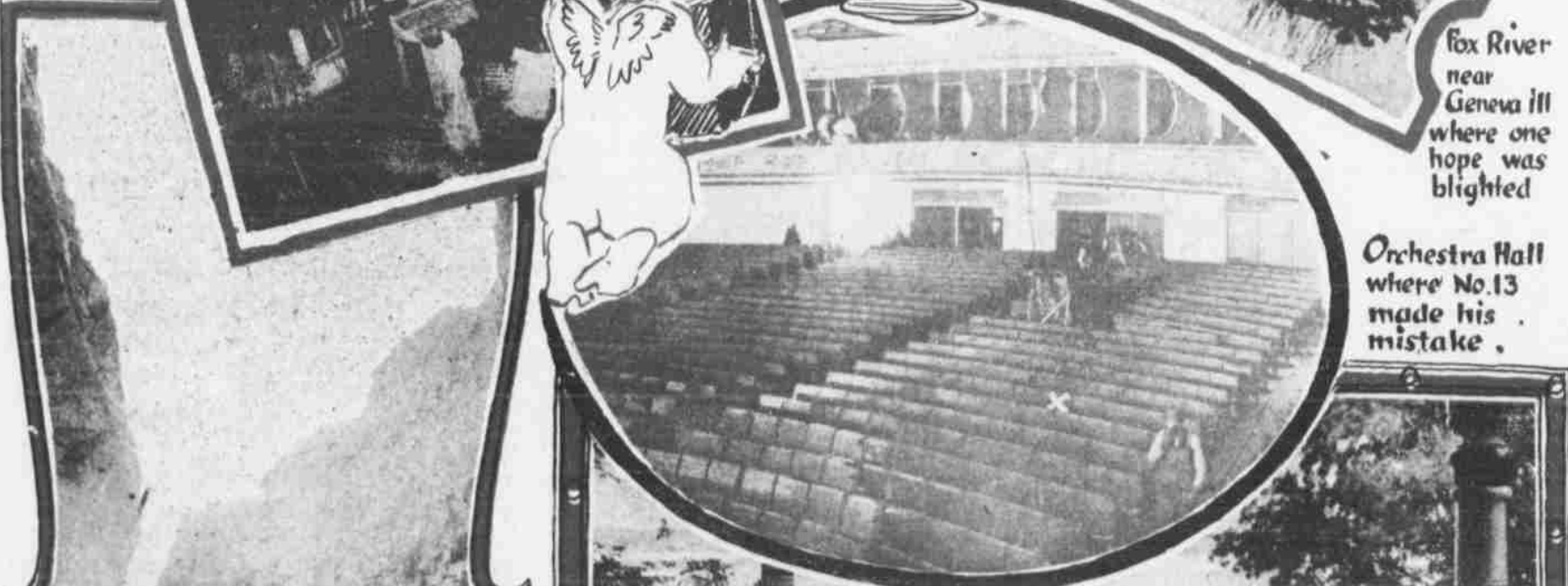
The Reilly family spent that winter in Florida and, strange as it may seem, the young girl added but one photograph to her collection, and, without any confession from her, the evidence leads to the conclusion that she came near adding "Yes" after that one, at least as near as at any time.

Romance Might Have Been Different.

The spot was miles back of Palatka. They had walked alone, she and a young American naval officer who was on furlough, miles from the hotel at which she was staying with her mother and aunt, and they came to a bridge over a sluggish stream in a cypress swamp and stood looking down upon the water, as they leaned upon the bridge. Miss Reilly was tired from her walk and she clambered



Pocahontas grove where No. 12 proposed



Orchestra Hall where No. 13 made his mistake



At Fox Lake where No. 2 proposed



Royal Gorge, Colorado, passing through which Ed made his second proposal.



Lake Shore Drive where mysterious proposal was received

Other evidence that the lieutenant came near winning lies in the fact that Miss Reilly did not photograph the spot then, but afterward—almost a year afterward—sent an order to a photographer to make a picture of that bridge, and when it came she found a fisherman leaning at the spot whereon the romance was shattered.

The girl took her camera one day in the following August and started for Lincoln park to take a photograph and when she had developed the plates and selected the best one she sadly marked a cross upon it and wrote:

"This is the first surprise. I went for a car ride with Ed yesterday and we got off at Lincoln park and took a walk. Finally we sat down on the grass in the shade of some bushes and Ed proposed. I never thought of him except as my kid brother's chum, and it hurt me to refuse him, and he, poor boy, nearly cried. I wish he hadn't asked me. He is too young."

"Ed" evidently refused to take "no" for an answer, for the next photograph is one of the Royal gorge in Colorado. Miss Reilly, her mother, her "kid" brother, and his chum "Ed" were on their way to California when Ed proposed again. It was months before Miss Reilly could get a photograph of the spot, which is just at the end of the famous hanging bridge, but she finally found one and added it to her collection. That second refusal evidently finished Ed, for there is a foot note in the "proposal book" which reveals the fact that "Ed" became engaged to "Milly" the next summer.

The next photograph in the book is a scene in the heart of the White mountains in New Hampshire, where the Reilly family spent the summer of 1903. The photograph shows the famous flume in Franconia Notch and Miss Reilly's story tells the rest.

Mr. — of Philadelphia is here with his sisters, who knew Jennie — at school. He is awfully handsome and wealthy, but I don't like his sisters. They seem to think because I'm from the city I don't know anything. Mr. — has been very attentive.

"August 27.—Mr. — wanted me to walk with him. His sisters, with Bob, were behind and we got so far ahead that we lost them by the time we reached the flume. He helped me walk across a log over the water and we sat down on a broad boulder to wait for the others.

"Then he proposed. He did it so nicely and so earnestly I was sorry. I really liked him pretty well, but I told him it was useless, because I couldn't stand his sisters. Then, when the others caught up with us, Bob told us that he and Katherine were engaged, so we'll have one of those sisters in the family after all."

Rejected on Lake Shore Drive.

The next spring there was a photograph of the Lake Shore drive, with just a cross on the pavement. There is no note under the picture to explain it, nor will Miss Reilly explain it at all. The only hint as to what happened there is a "No" written in rather rougher style than usual. The keeper of the "proposal book" flushes angrily when asked if that "No" may not be changed to "Yes" sometime, and refuses even to talk of it. "We went to the old churchyard," says the next entry. "Mamma was tired and preferred to stay at the hotel instead of sightseeing and she said it really was foolish—but Mr. — wanted so much to show me where Pocahontas is said to be buried that I let her. It is a beautiful old spot and an old sexton showed us through the church and to the grave where the beautiful Indian maiden is said to rest. We sat down on an old tomb and then Mr. — asked me to be his wife. I felt really flattered because he is wealthy and awfully nice for an Englishman—but I had to tell him that I could

not marry a man I did not love."

Finally, there is a photograph of the interior of Orchestra hall in Chicago and a cross mark on a seat that is H. 5. Under it is a note.

"April, 1905. A man should know better than to propose to the middle of a Wagnerian overture. B. — didn't. NO."

upon the rail and sat there. The man, standing by her side, slipped his arm around her and, before she could move or clamber from the rail to the bridge again, he clasped her tight and told her—What he told her or how ardently she does not write in her "proposal book," and she grows indignant if any one hints that the strange looking blur by the "No" is a tear stain

not marry a man I did not love."