



Willa Cather  
—Courtesy, Alumni office



Bess Streeter Aldrich



**Governors of Nebraska and Iowa Attend Flower Show**

In Omaha for the opening of the flower show, the governors and first ladies of Nebraska and Iowa were photographed as they

arrived at the Chamber of Commerce Saturday for the public affairs luncheon. Left to right are Mrs. Roy L.

Cochran, Governor Clyde Herring of Iowa, Governor Cochran of Nebraska, and Mrs. Herring.

ENTS in Lincoln and 5-Mile Limits.  
FIVE CENTS Elsewhere.

**LEAD**

**NEBRASKA BORN  
CABINET MEMBER  
DIES AT CAPITAL**

Once Captain of U. of N. Grid Team, Won Prominence in Mining.

WASHINGTON. (UP). Secretary of War George H. Dern died of heart disease at Walter Reed Memorial hospital at 10:55 a. m., e. s. t., opening the first gap in



GEORGE H. DERN.

the new deal's cabinet ranks since inauguration of President Roosevelt. Physicians had reported his condition increasingly critical during the last week.

It was thought probable that President Roosevelt's drouth inspection trip plans would be re-arranged to enable him to attend the Dern funeral.

Dern, in poor health since an influenza attack last spring, was 63 years old.

Not himself a man of any war or army experience, Dern's tenure of office marked sharp changes and innovations in the army, long considered the most conservative branch of the government.

The secretary of war came into the cabinet from background of mining and legislative experience in Utah. He had served two terms in the Utah legislature and two terms as governor of the state before coming to Washington in 1933.

**Won Roosevelt's Attention.**

A tall, vigorous westerner, Dern came to the attention of President Roosevelt when the chief executive, then governor of New York, (Continued on Page 6.)

BESS STREETER ALDRICH  
1000 SOUTH FIFTY-SECOND STREET  
PIEDMONT  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Sep't. 29, 1950

Dear Miss Clark:

Something must have gone woefully wrong in my filing-case, for I have just now run across some letters fastened together with a rubber band, which have never been answered. I'm a bit shocked by the disclosure, especially to find that they are dated in May. So I'm not sure that a letter from me is still expected or wanted.

I shall try to make amends by saying that I think your collecting letters for the scrap book is a very fine contribution to your work.

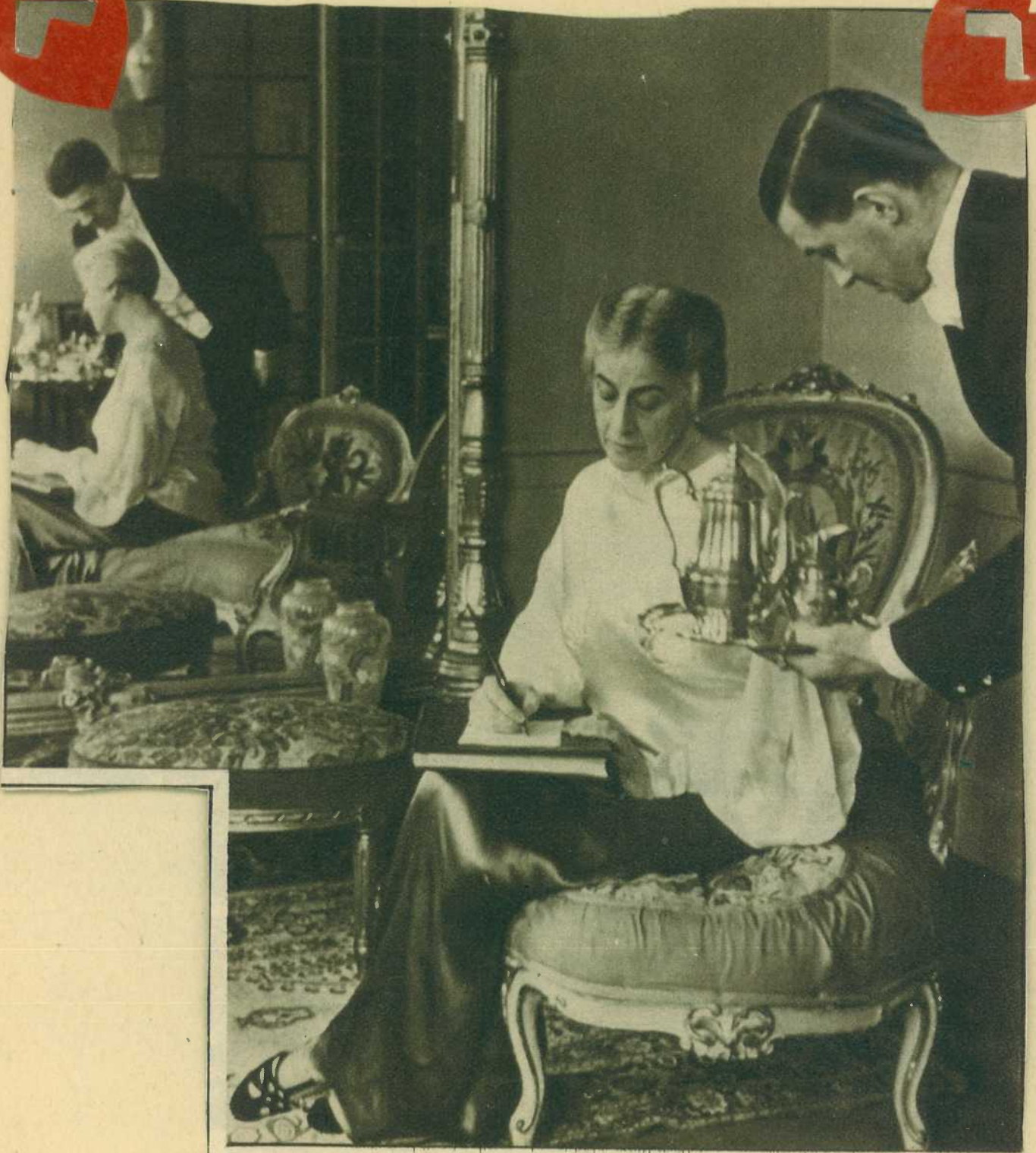
I am happy and honored to be chosen on the list with the notables from whom your letters have come. One of the pleasant things connected with my own work over the years has been the many fine letters I have received. It always seems to me such a gracious thing that people who have liked an author's writings, often take time and pains to tell her so.

With all good wishes,

I am sincerely,

*Bess Streeter Aldrich*

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Ruth Bryan Owen, American minister to Denmark, and daughter of U.S. Senator William Bryan, is seen in this informal study, finishing a letter while a servant brings tea, at her home in Copenhagen.

—Associated Press photo.



LEGATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
12 March 1935

Miss Dorothy Jane Fleming  
Randolph School  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Dorothy Jane:

I am very glad to have your letter, as a representative of your sixth grade, for I, too, went to school in Lincoln as a young girl, and have many memories of those days.

I am finding my work in Denmark most pleasant because of the friendliness of the people, and most interesting because of the many fine things which they have accomplished in their Government. Problems which are receiving much attention in our country, such as unemployment insurance and old age pensions, have been enacted into laws and put into operation here for a number of years.

The schools are much like ours, and provision is made for every child to attend, so that there is no illiteracy. The standard of scholarship is high, and they are very sincere in their work. There are also the Folk Schools in the country, which are attended by the grown-ups, so that everyone may have an education.

It is a great responsibility to represent our country abroad, and especially as the first woman Minister, and your kind assurances of interest in my work are most heartening.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Ruth Bryan Owen*

The American Minister

GEORGE W. NORRIS  
NEBRASKA

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

N/M

March 1, 1935.

Miss Ethel Clark,  
925 South 14th Street,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

My dear Miss Clark:

I am in receipt of your letter of February twenty-second. You ask me to say something about Nebraska.

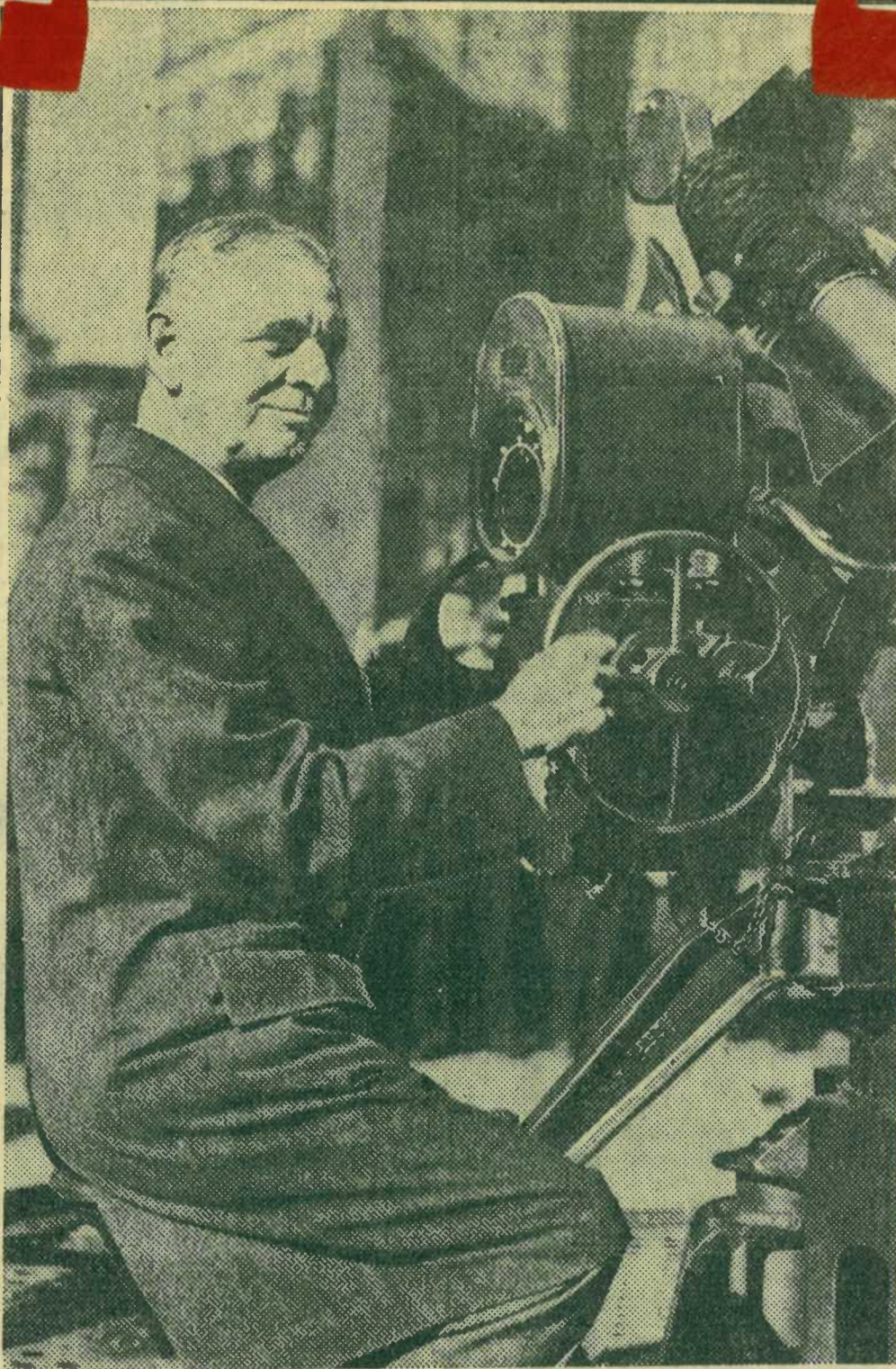
It seems to me that, among the many good things which might be said about Nebraska, the adoption by the people of the amendment to the Constitution of the State providing for a one-house legislature is the idea which at the present time is uppermost in the minds of our people.

In my opinion, this progressive step taken by Nebraska will in time be followed by most, if not all, of the States of the Union. Nebraska has taken a step in advance which is going to be watched by all the other States and indeed by many foreign countries. It will in the years to come be given credit for this advance move in civilization. In the no distant future, our people will be able to feel a satisfaction and a pride in this movement that will be one of the shining lights in civilization.

With best wishes, I am

Respectfully yours,

*G. W. Norris*



Secretary of War George H. Dern told members of the Philadelphia, Pa., post of the Army Ordnance association that "Our army is microscopic that it doesn't even constitute a minor factor in present discussions." He is shown operating an anti-aircraft gun during his visit.—Acme.

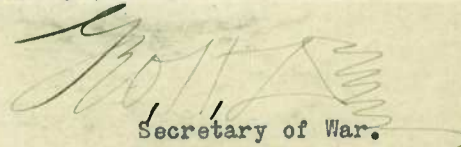
WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON

March 7, 1935.

Dear Members of the Sixth Grade:

Your letter of March 1st asking me to send you a message for your anniversary program on March 15th came to me yesterday. As it is quite probable that I shall be away from Washington on March 15th, I am presuming to write this note rather than to send a telegram on that date. As I am not familiar with the character of your program I am a little in doubt as to just what form my letter of greeting should take. Anyway, I can and do wish you a most enjoyable and successful celebration.

Sincerely yours,



Secretary of War.

Members of the Sixth Grade,  
Randolph School,  
37th and D Streets,  
Lincoln, Nebr.

R. L. COCHRAN  
GOVERNOR



State of Nebraska  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Lincoln

February 28, 1935

Mr. Jack Clemens  
634 So 33rd Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request in which you say that you are to have a program March fifteenth to celebrate Nebraska's becoming a state, you ask me for a message to be sent you on this occasion and you make particular inquiry as to what I think is one of the secrets of success.

In reply to same, it appears to me that one of the principal secrets of success is hard work at whatever task may be assigned to the individual, whether it be school work, manual labor or task of whatever character.

I think it is most important that maturing youth should choose a vocation which he will like. If a person likes his job well enough it appears to me that he is bound to make good at it. Regardless of what environment a person might be raised in, it seems to me most important to have the experience of manual labor. Even though a man or woman may not earn his living by working with his hands, it is, in my judgment, very important that he shall have had the experience of such work in order to better understand problems of labor and of those who earn their living by manual labor.

I wish to extend, through you, greetings to the Randolph School and want to commend you and your school upon your celebration of the anniversary of Nebraska's becoming a state.

Very sincerely yours,

Governor



Law School of Harvard University,  
Cambridge, Mass.

12th March 1935

To the Members of the Sixth Grade,  
The Randolph School,  
37 and D Streets,  
Lincoln, Nebraska

My dear Fellow Nebraskans:

It is not easy in a few words to fill so large an order as you make. If I were to attempt to say in one sentence what from my experience is most important in the life of a successful lawyer, I should say it was to form as early in life as possible habits of sane, consecutive thinking, accurate observation, and systematic, thorough, hard work.

With best wishes

Yours very truly,

*Roscoe Pound*



Hollywood, California.  
March 4, 1935.

To The Sixth Grade,  
Randolph School,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Boys and Girls:

I don't know of any other way to address you in acknowledging your very kind letter of February 25th, for there was no signature attached. If I were to address you "Dear Children" I would feel as though I were a school teacher, and goodness knows, I'm anything but that.

It is an extreme pleasure for me to write a note to you on the anniversary of Nebraska's entrance to statehood, for as you undoubtedly know, I am a Cornhusker myself. I was born in Burchard, and spent a considerable part of my early days in Lincoln and Pawnee City.

Nebraska rates as one of our great sovereign states today, and I am always proud to acknowledge that it is my own natal state.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking you for your kind remarks regarding our

pictures, and I sincerely hope we can continue  
to make them enjoyable to yourselves and your  
parents.

Always my best,

*Harold Lloyd*



**RKO STUDIOS INC.**

780 GOWER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.



REG. U. S. PAT OFF

Melvin Badberg Esq.  
1035 So. 52 St.  
Lincoln  
Nebr.

8.3.35

My Dear Mr Badberg:-

My advice to young people  
ambitious to succeed is as follows:-  
Concentrate and don't be  
afraid to work overtime.

Sincerely,

*Sherid Crawford*

The University of Chicago  
The School of Social Service Administration

March  
Fourth  
1935

Dear Betty:

It was a great pleasure to have a letter from a Nebraska girl, and to know that your class in the Randolph School is energetic enough to write to the "exiled" Nebraskans and to keep us in mind.

I hope very much that happy and successful years are ahead for all of you.

Sincerely yours,

*Gene Abbott*

Miss Betty Weddle  
3517 A Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska

A-K



Hazel Kinsella

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
LINCOLN

SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

March 18, 1935

Dear friends:

I was very interested to have you tell me of your study in the piano classes with Miss Wright, and I know that you are getting along well and taking much pleasure with your work, too.

You asked me, in your letter, to give you something about music for your book. Do you know of the old Russian legend which tells of a shepherd, in a far-off land, who made such sweet music upon his simple reed flute that all the other shepherds gathered about to hear him? "Our friend giveth such pleasure with his pipe," said one of them, "why should he spend his time guarding the sheep? Rather let us take care of his flock that he may play all day. Not all of us may play, but all may listen." And they divided his work among them, leaving him free to go about, playing not only for shepherds, but for cobblers and basket-makers, homekeepers, children, and kings in their palaces. And these, the old legend says, were the first concerts.

For many years certain countries of Europe have been famed as being musical. The reason that they were musical is that nearly everyone took part in the music, for surely one of the best ways to know and appreciate beautiful music is to help make it. And now, thanks to the opportunities offered in nearly every school in America, every boy and girl may learn how to do this if he <sup>wishes</sup> wishes to.

I hope some day to see the book that you are making, and I wish each of you much success.

Very sincerely your friend,

*Hazel Gertrude Kinsella.*





WILBUR CHENOWETH  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

March 14, 1935

Members of Sixth Grade  
Randolph School  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Students:

I am indeed flattered to have your request for a letter concerning my musical work and compositions.

I enclose a brochure which I use as publicity material in connection with my concerts. I believe you will find most of the material concerning me and my compositions in this circular. For your information I supplement a list of other compositions not included.

Carl Fischer Publishing Co.

La Pampita (Tango) - Piano  
Nocturne - Piano  
Joy of Living - Piano  
Twilight Lullaby - Song  
In a Japanese Garden - Song  
One Rose - Song

Bendix Publishing Co.

Hidden Waterfall - Piano  
In a Patio - Piano  
Petit Patrol (Grainger) - Piano  
Lullaby (Grainger) - Piano  
Pitter Patter - Piano  
Christmas in Cornwall - Piano

Boston Publishing Company

Carillon Christmas Carols - Anthem  
A Frog He Would a Wooing Go - Piano  
Hail to the King Victorious - Anthem  
My Lotus Bloom - Song

"Only My Love for Thee" and "Lovelight" from "Miniatures", a "Piano Collection" and the processional, "Come Let Us Sing", which will be sung for the first time by the choir of First Plymouth Congregational Church on Easter, will be released by the publishers in the very near future.

In answer to your question to name some of the essentials for one who wishes to become an accomplished musician I should say that there are two only: First

First: One must possess natural musical ability. Such talent may be determined by any musician of experience and usually it may be detected in a child at an early age.

Second: One must possess the ability to apply themselves, in other words, he must be willing to sacrifice, work or practice many hours each day and make everything conform to his schedule of work. He should never miss an opportunity to appear to good advantage in public and to make every contact possible which will lead him to the top of his profession for it must be remembered that music is a business and must be pursued as such.

Hoping this will help you in your program on March 19th and particularly those with musical aspirations, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Bill Bevan*

WC:r

CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

BANCROFT SCHOOL  
Office of the Principal

February 26, 1935

Dear Dorothy Jane:

Thank you for your fine letter of February 25,. It is pleasant to be remembered by a former Bancroft girl. You say in your letter, "Just tell us how best to succeed."

The last paragraph in a new book by Thomas A. Edison which came to our sixth grade reading table today says, "My philosophy of life is work, bringing out the secrets of nature and applying them for the happiness of man. I know of no better service to render for the short time we are in the world."

Yes, Edison is right it takes work to make success. Some one has said a dead fish can float down stream but it takes a live fish to swim up stream. No doubt you are studying about the sturdy pioneers of Nebraska this week. Isn't it thrilling to read about their hardships, building this great state of Nebraska for us-- for you and me. Could they have succeeded without work?

Yes, Dorothy Jane dear, I was president of the N.E.A. in 1939-30, the largest organization of teachers not only of the United States, but of the world, and it was a great experience as well as a great responsibility and opportunity for service for me, however, the honor was meant for the middle west, for Nebraska and Lincoln. I shall always be grateful for this opportunity for service in the field of education.

I am wishing for you, dear friend, abundant "success" always.

Yours very sincerely,

*E. Ruth Pyrtle*

E. Ruth Pyrtle  
Prin. of Bancroft School

ERP:MH



For Mary Frances  
Summerly  
Mari Sandoy

MARI SANDOZ  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

402 Shurtleff Arms,  
March 8, 1938

Mary Frances Shurtleff,  
4724 A Street,  
Lincoln, Nebr.

Dear Mary Frances:

It is nice to sit a moment with your letter and think about you and your school. I wonder if your school seems the most interesting spot in the world to you as mine did to me when I was eleven.

I remember that year so well. I made my first product map of South America that fall, with coffee and rubber and nitrate and such things glued on. I learned the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Gettysburg Address.

That winter I caught a very bad cold after long singing in a warm room and lost my voice. Then I knew I could never be a singer, as I had hoped, but only a writer, if I could learn English well enough. So I dug in hard, read everything I could find. We had no libraries in those schools. I worked at my grammar and spelling in the evenings and in the summer twilight.

Then, before I knew it, I was twelve, and there was a whole new year before me. I had three stories published in the Junior page of the Omaha Daily News that year. It was fine.

And may your next year be even finer, for you and all your classmates.

Sincerely,

*Mari Sandoz*

MS:s

# Dancer Astaire Is Unwilling Tycoon

By Denman Kountze, Jr.  
Hollywood, Cal.

**MORE** than ever before, Hollywood is a topsy-turvy world where performers act like producers and business agents—and producers display the temperament of performers. This is nowhere more apparent than in a conference with Fred Astaire.

Mr. Astaire, Omaha's seemingly ageless magician of the screen and television, appears to be an unwilling, almost reluctant tycoon. I caught up with him recently as he prepared a new series of TV stories called "Alcoa Premiere" at ReVue Studios, which is now heard over ABC-TV on Tuesdays at 9 p. m.

In his casually dapper garb of the day, Mr. Astaire had been popping on and off the telephone in his dressing room trying to straighten out a matter of business. It concerned the withholding for tax purposes of money from an employe's salary.

He slammed the receiver down, shrugged his shoulders in despair and greeted me.

"For God's sake," he laughed, "don't ask me anything about my business dealings. Details of business simply bore me to death! It's been a hectic year and I'm trying to keep the frenzy of this life to a minimum."

## Has 3 Corporations

**WHAT** bothers—and enriches—Mr. Astaire are his three separate corporations that variously control his motion picture and television enterprises, not to mention his entry this year into the recording business with a fourth corporation.

He had just finished a film comedy at Columbia Studio,



Fred Astaire refuses to discuss his past films with Ginger Rogers because he's tired of talking so much about them.

"The Notorious Landlady," with Jack Lemmon and Kim Novak, only to plunge deeply into his latest television activity. Would he care to explain what he meant by "frenzy"?

"Well, I got through the picture very nicely," he said, "and it was fun working with Jack and Kim. I really think the film should do quite well. But I like to start and finish one thing at a time."

"Too many people out here get involved with one project," he explained, "then switch to another deal in the middle of the first. That's where the frenzy comes from. You have to arrange your life in some sort of order or you'll go nuts."

"You ask if I'll do any more of those 'Evenings With Fred Astaire' on television. They were terribly complicated and took such a long time. I just wouldn't have time for them now. They are, of course, being shown all over the world."

Mr. Astaire added that he and his associates might sometime try to combine selections of those well-regarded TV specials in a single show, "but I just don't see how I could do anything of that sort right now."

## He Likes Acting

"ON THE new show," he said, "I introduce most of the stories and only appear in two of the hour-long segments as an actor. No dancing or singing there. It's just a matter of acting. I like to do dramatic shows very much."

"I'm not exactly what you call an emcee, though I have done that sort of thing before. After all, I emceed a couple of Academy Award (Oscar) shows in the past. I usually like to write my own material



Ageless Fred Astaire finds his happiness in work.

to make it sound as if I really am doing the talking.

"The present TV show is rather unusual in that it varies half-hour shows with one-hour segments. We felt it was best to do things that way because some stories can be told best in a shorter time. I sort of explain what the shows are about."

Mr. Astaire has threatened to retire for years, but is still at it. His wife died in 1954.

"Work is my only real happiness," he said, with a wistful look. "I try hard to think that the good old days are today and tomorrow, not all the yesterdays."

Mr. Astaire, who refuses to discuss his past films with Ginger Rogers because he's tired of talking so much about them, described his latest recording project as "a definite labor of love."

## Tired of Writing

"IT'S something I've wanted to do for quite a while," he said. "I thought it might be a fine way to help along new talent. I guess you could call it an experiment which I hope will be a great success."

"Thus far I have recorded, from the tapes of my three special shows, my own material for the first album. It's an Astaire medley. We next got Carol Lawrence, a wonderful singer who was in 'West Side Story,' to do another album. 'My third album introduces

Bill Cunningham, a young fellow with a marvelous voice. I think he should do very well. In a way being in business for yourself, for all its headaches, isn't so bad. I have no one to please but myself."

Mr. Astaire's other proclivity, judging from the sales of his autobiography several

years ago, is writing. Would he—or was he—in the literary marketplace again?

"No," he smiled. "I'm just about finished as a writer of books. I did the book and it was enough for me for quite a while. I will say, however, that the book did pretty well. I'm happy about that."



Fred Astaire gets a smile from that tough looking hombre with the eye patch, who is none other than Charlton Heston, a guest actor on the new Astaire television series.