

Letters From A Wife Abroad

Albergo Continentale
Rome, Italy
Sunday

Dearest,

We have had an audience with Pope Plus—it is no wonder that devout Catholic pilgrims travel thousands of miles to be in his presence; it was a truly profound reverent experience for me, a protestant. We stopped at a little shop near Vatican City to buy a few rosaries and religious Medals to be blessed by the Pope for our loved ones. We were almost late as we took our place in the huge throng that lined the court yard—there must have been twenty thousand people there; children, quiet for once; long robed nuns and monks; rich looking people and many many poor looking people from as many different countries; some merely curious but most of them devoutly searching for something higher outside of oneself.

Swiss guards, in their beautiful red and white uniforms lined the one hundred or more steps that lead to the throne room. No pictures could be taken, so we left our cameras in the check bronze doors, just in time. The climb. We centered the high narrow center lane in the throne room and hurried up the long room was partitioned off with an iron fence—there were guards

inside the fence and there was a hugh throng outside of both sides of the fence. We had hardly squeezed in along the wall when the bronze doors opened again. I will never know who took a deep breath and allowed me the inch I needed to pass but by the time the tall white-clad Pope, borne aloft in a chair by guards was passing, I was right up on the rail of the fence. He looked back. I was looking into the most kindly looking face I had ever seen. Once on the platform, he addressed the gathering in several different languages and as he spoke to each group in its native tongue the group shouted loud and long with surprise and pride. To each he gave his benediction and bent his head silently over his cupped hands. He talked to a small group of children, dressed in white—the platform was too far away to hear the questions and answers but that was an experience not to be forgotten by those children.

Once again, the Pope gave the audience his blessing, the guards lifted the chair to their shoulders and he started back down the aisle, turning first to the right than left to smile a greeting and give a blessing to the people. One woman and hurried up a small white cap, much like the one the Pope had on—she held it up to him, he laughed with delight, too off his own cap, handed it to her and put on the one she had

brought. I could no longer swallow the lump that had been growing in my throat when the guards passed me and he was looking and blessing the people on the other side. Suddenly, I was looking into that luminous face again; he reached back, put a gentle finger on the Medals in my palm and whispered, "Bless you". I wouldn't tell any one else but you, but that was the religious pinnacle of my life time.

We toured St. Peter's. The interior of this cathedral exceeds my powers of description. It is divided into three naves. The immense dome is in the central nave; the dome is decorated with mosaics representing Christ, the Virgins, and the Doctors of the church. The main altar which stands in the middle is overhung with a bronze canopy, the work of Bernini. At the end of the central nave stands a bronze statue of St. Peter. According to the guide the statue is a work of the fifth century.

In one of the chapels we saw a masterpiece by Michel Angelo; it was a marble statue representing a virgin, holding on her lap the baby Jesus. We visited the Sistine Chapel, next. This was built in 1473; it is divided into two parts by a carved white marble screen. The walls of the chapel are covered with 12 frescoes representing episodes in the life of Jesus and Moses. At first, these walls

were covered with grotesque figures but Julius II hired Michel Angelo to redeccorate the walls. After working three years on the walls Angelo produced the work of art which now adorns the walls of the Sistine Chapel.

The Cathedral of St. Paul is one of the national monuments. The church rises up on the tomb of St. Paul. It was erected by Constantine who had the body of the martyr enclosed in a sarcophagus in which it is still kept. The cloister is considered to be a masterpiece of ancient architecture. The portico is supported by a double row of arches held up by twisted columns in which mosaics are embedded. Fragments of the mosaics which formerly ornamented the ancient church are kept in the cloister as are the bronze knockers from the doors.

By this time every one was worn to a frazzle, so we merely glanced in the Cathedral of St. John, which had five naves; the monuments, sculptures and frescoes are said to be of great value.

My flowers were in my room

when I returned from the tour of the Cathedrals; they are beautiful. I am now called "The lady with flowers from half-way round the world." I thought Daisy would swoon with delight over the flowers. "I would cer-wonderful, husband," she said Pauline came up with the prize saying when she saw them: "What has Taylor been up to?" Thank you. This has been a perfect day for me.

Pay my insurance, I'll give it back to you.

Be Sweet,
???????

30

A GIFT FOR YOU

It's time to add yourself to your shopping list. The gift of good health is precious beyond measure. The Christmas Seal fights for your health by supporting the TB prevention and control work of your tuberculosis association. Join the fight against the nation's No. 1 infectious disease killer.



Buy and Use Christmas Seals



Looking over the Constitution that will chart their course, are the newly elected officers of the North Carolina Association of Student Councils elected at the December, 4-5 Convention held in Durham, at the Hillside High School.

Left to right are: Addie Poston, Vice-President, Green Bethel High School, Bolling Springs; Thomas Truesdale,

Treasurer, Second Ward High School, Charlotte; Joseph Fogg, President, Hillside High School, Durham; Dora Simpson, Secretary, William Penn High School, High Point; and Ronald Schooler, Parliamentarian, Hillside High School, Durham.

Mrs. G. L. Thompson, sponsor of Hillside High School Student Council was elected to the NCASC Executive Committee.

Other members of the Committee are: Mrs. Elizabeth Schmoke Randolph, Executive Secretary, West Charlotte High School; C. E. Yokely, William Penn High School, High Point and E. R. Brown, Second Ward High, Charlotte. The officers above were elected by the 41 North Carolina High Schools who had 200 delegates at the Durham Convention.

UNCF To Present Hampton Choir Over ABC Dec. 25

The 120-voice mixed choir of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., will be featured in a special program of Christmas music over the network of the American Broadcasting Company, Dec. 25, originating with station WJZ, New York City, from 4:30 until 5 P. M. The choral concert is presented by ABC in cooperation with the United Negro College Fund, of which Hampton is a member institution.

The Hampton Choir is under the direction of Dr. Henry N. Switten, well-known conductor and composer, formerly associated with the Westminster Choir School of Princeton, N. J., who also has taken part in the presentation of choral works with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, under Charles Munch.

The program will open and close with a choral theme from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and the opening work will be "Rise Up, Shepherd, an' Foller". Other Christmas Spirituals on the broadcast will be "Go Tell It On De Mountain", and "Peter, Go, Ring Dem Bells".

In a more traditional vein of Christmas music, the Hampton Choir will sing Handel's "Joy to the World", Mendelssohn's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "The First Noel", "Silent Night", and "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" will round out the program.

The United Negro College Fund, which is presenting the program with ABC, assists Hampton and 30 other private, accredited Negro institutions in meeting their yearly budgets. Hampton and choirs of other member colleges are heard in a regular weekly choral series over 170 ABC stations in the United States and Canada.

Contributions To Christmas Cheer Club Lagging

Have you made your contribution to the "Christmas Cheer Club" yet? If not, won't you do so real soon?

We have every reason to believe that the number of needy families in Durham will be increased ten per cent over last year. That means that all of us will have to give a little more if Santa is going to visit every Durham home this year. Call the Welfare Dept. 4-983 and ask Mrs. Parker for a family or send a contribution today to the "Christmas Cheer Club" care of I. R. Holmes, W. D. Hill Community Center.

This year, for the first time, a solicitation of the homes will be made to help our contributions. Sunday, December 14, boys and girls of the Teen Aged Club will solicit funds in our various communities. They will be supplied with a letter and envelopes from the "Christmas Cheer Club".

Membership Gift Plan Announced By NAACP

New York—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced today that attractive gift membership cards are available again this year for persons who wish to present NAACP memberships to their friends or relatives as Christmas gifts. The NAACP will mail the cards for the donors.

The cards are bright red folders, approximately six inches wide and nine inches high. The outside of the folder features a striking Allan Gould photograph of an interracial children's choir, with the caption "Peace on Earth . . . Good Will Towards Men." Inside, the card says "To wish you a year-long Merry Christmas and Happy New Year By Helping Men of All Races To Know Each Other, (name of donor) has subscribed for you a membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We welcome you." The card bears the signature of Walter White, NAACP secretary.

NAACP memberships are \$2., \$3.50, \$5., \$10., \$25., and up per year. Youth memberships (under 21) are \$5.00 per year. Life memberships are \$500. Memberships of \$3.50 and up include a year's subscription to *The Crisis* magazine.

Fireman Gets Award For Saving Baby

NEW YORK
A handsome, 39 year old fireman, white, was presented with a Hero award from a New York newspaper for crawling through dense smoke flame to rescue a pretty 6 months old Negro girl from a burning bassinet.

As the fireman, William Mulligan, received the award, the grateful mother, Mrs. Lillie Mae Williams, a widow, rushed forward and wrung Mulligan's hand. His family, too, was on hand to watch the proceedings and his wife and five year old daughter beamed with happiness.

The fire had occurred on Election Day, when Mulligan was on duty. He was the first to arrive at the blazing four room apartment and pulled the child, Barbara Jean, from a rear bedroom. He applied first aid to the baby until the doctor arrived.



On December 31st, we celebrate another "savings payday"—our regular semi-annual earnings payment to savings. Naturally, we're pleased our savings facilities can benefit so many savers of this community, and we hope that even more folks will be sharing in the earnings payment next June. Open your insured savings account now . . . with a convenient amount. A better-than-average return is paid on savings.

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