

Rocky Hook Section News

Perhaps by next week we'll be all caught up on "what's been going on this last week" but for now we'll just report on our "early vacation" in Florida.

Last Thursday we picked up our 6th grader after lunch (with a whole week of assignments to take with her) and headed South on 301. Our "sinus problems" disappeared somewhere along the route and to date they haven't returned. We hope this is a permanent disappearance!

We began to feel like "visiting royalty" when we arrived in Ft. Meade, Florida and found a whole day of celebration had been planned! A 50 unit parade, with 2 marching bands and the complete populace turned out to join the festivities. Of course, the fact that it was PTA Country Fair Day was just a coincidence! This was really an unusual event. Almost 2000 folks attended the afternoon affair at the ball park, where a Tampa TV celebrity called Uncle Bruce entertained the children... and the grown-up kids. The event was topped off by a beauty pageant that evening at which time "Miss Ft. Meade" was chosen from 11 lovely contestants. I had the dubious honor of being one of the three judges... by virtue of being from out of town and perhaps because I had once been a member of a Greensboro Little Theatre group! Ha. It was really a tough assignment but a lot of fun.

We learned that the PTA always clears over \$1,000 from this day's activities. Even when it rains they take in their profit. I couldn't believe it when I learned that the PTA takes out "rain insurance" to make certain that their profit is forthcoming! Now I've heard everything!

The First Baptist Church of Ft. Meade (where brother-in-law William Holton is pastor) is a lovely church filled with friendly people that made us feel right at home. It seemed almost like a Sunday at home, since I taught the young married ladies' Sunday School class and Mr. Allred did the preaching for the day. Ft. Meade folks love to sing and we heard some good music during both services. Marie is the interim music director (directing 6 choirs) and educational director, which makes her a paid full time staff worker of the church. Since she spends most of her time over there, she leaves the "home work" in capable hands.

One of the gracious hostesses of the church had both preacher's families for lunch on Sunday and again we felt like someone special as a beautifully decorated cake graced the buffet table with "Welcome Allreds" on it! We learned later that our hostess was the caterer for all the church suppers and most of the civic functions for the town. We should have guessed when we saw the graining serving table!

On Monday I REALLY felt like the celebrity! Marie had told me that one of her good friends was entertaining at lunch in my honor, but when we arrived (just outside of Ft. Meade) at the ACE RANCH, I had to pinch myself to believe what I saw! The A. C. Wrights, who own the cattle (brahmas) ranch, also have phosphate mines and citrus groves as far as you can see! The home is without a doubt more beautiful than anything I have ever seen. There was air conditioning throughout the house, wall to wall carpeting or tiling and pine panelling everywhere you looked. A patio pool outside the sliding glassed-in dining area was like a movie set, it was so blue. In her kitchen, Mrs. Wright has an atomic oven, double built-in refrigerators, restaurant warming ovens

(to keep the ranchers' meals hot for hours without drying out), disposal unit, and everything that you could imagine for convenience sake in preparing a meal. In the utility room there was a complete laundry plus the heating and air conditioning units. Outside the house there was a tool room built on the back of the garage which also has private bath houses for the workmen on the ranch plus a dressing room where they can clean up before going home if they like. Off the business office (and den for Mr. Wright) is also a private bath and closet which Mrs. Wright says always has a complete change of clothing so he can get out of his "ranch clothes" and be presentable before he comes into the rest of the house! Incidentally, we were curious about the shelves of shoes... all sizes and all kinds... which we saw in the garage, just off the side entrance of the house. Mrs. Wright laughingly told us that her two boys... and her husband... always left their "outside" shoes here and changed to another pair with soft soles before coming in on that gorgeous carpet! This sounded like a pretty sensible solution to me.

The garage houses the two "Cadillacs", the one station wagon and the speed boat. The two boys in the family have a suite of rooms, bedroom and den combination with their own color TV. They have walk-in closets, bath and their own outside entrance. The 13-year-old daughter has a dream room that any little girl would drool over!

Mrs. Wright's bedroom looked like a picture in some "house beautiful" ad. I almost got lost in her walk-in hat closet! I thought for a while I was in a department store or a hat shop! I would have been delighted to just look at the house, but in addition to getting my fill of "seeing how the other half live"... ha... I also thoroughly enjoyed the luncheon. Mrs. Wright had invited 25 ladies to lunch and we had about a dozen of the most delectable salads that you've ever tasted. I ate dishes I had never even heard of before! I decided that this was dangerous... I could learn to like this kind of living!

From Monday through Wednesday nights, my husband and I each taught one of the books on Baptist Heritage to Ft. Meade Baptists. We had about 100 coming and they were gracious in being good listeners... (Honorarium for these studies made it possible to take this "early vacation" so we were grateful for the opportunity to do this).

Wednesday evening the whole Training Union group brought their supper and ate together at the church before the last session, so we had some more good fellowship with them. We had to leave on Thursday morning. Our families get together so seldom that the children hardly

knew each other.

We got a special thrill in seeing all the orange groves as we traveled back and forth. Polk County, where Ft. Meade is located, is the citrus capital of the world. It is also one of the largest producers of beef cattle in the world. The black Angus is the most popular breed and can be seen everywhere you look on the rolling hills.

One other industry makes Polk County a very wealthy area. This is the phosphate mining. One third of the world's phosphate needs are met by the "Bone Valley" formation, a shield shaped area some 50 miles long and 40 miles wide. Land values increased from \$1.50 per acre to \$200 per acre when these rich deposits were accidentally found. The Florida Geological Survey has said there are still over 800 million tons of phosphate in Bone Valley in Polk County.

One of the most fascinating things we saw was a huge drag line (especially manufactured for Virginia Chemical Co.) which is used in the phosphate mining. Mr. Red Collier of Ft. Meade is the only man who can operate this giant piece of equipment... and incidentally this is the only one like it in the world. The company took Mr. Collier out to Wisconsin to see it being manufactured, and taught him how to operate it. It has an air-conditioned cab... and cost TWO MILLION DOLLARS! It weighs over 1,500 tons and can remove over 2,000 cubic yards of earth an hour! Lynn learned some things this week that the books could not impress on her.

I suppose our stop at Marineland on the way home was Lynn's biggest thrill. This is one of the most fascinating places I've ever seen... with the educated porpoise and whales and all the under-sea activity that you can watch. I think this would be my idea of an ideal family stopping place in Florida and one that was well worth the price of admission!

We appreciated North Carolina's good roads before we left but they looked even better after seeing some of South Carolina and Georgia's narrow rough strips. We saw the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel opening advertised as far down as Daytona Beach and we decided after seeing so many Canadian licenses and other northern states, that some of them had already found this route opened up to them.

It was a most enjoyable trip, marred only by the knowledge that two of our church family had died in our absence and we had not been able to share the time of sorrow for the family.

It was doubly good to get home and find that someone had missed you!

Girl Scout And Brownie News

Girl Scout Troop No. 719 met Monday, April 27, 1964, at the Barker House. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Burns. The minutes were read and the roll called. Then we talked about Girl Scout Camp. Then some of us worked on our badges. Later we went down to the drug store for some drinks and nabs. After that the meeting was dismissed.

KATHY DOWD, Scribe.

Girl Scout Troop No. 720 met at the Boy Scout Cabin Wednesday, April 22, 1964. The purpose of the meeting was to learn how to put up tents. Jeff Mabe and Grays Vann helped us and showed us how. First each patrol put up a tent with the boys helping us. Then we had a race. The Horseshoe Patrol won. Mrs. Anderson told us we must make a patrol flag for each patrol. She gave us some pamphlets about a camp we can go to. The meeting was then adjourned.

Mrs. Junius Lassiter Dies Friday Afternoon

Mrs. Maude H. Lassiter, 74, died Friday afternoon at the Chowan Hospital after a short illness. She was a native of Chowan County and had lived in Edenton for 45 years. She was the daughter of the late Jack and Sallie B. Harrell and the widow of Junius E. Lassiter.

She is survived by two sons, Ervin Lassiter and Harry Lassiter of Edenton; one daughter, Mrs. Lynol P. Moore of Norfolk, Va.; three brothers, Hoskins Harrell, Lonnie Harrell and Joe Lynn Harrell, all of Edenton; two sisters, Mrs. Bessie Heath and Mrs. Ethel Whitson of Edenton; 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the First Christian Church. Funeral services were conducted at the Williford Funeral Home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The Rev. E. C. Alexander, pastor, officiated and burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Haywood Harrell, Roy Harrell, Bob Weimtraub, Henry Allen Powell, J. L. Harrell, Gerald Lassiter and Andrew Whitson.

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- Waste Baskets 3 for \$1.00
- Spark Plugs 8 for \$2.00
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- Toilet Seats \$2.00
- Large Assortment Wicker Baskets 2 for \$1.00
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Audie Murphy in "SHOWDOWN"
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Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 3-4-5 —
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