

# MME. WALSKA, BEAUTIFUL BIRD OF PARADISE, DECLARES THAT HER HUSBAND MUST BE A SLAVE

*Will Harold McCormick, ex-Son-in-Law of John D. Rockefeller and Harvester Trust Millionaire, Agree to This When He Takes the Polish Beauty for His Bride This Fall?*

*WOULD-BE NIGHTINGALE LONGS FOR HAPPINESS AFTER THREE MATRIMONIAL TRIES*

*Called a Failure on the Operatic Stage and Her Vaudeville Venture Termed "Simply Dreadful" Will This Beautiful Woman Try Either of These Ventures Again?*

**THIS** is the story of a Bird of Paradise, who would a Nightingale be. A paradox of phenomenal success, poisoned by the bitter cup of failure.

It is the story of an exotic, blue-eyed beauty from out of Poland, a peasant's daughter, who has just divorced her "America's richest bachelor" and who will soon marry another of our wealthiest men. But withal, she is eating out her heart because the great passion of her life is to be a famous prima donna. And she cannot sing, so the critics say.

It is, in fact, the story of Ganna Walska.

Ganna has been married three times and is to marry again. Ganna has had millions laid at her feet, poured over her head, hung upon her beautiful person in the form of jewels—yet Ganna has been unhappy.

She wants the acclaim of the multitude, but she has failed miserably in everything she has attempted upon the stage.

She became the wife of Alexander Smith Cochran, Yonkers carpet king, and she yearned for the thunder of applause that greets a successful appearance. In Cuba they hooted her from the stage.

**Will Ganna Try Again For Operatic Honors?**

Next she is to marry Harold F. McCormick, of the International Harvester Company. Will she try again for operatic honors? No one but herself can tell.

The man who would be her husband must be her slave. She has said so herself. Evidently the role of slavery did not please good-natured, easy-going, steady, reliable old Aleck Cochran. Anyhow, he gave her \$200,000, and recently the divorce was arranged.

At about the same time McCormick—who has been buzzing around Ganna for quite some time—obtains a divorce from Edith Rockefeller McCormick, daughter of John D. Rockefeller. Now he is ready to try again to get a slave to his imperious beauty from Poland.

Just who Ganna Walska is and what she is has only been ascertained from herself. And she chooses to be mysterious. The greatest mystery of all is how this Polish girl, of most obscure parentage, managed to marry twice to New Yorkers, and get the opportunity to make two stupendous fiascos on the stage, all within the space of a few years.

To begin with Ganna Walska is in her early thirties, is about five feet, six inches in height, is aristocratic looking, and refined. Her parents are Napoleon Puzos and Caroline Ulakowka, Polish peasants of Warsaw.

Her eyes are cold steel blue, her profile perfectly Grecian, and her lips full. She weighs about 150 pounds. She is admittedly one of the most beautiful women ever to arrive at New York. Little or nothing was known about her when she first landed.

She bore with her, among others, a letter of introduction from Anna Held to "Diamond Jim" Brady. She submitted a fantastically furnished apartment in the Sonoma Apartment Building, 45 Broadway and Fifty-fifth street, close to the bright white lights of Broadway. A part of the Byzantine decorative effect was huge bronze bowls that had formerly occupied positions in the Cafe de Opera.

Her husband, she said, before their divorce, had been "Baron" Arcadie Elzongore, a captain in the army of the Czar. She did not mention the divorce then. She was to have made an American debut in Hammerstein's Victoria Music Hall, in February 1915, but professed to have received word of her husband's death in East Prussia. So prostrated was she that the performance was called off.

**Even a Fiance Is Bad**

It was at this juncture that Ganna made her famous remark concerning husbands and slaves. "I cannot think of marriage," she exclaimed, in fractured English. "To me art is everything.

"Husband? Never again, as you say in this country. He is a hindrance to art, he gets in the way, he refuses to sacrifice for my sake. Even a fiance is bad.

"My husband must be my slave," she sighed. "It is hard to find men in this country who are willing to be slaves. They are most quick to offer themselves in marriage. Ah, but yes. They see you once on the stage, and ask you to wed them the same night. I—even I—have received dozens of proposals.

"Everything is done in a rush. I do not like that. A man should take time, and come and talk, and flirt, a long time before he offers himself.

"But no. One, two, three—married—and divorce after that. Mr. Palmer, he was a very nice—a very strong man. He has a will of his own, and I, alas, I also. I saw there would soon be a clash. First, he wanted me to change my music teacher for a woman. He said she was better for my voice training. I put down my foot. I said 'No.'

"Soon after this unhappy affair much time was devoted to her music by Mme. Walska. She was much in the company of William Thornor, her teacher. Through his influence she met nearly every one of prominence in musical circles, and was a welcome guest at every gathering. Because of her charm



MR EDITH ROCKEFELLER MCCORMICK

Strangely enough, she suffered severely from neurasthenia. Gay and light-hearted among her friends, when alone she was subject to moods of the deepest, darkest depression. So, distressing became this malady she went to see Dr. Joseph Fraenkel, a specialist on neurotics and a man many years her senior.

**Visits Doctor's Office, a Photo, Then Marriage**

Upon her first visit to his office she noticed on his desk the portrait of a young woman.

"How do you happen to have my photograph?" she asked, as the portrait resembled her to a remarkable degree.

"Unfortunately, that is not your photograph," answered the specialist, "but it is the picture of a girl with whom I was in love twenty years ago."

The elderly scientist was a bachelor, and this meeting culminated in their marriage. He was twenty-five years her senior, and almost a recluse, as far as society was concerned. She moved to his home in East Ninety-fourth street and began giving a series of musicals.

The leading singers of the world and the fashionables of New York crowded her drawing room, and frequently there would be met Caruso, Geraldine Farrar, Muratore or Galli-Curci. Ganna was most tactful. Often she would ask them to sing—but she never sang herself.

This agreeable life continued for two years, but it was darkened by the tragedy of her failure to secure an engagement at the Metropolitan Opera House and the fiasco in Havana.

Director Gatti, of the Metropolitan, steadfastly refused to engage her. She was on the "artists' list" at the door of the Metropolitan, and before her marriage had attended every performance, queuing it, with her gowns and jewels, up and down the promenade.

From Ganna's viewpoint never was a prima donna subjected to a more humiliating experience than the affair in Cuba. In 1917, Mrs. Fraenkel, or Ganna Walska, as she continued to call herself, went to Havana for her operatic debut there. Her experience was a stormy one. She was to have sung the role of "Thais," but later was persuaded to appear in the Russian opera, "Fedora." Instead, the audience hooted her.

**Ganna Told She Lacked World-Wide Reputation**

"I told her that she did not have a world-wide reputation, and that that is needed to draw people in Havana. I explained to her the fact that she might lose money. It was delicate, was it not? But Mme. Walska said that it would be adjusted. She personally would guarantee us against loss. So, of course, she went to Havana.

"Mme. Walska gets dreadfully nervous when she is in rehearsal. Everything must be just so. And before the audience it is impossible. She gets what seems to be stage fright. She becomes ill. She loses her voice. It is unfortunate.

**Sued Opera Company But Suit Is Defaulted**

Upon her return to New York after that performance, she sued the opera company for \$50,000—but the suit went by default. She named Adolfo Braciale and Anthony Bagarozzy, representatives of the Havana Opera Company, and charged she did not have sufficient time in which to rehearse; that she was forced to sing "against her will;" that she met with threats of personal violence, and that her colleagues were under "standard."

It was alleged further that jewels valued at \$12,000 were taken from her, and returned only when she gave Braciale \$4000. The charges were denied absolutely by the defendants, who offered a legal paper, in English and Italian, which they said she had signed shortly after her debut. This paper reads:

"On account of state of health, Mme. Ganna Walska deems it advisable to return to New York, suspending her artistic tour with the Campagna Braciale. Mme. Walska declares herself debtor to Mr. Braciale for the sum of \$6000.



MME. GANNA WALSKA



Mr McCormick and Mme. Walska at fancy dress ball

representing the difference between the actual receipts of the night of her debut and the sum that would normally represent the total receipts.

Whether or not the soprano followed the continental custom of paying for her debut, much attention was attracted in Havana by her gorgeous costumes, and her brilliant jewels. Immediately after the unfortunate performance of "Fedora" she became ill, packed up and returned to New York.

Discussing the affair, Mr. Bagarozzy said, "Mme. Walska told me that through her husband, Dr. Fraenkel, she could get a hearing at the Metropolitan. But the Metropolitan takes only singers of experience. I thought that she, a nice-looking stylish woman, would look good in 'Fedora,' and besides, she knows something of Russian life.

**Who Couldn't a Kiss Well**

"I hate a man who does not kiss well," she was widely quoted as saying. "This Joseph Hislop kisses, oh, so wonderfully, in the opera. No, my husband would not be jealous."

Directed by McCormick himself, the "angel of the Chicago opera," elaborate preparations were made for the Chicago debut. "Zaza" was the opera. In the company supporting Mme. Walska were Titta Ruflo and Edward Johnson.

At rehearsal, so the story goes, Mme. Walska appeared, beautiful, radiant, and wearing a gown that made Mary Garden's mirror dress look like a winter overcoat.

Then, a few hours before the curtain was due to rise on "Zaza," the "world's richest prima donna" left her magnificent suite at the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago and without explanation returned to New York and applied for passports. There was no time to obtain a new singer for the title role. The opera was postponed.

**Riches Bachelors' Has Title He Relinquished**

"THANK God, I am still a bachelor."

These are the words Alexander Smith Cochran, "world's richest bachelor," took back when he married Mme. Ganna Walska, beautiful, picturesque and audacious Polish singer.

Now the Cochrans have been divorced, and the "richest bachelor" has a free foot once more. He is free to marry whom he chooses, under the terms of the divorce decree, and society is waiting to see whether one unmarried plunge will be sufficient to deter him from another attempt.

and called the trip off. He gave away \$1,000,000 in public and private charities.

He had defeated the Kaiser's yacht Meteor in 1910, the schooner Westward taking away the Jubilee Cup, much to the Kaiser's disgust. When the war broke out he went to Belgium to aid the victims. He donated several vessels to the British Government. Later he gave the Warrior, the big steam yacht in which he had scored the seas.

When America entered the war, King George placed Cochran in command of the Warrior, and this made him an officer in the Royal Navy.

Mme. Walska's voice was not what it should be, was the explanation. Some say the leading singers and conductor struck and refused to work with her because she could not sing. Whatever the trouble, the great debut never occurred.

Then came the reports of troubles between the singer and her husband, charges and counter-charges, and eventually suit for divorce. During the course of this proceeding Cochran, branded by Mme. Walska's lawyers as "a male vamp—a man who tires of everything, and now wants to get rid of his wife as he would a horse or a town house."



ALEX SMITH COCHRAN



HAROLD F. MCCORMICK

**"One-Two-Three-Married" Is U. S. Way, Says Ganna**

"MY husband must be my slave," said Ganna Walska. "It is hard to find men in this country who are willing to be slaves. They are quick to offer themselves in marriage—but—

"They see you once on the stage, and ask you to wed them the same night. I—even I—have received dozens of such proposals. 'Everything in America is done with a rush. I do not like that. The man should take time to come and talk—and flirt—some long while before he offers himself.

"But no—one, two, three—married—and divorce after that."

Finally Cochran divorced her in Paris early in that month, on grounds of incompatibility, the decree to be absolute, and both being free to rewed. Upon the heels of this announcement came that of the approaching marriage of Ganna to McCormick, whose own divorce has just been completed. Ganna and McCormick, it is expected, will marry in the autumn.

**Uncommon Sense: Outfitting for the Journey**

By JOHN BLAKE

**3000 AT BAND CONCERT**

New Leader, Pasquale Bianculli, Given Warm Reception

The plaza in front of the Municipal Band stand at Broad street and the Parkway, was occupied by at least 3000 persons last night on the occasion of the first concert of the season by the Philadelphia Band.

Each number was greeted with applause. The leader, Pasquale Bianculli, new in any of the city bands, proved himself equal to the occasion and carried his men through a diversified and interesting program.

A play composed by the leader and played for the first time was warmly received. He had termed it the "Sesqui-Centennial," and dedicated it to Mayor Moore. Throughout its martial strains could be heard the note triumphant of success for Philadelphia.

**WOLF ON MISSION TRIP**

Attorney Named to Body Which Will Study Conditions Abroad

Morris Wolf, a Philadelphia attorney, has been chosen as one of the commission to investigate the condition of the Jews of Poland, Rumania, Hungary and other countries and report to the American Jewish Relief Committee regarding the most desirable way of expending the \$17,000,000 raised in the recent campaign for Jewish war-sufferers.

The commission, which is headed by a former Philadelphia, Dr. Leo K. Frankel, vice president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, will sail for Europe on June 20.

**THE best outfit for this journey is a sound education, and a settled purpose in life. Given these and the young person has a reasonable value, and habits that will be a positive detriment.**

Most of them want to take with them stocks of useless frivoliery requirements that will be of no possible value, and habits that will be a positive detriment.

Despite the fact that accurate knowledge of the sort of outfit required for every journey can be had from the wisdom of the past, most of us start insufficiently or overabundantly equipped.

**TO MOVE LOG CABIN FROM MEADE TO VALLEY FORGE**

Will Perpetuate Memory of 314th Infantry Heroes

To perpetuate the memory of the veterans of the 314th Infantry of the Seventy-ninth Division who died overseas, the organization plans to move the log cabin, built as a recreation center for the regiment at Camp Meade, to Valley Forge.

It will be installed behind the Washington Memorial Chapel, and a bronze tablet bearing the names of those who died in France will be placed on the walls.

The cost of removing the cabin and placing the memorial table has been fixed at \$10,000.

Former members of the regiment, living in every State in the union, and three members who are living in foreign countries, more than 3000 in all, have been asked to contribute what they can to the memorial fund. Captain W. L. Nicholson said yesterday that he expected to hear from every member of the regiment within two weeks.

**SLATED FOR \$2200 JOB**

E. Y. Smith Probably Will Have School Inventories in Charge

The Board of Education's Finance Committee yesterday, recommended that Edward York Smith, of 5019 Catherine street, be appointed clerk in charge of the taking of and maintaining the school inventories at a salary not to exceed \$2200 per year.

The committee also approved a temporary loan of \$2,500 for current expenses. This loan will be repaid when the taxes are received in the fall.