

Teachers and townspeople are high on their superintend-

throughout the state. Administered by a commit-

the individual and fewer hands stretched out to the government."

This event reveals once again the continuing failure of the administration to grasp its most basic responsibilities.

BEING A HOUSEWIFE IS WONDERFUL

Singer Jane Froman Happy in New Role

By SUE ANN WOOD
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

People are always asking Jane Froman, famed singer who now is a Columbia housewife, how it feels to retire and lead a quiet life.

She replies:
"Who's quiet?"

When asked about her retirement by a reporter recently in Columbia, she laughed and whipped out a small notebook and pencil.

"Let me put down all the things I'm doing," she said. "I'll forget them all if I don't write them down."

Scribbling furiously, she filled two notebook pages, ripped them out and glanced over the list.

"My," she said. "That looks so important!"

The list read as follows:

"Alumnae Board of Christian College, Boone County Mental Health Board, Missouri Mental Health Board, Y.W.C.A., governor of Menninger Foundation, president of Jane Froman Foundation (for retarded children), advisor to Kappa Kappa Gamma (social sorority), Mu Phi Epsilon music sorority."

Besides those activities, she said, she finds plenty to keep her busy in her new role of wife and home-maker in a college town.

Wonderful Life

"I'm having a very wonderful kind of life," she said, "Doing a lot of things that up to now I never had time to do — ironing curtains, cooking, going to football games."

Born in St. Louis, Miss Froman grew up in Columbia. Her mother, Mrs. Anna Froman Hetzler, who died last November, was music director at Christian College and her talented daughter attended Christian for two years and then enrolled in journalism at Missouri University.

But she left M.U. to become a vocalist with Paul Whiteman's band, launching her successful career. While on a USO tour in 1943, she was seriously injured in a plane crash at Lisbon. She underwent dozens of operations but made a dramatic comeback that was the subject of a movie.

Two years ago, she returned to Columbia for rest, more

medical treatment and art studies at the university. Last June, she was married to Rowland H. Smith, assistant managing editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Friends at College

"Rowland and I knew each other when I was in school in the 1920s," she said, during an interview at Christian College homecoming festivities.

Their reacquaintance that led to romance and marriage is first on her list of wonderful things that have happened since her return to Columbia. Many old friends from school days still live there and she sees them often.

During her coed days, she was so busy singing "and having a good time" that she missed out on a lot of things like football games, track meets and, incidentally, academic honors, Miss Froman noted. All of those things now have become part of her life.

"I began to paint on my own several years ago," she said, explaining her decision to return to M.U., "and thought I should go back to school to learn about it."

She took a number of art courses and wound up an honor student, much to her surprise and delight.

"Don't think it doesn't take some doing to go back to school after more than 30 years," she said. "These students today are smarter than we ever were! They're as keen as can be."

Through Singing

Stating frankly that she "flunked out" of journalism school in her early student days, Miss Froman admitted that she was more interested in starring in the traditional J-School show than in being an honor student then.

"Bagdaddies"—that was my show," she recalled, adding



RETIRING AS A VOCALIST, after 34 years of show business, to married life in Columbia, Mo., has given Jane Froman time to do many of the things she couldn't work in during her busy life as a coed at Missouri University. Recently she started studying art and wound up an honor student, much to her surprise and delight.

with a smile, "and I had a ball as star of it. Then, in 1929, I began singing on the air and I didn't stop until two years ago."

When she decided to stop singing, she really meant it. Now, she turns down every request—and there are many—to sing in local events or in television and radio appearances.

"I haven't opened my mouth to sing, and it's heaven!" she declared.

Asked if she has any plans for a return to her singing career, she replied firmly: "None."

"I was in the business 34 years," she said, "and it was wonderful to me. It owes me nothing. But I think it's time to stop. If you know when it's time to stop, you're awfully lucky."

One phase of her career that has continued, with her blessing, is the Jane Froman Founda-

tion, started by a group of her fans in 1951.

"When I began my tv show in 1951, all the teen-agers began coming and they would bring me gifts — jewelry, cosmetics — mounds of things. I thought — look, I don't want all this; if each would only give \$1, we could form a club and all the money could go to Menninger's for retarded children."

Back to School

Her young fans liked the idea and the clubs sprang up in cities across the country. Money came pouring in to the foundation as new members joined.

"When I stopped two years ago, I thought all that would end too," Miss Froman said. "But no. All those girls — and they're young women now — have been wonderfully loyal. Two months ago, I mailed a check for \$2000 to the foundation. Thousands still belong, paying \$1 a year, and new

ones still are joining all the time."

She still hears from club members regularly and writes to them in reply.

Lacking eight hours of college credit for a degree, she intends to go back to the university "after I get my home organized." She and her husband have a new home at 404 Crestland in Columbia and shipments of furniture and other items have been arriving from storage in New York.

"I'm an antique bug," she admitted, "and I have all kinds of antiques for the house. It takes a while to get organized, but we'll do it."

Christian College honored her recently with a "distinguished alumna award," and a citation that praised her "for the hope and inspiration which she has given to millions and which have transformed her into a living legend."

Reunion Fails

The ceremony was part of the college's annual homecoming for alumnae and she thought it would be fun to organize a reunion of the double sextet in which she sang at Christian.

"About two weeks ago, I wrote to all the gals who sang in the double sextet from 1923 to 1926, asking them to come back and we'd do a number together. I have answers from all of them, but not one could come."

One reported she would come if it were not for the fact that she was "having a baby — my sixth grandchild."

What songs would the group have sung? she was asked.

"I just don't remember what we sang," she confessed. "I've done so many hundreds of thousands of songs since then."

The movie of her wartime plane crash and the tremendous ordeal that went with her comeback has been on television several times. Yes, she has watched it, Miss Froman nodded, when asked.

"And I can't help but compare those old days — all the trouble and pain — with now," she said. "I'm home now."

SHE WANTS CLUB!