

SUNSHINE COLUMN

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL SUNSHINE SOCIETY.
 Mrs. J. M. RANSIER, State President, Hendersonville, N. C.

SUNSHINE AT THE STATE FAIR.

Mrs. Ransier's Success and Some Others Who Helped.

Dear 'Shiners: Oh I am so glad to meet you all again, and there is so much to tell you and to talk about that we never can get through it all this time.

* * *

But first I want to thank you for the loving letters of inquiry as to our silence these last two weeks. It's very easily explained. Credit it all to the State Fair. You know I was there, and if you were there you know what crowds were there. My duties called me to the grounds by half-past seven or eight in the morning, and I was right there till night, and when night did come, I was, oh, so tired. I could do no more—not even chatter—and I'm pretty bad off when I can't do that.

* * *

About the Fair?

Yes, it was a success. And right here let me thank those who helped me make it so. The Misses Elgettie and Mary Thompson gave cheerful service, and on parting left me a beautiful yellow and white satin ribbon badge which I appreciated, not only because I had had no time to make myself one, but also as a souvenir of the occasion and the sweet sunny thought that prompted the gift.

Miss Leonita Denmark, a young Raleigh lady, gave invaluable assistance and showed such wisdom and helpfulness along so many lines that her versatility must make her always a shining light and example to our Sunshine army.

These dear, bright, beautiful young girls—how noble and grand to give the effort of their bright young lives to help send the sunshine into others less bright.

Bless their dear hearts. It was sunshine to me to just look into their fresh, young, sympathetic faces.

"Aunt Jennie" was there, too. Why of course; to be sure. Did you ever hear of any good thing going on that "Aunt Jennie" didn't have a finger in?

* * *

Then, too, all the other ladies who had charge of the other exhibits on the same floor (we were up stairs with the art, curios and fancy work departments) did so much to help me and our Sunshine work that it was really delightful to find so many who were already 'Shiners, only they had not yet sent in their names for record on our Sunshine books. But they have now, and on our registry book that we had there are over five hundred names. Isn't that lovely?

* * *

And when the sale of our articles seemed slow, up walked a charming lady (I say charming, for I mean it, for Sunshine shone from her face and grace was in her very movement) and she asked how we were getting along; and after our reply, she said: "I have something to give you." I was surprised, but very glad. Then she told me her cake had taken the prize for the best decorated cake at the Fair and she was going to give it to us to dispose of for the benefit of our shut-ins.

Splendid? Well, I should say so. My heart warmed to her, and I think a regular Jonathan and David love sprang into existence that moment. At least on my part. It did so show such a big, broad, generous heart, to think so quickly, see our need, and

generously meet it. Many women after asking the prize would have taken that cake home and kept it forever; but not so with Mrs. E. E. Moffitt. Oh, I think it one of the most beautiful things I ever saw done.

We had first thought of cutting the cake and selling the slices, but when I saw it, I knew that would be like desecrating a work of art. For such the cake truly was; the top being covered with beautiful life size, full blown and half budded roses, that in their icy whiteness looked like the sculptor's chisel had hewn them from a block of purest marble. So we could not cut the cake, but auctioned it off the next day, receiving a nice little sum therefrom for Sunshine.

Nor was Mrs. Moffitt's generosity stopped there. On learning that we were to have a sale in Asheville before Christmas for our Empty Stocking Fund, she has promised us another cake for this sale. Isn't that lovely?

* * *

Now here let me say a word to all of you who sent articles for sale at the State Fair Sunshine booth. All of them, you know, did not sell. Shall we keep them over for our Asheville sale? It will be in about a month, you know, and we will place the things not sold at Raleigh with our things at Asheville and sell them for you if we can. Please let me hear from you about it. So I may know what to do.

* * *

But to go back to Raleigh.

She is certainly setting the pace for the rest of the State in Sunshine work. Col. Olds of that city has a circle of children numbering somewhere near a hundred and fifty, and their work is so varied and broad that I shall have to tell you about it another day, as it alone would take up all our Sunshine Corner and then some more. But you must hear all about it some day.

* * *

I haven't told you yet either how nice the Raleigh newspapers were to us, too. When their papers were running over full of Fair news and the President's visit and all the big doings, they gave us space freely and very graciously for the announcement of the auction of our cake, both the Morning Post and News and Observer doing what they could to forward the work. And Mr. Britton, city editor of the News and Observer, auctioned the cake in a masterful way, bidding, in stentorian tones, all who had any money in their pockets come and bid.

Then, too, Mr. George Allen, of Raleigh, had this nice little sentence on the official Fair programs: "Visit the Sunshine booth, and see what is being accomplished by a few devoted ladies who dispel gloom by distributing Sunshine."

* * *

Yes, our Sunshine booth, though small, was an undoubted success, and in its introduction met with such a hearty hand-shake from all over the State that proclaimed our State the most big-hearted, royally good place in the whole bunch.

We shall have to leave all letters and acknowledgements for another week, but I want to thank all of you who responded to our call and contributed articles or helped in any way to make Sunshine the success it was.

Newton (N. C.) dispatch: Farmers have had, for the last fortnight, fine weather for digging and storing their sweet potato crop, which will yield a million and half bushels in this county alone. At former prices, the crop will bring between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

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