

# Mostly about People

By Wally Traling



## Beach Queen

What first interested me in Fortune Fyfe was the way she ate her oranges—peelings and all.

Of course, I would have been interested anyway, because you don't often see a 58-year-old woman in a bikini, brown as a droughty summer.

For the past 10 years she has been as much a part of the city beach strip as the tides. Seldom, between noon and 3 p.m. does she miss a day—towel-hopping from friend to friend during her casual inspection jaunts from the Giant Dipper to Cowell Beach.

They call her the queen of the beach.

Shy strangers, some her own age, are often made bold to come up and ask how she got so tan. What they really want to know is, "How do you manage at your age to have fun on the beach?"

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Madison avenue, which controls the lives of middle-aged American women, has rendered them frightened of their own bodies. A wrinkle is a crime.

Fortune Fyfe is free of this control. She possesses the wrinkles that any 58-year-old body possesses but, as a happy realist, she basks in the freedom of the sun and salt air and relaxing atmosphere on the beach.

What about this remarkable woman? Her accent seems Italian, but she'll tell you she was born and raised in Bordeaux, France. During World War I, she met her present husband, and became, she claims, the first American war bride.

B. H. Fyfe, who has retired from a career in the navy, now works for the Department of Motor Vehicles. They've been married 43 years.

Mrs. Fyfe is slight of build, thinish, topped with a sweep of grey hair, immaculately maintained.

Her daily routine at the beach begins at 119 East Cliff drive. She walks across the railroad trestle down to the beach. And with additional beach wanderings and walks in the evening with her husband, she figures a daily coverage of six miles.

She usually holds court on Cowell's beach underneath the bug-

eyed balconies of the Dream Inn, usually with other regulars.

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Fortune has made a studied effort, it seems, to avoid the pitfalls of the American housewife.

She apologizes to no one for her beach time.

"I do my housework and yard cleaning in the mornings and my house is cleaner than a lot of women's who stay home all day. You come over and look, you'll see.

"I never send my husband to work with sandwiches either. I give him soups, salads and good food for his lunch.

"Cooking is very important with me. I see so many lazy housewives who give their husbands TV dinners, or serve canned vegetables. I always prepare fresh vegetables.

"There's a lot of bad habits you can get into here, like credit and heavy makeup.

"I am very happy on the beach. It has been wonderful for me. Every year I go to my doctor for a checkup and he kicks me out of his office.

"He says, 'Get out of here. You look so healthy you make me sick,'" she said, reclining on the warm sand. "I am, too. I haven't been sick for more than a day during our marriage."

She has followed her husband to many countries during his career, always taking advantage of the beaches and open air. Walking, walking, walking.

And about those orange peels. She maintains they are just as healthy as the oranges.

Said her husband: "She's been a wonderful wife, a great cook. I've had it real good," he said.

There's a difference in their tans, however.

## SOLEDAD ESCAPEE CAUGHT IN CHICAGO

Chicago (AP).—Lewis H. Johnson, 41, was arrested by FBI agents Thursday on a warrant charging unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement in the Soledad Calif., state correctional training facility. Johnson, who was serving a sentence for automobile theft, escaped December 6. He was arrested in his Chicago home.