

1916 and wound up in the newspapers.

Some convent education in the U.S. failed to dampen the adolescent Morgans' will to have their own way. At sixteen, their parents in Europe, they were living unchaperoned in an apartment near Greenwich Village. Shortly after, with an assist from the social arbiter of the time, Maury Paul (the original "Cholly Knickerbocker") the Magical Morgans, by virtue of their beauty, wit, and originality, were well launched into the heady New York society of the day. Then it was that the Morgan girls discovered men and men discovered them.

Thelma eloped with Junior Converse and started on a social merry-go-round from Tuxedo Park to Saratoga, Belmont to Southampton. But "doomed to failure" is a mild cliché for the obvious outcome of a marriage between a sixteen-year-old beauty and an irresponsible young playboy.

While Thelma was involved in this youthful marital error, from which she was to escape with no serious complications, Gloria, at seventeen, was about to meet her destiny in the form of Reginald Vanderbilt, scion of one of America's wealthiest families. In her storybook wedding to this rich, indolent young man who could only pass his inheritance to his child, not his wife; in the birth of young Gloria, soon to be overpampered by grandmamma Morgan, and in Reggie's untimely death such a short time later, in 1925, lie the seeds of a tragedy that has hounded Gloria to this day.

Thelma recovered from Marriage No. 1 by going to Hollywood, where she had a whirl with Charlie Chaplin and a serious romance with fifty-one-year-old matinee idol Richard Bennett. Then in Paris she met red-headed Lord Furness. He was a rich English businessman who was to give her a title, wealth, a son, and a long happy, then unhappy marriage. Her life with "Duke" Furness ranges from the green years, when he flew plovers eggs from Holland to Paris at her whim, to the shock of her dawning realization that he was chronically unfaithful, and on to the disillusioned times when each went his own way.

Thelma's "way" was royal. She fell in love with the Prince of Wales and he with her. And after the Prince, Thelma went on to Aly Khan and movie actor Edmund Lowe. Eventually she and "Duke" were divorced.

Few things in contemporary reading are as satisfactory as a combatant from some famous scandal, court case, or conflict telling his *own* version of the story. Gloria reports how she was "framed" by her servants and her own mother, and gives her defense against the charges of neglect, immorality, and unfitness that lost her the legal

possession of her child, any chance for a livable income from the Vanderbilt money and, eventually, the love of little Gloria altogether. Today the two Glorias have nothing to do with each other.

Assuming that Gloria Senior's "apologia" for her behavior is naturally prejudiced in her own favor, one still feels that fate dealt her a hard blow. It is one she has had to live with since the day Reggie Vanderbilt died, and there is a quality of junior-grade Greek tragedy here that clutches the heart. Gloria says the situation even ruined her later chances to marry Prince Friedel Hohenlohe.

The twins, through all these adventures and misadventures, remained close. They live together today as they did at sixteen, and there is something fitting in the apt reunion of the two who always seemed to feel each other's joys and sorrows.

The technique of this book is rather extraordinary. Gloria writes one paragraph, Thelma the next. No warning marks the shift for the reader so that endless restarts and rereadings

are necessary. It is slightly disconcerting, but not a serious fault and perhaps it serves to emphasize their "oneness."

Aside from the more sensational pages, the charm of this book is in the comprehensive picture it gives of a world long gone—a world more stately, more ordered than our own, more glamorous, more formal, a world already as extinct as the Dodo. Though the twins have written of life through two world wars up to the present, what enthralls here is the glimpse of the Newport of 1924, the elite of America at play, Ziegfeld extravaganzas, motion pictures in their East and West Coast infancy, European nobility at Ascot and Longchamps.

There is a wealth of anecdote in "Double Exposure": Thelma teaching the Prince to embroider; the older Mrs. Vanderbilt calling for scissors in a restaurant as she cuts off a rope of pearls for her new daughter-in-law, Gloria.

We salute the indomitable Morgans for their self-revelations. What lives they have lived!

Thirteen Years by Herself

"On My Own," by Eleanor Roosevelt (*Harper*. 241 pp. \$4), **"Mrs. R: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt,"** by Alfred Steinberg (*Putnam*. 384 pp. \$5), and **"Eleanor Roosevelt: Her Life in Pictures,"** by Richard Harrity and Ralph G. Martin (*Duell, Sloan & Pearce*. 255 pp. \$5.95), *throw more light on the personality of a distinguished and distinctive First Lady. Bess Furman, who appraises the three volumes, is the author of "Washington By-Line" and "White House Profile."*

By Bess Furman

NOW that I near the end of my active life . . ." Eleanor Roosevelt begins the dedication of her third volume of autobiography.

This thought would be quite a jolt to the public mind were it not for the fact that at the time of its appearance Mrs. Roosevelt, acting very much like her usual self, was just flying in from another reporting trip to Russia. And in less time than it takes to tell about it, she had given this country a new briefing on foreign affairs and had become embroiled in a domestic controversy over right-to-work laws.

However, Eleanor Roosevelt was

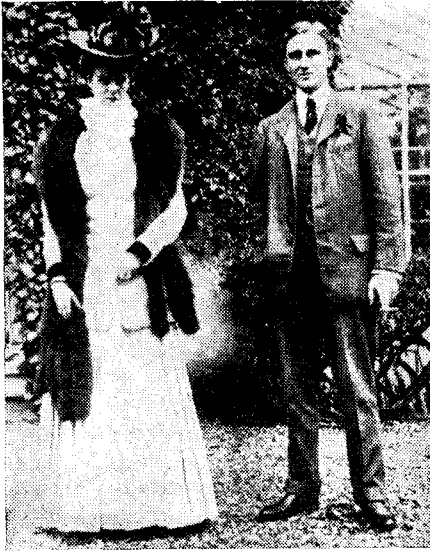
seventy-four years old on October eleventh. It is now twenty-five years since she entered the White House. She has been on her own for thirteen years. Obviously the time has arrived for stocktaking.

One conclusion is that Eleanor Roosevelt is, and will challenge future generations as, an historic personality to be evaluated apart from, as well as together with, her husband.

Another is that Eleanor Roosevelt is, and probably will remain for many years, her own best biographer. She has a gift for sharing—simply and fully—her life of walking with kings but keeping the common touch.

And what an array of rulers have been her guests at Hyde Park, or her hosts on United Nations missions and global trips since FDR died: Nehru, Haile Selassie, the Royal Family of England, Queen Juliana (enhancing a Dutch university degree for Mrs. Roosevelt with royal coach and women outriders), Tito, the Sultan of Morocco, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and Nikita Khrushchev!

Not among them is Chiang Kai-shek, and Mrs. Roosevelt takes time to tell precisely why she did not go to Taipei. She thought the Generalissimo had had his chance, had failed to unify his people, and would not



A young Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt just returned from their honeymoon in 1905.

get another chance. Had she gone, she would have had to tell his wife that she thought this—and so she didn't go.

Equally frank on the domestic front, she adds a footnote to her brush with young Senator John Kennedy, of Massachusetts, on the matter of not being for him for Vice President as he had not denounced McCarthyism. His friends had protested this judgment after it appeared in a magazine article. She made clear that only active and continuing opposition has her approval.

Quite understandably, Alfred Steinberg's "Mrs. R" is less clear-cut than her own book. The jacket states that he has had first access to her personal papers; in the opinion of this reviewer he has found them all too enchanting;

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A Mighty March of Tireless Men

"Land of Giants: The Drive to the Pacific Northwest, 1750-1950," by David Lavender (Doubleday. 468 pp. \$5.95), is the latest addition to the Mainstream of America series. A. B. Guthrie, Jr., who wrote "The Big Sky" and "The Way West," evaluates Mr. Lavender's achievement in weaving together the numerous and variegated strands of his colorful story.

By A. B. Guthrie, Jr.

FEW subjects are so dramatic and so difficult as the struggle for the Pacific Northwest—the drive to the Pacific Northwest, as David Lavender calls it in his subtitle. It lasted, roughly, for a century. Contesting nationals sought the short cut to Cathay. They found and exterminated the sea otter, while exterminating many of themselves. Inland, they fell upon beaver and upon one another, in the process forfeiting still other lives to nature and aborigine. They toiled incredibly for the advantage of company and country, seeking water and land routes to coastal and interior trade. They explored and exploited. They lodged claims and counter-claims. They fought with words and with weapons. And the ambitions and participations and destinies of na-

tions were inseparable from their strivings.

The sum of reports on the subject is substantial. Mr. Lavender devotes no less than ten pages to his bibliography. But for the most part the literature exists in bits and pieces and is widely dispersed and has waited for someone to bring it together. Here the reader familiar with De Voto's "Course of Empire" will pause to compare. Both are accounts of the long push to and the long pull of the West. They do duplicate, though not enough by far to make pointless reading of either for the reader of the other. De Voto's book begins earlier in time and ends sooner. Its direction is West, but its embrace more general, from the West that all America once was to the north coastal regions (in company with Lewis and Clark) that are Lavender's primary concern. Let comparisons end with that.

Except for one necessary addition. Save for interspersions, De Voto reported nothing later than the Lewis and Clark expedition. With his account of the trip he was through. Though Lavender necessarily deals with the expedition, too, he goes on, on beyond the limits perhaps suggested by the first paragraph of this review, on past the 1846 settlement of the Oregon boundary dispute, on clear to 1950. Two centuries, of international conflict, internal conflict, adjustment, or degrees of it.

From Lewis and Clark, Lavender proceeds to the inland fur trade, to Astoria, to the War of 1812 and beyond, to the migration to Oregon, to the missionaries and their experiences, to territorial politics, to Western Indian wars, to surveys of railroads and railroad building, to the discovery of gold and its aftermath of banditry, to Butte and its copper kings. The list is random and incomplete but still may suggest the integrated variety and exhaustiveness of the book. Only a man of great devotion and greater energies could have written it.

It is possible, here and there, to quarrel with Lavender. One may say, out of prejudice perhaps, that too little is made of the Lewis and Clark expedition, a conclusion that the scanty bibliography on the subject enforces. One may wonder if more space should not have been given to the fur brigades and the discovery



—Illustrations from "Eleanor Roosevelt: Her Life in Pictures."

Mrs. Roosevelt, who learned the "back-seat" campaigning technique from Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, shown here in 1940 when she reconciled her husband's party to his running mate.