

History shows women tough as men

United Press International
Early American history contains some evidence women battle pretty good when the occasion demands — and they can be ruthless.

The knowledge may help females and males as they debate the propriety of registering women for a draft — as proposed by President Carter.

History also records that American females can be brave and courageous without being in combat. Or sharpshooters under other than battle conditions.

Consider Annie Oakley, marks-woman. Born on a farm in Darke County, Ohio, Phoebe Ann Moses (her real name) developed an amazing proficiency with guns. Legend says as a child she hunted game with great success. Game she bagged was sold, helping the family pay off the mortgage on the farm.

When 15 she won a shooting match in Cincinnati with Frank E. Butler, a vaudeville marksman.

They married and until 1885 played vaudeville circuits, later joining "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show. She was billed as "Miss Annie Oakley, the Peerless Lady Wing Shot." (If this sounds familiar, her story was the basis of the hit musical "Annie Get Your Gun".)

"At 30 paces she could split a playing card held edge-on," said Bob McHenry, a history expert asked to cite some females who did well in battle or otherwise showed bavery, courage or proficiency on male turf.

"She shot cigarettes from her husband's lips. Shooting at a playing card tossed into the air, she riddled it before it touched ground.

"This is why punched com-

plementary tickets are referred to as "Annie Oakleys."

McHenry is the editor of a book of mini-biographies of remarkable American women — "Liberty's Women" (G. and C. Merriam Co.)

He said few women or men either could match the continuous heroics of Ida Lewis, of Newport, R.I. Born 1842, she became keeper at Lime Rock lighthouse in the Newport harbor at the age of 15 after her dad,

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who first held the job, was disabled. Her feats included:

—Around 1859, rescuing four young men whose boat had capsized.

—In 1866, rescuing a drunken sailor whose boat foundered in a storm.

—In 1867, during a terrific gale, rescuing three shepherds who had gone into the water after a valuable sheep. She saved the sheep, too.

—At the age of 64, she plucked a drowning woman from the water.

Her heroic feats over the years earned Miss Lewis a Carnegie Hero Fund pension and a gold medal from the American Cross of Honor Society.

As for American women in battle, McHenry said if past is prologue, some adventuresome types might be expected to do well.

Take Molly Pitcher — real name, Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley. At the battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778, she was with her husband's

regiment and toted water in a pitcher to artillery men. That's what earned the nickname.

When her spouse caved in from the heat, she took his place at the gun, serving heroically until battle's end.

After the war she retired to Carlisle, Pa. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania authorized a \$40 a year pension for her.

Sarah Emma Evelyn Edmonds was another female fighter. In Flint, Mich., shortly after the Civil War erupted, she enlisted under the name of Frank Thompson. Her outfit was the volunteer infantry that became Company F, 2nd Michigan Infantry.

She was in battle lines a year, fighting at Blackburn's Ford and Bull Run. And in the Peninsular campaign of May-July 1862. She also fought at Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862. Twice, at least, she went on spy missions behind Confederate lines — each time "disguised" as a woman!

She eventually deserted, took the name Sarah Edmonds and continued working, this time as a nurse. In 1865 she published a popular fictional account of her adventures. It was titled "Nurse and Spy in the Union Army."

Her service was recognized when Congress granted her a pension. Before she died in 1898 in Houston, she was mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic as a regular.

Deborah Sampson, disguised as a man, enlisted in 1782. McHenry said she got away with it — being tall, strong, and well-coordinated. She enlisted in Capt. George Webb's company of the 4th Massachusetts, using the name Robert

Shurtleff.

Serving over a year without detection, she received a saber wound in a skirmish near Tarrytown, N.Y. A few weeks later she was hurt by a musket ball in a fight near East Chester. To avoid discovery, she dressed the second wound herself. Later she did battle in Western New York and Philadelphia.

But after that illness put her in the hospital — and her cover was blown.

Formally discharged in 1783, she was provided a sum of money by Gen. Henry Knox. In 1792 she was granted money by the Massachusetts General Court for her services.

In 1895 she was granted a veteran's disability pension by Congress.

McHenry said Miss Sampson is unique among women as a genuine Revolutionary War veteran and pensioner. After she died in 1827,

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her widower, Benjamin Gannett, was granted a survivor's pension.

Ann Baily's feats proved women can wage war, too. She took up rifle and tomahawk after her husband was killed at the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. She became a frontier scout, messenger, spy and Indian fighter.

With her second husband she moved to a site at what is now Charleston, W.Va.

Its main settlement, Fort Lee, was besieged by Indians in 1791. When the defenders' powder ran

low, she rode for help, dashing from the fort through the host of attackers.

She rode a hundred miles through woods to Fort Union, present day Lewisburg. The third day she returned to the fort, toting gun powder.

She was formally mustered out of the army in 1783 and is buried at West Point.

History has even recorded a female Paul Revere. Of sorts. Her name is Sybil Ludington. On April 26, 1777, news was brought to her father's home in Fredericksburg, now Ludingtonville, N.Y., that Gov. William Tryon was attacking Danbury, Conn. That was 15 miles away and the storage place for munitions and other supplies for the militia of the entire region.

The messenger was exhausted and Sybil volunteered to bear the order for muster and rouse the countryside.

Throughout the night, the 16-year-old girl rode her horse on unfamiliar roads around Putnam county, spreading the alarm.

History records also the feats of Anna Warner Baily. "Mother Baily" walked several miles to the scene of battle of Groton, Conn., in 1781. She found her uncle mortally wounded. She hurried home, gathered the family transported them to the battle site for a last meeting.

History records something else about "Mother Baily."

"In 1813," McHenry said, "in the second war with Britain, she appeared among Groton soldiers in defense of New London.

"She even contributed her flannel petticoat for use as cartridge wadding."

'Foolin' Around' just like kiddie matinee

By KATHLEEN McELROY and MARGO MARTENS

Don't let the TV previews for "Foolin' Around" fool you. It's not college humor a la Animal House — it's kiddie matinee laced with just enough dirty words and references to sex to keep adolescents happy.

The first and foremost problem is the plot. It's the standard Country Bumpkin (Gary Busey) goes off to the the Big School, falls in love with Rich Girl who has the Perfect (but sinister) Boyfriend.

Our Hero tries a myriad of methods — all embarrassing — to win Our Heroine's heart and in the end...well, you can figure it out. Busey, who showed his obvious talent in "The Buddy Holly Story,"

REVIEW

tries the best he can with the mediocre script, and in the beginning manages to capture the audience.

But the plot is so obvious and the gags are so old that the average movie-goer with over a ninth grade education will lose interest in Busey and the movie.

Other cast members, including big names like Cloris Leachman and Eddie Albert, do the best they can with the script, and make their roles as the bossy mother and the concerned grandfather believable, but it just isn't enough to give the movie credibility.

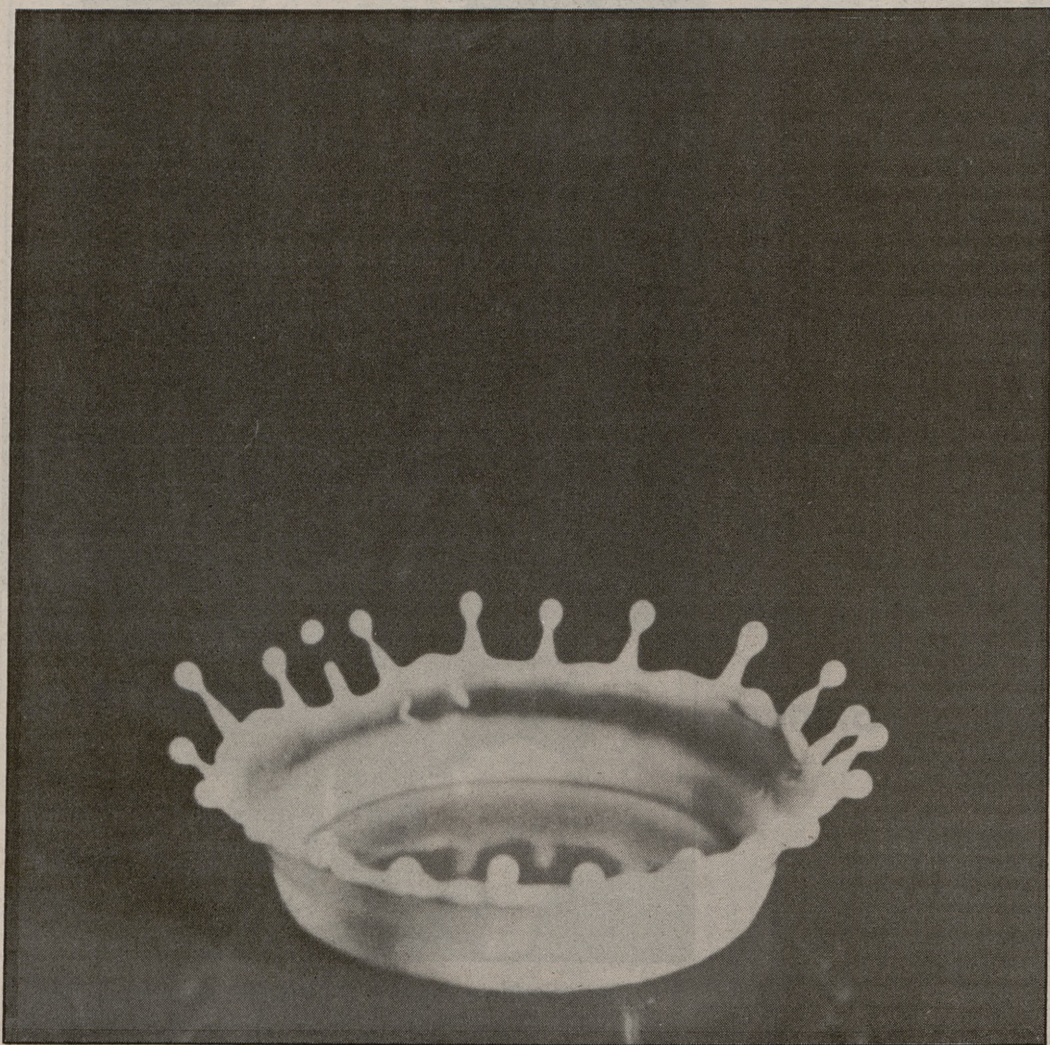
The biggest waste of talent was Tony Randall who played a short, foul-mouthed version of Lurch, the butler on television's "The Addams' Family." Randall is involved in the most distasteful scene in the movie — a pseudo sex scene with Leachman.

True, parts of the movie are funny or at least tolerable. But it's too high school, or maybe even junior high — the crotch gags, the cursing for shock value — everyone in the theater under 15 loved it.

In perhaps the most juvenile scene of all, Busey and Annette O'Toole (the object of his affection) declare their true love for each other — and then proceed to make out in the back of a van.

The time you would spend to see "Foolin' Around" would be best spent fooling around — even if it's watching reruns of Love Boat and Fantasy Island.

It's just that bad.



The splash of a single drop of milk as observed through high speed photography — 1/10,000 of a second exposure — is only part of what will be presented in a

National Geographic TV Special called "The Invisible World." It will air Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. on Channel 15.

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