

Lenah Field Fisher

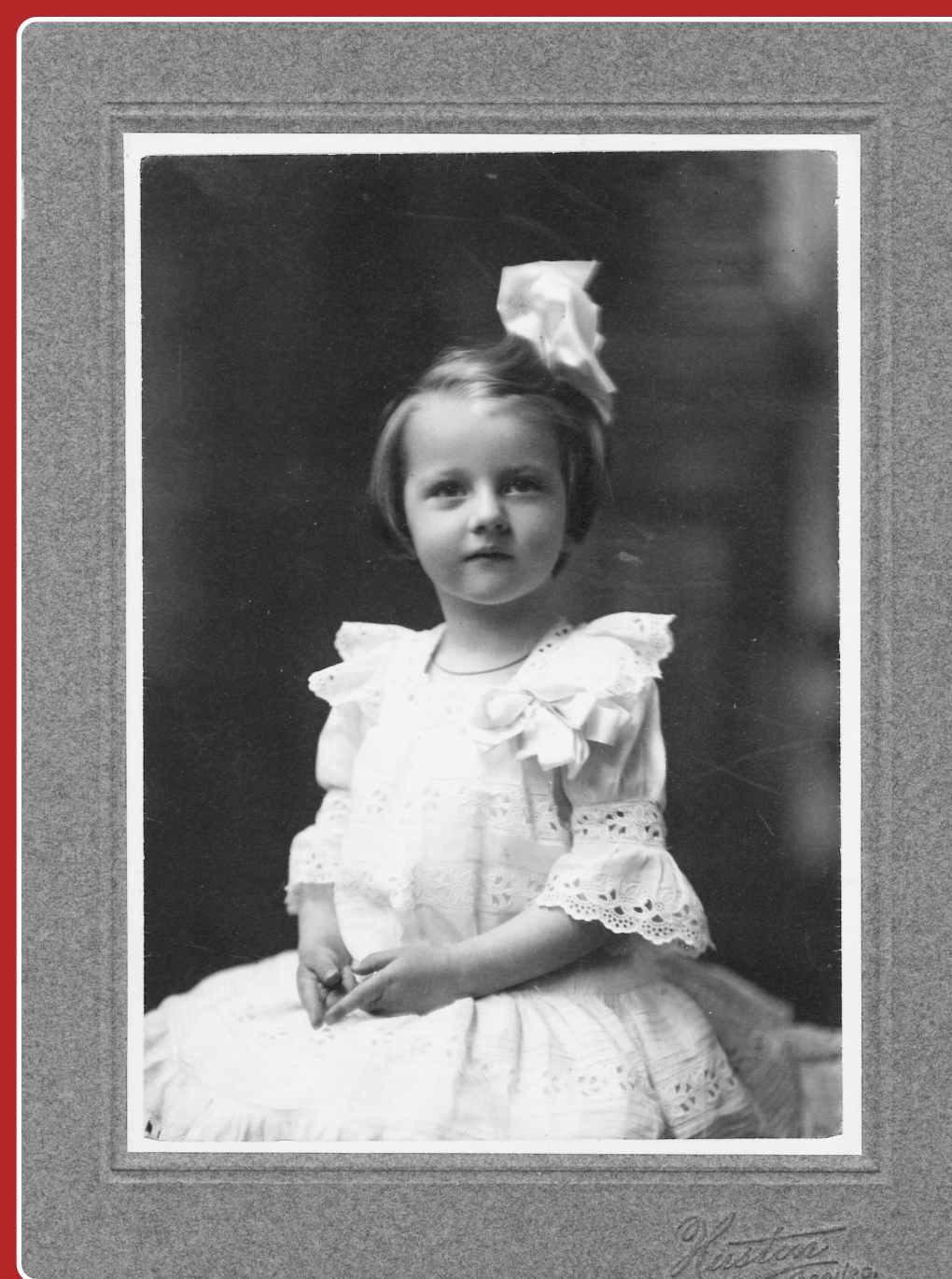
“Saviour of Victoria Hall”

When Lenah Field was born in 1900, it was into a **prominent family and a storied home**. No wonder she is still celebrated.

Lenah's family were longtime residents of Cobourg beginning with her great-grandfather who emigrated to Canada in 1839 and opened a very successful dry goods store, Fields. His two sons both became active in politics, one an MP in Ottawa and the other an MPP in Toronto.

Lenah's grandfather owned the house at 212 King Street West which he had rented to the Koerber family. The Koerber's daughter, Leila Marie, became **Academy Award winning actress, Marie Dressler**. When Lenah's parents married, Mr. Field Sr. gave them the house as a wedding gift, and that's where Lenah was born - in the same home as Marie Dressler.

As a young 'lady', Lenah attended the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph where she studied to become a dietitian. Known as a 'harum-scarum' girl, Lenah possessed a rebellious nature not inclined to follow college residence rules. After ignoring the 9 o'clock curfew, her small stature meant she needed a boost to get through the window. **Help arrived from a then little known Leslie Frost** who was destined to become Premier of Ontario.



NCA 1980.001

*She's little, but she's wise
She's a terror for her size!*

Guelph Yearbook 1922

Lenah did not enter the political scene until the death of her husband in 1956. Distressed about the impending razing of Victoria Hall, she was determined to save the beloved symbol of Cobourg.

You see Victoria Hall was a mess and many people, most people in fact, wanted to tear it down, but I just wouldn't hear of it and I'll tell you, once I get my head and heart on something, I'm going to do everything I can to make it happen.

Lenah Field Fisher

She was duly elected to town council, but the council men gave her the garbage committee instead of her preferred posting. Lenah fooled everyone and became the best garbage councilor the town ever had. She would ride the garbage trucks and on Clean Up Cobourg Week she donned a pair of overalls and boots to help hose down the streets! She won the next election by a landslide and had her pick of committees. The Public Building Committee was her first choice and she got to work on her pet project, Victoria Hall.

DAILY STAR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1932

PERSONAL

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO

MARRIED YESTERDAY

A. E. Ames, Toronto, 56 today, George L. Cains, Montreal, 75 day.

J. W. Nicoll, Montreal, 56 today.

ngamere, Lodge, Kingsmere.

r. and Mrs. Harry McCurry and little daughter intend motor-down to Montreal today to meet McCurry's mother and sister, F. M. S. Jenkins and Miss Mary Jenkins, who are returning by Letitia from England after a 6-month holiday. While in Montreal they will be the guests of McCurry's brother, Mr. Tris Jenkins.

rs. Lay and her daughter, Miss Lay, of Boston, who have been spending a few weeks at Kingsmere, returned to town this week and the guests of Mrs. Lay's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Wn. at Rockcliffe.

r. R. W. Cautley and his daughter, Miss Eleanor Cautley, left on today for a few weeks' holiday Muskoka.

rs. Mark Gillin who has been in the States for a few weeks return to Toronto on Monday. Gillin was the guest of honor yesterday afternoon at a bridge party given by Mrs. Donald Robertson.

r. and Mrs. F. X. Plaunt are spending a few days in Montreal and accompanied their daughter, Betty Plaunt who sailed yesterday for Switzerland to spend the two years studying.

rs. Sinclair and her two daughters, Miss Cherry and Miss Molly Blair, who have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Plaunt, have come to attend the De Watto-Plaunt wedding, called this afternoon for their home in Kent, Eng-

Mrs. Fisher, formerly Miss Lenah Wood Pearce Field, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Field, of Cobourg, Ont., whose marriage to Mr. Donald Alexander Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fisher, of Montreal, took place quietly yesterday afternoon in the chapel of Trinity Memorial Church. --Photo by Associated Screen News.

NCA 1980.001

Upon graduation, Lenah studied in Cleveland and was chief dietitian at a Philadelphia hospital before accepting a position at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Montreal. While there, she met and married Donald Fisher, a rubber company executive.

When Lenah and her husband returned to Cobourg in the early 1930s, they found the little house on King Street besieged by curious tourists anxious to see the home of 'Tugboat Annie', a character created by Miss Dressler. This gave Lenah the idea to open a restaurant. *The Marie Dressler Eating House* or *Marie Dressler's Tavern* was one of Cobourg's finest dining establishments. **Lenah successfully operated the restaurant for 17 years.**