It Started In 'Bad Lovisick'

Pen Is Mightier Than Wars; 40-Year Romance Climaxed

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The romance of two German youngsters before the start of World War I comes to fruition March 6 in a marriage ceremony at Anchorage, Alaska, after some 40 years of "pen-palling."

Eric Tobehn, now 54, was called too young to become engaged to Charlotte Staudte, 53, when the two were childhood sweethearts in Bad Lovisick, Germany. After Eric was called up for the army, Charlotte's letters followed him through the war years.

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Out of the army, instead of returning home, he joined the merchant marine and, in 1926, settled in America. The last several years he has lived at a boarding house operated by Mrs. Oscar Westlund at Mound, Minn., just outside of Minneapolis. Charlotte's letters still came.

But Tobehn didn't have the cash to pay her one-way passage here. He did, however, regale Mrs. Westlund with tales of what a wonderful cook Charlotte was. So Mrs. Westlund last year sponsored Charlotte and employed her.

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A planned wedding last Christmas was abandoned when Tobehn lost his job. Now working for the government in Alaska, he recently wrote to set the date and told of an apartment he has for his bride-to-be in Anchorage.

Her white satin wedding dress all ready, Miss Staudte boards a plane for Alaska Friday.