

The Distaff Side ...

By Jerry Wendt Women's Editor

She was 14 years old. The gay glittering world of Monte Carlo stretched before her, but she knew nothing of that. A member of the company of the great ballet master Diaghilev, her life was one of grinding hard work, 16 hour days, dedication beyond belief. But always there was the one goal. Not only to receive the homage of the world, but for one bright and beautiful moment, one night transcending ordinary boundaries, and stand with the group who had achieved immortality among artists.

And the tiny girl with the black bangs practicing so earnestly did just that. Dame Alicia Markova took the Town Hall Audience with her, Thursday, into the world of the ballet when she urged them from the platform, "Come with me for a moment, into my world."

Vibrant in action and in her striking coloring, Dame Alicia held the audience as enchanted with her soft cultured voice, and stage presence as she had with her dancing.

"The world of the ballet is exciting, glamorous, yet frustrating and tough at times," she said, then added, "I guess you could say, it is just like life."

Diaghilev was the great ballet master and you lived with the troupe when Dame Alicia was a girl. So the tiny girl from England journeyed to where Diaghilev held his classes in the casino at Monte Carlo. Rehearsals began at 9 a.m. They practiced until one o'clock, stopping only for 10 minute breaks to change their clothes when they were wringing wet from head to toe.

From one to three o'clock they lunched in the European manner. A complete meal, beautifully served, then back again until six o'clock. Each night there was a performance at nine o'clock or if there was no performance, there was rehearsals. Afterwards the choreographers might have an idea, and there was an unwritten law that no one interrupted when one of the masters was inspired.



AGLOW WITH SATISFACTION after a successful year, Northville Town Hall Chairman Mrs. Slattery stands between Eleanor Breuninger, Detroit News Society Editor, and guest Speaker Dame Alicia Markova. They were among the group seated at the Speakers Table at the luncheon which followed Town Hall last Thursday.

Many times it was three or four in the early morning when, clinging, to her mothers hand she crossed the lawns of the casino. And always there was the rule, no matter what hour you went to bed, rehearsal at nine o'clock a.m. sharp. There was the tradition of the world. "You may die and miss a rehearsal, but you can never be sick and miss a rehearsal."

Dame Alicia remembers many artists visiting the school. Igor Stravinsky, who was always bundled in a huge fur coat and muffler, due to his phobia for colds. There was Picasso, a jovial, big man, devoted to his young son.

And Madame Chanel who one day, 24 hours before the ballet began promised Diaghilev to have three new costumes ready for the ballet next night when she found him in despair over some costumes.

"Will she really have them ready?" asked Dame Alicia. "Of course" she was told. "Madame Chanel is an artist." And sure enough, opening night, there they were, three beige tunics (this later became the style) fastened



NORTHVILLE TOWN HALL MEMBERS did themselves "proud" Thursday, April 21 at their closing luncheon. Among the beautifully gowned and hatted women were: (seated left to right): Mrs. Charles Holly, Mrs. Ralph Maddick, and Mrs. Roger Vaughn, all of Plymouth. Back row (left to right): Ann Hagan of Redford Township, Betty Van Ee of Northville, and Mrs. D. G. Dodge of Plymouth.

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with swathes of chiffon which floated gracefully in the dance numbers.

Dame Alicia became an artist, too, and danced before kings and queens. Queen Elizabeth bestowed her title of "Dame" upon her in 1963. Among her many honors was being chosen the first ballerina ever to be televised and the first ballerina of the old Vic's Sadler Wells Ballet. Today she is the Director of Ballet for the Metropolitan Opera Company.



LOOKING AHEAD to next year's gala program are Mrs. Ruth Knapp and Mrs. William Boelker.

Later at Meadowbrook Country Club, the group of women were enchanted with the gardenia skinned, dark-haired Dame Alicia. Questions asked her were "Where did you get your turban?" Dressed in a beige sheath, Dame Alicia had an elegant matching turban of beige chiffon.

"What do you consider the primary requisite for success?" "Find something you love and that interests you completely and then lose yourself in it," was the answer.

And lastly, "I want to thank you for my most treasured memory. You see, I saw you dance 'Swan Lake.'"

Dame Alicia in manner, appearance and performance is an artist in the grand tradition.

WVSCW Women's Club Presents Program 'Wigs and Wiglets'

A special program on Wigs and Wiglets will be presented at the next West Side Christian Women's Club luncheon. The meeting will convene at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, in the Birmingham Community House. Modeling the hairpieces will be Mrs. James Garfield, Mrs. John E. Gilson and Mrs. Wayne Matheny of Birmingham, and Mrs. George Pascut of Detroit.

Music will be provided by baritone Vaughn Hurd. He will

be accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Douglas Liefeld, of Detroit. Mrs. Harold Hoppe, from Battle Creek, will speak on "Wings of the Wind." Mrs. Hoppe attended Calvin College and was graduated from the Moody Bible Institute. Her husband is the Government Chaplain at Fort Custer and the pastor of the South Side Bible Church.

Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. Andrew Renfrew on Tablot in Huntington Woods.

Diabetic Children's Camp

Every diabetic child deserves a chance at a normal camping experience. Michigan State Diabetes Association will be sponsoring Camp Midecha during the dates of July 10 through July 31.

Slides will be shown at the Livonia, Redford and surround-

ing area Unit Meeting. Betty Joering, MDA Nutritionist, will describe some of the delicious menus at camp. See you there—Monday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. Located at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, 25338 Five Mile Road. For further information, call 342-6033.

Buxom Belles Aid Lagging Dieters

Have you looked in the mirror at your figure lately and said, "I simply must go on a diet?" But even though you meant what you said you knew you didn't have the will power to stick to it until you reached your goal. Well, ladies you are not alone. Many women who have almost given up hope of losing weight and keeping it off are the Buxom Belles.

They have no magic formula because the only known way to lose weight is by eating fewer calories than burn up in energy.

There are no expensive machines to wear the fat away. In fact they do not even exercise at meetings.

What do the Buxom Belles do then to help you lose weight? Well, they operate on the theory of group therapy. It gives women the opportunity to meet women who have the same weight problems. You try to learn new methods and how to control the compulsion to eat because you are tired, bored, angry or whatever reason you

eat when you know you are not hungry. There is no one who can promise you that you will lose 50 lbs. this year but many of the members have lost that much or more in a year.

If you have a problem, why not come to a meeting or two just as a guest. You have nothing to lose except fat and who needs that!

Let the Buxom Belles help you help yourself. Phone Lorraine Ashley, 474-2263.

Sorority Holds Rites

Beta Sigma Phi, Gamma Xi Chapter, held its regular meeting April 20, at the home of Lee Clark, 18400 Lasher. The co-hostess, Mrs. S. Hanson of Livonia, presented the program of the evening on Environment, Health, Work and Play with the assistance of four students at Riley: Susan Lee, Hilch Meyers, Janet Ryder, Judi Heckel and Denise Hubert. These girls competed in Riley's talent show and have been selected as finalists.

Rituals were held for two members, Ann Sussex and Cheryl Gonda.

After rituals, installation of officers was held with President, Mrs. E. Kowalski, Livonia; Vice President, Mrs. E. Jaffke, Livonia; Treasurer, Mrs. A. Severson; Recording Secretary, Mrs. M. Gonda; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. Hennessey; Council Representative, Miss Lee Clark; and Alternate Representative, Mrs. R. Sussex.

"Foliage Contrasts"

Mrs. Frederick Mueller chose "Foliage Contrasts" as her subject when she spoke at the Garden City Garden Club meeting April 25 at the Log-Cabin-in-the-Park.

Mrs. Raymond Jorking did the monthly table setting with an Easter theme. Hostess was Mrs. Robert Mullaly.

College Bound!

Elizabeth Woehle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Woehle, 29544 Mark Lane, Livonia, has been accepted for admission at Cottey College, Nevada. Ms. Woehle will enter the Junior college for women in the fall of 1966.

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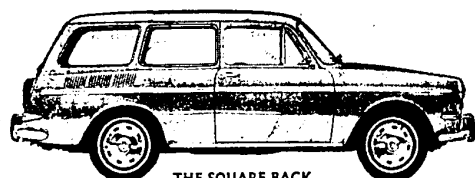
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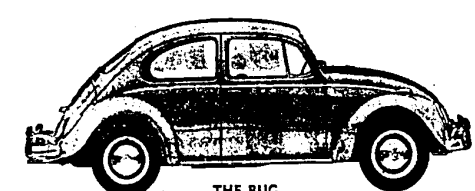
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