

Women in Wartime



Washington Folks Busiest in Many Years

French Officers Teaching Our Hostesses Many Tricks in Entertainments Art

Washington Bureau of Omaha Bee.

PICNIC season in Washington this summer is the gayest and the busiest in many years. It was probably the French officers, connected with the French High Commission and the French War Commission, who revived the pretty and delightful entertainment. A picnic round about Washington is really worth while, too, for there is almost every kind of country to choose from, in which to stop and enjoy a basket lunch, the kind to suit every imaginable taste; hills, mountains, water and the straight wooded country.

The French visitors, the majority of them officers, always more than keen to return their social obligations, and having only Sundays from their arduous duties connected with the missions, spend that day in the entertainment of those who have entertained them, and the favorite mode is the out-of-doors picnic. They order their own luncheons, with special menus especially prepared by French cooks, and packed in a really French fashion, daintiness predominating, with the hot things in a thermos basket and the cold things in a basket refrigerator, and the cool drinks in thermos bottles, so that when the table is laid al fresco everything is served as it should be.

The Frenchmen are teaching our hostesses new tricks in al fresco parties. Last Sunday four automobiles full of young people, with several chaperones, went a few miles up the river and camped upon a lovely wooded bank of the Potomac, where they had the most delicious supper "a la Paree." These foreign visitors could teach the American young men much in the way of entertaining those who entertain them. As a rule the Washington bachelors, particularly the young ones, apparently see no necessity for entertaining anyone. They take all the social attentions as a matter of course, their mothers probably having omitted the training in the idea of reciprocity.

Frenchmen and Friends.

It is most interesting that the French officers find so many congenial friends in society here, and are seldom at a loss to be able to converse fluently in their own tongue. The women and girls who speak French are quite in the majority, but it has seemed to take the war to bring it out. Scores of the girls out of the most fashionable circles have either gone to France, where they can be very useful with their knowledge of the languages, or have accepted trusty positions here under the government, and in the many different commissions now here as translators.

The Wilsons.

The president and Mrs. Wilson, too, have a taste for picnic parties, and one of their favorite outings is a long motor ride, supplied with hampers of good things (the packing of which is always personally overseen by Mrs. Wilson) and a stop wherever it suits their fancy, usually by the side of a trickling stream in an isolated spot, where they have their evening meal and ride home in the twilight. They usually have one or two members of the family with them and are amply protected by the car full of the president's bodyguard, which is always close beside the president's machine.

Nebraskans.

Judge and Mrs. Constantine J. Smyth, who have spent the last six weeks in Nebraska, visiting in Omaha and other cities, returned early this week to their Washington home. Mr. and Mrs. William F. Gurley of Omaha are visiting Mrs. Gurley's family here, on their way to Atlantic City, where they will spend some weeks. Mrs. Lobeck, wife of Representative Lobeck of Omaha, and their family have returned to their home there for the remainder of the summer. One of the new arrivals from Omaha, here for war work, is Miss Rola Anderson, who has gone into the bureau of information in the Transportation department. She has joined the little house party of former Representative and Mrs. William E. Andrews of Hastings, Neb. Mrs. Andrews is doing the really philanthropic work in having a little colony of these girls around her. She is probably the busiest woman in Washington, for she has in no wise given up

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Joy Higgins

Photo by Heyze

A Glittering Star in Nebraska's Service Flag Went Forth Into Strange Lands to Bring Tidings of Joy

By PEGGY NATTINGER

A GLITTERING star in Nebraska's service flag is Joy Montgomery Higgins, who, like the wise men of old, went into a strange land to bring tidings of great joy, and to the war-weary peoples of the allied countries this young standard bearer has brought a ray of hope and a word of cheer from us who dwell under the starry banner in peace and safety. This daughter of Nebraska and of Omaha has been honored by the highest and the lowest since she waved a smiling goodbye and set sail on her mission. Now she is returning, and this week will find her once more in her home city. Miss Higgins has served her country faithfully and well, and the reception accorded her will be much the same as that of our returned heroes from the battle front. Proud, indeed, is the little silver-haired mother, Mrs. A. O. Higgins, of this charming daughter, who, as ex-President Taft said, "has put Omaha on the map of the world."

Miss Higgins sailed with the members of the Gopher's labor commission, who went abroad to study war conditions and to reassure our brothers across the sea of our fealty and our stern determination to win at all costs. The party, either as a whole or in groups, visited nearly all parts

of England, several cities in Scotland and both the north and south of Ireland. Miss Higgins, as one of the chief speakers, won an enviable place in the hearts of all her hearers. In the huge munition factories the grimy-faced workers straightened their aching shoulders and paused in their work of making deadly shells, to listen to the message brought from America by this clear-eyed young woman. And as she finished three cheers for England and Miss Higgins were always given with rousing good will. Then these soldiers behind the lines turned back to their dangerous and arduous task, a new light in their eyes and a new hope in their hearts. Wherever she went, from one end of the British Isles to the other, this Omaha woman was royally welcomed, and as a climax at the luncheon given by the mayor of Dublin she gave a

toast to Ireland that was echoed from one corner to the other of the Emerald Isle, for it was not only the silver eloquence of her words, but the knowledge that her forebears claimed Ireland as their home that filled the hearts of the Irish patriots with love and admiration for Miss Higgins. This little gem of sentiment has appeared in numberless papers in America, from New York to the far west. Even though their errand was a serious one, the members of the commission managed to find a good many silver linings, and Miss Higgins tells a number of amusing little tales. She was the cause of much good-natured bantering on account of her "Buckingham palace air," as they called it. This young woman from the west had so much of the "grande dame" about her that it would seem that she had been mingling with kings and queens

all her life. On the day of their presentation at Buckingham palace Miss Higgins was not ruffled in the least, and Charles Belmont Davis, brother to the late Richard Harding Davis, amused himself by trying to break down Miss Higgins' "air." She was conversing with King George, when Mr. Davis handed her a card on which was written, "Why is he called George the Fifth?" Miss Higgins glanced at it, shook her head and went on with her conversation unperturbed. As if it was the official business of the commission, he handed her another card on which was written, "Because Mary is four-fifths." And all this right under "royalty's" nose, as it were. Just to follow the commission for a day would have been quite a task, for every minute was filled to the brim.

Especially in London they were surfeited with engagements. The committee received by Lloyd George visited Winston Churchill at the Ministry of Munitions and Lord Beaverbrook of the Ministry of Information, and were entertained at luncheon at the House of Commons when Hon. George N. Barnes, member of the war cabinet, presided. Mr. Balfour and Lord Bryce spoke, and most of the chief figures of the British public life were present. The party was received by Ambassador and Mrs. Page and by Admiral Sims. Mrs. Humphrey Ward entertained them at tea and a delightful week-end was spent at Warwick Castle as the guests of Mrs. Henry Marsh. Through the courtesy of the French government the delegation visited France, spending a week there. Receptions at Paris were given them by the president, by Marshal Joffre and many other dignitaries. They visited the ill-fated church, in which, on Good Friday, nearly a hundred worshippers were killed by the long-range German gun. Traveling in swift motor cars, they saw the fighting fronts of France, America and Britain. The ruins of the stately cathedral at Rheims was visited and a tour of the shell-swept villages near by was made. A midnight dinner was served in the underground citadel at Verdun and the next morning an early sun

August is the Vacation Time For Workers

This is the Season for Drying Vegetables and Fruits for Winter Consumption.

WHILE the instruction classes will close for the month of August, the work of conservation will go on in the home of every patriotic woman. Practical demonstrations will be given daily, working out the suggestions for the use of substitutes.

To those who think they must give up ice tea because of the sugar shortage comes the experience of Mrs. H. L. Grace of Mason district. She substitutes white corn syrup for sugar, heating it to the boiling point, when it will blend readily with the tea. This provides the necessary sweetness and is most satisfactory.

Patriotic jelly is made without sugar, using equal parts of corn syrup and fruit juice. This makes a good jelly in texture as well as in flavor. Help in canning and home drying will be given by Mrs. Paul Rivett through August and September. Send requests to Tyler 1322. Miss Provansk of the University of Nebraska will be in the office mornings to schedule any demonstrations requested and answer any questions concerning the work of conservation.

Mrs. R. E. Winkelman, Harney 5717, chairman of the Conservation council, will attend to any special problems and explain the nature of the work to be carried on next fall to anyone interested.

Miss Farnsworth Leaves. Miss Farnsworth, federal home demonstration agent, will be away through the month of August, spending her vacation in Fargo, N. D. She will also visit St. Paul, Minneapolis and other cities investigating the work of conservation.

Interesting plans for the work in Omaha are already under way, and with the large army of faithful workers enlisted in the cause, great results may be expected.

This is the season for drying vegetables and fruits and the government recommends the best way to get the best results.

Dry Cabbage.

Select solid, well matured heads of cabbage, trim off all discolored outer leaves and injured portions, cut the heads in half and remove the central stalks. Cut into slices one-third to five-eighths-inch thick by means of a kraut cutter or a rotary slicer, separating any large, compact pieces with a knife or by passing them a second time through the slicer. Blanch three minutes in steam in a wire basket made to fit into a wash boiler over boiling water, or by dipping for two minutes into boiling water. Spread as evenly as possible, about three-quarter-inch deep, breaking up compact masses, and go over the trays occasionally during the first few hours of drying to separate thick clumps.

Peas and Beans.

Pick garden peas for drying when the pods have attained their full size, but have not begun to turn yellow. Give the shelled peas a short dip into boiling water—one minute is sufficient for most varieties, and the time should never exceed two minutes—allow them to drain for a moment, then spread on trays as uniformly as possible to a depth of about three-quarter-inch. When artificial heat is used, start the drying at 115 to 120 degrees and increase this to 135 to 140 degrees as the peas become almost dry.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that peas or beans can be dried in a few hours; the thick outer covering of the seed allows water to escape slowly, and many hours are required to bring the interior of the seed down to such a degree of dryness as will insure keeping. Properly dried peas or beans will be uniformly hard and dry throughout, showing no moisture when crushed to bits with a hammer.

Cauliflower.

To dry cauliflower, trim out all discolored portions and cut into cubes or oblong pieces not larger than three-quarter-inch in thickness. Blanch five to six minutes in steam, as directed for cabbage, or four minutes in boiling water. Spread the pieces in a single layer on the trays and dry at the temperatures recommended for cabbage until no moisture can be pressed from crushed pieces. The discoloration which appears as the material dries will largely or wholly disappear when the product is soaked preparatory to cooking.

touched with gold the desolate waste where one of the battles of the world was fought, this body of men and women were given their first glimpse of the battlefield of famous Verdun.

But through the submarine-swept seas Miss Higgins has returned safely, her work on the other side of the sea completed, but her labors on this side just beginning. For everyone is so eager to hear her, and she will no doubt speak in many cities, bringing her audiences closer to the great struggle overseas, of which we are so large a part.

Miss Higgins gives in a few words the message that she is bringing home with her, "American labor has gone on record as being against any conferences with the enemy, and we members of the mission have come back filled with the determination of France and England to win the war so well that it will never need to be fought again."

THE TOAST

"It has been said that England is our mother, France our inspiration, but Ireland is our sweetheart. Being Irish is not nationality; it is a state of being. It was in this beautiful Isle that my ancestors lived. I ask my lords and gentlemen to lift their glasses to Ireland, the world's sweetheart, gem of the ocean and love of God."