

The Birmingham Eccentric

PART 3

Thursday, May 26, 1949

Self-pity and self-reproach are two most insidious enemies of happiness. When a person embarks on the victim, of either, he loses a true sense of his own self, and hurts many others by being unkind, inconsiderate, etc. To indict one's self negatively is but to be negative to all others.

Charles Lyle Guest Speaker at Student Congress Banquet

A talk by a former Baldwin student was the highlight at the semi-annual Student Congress banquet last Tuesday night at Rotunda Inn at Pine Lake.

Charles Lyle, graduate of Baldwin and an alumnus of the University of Michigan, gave an interesting talk highlighted by his keen sense of humor. While in Baldwin, Charles was editor of the Highlander, weekly school newspaper, discontinued during the war.

Guests at the banquet included the speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Darling, Mrs. Mary Hartwick and Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hanson, parents of Student Congress President Lee Hanson.

Bob Hardy presided as master-of-ceremonies and Bob Erwin offered the invocation. Programs at the dinner were planned and written by Jim Hogan and Jack Adams of the journalism class. The cover was designed by George Landino.

Highlanders, taken from the files, were distributed among the members so that they could read of friends who had attended Baldwin a few years ago.

Officers of the Student Congress are Lee Hanson, president; Mac Booth, vice president; Bob Hardy, treasurer; Mary Kemp, secretary.

Pashur Evans Tells Of World Federalists

A small group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Charlton Saturday evening for a discussion on the United World Federalists. The discussion was led by Pashur Evans, who is on leave-of-absence from the Gulf Oil company to work for the UWF.

He told of the aims of the group and of the work they are already doing toward a United World Federalist government.

Charlton said that the local group was beginning to lay plans for a membership drive which will be held in the area in the near future.

Back in States After 15 Months in St. Nazaire, France



Mollie and Jim Rogers at the entrance of the barrack that houses most of the indoor activities of the American Friends Service Committee Community Center at St. Nazaire. The Center was under the direction of the Rogereses for the past 15 months.

PHILADELPHIA, May 20—Mollie and James Rogers have returned after spending the past 15 months in St. Nazaire, France, where they were directors of the American Friends Service Committee Community Center.

Mrs. Rogers is the daughter of Mrs. Dorothy Townsend, 403 E. Lincoln, Birmingham, Mich.

Because of the intense bombing of this 95% destroyed city, the people now live in temporary bar-

racks, and as a result there is still very little community consciousness. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers report. The Service Committee Center was started just after the war ended to help develop a group feeling. The facilities of the Center are offered to every one regardless of politics or religion, according to Quaker practice. Through committees set up for the center program, the Rogereses tried to interest community groups in working together and becoming good neighbors.

Located Near Shipyards The Center is located on a half-mile strip of land near the shipyards, the chief industry of St. Nazaire. Its trees are the only ones in that part of the city, are one of its attractions. The main barracks is the scene of most of its indoor activities. In one section of the second barrack building and laundry and shower rooms.

Recreational facilities include a wading pool and sports field, constructed by volunteer members of a work camp last summer, a basketball court, volleyball court, and sport track. Because there are so few automobiles the Quaker jeep often acts as taxi or ambulance and the truck does occasional transport work for the handicapped city.

Every day at the Center was full for Mollie and Jim. Monday was designated "clean-up" day. On Tuesdays the Mothers' Club met. The women brought their sewing and enjoyed a chat with their neighbors. Occasionally speakers were brought in.

Visiting Day Wednesday was social visiting day for Mollie. She visited the homes of needy people whose names had been given her by a local committee. To these people she brought the gifts of food and clothing given by the people in and near Frankfort, Michigan, their home town. On Wednesday evening movies were shown.

On Thursday there is no school in France, so the Center hummed with activity. In the morning youngsters from 10 to 15 played ping-pong. In the evenings the older boys took over the game. In the afternoon children from two to 15 came to the Center. Mollie said that on a winter afternoon it was a common sight to see 200 pairs of wooden shoes lined up in the hallway. The tracks were

lined three and four deep with youngster's wraps.

On Thursday afternoon Mollie and Jim were especially grateful for the crayons, color books, cards, magazines and picture books sent by their Frankfort friends. They say that these supplies made the entertainment of the 150 to 200 children a far less difficult problem than it otherwise might have been.

Avoid High Prices There are several daily programs. The sewing group was one. Thrifty St. Nazaire women make garments to avoid the high prices for ready-made garments. The library also open daily, gets popular because in a city where it takes almost an entire week's salary to buy one sheet or a pair of shoes, there is little money for books.

Mollie said it was not unusual for a child to come to the library and ask for a romance for his mother, a "hook" for himself.

One of Jim's daily jobs was to keep laundry ledgers and see that his enterprise progressed satisfactorily. A small charge is made for the use of one of the ten washing machines to cover the cost of soap, hot water, current, and a supervisor's salary.

It Finally Convincing Jim tells of a woman who lived directly across from the laundry, who steadfastly refused to have anything to do with these new-fangled devices. She preferred to do her washing in the old-fashioned way, heaving huge quantities of water and rubbing each piece by hand. This was usually an hour job.

Finally she was reluctantly persuaded to try the Center's machines. Now, Jim said, when he drops in the laundry room she is contentedly knitting and chatting with the other washing does itself, American-style.

The Center has a place in the affection of the people of St. Nazaire. The Quaker representatives always sit at the head of the table on public occasions. Just before they left there was a "win-d'onneur" for the Rogereses, an official gesture of appreciation.

From His Heart Many of the adults and children gave personal gifts. One small boy, after watching a procession of people presenting gifts, slowly opened a purse he had been clutching. Inside was a tiny wad of paper. He carefully unfolded the paper and triumphantly gave Mollie his gift—a 20-franc note (about seven cents) that he had been saving for a long time.

Mollie and Jim feel that although the facilities of the Community center mean much to the townspeople, the real value of the project is the opportunity it affords to bring together people of different political and religious backgrounds. Seeing various groups work and play together, in many cases for the first time, was one of the most gratifying rewards, the Rogereses said.

In addition to the Community Center at St. Nazaire, the American Friends Service Committee sponsors similar projects in eight German and one Austrian city.

City Pays for Tearing Down Condemned House

A \$500-payment in full settlement of a suit against the City of Birmingham has been approved by the city commission.

Brought by Charles H. Fancher, 1534 Cole, a building mover, the suit was initiated for \$2,500 after the city some time ago had torn down a house it had condemned and which was owned by Fancher.

No Cause to Interfere Constable Pardon, miss, but there ain't no swimmin' allowed in this lake.

Girl Why didn't you tell me before I donned my bathing suit? Constable There ain't no law 'bout putting on a bathing suit.

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