

## Hail the Steno

NEW YORK—The champion all-American woman of today is the stenographer.

She is the keystone of American business and also American culture.

Taken individually and as a class, she is the go-gettingest female since Cleopatra won her man and lost her empire. She is the 20th century descendant of Horatio Alger's poor but proud bootblack—but this little lady gets ahead by pluck, not luck. She can't save the banker's daughter from a runaway horse. The horses all run on tracks now.

An ordinary stenographer gets about \$40 a week in Manhattan. She's in the same wage brackets as a street cleaner. A smart girl gets herself classified as a private secretary, and that boosts her to \$60 or more.

The biggest mystery of money is how she manages to stretch it so far.

Most stenographers fight their way home on subway or bus, stopping off at the grocer's for the things they need for their evening meal. They usually cook it themselves.

That would be a full day for an average person. But the stenographer whips around tidying up the place before she steps out for the evening.

As often as not it is a concert, play or lecture as to a movie or dance. And before she hits the sack that night she has to do her personal laundry.

As a class she displays a great yearning for improvement. She joins book clubs, takes lessons in personal charm schools, learns to ski in winter and takes boat cruises in summer. And somehow or other she has enough socked away to make a down payment on a fur coat.

How do they do it?

Some housewives get clothes-sloppy after marriage. The stenographer keeps trim and chic always. She is much neater and better-dressed than her feminine counterpart in France, supposedly the home of style. In America it takes a wise man to tell any difference between a stenographer and society deb on the street. The steno probably has better manners.

Stenographers and secretaries are also the unheralded diplomats of business. They take a lot of gruff, but they keep down the personal frictions between

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