

is truly free and happy in only two places: before an audience, where she has a rare magic of loving the people she entertains and being loved in return; and alone with her three children, for whom she works diligently to give a "sense of security"—and gets the same in return.

But other than these relatively brief moments, Judy's life is as turbulent and tormenting as it was in the years she recalls with bitterness and now says are part of the past. For example, despite protestations of good health and freedom from pills and diets, Judy ended up a recent series of engagements on a sadly familiar note. Booked for three weeks in a Lake Tahoe, Nev., casino, she collapsed in her dressing room. A doctor pronounced her case one of "complete physical exhaustion" and advised cancelling the rest of the engagement.

On the legal front, life has quieted since the highly publicized rift last winter. That breakup was a bitter one, but then so had been four preceding ones. In 1958, Judy's lawyers charged Luft with alleged cruelty. Yet not long after, Judy was in court testi-

fy: "We're a couple of sick honeymooners." They then went to the Bahamas on their fifth honeymoon.

During the rift, the Lufts' two children had been living at a luxurious dude ranch on the shore of Lake Tahoe, where Judy established residence for her proposed divorce. Now that the divorce has been shelved, one of Judy's first orders of business will be to "put down roots" for Joey's and Lorna's sake.

"I want to keep their lives, up to a certain age, as normal as possible. But how can it be when they travel all over?"

**T**HE LUFTS have tried to "put down roots" in London, but unsuccessfully. Most recently Judy was thinking of New York: "The education is so good there, and I can travel both to Europe and the Coast without being away too long."

Still, Las Vegas seems to have an attraction for her. Some of her best friends are connected with the lavish shows there, and Judy can walk around without being unduly besieged by fans. She herself does little gambling (she has few evident



When Liza (right) made her stage debut recently, Judy was there to cheer with her husband Sid Luft and their children, Lorna and Joey.

fy that Luft should have custody of his son by his former wife, Lynn Bari. When questioned about his temper, she said: "He has a very good disposition."

The 1962-1963 separation was even more bitter. Luft claimed Judy had two detectives restrain him while she ran off with their two children, Lorna, 10, and Joey, 7. Judy kept the youngsters under police guard and charged Luft with "extreme cruelty, mental in nature." He countered by asking the court to refuse Judy custody of the children.

**D**URING A previous spat, the late Jerry Geisler, famed Hollywood lawyer, commented: "Sometimes it takes a few days, sometimes a bit longer, but they always make up." This time, though, Judy told reporters: "No, we've tried it (reconciliation), and it didn't work."

Wrote a show-business expert: "So harsh were the words and accusations that neither Judy nor Sid can ever wipe them off the record." Not long after, however, Judy became ill, Luft flew to her side, and they reconciled. From a San Francisco hotel, Luft announced they both had Asian

extravagances except clothes).

When Judy talks about her eldest daughter, Liza Minnelli, 17, her eyes mist as they do during an inspired torch song. For the past year Liza has been studying acting in New York. She made her debut in a school production, and her mother says: "I went expecting to stand in the wings and help out, but she didn't need me. She did it on her own."

Liza's off-Broadway debut in "Beat Foot Forward" also convinced critics of her potential, yet Judy's attitude remains watchfully maternal. "One day I heard Liza was being asked to sing in a cartoon version of 'The Wizard of Oz,'" Judy says. This is one of her own most memorable films, and the song, "Over the Rainbow," is virtually her trademark.

"I thought they were just exploiting Liza to use my name," Judy told me. "But when I finally read the contract, it stated that she was to be billed under her own name. They wanted Liza, not Garland. I was out—and I didn't mind!"

Judy Garland, of course, will never be "out"—down once in a while maybe, but she bounces right back, better than ever.

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