

WHO'S WHO

A PERSON AND A PERSONALITY

By A. S.ecret D.ancer

ACHTUNG!

Did you know that there is a physical education instructor in the Federation (South) masquerading as a folk-dance teacher, or is it the other way around?

However, way down San Diego way, there is a wonderful person and personality answering to the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Ullrich, who fills both roles.

When she isn't busy (and when is that?) pushing and prodding women of all ages through the gyrations of gymnastic drills, she is teaching to and demonstrating with the Folklaenders. Said group does every sort of dance, but specializes in Swiss and German terpsichore.

How, when, and where did it all start?

On a beautiful March 29 morning a new china doll was born in Dresden, Germany. As in the norm, she went to kindergarten for openers and, at the ripe old age of ten, joined a Turnverein class. That must have been the turning point of her life, because from there we track her through schools in Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin, majoring in physical education courses.

A culmination of all this effort was a Turnfest in Frankfurt, Germany (an annual affair in those days) in which 2500 girls and women performed gymnastic drills and exercises. The composer of such drills and exercises was our heroine, Elizabeth Ullrich.

As the usual course of life progresses Elizabeth learned that there also were boys in this world, and she found one. He has remained the only one -- Alfred Ullrich. The difference in this romance is that, three weeks after Elizabeth and Alfred were married in Dresden, Alfred took off for America. His first and only stop was San Diego, where he took up his Dresden ac-



quired profession, of ornamental iron worker, with an uncle of his. A year later Elizabeth made her way to San Diego.

Not satisfied with status quo regarding education, she went to Sweetwater High School for four years, and had a short stint at San Diego State. These efforts, plus a correspondence course qualified her for permanent teaching credentials.

Somewhere, somehow, in her busy life, Elizabeth took time off to bear a son, Walter. Walter is a chemical engineer who lives in San Francisco with his wife and Elizabeth's three grand-children; two boys and one girl.

Actually, what is folk dancing? After a fashion it is a sort of gymnastic drill or exercise put to music. Watch some of the efforts put out by folk dancers and you would swear that they just had a strenuous work-out in a gym. It, therefore, was a natural that Elizabeth would blend into folk dancing, which she did with a verve.

She now teaches gymnastics on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at various hours. Folk dancing gets its share of attention on Wednesdays and Fridays. I am sure that Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays are not mis-spent.

Since she disembarked in San Diego the twinge for the "Alte Heime", the "Vaterland", has erupted four times. Trips to Switzerland, Germany and Austria were made by Elizabeth in 1934, 1958, 1963 and 1970. The 1970 trip lasted ten weeks, during which time she enjoyed the *gemutlichkeit* of a brother and two sisters-in-law, who still reside in Dresden, Germany.

Among the flashy and eye-catching costumes which Elizabeth wears are five which she made herself. The others are ones she purchased.

Elizabeth says she has a folk dance record collection of over 200. However, by devious means I have found out that there is somewhere in the Ullrich household a large collection of German recordings which I would be pleased to hear some day.

Elizabeth concentrates her culinary efforts on the German style. *Naturlich!* But I'm sure she can knock off a mean hamburger or hot dog, too.

And so, as the sun slowly sinks over Mission Bay, we can imagine that Elizabeth is dashing somewhere to do something that must be done; which, for her, is normal.

Aug Wiedersehen!