## **WACHSMANN, Hilda Gertrude**

Hilda was born in 1920 in Beecroft, her parents being Albert E. W. De Berri & Ethel M. Wachsmann.

In late 1941 the engagement was announced of Hilda Gertrude, only daughter of late A. E. de Berri Wachsmann and Mrs. E. Wachsmannn of 21 Murray Road, Beecroft, to Flying-Officer Mervyn Maclean Willman, R.A.A.F., Mount Gambier, South Australia, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Willman, of 52 Duntroon Street, Hurlstone Park.**1**

In early February 1942 Hilda was the Sunday Telegraph-Red Cross Beach-Girl-of-the-Week.

Hilda, a stenographer, won the Sunday Telegraph weekly award of £1/1/- because:

**Man's Angle**:

She is a typical Australian outdoor girl.

Hilda is well-known as the "surf-ski girl" at Collaroy.

She capably handles a surf -ski in heavy seas.

"Standing up on the surf-ski while riding in to the beach on a wave is the greatest thrill in the world," Hilda says.

Hilda's father, the late A. A. de Berri Wachsmann (former Deputy-Registrar-General for New South Wales), was one of Australia's best sprint runners in his youth.

Museum officials said yesterday that late Mr. Wachsmann had one of the greatest private aviaries in the Southern Hemisphere. He bred many of the world's rarest birds.

When she was 12, her father bought Hilda a Winchester .22 rifle, and she became a successful markswoman.

Hilda has ridden at the Royal Agricultural Society's Easter Show.

She is also a regular ice skater during winter.

Twice weekly she works as a volunteer at Air Force House, and is a committee worker for an A.I.F. Comfort Fund. She knits socks for friends fighting abroad.

Hilda says she prefers the company of men older than herself. She finds them more sincere and sensible.

**Woman's Angle**:

Hilda is private secretary to the managing director of an American film company.

She is a gifted pianist, and in 1933 and 1934 was top of the State in the Conservatorium examinations. She holds the L.A.B. Degree (Sydney Conservatorium).

A girl of strong likes and dislikes. Hilda abhors "showy" displays of jewellery.

"If people cannot wear a few good pieces to advantage, they should not wear jewellery at all," she says.

With well-suntanned legs, Hilda does not wear stockings in the summer. Her favourite colour is blue.

Hilda is 5ft. 8½ in. and she weighs 9st. 2lb. Her bust is 34in.; waist. 26in.; and hips, 36in. She has brown hair and hazel eyes.

Hilda Wachsmann was one of the 20 Sydney surf beauties chosen during the summer weekends on metropolitan beaches by the Sunday Telegraph. They will compete with six country girls for the title of Sunday Telegraph-Red Cross Beach Girl of the Year.

The contest carries £1500 in prize money, all of which has been donated by the Sunday Telegraph. This paper will bear all expenses entailed, and the gross proceeds from all functions will go to the Red Cross.

In a hurricane campaign of five weeks the/Sunday Telegraph Country Beach Girl contest raised the record sum of £10,357/3/1 for the Red Cross.**2**

[It is not known if she won the title]

**Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Sun 8 Mar 1942**

On 28th February 1942 Hilda married her fiancé, Flying-Officer Mervyn William McLean Willman. R.A.A.F, at Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney.

Plans for the wedding were made on the previous Friday afternoon, when Miss Wachsmann received a telegram from the bridegroom, telling her that he had leave.

It was be the first wedding to be celebrated in this church, which was only completed two weeks previous.

She was given away by Mr. Gilbert Filshie, of Narrabeen, whose marriage with her mother would take place on 21st March at St. Faith's Church, Narrabeen.**3**

In 1943 they were living at 1 Boyle-street, Warringah.

Hilda Gertrude Willman died in 1989.**4**

Her husband died the following year.

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages; Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 1 Nov 1941

2 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW, Sun 8 Feb 1942

3 Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW), Mon 2 Mar 1942

4 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages