

# ONE OF THE DIVA'S RETINUE

By FANNIE HURST

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AROUND the heroic figure of Camilla von Stroheim had always whirled entourage. She had been a prima donna since she had flashed, at a robust seventeen, a magnificent Brunhilde, upon a public that welcomed her permanently to its bosom.

Paula von Stroheim, daughter of Camilla, had been born in the Waldorf-Astoria in New York city, christened in Berlin and educated by governess and tutors of practically every civilized country of the world.

"My darling-cums Pet-cat, what would mother do without you?" "My angel-faced Pet-cat, how could von Stroheim exist if it were not for you?"

Angel-face or no angel-face, well might von Stroheim ask herself that question.

From the time Paula had been six she had slavishly been serving her mother. By the time she was sixteen, no lady's maid, no masseur, no attendant of any kind whatsoever, could bring to von Stroheim the sedative kind of relaxation that emanated from the fingertips of her daughter.

Until she was about nineteen, however, these realizations did not bite in. Her adoration of her mother was so colossal that it dwarfed her sense of relative values.

As the members of the entourage and the sycophants who hung on the outskirts of the retinue that surrounded the great prima donna used to say, Pet-cat was her sole reverence.

It was when Paula was nineteen that she wedged into her life an emotion that was new, terrifying and ecstatic. A secret emotion, which she would not admit at first even to herself, and yet as it became more and more apparent it was wonderful to feel on the cot she invariably occupied at the foot of her mother's great bed, and let these strange ecstasies sweep over her in floods of enchanted sensations.

Paula was in love with the small blond accompanist who had joined her mother's retinue a few months previous. He was a German fellow, teutonic, blue-eyed, yellow-haired, who spoke English as fluently as he spoke his native tongue.

"holy terror" to the pianist who had served her and young Meyer Gluck was not unaware of this when he enlisted as her pianist.

Of all his predecessors, however, Gluck had been the most successful. Von Stroheim liked him; had taken a fancy to him from the start. She petted him, she babied him and had personally nursed him through a heavy grippe cold which had overtaken him in Seattle on one of her cross-country tours.

Paula found herself also harboring these dreams for Gluck. In the hotels where their retinue camped on its tour from city to city, her greatest joy was to find a place near the door of Gluck's room, and stand there listening to his practicing, as it came in avalanche arpeggios down the long impersonal hotel corridors.

Overwhelmingly maternal as von Stroheim was in her treatment of this girl; ardent, emotional, demonstrative and indulgent, there was not between them, at least so far as Paula was concerned, any relationship that admitted of a revelation of the minute secrets of the mind and heart, chiefly it must be admitted, because Paula up to this time, had owned none in particular. At nineteen she was practically as much of a child to her mother as she had been at nine.

"Pet-cat my darling-cums, come sit on your mother's lap." "Pet-cat angel, come rub your mother's head." "Pet-cat my baby, wake up and talk to your mother. I can't sleep."

Curious, but von Stroheim, probably too busy with the glitter of her own career, had never been acutely conscious of these physically short-comings of her daughter.

One evening, entering the hotel suite in Detroit, wrapped in sables, blinding with gems, laden with long stem roses the odor of which perpetually surrounded her, von Stroheim rushed up to her daughter, catching her tightly and ecstatically in her arms.

"My darling-cums Pet-cat, will you forgive your bad, naughty mother who loves you? She went and got herself married. You have a sweet new darling Pet-boy for a father."

That was why, when love came to Paula, strangely, shyly, secretly, it was something she could not find the voice to impart to her mother. It was sufficient in the beginning just to stand off and secretly adore, and secretly, oh so secretly, hope and hope and hope.

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At the end of the second year of this strange marriage, there was serving the great von Stroheim, not only the daughter who walked quietly in the wake of her magnificence, but the young teutonic-looking husband, who had receded by this time, in what was to be the permanent role of accompanist and member of the diva's retinue.

From city to city, from country to country, wanders this magnificent caravan de luxe, the extravagantly personable prima donna shedding effulgence everywhere she goes, and in her wake, adoring her, the little daughter named Paula, and the little husband named Gluck.

### Gas Destroys Metal

Many gases were developed during the war for one purpose or another, and one which was designed to attack the individual was found to operate in a much more effective and humane manner. It has a very rapid corroding action on metal so that a gun subjected to the fumes is rendered utterly useless in a few hours.

# Insects Destroy Many Farm Crops

## Thirty-Six Pests Cause Nearly Half of Harm—Some Is Preventable.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

About 6,000 species of insects collectively destroy \$2,000,000,000 worth of property in America each year, according to J. A. Hyslop, chief of the insect pest survey, United States Department of Agriculture. Thirty-six pests cause nearly half of the damage, and at least two-thirds of the damage is preventable.

Mr. Hyslop recognizes that monetary estimates of insect damage cannot be precise if for no other reason than the fact that destruction of part of a crop by an insect may enhance the money value of the remainder. But they do serve to indicate the relative destructiveness of the pests.

### Most Notorious Insect

Most notorious of the insect under world, Mr. Hyslop says, is the boll weevil, which annually destroys 12 per cent of the cotton crop, or cotton worth \$163,000,000.

Next in destructiveness is another pest of the cotton crop, the bollworm, which, because of its versatility in feeding, is likewise known as the corn ear worm and the tomato fruit worm.

Late blight, which usually occurs in the fall if the season is wet, is another menace, say the specialists. A good coating of bordeaux mixture prevents this disease from getting a foothold.

Each year insects damage forests and forest products worth about \$138,000,000. One of these, the spruce bud worm, ranks third in our list of "public enemies" by reason of an annual damage of \$71,000,000.

Termites, or white ants, add 1 per cent annually to the depreciation of wooden buildings in this country. Their damage to farm buildings alone reaches about \$20,000,000 annually.

Cattle grubs cause a loss to the beef industry of nearly \$30,000,000 annually, and twice as much to the dairy industry. The damage to hides alone amounts to about \$5,000,000 a year.

Concerning the long list of insects that attack stored grain, dried foods, clothing, and furniture and those household nuisances, the cockroaches, ants, and fleas, Mr. Hyslop says the damage is incalculable. Nor can we measure the great drain by insects on the energy, thrift, efficiency, and comfort of man and beast, and the toll of diseases transmitted by these parasites.

The federal government expends annually about \$2,500,000 in entomological research, some years more than \$5,000,000 in eradication campaigns and in the maintenance of quarantines to keep dangerous insects out of this country.

### Satisfactory Storage for Potatoes in Pits

Properly constructed pits provide cheap but satisfactory storage for potatoes throughout the storage season. The spuds should be placed in the pit as soon as harvested but should be given only a light covering at first, says A. E. Hutchins, vegetable specialist, University farm, St. Paul.

Pits should be made in well drained soils. A good size is four feet deep, six feet wide, and as long as needed. Pits of the above width and depth will hold about 100 bushels for each five feet of length.

Complete directions, including simple diagrams, for making and using storage pits are contained in Special Bulletin No. 85 of the Minnesota agricultural extension division.

### Improve Cream Quality by Frequent Delivery

In reference to the age of cream and the established fact that beyond four days cream does not keep well on the farm, the understanding and acceptance by the cream producers, that cream should be delivered within four-day periods, is growing.

Perhaps an even more important step is the system now in vogue whereby the cream agent is not paid a commission or compensated in any manner if he pays the top price for undesirable or low-grade cream.

A closer check is also carried on in connection with transportation companies and they are made to assume losses when there is an undue delay in transportation or an undue exposure that causes deterioration of the product.

There is no doubt that these fundamental control factors, if carried out and pursued by everybody in the business, constantly, from day to day, will have the effect of improving cream quality from year to year.

# Spraying Potatoes During August Bes.

## Grower Will Be Well Repaid for Careful Work.

August is usually the month which makes or breaks a potato crop and, therefore, the potato grower will be well repaid for careful spraying in this month. In the opinion of insect and plant disease specialists from the Ohio State University.

Whether heavy rains occur in August and September or the drought continues, it is equally important to spray, say the specialists. During normal August weather two troubles bother potatoes in Ohio, they say; one is the hopperburn disease and the other is sunscald.

All the food that is stored in the potato tuber is manufactured by the leaves, and when the leaves ripen and die permanently, or insects and diseases cut down the leaf area, the potato yield is reduced, say the specialists.

Plants that are kept free of leafhoppers are not affected with hopper burn, and bordeaux mixture spray protects the potatoes from leaf hoppers in two ways—it acts as a repellent and kills insects that suck the juice from the copper-treated plant.

Late blight, which usually occurs in the fall if the season is wet, is another menace, say the specialists. A good coating of bordeaux mixture prevents this disease from getting a foothold. Sprays, under 300 pounds pressure, applied eight or twelve times a season during the growth period of the vines, will give increases of approximately 30 or 40 per cent in yield, Ohio experiments have shown.

### Inbreeding Is System Requiring Much Skill

Here is some breeding advice for breeders of pure bred dairy cattle and with an application to those farmers who use the same bull, year after year, breeding him to his daughters and granddaughters. It is from V. A. Rice, author of "Breeding and Improvement of Farm Animals." He writes: "Inbreeding is a system that should be practiced only by the better class of breeders who are able to discern weaknesses and who know the inherent weaknesses of their animals through a thorough knowledge of the individual's ancestry."

### Sweet Clover Superior Pasture in Corn Belt

Bluegrass, which forms the bulk of our pasture, is a plant which makes little growth during the hot, dry season of summer. For this reason it has failed to produce profitably in much of the corn belt country. Bluegrass thrives best during the cool, moist weather and this condition does not exist except in a few limited sections.

### Farm Hints

Why not build a silo? The cowpea is always a good hay crop. There is a wide choice of cowpea varieties. The Whipperwill and New Era are hay and seed producers.

As a soil building crop for comparatively poor soils, the cowpea has outstanding advantages. It will do well on quite acid soils lacking in lime.

There are more than 500,000 species of insects known to science, and an amateur gardener often feels that at least half of them are camping out in his backyard.

Go over the budding currant bushes with a copious shower of nicotine solution. Currant bushes are the greatest nurse plants for aphids, which will spendly go to everything in the garden.

For the home garden it is desirable to make successful seedlings of snap beans, inasmuch as it is certainly impossible for one planting to continue to produce beans during the entire frost-free season.

Although prunes for drying purposes are not usually thinned, both prunes and plums which are to be shipped fresh require thinning to produce a desirable size, says the Oregon experiment station.

# Ant a Constant Puzzle to Students of Nature

The ant presents an inexhaustible wealth of delight. Should one have longed to live in the midst of a primitive society, he may literally find one in the pensive ants of the north—dwellers of the damp sun-flecked soil of our deep woods, and shunners of light.

They live their lives entirely underground, writes C. Parker Haskins in Nature Magazine of Washington, save for the flying queens and males. They may be seen in midsummer cautiously warming their young under the coolest and dampest of stones. While the larvae lie neglected in the brood chamber, the queens work as do the workers, for the colonies may number but ten or a dozen individuals all told.

The ant offers a wealth of sociological, ethnological and biological problems. What is the tie which binds the advanced ant guest or pet—a vicious parasite in attractive garb—to its host, and enables it to exploit every instinct of its benefactor, while destroying the very brood of its host?

What is the marvelous instinct whereby a parasitic young queen may persuade the workers of the host species to assassinate their own queen in her favor? At what time—certainly in prelogocene years—did the true ant first split from the stock of its mysterious, subterranean wasplike ancestor? How did the ant first come to America, supposing it to have originated to the eastward?

### Find Builders' Secrets in Cupola of Pantheon

Architects who have been repairing the cupola of the Pantheon, which with the Colosseum is the most important of Rome's monuments, claim they have discovered the secret of the building methods of the ancient Romans. In flinging the vast arches of the dome up from the already high building on which it rests. The discoveries are of extreme importance from a technical point of view, it is said.

### Cylinder Made Air Pump

A new device that can be screwed into the spark plug hole of one of the auto's cylinders turns that cylinder into an air pump that will produce two and a half cubic feet of free air per minute. This much air is sufficient to spray oil paint, germicide, insecticide, and liquids, says Popular Science Monthly.

### So It Goes

"Well, Hiram, you'll soon be able to sell your goldenrod for tites." "Yes; it's dying out now."

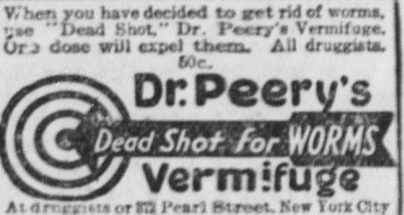
He deservedly loses his own property who loses that of another.—Phaedrus.



# Feel 100% Younger

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### Bagpipes Help Launching

Two killed Scots loudly played bagpipes to give a Scottish atmosphere at the launching in Dunbarton, Scotland, of the gayly befagged motor vessel Lochfyne.

### Secret of Salesmanship

Salesmanship isn't primarily a matter of goods at all, but of knowledge and understanding people.—American Magazine.

### We're All Salesmen

All of us are continually trying to sell something—usually ourselves.—American Magazine.

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