

## CATHRINE COUNTISSL HAS "HER OWN WAY" IN FACT

Thrilling Tale of a Near-Marine Disaster Which Was Averted by Guardian Angel of Willful Young Women.



CATHRINE COUNTISS, WHO BEGINS LAST WEEK IN PORTLAND SEASON TODAY.

**T**was on board the beautiful yacht Sea Otter that Catherine Countiss, enjoying a recent afternoon's respite from her professional activities at the Heilig Theater, suddenly developed a desire to reveal a new phase of her versatility.

Miss Countiss was the guest of H. C. Wortman and his family, who were trying in every hospitable way to make her happy, for she has been a very hard-working young woman this summer, and her social relaxations have been few and far between.

It was a glorious afternoon. Soft breezes permeated the air with the sweet fragrance of Oregon pine swept over the placid Columbia from heavily wooded shores. The luxurious craft sped swiftly through the rippling wavelets of the sun-kissed stream. A bountiful luncheon had been served. All was serenity and harmony, and everybody was aglow with the subtle joys of living, when the capricious Miss Countiss suddenly asked if she might have the wheel.

**Wortman Is Dubious.**

The owner of the Sea Otter is a gallant and courteous gentleman, who was trying in every hospitable way to make her happy, for she has been a very hard-working young woman this summer, and her social relaxations have been few and far between.

**Stranger Offers Appearance.**

Suddenly the big steamer T. J. Potter loomed up ahead, bound down the river. Its whistle sounded twice. Miss Countiss regarded this as a personal compliment, and promptly responded with half a dozen shrill shrieks of the yacht's siren. Mr. Wortman, now quite perturbed, asked which side she intended to pass on.

"I haven't decided yet," replied Miss Countiss, tranquilly, as she headed straight for the rapidly nearing monster. "I don't suppose it will make the slightest difference so long as I don't run them down."

There was some excitement on the T. J. Potter. Passengers scrambled wildly about like the inhabitants of a deserted ant hill. Officers ran back and forth on the bridge, gesticulating and megaphoning. Then the big vessel slowed up and sheered off like an elephant frightened by a mouse, and the helmswoman drowned out the remarks that were being addressed to her. Judging from their expressive pantomime, however, the officers of the T. J. Potter were somewhat perturbed.

How Miss Countiss providentially escaped subsequent collisions with rafts, buoys, bridges and floating timber has no doubt been faithfully recorded by the aggrieved skipper in the log of the Sea Otter, but the recital here is too painful for the nervous reader.

She need not have seen Eugene armchair so bold one of the young lady guests when the boat was at last safely tied up under the shadow of the harbor-police station at the foot of Stark street. She was not referring to a young man. Eugene is the name of the place where she lives.

**Steering Yacht Easy, She Says.**

"Steering a yacht is a whole lot easier than playing nine performances a week," remarked Miss Countiss with disdain, "and I'm not going to be left out. And a few days later she had the nerve to tell the suffragettes who were entreating her at a Multnomah luncheon, that there was nothing in the world a woman couldn't do just as well as a man, except hooking up her tight-living gown and having a good time."

The Board of Marine Underwriters has served notice upon the owner of the Sea Otter that the next time he gives Miss Countiss the wheel, he will kindly consider his insurance canceled. They regard the matter as an important but cold, practical, business standpoint.

Quite appropriately the play in which Miss Countiss bids farewell to Portland is entitled "Her Own Way."

## NEWS AND GOSSIP OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS

EDITED BY LEONE CASS BAER.

**F**AY BAINTER will again be ingenue with John Cort's Viennese opera, "The Rose of Panama." It opens in St. Louis at the Schubert Theater on September 15.

Edwards Dayles, the sometime spectacular preacher, later vaudeville actor and more recently playwright, will accompany Dustin Farnum when he comes this season to the Pacific Coast in "The Little Rebel."

Minnie Tittel-Brunn has arrived from London to begin rehearsals with "An Astor Romance," in which she is to play the principal role of Jean Isobel. Miss Tittel-Brunn, who is returning to the stage after a year of theater folk as one of the trio of Tittel sisters, has been absent from this country for five years, during which time she has been starring in Australia under the management of J. C. Williamson in "Peter Pan," "La Jiglon" and "The Second Mrs. Tanquary." Her playmate, Miss Tittel-Brunn, has been appearing in leading roles with London productions. Clarence Brune, who used to be Clarence Brown before the stage called him, is Miss Tittel-Brunn's husband. Her two sisters, Esse Tittel and Mrs. Wallace Munro, live in New York. Wallace Munro comes out each year ahead of Blanche Bates.

Gertie Hoffmann is to have another spectacular entertainment fully as novel and naughty as her Russian pantomime ballets of last year. She has agreed to do several artistic acts and her own part in the performance will show her (show her is good) in the most sensational work she has yet attempted in public. "The scenic equipment," raves her press agent, "will, in size, tax the capacity of the largest stages and in novelty will speak the ultimate word."

In the Dramatic Mirror under date-line of August 14 is this item: "Paul Armstrong has been made party de-

Eanks and the various Hawaiian musicians and singers. The new members will be Alice Lindahl, Marie Howe, Frank Sheridan and Howard Hickman. The company will open its season at the Garrick Theater, Chicago, on September 1.

Thurston Hall has been engaged as leading man with a permanent stock company just installed at the Winnipeg Theater in Winnipeg, Canada. Frances Brandt is leading woman.

Imagine Izetta Jewel playing Frisco Kate, the star of "The Girl from the Hills," in New York. She has been engaged by the former chief counsel, Frank C. Drew, have collaborated on an opera of 49 life called "The Lily of Poverty Flat." They hope to produce it next year, so we can eat, drink and be merry for several months to come. The announcement does not say just what the premiere will be held. If Schmitz were engaged in the Oregon Penitentiary Governor West would let him out to superintend the production, and if he wanted, to go a starring, as a paragon-star, of course. Drew, who is a millionaire and able to finance the production, is the author of the book, while Schmitz has led the Columbia Theatre orchestra before becoming Mayor, has written the music. The opera is light in plot, but avoids farce and rag-time. Among Drew's lyrics one bears the title "The Lure of Gold" and another "My Heart Can't Forget." In speaking of the inception of the opera, Schmitz said the other day: "During the latter part of my troubles in the courts I sought solace in music. I had long thought there should be a purely California opera and I began the work now just completed. About three weeks ago I told Drew of my need of a plot. That's the easiest thing in the world," he said. The next day he presented me with the scenario of 'The Lily of Poverty Flat.'

George Primrose, "that minstrel man," is again airing his matrimonial differences with the lady who wears his name. Every once in a while out here we get tidings of Primrose's domestic troublousness, when he visits us with a few yards about his real estate holdings in Portland. It is on these occasions that Primrose waxes exceedingly like unto a native son and prattles about retiring to spend his declining years under an Oregon big tree. But when he gets home here he forgets us. His Primrose acres aren't even referred to in this pleasant little accounting of the infelicities of the Primroses, according to the Morning Telegraph:

**Interlocutor—Mr. Primrose.** I see by the papers that the court has ordered you to pay your wife \$75 a month. **Primrose.** Yes, sir. Guess I'll have to take a bowling place.

**Interlocutor—A howling place—why?** Primrose—Well, it's alley-money I've got to pay, you know.

**Interlocutor—Ladies and gentlemen,** Mr. Primrose will now sing that little mock ballad entitled "Oregon Big Tree." If you will believe it in plainer language, dear reader, George Primrose, the well-known minstrel, was yesterday ordered by Justice Tompkins in the Westchester Supreme Court to pay Mrs. Primrose \$75 a month alimony and \$250 counsel fees pending the trial of her suit for a separation. This is the second time that legal action has been taken in this case. The Primroses have been making preparations for the separation since the summer of 1911.

Primrose asserted that he has been

engaged by the attorney for the plaintiff to sue for the alimony and counsel fees Mrs. Primrose asserts that the minstrel's present holdings are worth \$750,000. She also states that in six years since 1905 he has spent on this suit of the water believe that he has had fine chance of scoring a success abroad.

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"Henry Miller in 'The Rainbow' opens the season at the Broadway Theatre, Brooklyn, September 2, and Robert Hilliard in 'The Argyll Case,' the Burns detective play, in Atlantic City, October 17. 'The Count of Luxembourg' will be seen for the first time in Boston, August 26.

"'Oh, Oh, Delphine,' opens at the Forrest Theater, Philadelphia, September 1. The New York company of 'Milestones' will open the Liberty Theater, September 17, and the Chicago company will open at the Blackstone Theater, September 23. Both these organizations will sail from England on September 5.

"Eugene Walter's new play, 'A Plain Woman,' begins its season late in the autumn, and at least four companies in a new play by A. E. Thomas will be seen about the same time.

"The Little Cafe,' which is the reigning success of both Germany and France, will be given its American production in March. 'The Money Burners,' by Glen MacDonough and Raymond Hubbell, will be produced in December. 'Ben-Hur' will also make a tour of the English provinces this year and that, too, will be managed by a corporation in which English capital is enlisted.

"I saw nothing in Paris, which is as usual full of dull revues playing American ragtime songs, and London was not as interesting as usual to me, theoretically speaking."

The debutante Chauncey Olcott opened his season in his new comedy, "Isle o' Dreams," at Saratoga Springs last Friday night. Rida Johnson Young wrote the new comedy and Henry Miller is directing Olcott's tour. His young daughter, Agnes Miller, made her stage debut with Olcott at the Premier.

"There is considerable interest in the

London production of 'Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm,' which opens at the Globe Theater, London, on September 2, and English people who have seen it on this side of the water believe that it has a fine chance of scoring a success abroad.

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