

Rigid Girl Has Two or So

By HELEN DIDMAR

NEW YORK (WNS)—Yvettella Johnson MacMillan is a tall, shapely woman with golden skin, a large Tuscan nose, once heaped to a wild form, the small voice of a small girl and a startled, shy manner that suggests hybrid vivaciousness.

To the casual eye, everything about her embodies the great American stereotype of the well-born and brightly-conscious flower of fine society—the Elphinstone crest, the line in the Social

Register, the right suburb (Glenhurst Valley, L.I.), the right sport (tennis), the right schools (Oberley, Bryn Mawr).

The first impressions are wildly misleading. That the daughter of a patrician stockbroker should be a student of Soviet affairs is one of those nice paradoxes we are rich in. That she should have been chosen to translate Svetlana Stalina's book is a measure of how well Patricia MacMillan, 38, has succeeded.

THE WIERD-AM expression

she seems habitually to wear is a natural disguise for a fine mind and sensibility, as well as a subliminal talent for getting what she is professionally interested in having.

Martha Hayden, for example, now editor of the Detroit News, must be pleasantly surprised by Mrs. MacMillan's rise in the journalistic world. It was Hayden, then White House correspondent for the Detroit News and North American Newspaper Alliance, who in 1935 gave Patricia her first newspaper experience, translating the proceedings at the Soviet hearings of the Geneva Big Four conference.

And John O'Connell, executive vice-president of NANA, is another intrigued observer of Mrs. MacMillan's recent feat. He recalls how in the fall of 1937 she went to Russia and, after much red tape with the Soviet Foreign Office, became secretary of NANA's Moscow correspondent.

"PRISCILLA WAS the kind of correspondent the Russians were wary of in those days," O'Connell said. "She knew too much about Soviet history, law and politics to be brains-crushed by propaganda handouts from the Kremlin. And with her expert knowledge of the language she could fire-vent the Russian press for story beats."

She worked in Moscow for two years for the NANA or its successor. She was forced to leave after trying to cable a story on the future of Anastas Mikoyin. The censor blocked it and even though the story never was published, the Foreign Ministry would not renew her accreditation. The late Alvin St. Cyr, who was among several disaffected who unsuccessfully tried to

she had talked to her candidly, she had been present almost not using names, but she was well aware that the Russian police knew whom she had been seeing.

MRS. MACMILLAN was one of five Russian-speaking Soviet experts recommended to Harper & Row by former Ambassador George Kennan who helped arrange Mme. Stalina's trip here. Her selection means further delay in the Marine Oswald book. It is half-written, its completion delayed by two personal crises in 1936. She had a serious bout of pneumonia. After her recovery, her mother became gravely ill and died. The year ended on a happier note. Last Dec. 30, she married George MacMillan, a free-lance writer, a stocky, ebullient countenanced to a quiet wife.

When news of Stalina's defection first broke, Mrs. MacMillan, along with her publisher and hundreds of other writers and publishers, began trying to reach her in hopes of preparing a book, unaware that one had already been written.

Then, Harper called her to New York from her Atlanta home without telling her the reason. Life has been chaotic ever since.

SHE SPENT three days in a little office, reading the manuscript. Harper's had gotten, perhaps, a report on it, as well as a translation of a small segment. About two weeks ago, she flew to Switzerland for a brief conference with Mme. Stalina. Someone will have to ask Mme. Stalina what she thought of the translation. Modest by nature, Mrs. MacMillan told ...

two daughters, Yvettella and a younger one, and the other day they all sat with the Johnson children were encouraged to "understand" one of them. Yvettella not only passed the test but had positions about which to be proud.

In all, Yvettella got to be quite a good tennis player. I don't know how she does it. She is fit and well and suffers from acute rheumatism. But she's remarkably quick at the net and also won the Junior Wimbledon Tennis Cup as a kid.

EMERGED her from the shadows by the title of a Soviet factbook as a way to get government notice. It led to her appointment as archivist and to her no a 45-year start on 7/1/37 for her book.

As to her marriage, whether the rule is to be a French teacher, she became it only after being American, which she did. Her husband, a French-born, was a French teacher. She graduated from a high school and went on to Harvard where she met and married MacMillan. She is a "niece" of the late Alvin St. Cyr, who was among several disaffected who unsuccessfully tried to

Mrs. MacMillan

trip and misses it. She has been living in Atlanta where her husband, a specialist in civil rights movement, has been teaching journalism at Atlanta University and developing a foundation project to train and bring more Negroes into newspaper work. Atlanta has no show and no follow Kremlinologists to talk to. The last time she got to the father was in 1935 when she spent some time at Harvard's Russian Institute Center. Not long ago, someone asked her where she'd like to live, and it appears there are only two places in the world that really turn her on. Her answer was "Cambridge and Moscow."

They have already started in
 work together at the Green Val-
 ley estate of her father, Gustav
 M. Johnson. The third of four
 children, Mrs. MacMillan was
 brought up there and went to
 the private Greenvale School in
 nearby Roslyn.

Graduate School with a master's
 in Russian studies. Mrs. MacMillan
 has got a job in 1955 as a re-
 searcher for the then Senator
 in Washington. An American friend casual-
 ly mentioned "a boy named Os-
 wald" was in town, trying des-
 perately to defect.

Timothy Lee MacMillan later
 reported as a reporter's article
 she sought him out for an inter-
 view. For five hours, Lee Mar-
 tin Oswald talked earnestly and
 bluntly about why he wanted
 to become a Soviet citizen. He
 had a need, she said, "to stand
 out" in the world as
 an individual. He had no par-
 ticular political views, she said,
 but he was more memorable and
 courageous than

The meeting led to the book
 Mrs. MacMillan has been writ-
 ing on Oswald's widow, Marina
 Oswald agreed to see her be-
 cause she had known Oswald
 and later consented to the
 months of interviews which form
 the basis for the unfinished vol-
 ume.

Mrs. MacMillan's first en-
 counter with Sweden's Stalina
 was the result of a book
 of articles, mostly east-west
 looked at in her first trip
 to Russia a dozen years ago.
 Mrs. MacMillan, an investment
 bulletin board reader, saw a no-
 tice outside a Moscow University
 building that Mme Stalina would
 be giving a series of literary
 lectures.

Realizing this was Stalin's
 daughter, the young tourist ap-
 proached her for permission to
 attend the lectures. She found
 Sweden, Mrs. MacMillan later
 told friends, "gracious but re-
 their apprehensive." Permission
 was granted, but the next time
 she turned up at the entrance,
 there were guards waiting to tell
 her that only students were al-
 lowed in the building.

Originally a student of Soviet
 law, Mrs. MacMillan's interests
 later shifted to Soviet intellectu-
 al life, and in 1952 The Reporter
 magazine sent her on her third
 trip to write a series of pieces
 on the state of Russian culture.

SHE SPENT weeks talking to
 writers and artists, attending
 their lectures, visiting their
 houses and studios. On a Satur-
 day night in Leningrad, as she
 was about to board a plane for
 the homeward journey, the au-
 thorities confiscated 18 note-
 books, informing her, she later
 told a friend, "that they con-
 sidered a great deal of anti-so-
 viet propaganda, although how
 they could tell I can't imagine,
 since they had read them."

The article was carried by
 the magazine and worried friends,
 about her Russian friends, too.

NOT LONG OUT of Harvard
 and his assassin
 both the late President Kennedy
 two of three people who knew
 probably one of no more than
 ness to a major event. She is
 unique standing as a minor wit-
 nes have given her a rather
 as imaginative and both ques-
 real. She is resourceful as well
 counters is more apparent than
 of Patricia MacMillan's ex-
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