

THE KEYNOTE

VOL X

APRIL 1947

NO. 4

CROCUS-STARS

All yesterday,
Beneath a weeping sky,
My garden lay,
As brown as it was bare.
Today the sun
Has loved it into life
For crocus-stars
Are rising everywhere.

Why need I look elsewhere
For Resurrection text?
My garden dead one day, and filled
With crocus-stars the next.

Kathryn Howard Lowes



(WHAT WITH ONE THING AND ANOTHER, THIS LETTER HAS BEEN CROWDED OUT OF SEVERAL ISSUES, BUT WE STILL THINK IT IS WORTH SHARING WITH YOU. ED.)

LETTER from RUTH CONARD

..... LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT COSTA RICA. THE COAST CITIES ARE, OF COURSE, HOT. BUT UP HERE IN SAN JOSE, 4,000 FEET HIGH, IT'S DELIGHTFULLY COOL. WE LIVE IN ETERNAL SPRINGTIME. THE CITY OF SAN JOSE ITSELF IS A QUIANT LITTLE TOWN--NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT, ITS PARKS RATHER UNKEPT, ITS STREETS NARROW, AND ITS STORES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS VERY UNPRETENTIOUS. BUT IT IS INTENSELY INTERESTING.

I HAVE A GRAND LITTLE APARTMENT IN THE MISSION HOME. IT'S THREE ROOMS AND A PRIVATE BATH. . . . I'VE MADE THE FURNITURE IN MY FRONT ROOM. YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WELL, AT LEAST I'VE GONE TO THE SHOP TWICE A DAY FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS. DID YOU EVER HEAR OF MANANA LAND? I'M RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF IT. THEY REALLY MAKE BEAUTIFUL MAHOGANY FURNITURE DOWN HERE. SO I SHOPPED AROUND AND FOUND THE PLACE WHERE THEY WOULD MAKE MY FURNITURE INEXPENSIVELY. BUT COME TO FIND OUT, A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, EVIDENTLY ALSO SHORT OF CASH, WERE HAVING SR. VARGAS MAKE THEIR FURNITURE. I WAITED AND WAITED, AND EVERY TIME I WENT TO THE SHOP I'D GET THE SAME REPLY, "MANANA." I FINALLY DID GET MY SETTEE AND EASY CHAIR. . . . ONE FRIDAY MORNING I TOLD SR. VARGAS I WAS COMING IN THAT AFTERNOON AND SIT AND WATCH HIM FINISH MY FOOTSTOOL. WHEN I GOT THERE THAT AFTERNOON, THEY WERE WORKING FURIOUSLY ON IT, AND I SAT DOWN AND READ THE READER'S DIGEST UNTIL IT WAS FINISHED AND WALKED HOME BESIDE IT. THE LAST THING TO BE MADE HAS BEEN MY DUNCAN PHYFE TABLE. IT HAS BEEN WORTH THE 2½ MONTHS OF WAITING TO GET IT. BUT ALL THIS IS JUST LIFE IN COSTA RICA, AND I DO HAVE SOME VERY PRETTY FURNITURE AT A THIRD OR FOURTH THE PRICE I WOULD PAY FOR IT IN THE STATES. . . .

IN SAN JOSE NO ONE EVER USES THE STREET AND AVENUE NUMBERS, AND THERE ARE HARDLY ANY HOUSES OR STORES WHICH HAVE NUMBERS ON THEM--OH NO. THAT WOULD BE TOO SIMPLE AND VERY UNINTERESTING. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF THE AVENUE I LIVE ON. HOW, THEN DO WE TELL PEOPLE WHERE WE LIVE? IT'S THIS WAY. THERE IS SURE TO BE A GROCERY STORE (CALLED "PULPERIA,") OR A DRUG STORE, OR SOME OTHER LANDMARK NOT FAR FROM THE PLACE YOU WISH TO DESCRIBE. SO YOU JUST TELL HOW MANY BLOCKS NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST IT IS FROM THIS LANDMARK. AND A BLOCK IS 100 VARAS, AND YOU NEVER TRY TO DESIGNATE THE LOCATION OF A PLACE ANY CLOSER THAN A QUARTER OF A BLOCK OR 25 VARAS. SO I LIVE 100 VARAS NORTH AND 25 VARAS EAST OF THE PULPERIA FLOR DE OTOYO. AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WHENEVER I ASK A STORE TO DELIVER SOMETHING TO MY APARTMENT, IT ARRIVES QUITE PROMPTLY. AMAZING, ISN'T IT?

COSTA RICA HAS THREE VOLCANOES, AND I'VE SCRAMBLED AROUND THE RIM OF ONE OF THEM. IT SPOUTS A LITTLE STEAM, BUT DOESN'T LOOK VERY DANGEROUS. I ALSO TOOK A TRIP OUT ALONG THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY. WE STARTED EARLY IN THE MORNING--AS THAT'S THE ONLY TIME TO BE SURE OF GOOD WEATHER. THE HIGHWAY RUNS RIGHT ALONG THE BACKBONE OF THE COUNTRY AND FROM ONE PLACE WE COULD LOOK DOWN ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN, AND FROM ANOTHER COULD SEE THE SPARKLE OF ATLANTIC WATERS. WE STOPPED BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD FOR BREAKFAST AND THEN TOOK A HIKE UP TO A HIGH POINT, WHERE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE ATLANTIC, THE PACIFIC, AND NICARAGUA LAKE. BUT, ALAS! ALL THE WATER WE SAW WAS RAIN--IN DROPS AND THEN SHEETS. WE HAD ARRIVED JUST A LITTLE TOO LATE, AND THE DAILY RAIN HAD SET IN



THE KEEPERS' BANQUET



The evening of March 18 was an extra-special one for those who attended the banquet. Before enjoying the delicious food prepared by "the keepers of the keys of the kitchen," as Elder Pond so aptly phrased it, the girls who had joined the Keepers during the past year were welcomed. And then came that delectable dinner! I still drool to think of it.

A well-planned program of readings by Mrs. McIver, group singing led by Jewell Hatcher, and special music by Elder Pond followed. Two film travelogues on India and South America were shown, and a delightful evening was over. The consensus of opinion seems to be that another banquet wouldn't come amiss. Our thanks to Mary Ogle and her associates for a very pleasant evening.

--Esther Stoehr

The Keepers' European relief project has resulted in mailing 580 pounds of food and clothing to Berlin. Also, 550 garments were packed, including 23 blankets and quilts; 15 coats, 65 dresses, 53 pairs of hosiery, 32 pairs of shoes, 12 suits, 40 articles of underwear for women; 64 garments for children, 67 for babies, and 83 for men. We received \$148.00 in cash, and spent \$9.84 for postage, \$95.14 for clothing and blankets, and \$15.00 for food. There has been \$20.00 turned over for a beginning on the children's refugee camp project. We have on hand enough clothing to fill another large box. Mary Neufeld and her assistants are busy packing boxes of food and clothing for the refugee camp, and they report ten 11-lb. packages ready as a result of their first evening's work. --Mary Paul

Ⓐ Above the distractions of the earth God sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.

"ARE YOU LISTENIN'?"



Second Floor, Marjorie Isner reporting--

Attending the Atlantic Union Conference session in N.Y.C. on behalf of the Ministerial Association, Thelma Wellman reports having spent a pleasant and profitable few days.

Mable Towery has just been credited by the Review and Herald with a revised edition of her book "A Word to Writers." It's chuck full of helpful hints. If you'd like to look it over, drop around at Mable's desk and she'll be glad to let you see it.


Mrs. Lottie Quinn, after "belonging" to us for so many years, left us last week. We'll miss her friendly, cheery ways. Her sister, Mrs. Mace, is reported making exceptionally fine progress toward recovery. Keep up the good work, Mrs. Mace.

We welcome Mrs. R. B. Thurber, who has come from Oshawa, Ontario, since the death of her husband, to connect with the Home Missionary Department as assistant secretary.

Ask Louise Meyer what she thinks of California and you'll receive a deluge of oh's and ah's. In her estimation there's just no place like it. She has just returned from a series of Child Evangelism Institutes out West.

The Keepers were saddened to learn of the death of the Truitt twins' mother, at her home in Hagerman, New Mexico, March 2, just after Minnie and Mintie arrived. We want them to know that the Keepers have been with them in thought and prayer during this time of sadness.

So you don't like all the cold weather we've had? Well, Frances Sampson does, even goes way up North in the hills to have a battle with the snow--and wishes she could have stayed longer!

magination was given to man to compensate for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is.

Marjerie Isner got a real lift from her week-end visit with Canadian relatives and friends she met in New York.

First Floor, Marion Nyman reporting--

Elsie Minesinger has a glamorous new bookkeeping machine. We hear she's making progress with it too.

Evelyn Wells, Katie Farney, Hazel Shadel and Mary Paul are going to Los Angeles to the Spring Meeting.

Zippie Franklin's brother is visiting her--Sgt. Richard Lundquist, a flight engineer in the Air Corps.

Emma Howell's brother is visiting her too, but she says he comes too often to be any news. This is her favorite brother, John.

Edith Geymet is giving a party for her French class at the college. It sounds like a lot of fun. Why don't we all take up French anyway?

Chester Rogers isn't a Keeper, but boy oh boy he's got an elegant new car. It's a Fleetmaster Chevrolet Sport Coupe, 1947. Green. I wonder if he'll take us for a ride?

Basement, Irene Caslow reporting--

Mary Newfield is spending her vacation with her sister at Elmira, New York.

Della Heisey, whose husband is a student at W. M. C., has taken over Kitty Ham's work in the Insurance Dept. since Kitty has found being a college senior a full time job. Della worked at the Review before coming to the General Conference.

Third floor, Jewell Hatcher reporting--

Alice Fagerstrom is very proud of her new Chevrolet Club Coupe for which they have waited fourteen months.

♪
You see but your shadow when you turn your back to the sun.

The guilt of not
 answering letters
 Weighs down on my
 conscience at night.
 I suffer and groan in
 the silence
 But nothing can force
 me to write.



We're glad to see Eleanor Baer back in the Medical Dept.--if only for three months.

Vera Caslow left for Rochester, Indiana, March 17. Her "big day" is April 20.

June Norton, who used to work in the Medical Dept., spent a few days last week "just helping out"--and incidentally giving all her old friends a treat.

Erna Borm has been packing boxes of food, clothing and books for Germany since last August. She says she hasn't counted them but thinks the total is around 400--all of them 11 pound packages except for about 35 larger ones. She expected originally to stop long ago but that seems to be impossible as long as the letters keep coming from Germany full of gratitude and indescribable misery. Incidentally, if any of you or your small relations have dolls that have been retired from active service, they would receive a warm welcome and the best of care from some little girls in Europe who have never seen a doll. Miss Borm will be glad to send any contributions over in her packages of food and clothing.

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Issued monthly by the Keepers of the Keys
 General Conference Office, Takoma Park 12, D.C.

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Typists and Villa Staley
 Printers: Minnie Lou Campbell
 Irene Caslow
 Vera Wilkins

As a vessel is known by the sound whether it be cracked or not; so men are proved, by their speeches whether they be wise or foolish.