

Alumnae News

Greenville, S. C., Jan. 15, 1926.

DEAR ALUMNAE:

I should like some time for our Alma Mater to issue a bulletin made up of brief accounts of some of the former students who have done the more or less unusual things. Some time ago when one of this group was elected to the most responsible office within the gift of the women of Greenville, S. C., Miss Mary Shannon Smith, of Meredith fame, said to me, "You ought to write THE TWIG about her." I agreed that it would be an excellent thing to do and said I would do it. But it has been one of the good intentions that the cares of this world have choked out.

This morning I had a letter saying, "Write something for THE TWIG!" Obedient soul that I am, I'm resurrecting my good intention and letting "the cares of this world" stand aside.

When I came to Greenville in the fall of 1919, I heard from various sources of Mrs. W. L. Gassaway as being capable and an excellent business woman as well as a charming woman. One day President Ramsay in speaking of her said, "By the way, she is a former Meredith girl." I was interested of course. Not long thereafter I got in touch with her and found that she was Minnie Quinn, one of my college friends of that memorable year 1899-1900. We hadn't kept in touch with each other. One time Dr. Dixon Carroll came back to college from one of her trips and gave a most interesting account of the splendid things Minnie was doing. She was then living in Norfolk. I was delighted of course to find her in Greenville. She married here and if you knew her husband you'd think with me that she must have accepted as her husband the finest of all the fine and handsome men she knew. She has a daughter, Susan, who among other things, leads her classes in school, drives an automobile and rides her pony.

I recall that when Dr. Walter Johnson, was raising the money to build the Wake Forest church he said, "We want a church that will express the spirit and ideals and standards of our Baptist people." Some people express their personality through music, some through literature, others through something else. Mrs. Gassaway did it through the home which she built. For two years she bought books on architecture, interior decoration and related subjects. She finally drew her plans, consulting architects from time to time, but not accepting their ideas when they did not express what was within her. It was several years in the building.

I can't adequately describe her home. It would take Miss Ida Poteat to do this. But it is situated just outside Greenville on a beautiful elevation with the mountains seen from two directions. In the extensive grounds are quantities of beautiful flowers, winding driveways, terraces, lovely walkways, multitudes of shrubs, junipers, box-bush and white pines. She doesn't wave the fairy wand to get these things. Last summer it was her habit to get up at six a.m. in order to supervise her workmen. Day by day during the drought she had men haul water from springs in a wooded piece

of ground to water her flowers and grass and junipers and pines. The house itself is castle like in appearance.

The interior has as much personality as any person I know with its beautiful, mellow woodwork, its lovely roof garden, music room, art studio, studies, its nine bed rooms and baths, its living rooms, reception rooms, and other rooms. It's large but the whole atmosphere is inviting and homelike. There are books and magazines everywhere. Opening onto the roof garden is a stained glass window specially designed to suggest something of their home life. Among other things included in the design are Susan's pony and dog, the cow, and certain farm products. All about the house and grounds one finds individual ideas like this. Best of all, the real spirit of home dwells there and the many friends of the household always find a cordial welcome.

The food on her table is fit for the gods and it is best when the cook is ill or visiting, for Minnie is as much an artist in her blue and white tiled kitchen, as she is when planning the furnishings of her large sun parlor. Don't some of you know what it means to Nell and me to have such a home always open to us? Last fall when a lull came in those busy opening weeks and for the first time I felt I could leave my office for two hours, I got in my car and drove out to her home. I called to her that I was there and

went on to the sun parlor, lay down on a couch with pillows all around me and rested.

What place she holds "in the hearts of her countrymen" was suggested in my first paragraph. Last fall she was elected president of the Woman's Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, the largest and most influential organized group of women in Greenville. A woman remarked to me yesterday, in regard to her presidency, "She is full of ideas and every few days she calls me up to give me a job." She not only gives the women jobs but she calls representative men together and gives them jobs in groups and individually.

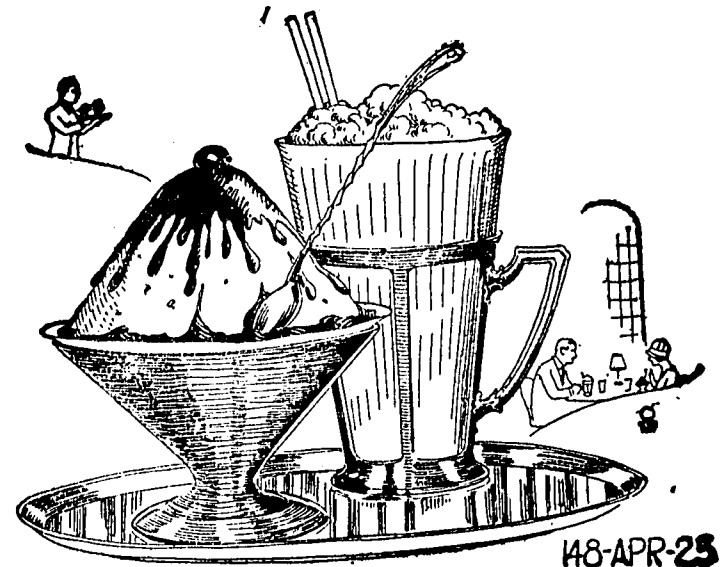
One of the best things about her is that she loves Meredith. She wanted very much to carry Susan to Raleigh this past fall so that she could see her mother's Alma Mater before it was given into other hands. But the opportunity didn't come. She'll probably arrive some day at the new Meredith. In the meanwhile, she rejoices with the rest of us in what we believe will be not only a larger but also a nobler and better Meredith.

Cordially yours,

ROSA PASCHAL.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE TWIG wishes to acknowledge a check for \$5.00 from Mrs. J. S. Farmer. May this serve as a hint to other alumnae who wish to see their names in print!



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