

THREE LITTLE MAIDS

By JOSEPH W. LaBINE

When the leaves were turning yellow in the autumn of 1908, three little maids in flowing silken gowns marched up the stairs of a weatherbeaten Victorian building in Macon, Georgia, and breathlessly confronted the registrar of Wesleyan college, oldest chartered woman's college in the world.

Temporarily taken aback, the registrar quickly regained his composure and flipped open the pages of a great ledger. In the great book, the three little maids inscribed, one after the other, these names:

"E-Ling Soong
"Ching-Ling Soong
"May-Ling Soong
"Father: Charles Jones Soong, Shanghai, China."

Then, armed with certificates of registration, the three little maids climbed more stairs, marched down a long corridor toward their rooms—and toward a place in history as one of the greatest trios of women in the chronicles of mankind.

Today, with China fighting for her very life as a free and independent democracy, the enrollment of the three Soong sisters at Wesleyan takes on many aspects of a turning point in history. For when the three little Chinese maids registered at an American college, the history of China began re-shaping itself to fit an American pattern.

It was a process which had been heading toward a climax for a full quarter-century.

In the 1880s the father of the three Soong girls, Charles Jones Soong, arrived in the United States as a poor relation, come to serve an apprenticeship with a wealthy uncle in Boston.

Fortunately for China, however, Charles Soong found a way out. Looking about for an American solution to his problem, he found it in the very best tradition of the Bay state. He ran away to sea, be-



E-Ling, Charles Soong's second daughter, as she appeared during school days at Macon, Ga. Today she is married to Dr. H. H. Kung, premier of China, an American university graduate and a descendant of Confucius.

ginning as a cabin boy on a steamship plying the coastwise channels between Boston and Savannah, Ga.

In the sleepy, lush civilization of the American deep South, Charles Soong found something kindred to the slow but determined life of the agricultural China which had given him birth. Soon the little Oriental cabin boy took off his white jacket for the last time and enrolled as a student at Duke university.

Back to the Orient.

When Charles Soong returned to China as a publisher of Bibles, one of his first social projects was to found the Chinese Young Men's Christian association.

And as his three daughters and his son grew, Charles Soong resolved to bring them up in the American way which had so profoundly influenced his own life. In the care of a missionary returning to the United States, he sent his four children to college—the boy, T. V. Soong, to Harvard; the three girls to staunch old Methodist Wesleyan.

The three Soong sisters spoke many times of their hope that China might some day become a great republic like the United States. And in 1911, they saw the first of their dreams for China come true when China became a republic under the inspired leadership of one of history's great republicans, Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

The enthusiasm of the second Soong sister, Ching-Ling, at this event is still remembered at Wesleyan. Classmates say that when first news came of Sun Yat-sen's success, Ching-Ling climbed onto a



As a student at Wesleyan, little Ching-Ling exclaimed over the success of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, China's "George Washington." Later she married him, helping infuse the democratic American spirit into China's 400,000,000 people.

chair to pull down the old Imperial Dragon from her wall and put in its place the flag of the new Republic of China. Throwing the old banner to the floor, she exclaimed:

"Sun Yat-sen has achieved one of the most glorious deeds in the history of the world."

She Was Right.

Her enthusiasm was almost prophetic, for just four years later little Ching-Ling became the bride of Sun Yat-sen and, as his wife, was able to aid him in his mission of infusing the democratic American spirit into China's 400,000,000 people.

The historic significance of the American education of the Soong sisters became even more profound when the eldest, E-Ling, married Dr. H. H. Kung, himself an American university graduate as well as a descendant of Confucius and today the premier of China.

When her sisters returned to China, May-Ling transferred to Wellesley college in Massachusetts, to be near her brother at Harvard.

That little May-Ling would ever become more famous than her two illustrious sisters seemed almost an impossibility.

But in 1927 at one of the innumerable gatherings at the Soong house, May-Ling met a slim, young leader of the Chinese Republicans, Chiang Kai-shek, who had just concluded a spectacular campaign to unite China solidly behind the principles of Sun Yat-sen.

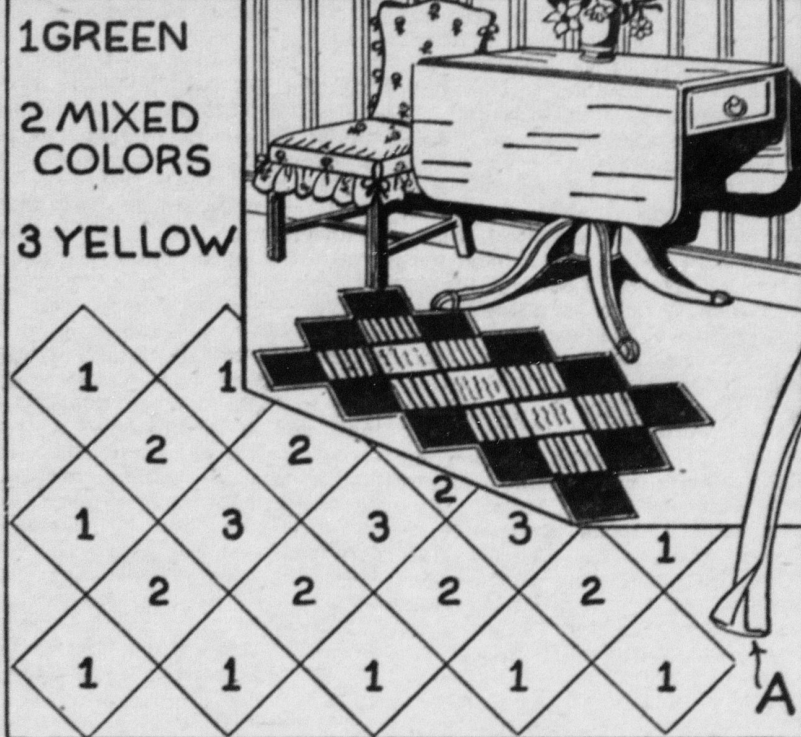
Chiang Kai-shek fell in love with May-Ling. Their courtship was an impetuous and a strange one. For interspersed with love-making were interminable discussions of economics, of China's history, her future, of great reforms and great plans. During the courtship, May-Ling converted Chiang Kai-shek to Christianity. He quickly became one of the



May Ling, who frightened Wellesley college by swinging a curved Chinese scimitar over her head, is now Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of China's leader in the current war of defense against the invading Japanese. She deserves her rank as one of the world's most notable women.

HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Rag Rug Crocheted in Squares.

THE diagram shows how the contrasting squares are arranged to give the rug its interesting design. Whatever color scheme you use, black will be most effective for joining the squares and for an edging of single crochet around the outside of the rug. If the materials you have are not the colors you want, don't forget there is always the dye pot. Producing your own colors may be the most exciting part of rug making.

A crocheted rag rug like the one shown here uses odds and ends. Wool rags make a nicer rug than cotton, or rug yarn may be substituted if desired. Either a wood or large steel crochet hook is used. The rug shown here measures 36 by 21 inches. The 5-inch squares are made separate-

ly in single crochet stitch and then joined with crochet slip-stitch. If rags are used, tear or cut the strips not more than 1 1/4 inches wide, and work with the raw edges turned in as shown here at A. Measure each square carefully so they will all be exactly the same size. Full instructions for slip covers for side chairs like the one shown are in the book offered below.

NOTE: Every Homemaker should have a copy of Mrs. Spears' book SEWING, for the Home Decorator. Forty-eight pages of illustrated directions for making slip-covers and curtains; also dressing tables; lampshades and other useful articles for the home. Price 25 cents postpaid (coin preferred). Address Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

AROUND the HOUSE Items of Interest to the Housewife

Protecting Hat Band.—A strip of cellophane, folded and placed under the inside hat band, will prevent perspiration and oil from staining the outside ribbon or band.

Firm Pie Crust.—To prevent the lower crust of a fruit pie becoming soggy, brush it over with the white of an egg before putting in the fruit filling.

When Tying Bundles.—Twine used in tying bundles should always be dampened. It will tie much tighter and will not slip when knots are made.

To Stiffen Meringue.—A generous pinch of soda added to the egg whites before they are beaten will make meringue stand up better.

For Light Muffins.—When making muffins in iron pans, grease the pans and heat them in the oven before putting the batter in. Your muffins will then be much lighter.

Sparing the Tablecloth.—Use white waxed paper under the child's tray on table. The paper saves the tablecloth and is barely noticeable.

Cleaning Upholstered Pieces.—Heavy upholstered pieces that cannot readily be taken outside can be freed from dust by placing

over them an old sheet wrung out in hot water and then beating well with a cane. The sheet will absorb the dust.

When Fat Catches Fire.—Never throw water on burning fat. Use flour instead. Water only spreads the blaze.

Pressing Pleated Skirt.—Wire paper clips may be used very successfully to hold pleats in position when pressing a skirt.

Perhaps Forgetful Chap Could Use Sharp Reply

A young man wrote to a business firm, ordering a razor: "Dear Sirs: Please find enclosed a dollar for one of your razors as advertised and oblige. John Jones."

"P.S.—I forgot to enclose the dollar, but no doubt a firm of your standing will send the razor anyway."

The firm replied as follows: "Dear Sir: Your order received. Sending the razor as requested and hope it will prove satisfactory."

"P.S.—We forgot to enclose the razor, but no doubt a man with your cheek will have no need of it."

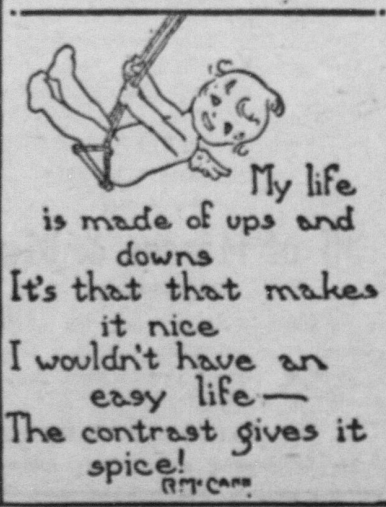
Dog Man's Friend, but—

No one likes to quarrel with the statement that the dog is man's best friend. In fact, we all like to believe it without question. But neighborhood dogs that insist on staining prized ornamental evergreens and shrubbery certainly do put a heavy strain on friendship.

Home owners have faced this problem sadly, angrily and ineffectually—until recently a very simple solution came to light.

All that you do is spray the lower branches of your evergreens and shrubs with a little nicotine sulphate mixed in water. It's harmless to plants—harmless to the dogs—and brings a tremendous relief to frayed tempers. You see, the desired result comes because dogs do not like the nicotine sulphate odor and give a wide berth to any spot where that odor is found.

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB



Thought Is Life
Thought means life, since those who do not think do not live in any high or real sense. Thinking makes the man.—A. B. Alcott.

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