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**OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES**

*Fourteenth Series*

By

ROSALIE MASSENGALE



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CHAPEL HILL MCMLVI  
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ROSALIE MASSENGALE



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## PROGRAM I

### REACHING FOR THE STARS

The American story—from rags to riches—has never had a more winning heroine than Miss Jacqueline Cochran. Born to the abject poverty common to southern mill hands forty years ago, “raised” by foster parents to whom the word “slatternly” applied only too aptly, she has become by her own determination and hard work one of the leading business women in the United States and the outstanding aviatrix of the world. Miss Cochran’s career is nothing short of remarkable. Of formal schooling she had only two short years. At seven she went to work, by twelve the night shift of the southern textile mill was familiar to her, and at fourteen she escaped the mills forever, by becoming a “helper” in a beauty parlor. Today she owns three cosmetic firms, and in 1953 she was named Business Woman of the Year. In that same year Miss Cochran also received the International Flying Organization gold medal for the outstanding accomplishment by any pilot, man or woman, during 1953. In that year she had set new records in jet-propelled planes and she had become the first woman to pass through the sonic barrier to beat the speed of sound. Miss Cochran began to fly in 1932 after she met Floyd Odlum, the industrialist. He interested her in aviation, she interested him in herself, and they were married and have lived happily ever after. Miss Cochran has won more than 200 flying awards and trophies and has broken speed records in both jet and piston engine planes. During the war she headed the WASPs. At war’s end she saw the Japanese surrender in the Philippines and watched the war trials at Nuremberg, and in 1952 she helped persuade Eisenhower to run for president. All this and much more she tells in a straightforward way, with no self-pity over the early years or conceit over the later. She believes that any person willing to work hard and selflessly at his interests can accomplish in his field what she has in hers.

After the swift pace of Jacqueline Cochran’s book, Anne Lindbergh’s *Gift from the Sea* provides a quiet and restful interlude. Miss Cochran inspires a wholesome awe and respect but few will identify themselves with her or her career. Mrs. Lindbergh, however, in exquisite English, has dealt with a universal experience, the individual’s need to find “a pattern of living.” Deceptively simple, beautifully expressed, *Gift from the Sea* says what many a woman with “interests and duties, ranging out in all

directions from the central mother-core, like spokes from the hub of a wheel," has incoherently tried to say for herself. Mrs. Lindbergh, seeking her own pattern of living, wrote these pages during a fortnight alone at a southern beach. The shells thrown up by the sea and examined by her on the beach furnish analogies for her life situations. The channeled whelk stands for the simplification of life—the need to be at peace with oneself, so hard to realize until the non-essentials have been stripped away. The moonshell is solitude, the "room of her own" each woman should have. The double sunrise shell, with its "fragile perfection," is like first love, the pure and perfect intimacy achieved by young lovers, or mother and new born babe. And so she goes on until she has carried us with gentle humor and rare perception through the busy early married years, to middle age and "the best relationship of all . . . the meeting of two whole fully developed people as persons," which she feels is what middle-age should bring man and wife.

### 1. *A Modern Cinderella*

*The Stars at Noon*, by Jacqueline Cochran.

Describe Jacqueline Cochran's early years. Who were the people who consciously or unconsciously helped her in those days?

Tell of some of Miss Cochran's experiments that have led to greater safety in flying.

Make a list of her honors in the flying world.

Discuss the psychic phenomena she writes about. Relate her experience at the time of Amelia Earhart's death.

Miss Cochran was "in" on a phenomenal number of important after-the-war events, such as the surrender at the Philippines and the Nuremberg war trials. These were the result of her personal contacts. What qualities must she possess in order to make so many people anxious to open doors for her?

Briefly summarize Miss Cochran's political opinions. Show how her husband's view and her own experiences in life have influenced her here.

How do you reconcile Miss Cochran's views on Hitler and Stalin with her favorable impression of Franco and Peron?

*Additional Reading:*

*Last Flight*, by Amelia Earhart, arranged by George Palmer Putnam.

*The Flying Years*, by Lamont Buchanan.

### 2. "*The Here, the Now, and the Individual*"

*Gift from the Sea*, by Anne Lindbergh.

Tell how Anne Lindbergh came to write this book.

List the five sea shells used as analogies and tell what each represents to the author.

"Mechanically, we have gained in the last generation, but spiritually we have, I think, unwittingly lost." Explain what is meant here. Do you agree?

Point out passages of Mrs. Lindbergh's quiet humor, such as her explanation of woman having always been the mainstay of the Church.

Discuss the "error bred in the bone of man" as Anne Lindbergh sees it. Why does she say there should not be any *permanent* pure relationships?

This is a comforting book for the middle-aged. Why?

Summarize Mrs. Lindbergh's plea for "the here, the now, and the individual."

*Additional Reading:*

*Listen! The Wind*, by Anne Lindbergh.

*North to the Orient*, by Anne Lindbergh.

*Steep Ascent*, by Anne Lindbergh.

PROGRAM II  
BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Life in Soviet Russia, in or out of prison, is not pleasant if one is to believe the evidence of the two books in this program. *Face of a Victim*, by Elizabeth Lermolo, tells of life in various Soviet political "isolators," the special penal institutions for high political prisoners; *One Man in His Time* traces the history of a successful Soviet scientist.

Elizabeth Lermolo, victim of the great purge that accompanied the assassination of Sergei Kirov in 1934, had no interest in politics despite the fact that the Revolution and its aftermath had violently changed the course of her life on three separate occasions. But because her name was found in the notebook of Kirov's assassin, she spent eight years in various political "isolators," escaping finally during war's confusion. Kirov's murder is one of the fascinating mysteries of modern history. Positive evidence is lacking as to whether Stalin engineered it or merely took advantage of the incident to consolidate his power. The word-of-mouth stories that Miss Lermolo gathered on the Kirov assassination from the various prisoners involved, as well as other stories about important events in Stalin's life, make this book valuable to historians. But the average reader's interest will focus on the appalling treatment which she and the other prisoners endured, not the least of which was the enforced idleness, since political prisoners were allowed to do no work. Through the prison telegraph-tap system two fellow prisoners whose faces she never saw saved her sanity. One, a priest, restored her faith in God; the other taught her a system of rigid mental self-discipline to be followed daily.

N. M. Borodin, the author of *One Man in His Time*, had as successful a career as a scientist could want under the Soviet regime. A child of the Revolution, he was fortunate enough to continue his education, ultimately receiving the equivalent of our Ph.D. Though he steadily climbed the ladder of success and moved in the circle of Soviet career scientists, his picture of Russia is as depressing as Miss Lermolo's. His description, brutal and revolting, of the Revolution and its terrible aftermath, the Famine, will shock and appall the reader. "Do not trust your friends," wrote Borodin in his diary. Fear dominated every move of the life of these people. The wife of a young Soviet scientist recently liquidated lay ill with pneumonia, but no one dared help her or her

children. Professor Vyshilesslay had such strong natural resistance that he recovered from an incurable disease, but he could not escape the political hurricane. N. M. Borodin became "Scientific Consultant" to the Political Police, but as he added that of stool-pigeon to his other duties, two Borodins began to develop. One ruthlessly reported on his fellows, the other resented more and more the "suppression of independent thinking," and the ever-present mental torture lest a careless slip of the tongue betray forbidden thoughts or ideas and result in death. Borodin, sent on a mission to England, turned traitor and repudiated the Soviet government. Now employed somewhere in England, he gives us this testament of one man's life behind the Iron Curtain.

### 1. *Report from the Doomed*

*The Face of a Victim*, by Elizabeth Lermolo.

Explain the political situation in Russia in December, 1945, pointing out the importance of Kirov. Show how Stalin used the murder to his own advantage. Give the two theories advanced by historians to account for the murder.

Relate the details of Elizabeth Lermolo's life up to December, 1934. Why did she divorce her husband?

Tell of the interview with Stalin, and her subsequent interrogations, pointing out that these long sessions were witnessed by top Soviet officials such as Kosyrev, Yezhov and Vishinsky. What does this make you think of the rulers of Russia?

Explain the meaning of political "isolators." Describe the life that went on in one. Since only the most important political prisoners were sent there, Lermolo heard stories about the top Russian officials. Do you believe all the stories she relates?

Tell how Miss Lermolo learned the prison telegraph code, how through it she regained her faith, and learned to preserve her mental balance.

Relate several interesting stories told to Miss Lermolo by political prisoners.

How did Miss Lermolo finally escape the "isolator?" Do you think you could have protested your innocence under these conditions for eight long years?

#### *Additional Reading:*

*Darkness at Noon*, by Arthur Koestler.

*Secret History of Stalin's Crimes*, by Alexander Orlov.

### 2. *High Treason*

*One Man in His Time*, by N. M. Borodin.

Describe life in Borodin's village before the Revolution. Relate incidents from the Revolution to show how ruthlessly both sides fought.

Borodin gives an unforgettable picture of the Famine. Choose several instances to give an idea of its horrors.

Contrast the training of the Red Army man with what you know of our own Army service. Does this phase of Borodin's career seem more attractive than others? Show how the Communist indoctrinated the simple soldier.

Select several episodes of Russian life that particularly impressed you and tell about them.

Describe the two Borodins. Tell of his break with the Soviets. Do you feel that he did this chiefly for self-preservation or that he did indeed feel unable to live longer in a police state?

Read aloud Borodin's letter to the Soviet Ambassador to England in which he committed High Treason.

*Additional Reading:*

*My Nine Years in the Red Army*, by Mikhail Soloviev.

*When the Gods Are Silent*, by Mikhail Soloviev.

### PROGRAM III

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Not everyone achieves fame while on this earth. Some attain, if not fame, at least notoriety by the manner of their demise, and some fewer still by their after-life. Manly Wade Wellman, whose superb biography of Wade Hampton is the definitive study of that great gentleman, relates in *Dead and Gone* ten famous North Carolina murders, while John Harden's *Tar Heel Ghosts* introduces us to some noteworthy North Carolina spirits.

Since murder is not one of the gentler arts, Mr. Wellman's book cannot be considered uplifting. But he has delineated murder and murderer in several cases with such skill that the reader's sympathies are quickly involved. General Bryan Grimes certainly deserved better than death at the hands of a worthless drunkard; women will instinctively distrust Mrs. Ann Simpson, and drop an understanding tear for poor 'Omi. The mysterious disappearance of little Kenneth Beasley seems today as pathetic as it did fifty years ago. And surely crimes that involve children will always be the ones most capable of arousing adult emotions. Mr. Wellman has done more than tell ten murder stories. He has skillfully encompassed the whole State in his telling, so that even the casual, if observant, motor traveller through North Carolina will recognize the landscape as true. Two of the stories concern Hyde County and Currituck and the peculiar isolation of that section of the State comes through. The author's descriptions of plantation life in the country around "Little Washington" and "the progressive and pleasant and prosperous" Fayetteville of 1850 give authentic pictures of nineteenth century life in the older sections of the State. The Piedmont, North Carolina's heart, with "its picturesque rocky heights and tree-bordered rushing streams, like illustrations in old-fashioned German novels," figures in three of the stories: while the mountains and the mountaineers furnish their quota of tales.

Mr. Wellman calls his collection *Dead and Gone*; Mr. Harden deals with those dead but not yet gone. He does a remarkable job of "catching" the spirit of his spirits, and this with a minimum of clanking chains and rattling bones. The stories seem innocent enough but all is deceptive. By the time the second tale is read, *Tar Heel Ghosts* becomes better noonday than midnight reading. That house whose door keeps opening; those two ghosts who have messages for the living; that headless gentleman with the

perfect manners; these may be spirits, but as portrayed by Mr. Harden there is a chilling reality about them. The introductory story, "A Colonial Apparition" sets the stage for all that follows. North Carolina, says this story, has had its ghosts, and good ones, too, for a long, long time. This tale with its wild, stormy night, its strange face peering at the ship, and its unexpected refugees, one of whom bears that very face, has the gruesome quality of cold, wet seaweed. Of all the stories here told, the strange light at Maco Station has perhaps the greatest appeal, for the light is an observable phenomenon that not one but many have seen. Indeed, a troop of soldiers from Fort Bragg once tried unsuccessfully to penetrate its mystery. In his foreword, Mr. Harden points out that most ghosts improve with age, but one of the most gripping stories in the whole collection is that of the young artist who during the last war served at Fort Bragg and whose body was found dangling from the self-same rafter that had, in the past, claimed two other victims.

### 1. *The Slayer and the Slain*

*Dead and Gone*, by Manly Wade Wellman.

Point out how these ten murders indicate that murder is not the peculiar province of the lower classes. Indicate how these cases represent a good cross-section of North Carolina society—upper, middle and lower.

Two of these murders involved politically important people. Tell about General Bryan Grimes' career. Give the historical background of the "Chicken Stevens" crime. Why can this latter case be classed as a "perfect crime"?

It has been suggested that Dreiser's *American Tragedy* may well be based on the story of Naomi Wise. If familiar with the story, sketch the parallel set of circumstances.

Outline the Kenneth Beasley story. Does the explanation that set Congressman Ward's mind at rest satisfy you?

Read the *Two Songs of the Scaffold* aloud. Briefly fill in the stories.

Do you believe a female jury would have acquitted Ann Simpson? What if she had been fat and forty? Would the male decision then have been different?

*Additional Reading:*

*Folk Ballads from North Carolina*, Vol. II of *North Carolina Folklore*.  
*An American Tragedy*, by Theodore Dreiser.

### 2. *The Spirited Dead*

*Tar Heel Ghosts*, by John Harden.

Discuss the universal appeal of the ghost story.

Two of these ghosts came back with a mission to fulfill. How were they laid?

Why did Asa Meter fight a ghost all night and starve all day? Do you think nature administered justice in this case?

Describe the attempts to solve the mystery of the ghost of Maco Station.

*Additional Reading:*

*The Devil's Tramping Ground*, by John Harden.

Section on *Tales and Legends* in Vol. I, *North Carolina Folklore*.

PROGRAM IV  
STAGE AND SCREEN

In *Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A*, Richard Stoddard Aldrich has written a love story bound to appeal to middle-aged adults. Gertrude Lawrence, Cockney born darling of Mayfair and Broadway, had little in common with Richard Aldrich, banker-turned-stage producer, except the theatre. Born in Clapham, she never made claims at any time to formal education or distinguished background, but she danced and sang her way into the hearts of all classes, first in England and then in America. Mr. Aldrich came from an established New England family, a family, moreover, whose members looked forward from year to year to their summer vacation at Northfield, the religious conference center founded by Dwight L. Moody. He graduated from Harvard, became a banker and seemed headed for the same conservative, dignified existence of his tribe. But an incurable interest in the theatre led him to abandon banking for producing, and in the theatre world he eventually met and married Miss Lawrence.

Aldrich was the first of his family to succumb to Gertrude's charm. But the rest ("who is Gertrude Lawrence?" icily demanded his mother) could no more resist her than he. She proved as enchanting off stage as on. The mother-in-law soon capitulated, at first with proper reserve, later with real abandonment for her type of New Englander; Mr. Aldrich's two sons by his former marriage adored her; his sisters early became Lawrence addicts, all because, along with her indescribable glamour, went a kind, a loving and generous heart. Not that this is a one-sided story. If Miss Lawrence breathed life into the Aldriches, their respectability, their steadiness and their consistency of character gave her the security she needed. This is the story of a happy marriage and its radiance comes through the pages to warm the reader.

Mary Pickford, legend of our childhood, has written her autobiography. *Sunshine and Shadow* she calls it, and indeed, like most of us, she has felt both. The shadow refers to her bitterly-hard childhood, to her two unsuccessful marriages, and to the loss, in a few short years, of her adored mother, her sister and her brother. The sunshine reflects her incredible success, and the happy years since her third marriage. Ambition, determination, hard work and shrewdness went hand in hand with talent to win her not only success but a fortune. Gertrude Lawrence, whose

childhood was equally hard, spent money with wild and gay extravagance while Mary Pickford, perhaps because from the age of five she was "the man of her family," accumulated a fortune. Mary Pickford's years in the movies coincide with the industry's first thirty years; D. W. Griffith, Cecil B. DeMille, the Gish sisters, Adolph Zukor, all figure intimately in her story. A veteran of many early "flickers," she became America's Sweetheart, a title she retained untarnished through two marriages, one of which was to Douglas Fairbanks, the leading male star of the period. Let less successful and talented women be comforted: Miss Pickford reports that neither fame nor fortune brought happiness. That came to her only with her marriage to Buddy Rogers and their adoption of two children.

### 1. *Private Life of Gertrude Lawrence*

*Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A.*, by Richard Stoddard Aldrich.

Contrast the backgrounds of Gertrude Lawrence and Richard Aldrich. Show how their two personalities complemented each other.

The review of this book in *The Christian Century* referred to "the genuinely and ideally religious quality of the personality and life" of Miss Lawrence and added: "There is an infectious quality to the actress' enthusiasm and charitable abandon which, if they were to challenge or liberate more 'sensible' Christians, would be good news indeed." Cite instances which illustrate the reviewer's remarks.

Tell of the conquest of Mrs. Aldrich, Senior. What kind of a mother and step-mother was Gertrude Lawrence?

When did the friendship of Gertrude Lawrence and Noel Coward begin? What plays did Coward write for Miss Lawrence? Discuss some of the other plays in which she appeared.

Describe the actress' war-time activities.

Tell of her classes at Columbia University. What did she attempt to impart to the students?

Tell of her death. How did the public react?

#### *Additional Reading:*

*A Star Danced*, by Gertrude Lawrence.

*Me and Kit*, by Guthrie McClintic.

### 2. *America's Sweetheart*

*Sunshine and Shadow*, by Mary Pickford.

Give a résumé of Mary Pickford's early years, telling how she became an actress and describing the life that she and her brother and sister knew as theatre children. Contrast Mary Pickford's reaction to the possession of money with that of Gertrude Lawrence. Do you think Mary's early position as "man of her family" might account for this?

Mary Pickford became famous as America's Sweetheart. What quali-

ties did she possess that won her this title? Do you think she became a victim of the legend?

The story of Mary Pickford is the story of the American movie. Show how this is true.

Mary Pickford is not only an extremely successful actress, she is a business woman of acumen. Cite instances that illustrate her shrewdness in business matters and account for the fact that she made over a million dollars.

Tell of Mary Pickford's three marriages. Discuss Douglas Fairbanks and the life at Pickfair. Describe the relationship between the actress and her mother.

What does Mary Pickford have to say about Charlie Chaplin?

Tell of the famous haircut and Douglas Fairbank's reaction. What became of the six curls?

Review the actress' life to show that along with her success, she has had her share of sorrow.

*Additional Reading:*

*Why Not Try God?*, by Mary Pickford.

*A Pictorial History of the Movies*, by Deems Taylor.

*Douglas Fairbanks: the Fourth Musketeer*, by Ralph Hancock and Letitia Fairbanks.

PROGRAM V  
THE MEN OF EVEREST

In all the world there are only two men who have ever stood on its highest point and looked, first around them, then up to the sky above, and finally down to the clouds and the mountains below. One of these is the Nepalese Sherpa Tenzing and one the New Zealand beekeeper Edmund Hillary. And in all the world there are probably not two more different brave men, so that their stories, Hillary's related by himself in *High Adventure* and Tenzing's told to James Ramsey Ullman in *Tiger of the Snows*, offer contrasts as disparate as the East and the West that the two men represent.

Most people will enjoy *Tiger of the Snows* more than *High Adventure*. Hillary's is a mountaineer's book. The layman may find himself wearied by the endless detail and amazed at Hillary's ability to remember each step in the great adventure, but it is this detail and this remarkable memory that combine to give the bare recital of each day's climb—each exhausting, freezing, treacherous climb—such reality. Hillary tells us very little of himself, one brief chapter is devoted to his early years, then he plunges into his Himalayan climbs, telling first of the two seasons of preparatory trips in the country surrounding Everest and then, the bulk of the book, describing the actual climb itself. Little of Hillary's personality, other than his bravery, courage and sagacity emerges from his unemotional account. His admiration of Sir John Hunt and the meticulous preparation that, under Hunt's supervision, made the entire expedition possible shines through clearly. He does not record the several incidents that later, in the hands of reporters, clouded the victory for both East and West. For him it is the climb and final triumph that is important; what happens afterward he does not even mention.

*Tiger of the Snows* falls into three parts: Tenzing's boyhood in the remote Valley of Nepal on the Tibetan border where early he felt the pull of Everest's fascination; the years of mountain climbing with British expeditions, and a remarkable journey with an Italian anthropologist and historian to Tibet; and finally the great climb itself and his "third life" which burst upon him on his return from his conquest. Tenzing today is the idol of many millions of Orientals, one of the few low-born Asians ever to reach such a position. Abraham Lincoln's faith in the common man is once again justified; this self-educated, simple Sherpa is not only

a brave climber, he has a great soul. Readers may feel that another blow has been struck at our racial arrogance when, thrilled by Tenzing's story and uplifted by his simple but direct narration, they read toward the end of this book these words, "Everest . . . is the top not merely of one country or another, but of the whole earth. It was climbed by men both of the East and the West. It belongs to us all. And that is what I want also for myself; that I should belong to all, be a brother to all men everywhere, and not merely a member of some group or race or creed."

### 1. *The Bee Keeper's Story*

*High Adventure*, by Edmund Hillary.

Describe Hillary's discovery of the joys of mountain climbing. Do you think he communicates what it is that drives men to climb high, icy and treacherous mountains?

The British expedition was so thoroughly organized that success, if success were possible at all, was almost inevitable. Give evidences of the superb organization and preparation that had gone into the expedition. Give two reasons why the British were particularly anxious to succeed in 1953.

Do you occasionally detect in Hillary the traditionally British attitude toward the East? If so, cite instances. Do you think Hillary is aware of this or that he could change his attitude if he tried?

Does Hillary seem to you much of a philosopher? More a man of action? Do you think he would consider mountain climbing to have little connection with sociological questions?

One reviewer thought Hillary was awkward when he spoke of Tenzing. Do you agree?

Describe the great climb. Show how Hillary's part was vital. Cite instances to show his bravery and endurance and persistence.

### 2. *The Gentleman from Chomolungma*

*Tiger of the Snows*, by Tenzing Norgay.

Describe Tenzing's early years, giving a picture of the life of the Sherpa. Tell how his determination to climb Everest was tied up with his youth.

Describe the difficulties he went through with in the early days in Darjeeling. Describe the lives of the Sherpas in Darjeeling.

Tell about the trip through Tibet. Show how Tenzing used every opportunity to develop himself and increase his knowledge of the world and human nature.

Select two of the mountain expeditions Tenzing went on and describe them.

Why did Tenzing particularly enjoy the climbs with the Swiss? Did you, too, like Paul Lambert?

Tenzing goes to great lengths to explain why difficulties developed

between the Sherpas and British on the famous climb. Give his explanations briefly.

Show wherein Tenzing does not hesitate to tell the truth rather than pander to ignorance, superstition or prejudice.

Describe Tenzing's personality. Are you, like Ullman, enamored of this man?

*Additional Reading:*

*The Conquest of Everest*, by Sir John Hunt.

*An Innocent on Everest*, by Ralph Izzard.

*Alone to Everest*, by Earl Denman.

*K-2, the Savage Mountain*, by Charles Sneed Houston and Robert H. Bates.

PROGRAM VI  
IMMORTAL AMERICANS

Helen Keller and Margaret Sanger are two of the most famous American women of the 20th Century. One, a blind deaf-mute, became a thrilling inspiration to sighted and sightless the world over; the other awakened this country and later the Asiatic world to the need for planned parenthood.

Helen Keller, blind and deaf from an illness at the age of two, owed her emergence from an animal-like existence to her young teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, herself handicapped by limited sight. *Teacher* is Helen Keller's loving memoir of this wonderful woman. Anne Sullivan, the daughter of Irish immigrants, early knew unhappiness. When she was eight her mother died, and two years later her father abandoned the partially blind child. Four years passed in an alms-house, but eventually she entered the Boston Perkins Institution for the Blind, and there, unknowingly, prepared herself for the great task ahead. Into the life of the tragic little Helen, now seven years old, Anne Sullivan brought, with the wonderful perception and imagination of a great teacher, understanding of the world in which the child moved but knew no part. Helen Keller feels that the adulation and fame that has become hers, belongs in good part to Anne Sullivan Macy, who for fifty years gave her life unstintingly to another. *Teacher* brought Helen Keller into the world again; she also insisted that Miss Keller be a part of that world, refusing to allow Helen to associate only with the blind. Likewise, *Teacher* resisted the temptation to think for her pupil, but made her think for herself. *Teacher's* last years were tragic ones. Totally blind now and infirm, her mind returned to her unhappy early years, but Miss Keller never failed her in affection, admiration, or understanding.

Both Havelock Ellis and H. G. Wells thought Margaret Sanger the rarest and loveliest person alive. They had, also, a profound respect for her ability and the quick intelligence which made her able to buttress her birth control crusade with an amazingly complete social and economic knowledge of population problems. The daughter of an Anglo Irish free thinker of Corn- ing, N. Y., whose training made her forever independent of conventional or traditional concepts, Margaret Sanger early observed in her nursing career in New York City that poverty and large families went together. Shocked by the appalling misery that

constant child-bearing forced on women, she resolved to make birth control socially acceptable, and went to Europe to study the methods being used there. The years from 1912 to 1925 were full and fiery ones for Mrs. Sanger. Her crusade led her into battle with "prejudices, laws, government and the Roman Catholic Church." She welcomed every fight, and made use of every weapon available, including her own fragile, lady-like appearance. Today, widely admired and greatly beloved by grateful women all over the world, she can see the tremendous change her ideas have wrought on the American scene. But the movement is world-wide, largely because of her determination, charm, and zeal. Both India and Japan have accepted her ideas as a solution to their problem of over-population. Lawrence Lader in *The Margaret Sanger Story* has succeeded in telling not only of the life of this "radiant rebel," he has given a history of the planned parenthood movement.

### 1. *Tribute to Greatness*

*Teacher: Anne Sullivan Macy*, by Helen Keller.

Describe Anne Sullivan's early life. Contrast her background with that of Helen Keller's.

Describe the unique relation between Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan Macy. Tell how Miss Sullivan's unhappy childhood helped her to understand Helen Keller.

Discuss the methods by which Mrs. Macy taught Helen Keller.

What does Miss Keller consider the most important things Mrs. Macy taught her?

*Additional Reading:*

*The Story of My Life*, by Helen Keller.

*Anne Sullivan Macy: The Story behind Helen Keller*, by Nella Braddy.

### 2. "Radiant Rebel"

*The Margaret Sanger Story*, by Lawrence Lader.

Briefly summarize Mrs. Sanger's views on birth control. Tell the story of her long fight to do away with the Comstock law. Why did she, a Socialist, turn to New York City society leaders for help?

Tell how, not content with her work in America, she made her crusade international.

Describe her trips to the Orient. Why were she and Gandhi unable to agree?

Comment on Mrs. Sanger's personal life.

Discuss the Planned Parenthood movement in your own state.

*Additional Reading:*

*Margaret Sanger: An Autobiography.*

*Facing Two Ways*, by Ishimoto Shidzue.

*The Challenge to Man's Future*, by Harrison Brown.

PROGRAM VII  
THE OLDER GENERATION

*Grandfather Stories*, a collection of twenty-three tales, depicts life in Upper New York State through almost the whole of the nineteenth century. Samuel Hopkins Adams, now eighty-four years old, writes of his own grandfathers, one of whom was born in 1799 and lived into his nineties, the other, although a generation younger, equally typical of his period and his region. The two grandfathers, each perfect products of upper "York State," never meet in the stories. Grandfather Hopkins, the more companionable of the two, was a Presbyterian divine, distinguished in appearance and dress, scholarly in thought and action. Grandfather Adams, who had been heard to refer to the other as that "ecclesiastical elegant," spoke of himself—it is doubtful if he meant it however—as "a plain, everyday American." He stood, redoubtable Yankee that he was, for Temperance, the Republican Party, and the Erie Canal. The bulk of these tales concern his reminiscences of the Canal and the people who ran it. Grandfather Adams, in pungent and pithy language, recalled to his grandchildren these great and roistering days. Grandson Samuel Hopkins Adams, now a lively old gentleman of eighty-four himself, has recreated "York State" in the early days of the Republic, and Rochester and the Finger Lake district in the 70's and 80's. All sorts of people and events make their appearance in these pages: Frances Wright and Harriet Tubman remind us of the Yankee's concern for the slaves; early baseball and early photography cross Grandfather's life; circuses, ghosts and ginseng root farming each have a chapter. This is good Americana, genuine and authentic.

The book market has suffered from a plethora of Life's With Father ever since Clarence Day's great original appeared. Until the appearance in print of *My Philadelphia Father*, none of these gentlemen could be said to hold a candle to Mr. Day's parent. But Cordelia Drexel Biddle had a father to outdim all others and if the book is not the witty triumph that Clarence Day created, Colonel Anthony Drexel Biddle's career is fabulous and as memorable in itself as anything Clarence Day wrote. Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle was, first of all, a millionaire, so that he was able to indulge his hobbies and eccentricities. He was, next, a Biddle of Philadelphia and thus under no necessity to impress anyone. Thirdly, he was a vigorous, agreeable, attractive, lovable, pug-

nacious and contentious gentleman who delighted in living and lived most robustly. His interests and accomplishments were kaleidoscopic. At one time he considered himself a singer, another time he wrote several novels. For a season or two he took a fling as Philadelphia's social leader. He founded the Drexel Biddle Bible Class, the "Athletic Christianity" movement which spread throughout the world. He became an excellent prize fighter and gloried in his discovery of Gene Tunney. But first and foremost in his life was his love affair with the Marine Corps, a love that outlasted two wars and was fully reciprocated. There are interesting sidelights on *Life Among the Millionaires*, including sketches of the North Carolina tobacco Dukes, two of whom married Biddle children. But all else pales besides the Colonel's personality. As he did everything else in life, he definitely dominates his story.

### 1. *The Two Grandfathers*

*Grandfather Stories*, by Samuel Hopkins Adams.

Make a list of the period vocabulary that *Grandfather Stories* is so rich in. Do you feel that the English language has lost some of its vigor?

Contrast the characters of the two grandfathers. Show how both, however, were typical New York State Yankees.

Briefly sketch the history of the Erie Canal.

Show how Yankee shrewdness triumphed in "A Deal in Gems."

Who was Frances Wright? Tell the story of Harriet Tubman.

If possible, play a recording of Burl Ives' "Erie Canal."

*Additional Reading:*

*Listen for a Lonesome Drum*, by Carl Carmer.

*Harriet Tubman*, by Earl Conrad.

### 2. *The Happy Millionaire*

*My Philadelphia Father*, by Cordelia D. Biddle.

Briefly describe Colonel Biddle's personality. Does he make you think of a fabulous child? Note how simplicity is the core of his character, despite all of his sound and fury.

Cordelia Biddle's reaction to boarding school was typical of many girls. Describe her friendship with Cornelia Otis Skinner.

The contrast between Biddles and Dukes makes interesting social history. Comment.

How reconcile Colonel Biddle's love of God with his urge to kill? Detail his contribution in both wars to the success and efficiency of the Marine Corps.

Relate some of the funny incidents in the book.

Tell of Biddle's friendships with John Lawless and Bob Fitzsimmons.

*Additional Reading:*

*James B. Duke*, by John Wilbur Jenkins.

PROGRAM VIII  
GIANTS OF MODERN ART

Paul Gauguin and Vincent Van Gogh, both giants of modern art, form the subjects of the recent brilliant biographies by the competent English writers Lawrence and Elizabeth Hanson. Neither volume is primarily a book of art criticism; each was written "for those who, like ourselves, find one of their chief pleasures in the work of the painter." The authors hope that knowledge of the painters' lives will increase understanding of their pictures. Gauguin and Van Gogh, whose lives crossed tragically, make an interesting study. Both were highly unusual men; both influenced profoundly the course of modern art; both knew abject poverty in pursuit of their vocation and died miserably, relatively unknown.

Paul Gauguin, the Hanson's *Noble Savage*, left his wife and five children; left—off and on—his native France because he found himself a painter, and, he knew, a great painter. "I believe," he wrote, "in the sanctity of the soul and in the truth of Art, one and indivisible . . . I believe that this art has a divine source . . . and that having once tasted the delights of this great Art one is inescapably and forever dedicated to it and can never renounce it; I believe that everyone, by means of it, can achieve bliss." Unfortunately, Mette, Gauguin's wife, in no way shared these sentiments. She had married him for respectability, security, children. She found herself with five children, deserted, and forced to depend on her family for support. She never forgave him, never sent him sympathy, encouragement or love, though, on the off-possibility that some day the pictures might, freakishly, justify his pathetic faith, she kept as many as came her way. Though Gauguin is associated in people's minds with Tahiti, his greatest work was done at Pont-Avon in Brittany, where, surrounded by a small, devoted group, he began a movement whose ends are not yet seen.

Vincent Van Gogh, the subject of *Passionate Pilgrim*, has been, by some biographers, likened to a second Jesus. The Hansons do not take such a charitable view of him, though their biography stirs the reader's compassion. Van Gogh, they maintain, was one of the most difficult men ever born. His most passionate advocates could not have stood to be alone with him ten minutes. He longed to be loved and understood, but the very intensity of his longing repelled people, and only his brother,

the truly saintly Theo, endured him with good will. Without Theo, Van Gogh could never have realized his genius. Theo, a successful art dealer, encouraged him to paint, subsidized him through all the years of his maturity, and identified himself with his strange, erratic, unhappy brother to such an extent that at Van Gogh's suicide, Theo himself became unbalanced and shortly after died. The happiest period of Van Gogh's life occurred when Gauguin, with misgivings, came to spend a month with him in the Yellow House at Arles. The experiment ended disastrously but, significantly, Theo never offered any criticism of Gauguin's behavior and Vincent himself, after a few months, resumed his passion for Gauguin.

### 1. *The Bohemian*

*Noble Savage, the Life of Paul Gauguin*, by Lawrence and Elizabeth Hanson.

The word "exotic" springs to mind with the mention of Paul Gauguin. Why? Tell of his inheritance.

Contrast the characters of Mette and Paul. How did Paul, in his fashion, remain more faithful to her than she to him?

Tell briefly of the early Impressionists.

Point out, by relating the bitter hardships Gauguin underwent, his utter devotion to art.

Explain the significance of the Pont-Avon School. What part did Emile Bernard play in it? What happened, ultimately, to the relationships between Gauguin and Bernard?

Describe the part Theo Van Gogh played in the modern art movement. Why did he never blame Gauguin for his failure to visit Van Gogh in the hospital at Arles?

Explain the reasons for Gauguin's year in Tahiti. Describe a few of the pictures he painted there. Was the "savage" really happy in his paradise? Describe his death.

If possible, show colored prints of his work.

*Additional Reading:*

*The Moon and Sixpence*, by W. Somerset Maugham.

### 2. *The Puritan*

*Passionate Pilgrim, the Life of Vincent Van Gogh*, by Lawrence and Elizabeth Hanson.

Describe Van Gogh's boyhood. Explain why the Hansons feel that Vincent's mother "must bear the main responsibility for Vincent's development."

What is the significance of Theo and Vincent's walk to Ryswyk? How did this prove the most important event in Vincent's life?

Select three episodes to show how Vincent longed to be loved and explain the inevitable rejection.

Point out significant influences in Van Gogh's development as an artist. What did he gain from the years in Paris? If possible, show pictures that illustrate his development.

How did Arles affect the artist? Tell the story of the Yellow House and the Gauguin episode. The Hansons deal charitably with Gauguin in this instance. Do you agree?

Tell of the final tragic year, the suicide and its effect on Theo.

Point out why Van Gogh is a great artist. Then tell why he is a great man.

*Additional Reading:*

*Lust for Life*, by Irving Stone.

PROGRAM IX  
TWO GREAT AMERICANS

On the night of Friday, April 14, 1865, a young American actor shot and killed a great president of the United States. The young man, John Wilkes Booth of the famous theatrical family, hoped to make an imperishable and honourable name for himself in world history; instead he brought ignominy to his name forever and, by an ironic twist, added to Lincoln's already incontestable greatness the crown of martyrdom. Tolstoy tells how once, travelling in a remote, savage region of the Caucasus, he showed a photograph of Lincoln to a Circassian tribesman who studied it so mournfully that Tolstoy questioned him. "I am sad," the man answered, "because I feel sorry that he had to die by the hand of a villain."

That day—that Good Friday of 1864, "for some people the single most dramatic day in the life of the Republic,"—has long fascinated the writer Jim Bishop. In *The Day Lincoln Was Shot* he has recorded minutely, in terse and vivid language, what happened during the fateful twenty-four hours. As a student of President Lincoln and his time, Bishop began in 1930 to keep notes on the events of this day—twenty-five notebooks in all, labeled 7 A.M., Friday, 8 A.M., Friday, 9 A.M., Friday and so on through 7 A.M., Saturday. These notebooks, supplemented by further research, formed the basis for this book which, despite the fact that you know before you begin how the story ends, holds your complete attention as it details the activities of the chief actors in the drama.

Of all the people affected by John Wilkes Booth's crime, none suffered more than those of his own family. His brother, Edwin Booth, America's most distinguished tragedian, never recovered from the horror of it, though the strange coincidence that he himself had once saved Lincoln's son's life comforted him. *Prince of Players*, by Eleanor Ruggles, tells the tragic story of Edwin Booth's life. It was never anything but struggle, even when his fame was at its greatest. In his boyhood days he acted as watchdog companion to his often mad, often drunk actor father. At nineteen, by his own admission, he was a libertine and a drunkard. He knew a brief period of happiness with his first wife, Mary Devlin, but when she died alone in Boston, he was helplessly drunk in New York. The shock sobered him. For Mary's sake he ceased to drink but the fear of the return of the habit

never left him. John Wilkes Booth's act shadowed his life: the theatre he built failed; his second wife became insane; he lived to see his style of acting become passé, and at fifty-seven he retired from the stage, an old man, broken in health, too tired even to go to the theatre for amusement. Yet despite or because of trouble on trouble, the charming boy became a compassionate, splendid man, the Prince of Players, as his friend Tom Aldrich lovingly dubbed him, both on the stage and in life.

No one can look at pictures of Lincoln or of Edwin Booth without noting the expression—a curious blending of suffering, compassion, and dignity—common to both. Lincoln's came from his compassion for his fellow men, Booth's resulted from personal tragedies. Both men proved equal to the tasks life set before them. It is good to know that *The Players*, the club Booth founded so lovingly, still remains the *sine qua non* of the theatrical world.

### 1. *Lincoln's Last Hours*

*The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, by James A. Bishop.

Discuss the paradoxical fact that despite the expressed fear of assassination shared by all who were closely connected with Lincoln, actual surveillance of the President was so poor on Good Friday night, April 14, 1865.

Point out the basis for disagreement between Stanton and Lincoln over Reconstruction. What sort of a detective does Mr. Bishop consider Stanton?

Describe the attack on Seward which is so often forgotten in the events of that night. How did news of this further confuse Stanton?

Describe the character of John Wilkes Booth as delineated by Bishop. Describe Booth's fellow conspirators.

Explain how Booth managed to escape Washington City.

Discuss the justice of Dr. Mudd's imprisonment and Mrs. Surratt's hanging. Can we learn something from this in controlling our own emotions under stress?

Mr. Bishop pictures Lincoln as living in fear of Mrs. Lincoln and obeying her slightest wish. Do you think this consistent with what you know of Lincoln?

Lincoln seems to appeal particularly to poets. Do you think his tragic death has anything to do with this?

*Additional Reading:*

*The Man Who Killed Lincoln*, by Philip Van Doren Stern.

*Love Is Eternal: Mary Todd and Abraham Lincoln*, by Irving Stone.

*Reveille in Washington: 1860-1865*, by Margaret Leech.

### 2. *Edwin Booth, John's Brother*

*The Prince of Players*, by Eleanor Ruggles.

Give the background of the Booth family.

Describe the relations between Edwin Booth and his father, Junius Brutus Booth.

Tell of Booth's California period.

How did Mary Devlin Booth's death prove a stabilizing factor in Booth's life?

List the difficulties and tragedies encountered by Booth; total up the good things that also happened.

Otis Skinner described Booth's Othello as being "human, poetic and lovely—very much like Booth himself." Joseph Jefferson describing him as a young man said, "There was a gentleness and sweetness of manner in him." Thomas Aldrich called him "The Prince of Players." Cite instances that back up these opinions.

Contrast the style of acting of Booth and of Irving.

Describe the various reactions of the Booth family to Lincoln's assassination. How did Edwin Booth in later life show his horror of the deed?

*Additional Reading:*

*Curtain Time: A History of the American Theatre*, by Morris Lloyd.

*The Last Tragedian*, by Otis Skinner.

PROGRAM X  
THE BRAVE WOMEN

America's favorite war continues to produce books hard to put down or forget. Among the several that came out in 1955, few are apt to delight the Southerner or interest the Northerner more than Katharine M. Jones' *Heroines of Dixie*, a gathering together of letters and diaries, written during the Confederacy by Southern women, and arranged chronologically, with brief but apt commentaries by the compiler, Miss Jones. Here, in the words of the women who lived through it, is the history of the Confederacy. Rich and poor, young and old, high born and plain, record its story, from its gay, impulsive, spirited beginning, to its final pathetic falling apart. No one can deny that these were spirited women, who gave their utmost to the cause. Indeed, they had courage for all that it brought and all the sacrifices it demanded, lacking heart only to record its death. Scores of the journals end as the Confederacy ends, the hurt too much to put down in black and white. Women of all ages expressed themselves remarkably well, coherently and cogently recording what they saw and felt. You will not long forget—nor probably did he—Mrs. Edmund Lee's letter to General David Hunter; Loreta Janeta Velazquez provides a thrilling spy episode; Mrs. Jefferson Davis' pathetic description of the death of her little boy, "The most beautiful and brightest of my children," is poignant, and so is simple Lucy Lowe of Alabama writing to her husband John, "You must come home and see all of your babies and kiss them."

Harnett Kane has recently written fictionalized biographies of several Confederate heroines. *Bride of Fortune* told the story of Mrs. Jefferson Davis and *The Lady of Arlington* that of Mrs. Robert E. Lee. His latest, *The Smiling Rebel*, describes the adventures of Belle Boyd, next to Mrs. Rose Greenhow the most famous spy of the Confederacy. Belle Boyd's service for her country was romantic enough to need no fictionalizing. Recent research has authenticated her own account which was published in London in May of 1865 and long regarded as three parts imagination. It is a stirring, exciting and romantic story and one regrets that Kane did not choose to present it in straight biographical form. During the four years of the war, when she was not confined in Federal prison, Belle actively served the Confederacy as spy and smuggler of contraband goods. The intelli-

gence she carried to Stonewall Jackson across the battlefield at Front Royal, on May 23, 1862, led to the withdrawal of the Federal troops, for a while at least, from the Shenandoah Valley. Paradoxically, she married a Yankee Naval Officer while the war yet raged, persuading him to desert and to aid the Confederacy. Harnett Kane ends his story with the first year of Belle's marriage. She and her husband did not live happily ever afterward. He died within the year, and Belle found it necessary for the rest of her life to work, first as an actress, later as a monologist recounting her Confederate exploits. At fifty-seven, on tour, she died in the little town of Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Something of her gallantry, her spirit and her courage must have touched these representatives of her former foes. To this day, once a year, in the cemetery where she lies buried in this little town, a ceremony is held, honoring the memory of this brave, gay, courageous woman.

### 1. *The Backbone of the Confederacy*

*Heroines of Dixie*, by Katharine Jones.

Choose several of the most moving letters to read aloud. Select one from each chapter, thus giving a brief picture of the different phases of the war.

Describe the siege of Vicksburg as told by Mary Ann Longborough.

Tell the stories of the war romances of General Morgan and General Pickett.

Show how these Southern women, with no thought of pioneering, proved that women could be versatile outside the home, serving for example, as spies, nurses, government workers and plantation managers.

Point out how well these women wrote. Do you think that telephone, radio and television have perhaps given us "writers cramp?"

Read excerpts from accounts of the siege of Petersburg, the fall of Atlanta, the burning of Columbia.

*Additional Reading:*

*Diary from Dixie*, by Mary Boykin Chesnut.

### 2. *Confederate Spy*

*The Smiling Rebel*, by Harnett Kane.

Do you think the title *The Smiling Rebel* a good one? Give a sketch of Belle Boyd's personality. Tell of her family background.

The Federals were strangely lenient in releasing Belle twice from prison and in allowing her to go to Canada. Speculate on possible reasons for this. How would a known captured spy be treated today?

In real life, Stonewall Jackson is reported to have refused on one occasion to see Belle Boyd as he was not altogether sure of her loyalty. Thinking over Belle Boyd's activities as Kane has given them, can you cite reasons to support the General's suspicions.

Describe Belle's two most daring exploits, the ride to Colonel Ashby at night and the action at Front Royal.

How did Belle collect her military information? Douglas Southall Freeman described her as "one of the most active and most reliable of the many secret women agents of the Confederacy."

Tell of Belle's three love affairs. Does Mr. Kane succeed in presenting Ensign Harding sympathetically or do you think of him as weak and a deserter?

*Additional Reading:*

*Belle Boyd*, by Louis Sigaud.

*Rebel Rose*, by Ishbel Ross.

*Spies for the Blue and the Gray*, by Harnett T. Kane.

## PROGRAM XI

### PIKA VICTIM AND PIKA MAKER

We Americans are accustomed to think of ourselves as pioneers. It was not, however, until August 6, 1945 that we became pioneers in instant mass murder and destruction. The atomic bomb dropped from the *Enola Gay* on the Japanese city of Hiroshima began a new era in war, so fearful that civilization stands threatened with instant destruction. To the many, many Americans who have pondered the right and the wrong of that memorable action, *Hiroshima Diary*, written by a Japanese physician and beautifully translated by an American surgeon, Dr. Warner Wells, will prove both ghastly and heartening reading. Ghastly because of the naked horror of the awful events resulting from the bomb, here recorded in the precise, clear, logical language of the scientist, and heartening because, struck by the greatest catastrophe yet visited on man, the human beings able to function, functioned magnificently, with love, with courage, great spirit and compassion. Michihiko Hachiya, an articulate, civilized human being, found time during those terrible days to chronicle the events as they developed around him. Quietly and graphically the narrative unfolds, a two-sided story as the viewpoint of sufferer and healer meet in the person of Dr. Hachiya. It is a unique story of man's most fearful holocaust. Anyone reading it will pray fervently that never again will the *pika*, as the Japanese called the bomb, flash its death and destruction.

The scientists who created the atomic bomb did not intend the destructive side of atomic energy to overshadow the constructive. They thought to pioneer new horizons for mankind, not sound the death knell. Laura Fermi's *Atoms in the Family* is a gay and cheerful account of the life of Enrico Fermi, one of the two or three men most responsible for the bomb. Enrico Fermi was one of the world's greatest physicists, but the picture of him that emerges from this book will seem familiar to many a wife. Mrs. Fermi is proud, very proud of her husband, but after all, he is but a man, and what's more, one she knows intimately. She proceeds to tell about him. His childhood, his brilliant student days, his early years as a young physicist at Rome are described, as well as the fundamental research in atomic energy that he did, for which he received the Nobel prize in 1938. Mrs. Fermi describes her husband's experiments in simple language, she also tells about his friends. Great figures in world

science turn out to be lively, gregarious, mountain climbers, ski fans, picnic addicts. Fermi had a buoyant nature, and his friends seemed to respond in kind. When the family, partly because of Mrs. Fermi's Jewish origin, left Italy for the United States in 1938, the international scene was ominous. It is significant that the people who first urged the United States Government to go ahead with atomic experiments were aliens, many of them soon to be classed as enemy aliens even while they labored at Los Alamos. Mrs. Fermi gives an interesting picture of the United States as viewed by a sophisticated, intelligent European. Her description of the inbred community life at Los Alamos includes sketches of most of the prominent scientists of the day. Klaus Fuchs she never warmed to, but Bruno Pontecorno had long been a trusted and dear friend. This is a pleasant book, a book that does not oppress. Cheerfulness does not keep breaking through, it is always present. You will feel much more confidence in the Atomic Era when you have finished Mrs. Fermi's story.

### 1. *Hiroshima's Horror*

*Hiroshima Diary*, by Michihiko Hachiya.

How does *Hiroshima Diary* make you both ashamed and proud of the human race? Contrast or compare the behavior of the Japanese in their hour of trial with that of the Confederate women in theirs.

*Hiroshima Diary* has been likened to a detective story, because of the doctor's search, with no equipment, for the cause and cure of the patients' strange symptoms. Point out how the day by day style communicates the suspense and anxiety felt by doctors and patients.

Describe the destruction of Hiroshima and the exodus of refugees from the city. Comment on the strange slowness of the Japanese Government in coming to the city's assistance.

Delineate Dr. Hachiya's attitude toward the Japanese people; the Japanese Army; the Emperor; and the enemy. Do you think we were wise to retain the Emperor at war's end?

*Additional Reading:*

*Hiroshima*, by John Hersey.

### 2. *Domesticated Scientist*

*Atoms in the Family*, by Laura Fermi.

Summarize Enrico Fermi's contribution to physics. List the honors that came to him.

Describe Fermi's early days in physics. Were you surprised to find such activity under Mussolini?

Give a brief description of Fermi's personality.

Discuss the ironical fact that the racial theories of Hitler and Mussolini resulted in their loss of the atomic energy race.

Point out the fact that the refugee physicists, soon to be reckoned as enemy aliens, took the lead in selling the atomic energy program to the United States.

Describe the fantastic life at Los Alamos. How was it similar to life at any Army post? How different?

Explain Fermi's position on the use of Atomic Energy. Why did he not join the American Federation of Scientists, established in 1945?

*Additional Reading:*

*The Accident*, by Dexter Master.

PROGRAM XII  
TWO SCOTSMEN

"What was Barrie really like?" This is the question many times asked of Cynthia Asquith, Sir James Barrie's secretary during the last twenty years of his life. "No pen may convey how much he varies," she wrote in her diary early in their association. Twenty years of intimate relationship did not alter this first judgment, and today, unwilling to undertake the biography of so complex a person, she gives us only her memories of him. They prove charming ones, for Barrie was unlike anyone else ever born. "You don't know what charm is until you meet that little man," declared Lady Desborough. Cynthia Asquith and her family soon became a part of Barrie's life, since, eventually he leased her father's estate for the summer months and there Lady Cynthia superintended his numerous parties, games, ranging from cricket to charades, and a constant stream of distinguished and famous guests, including, once, the stately Queen Mary. Barrie, the greatest master of stage technique in England, produced in these last twenty years only two plays, *Mary Rose* and *The Boy David*, the latter written for the entrancing Elizabeth Bergner. Instead of plays, one might say, he turned out after-dinner speeches, becoming famous for his wit and the apparent ease with which he handled this tedious job. Cynthia Asquith knew better. Each triumphant performance had been preceded by a period of misery, nervous tension and irritability. He became depressed if not working and his depressions, dark and miserable, affected his companions as contagiously as did his gayer moods. Lady Cynthia refutes the popular picture of Barrie as the eternal Peter Pan. On the contrary he had no childhood. Life deprived him of his share of "That irresponsibility which, for a few years at least, should be every child's birth-right" and a picture of Barrie at six reveals an old, serious, somber little face.

Robert Louis Stevenson is today, like his countryman Barrie, somewhat neglected. At thirty, when he married Fanny Osborne, Robert Louis Stevenson was a singularly attractive young man, already known as a writer and beloved by a large circle of friends who perceived his genius. They must have thought his choice strange. Fanny Osborne was ten years his senior, a divorcée with three children, an American who viewed Englishmen quite dispassionately. Practical and energetic, she made an

excellent mate for the writer, however. Their life together, dominated by his lack of health, consisted of a continual search for a suitable climate, but eventually, the South Pacific Isles proved most beneficent, and the last three years of Stevenson's life passed happily on the Island of Samoa. Most of this time Fanny Osborne Stevenson kept a diary in which with verve and wit she reported the trials and joys of transforming Vailima from overgrown jungle into an attractive livable home, a mecca for travelers to the island. This diary, edited by Charles Neider who has called it *Samoan Adventure* and included some of Stevenson's letters with it, reveals Fanny as not only capable and intelligent, but lovable as well. She ponders, half-indignantly, half-amusedly, Stevenson's charge that she has the soul of a peasant; she observes that Stevenson and his compatriots are at their most unattractive when acting as Englishmen; she works with pioneer zeal at cleaning jungle land for planting; with vigor and common sense she deals with the problems of temperamental servants and recalcitrant livestock. Surely one reason Stevenson functioned so effectively, both as human being and writer, was his dependable Fanny.

### 1. *Peter Pan?*

*Portrait of Barrie*, by Lady Cynthia Asquith.

Tell how C. Greene became Barrie's secretary.

Give a word picture of Barrie as Cynthia Asquith describes him. Tell about the household and its members at Adelphi Terrace.

Describe the ten Augusts at Stanway.

How did Barrie happen to write *Peter Pan*? What were his relations with Lady Cynthia's children? Describe the plays Barrie and the children produced at Stanways.

Discuss Barrie's attitude toward the English public schools.

Elizabeth Bergner inspired *The Boy David*. Account for its tragic failure.

The author denies that Barrie was either a sentimentalist or a Peter Pan. Cite the evidence that she gives to support her positions.

*Additional Reading:*

*Barrie: The Story of J. M. B.*, by Denis Mackail.

### 2. *Tusitala's Wife*

*Samoan Adventure*, by Fanny and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Why had some sections of this diary previously been suppressed? Explain how Mr. Neider managed to decipher the inked out portions of the diary.

Explain how the diary became the property of the Stevenson House in Monterey.

Trace the wanderings of the Stevensons. Touch on the relationship between Fanny and Mrs. Stevenson.

Summarize briefly life at Vailima as described by Fanny Stevenson about ten years after her husband's death. Point out how Fanny was responsible for much of this life.

The only time Fanny found Stevenson "silly" was when he behaved like an Englishman. Cite instances which indicate that Fanny remained American in her basic attitudes despite her cosmopolitan travelings.

Sum up Fanny's qualities as revealed in her diary. Do you think her a good companion for a genius?

Briefly explain the Samoan political situation and Stevenson's position. How did the natives' reward Stevenson for his sympathy and interest?

*Additional Reading:*

*Tusitala of the South Seas*, by Joseph Waldo Ellison.

*The Stevensons: Louis and Fanny*, by Laura L. Hinkley.

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