

LENA:
a Determined Woman

By
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Zlac Rowing Club
1967



TO LINA

The "l" in Zine and without whom
there would be no
Zine



AUTHOR'S NOTE

In preparing this sketch I have tried to avoid all hearsay. For example, there is a report that Lena was highly instrumental in the formation of the San Diego Tunaboat Owner's Association in the early 1900's. Since my informant was a teacher, not a fisherman, and since I could not check out the story, I have not used it. I have, however, used the material given me by people who had direct contact with Lena.

Where I have used approximations—"about 1870" "were probably born in San Pedro or Wilmington"—it is because I have not been able to pin down an exact date or place.

I have conscientiously tried to present the whole person, the weaknesses and strengths, without destroying privacy. It is my firm belief that memories have dignity as well as people.

In this process I have consulted family connections and personal friends of Lena's, professional associates, and club members. I have studied club minutes, scrapbooks, and publications. In addition, information has been collected from City Directories, San Diego Union microfilmed files, the Stanford Alumni Association, County Board of Supervisors, Minutes of meetings of the San Diego Board of Education, Teacher's Permanent Record Card, ZooNoon, interviews with long-term residents of San Diego, the Hensley Memoirs, etc.

I have not yet heard from the Coast Guard in Washington, D.C., to which I wrote enquiring if, and when, Lena was licensed as a harbor pilot.

A fully documented copy of this sketch, with all sources of information identified, will be placed in the Club archives for reference.

San Diego, California
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Marjorie N. Breitenbach

INTRODUCTION

At the Zoo they called her Tugboat Annie. And it was apt: Annie commanded a tugboat, and Lena a rowing barge, but from there on they were more like than unlike. Annie's language was always very colorful; Lena's usually impeccable, but on occasion—. Both of them had real human concerns which they tried to conceal with an authoritative bark. Each of them regarded an apparent defeat as simply an additional challenge to be overcome, which they did. Both were short, dumpy, and dressed in miscellaneous clothes, including a man's hat. Lena proudly—and with reason—wore a Captain's cap; Annie, a battered fedora.

Lena is described by one of her friends as a "disciplinarian with a heart of gold, a woman with a keen sense of humor who was fun to have around. Lena had the courage of her convictions, would fight for a just cause, and herself was always just and reasonable."

She made Zlac, and Zlac nearly died with her. From an 1892 teenage club of four girls in a leaky skiff self-importantly rowing about somnolent San Diego Bay, Zlac in her lifetime became a socially significant and officially incorporated club of five hundred women, possessor of boats, dock, property, clubhouse, and, periodically, a mortgage.

Yet Lena had ruled for so long and with such determination that as the reins slipped from her hands there was no trained and identified succession to carry on. There were and always had been, club officers, but Lena had held real control for over forty years.

It is a small miracle that the club survived the double impact of World War II and Lena's slow deterioration and death. That miracle can be attributed, in the end, to Lena: her personal strength, her ability to inspire loyalty, her sense of friendship, and her sense of fun, made Zlac into an enduring monument to a woman who lived long and well in a youthful San Diego.

SINGLE BLESSEDNESS

It was during the Civil War period that Lena's parents came to California. Her mother Georgiana, an "army brat," was born in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, in 1854, and spent her girlhood on the Southwestern frontier. She came to California in the late '60's and married Albert Alexander Polhamus about 1870.

Capt. Polhamus came to San Pedro in 1860, and left there in 1884. He was a pilot on the California coast for 36 years, was post-captain in San Diego, was captain of the Santa Fe tug (which belonged to the Spreckels Company. Custom at that time was to put the name of the vessel first, its classification second. Present usage is the reverse.) He is referred to as "builder of jetties and breakwaters", and is quoted as having defended the dredging of a 24-foot channel 250 feet wide through the "middle ground" shoal area between North Island and Pt. Loma just inside the harbor entrance.

Capt. and Mrs. Polhamus and their family came to Coronado in 1890, and moved to San Diego in 1895. They apparently stayed in San Diego for the rest of their lives, as did two of their daughters, Lena and Caroline. Agnes went to New York, and their son, Isaac, to Los Angeles.

The four children in the family were all probably born in San Pedro or Wilmington. Lena was born about 1873, and was graduated from high school in Los Angeles in 1891. When the Polhamuses first settled in Coronado Isaac began clerking for the Spreckels Company, and Lena teaching in the Coronado schools. After two years teaching, she attended Stanford for one year (1893-1894) majoring in zoology.

She then returned to the San Diego area and was elected annually by the Board of Education to teach in the East school of the San Diego system from the fall of 1894 until the spring of 1901, at which time she resigned. She did not finish out the school year. On June 5, 1901 she was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the county Board of Education, which she did for three years.

For teaching science and writing for ten months she was paid \$750 per year, which works out to \$62.50 per month. Later, when she was teaching physiology as well, her pay was raised to \$65 per month.

Many years later Lena told her then principal why she had so abruptly resigned in 1901. She had had, said Lena, some very good ideas about the art of teaching. She was unable to sell those ideas either to her fellow teachers or her principal, so she went to the superintendent of schools. "Miss Polhamus," said he, "You are twenty

years ahead of your time, but you are a very junior teacher and I cannot force all the other more experienced teachers to accept your ideas."

"I couldn't back that," said Lena, "so I quit."

One of Lena's students at East school remembers her as "sweet, brilliant, right up on everything, very kind and considerate, deeply interested in her students and her school".

Lena's portrait at this time shows us a very lovely young woman, with wide-set eyes, curly blonde hair, high forehead, clear complexion, and clean line of cheek and throat. She is by far the most striking person in the group picture. The loveliness belies her determination, for it was at just this time, that, after having rowed for three years in a series of borrowed boats, she marched down to the boatyard and ordered Zlac I. The fact that she was acting without consulting the other club members, and with the knowledge that there was only \$50 in the club treasury, did not deter her. A barge she was going to have, and have it she did, even if the other members might assassinate her because of it.

The eight members (and two substitutes) of Zlac at the time of the launching of Zlac I on August 3, 1885, are described as follows: average height, 5' 3"; average weight, 135 lbs.; average age, 19 years. The "average was very materially boosted by the three Polhamus sisters; all big, strong, athletic, and, especially, very fine swimmers".

"These three [Polhamus] sisters once swam four and a half miles, from the steamship wharf at the foot of Fifth street to the National City wharf, on a windy day with rough water, and then helped the men (who had oared them in a skiff) row the boat back."

They are all remembered as having been "aggressive, but not as aggressive as Lena." "Agnes was the doctor," and "Caroline was the pretty one," "she was often a little sick, and she was nicer."

Captain Polhamus is remembered as a very strong person, his son, Isaac as very very quiet, and Mrs. Polhamus as a large woman, affable and pleasant, but with a sort of pathetic expression. Why, no one knows, but there was some division in the family that had to do with Isaac and his wife. There was no contact between Isaac and Lena, and there is no record of a "Mrs. Isaac Polhamus" becoming a member of Zlac.

The photograph of Lena as Captain Polhamus is of a pretty young woman trying to look dignified and authoritative. (The oil portrait by Barbara Roy, painted from the photo, gives her that authority.) Her costume is modeled after military uniforms of the period, snugly closed up the front and with tight upstanding collar. The various insignia look "authentic Navy," as if Lena had sweet-talked various

junior officers into giving her the holed anchor which she wore on her Captain's cap as well as the collar ornaments. (Crew members at the time wore fuller shirts, middie, soft black silk ties, [one insisted on white silk and lace] and dinner-plate hats.)

Lena didn't hesitate to use her authority as Captain or as club President. In old pictures, it is invariably Lena in the stereobets, giving orders. In club matters the same way: "The Captain gave us all a lecture about our discipline, it was getting lax—there was a great deal of hard feeling between the girls which must not be or our club would go to pieces. Each member was given a talking to."

And: "Any matter discussed at business meetings, shall not be discussed outside the Board-rooms, without permission from the President. Any person violating this resolution, shall be reported and brought before the Board of Directors, and penalty inflicted."

Yet: "Lena could be firm, and end it with a joke—"

Zlac membership and military manners were a part of Lena's wedding. It was a home wedding, with a pink and green theme, and Lena wore a white silk crepe de chine over white silk wedding dress. "Every Zlac was there but Stella [Henking] Broadbent and nearly all were in light party gowns. Constance Mills [Berreshoff] played the wedding march, and as Lena came down the stairs we all held our hands in salute and Lena threw us a kiss."

MATURITY

From her marriage in 1902 until 1918 Lena did not attempt much activity outside her home. She devoted much time to Ziac, and more to her daughter Harriet. In 1918 she was elected to the San Diego City and High School Board of Education, and in 1922 she went back to college. She was graduated in 1925, worked part-time, and shortly after her husband's death she began working full time. She was 62.

Ziac grew and grew. In 1910 the barge Ziac II was purchased. Rowing records were most carefully kept. Lena leads with the greatest total number of rows in any one year: 49, in 1915. Crew I leads with the greatest mileage rowed: 110 1/8 miles, in 1910.

Rowing was undoubtedly very good exercise. There was fresh air, sunshine, excellent avial chaperonage, and bay traffic was generally light. Besides, all could swim. But somehow there seems to have been another enormous attraction: Lena speaks idyllically of "morning call on some man-o'-war, drinking high tea on board an English ship, or—drifting—singing—to the accompaniment of violin and guitar."

Crew members remember being poked in the ribs by Captain Lena, to see if they were wearing corsets. If so, the corsets had to come off.

But let us have Lena tell a story on herself.

This is one of my best stories. This one really ought to go down in the annals—and it's true, too.

When the Club was young, the training boats used to come from Annapolis with the men (midshipmen they were called in those days) on their first cruise (half of them were always engaged when they left San Diego). As we rowed back and forth past these Navy boats, the order was "eyes in the boat". The girls looked at me and I looked at them. The girls didn't need to rubber around at the men—the men did all the rubbering.

On this particular day there was a boat in, and all the men were on deck with glasses and telescopes, when full-blast down the bay came Ziac! The men hung on the rail and made remarks about the girls—"Look at Number 1! Isn't she cute!" Then someone would make a crack about Number 2 and so on down the line. There was one red-headed fellow looking intently and not saying anything. Finally he called: "PIPE THE OLD DAME IN THE STERN-SHEETS!" Well, I wasn't any beauty, but I wasn't so had in my youth!

We went aboard most of the boats for tea, but we never went aboard that boat because I'd heard that remark. I guess the Captain found out what the trouble was, because one day a dingy came out with a sailor in it, and he yelled: "Ziac, ahoy! The Captain wants to know if you will come aboard for tea in half an hour!" Well, I wasn't going to accept, but the girls said: "Don't be so tight, let's go!"

We drew up to the starboard side (it's the starboard side when you're going to visit the officers, port side for the crew). We landed the boat beautifully. I stepped up the gangplank first and the Captain met me. The Cox'n piped the sideboys. They treated us like visiting admirals to try to make up for the insult.

"—The old dame in the stern-sheets!! I'll never get over that—never!"

World War I was very far away from San Diego. It brought an opportunity to flirt with all those nice young men, and the responsibility to visit the military hospital at Camp Kourney, after the Armistice.

Lena asked members to reserve Thursdays for visiting, and to take out scrap books, hand-painted fans, fudge without nuts, soap, bright washcloths, books, magazines.

Another member has mentioned the practical difficulties: there were no ladies' rooms at the hospital.

In 1918 Lena was elected to the Board of Education. She threw herself heart and soul into its affairs, first as vice president, then as member. She was very zealous to promote the recognition of women. A woman principal (a nice person at that time) reports that "Lena was for me all along. I was awfully green. She gave you the feeling that you were somebody, even if you weren't a man—you had a friend who was rooting for you." An administrative staff member reports that Lena was very active—more active than most Board members. She wasn't likely to leave things to staff, but to investigate for herself. Other informants report that there was much turmoil in the school system in the early 'twenties, with a split board, many staff changes, turnover in superintendents, etc. The causes and resolution of this turmoil, and Lena's part in it, if any, is at present writing unknown.

It was customary at that time to be, apparently, fairly generous with permission to send children to other than their neighborhood schools. Not only were the usual reasons accepted, but transportation also: if Junior could get a ride downtown with Dad, whereas it would cost strenuous money to send him to his neighborhood school, then

permission was granted. Lena, says an informant, forced stricter observance of attendance zone regulations.

The school system was so small then that it was possible to have the entire staff, from janitors through teachers to principals to supervisors, in the Roosevelt auditorium at one time. At the opening meeting one year the usual announcements were made, the superintendent gave his annual lecture about goals and changes, and concluded with an exhortation about mode of life and conduct. Staff was not to wear rouge or lipstick, and clothing regulations were spelled out. It is reported that Lena got madder and madder; what right had the superintendent, just because he was grayed at the temples, to get puffed?

Lena was then introduced, as Member of the Board of Education and Chairman of the Teacher's Committee, which meant that she had a lot to do with staffing the schools. So she thanked the superintendent for his good speech, congratulated him on his fine leadership, went on to say that she agreed with him, that young women from 18 to 25 years didn't need makeup, they should depend on their natural beauty. However, she said, "at 25 you may start using rice powder, at 30 lipstick, and after 35 you may use anything on God's green earth that will help!"

While a Board of Education member Lena went back to college, and on January 27, 1926, she received her AB degree from San Diego State. Her friends responded with the following:

Tidewater College requests the honor of your company at the graduation of Lena Polhamus Crouse, which will transpire at the Zlac Boat House on Saturday, January 30th, at 8 p.m.

As there will be free refreshments, addresses, and other appropriate ceremonies, R.S.V.P. to your directors by Wednesday. Directors notify Lena Winn, 3-2956.

Lena continued to enroll in San Diego State College and University of California courses until 1938. She earned three certificates: General Junior High and Elementary, Supervision Class A—General, and Junior High and Elementary Diploma.

She completed Board of Education service in 1927, and became an employee of the Board of Education in 1928. She worked on a part-time probationary basis in the Visual Education department until 1932 when she became permanent. She then was assigned to Washington school, where she worked half-time in the library. From 1933 until 1938 she worked full time on the science platoon. She then returned to the science laboratory for a year on half time, and took leave of absence in 1939. She retired from the school system, at age 67, on Feb. 2, 1940.

The platoon system of teaching in the elementary schools was a hybrid arrangement where one teacher would instruct a class in

several subjects for half a day, and then the students spent the remainder of their time in a series of half-hour classes with different specialists. The success of the system seems to hinge on stability of school population; one informant says that at the end of three years the teachers knew the children and could produce excellent work. Another says the system was abandoned because a teacher could not get to know the children well enough.

This, then, is what the newly-widowed Lena, at age 62, undertook to do: teach science to half the student body at Washington school. It meant that she saw every member of the fourth grade, every member of the fifth grade, and every member of the sixth grade every day for half an hour. She was bothered by personal financial problems, her most recent classroom experience was thirty years in the past, and she could not have avoided worrying about the plight many of her students were in, dependent as they were on the fishing industry. But she carried it off.

She was so successful as a teacher, she won such loyalty and respect from the first-generation Italian and Portuguese children, that when she told them they should elect a president of the student body at Roosevelt Junior High, they did precisely that. She described strategy to them, pointed out the strength their numbers implied as long as they acted in concert, told them to start slowly but aim high. Three years later a boy from Washington school was elected Student Body President at Roosevelt—the first time this had ever happened. He went on to further honors at San Diego High School.

Lena taught a lot of other things besides science. She observed that many of her students had never had an opportunity to learn conventional manners, visit a nice hotel, enter an upper-middle class home. As a science teacher she stretched several points, reasoning something like this: "Science includes hygiene, morals affect hygiene, manners and morals go together, so I am going to teach manners in my science classes". And she did.

As a part of this she took a few groups of four boys at a time to the Coronado Club, the El Cortez hotel, and to visit by private limousine, after school. There was always a post-mortem before school began the next day. Once, they had been to visit the home of a well-travelled, very active woman who was forever hopping up to get some new things to show her guests. Their plaint: "You've told us what to do, can't you tell the ladies what to do? Our knees were out, standing up everytime the hostess got up to get something!"

While teaching at Washington, Lena was named Honorary Colonel of the student Traffic Patrol for the City of San Diego, the first woman to hold that post. At an unanticipated photography session, where patrol boys, school administrators, police, cameramen, and

P-TA presidents were all milling around getting in each other's way. Lena brought order out of chaos by barking a series of orders at the boys who obeyed her instantly. The P-TA people were appalled, and it was the police who defended Lena as the most loved person in the community.

Lena had still another job. She was chairman of the Education Committee of the San Diego Zoological Society, and a Zoo employee, from some time in 1939 until the spring of 1942.

The Education Department of the Zoo was begun in 1923. In 1926 Miss Anne Zimmerman gave money to the Zoo for birdcages, but asked that her gift be diverted to purchase buses to bring children from school to the Zoo. She suggested that the buses be supported by charging adults for Zoo tours, and that any excess funds earned in this way be set aside for the construction of birdcages.

There were two young men assigned to drive the buses, and they assisted the classroom teachers with information for their pupils. The 1929 depression curtailed the program and the buses were reduced to carrying the physically handicapped. For a while the San Diego Electric Railway Company transported children from school to Zoo and return, but this became unworkable and so the Zoo had to start buying again in 1933. Lena was in charge.

Under Lena's auspices a teacher—Lena—rode the bus to assist the classroom teacher, and a much more systematic approach to education was made. Advance planning included a choice of tours: South American Animals, Animals of Transportation, Warehouse and Feeding of Animals, or even a trip to a Real Dairy. The planning also included a large supply of sweaters and jackets which Lena insisted on carrying for the use of any child who might have become cold.

Lena also started the summer school classes, which in 1940 were a joint effort of the Zoo and the Museum of Natural History. She had dreams of expanding the program to include tours of the harbor and fish markets, and the eventual development of a special museum, but World War II interfered. The Zoo buses were among the very first vehicles to be stopped by gas rationing. The driver was assigned to caring for the elephants, and Lena tried to keep up her educational program by taking the Zoo to the schools via slide-talks. But the physical effort, plus the struggle with gas coupons, thinning tires, and out-of-pocket cost of gasoline was too much. She retired in the spring of 1942.

That is the skeleton of the story. But one informant says that it wasn't a matter of the Zoo seeking Lena out, but that Lena talked Dr. Harry Wegsforth into resuming the school bus program. It is at present writing unclear which came first: Lena the Chairman of the Education Committee, or Lena the Zoo employee.

The bus driver remembers Lena with affection and amusement. He says that she was always interested in everything, and that each day for lunch she would seek out some obscure three-booth restaurant and insist on eating there, for the food would "be much better." And that on the trips to schools to pick up the students, Lena would not sit all alone in a big bus, but insisted on perching on the step so she would go unseen from the sidewalk. That the driver could be seen laughing and talking to himself made not a whit of difference. Sit up there alone she would not.

He remembers Lena at the elephant compound: "This is Enpress. She is an elephant. Her mother was an elephant."

Another informant tells of the party for Zoo employees. Lena observed that there was a barrier between the animal keepers and the popcorn sellers, and the administrative and technical staff and the Board. While she could, and did, talk with everyone, so one else did. So she decided there would have to be a party, and she found some pretext. She practically ordered the Board to come, and systematically talked it up among the employees. Almost everyone came.

But, how to get people talking and moving around, once they were at the party?

She set up several tables, each with a punch bowl at each end. And each punch bowl was labelled, in letters almost a foot high, "With" or "Without". Everyone congregated about the "With" bowls, no one ever had to refill the "Without" bowls, and everyone got to know everyone else.

And it was all the same punch.

All the while Lena continued to teach rowing to incoming sub-juniors. "We were raised on sardines and stories about Harriet"; "I was a little afraid of her at first"; "We used to g-r-o-a-a-n-e with each pull at the oars"; "She always supervised the construction of each new home on Mission Bay—we had to row over there and take a look at it"; "She really was a lot of fun". These are members talking, whose daughters are now members.

But this story is the funniest of all.

There are some housewives in the files, which, although undated, probably were drawn up between 1933 and 1940. The second half of the rules discuss slumber parties: must be chaperoned, must not disturb the neighbors, there is to be no swimming after 10 p.m., and "Swimming without bathing suits is prohibited."

So there was a slumber party, maybe in 1934, and Captain Lena was chaperone. She very carefully instructed the girls that they were not to swim after 10 p.m., and that they were not to remove their suits. So, naturally, as soon as Lena's back was turned the girls went

swimming, and left their suits on the float. Lena walked out, counted noses in the water, must have noted the empty suits, and returned to the clubhouse without saying a word.

Within a few minutes a group of boys, all friends of the girls, turned up and found them swimming. So they drove off, came back in the dark, parked the car at the foot of Daves street and flicked on the headlights which flooded the dock and float. Wild shrieks and much splashing from the girls. Many howls of laughter from the boys. After a few minutes the boys drove off and the girls, by now a little chilly, scurried out of the water into the warm clubhouse.

It is possible that this was pure accident—that the boys knew there was to be a slumber party, and they just came by on speculation. But it all seems much too pat to my informant, who was among those swimming and shrieking. She believes those Ziac sons knew in advance where and when to come. Who told them? The man in the moon? Or the chaperone, who had thirty years' experience with teenage behavior in response to rules which ask to be broken?

THE QUIET YEARS

Lena's last years were spent in retirement in the home on Bayside Walk, Mission Beach. She was not, however, alone. She made a practice of renting rooms to young men, especially to musicians who were playing in big "name" orchestras at the Mission Beach Ballrooms. She had what amounted to a revolving guest list: bandmen would come back to her home, year after year, and recommend her rooms to their friends who were traveling the same music circuit.

Each would tell the next: don't be disturbed, you'll be subjected to a lecture the day you arrive, but Mrs. Crouse has a heart of gold and that bark is more bark than bite. The rules were simple: no liquor, no cooing around, no women, no cooking. But soon she was leaving milk and cookies in the kitchen for her favored roomers to find when they came in from work.

One young musician spent two summers with her, and then six or seven uninterrupted years, after which he dropped his music for photography. Slowly he became the son Lena had never had, cooking for both of them, chaperoning her about as she became more and more helpless, sharing her joys and sorrows. He called on Agnes in New York, took Lena to Los Angeles on family visits, fended for her. He speaks of her now with great affection, appreciation, and understanding.

Lena in turn mothered him, as she mothered all her roomers, but he was her favorite. He stayed with her until he married.

Lena continued to attend Ziac Board meetings as long as she was able. But, eventually, she could no longer live alone and she was moved to the La Jolla Sanitarium, where she died three years later. She is at Greenwood.

Out of respect, the title, "Commodore," long exclusively Lena's has been permanently retired. No other Ziac will ever bear that title, nor will any other Ziac hold the position of admiration and affection that Lena holds in our memories.

WARREN M. CROUSE

Warren M. Crouse came to San Diego in 1891 to visit his uncle, J. W. Selson. Like a good many other people after him, he liked it so well he stayed for the rest of his life.

He and Lena were married about Christmas, 1902, when Warren was 36 and Lena 29. Harriet was born in 1912. Warren died in February, 1934, following a bout with pneumonia. He was 68, and is also buried at Greenwood Memorial Park.

At the time of his death he was secretary of the Selson Investment Company, a director of the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank, and

was considered an authority on real estate.

Lena's and Harriet's friends remember Warren as a very retiring person. Rather grim, very matter-of-fact, perhaps shy, a man's man, he and Lena did not share one another's interests. One friend feels he took little interest in his family, another that father and daughter were devoted.

Professionally, he earned his position in the bank. Socially, his position in San Diego was excellent. Financially, Warren over-extended himself with the result that the family was hard-pressed at the time of his death. The world-wide depression which began in 1929 "battered out" in 1933. Although income from real estate investments was almost nil, taxes continued. His vision was valid: the investments eventually paid off handsomely, but the waiting proved to be quite difficult.

HARRIET

As a student at Pomona College, Harriet would pull riding pants over her fluffily-ruffled feminine underwear and then go striding along the dirt-colored halls of Harwood Court, singing, in as low a voice as she could muster: "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life". Success was achieved when the head resident came hurrying: "Is there a man in the hall?"

Harriet was born late in a marriage to parents who had married late and thought that they would be forever childless. She was sent early to the equivalent of the Campos Laboratory School at what is now San Diego State College. As she grew up she had many supplemental lessons after regular school hours. A contemporary remembers her at Point Loma High School in little-girl shoes and stiffly-starched white middie and skirt (all girls wore uniforms then) with her gorgeous fine red-gold hair haloed around her face. Her very fair skin freckled badly in the California sun. She was considered a "genius" by her peers.

Harriet was graduated from Pomona College in 1932. While there she concentrated on English composition; she was night editor and then editor of *Student Life*, member of Sigma Sigma, a women's writing group, and member and vice-president of Alpha Delta Mu, honorary journalism fraternity. She also contributed occasionally to the San Diego Evening Sun, with by-line.

She was married on August 7, 1936, to Berritt Seward Allen, also a Pomona graduate and a newspaper man. The childless marriage subsequently ended in divorce.

Harriet has maintained her interest in writing all her life. She has worked for or edited various small newspapers, and been employed in the publicity departments of movie studios. She is at present living and working in the greater Los Angeles area.

EPILOGUE

As Zlata we owe a great deal to Lena, for it is due to her lifetime interest that the club survives. There were six other women's rowing crews participating in a regatta on San Diego Bay in 1905: Goodollers, Nereids, La Falanca, Water Babies, L'Esperance, and Columbia. Zlata is the only one left.

As women we owe her more. Our lives are far richer because she, and the women like her, refused to fit into a mold. There were two types of women of her generation: the sweet, gentle, obedient ones, who were either very docile or very subtle and skillful, and the fighters.

Lena was a fighter. She had many built-in frustrations to contend with: she was, first of all, a woman living in a society which discriminated against women. (Remember, she was nearly fifty before she could vote in a national election.) She was a blue-eyed blonde, quite pretty—but she had a congenital limp. She wanted a college education, but it was thirty-three years between freshman enrollment and graduation. Presumably, she wanted children, but her only chick arrived long after such dreams had been given up and other life-plans made. She was very active, and very ambitious, and, living as she did in a very small town which had extremely limited opportunities, there was little or nothing to occupy her fully.

The right she fought hardest for was the right to be herself, to choose, to act in her own best interests. Society of the period offered almost no choice: the spinster school-teacher or the housewife and mother.

It is small wonder that Lena kept on fighting after the war was largely won. She had learned that the only way to accomplish anything was to insist and keep on insisting until the opposition was worn down. Or else, do it quickly before any opposition had time to develop and could only gape at an accomplished fact.

These faults, direct result of Lena's life experience, made Lena very difficult to work with on a peer basis. She did not know how to negotiate or compromise, and found it very difficult to accept leadership by others.

These faults were also her virtues. Her forcefulness, which probably got her on the Board of Education in the first place, was what led her back to college at age 48. She saw an opportunity and wasn't afraid to seize it.

Board service was a crucial period for Lena. It was apparently during that period that she discovered the satisfactions of being deeply involved in something endlessly challenging. Two estate

Informants have stated Lena was much happier when she was very busy teaching, and the chain of events support the idea that she discovered this for herself sometime in the 'twenties.

It was Lena's forcefulness, her fearlessness, and her intimate friendship with everybody in town which gave her the influence she undoubtedly had. She held only one official position of acknowledged leadership, the Board of Education, but her influence spread much farther than that. Sociologists have an ungraceful phrase, "community leaders," to describe people who come forward and work hard to make the world a better place to live. It makes no difference where these people choose to work: it may be schools, it may be water supply, it may be opera. The point is that they see something that needs doing, they recognize the right of it, and they work and negotiate, fight and compromise, insist and persuade, until that job is done. And then they go out and find something else that needs doing.

Lena was a Community Leader.