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SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 19

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1940

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State Re-Building Old Fort Wilkins Constructed in '41

COPPER HARBOR, Mich.—Nearly 70 years ago, on August 30, 1870 drums sounded a tattoo when men of the last garrison stationed at old Fort Wilkins near the tip of the Keweenaw peninsula went to quarters to pick up their equipment.

They were moving out. And for a good many years the headquarters, hospital buildings and barracks stood empty, doors sagging on rusted hinges.

After Indian Treaty The buildings had been erected in 1844, the year after a treaty signed with the Chippewas had opened the peninsula to exploration for copper. The first companies of the U. S. regular army stationed there fought in the war with Mexico. After the war, tuberculosis veterans of the northern army were hospitalized there. And during the Civil war, when the northern states and Great Britain were at odds, a road had been pushed out to the fort so that in emergency its garrison could be reinforced in event its water approaches should be controlled by an unfriendly power.

Now the old fort—the collection of barracks, mess halls, hospitals, headquarters buildings—that are partially enclosed by a stockade, are being restored. A Michigan state park, accepted from the federal government in 1921, Fort Wilkins each season attracts thousands of visitors who reach it over the recently completed Brockway mountain drive, or the highways which skirt the shores of lakes.

Use Native Materials The restoration of the nearly century-old buildings which are being continued by the WPA under the direction of the national Michigan department of conservation, is being carried on in painstaking fashion. Native materials, those used by the builders of the original fort, are being used and workmen are following the scale drawings in restoring the buildings and stockade. Shelter and toilet buildings also are included in the construction program which will be completed early next year.

Orange, Red Tags, Hunters' Fall Colors

LANSING, Aug. 8—Resident hunters will wear orange back tags in the spring game season, red ones in the deer season this fall. Seven hundred thousand have been issued for the season and 240,000 have been run off to supply the northwoods riflemen.

These figures represent a 25,000 increase in the number of small game license blanks printed and a 10,000 increase in deer hunting license blanks, as the conservation department prepares for continuance of the increase in the number of hunters that has occurred every year since the depression low point of 1932.

Together with game law digests from an edition that numbers more than a million copies, this season, the license blanks and tags will be placed in the hands of more than 2,000 dealers throughout Michigan during September.

Provision for non-residents includes preparation of 10,000 southern Michigan and 10,000 all-state small game licenses, 7,000 deer hunting licenses, and 100 bow and arrow licenses. Also prepared for the coming season are 50,000 trapping licenses, 2,500 deer camp permits, 1,500 blanks for resident archers and 100 bow and arrow camp permits.

Last season 742,639 game and trapping licenses of all kinds were issued.

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“Tea for Two”

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

THOSE children who believe their lives marred by the constant nightmare of music lessons should talk to Mrs. Dorothy K. Roosevelt as I did, and discover that she has set up the study of violin a number of years ago because she didn't like to practice.

This week Mrs. Roosevelt, an accomplished pianist, looked back on those years when she studied violin as something of a chore. What she refers to as her “fiddle” lessons began when she was a 10 year old student at Laggett School in Detroit, and concluded several years later when she went to Fontainebleau to continue her music studies and left her violin at home. It was then that she began in earnest the piano studies she had started when she was five years old.

Her antipathy to the violin was due in the main, she told me, to its not being a complete instrument. It is a tedious task to practice for hours at a time on an instrument that by itself is an incomplete unit and one which needs an accompanying instrument before its full scope can be realized.

Literature Limited Then too, the violin literature is extremely limited, she pointed out, and the only good violin music available. The loveliest violin music, she believes, is contained in the works of Bach and Beethoven. The repertoire for the violin as a solo instrument, however, is vast and she has not time to mention more than a few of the composers who influenced her to abandon the violin.

And then, she laughed in recalling it, “there was the problem of taking the instrument from the case, tuning it and tightening the strings. It was a real nuisance to work when all you had to do was sit down at the piano and begin to play.”

And so she gave up her violin work and began a piano career. Being a guest at the White House was a tremendous thrill for Janet, her mother continued. She was allowed the run of the house and became particularly attached to the children's room where Sixty and Bazzie's games and books and toys are kept.

However, she didn't mind care for the constant vigilance and the guards that were forever hovering near. In particular there was the morning when after receiving permission to swim in the President's private pool, she dove from the edge and stayed under water for several moments. Janet is a strong swimmer but she came to the top just as a guard was peeling off his coat and preparing to haul her from the bottom of the pool.

Music Project Since April, however, Mrs. Roosevelt has been confined to Michigan by her position as district supervisor of the Federal Music Project. With an office in Lansing, she travels constantly throughout the state, supervising the work that is being carried on by the government.

“It is exciting to realize,” she told me, “that for the first time music and the allied arts are available to the great mass of Americans who have never before been given an opportunity to hear and enjoy, much less say study and learn to appreciate, the music that has always before been available only to the upper classes.”

“It is important,” she continued vehemently as if carried away by the seriousness of her subject, “that every one be allowed this outlet for their emotions. It is their heritage and serves as a safety valve.”

“Of her work, which absorbs every moment of her time, she told but one story to illustrate the enthusiasm which the Federal Music Project has met. A WPA music worker was placed in Roseville, a large village outside Detroit on Gratiot avenue, where bands and orchestras were unheard of where there was little music in the schools. Within a short time a band was performing for civic functions, public meetings and a music room that adjoined the school building, and some of the community had made cups for the musicians. It was but one of many similar examples, she says, of the spontaneous enthusiasm that has been accorded the work.”

No Kidding! As a district supervisor she has traveled extensively in Michigan and has attended numerous conferences, particularly in the East. When talking to me this week she told this story of an amusing similarity of names. With her superior officer in the WPA state organization, Mrs. Bess Garner, Mrs. Roosevelt had flown to Raleigh, N. C. to attend a music conference and on alighting from the plane was requested to give her name “Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Garner?” the steward repeated after her. “You wouldn't be kidding me, would you?”

It is because of the children that she begrudges the time necessary to execute her job in Lansing. In April she was forced to discontinue her habit of practicing with the girls. This was particularly difficult for Janet, whom her mother believes to be the most talented. Diana and Amy, who are older, were able to make the adjustment more easily, she told me. Practicing with the children is unusually valuable, she says, for during her years of study she has loaned numerous short cuts to profitable practice which she is able to pass along to her girls.

They are short cuts that have been invaluable to her. Follow Advice “No child ever practices voluntarily,” Edward Bredshill, brilliant young Detroit pedagogue once told her when advising her to help and encourage her children in their rehearsing. She has followed his advice and each day,



Mrs. Roosevelt

the room, “I can't finish mine, you may have that if you like.” Being a guest at the White House was a tremendous thrill for Janet, her mother continued. She was allowed the run of the house and became particularly attached to the children's room where Sixty and Bazzie's games and books and toys are kept.

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Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women . . .

until April, sat down at the piano and practiced with them. Mrs. Roosevelt believes that Bredshill is the most capable teacher with whom she has ever studied. Although he departs of ever materially changing her style he has done much, she told me, toward instilling the “stage as if you were about to mount a horse.”

Her favorite story is concerned with the time that Bredshill, in a moment of desperation said to her: “I do wish, Dorothy, you wouldn't straddle onto the stage as if you were about to mount a horse.”

She prefers heavy music, music that depends on a forceful mind and strong technique for presentation. She plays little of the early Italian school, although certain Scarlatti compositions are included in her repertoire. She is extremely interested, she told me, in the modern trend in music and derives much pleasure from interpreting piano music of the newer school. She has acquired much of this from Bredshill, she says, who is particularly noted for his excursions into piano music of the moderns.

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