



MRS. HOPE RIDINGS MILLER

GAL FROM TEXAS

She Makes Congress Jump Through Hoops

Special to The News

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Once a year a gal from Texas literally makes Congress jump through hoops—and for a good cause.

Hope Ridings Miller, formerly of Sherman, has been known to have Speaker Sam Rayburn ringing the gong; Madame Bonnie of the French Embassy modeling hats fresh from Paris; Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney singing "Male Believer"; the Veep and Mrs. Barkley giving forth with "God Bless America," and half a dozen Texas congressmen "putting their little feet down."

The big VIP (Very Important Persons) Hour, for which she corralled forty Senators, 160 congressmen and other notables, raised \$25,000 for the National Hear Fund last year. This January, a general chairman of the show which the Women's National Press Club is staging, the cause is war relief for servicemen in Korea.

Mrs. Miller, an attractive blonde hostess and magazine writer, came to Washington the day Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated in 1933. Like so many who came here

somehow she's always planned to go back to Texas, but never seems to get around to it.

"Nobody but a dullard could be bored in Washington," she maintains. "It is the most confusing and exciting town on earth. Anyone you meet is important—even a nobody, because they may be a somebody tomorrow. And, if you stick around long enough, you meet the same people coming down that you met going up."

Hope Ridings Miller has been sticking around for almost eighteen years, the major portion of which she was society editor of the Washington Post. At this time, she's been to about a million parties. That's no exaggeration.

Her love of parties she traces back to her Grandfather Dupree, a close friend of Sam Houston, who never missed a Sunday school picnic or a speaking because, as he always put it, "I like to be at the events."

Home likes to be at the events, too. "I've been to everything my two legs would carry me to since I came to Washington, and I've made

it a business of trying to be invited places," she readily admits.

As a result, Hope is a friend of practically every "Name" that has come through Washington in her time. Naturally, she has some favorites:

Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, an old friend of her family, is tops with her. He often tells her, "We've come a long way from Coffee Mill Creek, haven't we, Hope?" She admires his formula for congressional action, which she summarizes as: "Sam takes issue before the ball gets into play, but after that he wisely follows the captain of the team."

Mme Minister Perle Mesta is well liked by Hope, because "We're from the same part of the country and we understand each other."

The day after Truman was elected, Hope and Mrs. Mesta were eating off paper plates together "because the china hadn't been moved into Perle's new house yet." Mrs. Mesta confided that a number of persons had asked her what she wanted as an appointment.

"I'm not interested in anything," Mrs. Mesta told the Texas woman. But Hope suggested that she seek a diplomatic post, preferably in a country which had a woman ruler. Today Mrs. Mesta represents this country before the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

Gen. Omar Bradley, Hope claims, "is the only general about whom I have never heard any criticism from a GI. He is really a darling."

Evelyn Walsh McLean, the late owner of the fabulous Hope diamond, once confided to her, "Honey, I'm not long for this life, and when I die I hope somebody remembers me for something besides the Hope diamond."

Her experience in Washington as a society editor, columnist and writer for Town and Country and Promenade magazines, and as a hostess has made Hope Miller an expert at what might be called the "Washington formula," or the key to getting ahead in society in the nation's capital.

She handled publicity for the Marquis of Milford-Haven wedding last year and for the Sister Kenney Infantile Paralysis Fund benefit.

Not a professional social adviser, she is glad to hand out some helpful "do's and don'ts" for the new congressman's wife. They are: First, be nice to everyone and cultivate the press assiduously; second, pay the right calls on the right people; third, read the Congressional Record every day; fourth, make many friends and don't admit any enemies, and fifth, join the Congressional Club and mingle with the women who already know the ropes."

Hope Ridings grew up in Sherman, the daughter of Dr. A. L. Ridings and Grace Dupree Ridings, well-known poet in Texas. She attended the University of Texas and received a master's degree from Columbia University at the age of nineteen. She taught in Paris Junior College for a while and then was married to Dr. C. L. Miller and came to Washington on her honeymoon.

"When I came here, I didn't even know who was President," she claims.

But, as Sam Rayburn says, Hope has come a long way from Coffee Mill Creek.