

Shmanners 262: Hello Girls

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Travis: Hello!

Teresa: Hello!

Travis: Hello. It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

Travis: Hello, internet!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

Teresa: And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

Travis: And you're listening to *Shmanners*!

Teresa: It's extraordinary etiquette...

Travis: For ordinary occasions! Hello, my dove.

Teresa: Hello, dear.

Travis: And hello, Max Fun listeners. It is week 2 of the Max Fun Drive. The last week, maybe even I think the last day! This comes out Friday. Um, this is our second episode this week, in case you missed it. We put out what I'm referring to as a *Shmanners* Classic!

Teresa: Ooh!

Travis: Uh, High Tea and Afternoon Tea, earlier this week, 'cause we wanted—one, it's one of our favorite episodes. We wanted to reshare it, and we wanted to give people who had never listened to *Shmanners* before a good place to start, and if you're a regular listener to *Shmanners*, we wanted to give you an easy, you know, quick episode to share with a friend and say, like, "Hey, I love this show. Here we talk about tea time. You're gonna love it."

Teresa: Yeah!

Travis: Uh, but we're not talking about tea time now. We're gonna talk about the Hello Girls. But first—

Teresa: Although I would like to talk about tea time later, 'cause I am hungry.

Travis: I would also like tea time, um, even though it is about 20 minutes past lunch, uh, that we both ate. Okay, it's not important.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: What is important is it's the Max Fun Drive, and what that means is it's your chance to support the art and artists you love—oh, say, like *Shmanners* and your maybe wife host and husband host Travis McElroy and Teresa McElroy.

Teresa: And your happy research assistant, Alex.

Travis: That is true. We would not be able to make this show without Alex, and we would not be able to pay Alex for her work without you, the listener who supports us, the Max Fun member. You can become a member, you can upgrade your membership, you can boost a membership, and you can gift a membership to somebody who needs it, including anonymous people who are signed up on a list waiting for kind patrons, by going to Maximumfun.org/join. There's a bunch of different reward levels, and we'll tell you about those later. But right now, if you're thinking about it, hurry, before it's too late. Maximumfun.org/join.

Okay. Now, Teresa. In classic biography fashion, I figured that this episode would be best served if I went into it knowing... I would say less than zero.

Teresa: Classic. [laughs quietly]

Travis: I think some of our best biographies have been when I knew nothing, absolutely nothing. All I know is this is about the Hello Girls, which I did not know until about ten minutes ago.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay, so... [laughs]

Teresa: Well, you know who did know? Megan C. Thank you so much for suggesting this. I know you suggested it back in November, but we are keeping tabs, and we are... taking names. [laughs]

Travis: We're always listening.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: We're making a list [through gritted teeth] and we're checking it twice!

Teresa: So thank you, Megan. Okay, to put it succinctly...

Travis: Oh, no! We have a half hour to fill. Don't put it too succinctly.

Teresa: [laughs] Not too succinctly.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: But you need to know the kind of generalness that's happening. So, the Hello Girls is a moniker for the Women's Army Signal Corps in World War I.

Travis: Oh! Okay. Not—hey, can I tell you something? Already, right off the bat, if you had given me ten guesses to guess what the Hello Girls were, wouldn't have guessed that.

Teresa: Really?

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: What was your guess?

Travis: My number one guess? Some kind of radical, like, uh, we're gonna, like, destroy some stuff group? I don't know.

Teresa: Oh, so, like, they bust open the door and then go, "[menacingly] Hello."

Travis: "Hello!" And then they, like, smash things.

Teresa: Then they smash things, yeah, or get people.

Travis: Yeah, they *get* 'em.

Teresa: No.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Um, they were bilingual French and English translators who served on the front lines of World War I as phone operators.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Okay. Uh, so you need to know, first of all—

Travis: This is like switchboard times, right?

Teresa: Yeah! It is. They were instrumental in winning World War I, because up until—I mean, there were telephones, right? We've talked about the telephone.

Travis: Well, can I jump in a minute? 'Cause it just occurred to me. Younger listeners may already be confused by talking about the telephone to begin with.

Teresa: Okay.

Travis: Okay. But it goes even further back. Not—this is even before my time, if you can believe it.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: And I'm old as dirt. Okay. So, it used to be that you would make a call and there would be a human being in the middle of the call. So basically, you would call and they'd be like, "Who are you trying to get?"

And you'd be like, "Uh, get me Parsnip 469," or something.

And then they would be like, "Oh, you got it!" And then they would take the cable that was, like, connected to you, and they'd plug it into Parsnip 469's cable, and then Parsnip 469 was, like, the phone number that would then ring at their house.

Teresa: Yep.

Travis: There was a human operator who had to do this. That was a job!

Teresa: Exactly, exactly. And, I mean, sometimes if you were calling long distance there were several operators between yourself and whoever you were trying to reach. So, like, say here in Cincinnati if we were trying to call Huntington, we might have to go through Ashland, or Ironton, Ohio, Ashland, Kentucky. We might have to jump several places to get to Huntington.

Travis: And you know there was no way that that signal was good, right?

Teresa: I mean, it was—it—as long as the connections were serviced properly, they were alright. I mean, the—it wasn't—it wasn't amazing. Um, especially because—especially on the battlefield, you had to hold the lines, right? So there wasn't any kind of, like... I mean, it didn't go through the air like telephone service does now, with your cell phone. It goes through the actual physical line.

Travis: They had to run lines where they were going to—

Teresa: Yes.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Yes, they had to run lines. Um—

Travis: And not like actors, like physical—okay.

Teresa: [laughs] Alright. If you'd like to know in depth a little more about this, you can read *The Hello Girls: America's First Female Soldiers* by Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs.

Travis: But don't do that now. Listen to the episode first, and then go learn about them. Please! Please listen to us first! Okay, go on.

Teresa: Um, we talk a lot about World War II in *Shmatters*, and really I feel like my education really started at World—as far as, like, modern world wars, started at World War II. There wasn't a lot about World War I, I think in my history class. It kind of just goes—[laughs] it goes, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War II, Vietnam War.

Travis: Yeah, and there's a bunch of other ones in there.

Teresa: There's a lot of other ones in there, one of them being World War I.

Travis: I also don't know about World War I that much. I know vague—I think Archduke Ferdinand got shot, and everybody got really mad, and it set off a bunch of, like, treaties.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And that—but I think that... this is probably not germane to the episode, but—and a history major's definitely gonna tweet at us, but I imagine it's because not only was World War II very, like, military based, but also very social and much more about the—not just the politics of what was going on but, like, the people, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Uh, so quick background, World War I. Let's go back just a touch more. 1914—

Travis: To World War Zero.

Teresa: No. 1914, America had really no standing military. They hadn't really fought in any kind of war of any magnitude together, right? Since the Civil War.

Travis: Whoa!

Teresa: Um, so they were—

Travis: I mean, there was the... the Spanish American War? Wasn't that a thing? But, like, standing military. I see what you—yes.

Teresa: Standing military, right? There were—there were definitely militias, there were definitely groups like the Army, right?

Travis: Right.

Teresa: But it wasn't like we think of it today.

Travis: Oh, so this was more like sometimes when you see a movie, like, people get the call, right?

Teresa: Right.

Travis: Oh, like in *Mulan*!

Teresa: Yeahh.

Travis: Where they go around and they're like, "Hey, it's time to go fight, if you're ready to go."

Teresa: Right.

Travis: And her dad who has fought before is like, "Okay!" And they're not, like, training every day, right? They're not living in military bases, they're not living in uniform or—okay, okay, I'm on—okay, on the same page.

Teresa: But Americans were getting nervous as things started to heat up in Germany, um, but the general consensus at the time is that Europe would work it out themselves.

Travis: Oh boy.

Teresa: Right? And Woodrow Wilson won reelection running on that platform, of keeping the US out of the Great War. I mean, they didn't call it World War I at the time, they called it the Great War, because they didn't know that there would be a second one.

Travis: It would be oddly presumptuous.

Teresa: It would be.

Travis: If they had been like, "Well, we're gonna call this one World War I, just in case."

Teresa: And here's what happened to get America into the war: the Zimmerman telegram.

Travis: Okay?

Teresa: Okay, I expected your eyes to light up, because this was a—I think it was, like, a true or false question on a quiz in high school or whatever, right?

Travis: Okay, hey. Did you really expect my eyes to light up, or did you think, "There's a chance."

Teresa: There's a chance.

Travis: Okay, great.

Teresa: Uh, January 17th, 1916, an encrypted message was intercepted by British intelligence. The note was on its way to the German ambassador in Mexico, and had been written in code. So, big deal, very secret, hush-hush.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And the message decoded was Germany writing to Mexico to encourage them to join in the war, and it stated if Mexico felt like it was gonna—like it could go to war with the United States, not only would Germany supply them with guns and ammo, but the German government promised to reward them by helping Mexico take back Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Travis: I see. Okay, alright. Now I can see where the US government would then go, "Uhhh? Ehh, you know?"

Teresa: [laughs] It was now in the United States' best interest if they wanted to continue as, you know, the government of those states, um, best interest to go for it, right? So Woodrow Wilson went before Congress and convinced everyone that they had to defend themselves, and so next day, the headline says, "Wilson Says War."

Travis: Okay. I think I—I think I have pictured that headline. I think I can see that in my mind's eye.

[pause]

Hey, it's me, your husband host, Travis McElroy, interrupting myself and my wife, Teresa, to tell you about the Max Fun Drive. Basically, here's how it works. I'm gonna tell it to you real quick, 'cause chances are you've already heard us talking about it.

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And, you know, we don't create 'em with, like, focus groups to try to reach certain demographics or anything like that, we just make 'em because we think that they're good, and that you will smile when you listen to them, and I think that that's a pretty interesting model. And if that's the kind of thing that you like, maybe consider supporting. So, you know, we can continue to make stuff like it. Uh, just go to Maximumfun.org/join.

Okay. So he says war...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: And then he does war.

Teresa: Yes. Um, and World War I is actually a very important milestone as far as, like, military innovations. Things like stainless steel, mustard gas, submarines... this was the first time airplanes were used. And—

Travis: In combat.

Teresa: In combat, right. And at the minute, there were, like... 200,000 people in the military.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: Not—not a lot, right?

Travis: I have no—can I tell you?

Teresa: That's not a lot.

Travis: I'm glad that you said that, because without any sense of scale I was like, "Oh, yeah, yeah." Like, that's just a number that you said, and I accepted a number that you said. And I didn't know if that was a lot, or a little, or...

Teresa: No.

Travis: Not a lot, got it. Okay.

Teresa: Not a lot. Um, so between 1917 and 1918, they increased the population of the US military to nearly 4 million people.

Travis: See, now, that—'cause I hear "million" in there.

Teresa: Uh-huh, right.

Travis: And million sounds like a lot, for sure.

Teresa: And everyone was involved in the war effort, in factories or supporting through donations and bonds and volunteering, and everything like that.

Travis: This was—with the, like, material drives, where it was like, donate your old tires and your silk stockings and stuff, right? Is that this time, or is that World War II? Or is that both?

Teresa: Both, really.

Travis: Yeah, okay.

Teresa: Both. There was a high-up general guy named John "Black Jack" Pershing.

Travis: Now, can I tell you? I know about him.

Teresa: Okay?

Travis: Because he is a character—like, a fictional version of him, in a book series by Larry Correia.

Teresa: Ohh.

Travis: About, like, magic being used in World War I and stuff.

Teresa: Hmm.

Travis: Yeah, it's very interesting.

Teresa: Um, and—

Travis: Which I—I think it's called *Hard Magic*.

Teresa: Oh, okay.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: And Wilson was, like, so in this guy's corner that he gave him two orders. Go and come back. Everything else is up to you, General Pershing.

Travis: Oh, wow. You know what? That sounds cool, but also, a lot of pressure, huh?

Teresa: Oh yeah, totally. [laughs quietly] Um, so the thing that he set about solving at the moment was, uh, the battlefield communication. So at this point, telephones had been around for a while, like we talked about. But in the 1910's, this was still with the telephone operators.

Travis: Right, right, right.

Teresa: Right?

Travis: Cables betwixt phones. Basically tin cans on string.

Teresa: And it became very clear that the military boys were really bad at it. [laughs]

Travis: Really?

Teresa: [through laughter] Yeah.

Travis: Why were they so bad at it?

Teresa: Well, so... it wasn't a skill that men really had at the time, because, you know, by the 1880's, almost all telephone operators were women and, you know, civilians, right?

Travis: Oh, that's true, yeah, okay.

Teresa: So it wasn't a skill that they had developed through, you know, any of that kind of stuff.

Travis: And even at this point, I imagine, a lot of—and this is just historical, but that a lot of, like, assistants were women, right? And so, like, a lot of, like, placing phone calls and just doing that kind of thing was probably also done by women.

Teresa: Right. And so Pershing was like, "I need to get those girls here. We need to take care of this, because it's about life and death," right?

Travis: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Because if it takes an army man a minute to connect the telephone lines, there could be enemy fire, things could blow up. Like, that is not—that's way too long.

Travis: Right. Think of, like, orders for retreat.

Teresa: Right.

Travis: How many lives could you lose in a minute? Orders to advance, how many lives could you lose in a minute? That's a long time, when you think about it.

Teresa: And once women got there, the average time went from 60 seconds to 10 seconds.

Travis: Hoo, boy! That's almost a minute less. So clo—if you round up.

Teresa: Right, yeah.

Travis: Okay.

Teresa: And it shocked the army at first, because women were not—I mean, this was the very first instance of American women on the front lines. Like, in an official capacity. I'm sure that, you know, you read about the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, women doing things to aid in the effort and, you know—

Travis: Going undercover to enlist and stuff like that.

Teresa: Going undercover and stuff. But this—these ladies, they were out in the open, and they were ready to help. So, by the end of the war, 223 women would work as telephone operators for the army. And it's said by Dr. Cobbs, half of the men in the US Army volunteered, but all of the women volunteered.

Travis: Okay. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: Okay. This is awesome!

Teresa: It is pretty awesome!

Travis: See, I'm into it! This is why I love going into these things blind. 'Cause this is very cool! I'm very excited about it!

Teresa: [laughs] So these women were going to become army officers, right? So they had to be specifically recruited and trained, just like everyone else in the United States Army. They underwent extensive physical training and medical exams, and they swore the oath, and they wore the uniform, and they were in it.

Travis: I love this!

Teresa: Um, and so let's talk about one specific lady, because we have the most information on her. She left a diary. Grace Banker.

Travis: Okay. This is good. This is just good advice for everybody. Always leave a diary in case you end up being historically important. You want something for people on a podcast 30 years from now to be able to reference. Go on.

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Now I'm worried that that makes it seem like I think that World War I was 30 years ago?

Teresa: [laughs] It does, a little bit.

Travis: No, but history just moves a lot faster now, is what I'm saying. Okay.

Teresa: Okay. She was an excellent human being by all accounts. Graduated Bernard College at Columbia University in the 1910's, double majored in History and French. She played on the baseball team, she formed a school theater troupe, she made loads of friends, she was great.

And she went straight to working as a telephone operator for AT&T. Uh, which is a great job for a lady at this time.

Travis: Yeah, okay!

Teresa: Um, and then, once she read that they were looking for volunteers, she sent a letter stating that not only was she very interested, but she would gladly serve her country for the rest of the war. So she was like, "I'm in it for the long haul."

And not only was she accepted, she was made leader of the expedition.

Travis: Okay, just hearing you say all of that is making my eyes feel full, you know? Not quite crying, but like the pressure is there. Like, my brain is like, "I would like to cry now." and I'm like, "No! We're recording a podcast, brain. Stay professional. We can cry about how cool this lady was later." Go on.

Teresa: Um, she had 35 girls in her charge, youngest of which was only 19, and on the ship over to France, uh, they were the only women, this group of ladies. It was a rough passage. She wrote of terrible barley coffee and how the Irish Sea was green and tumultuous. They went to Paris and immediately the place where they were put up was bombed out.

Travis: Aw, man!

Teresa: Um, and it was, like—

Travis: I like—by the way, I like that the scale there was like, "The coffee was gross, and our house got bombed."

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Whoa! Can't catch a break. Bad coffee and bombed out house.

Teresa: And the air strike had reminded them that why they were here, right? They were ready to connect calls, and according to Dr. Cobbs, this was a defining moment for the male higher ups, okay? All of the officers were astounded that in the face of death, none of these women flinched.

Travis: Yeah!

Teresa: Um, the incident was confirmation that they were gonna be okay under the pressure of the war front. So, the Signal Corps was even named the Hello Girls as a tribute to their phone work.

Travis: Oh, [mumbling] 'cause you pick up the phone and then you say, "Hello, girls!"

Teresa: Right, that's right. That's right. Okay. So... there—there was—

Travis: We should do that more, by the way.

Teresa: What?

Travis: Just as, like, a convention for naming jobs. Like when you go to check out at the supermarket. You get the paper or plastic people. You know? There should just be more like that of like, "What's the thing the person says the most?" And then that's their job. Like if you go to return something at customer service you talk to the, like, do you have a receipt person. You know what I mean?

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: It would be easier to remember that way. I would like that. When you talk to the plumber they're a "Who did this?!" person. [laughs] "Who put this thing in the garbage disposal? Is this potato peels?" person. You know? Just the thing that they say the most.

Teresa: Yeah. You're in charge of that now.

Travis: Okay. Just renaming everybody?

Teresa: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Travis: Okay, great.

Teresa: They were instrumental in many battles, um, and they also had been, like—they had been targeted at one point, because obviously it was working so well that they were really valuable. So, there was one point where the day before they had moved their operating center, and where they had been previously was set on fire.

Travis: Listen, that's terrible. Of course that's terrible. It's also kind of flattering though, right?

Teresa: I mean, I guess.

Travis: Kind of flattering. I'm not saying I would want that to happen to me. I wouldn't people [stammering] think, like, "Oh, Travis is so good at podcasting we need to burn down his house." [laughs quietly] No, that wouldn't make me feel good. But in retrospect, it does show that they were not only recognized as valuable by their own people, but so valuable that even the enemy was like, "Oh, I think if we got rid of them it would seriously hurt their war efforts."

Teresa: Right. So after World War I, Grace Banker was one of the few people in the Armed Services, male or female, to win a medal for distinguished military service. Um, and her granddaughter features in the Amazon Prime documentary *The Hello Girls*.

And she says, "And we're so proud of the work she did, but it wasn't just her. It was all the girls. They worked together, and she really made a point of saying it was all the girls that she was with."

This would've been a really great, like, addition to, like, women's empowerment and the role of women in all walks of life, except...

Travis: Except—I knew there was an except coming.

Teresa: The armistice was reached on November 11th, 1918, and the Hello Girls eventually returned home. Many were welcomed home with open arms after the war. They were celebrated. They had saved lives through—you know, they had connected their lines through gunfire and bombings and air raids and—and all of that stuff. But after World War I, the US Army took the stance that Hello Girls weren't soldiers at all! They were gig workers on a contract.

Travis: [gasps] Get out! That's messed up!

Teresa: And it meant that these brave women were denied access to military benefits, without explanation.

"You were paid very well, miss. You have no need for benefits."

Travis: Oh my God, I wish I could curse on *Shmanners*.

Teresa: I know, right? I mean...

Travis: Now I'm gonna cry for a different reason!

Teresa: I'm very happy that you're so incensed, but this really just feels like a drop in the bucket.

Travis: Listen, of course. Of course. But also... hmm, can't curse. Also...

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: I'm ma—I'm still mad.

Teresa: You are enraged. So benefits—

Travis: Just also—[scoffs] it's horrible.

Teresa: It's horrible.

Travis: Okay.

Hey, folks! One more quick interruption. Maximumfun.org/join. We're running out of time, so if you wanna be part of the Max Fun Drive and support *Shmanners*, and support the creators that you love, Maximumfun.org/join is the place to go. Pick a level that works for you, become a member today. Join in the excitement. Get those rewards. Support us. Support the shows. And, you know, support good things in the world. Just go to Maximumfun.org/join. Okay, back to the episode!

Teresa: Military benefits included—but, I mean, we could fill a whole book with—and they do! [laughs] Of military benefits. But it's medical care, commendations, honorable discharges, financial security, family benefits, military funerals, burial rites, all that kind of stuff.

Um, and it even covers your right to wear the uniform. So these uniforms and the oath that they took, they were not really allowed to wear anymore.

Travis: Just the sheer gall of both awarding one of them an award for service and then saying they didn't actually serve...

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: Is—is... [grumbles]

Teresa: Okay. So, it took a little bit, but the next year, in 1919, the 19th amendment was passed, and women were given the right to vote, asterisk, not all women.

Travis: Yeah.

Teresa: Some women were given—

Travis: White women.

Teresa: Yes, the, um... the right to vote. And with this new political power, they began to petition President after President. FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon. They and their families pressured the White House to recognize them as soldiers. And in 1977, six decades after the end of World War I, President Jimmy Carter finally recognized the Hello Girls as official United States Army veterans.

Travis: Jimmy Carter. Good on you, Jimmy Carter!

Teresa: Yeah.

Travis: I don't—I don't know anything else about you, Jimmy Carter, but that—that was a good job.

Teresa: So the few girls that were left were eligible for full benefits now. Um, the passing of the legislation was monumental, but it seemed for a while that that would be the end of the Hello Girls. They aren't mentioned in textbooks, like we said. In fact, the documentary that I mentioned, *The Hello Girls*, was made in 2018, and it even opens up with several distinguished military scholars admitting that they had never heard of these people.

Travis: [gasps] Oh boy. But then what? But what?

Teresa: Okay. Well, their granddaughters made sure that their legacy has lived on. Um, and of course a few really awesome and tenacious historians helped. So, Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs, who we've already mentioned, tracked down Carolyn Timbie, who was Grace Banker's granddaughter.

Timbie apparently had a trunk in her home filled to the brim with all of her grandmother's stuff, and this was the perfect opportunity to actually go through it.

Travis: Including that diary?

Teresa: Including that diary.

Travis: Aw, yeah.

Teresa: It held... Grace's uniform, her helmet, her medal, her gas mask, um, and her—let's see—treasures that she had collected including cigarette lighters, shell casings, bullets, and the diary. And countless letters as well.

Travis: That's incredible.

Teresa: It is pretty awesome. So, if you'd like to learn a little more—

Travis: That—just—

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: Picturing that moment of, like, the granddaughter being able to have that moment and feel how important that is. That's—that is... ugh. It's incredible. Like, that—

Teresa: It's awesome!

Travis: —feels like a better ending to the story. It's what I wanted it to be, and it got there eventually, after a lot of BS.

Teresa: Mm-hmm.

Travis: But that is—that is... better. That is better.

Teresa: Um, so if you'd like to learn more, and I do, and I'm going to be adding this to our queue, Amazon Prime members can watch for free, *The Hello Girls*.

There are lots of stories about, now, the Army Signal Corps, and there are too many to go through here, but we do want to mention that there was a romance that happened between a—let's see—a bodyguard and driver who fell in love with a Hello Girl. Um, and... [laughs quietly] the army was worried about losing the Hello Girl so much that they started transferring the two to different bases so that they wouldn't be able to, like, elope and leave. But the Hello Girls knew about this, and they would plug switchboards in all across France until they found him. You know, feigning apologies if a random general picked up or whatever. Um, and they could talk all evening that way.

Travis: Aww.

Teresa: Yeah. That's so sweet.

Travis: See, that's nice too!

Teresa: Eventually they convinced the government to let them get married. Um, and here is the entry in that diary.

"11:25 AM. Married in French by the Mayor of the 9th District. Married to the dearest and sweetest girl in the world, and sure am happy, because I love her with all my heart."

Travis: Aww.

Teresa: Aww! So sweet.

Travis: So good! Ugh. I love it. Hey.

Teresa: Yeah?

Travis: Thank you very much for telling us about the Hello Girls, and thank you to Alex for researching it for us, and thank you to our listener...

Teresa: Megan.

Travis: Megan, for suggesting it.

Teresa: And thank you to you, dear listeners, for spreading it around and telling all your friends to listen to *Shmanners* and go to Maximumfun.org/join.

Travis: Yeah. And if you haven't yet and you're thinking about doing it, don't wait! Do it now. Don't miss your chance to get those rewards and be part of the Max Fun Drive. Uh, let's see. Thank you, Alex, again. I know I already said it, but we wouldn't be able to make this show if it weren't for Alex. Thank you so much. Thank you to Maximum Fun, our podcast home. Thank you to everybody listens and tells a friend. Go check out all the other amazing shows at Maximumfun.org. Check out all the other McElroy projects at mcelroy.family. What else, Teresa? Who else do we thank?

Teresa: We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. That's @shmannerscast.

If you join Max Fun with a membership or you share that you love it and everyone else should join, um, and you tag us, @shmannerstcast, we will be sure to send you a lovely thank you tweet.

Thank you to Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for our cover picture of our fan-run Facebook Group, *Shmanners* Fanners. Um, I think that's it.

Travis: I think that's it, too!

Teresa: [laughs]

Travis: Uh, so join us again next week.

Teresa: No RSVP required.

Travis: You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

Teresa: Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it.

[theme music plays]

[chord]

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