



Press Register, Mobile, Alabama

by 8/31/69

Maryon Allen

REFLECTORS

of a NEWS HEN

In the competitive, cackling world of news hens, just as in all other professional worlds, there reigns a news hen supreme. And a newspaper woman doesn't have to trail her feathers through the printer's ink pot too long before she finds out just who this queen is.

Any women's editor, society editor, female columnist, magazine editor, or feature, writer, very soon after her journalistic baptism, becomes aware of the grande dame presence of one Hope Ridings Miller of Washington, D. C., for this swish lady simply epitomizes the highs to which a news hen may aspire.

She is soft and pretty, blond and elegant. She tends to wear beautifully cut, shimmering silks. Her connections are awesome, impeccable, prestigious and cause upper stratospheric social, political diplomatic and business doors, usually shut tight and bolted, to open like they were greased, revolving ones!

She has done it all . . . seen it all . . . assessed it all . . . and written all of the things that interest people unceasingly . . . that glamorous world over the rainbow . . . that never never land of Eastern High Society, the socio-politico-diplomatico gilded ladder of Washington, the jet stream crowd of Europe's cities and beaches, and all satellite, up and climbing candidates for positions in the upper crust.

This patrician lady from Texas has racked up some journalistic plums, which cause news hens everywhere to turn puce, tangerine and Nile green with envy. She was ramrod and editor of the society and glitter department, also feature columnist for the

Washington Post; her nationally syndicated column, plus her Washington feature work for click Town and Country magazine were never missed by those who wanted to stay in the know; then for ten years this super society sleuth put together a sheer delight of a magazine named Diplomat, as its editor in chief. Diplomat was combined with Status magazine later.

Hope is now a television consultant for Washington Metromedia, but mainly she is sitting at her typewriter, her blond head covered with the shiny green laurel wreaths of fine accomplishment, and pounding out long awaited books of the fabulous world she knows as few do.

Her book "Embassy Row", which came off the presses early this year, is an off and running best, non-fiction seller, and on its pages Hope Ridings Miller proves to be an unequalled chronicler of the unbelievably fascinating and intricately involved Washington diplomatic scene, but she also comes through as a tireless, meticulous historical researcher. Besides that, this queenly news hen writes like a linotype machine! It would be easy to hate so talented a dame if she weren't so doggedly charming and wonderful!

Naturally, I was thrilled to death to finally meet the "Fabulous Hope" after coming to Washington, and even more thrilled when she called to arrange a luncheon date at the International Club the other day.

One of the very first things which endeared Hope to me was her lovely Southern accent, which he has managed to keep despite all these years

in semi-Yankeeland. Another quality I quickly picked up was her innate kindness, something not all purveyors of society doings have, I can tell you! She is marvelously witty, refreshingly unpretentious and quite real in her outlook at life, people and the foibles thereof.

If I was a Hope Ridings Miller fan before, I am president of the club now! She never tries to snow you with all she is . . . indeed, you simply have to pull things out of her, which is a tad different from D.C., where most important folks you meet will lovingly, with feeling and in depth give you a quickie biography Who's Who couldn't squeeze into 10 pages!

Of course, we fell to cackling over the clam chowder and low calories like the confirmed old news hens we are and always will be. And being, in addition, an incurable hysterical historical nut, who falls in love with every old house in sight, I am delighted to report in a real news scoop that Hope's next book will be out September 23 and its title is, "Great Houses of Washington, D.C."

It will be one of those gorgeous, coffee table sized beauties with tons of color pictures of the amazing houses which abound here, accompanied by Hope's sparkling historical text and inside dope on the houses and inhabitants. Someone special on your goody list would treasure Hope's new hook at Christmas time, I'm sure.

But even if you don't like books on Embassy Row or Washington houses, buy one anyway for the picture of Hope on the back cover. She's a living doll.

Maryon Allen was the wife of Senator Allen of Alabama when she married him. After he died, she became a Senator for Ala.