



Mrs. Lena ... "These men need a good girl."

Migrants plead for girls

HAVE
TRIA



The first group of girls arrived in Sydney, met by Roma Lena

Loneliness of living without the company of girls is one of the worst hardships of young male migrants from Europe, welfare societies said this week.

Unhappiness from this cause is worst among Italian and German-speaking migrants, society officials report.

Many young migrants have sought the help of their welfare societies and of journals printed in Italian and German.

Home-made leaflets are being found in letterboxes reading: "Bring out more beautiful Italian girls. Last year bride ships. Operation Cupid."

Other leaflets say: "Bring out more beautiful girls from Copenhagen. More single girl migrants."

The president of the Indo-Australian Welfare Centre, Mr. G. Giuffrè, who was married 20 years ago, told "The Sun-Herald":

"Because of language difficulties in their early years here, young men are shy of speaking to Australian girls."

"Signs and leaflets indicate how things are, but there is no evidence that young men are combining in an effort to have girls sent."

"It needs something organised, like the Greeks did with a bride ship that brought 300 girls, who were greeted by 4,000 Greek bachelors last month."

"The first problem is economic. Perhaps both the Australian and Italian Governments could help somehow, as a first step."

"Then we could take a census of young men who wish to be in the scheme."

"I'm sure they would rally round, with the prospect of getting the main obstacle removed."

Mr. Giuffrè said much could be learnt from migration mistakes made in other countries. The U.S. had many problems as a result of disregarding the social side for migrants.

The secretary of the centre, Mrs. Mills Corbett, said:



Mr. G. GIUFFRÈ ... "Young men are shy of speaking to Australian girls."

"It would help if a contingent of girls could be brought out, as was done with planeloads of German and Dutch girls."

"A couple of shiploads of Italian girls would do much to brighten the lives of lonely young men, especially those at Cooma working on the Snowy hydro-electric scheme and other country jobs in several States."

BRIDAL SHIPS URGED

Single males

CANBERRA, Saturday. — In 1958, the latest year for which figures are available, 48.5 per cent of migrants entering Australia were males and 51.5 per cent were females.

Of the total intake from countries other than Britain:

HOLLAND: Unmarried males accounted for 9.2 per cent and unmarried females 3.1 per cent (Total intake 7,260).

GERMANY: 35.9 per cent were unmarried males and 7.5 per cent unmarried females (Total intake 8,284).

AUSTRIA: 41.5 per cent were unmarried males and 11.9 per cent unmarried females (Total intake 3,200).

ITALY: 21.7 per cent were unmarried males and 26.4 per cent unmarried females (Total intake 2,359).

suffer acutely from loneliness," she said.

"Places where they can meet girls in a good atmosphere are lacking. Young people don't know where to go."

"Young German-speaking men's real need is for good girls, not immature types who flirt and don't seem the kind for marriage."

Society officials said they did not know the identity of the man who chalked on city walls and busbenches: "Many female migrants for lonely bachelors."

Good types needed

"It is difficult for young men to mix when they come here as strangers, knowing nobody, not even the language."

"A long time passes before they can start to say anything in English. This problem would be eased if there were more Italian girls."

"Some young Italian men work very hard to save to go back to Italy and bring out a fiancée. Usually they have been here seven years or more."

"After the cost of the trip they have to work hard again, and the bride has to work hard, too."

"Newcomer boys trying hard to pay their way have little hope of bringing out Italian girls for many years."

Numbers of letters from lonely men appealing for feminine company have been received by an Italian writer and broadcaster, Mrs. Lena, who answers questions in the journal "La Fiamma."

Mrs. Lena said letters came from as far as Cairns, Townsville and Adelaide besides N.S.W. districts.

"The men's ages range from 24 to 30," she said. "They include carpenters, building tradesmen and sugar workers. Most have outside jobs."

"Their theme is similar—they have no company and would like to have a wife—an Italian girl for preference."

"These men realise they need a good girl, not a beautiful doll type looking for luxury."

"Migrants' wives have to

work, and life is not easy as the couple strive to reach a comfortable position."

Members of the Australian German Welfare Society said an appeal by the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Downer, had resulted in more German girls coming by ship, in addition to one planeload of 74.

Lutheran Pastor G. Witsman said some of the girls were too young and apparently found difficulty in adjusting themselves to a strange country.

Mrs. G. Hickenbeck said German-speaking migrants at Villawood centre had told her Australian men were very helpful but it was harder to become friendly with Australian girls.

"Many of the young men

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