

Personality Preview

UNUSUAL STORIES
about USUAL PEOPLE

By ANNA TAMARRI

Eighty-nine years old and confident she will reach the century mark, Mrs. Oscar F. Bell holds court for an admiring family at 379 North avenue, Highland Park, where she has lived for 57 years. With 26 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren, she has a train of 72 descendants.

Born Wilhelmina Mayer, she came to this country when eight months old, her musician father leaving Duerkheim, Germany, in the first boat from England propelled by steam and sail, the Jacob West-erfeld. The Mayer family, starting out on Oct. 8, reached New York on Thanksgiving day of 1850. Mrs. Bell's father recorded his reasons for emigrating in his diary, "... I made up my mind to journey to America, partly of dissatisfaction and the political situation in Germany."

Because her father was of a roving disposition, Mrs. Bell lived as a young girl at Lancaster and Carlisle, in Pennsylvania; Hickman, Ky.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Athens, Ala.; and Columbia, Tenn. In Lawrenceburg, Ind., she met Henry Ward Beecher, then prominent as a New York preacher. In Dayton, Ohio, her father became the first to introduce music into the public schools. In Winchester, Tenn., she attended Mary Sharp college under the tutelage of Alexander Graham Bell's teacher-brother, who, so far as is known, is not related to the Highland Park Bells, although both Bell families are of Scotch descent.

It was while she resided in Winchester that the Civil war broke out. Mrs. Bell can recall the Sunday bombardment of Chattanooga, riding in a freight train when the passenger coaches were filled with wounded soldiers, and hiding the garden onions because the Yankees were coming. Her father was neutral, but, when he moved his family north, he found that Confederate money was worthless. Mrs. Bell still has some of these counterfeit bills. Evanston eventually became her home, then Glencoe. The first time she saw Highland Park was by mistake, because she forgot to get off the train at Evanston. Married in 1873, she finally moved to Highland Park to her present residence, as Mr. Bell was stenographer for the Chicago and North Western Railway. At that time there was nothing but dense woods surrounding the location save for one other house and the one-track railroad that ended in a brick yard at the lake.

"I can't do much wandering around now, but I still wander with my mind," she states, so she goes traveling every Saturday in the rotogravure travel section of the newspaper, armed with a memory keener than us "young 'uns," as she picks out of the past memories of

trips to Washington, New Orleans, Albany, West Point, Annapolis, and other points scattered throughout the Union.

She "pushes a needle all the time" and is particularly proud of the valentine she got once from her grandchildren that read, "She takes our knocks and mends our socks." Needlework was Mrs. Bell's specialty as a girl, when she knew both dress-making and millinery, and as she recalls the zipperless days, she claims all the buttons she's sewn would go around the world.

Poetry and trees are hobbies that live always with her, perhaps because "Trees watch generations come and go," a line she recites with reams of other poetry. She still has a hand in the Thanksgiving dinner with her special apple pie and teaches the grandchildren how to count, for all her own children are grown-up now.

Of her ten children, eight are still living. They are Mrs. George Shelton of the same address; Oscar Bell and John Bell of Highland Park; Mrs. John Osborn of Elyria, Ohio; Mrs. A. E. Wheeler of Libertyville; Mrs. Lillie Forest of Lancaster, Penn.; Harry Bell of Hamilton, Montana, and Mrs. Harry Sampson of Joliet, Ill.

U. S. Civil Service Exams Announced

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced open competitive examinations for the positions listed below. Applications must be on file in the Commission's office, Washington, D. C., not later than August 14 if received from states east of Colorado, and not later than August 17 if received from Colorado and states westward.

Inspector, ordinance material, \$2,300 a year; and senior, \$2,600; associate, \$2,000; assistant, \$1,800; junior, \$1,620; Ordinance Department, War Department. Applicants for the junior and assistant grades must have reached their 20th, but must not have passed their 48th, birthday; applicants for the other grades must have reached their 21st but must not have passed their 55th, birthday.

Educational and technical consultant in curriculum problems, \$5,600 a year, Office of Education. Applicants must not have passed their 53rd birthday.

Federal agent for home economics education, \$4,600 a year, Office of Education. Applicants must not have passed their 53rd birthday.

Principal extension agriculturist, \$5,600 a year, senior extension agriculturist, \$4,600 a year, and senior extension home economist, \$4,600 a year, Extension Service, Department of Agriculture. Applicants must

not have passed their 53rd birthday.

Forest ecologist, \$3,800 a year, and principal, \$5,600, senior, \$4,600, associate, \$3,200, assistant, \$2,600 a year, Forest Service. Applicants for the three highest grades must not have passed their 53rd, for the associate grade they must not have passed their 45th, and for the assistant grades they must not have passed their 40th, birthday.

Forest economist, \$3,800 a year, and principal, \$5,600, senior, \$4,600, associate, \$3,200 assistant, \$2,600, a year Forest Service. Applicants for the three highest grades must not have passed their 53rd, for the associate grade they must not have passed their 45th, and for the assistant grade they must not have passed their 40th, birthday.

Assistant industrial counselor, \$2,600 a year, Federal Prison Industries, Inc., Department of Justice. Applicants must have reached their 25th, but must not have passed their 53rd birthday.

Engineer, \$3,800 a year, and senior, \$4,600, associate, \$3,200, assistant, \$2,600 a year. Applicants for the two highest grades must not have passed their 53rd, for the associate grade they must not have passed their 45th, and for the assistant grade they must not have passed their 40th birthday.

Full information may be obtained from R. F. Seiffert, secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Board of Examiners, at the post office in this city, or from the Secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Board of Examiners at any first- or second-class postoffice.

Shore Land Kennel Club to Conduct Dog Show Sept. 17

The annual dog show at Onwentsia Country Club in Lake Forest will be conducted this year by the Shore Land Kennel Club, an outgrowth of the Northbrook club, it was announced this week by Mrs. Bernadyn Kewley, secretary.

Judge F. E. Eldert of Northbrook, who for seven years headed the Northbrook club, last year's sponsor of the show, is the president of the new club.

Set for September 17, the all-breed show is expected to draw an entry of more than 700 dogs. This estimate is based on the fact that close to 500 entries were received last year, plus plans of the sponsors for a more intensive canvassing of North Shore owners.

Although the deadline for entries is fixed for September 10, many North Side dog fanciers have already signified their intention of making formal registration in the near future. Among them are Conway Olmstead, Lake Bluff; Hulburd Johnson, Lake Forest; Harold Flor-sheim, Highland Park; Mrs. Myrtle Falcon Cooper, Evanston; Mrs. Janet Henneberry, Golf; H. F. Pulfer, Winnetka; Thomas E. Halpin, Glen-coe; and C. J. Casselman, Chicago.

Inasmuch as this will be an all-breed show, dog lovers will be given an opportunity to witness a wide choice of canine companions. Several dogs expected to be entered have never before been on exhibition, Mrs. Kewley explained, adding that the list of approved judges is expected to be received from the American Kennel Club within a week.

Further information may be had by writing or calling Mrs. Kewley, 1055 Granville avenue, Briargate 6200.

Capt. Isaac Kitts to Judge Events at Fort Horse Show

Fort Sheridan horse show officials are quite elated, and justifiably so, over the acceptance of Capt. Isaac L. Kitts as judge of the military events at the show to be held Sept. 2, 3 and 4.

Capt. Kitts gained international fame at the 1932 and 1936 Olympic games as a member of the United States Army military team, specializing in dressage riding.

In addition to his duties as judge, Capt. Kitts will put his great high school horse, American Lady, through exhibitions twice daily on the Fort Sheridan horse show program.

Maj. Paul H. Morris, show manager, announced this week that five performances will be presented, with matinee and evening programs on Sept. 2 and 3, and an afternoon performance in Sept. 4. Morning competition each day of the run will be devoted to eliminations.

I. N. G. to Conduct Service Practice at Camp Logan

Effective July 1st to and including August 11th, the 202d Coast Artillery (AA), Illinois National Guard, will conduct its service practice at Camp Logan, Ill., located north of Zion, Ill., and the water area to the east thereof to a distance of 8 1/2 miles offshore will be subject to missiles of 3-inch anti-aircraft gun and machine-gun firing between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily, Saturday and Sunday excluded.

NOTICE

On August 9, 1939, the water area to the east of Great Lakes, Ill., to a distance of 8 1/2 miles off shore, will be subject to missiles of 3 in. anti-aircraft gun and machine gun

firing between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All vessels are requested to avoid the danger zone or expedite passage through it.

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