

ADMIRAL McCULLY'S SEVEN RUSSIAN WARDS TEACH AMERICANS WHILE BEING AMERICANIZED IN CAMP

Amid Traditions of Fenimore Cooper They Learn Self-Reliance and Inspire Their Playmates With an Old-World Courtesy and Grace

MAN'S LOVE FOR A CHILD TRANSCENDS ALL HUMAN LAW, FOSTER FATHER SAYS

When Children Were Detained at Ellis Island "I Buried My Face in My Hands and Shook With Realization That Our Destinies Are Inseparable"

SEVEN little Russian children, snatched from the caldron of revolution by a kindly American fighting man, are completing their Americanization at a summer camp near Cooperstown, N. Y.

These are the adopted sons and daughters of Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully, United States Navy, who is a bachelor. Up in the country made famous by James Fenimore Cooper's Leather Stocking Tales they are living with other American children.

And as they become Americanized they teach. They impart some of their native courtesy and lack of self-consciousness to their playmates, and in return they receive lessons in push, energy and self-reliance.

Each of the Russian children of the admiral's adopted family has a sad tale to tell of the loss of father or mother or both.

Some will never know their parents' fate. For the fathers and mothers who looked after and loved them so tenderly before the revolution disappeared in the confusion following evacuation of the Crimea by General Wrangel, when the Bolsheviks smashed through his lines.

Dead? None knows. Lost? Yes. And even memory of them fast is fading from the minds of the younger children.

In appearance these seven little Russians are not to be distinguished from any other children in this country. True, the admiral has them all dressed more or less alike. Boys and girls wear gray corduroy suits of knickers and blouses. They have learned English and speak it quite well, with the exception of the younger children, who still have difficulty in expressing their thoughts. When talking among themselves they invariably use Russian.

Nikolai is the oldest. He is thirteen years old and already has mastered American slang. He is without parents, and was shot in the leg during fighting between General Wrangel's forces and the Bolsheviks.

"How were you shot?" he was asked. "I'd rather not say just now, some other day," he said smiling, and ran off to play.

As a matter of fact, Admiral McCully is not willing to have his charges talk too much about their past. He wants them to forget the horrors from which they have escaped, and to learn to look forward, not backward. Besides, he feels too much questioning will make them self-conscious.

History of Each Child Told in Admiral's Book

The admiral is writing a book himself, in which he will give the history of each of the children, and tell how he came to bring them to this country.

Nikolai's father was killed in action, fighting for Russia on the German front early in the war.

"When I first heard of this boy," explained the admiral recently, "he was in the trenches fighting the Bolsheviks. His parents dead, but knew the town in which he had lived, and the street number of his old home. His mother, I found, had died of typhoid fever.

"The boy was picked up at Kharkov while Denikin's troops were retreating through the town. He acted as a sort of mascot for the soldiers.

"When I found him he boasted

Why Admiral McCully Adopted Seven Children

EXPLAINING why he adopted so many children, Admiral McCully said:

"I brought back seven of them so they would take care of one another. If I had brought back one child, or even two or three, they probably would have become so homesick that I would not have been able to take care of them. But I brought back seven so they'd play with one another."

The admiral does not care to have his children questioned concerning their past. It not only makes them self-conscious, he explains, but brings back too vividly the terrible experiences through which they have gone.

Each had lost either one or both parents, and was sadly undernourished when adopted by the admiral. Now they are in blooming health, normal and happy.



Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully, his seven adopted children and their governess, Eugenia Selifanova, on their arrival at Ellis Island

Early Lives of Children Saddened by Tragedies

EACH of the admiral's seven adopted children has a sad history. Nikolai is thirteen years old, and is without parents. He was shot in the leg during fighting between General Wrangel's forces and the Bolsheviks. His father was killed in action, fighting for Russia on the German front, early in the war. His mother died of typhoid.

When the admiral first heard of this boy he was fighting against the Bolsheviks. He was picked up at Kharkov while Denikin's troops were retreating through the town. He acted as a mascot for the soldiers. It is his boast that he killed two Bolsheviks. He was eventually sent to an orphanage in Constantinople, where the admiral found him.

Loumilla, twelve years old, has a father living in Russia. She was taken from the orphanage at Yelta, in the Crimea. Her father gave written permission for her to come to America.

Tassia, Ninotchka and Tonitchka came from the orphanage at Yelta. Fedor, a boy, five years old, has no parents living that he knows of. The others are not sure just what fate has befallen their fathers and mothers.

Loudmila, the oldest girl, twelve, captivated the admiral by her sweet smile and winning ways when he visited the orphanage at Yelta, in the Crimea, where she had been placed.

This little girl's father lives in Russia, but he gave written permission to the admiral to bring the child to the United States, realizing that she would find here a haven, but might die of starvation if kept in the Crimea.

Tassia, the next oldest girl, is eleven. She also came from the orphanage at Yelta, and is described by the admiral as "a very fine little girl." Both her parents are dead.

Ninotchka, who is seven years old, is one of the brightest of the group. She first attracted the admiral's attention by her ability. It was said at the orphanage that she could knit two pairs of socks, for instance, while the other children were knitting one.

Fedor, a boy, is five years old. His English is very broken and he dislikes being taken away from his fishing pond or the woods and fields. He is said at the camp to be a born naturalist, and is always bringing in flowers and shrubs for classification.

He fishes whenever he gets a chance and is not the least bit discouraged because he never gets a bite. He does not seem as rugged as the other children.

But perhaps the frailest is little Tonitchka, four years old. She has it is true, grown three inches since she was brought to America, but she does not gain in weight as rapidly as the others.

Ten Children Chosen, but Three Fail in Test

Originally the admiral intended to bring ten children from Russia and make them his own, but three failed to pass the physical examinations and had to be left behind.

In addition to the children is Eugenia Selifanova, the governess. She is nineteen years old, and was also at the Yelta orphanage, where she was an assistant matron. She displayed wonderful sympathy for them and the admiral asked her to come to America as his ward to help out with the children.

Two of the children will turn out to be above the average, the admiral believes, three will be average, and two may fall below average in physique and intelligence.

All the children are from good families and their pedigrees were carefully looked into before adoption.

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"There is no reason why any one in the world should worry about the welfare of these children," said the admiral recently. "They are going to be given the very best of care, education and training, and it is my purpose to raise them just as if they were my own and try to make life worth while for them after all the misery and hardship they have gone through."

Just to make sure the children, when at home in Anderson, S. C., lived under what he considered to be the proper regime, the admiral drew up sixteen typewritten pages of rules and regulations. His niece, Miss Vita Patrick, and the Russian governess, who between them divide responsibility for the children, follow the rules implicitly.

Under these rules each day begins with gymnastic exercises. These are much like the setting-up drill of the navy. A cold bath follows, then "all hands are piped below" for breakfast.

Breakfast, the admiral decided, must consist of cereal, eggs and milk. The cereal recommended is hominy. This the admiral considers excellent food for growing children. He was brought up on it himself.

A light luncheon is prescribed, consisting chiefly of Russian brown bread and butter-milk. Dinner is served each evening at 7, when the children may have vegetables of their choosing, meat and dessert. The drinking of water with meals is forbidden, but milk or cocoa may be served.

In this connection, it might be mentioned that these children had never tasted meat until the admiral took them under his charge. They were then served just a wee bit at a time, for fear it might make them ill, so long had they existed in a half-starved condition.

At home a daily chaperon is kept by Miss Patrick and the governess, and the children are gradually according to the manner in which they perform their duties. Red stars indicate that the duties have been well performed, and the child receiving the greatest number of red stars gets one gold star, which he or she wears.

For one hour daily the governess gives lessons in Russian, and for another hour Miss Patrick gives lessons in English.

An Hour a Day Devoted to Sewing or Mending

An hour a day is devoted to sewing, during which clothes are made or mended, stockings darned or fancy work done. Nikolai always pays one of the girls to do his sewing for him.

Each receives a stipulated sum, not more than \$1.50 a month, as pay, and a small amount is deducted if they do not perform their work well. Each

Our Lives Inseparably Linked, Says McCully

REAR ADMIRAL NEWTON A. McCULLY has learned the meaning of love for a child. Said this bachelor: "I never fully realized how dear to each other these children and I are until I parted from them at Ellis Island. I went back to my ship without them.

"Entering their room on the ship, I found some of their traps and playthings, and began to collect these childish relics. "I had to sit down, and burying my face in my hands, I shook with the realization that the destinies of these children and myself are inseparably linked. I knew then that a man's love for a child transcends all human laws, the machinations of statesmen or the intrigues of international cabinets."

has a specific duty, either to aid with some household task, tend door, or work in the garden a certain length of time each day. And their play is not neglected.



Newton A. McCully, Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

Their first American meal. The McCully foster children, after their release from Ellis Island, were taken to the Children's Hospital in Washington, where their dinner consisted chiefly of ham and eggs

eyes grow wide and bright, and their faces glow with the quiet mysticism of their native country.

Camp Fenimore is on the east shore of Otsego Lake, about a mile from Cooperstown. It is a typical summer camp for children ranging in age from four years to twelve.

Lake Otsego is the "glimmerglass" referred to so often by Cooper. There are glimpses of it in "The Pioneers," while the action in "Deerslayer" and "The Last of the Mohicans" revolves around this beautiful sheet of water, nine miles long and one to three miles wide, nesting in the Catskills.

There are "Council Rock," where young Leather Stocking had his rendezvous with Chingachgook; Natty Bumppo's Cave, Prospect Rock, Cooper's Chalet Farm, and Leather Stocking Falls, also Clinton's Dam Marker, which is identified with a turning point in the war against the six nations.

In such surroundings the little Russians are receiving their instruction in American ways, American traditions and American ideals.

"We feel it is a privilege to have these little Russians here this summer," said Mrs. Clifford I. Brader, one of those in charge of the camp. "I met the admiral in Constantinople, while I was doing newspaper work there during the war, and it was at that time he told me of his intention to adopt some of the little Russian

children, whose plight had so touched him.

"There is much these Russian and American children can teach each other. The Russians are delightful in that they have a perfect lack of self-consciousness. Their courtesy, too, is exquisite."

It was indeed so, for as each little one was marched up and introduced, there was a courtesy from the girls and a manly handshake from the boys. Then off they were again, unconscious of the scrutiny directed upon them.

Every Hour in Camp Is Governed by Rules

In camp the children are up at "first call," at 6:55. Then at 7 they take a dip in the lake and setting up exercises, and at 7:30 come reveille. Breakfast is served at 8 in the big mess pavilion, after which comes tent inspection at 9:15.

By this time each of the children is expected to have made his bed and to have aided in tidying up the open-air sleeping pavilion and the adjacent grounds.

At 9:30 come various camp activities, such as arts and crafts and manual training work, and the morning swim at 11. By 12 the children are ready for mess again, and at 1 P. M. each is tucked into his cot, where he must sleep for half an hour.

At 1:30 letter writing and reading are in order, and from 2 to 4 are outdoor games, such as tennis, basketball and

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Children Admitted on Parole After Appeal to Washington

Admiral McCully hastened to Washington and after a day of conferences the Department of Labor, through Alfred Hampton, Acting Commissioner General of Immigration, ordered that the children be admitted on parole in the care of the admiral until the case was definitely decided. Bond was set at \$500 for each, and the admiral promptly put it up.

Telling of his fight to bring them in, the admiral said: "I first went to the Secretary of the Navy (then Mr. Daniels). He was not only my superior officer in the service, but I knew him to be a kind-hearted man.

"I related to him the work I had been doing in Russia, and told him of conditions in southern Russia. Then I told him about these children, and asked if he would not intercede with me in their behalf with the Secretary of Labor.

"I told the Secretary of the Navy

McCully's Wards Barred On Their Arrival in U. S.

ADMIRAL McCULLY had to fight before he could bring his seven adopted children into the country. When they arrived at Ellis Island they were barred by the immigration authorities on the ground that they might become public charges. Finally the admiral put up bonds of \$500 each for them, and carried the case to Washington.

He first interviewed Secretary of the Navy Daniels and explained the entire situation to him. Then Secretary Daniels got into touch with the Secretary of Labor, with the result the order admitting the children in custody of the admiral was signed.

seen in seven years, and committees of women showered kisses upon the seven little strangers from Russia.

Motorcars were waiting to carry the party to the home of Mrs. John A. Russell, where they were guests at a luncheon given in their honor. At the Russell home the admiral's wards were greeted by almost a hundred children and their mothers. The seven little Russians displayed lively interest, and within a few minutes the boys of the admiral's party were in the big yard playing with the youngsters who had come to greet them.

Following the luncheon, the party, consisting of the admiral, his wards and

their governess, his mother and the visiting committee, left for Anderson, where the children remained with Mrs. McCully while the admiral's home in Washington was being prepared for them.

A belated Christmas celebration was held in the big living room, where the children gathered around a tree loaded with presents of every description. Each child received a slice of fruitcake, made by Mrs. McCully twenty years before, and kept in a sealed container. After they were put to bed, tired but happy, Mrs. McCully gave them each a good-night kiss.

Later the admiral was busy in Washington, happier than he had ever been before, in his life buying armfuls of toys, dishes and equipment for the nursery that was being fitted up. When all was ready the children were taken to Washington.

Growth of Children Astonishes Anderson

The people of Anderson were astonished at the remarkable growth of the children during their brief stay there. All were taught to swim. The members of the admiral's family said he had told them that the grown more than half the children were here in America, instead of starving in Russia.

McCully, the naval officer's mother, takes more pride in the children than many mothers do in their own flesh and blood, and she believes they will all be successful in business or the profession when they grow up.

"Little Ninotchka never smiled when she first came to this country. Now she is one of the happiest of the group, and she has realized from the start what adoption by the admiral has meant to her."

When the Florida, the admiral's flagship, was at Annapolis early last June all the children went there to spend the day with him and were good-bye for the summer. And they had such a joyous day, each one trying to keep hold of their beloved "Admiral."

Admiral McCully left Washington five years ago, going to Petrograd as a naval attaché. During the war he served in Northern Russia, and later was transferred to Paris. Then he was sent to Southern Russia as an observer during the warfare between Poland and the Bolshevik forces. Press dispatches have mentioned his services in directing rescue work among the children in Sebastopol, following the collapse of General Wrangel's army, and on several occasions he has issued calls for aid for the children of that war-devastated country.

Admiral McCully's foster children as they appear today. From left to right, they are: Tonitchka, four years old; Fedor, five; Ninotchka, seven; Tassia, eleven; Tonina, twelve; Nikolai, thirteen; and Loudmila, twelve