

# Best Seller's Discoverer Speaks Here

Macmillan Official Relates How He Found 'Gone With the Wind.'

Miss Mitchell Unwilling to Release Book. News-women Told.

By Hope Ridings Miner,  
The Post Society Editor.

"Gone With the Wind"—the novel still more widely discussed in Washington society than any other—was the topic yesterday following a brief speech by H. S. Latham, the Connecticut Yankee, who discovered the best seller on the South and started the author on the road to fame.

The occasion was the weekly luncheon of the Women's National Press Club at the Willard Hotel.

At the close of his general discussion on books and their makers, Mr. Latham who, incidentally, is vice president of the Macmillan Co., shattered some erroneous ideas as to how the book came to be published in recounting his experience regarding it. He was on a book-scouting tour in 1934, when he stopped in Atlanta and happened to meet Miss Mitchell, or rather Mrs. Marsh, as she is known there. Having been informed she had been working on a novel, he asked her about it, but she stoutly denied having a book either finished or in the process of being written. Later, however, shortly before he was leaving Atlanta to continue the trip across the country, she appeared at his hotel with a huge manuscript bearing the tentative title, "Tomorrow Is Another Day." That mass of material was to become "Gone With the Wind"—but not without a struggle.

## Asks Return Of Manuscript.

When Mr. Latham arrived in New Orleans he found a telegram awaiting him from Mrs. Marsh, saying, in effect, "Send back my manuscript; I have changed my mind."

"I never received that telegram," said Mr. Latham with a puckish twinkle in his eye, "so when I got to San Francisco there was another, even more insistent."

His reply was the offer of a contract for publication. A few suggestions for changes and additions followed, and a few months later "Gone With the Wind" came from the press. In addition to becoming a best seller in almost no time, the book is now being translated into 24 languages, and Margaret Mitchell's name and fame have gone around the world. But success hasn't changed the author in the least. Mr. Latham revealed in answering the barrage of questions after his talk. The author still lives in the same apartment, has the same servant and follows much the same manner of living as she did before, he said.

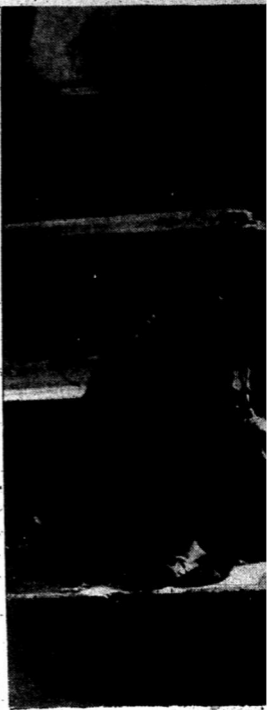
Preceding his discussion of "Gone With the Wind" and its author, Mr. Latham recounted some of his other experiences in discovering authors in this country and in England, and mentioned that among most of the writers and would-be writers he has met recently, women predominate. In Washington for the past two days to confer with authors, Mr. Latham will leave today.

## Mrs. Morgenthau Is Luncheon Guest.

Among the guests at the luncheon were Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, who came with Mrs. John Herrick; Mrs. Joseph Parks Crockett, of Alexandria, who with her husband recently returned from a trip to Russia and other countries abroad, and Mrs. Frederick Benton, who brought with her an intricately designed fifteenth century cross, which came from a church in Santo Domingo and was given to her by an Irish priest.

Other guests were Mrs. George F. Becker, Mrs. H. B. Hayden, who with her husband, Col. Hayden, have recently returned to Washington after an extended absence, and who came with her sister-in-law, Miss Bainbridge Hayden, who came back, not long ago, from California; Miss Ordway Whitford, who was a guest of Mrs. Henry Wilder Keyes, and Mrs. Maston White.

Miss Doris Fleeson presided at the luncheon. The honor guest for next Tuesday's meeting will be Postmaster General James A. Farley.



And Miss Mary Winifred Brown, member Tracy place with her cocker spaniel, call "Win," returned early this week from

# Tea Will Honor Miss Szechenyi

Society Marks Day of Fete to Be Given by Wife of Hungarian Envoy.

Society is sharpening its red pencils and circling November 23 on its calendars—the date of the tea dance to be given by the wife of the Hungarian Minister, Mme. Pelenyi, in honor of Miss Sylvia Szechenyi.

It will be remembered that Miss Szechenyi was presented to society last summer at an eye-opening party at the fabulous Breakers, Newport mansion of the Vanderbilts, when 800 guests rode up the flood-lighted drive. Last winter she made her bow in Budapest.

At the time of the Newport festivities, a Washington presentation was wished and hoped for. It has come true . . . although the affair is not strictly a "coming out" party for the much debut-ed Sylvia. It will serve, however, for her to renew her Washington friendships, of which she has many, since her father, Count Szechenyi, was Hungarian Minister here himself for many years. Her mother, Countess Szechenyi, was the former Gladys Vanderbilt.

Further flashbacks on the Szechenyi girls will recall to your mind that Alice, after a Washington debut, married Count Bela Hadik; that Cornelia became Mrs. Eugene Bowie Roberts, now of this city, and that Gladys is now Viscountess Maidstone, living alternately in Switzerland and England.

## Mrs. Daugherty Issues Bids for Dinner on Dec. 3

Mrs. John Allan Daugherty has issued invitations to a dinner Friday evening, December 3.

Having recently returned to Washington after spending the summer at Little Cedars, her home near Westport, Conn., Mrs. Daugherty has moved from her former home on Kalorama road and is now living at 2000 Connecticut avenue.

Mrs. Alice Torry Griffith will leave for New York tomorrow to spend a few days. She insists she is not going up on a shopping tour but really to be on hand for the Notre Dame-Army game to be played there on Saturday.

Mrs. Charles P. Garman, of Los Angeles, Calif., has arrived at the Shoreham to join Mr. Garman, who is in Washington in connection with the Boulder Dam engineering project.

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