

Jealousy is a little devil that too often shackles the footsteps of happy people; covetousness is another devil to be sent sprawling upon its back; cheap gossip is, perhaps, the worst devil.

SIXTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 28

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1940

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"Tea for Two"

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE
IN HER thickly carpeted, book-lined study just off of the spacious sitting room in her home out on Charing Cross road, Mrs. Raymond H. Shock chatted with me one afternoon this week about her work, about the fiction she is readying for publication, about her collection of poems published in the early spring.

Bearing the title "Heel Dust and Fans," this collection of poetry, all in the lighter form, was sent by her husband, a Detroit attorney, to eastern publishers last winter without Mrs. Shock's knowledge, she told me.

"And if you think I wasn't furious when I found out about it, you don't know me!" she said. "Although each of these poems, with the exception of two, had been published separately a number of years before, I did not intend that they should be sent to the publishing house that my husband chose," Mrs. Shock went on.

"Humble Effort"
"I had gathered together these poems, which included lyrics, free verse, French and Spanish forms, just to get rid of some of my old manuscripts," she said, "and was halfheartedly considering sending them East just to sound out some of the publishing concerns. But I had no intention that my husband should take the situation into his own hands, and when he did I was simply furious."

And that is why "Heel Dust and Fans" is on the market today. "I haven't the remotest idea how it was accepted," Mrs. Shock said in speaking of what she calls her "humble effort." "It was an even greater mystery to me after I read Jack Woodford's book which discusses the monopoly in the publishing market."

The tie-up in the publishing business, which is controlled by "money interest" with each syndicate closely affiliated with the others, is quickly eliminating freelance writers, Mrs. Shock told me in quoting Woodford's new publication.

Two or three years," she continued, "will see the complete annihilation of all free lance writers. Unless their name is an important one, free lance writers, even today, have an extremely slim chance of having their work read by the publishing houses. The writer without benefit of a well known name or without the endorsement of a writing school sees his manuscript dropped into a slot and never touched."

"And that is why I will never understand how my collection of poems was accepted last winter. My chances were negligible, it seems now."

Work More Than Hobby
Her work, Mrs. Shock told me, is something more than a hobby with her. She has been writing since she was seven years old and wet her pencil lead with the tip of her tongue.

"Anyone who writes at all," she said, "must work at it more than

Motorecycle Cop Hit By Automobile

Patrolman Robert Appell is nursing a sore shoulder this week as a result of a knock-in he received last Friday evening when his police motorcycle was struck by a delivery car driven by Oscar Salkeld, 17 years old, of 1340 Holland avenue. The youth was arrested for reckless driving.

The car, belonging to the Wa-beek Pharmacy, had faulty brakes, the youth said. The owner, Mark Beare, said the car was "OK the night before." According to a police report, Salkeld was driving north on the gravel, alongside Woodward avenue near Mint's ice cream store. Appell was driving out of the Bennett garage driveway when the truck hit the side of the motorcycle, springing the handlebars and damaging the tender. Salkeld was on the wrong side of the street.

Arraignment will take place before Justice Forbes S. Hascall.

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... Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women ...



Mrs. Raymond H. Shock

poems, Mrs. Shock told me. A number of years ago a group of lyrics were assembled and put out in book form and entitled "Demi-tasse."

A rich cultural background is Mrs. Shock's. Her aunt is Eleanor Robbins Wilson, whose fiction appears in national magazines, a cousin is Addison Burbank, artist and writer, whose book "Guetaria Profile" reclines on the bookshelves of the Shock library. Her paternal grandmother painted until she was 83 years old and another cousin is Bernita Lundy, whose exquisite figurines bring high prices in stores from coast to coast.

And in addition to that, her father was one of the most famous surgeons on the West Coast.

Studied for Opera

Mrs. Shock didn't really intend to write seriously, she told me. She had always expected to be a singer and studied to that end both on the coast and at the New England Conservatory of Music.

It was while in the East that she met Howard Hanson, famous now as a composer and conductor. She remembers that her roommate was madly in love with young Hanson who was then teaching composition at the conservatory. She remembers, too, midnight snacks and Howard suddenly

shouting, "I've got it now; this is really colossal!"

And he would have it, too, the second theme of his symphony. He'd tear madly for a piano and after working out the theme would collapse in fatigue over the piano.

Those college days were gay ones, she recalls. They were exciting and filled with fun. Sometimes she thinks she has never had so much fun since.

But she forgot about her music when she married. She had coached for the operatic stage but abandoned it when a young Easterner offered her "a permanent home making job."

She has forgotten about everything but her writing. And this she can never entirely forget. It is in her blood and there just isn't much she can do about it.

Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Downey, 978 Shirley drive? Mrs. Downey said this week that she came to Birmingham because she was tired of the city noises and then couldn't sleep for the first few nights because it was so quiet here.

They moved here from the Gregory Apartments in Detroit and have three children. Two daughters, Mrs. William Gargano and Mrs. Howard Bentley, reside in Detroit, and Billy Joseph, 10 years old, lives here with his parents. He is a fifth grade pupil at Holy Name School.

Mr. Downey is affiliated with the Metro Goldwyn Mayer company in Detroit.

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Ex-Marines Form Post in County

Formation of the second U. S. Marine Corps League Post to be established in this State became a reality in Pontiac recently when ex-Marines from Lapeer, Oakland and Wayne Counties met and took official action to establish a branch to be known as Pontiac Post. Application for a charter from national headquarters at Washington, D. C., has been made. Roy C. Haney, of Birmingham, is secretary-at-large.

CULTURAL DEFENSES

"Build America's cultural defenses" will be the slogan sounded by the National Federation of Music Clubs during the coming eight months, climaxing with the 22nd Biennial Convention of the organization in Los Angeles, Calif., June 18 to 25, 1941.

PENNANT BARGAINS!

Now that the World Series hysteria has subsided—it's time to take stock of your housing problem.

Are you one of the hundreds who have recently found out how difficult it is to get a satisfactory rental? There is no relief in sight—and rents are going higher.

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