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COVER PHOTO

by Lynn Millar

Sun and Shadow in Spain

Foreign Service Women's Association

by JANE WILSON POOL

O^N A SUNNY spring day in the early 1930's fourteen ladies sat down to lunch at the home of Mrs. Francis White on Massachusetts Avenue in Washington. This was no usual party. The group was not representative of the regular gatherings in the Nation's Capital—families of diplomats, government heads, bankers, lawyers—hut was a most selective one, all the women were wives of American Foreign Service Officers. This meeting was the forerunner of the Foreign Service Wives' luncheons that have continued throughout the years, and this small group has now become a large organization—the Foreign Service Women's Association.

The fourteen women must have presented an attractive picture as they sat at Mrs. White's polished tahle. What did they talk about? We can only guess: Franklin D. Roosevelt was in the White House and Mr. Hull was Secretary of State. Robert Bingham was our Ambassador in London and Straus was in Paris. Nobody gave a second thought to the new German Chancellor, although Consul General Messersmith in Berlin had warned the State Department that he was a coming danger. The cherry blossoms were in full bloom in the Tidal Basin. The apple vendors had nearly disappeared from the streets of Washington and the hotels and few remaining boarding houses were full of newcomers to work for General Johnson's Blue Eagle. The Ziegfeld Follies were still playing to a packed house in New York, and women's hats were as flat as pancakes and skirts nearly reached the ankle.

Mrs. Wilbur J. Carr, wife of the Assistant Secretary of State, was speaking: "Nancy and I thought that something should be done to bring together the women of the Service, hence this luncheon which she suggested having here at her house. We thought they might be continued from time to time." The response to this proposal was enthusiastic.

The second luncheon was held at the National Press Club, then others at the Cosmos Club, the Army War College, the Highlands, and intermittently through the years at different Washington clubs and hotels. Various women took their turn at organizing the meetings, Mrs. Butler Wright, Mrs. Peter Jay, Mrs. Harry McBride. Later in the 1940's when the lunches had grown to nearly a hundred women, they were held at the Wardman Park and the Mayflower Hotels. During one of these seasons Mrs. Christian M. Ravndal headed the committee, assisted by Mrs. C. Burke Elbrick and Mrs. Andrew Lynch. In those days all wives were tracked down by telephone calls and in the name of the wife of the Director of the Office of Foreign Service "invited" to attend.

On May 18, 1960, 220 women sat down to lunch at many tables in the Terrace Room of the Shoreham Hotel. What did they talk about? We do not have to guess: President Eisenhower was returning from Paris, the Summit Conference having collapsed. Everyone was giving thought to Khrushchev's unyielding toughness. The cherry hlossoms had come and gone from the Tidal Basin. "My Fair Lady" was coming to Washington; the hats were high with the skirt length up to the knees.

Mrs. Waldemar J. Gallman, wife of the Director General of the Foreign Service, announced the results of the election of officers of the newly formed Foreign Service Women's Association. Mrs. James M. Byrne (June Brown) had been chosen as President. Mrs. Byrne was a Foreign Service Clerk in Madrid and worked with the Foreign Service School in Washington. She served with her husband (FSO-3) in Bern, in Addis Ababa where she was President of the International Women's Club, and in Tunis where she helped organize and was President of the American Women's Club.

Officers of the Women's Association (l. to r.): FSO Ilallijeanne Chalker, Treasurer, Mrs, Waldemar J. Gallman, Mrs. James K. Penfield, Vice President, Mrs. James M. Bvrene. President, Mrs. John Dorman, Secretary.



Mrs. Pool before her marriage in 1948 was Managing Editor of the JOURNAL. While serving with her husband, at Tegucigalpa recently, she organized the Embassy Wives Committee at that post. She is currently Chairman of Publicity for the new Women's Association.



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F.S. WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

She has been serving as secretary of the present Policy Committee.

As elected Vice President, Mrs. James K. Penfield (Anne Boardman) brings to the Association similar rich experience, having served as propaganda analyst for OWI and as Cultural Officer at the American Embassy in Belgrade. With her husband (FSO-CM) she served in Prague, in London where she assisted the Embassy Speakers' Bureau, in Vienna where she was active with the Children's Friendship Fund, and in Athens where she served on the Welfare Committee for the American Women's Organization of Greece. She is active with the League of Women Voters and the Foreign Student Service Council.

Mrs. John Dorman (Nene Anderson) was elected Secretary. She has served with her husband (FSO-2) in Tunisia, Morocco, Ethiopia and France. In Paris she was Secretary of the American Women's Club and in Washington she is very active in the Grey Ladies and is on the Public Relations Committee for the YWCA. She has been serving with the present Policy Committee.

The Treasurer of the Association is Hallijeanne Chalker who has served as secretary at the Federal Reserve Bank and elsewhere in the banking world. She was appointed to the Foreign Service in 1949 and has served in Martinique, Rome, Pretoria, Vientiane and Saigon. She has served as secretary to Ambassadors Wailes, Parsons, Smith and Durbrow. She is an FSS-7.

Mrs. Gallman went on to say that the wife of the Secretary of State will act as Honorary President and the wife of the Director General of the Foreign Service as Honorary Vice President.

The little group of fourteen guests at Mrs. White's house had grown, keeping pace with the growth of the Service. Mrs. Carr's idea that the women of the Foreign Service "should be brought together" has been realized. The Foreign Service Women's Association, with approximately 550 members, and applications steadily coming in, is the impressive result.

Mrs. Byrne, after being installed as President of the new Association, addressed the group and explained how the organization had developed. In January 1960 the Policy Committee of Foreign Service Wives, headed by Mrs. Gallman, had polled all of the women on its mailing list at that time (over 1,000) to determine their thoughts on the question of organizing. The response had indicated clear and decided approval.

On February 5 members of the Policy Committee, together with a few other women interested in the project, set to work. Dining room tables served as conference tables. Tentative aims and purposes and procedure for organization were drawn up. Quarts of coffee were consumed. On March 3, twenty-eight days after the first meeting to discuss what was meant by "organizing," the new Association was born. This is an incredibly short period to accomplish so much and is a vivid testimonial to women's ability to work together constructively and harmoniously.

On March 7 the statement of Aims and Purposes of the new Association, together with an application for membership, was sent to all 1,500 women in the Foreign Service in Washington with a covering letter by the wife of the Direc-

by Jane Wilson Pool

tor General of the Foreign Service. The Aims and Purposes were listed as follows:

- 1. Further a feeling of unity and purpose among Foreign Service women.
- 2. Engage in activities which would primarily benefit Foreign Service children.
- 3. Assist, as much as possible, new members of the Foreign Service, as well as those recently returned from foreign assignment.
- 4. Arrange interesting programs for luncheons or other meetings.
- 5. Initiate worthwhile projects of a temporary or continuing nature.

The procedure for setting up the Nominating Committee was outlined. Mrs. Gallman's covering letter emphasized that membership in the Association would be open to all women in the Foreign Service, following the policy of the Foreign Service Association. Dues would be \$1.00 per year. A Nominating Committee, appointed by her and introduced at the April luncheon, was composed of representatives from all the categories eligible for membership. The committee consisted of:

Mrs.	J.	Graham	Parson	s Mrs.	Don '	Torrey
Mrs.	R	obert A.	Brand	Mrs.	Lewis	Clark
Mrs.	М.	Williams	s Blake	Miss	Shirle	y Green
Mrs. William J. Crockett						

A list of three candidates for each office to be voted on was then circulated to the membership of the new Association. As far as possible this slate represented the different classifications in fair proportion. The new officers were announced at the May 18 luncheon, the last of the 1959-60 season.

The 1959-60 luncheon meetings had greatly expanded in scope since Mrs. White's "get-together" luncheon, with programs of a far-reaching nature in the Foreign Service. Some of these were the Scholarship Fund, hospital visits, neighborhood get-together teas, Foreign Service children entertainments, a post information file and the luncheon program committee. The latter furnished luncheon speakers which included in this last season Mr. Clarke Slade, Educational Counselor of the Foreign Service Association; Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton; and Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Roy R. Rubottom. There was interesting entertainment such as the raffling off of a rare piece of Chinese Tribute Silk (proceeds to go to the Scholarship Fund), and at another luncheon chances were sold on a beautiful spring bonnet donated by Lord & Taylor. A Newsletter accompanied the luncheon notices. Different geographic areas of the Department were honored at each luncheon and decorations were artistic and appropriate to the theme of the luncheons.

To aid the new officers to ascertain the interests of the members of the new organization and the scope of their skills in developing future programs, a questionnaire was included on the back of the application form. The answers to this questionnaire have been most interesting and revealing. Mrs. Byrne, during her talk, displayed the "little" red (Continued on p. 42)



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F.S. WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

book-size 2 feet by 3 feet-in which each application was listed and the interests, skills and comments were analyzed. The main interests of those applying appeared to be: Working with some sort of welcome committees, foreign student groups, learning languages, social work, music and theatre, foreign service children and luncheons and teas.

Skills were many and varied. Women of the Service should be proud to belong to such a professional and highly trained group. There were many teachers; language specialists, including Chinese and Arabic; women with secretarial and managerial experience; many writers and public relations experts; trained social workers; several registered psychiatrists; a bio-chemist; an industrial engineer; a landscape architect; an international law specialist, a professional photographer and author, and several artists and teachers of art; women who have been trained at the Old Vic in London or with the Walter Hampden group; a designer of jewelry and gein cutter; and many more.

The third question on the back of the application blank reads: "Have you any comments or suggestions on the nature of the activities to be undertaken by this Association?" Many took the time to answer this question and some wrote in a very thoughtful and constructive manner. By far the most frequent comments made were those pointing to the need for help for newcomers to Washington and this includes not only the freshman FSO but the people returning from abroad for Washington assignment. A kind of Post Report for Washington is suggested many times. Next seemed to be a desire for junior officers wives to meet informally with senior officers wives and discuss protocol matters. Many wanted to meet women from foreign embassies in Washington. A number wanted language courses; there were suggestions for some sort of inexpensive Foreign Service Club with a swimming pool (area clubs are too expensive), an inexpensive hotel or motel for new arrivals and children, a residence hall for girls. There were suggestions for bridge classes, dancing and self-improvement, art exhibits in the Department, aid to foreign wives of officers, to organize weekend or after-hours programs for those unable to attend lunches, to get topnotch speakers, to learn about American government; visit the sick; help those with emergency financial or health problems.

Unfortunately, many of these suggestions are far beyond the abilities of the Association and some are in fields where this organization has no business, such as building motels. However, there are many things that can be done and it will be the work of the elected officers, together with their chairmen of committees to be formed, to set the course to be followed.

If the new Association continues in the same fine spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm in which it has been developed, there is no question but that it will succeed and over the years prove of inestimable benefit to the Foreign Service.

DUTY

. . . "A sense of duty is useful in work, but offensive in personal relations."

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