

My Typewriter Talks

by the Rev. Charles H. Gilbert

A concert again
Even though the date for the next season concert is in my date book I am always almost forgetting it. But Catherine reminds me. This time it was the Philharmonic orchestra with a guest pianist by name of Earl Wild. The orchestra seemed to me to be fuller than usual, with all kinds of instruments on deck. Kettle drums, trumpets, tubas, flutes and so on. But when the big grand piano was wheeled on to the stage and chairs shoved around to make room for the orchestra, while still full of strength did not by any means dim the sound of the piano. That marvellous crate of steel strings was a match for all the orchestra! I always like it when the player of the tympany has a lot to do, making his hands fly crossing back and forth from one to another of his drums.

Another African presentation
Dottie's date list included one from Ester Saxe to show pictures and give her talk at the Fowlersville church in which Esther Saxe has an active part. She invited all three of us to be guests at the farm where Charles and his sister, Esther Saxe, live ever since they sold their farm to the state on the Carverton road along the section where the new Frances Slocum State park is located. The dinner Esther had prepared for us was quite characteristic of her extended ability to put on a feast. Chicken—which brother Charles Saxe fattened for the occasion probably! and all the fixings which Esther knew so well how to prepare. Tasty jelly from wild black caps, and citron preserved in transparent syrup, and topped off with ice cream, with still some blackberry jelly to top it with!

After dinner we packed off to the Fowlersville United Methodist Church where a fine group of women from that and other near-by churches had come together to learn something about the work of the church in Central Congo. Those women could sing and they could listen intelligently to the story of Africa as Dottie told it in words and pictures.

A visit to a Nesbitt classmate
Along the way to the Saxes' place we drove to Benton for a brief visit with the former Eleanor Hess who was in the class of nurses with Dottie. Old-timers as they were, they overflowed with pleasure at seeing each other again. Eleanor is now Mrs. Allen Austin.

Catherine had a pleasantly challenging job of finding her way from Benton to the Saxe place coming at it from the opposite direction this time from when we were there the last time. In cases like this (and there have been other times and elsewhere when she had to find her way by her inner chart and compass and guiding star! she turns the matter over to her subconscious mind and turns the car as she feels led. Like your hands on a ouija board just letting your moves come. At such times I now am learning better than to ask her questions as to how she is going to go at such and such a future cross-roads.

Sure enough, it was not time until we had come to the array of oil drums along the road that identify the place as the turn across the creek to the beautiful farm where the Saxes' live.

Incidentally Esther Saxe was one of Cathy's teachers back when Cathy was learning arithmetic!

Water systems difficulties
I'm glad I am not made of brass inside. I should be afraid to drink water! Well, after some nine or ten years of smooth operation of the mystery of flush-

box mechanics there developed a crumbling of brass and breakage of parts that spelled emergency needs. Down in the cellar where the water pipes come to the place where they go upstairs there are a number of shutoffs. So I turned one to stop the flow of just the cold water to the second floor bathroom. It worked all right only that it shut off the water also to the downstairs bathroom including the sink and shower stall. We didn't want everything "shut off like that.

Before the plumber came to do the intricate work of replacing the innards of the upstairs flush-box I cut the line where cold water flows to the upstairs and inserted a shutoff valve and soldered it with my gas torch. You know how the copper tubing has to be sanded and polished to a shining luster before you can solder. Then you smear on some soldering paste and then the wire solder which sticks to the shiny surface. Then you put the tubing into the shutoff ends and solder them fast. Then hold your breath and turn on the water. It holds! No leaks! Hallelujah! I can't help feeling somewhat religious at such times, for I am in the habit of breathing a prayer to the Great Doer that my work may be a success. The place doesn't leak and so—Thank You God!

All that was Saturday morning. The afternoon was the inauguration of the second president of Wilkes College to which Dottie and I had tickets. Dr. Francis Michelini was being inaugurated at Wiles College gymnasium. We went. I felt myself somehow immersed in a sea of intellectual depths as I listened to the speeches, all well prepared with a clock on the desk, so they were not too long. But they were full of high principles and sound learning and amiable spirit. The superb character of Dr. Eugene Farley as retiring president and that of Dr. Francis J. Michelini as the new one stood out as something to make one's own spirit rejoice that there are such men.

New York State jaunt
That Saturday afternoon Catherine and Dorothy drove up to the Binghamton area for speeches and visiting. They had a wonderful time among many friends and relatives. Tuffy and I stayed home in the care of the Lord and got along fine.

During some of the time I was reading a little book by Father Leo Trese. Entitled "Vessel of Clay," it is the story of "a day in the life of a priest." It gave some insights into the inner life of a man who lives so largely wrapped up in his religious observances which aside from a multitude of outer duties must keep his soul aware of the workings of the grace of God and the real presence of the living Christ. Keeping this inner self keenly alive to the life of the Spirit is not all separate from the multitude of serious and also trifling affairs which belong to a minister or priest in his special service to Christ and the Church. I felt myself personally attuned to what was going on in this man even in his somewhat different framework of devotion.

Thanksgiving flowers for Valley Crest

As has been the custom of these kind friends down near Philadelphia for several years they have sent money for me to get the season's flowers in the form of flowering potted plants. This time beautiful golden bright yellow chrysanthemums. How pleased the patients and staff all were all were when I took up ten such living gold plants and distributed them one to each of the nine solariums and one for the lobby.

At Christmas time there will be poinsettias.

APPRECIATION DAYS... APPRECIATION DAYS... APPRECIATION DAYS.

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Ambulance Log

NOXEN

Nov. 22—Marvin Shive—from General Hospital to home. Crew: Ralph McCormack, Ronald Hopfer.

Nov. 26—Ann Smith from Freemans Trailer Court to General Hospital. Crew: Earl Crispell, Robert Crispell.

HARVEYS LAKE

Nov. 25—William Manfre, Sunset, Harveys Lake to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. Crew: Rich Williams, Chet Davis, Jim Faerber.

Nov. 26—Carolyn Scull, Dudley Ave., Harveys Lake to Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. Crew: John Stenger, Chet Davis, Jim Faerber.

Nov. 26—John Dougherty, Pole 142, Harveys Lake, to General Hospital. Crew: John Stenger, Chet Davis, Dick Williams Sr.

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