

2-C Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press, Fri., Sept. 23, 1966

She Came to 'Think, Study Fish,' Run Naked on the Beach

Gay Nature Girl Gambols Down Under



A LONELY LIFE on an island is, apparently, just what Terry Ridge always wanted. Above, she frolics happily in her favorite part of the forest. At right, the tabloid-taboo nature nymph collects tiny sea creatures for observation. Miss Ridge would often goes snorkeling, left, to catch fish but to watch them.

...read death. The only thing you can get run down by is a fast-moving turtle in the breeding season.

Her house on the island is a hut over the shore. To eat, she stalks wild food, dives for sea food and grows vegetables in the island's fish soil.

Her companions in nature are plenty of books and a ginger cat she calls Thomas. And her time is spent in the pursuit of knowledge about the wind, tides, movement of sun and moon and their possible connections with the habits of fish.

She declares her island "non-political, non-religious."

Ultimately, Terry hopes to prove some of the more popular fish are in danger of being wiped out in certain areas of the Great Barrier Reef by fishermen. By the time she leaves the island — "late next year or so" — she plans to have identified the more than 1,800 species of fish on the reef.

The specialist who works New York Island's waters "used to have a tough time so long as Terry is around."

"When they're down below changing those valuable crabs with spears, I'm on top blowing bubbles to warn them," Terry said.

"Never in history were so few fish caught by so many fishermen in such a long time."

By MARY WAIN

NOR WEST ISLAND, Florida (NSA) — Terry Ridge's leopard-spotted non-balding is a concession to visitors. Normally, she goes naked.

Nineteen, blonde, her sun-freckled face and deeply tanned figure would attract many a stare on a crowded beach.

But Terry Ridge, known as "the girl Robinson Crusoe," lives alone on this tiny tropical island at the southern tip of swim, — a mild man-eating shark, the Great Barrier Reef 45 miles off the coast of central Queensland.

Six months ago in Brisbane, she was attending commercial college, holding down a job as a typist in a city office, in love with the blonde, the latest hair styles and clothes, and interested in the production side of theater.

Now this.

"I came here to think and study fish," she says, picking up a shell from the beach and admiring it as if it were a work's paycheck. "It's everything I've ever wanted to do."

At 16, a dream of being shipwrecked on an island. My Freud had some wonderful theories about that. According to him I've got a dozen complexes. He may have been right. All I know is that out there I haven't got one.

"Here you're spared from mass murders, political upheaval and

...New York Toasts Prince, Princess At Vessel's Bar

NEW YORK (AP) — With a U.S. custom's officer sitting at the bar to make sure the government got its monetary share of every six, New York's gay community celebrated the 55th birthday of the royal couple on Thursday to toast Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco.

The royal couple had come to accept a toast of Prince Rainier's sister, Mrs. Sally Stewart of New York and to join the American-Export Lines in announcing that its ship will make 22 stops next year in flying principally on the Mediterranean.

Ship bars, featuring tax-deductible liquor, are normally closed and sealed while the vessel is in New York. The custom's officer untied the seal and counted every drop drunk.

He collected 12.10 per bottle for the internal revenue and 25 cents per bottle for the customs.

Princess Grace, the former Grace Kelly of Philadelphia and Hollywood, wore a blue lace dress with diamond and pearl jewelry. Her men dress slipped above the knee, but she said she was much too old to wear mini-skirts.

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Senators Approve Easier Gun Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Thursday a bill to restrict mail-order sales of handguns instead of a broader measure sponsored by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn.

Dodd gave up on trying to get his administration-backed bill out of the committee and moved to approve the rival legislation introduced by Sen. Roman L. Hruska, R-Nebr.

Hruska's measure differs from Dodd's principally in that it

Three Leads Picked

NEW YORK (AP) — Three of the leading leads picked for four overseas productions of "Sweet Charity" are familiar Broadway performers.

Headed the Australian company is to be Elizabeth Seal, who appeared in "Terna La Dose" in Paris; the star will be Jeanmarie, a frequent visitor; and in London, New York's own Chita Rivers will perform.

The Vienna version is to star Johanna vonKoscan, a favorite performer there.

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