

# Personality Preview

UNUSUAL STORIES about USUAL PEOPLE

By ANNA TAMARRI

Few people know that Mrs. John Larson, 1050 Oak street, Highland Park, is a survivor of the Titanic disaster. She was one of the passengers rescued in the only canvas boat, out of 500, that survived the tragedy on April 14, 1914, the day of the sinking of the "unsinkable" vessel on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic out of Southampton. An iceberg off Halifax felled the vessel.

April 14 is the birthday of her only daughter, Ellen. It is also the anniversary of her brother's birth. Mrs. Larson, then 21 years old, sailed on the Titanic, the largest ship in the world, at the insistence of her brother Carl, although she had booked passage on the Adriatic which sailed a day later. He said at the time that nothing but the best was good enough for her.

Mrs. Larson still has the passage ticket which indicates her cancelled trip on the Adriatic. For eleven weeks after landing in the United States, she lay ill in a Chicago hospital. For two or three months she could hear the scream of the ship in her sleep. Their canvas boat was 25 feet from the \$7,500,000 ship as it sank, creating a dangerous suction in the environs of the hulk.

Until a ship's officer took her on deck and showed her the crew lined up on the second deck with water to their chests, she did not realize the gravity of the situation. When she was safely inside the lifeboat with approximately 25 others, she was horror-stricken to see people rushing from one end of the deck to the other in vain attempts to escape.

One member of their party, Mrs. Anna Gustafson of Des Moines, Iowa, who had managed to save a suitcase, shawl and a bottle of

brandy, was the source of some grim hilarity in the boat. One of the oarsmen pointed out the green lights of the Carpathia, which picked them up, to Mrs. Larson as she could speak only Swedish. She was so relieved, after seven hours and twenty minutes on the open sea, that she squeezed the stranger in a hug.

Mrs. Larson has been heard in broadcasts over WBBM and WENE, although for ten years after the catastrophe she could not bear to speak of it. Landing in New York, she was lodged in the Lutheran Swedish home, and then proceeded to Evanston, where her aunt, Mrs. Johanna Erickson, lived. She made her home there from May to December, 1912.

Explaining why the California, which was nearest the giant ship at the time of the accident, did not come to its rescue, Mrs. Larson states that marine laws did not then require 24-hour radio service.

The canvas boat, in which she was saved, is undoubtedly with the Norwegian captain of the Carpathia, who kept it as a souvenir of the grim night. The Larsons were married by Roy J. Mason, justice of the peace, Dec. 7, 1915, in Waukegan. Mrs. Larson is the former Hilda Hellstrom.

Members of thirty persons saved on a door afloat on the ocean, the sharks in the wake of the sinking, and other scenes seem far away now that she is safe and happy in Highland Park. Only when a letter from the Los Angeles museum in Exposition Park, Cal., came asking to buy the passport she owns as a memento of the occasion, does she look back to the horrors of that night, somehow even unbelievable today.

## Install Officers of WOTM Next Monday

Public installation at the Highland Park chapter 806 of the W.O.T.M. will be held at Witten hall at 8 o'clock on Monday evening, June 24th.

Installing officers are: Grand Ritualist Emerita, Grand Regent Mrs. Agnes Ohara, Greater Chicago chapter 129; installing guide, Mrs. Evelyn Turk, Waukegan chapter 792; installing pianist, Mrs. Naomi Toreh, Waukegan chapter 792; soloist, Mrs. Anna Magden, director of the W.O.T.M. chorus, Waukegan chapter 792.

Officers to be installed are: Graduate regent, Mrs. Jane I. Lehr, Highland Park; Sr. regent, Mrs. Ada C. Jones, Lake Forest; Jr. vice regent, Mrs. Trine Zimmers, Highland Park; chaplain, Mrs. Alice Coleman; Highland Park; recorder, Mrs. Margaret T. Bench, Highland Park; treasurer, Mrs. Florence Zahnle, Highland Park; pianist, Mrs. Lydia Jahnigen, Highwood; guide, Miss Yolanda Gurioli, Highland Park; assistant guide, Miss Tina M. Dolee, Highland Park; inner sentinel, Mrs. Angelina Pizzato, Highland Park; Argus, Mrs. Ellie Schlicker, Deerfield.

## Deerfield Locals

Continued from preceding page)

Mrs. Otto Trute and Mrs. Jack Morton will attend a bridge party this evening at the home of Miss Irene Oetzel in Highland Park.

Mrs. Mary M. Adams, who lives at the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. Johnston Davis, is spending several weeks in southern Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mailfold of Chicago were Sunday guests at the Carl Horenberger home on Wilmet road.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pfister and

son of Wilmington, Ill., visited at the home of Mrs. Molly Pater over the week-end.

Sr. Paul's baseball team played Bensenville on Sunday in the Arlington Heights church league and won 7-6.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Peterson and C. C. Brant of Wilmette were Sunday guests at the Carl E. Olson home on Greenwood avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lichter of Chestnut street attended the funeral of Mr. Lichter's father, Mathias Lichter, in Wilmette on Friday.

## N. S. Property Owners Start 9th Year with Revised Program

With the largest membership in its history, the North Shore Property Owners Association this month began its ninth year of activity on behalf of the residential interests of the North Shore, Marion T. Martin of Lake Forest, president of the organization, announced Tuesday.

A revised and amplified program which will include steps for beautifying the North Shore as well as protecting its homes is being developed, Mr. Martin said. Continued opposition to unnecessary truck traffic on residential streets, promotion of greater safety and renewed efforts to restore Sheridan road to its proper status as a connecting highway between North Shore towns instead of being exploited as a main state speedway are elements in the association's program, Mr. Martin said.

The organization was incorporated May 31, 1932. From a small group, it has grown into an active body of several hundred home owners from Evanston to Lake Bluff, inclusive, all of whom are intent upon preserving the residential character of the North Shore.

## Entertains P.T.A. Board at Luncheon

Mrs. H. W. Norman, newly elected president of the Highland Park High School P.T.A., entertained Miss Buzard and the P.T.A. Board at lunch at her home in Bannockburn on June 10th.

The following women are to serve on the Board for the ensuing year: Mrs. H. W. Norman, president; Mrs. Harry Pertz, 1st vice president; Mrs. Gatewood, 2nd vice president; Miss Louise Whiteman, secretary; Mrs. Raymond L. Erkakine, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Y. Williams, program chairman; Mrs. Paul Date, social chairman; Mrs. P. D. Stokes, hospitality chairman; Mrs. Arthur Raff, music chairman; Mrs. Julius

C. Laegeler, publicity chairman; Mrs. K. E. Wagner, chairman, Richard Sandwick Memorial Fund; Mrs. Howell Murray, scholarship chairman.

Membership chairmen of school districts:

Mrs. Roderick Macpherson, Elm Place; Mrs. Frank Selfridge, Elm Place; Mrs. George Cumming, Lincoln; Mrs. Henry Foreman, Ravinia; Mrs. Oliver S. Turner, Braeside; Mrs. C. C. Hatcher, Jr., West Ridge; Mrs. Dominic Linsari, Oak Terrace; Mrs. William Cruickshank, Deerfield; Mrs. Lawrence McDermott, Bannockburn; Mrs. Frank Bingham, Wheeling.

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## Late Spring Gives Opportunity to Plant and Improve Lawns

The late, wet spring this year gives householders an opportunity to plant and improve their lawns during June instead of May. Crab grass which ordinarily appears in lawns about this time of the year, will probably not be prevalent until July this year, according to William Beaudry, landscape engineer of the Chicago Real Estate Board.

"Don't fight weeds—grow grass" is the secret of an attractive weed-free lawn, says Mr. Beaudry. "The best way to avoid the so-called pest grasses—crab, quack, pigeon and water grass—is to maintain sturdy growth in your lawn. Never pull up these pest grasses, as that merely leaves a hole where three more will sprout for every one which you uproot. Mow your lawn regularly often enough to keep the grass from seeding, hence seeding is the completion of a life-cycle and weakens grass, leaving it vulnerable to weeds and other growth.

"Weeds are only pinch-hitters for grass. If you keep your lawn in good condition, you will have little trouble with weeds. June is a good time of the year to fertilize your lawn, and with ordinary care, such as occasional watering and mowing, your lawn should hold up well throughout the season. Where a lawn is off to a poor start or has a patchy appearance, there is still time, due to the late spring this year, to remedy this condition. If there are bare spots in your lawn, aerate them; that is, insert a spading fork the full length of its blade and move it about so as to loosen lower soil. Do this every six inches. Then roughen the surface with the rake, seed it and put on top dressing. There is still time for this to be done now, and your patches will be eliminated or greatly improved.

"Rye or timothy are good to plant for immediate growth. The best time to seed is in September using blue grass or other good seed, for then the grass seed grows roots and is

well established for the following spring.

"If you would prevent the heat from burning your lawn, don't mow it too short in mid-summer. Remember that a strong, healthy top growth means strong roots, with power to withstand weeds and heat."

For those desiring to improve further the appearance of their yard, Mr. Beaudry suggests a border or a small bed of iris. "Poor man's orchids"—iris, are now in bloom and can be purchased for around 15 cents a plant. They are an exceptionally adaptable flower for growing in the city, since they multiply rapidly and will provide you with added beauty from year to year.

"Other good perennials for city growth are day-lilies, which are cheap and fast growing, plantain lilies and phlox. The iris and lilies have attractive green foliage, which in itself is a decoration to any garden. Petunias and nasturtiums are good annuals, and petunias in particular, flourish with very little care." A little time and effort now will make your home a place of beauty the rest of the summer.

If you have any inquiries about the care or improvement of your lawn, write to Mr. Beaudry, care of the HIGHLAND PARK PRESS. Your questions will be answered free of charge.



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