

## America Can Be Proud Of Its Influence On Ballet

By CYNTHIA LOWRY  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

NEW YORK—When Degas was turning out his oil masterpieces, the ballerina was short, chunky, short-necked and hollow-backed. Many ballerinas, almost literally sold by poor parents into Europe's ballet companies, had no education—could neither read nor write. And the pay was so meager that sometimes a pretty young dancer found ways of supplementing her income. This, unfortunately, gave ballerinas racy reputations. Today's ballerinas, however, are

been turning out especially well-trained dancers. You have a very good system for training dancers for all sorts of movement.

This country, Miss Cullberg says, has been leading the world in the development of ballet, and is most interested in choreography—composing new dances.

"And there is now an American style," she said, "based on the classical ballet of Europe but developed through contact with the modern dance, of Martha Graham and Hanya Holm and others."

To date, no satisfactory method for writing down a ballet has been developed. It is kept alive—it is to live—by being passed along from dancer to dancer. One famous ballerina, Giselle, was first composed over 100 years ago and is still being performed.

"There is the Laban notation method," said Miss Cullberg, "but it is such a complicated thing that a choreographer must spend almost a lifetime learning to use it—and there is not time left for the ballet itself."

Ballet developed its classical form as court dancing. In another era, ballets were devised around music already written by one or another famous composer. Today, however, most choreographers decide on a story line, work out steps and then order special music composed for the dance.

Miss Cullberg, on her first visit to the United States, spent much of her time rehearsing dancers of the American Ballet Theater in her dances, notably "Miss Julie" which she adapted from a work by Strindberg. She is the wife of a Swedish actor, Ander, Ek, and they have three children. She came to dancing late—at 25, which is practically old age in the ballet world—studied in Europe and directed herself always toward choreography rather than performing. At 50 she still takes dancing lessons.

"Writers, musicians, painters—they can work a long time and their work makes few physical demands," she said. "The choreographer must be able to demonstrate everything."

When composing a ballet, Miss Cullberg locks herself up with a tape recorder and works out the dance. Then, later, she must show others how to dance it.

"It is the only way," she said, a little sadly. "In this work, you can get old, you can even get fat. But you can't sit down."

## Circuit Rider At Home In Station Wagon

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — When Leila Anderson, modern-day circuit rider for the educational division of the Congregational Churches, pulls into a town, she's sure to attract some attention and before long a crowd.

It just can't be helped. The sign on the door of her sleek station wagon identifies her as a Pilgrim Circuit Rider, Board of Home Missions, Congregational Christian Church. She is America's only woman circuit rider.

Word soon gets around that the "gray-haired lady with the big smile" is back again in her station wagon home. Miss Anderson is on her third trip around the United States.

Housewives, whose kitchens are crammed with push-button equipment, stare in wonder at the electric bean pot she plugs into a dashboard converter to cook her meals en route.

Mouths fairly hang open when the floor board behind the driver's seat is pulled up to disclose a miniature gasoline stove, pots, and pans.

Miss Anderson's rolling home has even more surprises. Long metal planter boxes against the windows

make her the country's most mobile gardener. She raises both flowers and vegetables. A parakeet keeps her company in a cage beneath the dashboard.

In other nooks and crannies she carries a tiny sewing machine, a refrigerator, folding ironing board and other homemaking items.

"It's strange," the 60-year-old woman told a reporter, "that people are always more interested in my living equipment than my working equipment. They don't seem to realize that all these things are but supplementary to my purpose for traveling."

That purpose is contained in the stacks of wooden file boxes exposed when the tailgate is opened. They are filled with pamphlets, typed sheets, booklets and notes. Above the files are stowed a movie screen, maps, blackboards and phonograph records. Alongside are a film projector and slides and a large supply of books and other items connected with Miss Anderson's work as a religious counselor.

Miss Anderson was born on a farm near LaMoille, Illinois, where her father, now 93, still lives.

She attended the University of Chicago and received her master's and bachelor of divinity degrees there and was ordained into the Congregational Church.

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## SOCIETY

### Rebekah Lodge Elects Officers

BONANZA — Officers elected at the Monday night, November 17, meeting of the Fraternity Rebekah Lodge of Bonanza were Marcine Holl, noble grand; Gertie Dick, vice grand, and Helen Derry, secretary-treasurer.

Installation of the new officers will be January 5, 1959. A potluck dinner for all Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and their families will be held before the installation ceremonies.

A Christmas party with gift exchange is planned for December 15.

All members are asked to bring cookies, candy or fruitcake for their exchange gift.

At Monday's meeting, Helen Derry was presented with the seal of perfection by the district president, Eva Roberts. The present noble grand, Esther Fernlund, presided at the meeting.

Last battle ever fought between the United States and Great Britain was the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.



BIRGIT CULLBERG

fall, streamlined, and not only well-trained in their specialty but highly literate and cultivated. In addition, the pay is good, with the result that a modern choreographer can devote herself wholeheartedly to her dancing career. The result is that ballerinas' reputations have been patched up.

"It is the influence of America," Birgit Cullberg, Swedish choreographer who has composed and directed some of the most interesting and popular of the modern ballets. "Since America has become interested in ballet, it has

### Shower Honors Recent Bride

MONTAGUE — Mrs. Norman Nichols, nee Nancy Soule, bride of last August, was honored at a bridal shower on Thursday evening, November 13, held in the club room of the Montague Auditorium with Mrs. Barbara Walters, Mrs. Babe Wheeler and Mrs. Joan Freshour as hostesses.

The evening was spent in playing games. Prize winners were Mrs. Anna May Hamilton, Suzy Soule, Mrs. Betty Dow and Mrs. Maude Cannon.

Invited guests were Mrs. Beverly Ashcraft, Mrs. Gaye Crawford, Mrs. Tom DeSoza, Mrs. Greta Hockaday, Mrs. Dinny Leavers, Mrs. Edith Mays and daughter, Donna, Mrs. Zelda Nichols, Donna Nichols, Mrs. Vera Rizzardo, Mrs. Ruth Soule, Mary Lea Savage, Selma Shantz, Mrs. Hildis Ralston, Mrs. Minnie Petersen, Mrs. Juliana Townley, Mrs. Billy Walters, Mrs. Ila Wheeler and daughter Nola, Eleanor Akin, Betty Cooley, Hilda Crossen, Carol Petersen, Agnes Nichols, Ernesta Rizzardo, Doris Sanders, June Severns and Agnes Swigart.

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LEILA ANDERSON, Pilgrim circuit rider for the Board of Home Missions, Congregational Christian Church, digs into her tailgate library of pamphlets, church school books and film slides at a mission stop.



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