

SPECIAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST TO MILADY

Sponsors Of Uncle Sam's Sea Fighters Envy Of All Women



Miss Elsie F. Calder.

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EVERY one of her sisters is the young woman chosen to christen a battle ship. No honor among the limited number of public honors which Uncle Sam has to offer his fair daughters is more coveted than the opportunity to stand sponsor for one of his giant sea fighters. To be the central figure in the patriotic celebration which marks the launching of a vessel of the American navy is the greatest distinction that can come to any woman, and that they are wide awake to the social advantages of being selected for the pleasant task is shown by the intense rivalry to win such appointments.

As battle ships, or even the smaller type of naval vessels, are not launched every day, the opportunities do not come very often, a fact which keeps interest in the hunt for the prize at fever heat. Less than two hundred women can boast of the fact that they have given names to the vessels of our navy, that small figure representing the number who have had the honor bestowed on them since the custom was inaugurated, many years ago. There is no way of estimating the number of women who were disappointed in failing to attain those much desired prizes, but it is a tradition of the Navy Department that there is always from fifty to one hundred candidates for every appointment.

The women fortunate enough to be chosen have made their unique distinction the basis for an organization known as the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy, an organization which, by the very nature of the sole qualification required for membership, is the last word

in exclusiveness. As the battle ships are named after States and some of the smaller vessels after cities, it will be seen that the membership covers the entire country.

While the honor has invariably been awarded to women still in their early twenties, in recent years many of those chosen have been misses in their teens and little girls. All sorts of influence and pressure are brought to bear by those anxious to land the prize, and no political wire is left unspun by the relatives of the respective candidates. From the President down every public official is besieged with data concerning the claims of the candidates just as soon as it is decided which State is to have the honor of having a battle ship named after it.

Selecting Sponsors a Difficult Task
Senators and Representatives in Congress from the State selected find their mail bulging with the photographs of fair consultants, together with complete family histories of the candidates. Men of influence back home are prevailed upon to take part in the battle, and they bombard their representatives at Washington with letters, telegrams and even telephone calls.

Statesmen and officials of the Navy Department are beginning to dread the ordeal of selecting sponsors for the vessels. No matter how carefully the claims of respective candidates are considered, there is bound to be hard feeling when the appointment is made. Many of those chosen are daughters of Senators, Cabinet officers, Governors, Representatives and Mayors.

Where they are not daughters of relatives of public officials they are members of prominent families in their respective communities. The question of beauty has not been considered in making the ap-

pointments, but it has so happened that most of the young women chosen have had more than their share of good looks. Ambitious mothers are always keen to get the prize for their daughters, appreciating the social advantages the opportunity offers for meeting persons worth while.

Several days before the one set aside for the launching of a battle ship the



Miss Dorothy Eunice Knight.



Miss Mary Alice Spry.

young woman chosen to act as sponsor, accompanied by a delegation of prominent citizens and public officials from the State to be honored, arrives at the city where the launching is to take place. There are

theatre parties, dinners, dances and other social affairs as a preliminary to the event, in all of which she plays the leading part. The ceremony of christening a battle



Miss Anne Pennewell Cahall.

Miss Florence Pardee.

Miss Elizabeth Legere Fleming.

Miss Evelyn Walsh.

ship is not an elaborate one, but the sponsor and those who are to assist her go through several rehearsals in order that there shall be no hitch in the programme.

As most persons are aware, the cere-

Miss Walsh is now Mrs. Edward Beale McLean, of Washington, D. C.

To Mrs. Lewis Nixon, wife of the famous shipbuilder, has fallen the honor of naming two vessels of the American navy and two belonging to foreign navies. Mrs. Nixon christened the old battle ship Florida and the Holland, our first submarine, and stood sponsor for battle ships owned by Mexico and Russia. In this respect it is believed she holds the record.

In 1898 Miss Nancy Leiter, of Chicago, christened the battle ship Illinois. Mention of that year coupled with a story about the navy naturally brings to mind the ill fated Maine, which was blown up in Havana Harbor in 1898. It was the first of our armored cruisers, and was

Del, niece of a man who was Governor of that State, named the Delaware, second vessel of the dreadnought type.

Miss Dorothy Eunice Knight, daughter of Judge Knight, of Wyoming, and god-child of Governor Carey, of that State, christened the Wyoming. In May of this year Miss Claudia Lyon, daughter of Colonel Cecil Lyon, one of the most powerful republican bosses in the Southwest, christened the battle ship Texas. She is a very pretty little girl and one of the youngest sponsors.

Miss Mary Alice Spry, daughter of Governor William Spry, of Utah, christened the battle ship Utah, and Miss Mary L. Macon, daughter of Representative Robert B. Macon, of Arkansas, christened the battle ship named for



Miss Claudia Lyon.



Miss Carol B. Newberry.

Mrs. Lewis Nixon.

WOMEN FENCERS NOW ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MEN

TREMENDOUS impetus has been given to fencing as a sport for women by the recent action of the American Fencers' League making women eligible to membership in the league. What has heretofore been regarded merely as a pleasant pastime or as an exercise taken up for the purpose of improving the figure or adding to grace of movement now has the status of a real sport, and some interesting tournaments are likely to be seen as a result.

Events have been shaping themselves toward this end for some time. Women have more and more been giving a good account of themselves with the foils and conforming to the standards set by men fencers. They have not only displayed skill but a sportsmanlike spirit, and there was really no reason why they should not be recognized on equal terms with men fencers. The vote making them eligible to membership in the league was unanimous. At the annual meet, to be held at the Astor Hotel in New York next April, men and women will meet on equal terms. Last spring the league conducted the women's tournament, which was held at the same place, but only as an additional feature to the men's national title meet, not as a regularly scheduled event. Five women were entered at that tournament—Miss Adelaide Baylis, of New York; Miss Frances Deussen, of East Orange, N. J.; Miss Clara Chessman, of Garrison, N. Y.; and Mrs. W. H. Dewar, of Philadelphia. Mrs. Dewar was compelled to withdraw, however, on account of illness. This was the first time that women had appeared in a national tournament and great interest was manifested in the event. Miss Baylis, who won the national championship, led in the matter of form, smoothness of action and knowledge of parrying. It was she who, in an informal encounter, had won renown the winter before by defeating the Baroness de Meyer. The Baroness had announced upon her arrival in this country her regret that there was no woman in this country with whom she could enjoy a fencing bout.

Several young women of social prominence who read these words and pondered over them were moved to give the Baroness a taste of the quality of the American woman's fencing. No publicity was given to their intention, but an innocent little invitation was sent asking the

Baroness to meet them on a certain morning at the Fencers' Club. She accepted the invitation and was defeated in turn by Miss Baylis and by Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Jr. News of the affair leaked out and the Baroness was much perturbed.



Women Practising for the Tournament.

"It was mere child's play for me," she asserted afterward; "a little informal practice." She had never thought of taking it as a serious combat, but had given her opponents every advantage as one would an inferior, she asserted.

Thereupon she repeated her challenge, stating that she was willing to meet any one and insisted only upon having qualified cosmopolitan judges. Her desire was met. It was arranged for her to meet Mrs. W. H. Dewar, of Philadelphia, January 27 at the Colony Club. Mrs. Dewar was a comparatively unknown quantity in the fashionable fencing world, but in the presence of a large and fashionable audience she defeated the Baroness de Meyer, who said afterward that she considered the verdict a fair one. She maintained that she showed the best form, however, her opponent not seeming to care to show how well she could fence, but only to "get there."

It was this affair with the Baroness that called attention to the fact that

American women were skilful fencers and to the wide interest that there is in the sport. That debt American women owe to this fencer from abroad. Since then not only have the women who had already had considerable practice gone on



Girl Fencer Who Keeps Her Instructor on the Alert.

with renewed enthusiasm but fencing has been taken up by many who had before that time taken no interest whatever in it. This is especially true in schools and girls' clubs, where fencing has more than the mere benefit of a game to recommend

it. Next to swimming it is said to be the best form of exercise that a girl or woman can take.

Now that women are to take part on equal terms with men in fencing tournaments they will have to take it very seriously and conform to the rules laid down by the Fencers' League. The modifications that were made in these rules recently directly affect the women as well as the men.

All time limits have been eliminated in tournaments and the awarding of points for form or illegal parrying on the part of an opponent has been done away with.

Fencing has been in the past largely the sport of women of fashion, but it is being more widely taken up. In the schedule for the juniors' title tournament, which will be conducted by the Fencers' League at the Fencers' Club next April, several clubs in which the majority of the

mony consists in breaking a bottle of champagne across the bow of the vessel, but rehearsals are necessary to make sure that the bottle shall come in contact with the steel prow on the instant that the vessel starts sliding toward the water from its mammoth cradle.

Mrs. Nixon Holds Record.

"I christen thee New York" were the words used by Miss Elsie F. Calder in naming that vessel, the greatest battle ship in the world, a few weeks ago. These are the words used by most of the sponsors. The naming of the New York was the most recent christening of a battle ship. It gave two Brooklyn, N. Y., girls the opportunity (craved by girls in all parts of the country). Miss Calder is the daughter of Representative William M. Calder, of Brooklyn. She was assisted by Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, daughter of Representative John J. Fitzgerald, of Brooklyn.

While the custom of having women christen vessels with champagne has come down through the ages, many vessels have taken the water for the first time without this ceremony. A notable case in this respect was the Monitor, first of our ironclad war ships and regarded as the pioneer ship of our ironclad navy. On January 30, 1862, she slid into the water at Greenpoint, L. I., for the first time, unaccompanied by the splashing of wine or words. At that critical period in the history of the country the breaking of a bottle of champagne would probably have been denounced as gross extravagance. The few persons present at the launching were more concerned as to whether the ironclad hull would float or go to the bottom, many wagers having been made that it would do the latter.

The Connecticut, one of the most widely advertised battle ships in the navy, was christened by Miss Alice Welles, daughter of Edward T. Welles, formerly of Hartford, Conn.

launched November 18, 1890, at the New York Navy Yard, Miss Alice Tracy Wilmerding, niece of Mr. Benjamin F. Tracy, one time Secretary of the Navy, standing sponsor for it. Miss Wilmerding is now Mrs. Frederic R. Conder, of New York.

Miss Mary Preble Anderson, of Portland, Me., was sponsor for the present battle ship Maine, which was launched at Philadelphia July 27, 1901. She was chosen by Governor Hill, then chief executive of the State of Maine.

The old cruiser New York was christened by Miss Helen Page, daughter of Mr. J. Seaver Page and now Mrs. Arthur W. Selzer Francis, of New York.

Miss Carol B. Newberry, daughter of Mr. Truman H. Newberry, at one time Assistant Secretary of the Navy, broke the bottle of champagne over the prow of the battle ship Michigan.

The North Dakota, first of the American dreadnoughts, was given its name by Miss Mary Benton, daughter of Colonel John K. Benton, of Fargo, N. D. Miss Anne Pennewell Cahall, of Bridgeville,

that State, Miss Elizabeth Legere Fleming and five Florida girls bestowed the name Florida on one of the most powerful vessels in the navy. The South Carolina was christened by Miss Frederica Ansel, daughter of the chief executive of the State at the time the vessel was launched.

Miss Florence Pardee, daughter of Governor Pardee, of California, was sponsor for the cruiser California. Miss Hazel McLane, daughter of Governor McLane, christened the battle ship New Hampshire. Daughters of Senators Quay, of Pennsylvania; Money, of Mississippi; and Cockrell, of Missouri, christened vessels in the navy named after those States.

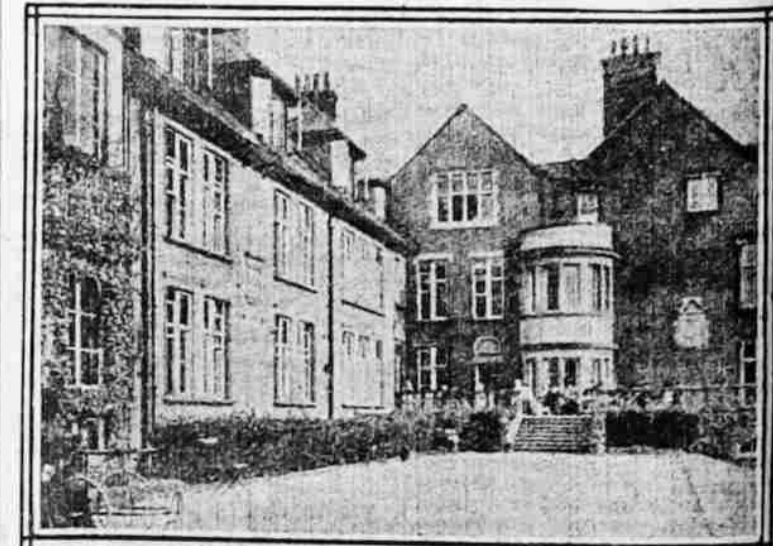
These are just a few of the women and girls who have enjoyed the honor. The Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy was organized in 1907. The officers are—Mrs. Reynold T. Hall, president; Mrs. John R. Pels, first vice president; Mrs. George Cameron, second vice president; Mrs. Edith Benham, secretary; Mrs. Charles W. MacQuoid, treasurer.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S CHARITY.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA of England has a pet charity in the British Home and Hospital for Incurables at Streatham. Founded in 1851, the institution soon became totally inadequate to care for the enormous number of cases which came under its province.

were sought at Streatham. The present building cost in the neighborhood of £27,000, which was subscribed by the public.

The beneficiaries in the home are all persons of what the British term the middle classes—persons who shrink from



View of the Home Showing Garden Terrace.

In 1863, however, according to the By-stander, Queen Alexandra, then Princess of Wales, became a liberal supporter. Through her donations and the influence of her patronage funds poured into the hospital until it gauged a sound financial basis. For many years it was situated in Clapham road, but in 1894 the buildings became so crowded that new quarters

charity and who would prefer death to a life in a paupers' home. They are known as guests of the institution, and their number includes university graduates, army and navy officers, members of the medical and legal professions.

A new wing is being added to the hospital, which is to be called the Queen Alexandra wing, by permission of the Queen.