

TEA TIME TALK

(BY WILMA J. MARCH)

Folks listen to this: Outside my window a peach tree is in bloom. Not a single leaf is visible but it is loaded with lovely blossoms, so pink that they appear like clusters of tiny wild roses. Then too, the orange buds are beginning to form. Then the air will be sweet with the aroma of the bewitching fragrance. We have had a cool winter at times but even so, it is lovely and warm between those times. The reports we get of the northern thermometers being way down below zero make us shudder to think of it. But spring will soon be coming around the corner down here in the sunny State. Windows are already displaying the newest attire for Easter. So cheer up, before many weeks the robins will be winging their flight northward and the trees will be bursting with green, the blades of grass will be peeping through the black earth and the sun's rays will be brighter and more direct.

Down here we are in the very midst of the season's activities. There are High School plays to raise money for the class banquet, etc. Every club known to science is featuring a bridge party, oyster supper, tea, concert or what have you. One's pocketbook needs re-filling a-plenty these days. Then next week the State Fair opens. Last week the Florida Orange Festival was in full swing at Winter Haven. On Press Day the press folks were taken on a motor tour in the lake district of that region.

I attended the Tin Can Tourist homecoming at Arcadia a month ago and had a wonderful week with many old friends. Over three hundred units were in camp. That meant eight or nine hundred people. There were field sports, contests, tournaments, concerts, dances, parties, auction sales of unwanted goods in camp, and literally every minute of the time was taken up with something interesting. I've heard folks say "What in the world do the campers do to put in the time?" Why they are so busy they can't get everything done that they want to. They live just like anyone else. There is washing and ironing to do, meals to prepare, dishes to wash and house to clean, even it is only a trailer. But we've had some grand old times in those same trailers. I had the pleasure of being invited to several supper parties in one lovely Trotwood Trailer made at Trotwood, Ohio. The owner is the gentleman who wrote the article for the Standard two weeks ago, on "Filipino Superstitions", Professor Hadwen H. Williams. In the trailer, which is home to him and of which he is very proud as he has many treasures from the far corners of the globe. The Women's Home Companion for December had a very good article about this method of travelling. It was entitled "Living on Wheels" and though short, it gave a word picture of the life in a tourist camp. There is a fascination about it that gets one. And certainly there is no better way in the world to see the country. You are king and queen of your castle wherever you choose to stop. It is a swing back to owning your own home. Taxes failed to drop with wages and the prices of other things and it became difficult to keep up a home in a proper manner. Thousands of houses have been vacant during the depression. Others were allowed to degenerate through lack of attention. So, for various reasons, the apartment houses have been full. Statistics show that it is cheaper in the long run to rent than pay upkeep of a house and property. With prices moving like a thermometer many folks don't wish to be caught in a trap of financial circumstances and be property poor, a condition which is very common at present. For many of these reasons and others too numerous to mention the trailer business is growing day by day. Roger Babson has said that in ten years a remarkable percentage of the population will be living on wheels, at least part of the year. Of course one can't have every possible convenience of the stationary home, with its space and privacy. But it is astonishing just how much material can be put in one of these ducky little homes. One does not carry along any excess baggage of course. Every thing in it has its own small corner and its own important func-

tion in the daily routine. Cooking utensils are light, fit into each other and serve several purposes. Clothes are cut down to the minimum, taking only what are suitable, serviceable and necessary. The tourist camps now are the nth degree of comfort and service. At least the best ones are. The fee is nominal and the patronage is good. These camps are inspected by officers who demand that the rules are followed closely. If you haven't tried stopping in a tourist camp you've missed something novel.

This week the Tin Can Tourist Convention is being held in Sarasota. It is bigger and better than ever. Harry Bolus, program manager, told me while I was at the tourist homecoming at Arcadia that he expected at least 1200 units at the convention. Sunday's report set the number in camp at 100 and the convention only beginning. There will be many good times and I hope to get down. Harry, the manager, said he was putting me on the program for tourist night to make sure of me getting there. That's one way of having to go places, at least. The days will be filled with tournaments, games, fishing, chatting, gadding to places of interest, including Ringling's island, his museum, art school and the winter circus quarters. The evenings will be taken up with programs, games and dancing. One night there will be a big costume party and that is THE night of the whole affair. Some of the most original costumes I have ever seen appeared at those parties.

Speaking of clothes, did you know that there are five nudist camps in State of Florida? I knew there were some but not so many as that. One is only a few miles from here, at beautiful Lake Thonotosassa. This cool weather has not been so fine for their ideas of freedom from clothes. Bill Abbott, staff writer for the Tampa Tribune, visited the colony recently and expressed his information in last Sunday's paper. Dr. Herman Soshinski, head of the American Gymnosophical Association was interviewed at his office on the lakeshore drive. Instead of being nude, he sat fully dressed, also wearing a topcoat. The portly, little Russian stated that in a nudist colony you do as you please. You either wear clothes or you don't, according to your whim. Dr. Soshinski stressed the fact that the organization is non-commercial and non-profitable. The association has rigid rules for admittance to membership. Registration is necessary; cameras in camp are forbidden and liquor is taboo. The curious sometimes go to the camp prying for information and a peep into the precincts of the grounds, but generally speaking, the colony is free from disturbance. One person told me that in Cleveland a policeman was sent to investigate a colony outside the city and that he never did come back, but presumably joined the ranks. Another regulation is that gossip in any shape or form is outlawed.

Well, even they do declare that these nudist colonies are not the product of a fad, it still remains to be proven to the majority of people. They state that the membership continually grows. I venture to say that few who read this paper will be recruits. I intend to drive down by the lake some day on my way to Tampa and get an idea of the type of folks who belong to the colony. I imagine that most of the members are people who have become bored with the routine of life and are trying something new for the change and novelty of it.

Once more King Gasparilla and his Krewe have taken the city of Tampa by storm and fulfilled the legendary dream of old. The pirate ship reached the port on the Hillsborough river at noon with the largest crowd ever witnessing the annual celebration. After arrival with streamers flying in the breeze and the masts strewn with gayly attired pirates, with guns booming and much merry-making, the krewe transferred to barges which took them to the point where the parade began. King Gasparilla XXVIII and his Queen reigned supreme at the twenty-eighth annual invasion. The river was alive with boats of every description. The Gasparilla flagship, which is ordinarily the schooner Goldfield, winner of many ocean

being trophies, was decorated with the pirate colors of red, green and black. From its stern flew the skull and cross-bones of the pirate trade.

The parade which followed was at least a mile long and consisted of sixty-nine floats and nineteen bands. It was indeed a gala affair which proceeded to the State Fair grounds. Each year a new King and Queen are chosen and crowned at the Gasparilla Ball the evening following the capture of the city. Of all State Balls this is the most talked of and most exclusive. Miss Martha Carlton and Mr. John Bell were given the honors of the Krewe this year.

And so, the line-up of attractions in this State are being clipped off the calendar one by one, week by week. The Fair will soon be over for 1936 and then the various festivals, carnivals, etc., will be beginning in many districts. The Central Florida Exposition will be in progress soon at Orlando. A huge sky projector will write in the heavens with colors, that the Fair is calling to you. The machine, with a beam of light only second to the Lindbergh beacon in Chicago, and by means of slides, will light the sky during the Exposition.

The radio still broadcasts stormy weather in the north with roads blocked and traffic held up. Surely there will be relief from it soon. It is really springtime now down here so if you have patience it will find its way up there in due course.



MONDAY, MARCH 2nd—Regular meeting for general business to which all members are asked to come. Visitors always welcome.
FRIDAY, FEB. 28th—Dance for Odd Fellows and their friends. Bring lunch, please.
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