ONE OF THE DIVA'S RETINUE By FANNIE HURST

(@ by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)
(WNU Service.)

ROUND 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. For the first fourteen years of her triumphant career, during the lifetime of Herr Graf von Stroheim, one of Germany's magnates, she had three times toured around the world in operatic and concert capacity, success always in her

After the death of her husband, Camilla had spent most of her time in America, traveling in continuous tours with her daughter, three or four maids, secretaries, chauffeurs and a special valet whose exclusive duty was to care for the dozen or so Daschunds. which invariably made up part of the diya's caravan.

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. At seventeen she was a pasty-faced girl, given to occasional outbursts of tiny pimples, narrow-shouldered, slightly nearsighted, and as far removed as possible, from the exuberant, creaturebeauty of her mother and in no way similar to the stout expansive figure that had been her father's.

Curious, but von Stroheim, probably too busy with the glitter of her own career, had never been acutely conscious of these physically shortcomings of her daughter. She adored her. She lavished endearments, gifts, indulgences, and was most elaborately demonstrative. She had a nickname for Paula; a ridiculous one. "Pet-cat."

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

Angel-face or no angle-face, well might von Stroheim ask herself that

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. Paula served her mother heart, soul and body. She was on call in the watches of the night, when the great diva, given to insomnia, wanted to talk. She was on call in the wings of the opera house, when the great diva, impatient of her physicians, wanted Paula, who stood waiting with a throat syringe. She was on call with the train schedule; concert schedule; hotel and pasty-faced little Paula was doomed to walk in the wake of

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. Von Stroheim was like a great sun in the center of Paula's life, throwing its fierce, powerful rays everywhere about her. The tempers, the temperaments, the moods, the vagaries of her mother, were the indicators, so to speak, in the life of Paula. When von Stroheim smiled. Paula smiled. When von Stroheim threw glassware and tore silk to shreds, Paula's little soul quailed within her. But it must be said for von Stroheim, that whatever her moods, whatever her fluctuations of temperament, her attitudes toward her child

were chiefly those of adoration. As the members of the entourage and the sychophants who hung on the outskirts of the retinue that surrounded the great prima donna used to say, Pet-cat was her sole reverence. Petcat was the only creature on earth she really loved. And fiercely Paula loved in return; worshipped the flowerstrewn ground on which her mother trod, had no thought of self, because hers was bound up in the magnificence of von Stroheim.

It was when Paula was nineteen that there 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 He 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 sen-

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, a brilliant musician with promise of a fine career of his own, after a few years of apprenticeship as accompanist. Von Stroheim was not easy to serve in this capacity. Her experience with accompanists was varied and full of all kinds of regretable experiences. They came,

"holy terror" to the planists 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. She even had a name for him, as ridiculous in its way as Paula's. 'Pet-boy." The young man flushed whenever she applied it to him, even after months in her service. It made him feel ridiculous, and at heart he was a shy, serious, ambitious, fellow, full of dreams of ultimate pianistic triumphs.

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.

Paula was in love. 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. Panla was no problem to von Stroheim for two reasons: the great diva was to occupied with the intricate problems of her famous self and so subtly had the eventful years slipped by, that von Stroheim had no conception of the fact that her daughter was an adult.

"Pet-cat my darling-cums, come sit on your mother's lap." "Pet-cat angel, cowe rub your mother's head," "Petcat my baby, wake up and talk to your mother. I can't sleep." And always the talk was of the diva; her triumphs, her defeats, her hopes, her chagrins, her tempers, her loves, her hates. And of all of them there were aplenty, because as time, went on, and her position became more and more secure, von Stroheim became more and

more the temperamental operatic star. 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.

And out of the hoping was to come

One evening, entering the hotel suite 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."

Precisely that had happened. Von Stroheim and Gluck had been married by a local magistrate. A thunderclap had descended upon the life of a narrow, pasty-faced little person known schedule. In other words, the frail as Paula von Stroheim. A thunderclap that was to reverberate through a life time.

Strange, that neither von Stroheim nor young Gluck were ever to have an inkling of this secret catastrophe in the heart and soul of Paula. She was the same unobtrusive, willing little soul she had always been. Von Stroheim, if possible, was more flercely, relentlessly, maternal after her marriage, than she had ever been before. The terrible part to Paula was that Gluck was so gentle, so considerate of her well-being; so eager to successfully serve in his fantastic capacity as stepfather. After all, he was only eight years the senior of Paula.

What happened subsequently came so gradually that it is doubtful if Gluck was conscious of it until after the condition was too well established to be remedied. It is doubtful if he even desired a remedy, so all-embracing, so powerful, so possessive, and so sedative was the claim of von Stroheim upon his heart and mind. She showered him with the magnificence of her affections, just such as she had showered Paula. She smothered him with indulgence, with endearments, and with a quality that transcended his own, and just as it had transcend-

ed Paula's. 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 re-

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 renthey went. She was known as a dered 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 can not 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 underworld, Mr. Hyslop says, is the boll weevil, which annually destroys 12 per cent of the cotton crop, or cotton worth \$163,000,000. To this must be

added \$1,500,000 a year that growers spend in an attempt to control the

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. Its destruction is estimated at \$24,000,000 on the cotton crop, \$75,-000,000 on field corn, \$4,000,00 on sweet corn, and \$500,000 on tomatoes. Collectively, these damages exceed \$100,000,000.

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. In the 10-year period 1910-1920 it destroyed about 250,000,000 cords of pulpwood-enough to supply the nation for about 25 years at the present rate of demand.

Damage Buildings. 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 \$29,000,000 annually.

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

Concerning the long list of insects that attack stored grain, dried foods, clothing, and furniture and those in Detroit, wrapped in sables, blazing clothing, and household nuisances, the cockronches, 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 \$5,500,000 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, Care must be taken to keep them dry and well ventilated, he cautions, and when the ground freezes the covering should be increased.

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. Ventilators should be be placed every five feet. These may be six inches in diameter and three

feet long. Complete directions, including simple diagrams, for making and using storage pits are contained in Special Bulletin No. 85 of the Minnesota agricultural extension division. This booklet also discusses cellars and warehouses, as well as the general subject of potato growing. It may be had free by writing Mailing Room, University Farm, St. Paul.

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 fourday 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 usally 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 for 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. They are similar in appearance; both start to kill the leaves at the tip or margin. The withered portion turns brown, becomes dry and brittle and tends to roll.

All the food that is stored in the potato tuber is manufactured by the leaves, and when the leaves ripen and dle permaturely, 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, Ohlo experiments have shown.

Inbreeding Is System

Requiring Mach 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. Moreover, it should be practiced by breeders who will season their inbreeding operations by a very rigid selection, by a very ruthless weeding out of undesirables. Used in this way, inbreeding is the most valuable system of breeding a breeder can use. It is, however, a two-edged sword. It also has the greatest likelihood of harm. If outcrossing is the safest system, inbreeding is certainly the most dangerous, not because of anything inherent in the system but because of the inheritance involved."

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 scason 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. Bluegrass on hundred-dollarper-acre land is questionable in any section of the corn belt, and sweet clover is proving a much superior pasture plant in this region. Sweet clover grows during hot, dry weather, as its roots are deep. It is a splendid plant to feed with corn or cane silage, and dairy cattle thus supplied will produce well and with great economy.

Why not build a silo?

The cowpea is always a good hay

There is a wide choice of cowpea varieties. The Whippoorwill 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 current bushes with a copious shower of nicotine solution. Currant bushes are the greatest nurse plants for aphis, which will speedily go to everything in the gar-

For the home garden it is desirable to make successful seedings 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 ponerine ants of the north-dwellers of the damp sunflecked soil of our deep woods, and shunners of light.

They live their lives entirely under ground, 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 members fight among themselves for the spoil scattered half dissected on the floor, as the first humans fought in the early day of man's existence.

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 timecertainly in preoligocene 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 repair

ing 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, for Michel angelo himself, who built the dome of Saint Peter's, admitted that he was bafiled by the dome of the Pantheon, and previous to Michelangelo, Brunsellesclu, builder of the dome of the Florence cathedral. made careful measurements and studies of the Pantheon dome in preparation for his Florence labors. but was never able to solve the mystery of how the old Roman architects worked.

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.

On the down stroke of the piston in the cylinder to which the device On the up stroke, this valve closes the pipe leading to the spray equipment. If more air is needed than can be obtained from one cylinder in this way, two of the devices can be used at the same time so as to work at an engine speed equivalent to a road speed of 20 miles an hour.

So It Goes

to sell your goldenrod for tires." "Yes; it's dying out now."

He deservedly loses his own properry who loses that of another .--Phaedrus.

Feel 100% Younger

IF YOU feel older than your years—if you are "run-down" and unhappy—if you long for the vitality and enthusiasm of youth-you can fight weakness and

aid Nature by taking Fellows' Syrup It builds up the weakened system by restoring what Nature demands. The result is an immediate improvement in appetite. You eat better, sleep better and feel years younger.

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W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 26-1931.

Bagpipes Help Launching

Two killed Scots loudly played bagpipes to give a Scottish atmosphere at the launching in Dumis fitted, the piston sucks in outside barton, Scotland, of the gayly beair through a spring-operated valve. flagged motor vessel Lochfyne, Lady Stamp christened the vessel, and the and another opens, allowing the air pipers played "The Road to the to flow into a storage tank or into Isles" as it slid down to the water.

Heard at a Party

"Separated, have they? And it was a case of love at first sight." "Which I have noticed, my dear. double the output. It is designed to often ends in divorce a first slight."

Secret of Salesmanship

Salesmanship isn't primarily a matter of goods at all, but of know-"Well, Hiram, you'll soon be able ing and understanding people,-American Magazine.

> We're All Salesmen All of us are continually trying to sell something-usually ourselves .-American Magazine.



At Every Point of the Compass Cuticura Preparations

Await Your Approval THE SOAP, pure and fragrant, used daily, cleanses and purifies, the **Ointment**, antiseptic and healing, removes pimples or rashes, the **Taleum**, pure and smooth, is ideal after bathing and shaving. The new Cuticura Shaving Cream gives a rich, creamy lather that remains moist throughout the shave. Soap 25c. Ointment 25c. and 50c. Talcourn 25c. Shaving Gram 35c. Proprietors: Petter Drug & Chemical Corporation, Malden, Mass. Try the new Cuticura Shaving Cream.

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