

Court Reporter, Mason, Mother

By **MARCIE FEINGOLD**

Herald Staff Writer

A woman Master Mason — "Impossible" ... "Not so!" ... "Can't be!"

But it's true.

Mrs. Grace Klein, a Miami court reporter, is an honest-to-goodness "brother." She's a Third Degree Mason and a member of the Sacred Shrine.

"Men here say it cannot be. They smile and shake their head. But, it's true." Grace grins, proudly points to the Masonic pin that hangs loosely around her neck.

"I became a brother in England. There we have a fairly large Women's Order."

In the most charming "Kinz's English," Grace Klein tells the story of how Women's Masons began.

"The story goes that a woman witnessed a ceremonial unbeknown to the men. When she was accidentally discovered, the men decided to make her a Mason because she had seen the secrets. It's as simple as that."

And emphatically: "But, we're not the same as Eastern Star. We are 'real' Masons.

"Over there most men accept it," she continues. "A woman has to be held in very high esteem even to be asked into the Order."

Mrs. Klein hopes someday, when her two small children are grown, to start a Woman's



—Herald Staff Photo

A Lady Mason
... Grace Klein

en's Masonic Order in this country.

★ ★ ★

SHE CAME to the United States eight years ago from London where she was principal of a business school. During the war she was a business consultant for an aircraft company.

"Even today when a plane flies low or I hear a siren my insides turn over," she says in a soft voice, her dark-brown eyes painfully revealing the memories of war. "You know you never lose the scar."

Prayer plays an important part in Grace Klein's life.

"I think prayer is the answer to all of life's problems," she philosophizes. "That's how I solve my problems — and it always works."

She teaches a Sunday School class of high school seniors.

"This is the most difficult age group—but the most challenging," she declares. "You know, it's the age group we have to tackle. After all, we've made a mess of things—the least we can do is guide them properly so they will have the will to fix things up."

An admitted "individualist"

Mrs. Klein is self-educated—attended night school in England.

"I wanted to learn," she tells. "You know I really am a frustrated lawyer. Sometimes I think of going back to school. But right now my children and my work are enough to keep me busy."

A divorcee, Mrs. Klein has

Wonderful Women

two young daughters, 7 and 10.

"Oh, it's hard to be a working mother," she says with a smile. "You must have terrific stamina. But unless I work I'm lost. I have to have an outlet."

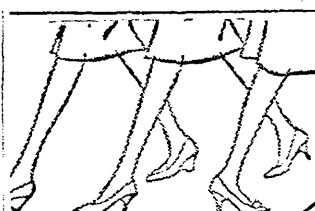
Her day begins at 7 a.m. with prayers and breakfast

with the girls. Then a full day at court—and most of the time, office work at night.

"But I always get home for dinner and then come back to the office," she says. "I try to be with my girls as much as possible. You know, you owe your children—they don't owe you. I'm just so grateful for having them. They make my life worth living."

In her spare time, she writes children's stories.

"I've never had them published, but my kids enjoy them, and that's all that counts."



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