

# TEA TIME TALK

(BY WILMA J. MARCH)

Last Sunday I visited, for the first time, the well-known Rollins College at Winter Park, Florida, located just two miles from the beautiful city of Orlando, in one of the loveliest districts of the entire State. Amid citrus groves, hills and valleys, winding roadways and jewelled lakes, one can easily imagine they have found the dreamland for which they have been looking.

Irving Batcheller said "There may be on this continent a village more beautiful than Winter Park but if so I have never seen it. Old Deerfield is lovely but it is dead. Winter Park is alive. Its beauty is that of youth, its spirit looks forward, not backward. It is like a stirring New England community in the time of my boyhood in a setting of everlasting verdure and many flowers and abundant sunlight." It is truly one of those places where you want to return again and again. No lovelier location could be found anywhere for an Alma Mater. Every single phase of Rollins is beautiful and worthwhile. Its very being is the essence of all things lovely. Its growth has been outstanding because it was conceived through the finest ideals and those ideals have been the pillars of every branch bearing fruit these fifty years.

Yes, but fifty years ago Rollins College was just a dream. Florida, the second largest state east of the Mississippi river had at that time less than 300,000 inhabitants. The Northern people were beginning, however, to discover its life-giving sunshine and its great agricultural possibilities. Scattered over the state were a group of thirteen Congregational churches, most of which were struggling missionary enterprises of the American Home Missionary Society.

At the first annual conference of these pilgrim churches held on Mar. 18, 1884, in Winter Park, Miss Lucy A. Cross, a graduate of Oberlin and a former instructor at Wellesley, appealed through her pastor, Rev. C. M. Bingham, for the establishment of a church college "for the education of the South in the South".

The outcome was a convention of all pastors of the scattered Congregational churches, held in Orange City. Dr. Edward Payson Hooker, pastor at Winter Park, gave a powerful address on the value of Christian education in the upbuilding of a state, and the lack of any such institution in Florida. On January 29, 1885, the Association voted that immediate steps be taken to establish a Christian College, unsectarian in its purpose. A committee of five was appointed to send out letters inviting proposals from other communities interested in securing the location for such a college.

At Mt. Dora in April of that year, the proposals were received. When the proposal from Winter Park was read it contained the startling news that the tiny hamlet, which was then only five years old, offered cash and property \$114,180, nearly half of which was to be a gift from Alonzo W. Rollins of Chicago. The committee voted unanimously for the Winter Park location and that evening, April 17, 1885, the entire village joined in a grand celebration. Bonfires, speeches and refreshments helped one and all to mark the beginning of one of the south's finest educational centres. Thus Florida's first institution for higher education was born. The first pillars were human ones, with strength of loyalty and vision and a will to achieve. Like all successful projects, it took time, patience, faith and much work, but the present status shows in glowing colors, the milestones along the way, a path fifty years long.

The first administration and recitation building was just a two storey frame one, which still stands. The first library consisted of a Bible and a second-hand dictionary. The first president was Dr. Hooker, who organized the first curriculum, selected the faculty, taught the Bible and Ethics, made trips to the north to raise funds and in between times time to conduct his pastorate of the Congregational Church in Winter Park.

Rollins opened November 4, 1885, with a charter faculty of five members. The first student to enroll and the first also to receive the A.B. degree, class of 1890, was Miss Clara Louise Guild, who still resides in

Winter Park, and who founded the Alumni Association in 1898.

Knowles Hall, the first building to raise on the campus and cast its shadow in Lake Virginia, was dedicated March 9, 1886. It contained chapel, library and classroom and was for nearly a quarter of a century the heart of Rollins College. It was the gift of F. B. Knowles, the Massachusetts industrial leader and philanthropist whose benefactions to Winter Park and to Rollins placed him at the head of the early builders of town and college.

The story of the up-building of Rollins from this small beginning under a succession of capable leaders, such as President George Morgan Ward, and President William Blackman, is one of constant loyalty, sacrifice and far-sightedness. Generous benefactions from many people, including such well-known folks as Mrs. Edward Bok, Andrew Carnegie, H. H. Westinghouse, Dr. D. K. Pearson, Mrs. George E. Warren, Mrs. F. B. Knowles and several members of the Rollins family, Irving Bacheller and many others, made the growth of this institution jump by leaps and bounds. Then too, many splendid professors with their inspiring work, nobility of character, long periods of service and loyalty to the ideals of the very finest goal for Rollins has set up throughout the country, the highest standard possible for this southern educational centre.

With the coming of President Hamilton Holt in 1925, Rollins "came of age" and was able to stand on its own feet as an independent Christian college, dedicated to the high ideals which had characterized it from its heroic beginning. Building upon the foundation laid by those who had previously labored and sacrificed for Rollins, President Holt has during the past ten years added a new and glowing chapter to its history. He came to Rollins from a long service as editor of The Independent, with a fresh outlook on academic education, combined with courage and deep devotion to the welfare of youth. Remembering the inadequacy of his own experience with the lecture and quiz system at Yale and Columbia, he devised what is known as the "Rollins Conference Plan". This plan is an attempt to break down the barriers between the teacher and the student. It is designed to humanize college education.

The second innovation at Rollins was the "Achievement Plan for Graduation" which divides the student body into an Upper and Lower Division instead of into the usual four classes. Under this plan students advance, not on the basis of credits or time spent, but on their educational achievement, which makes it possible for students to complete courses at a rate of speed in direct proportion to their ability and ambition. This Achievement Plan for Graduation individualizes the curriculum and restores the spirit of adventure to higher education.

The third new achievement of Rollins is economic rather than academic. Three years ago the trustees, on President's Holt's recommendation, introduced the "Unit-Cost Plan", under which all students who can afford to do so are asked to pay the actual cost of a year's education at Rollins, which thus releases all the income from endowment, to help those of high promise who need financial aid.

The "New Rollins" when completed will be limited to 500 students, one hundred more than the present space will accommodate. The campus of 45 acres has been charted to provide exactly the buildings and equipment for a student body of 500. Five buildings of the New Rollins have already been completed in the colorful Mediterranean architecture which will be used throughout. These include Rollins dormitory for men, Pugsley and Mayflower for women, the lovely Annie Russell Theatre presented by Mrs. Edward Bok, and the Knowles Memorial Chapel, presented by Frances Knowles Warren in memory of her father, who gave the first Knowles Hall fifty years ago. This beautiful chapel was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, the noted ecclesiastical architect, in Spanish Gothic, and is considered one of the three most beautiful structures in Florida. Mrs. Homer

Gage, another daughter of Francis B. Knowles, has been a generous benefactor of the Chapel, having donated the majestic Skinner organs and the magnificent bronze work of the chancel.

(Continued next week)

## CHERRY GROVE

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Pendleton visited a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Dick Sewell at Vandeleur. Messrs. Ran, and Jack Bradley were in Chesley on business on Thursday last.

Through a misunderstanding between reporter and editor an item in last week's news should have read "Mr. W. E. Bradey celebrated his 6— birthday" instead of 60th. Although Ed. is still one of the boys he is a few years past the 60 mark.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cherry spent last Wednesday with New England friends.

Mr. Mitchell Harvey was at Blantyre and Meaford last Friday and Saturday on business.

The measles are still prevalent in this locality.

A large number of folks from here attended the shower at George Wyville's at Rosedale on Friday night in honor of his son, Everett, and his winsome wife. The weather and roads were all that could be desired. Messrs. Albert Fawcett and Lloyd Harvey each took a sleigh load. Everyone reports a swell time with lots of good music and callers, which go to make a real dance go round and round.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bowler spent a day last week at Walters Falls with Mrs. Bowler's mother, Mrs. Seabrooke. Mrs. Seabrooke has suffered a slight stroke but we are glad to report she is on the mend again.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rolt and Mr. W. E. Bradey visited on Thursday with Mr. and Mrs. Carman Caswell and attended the Guild meeting there.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rolt spent the week-end with Mrs. Rolt's sister and husband near Meaford.

Miss Elda Ward visited on Sunday at Mr. Roy Bowler's.



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"Goodbye!  
...don't forget to  
TELEPHONE"

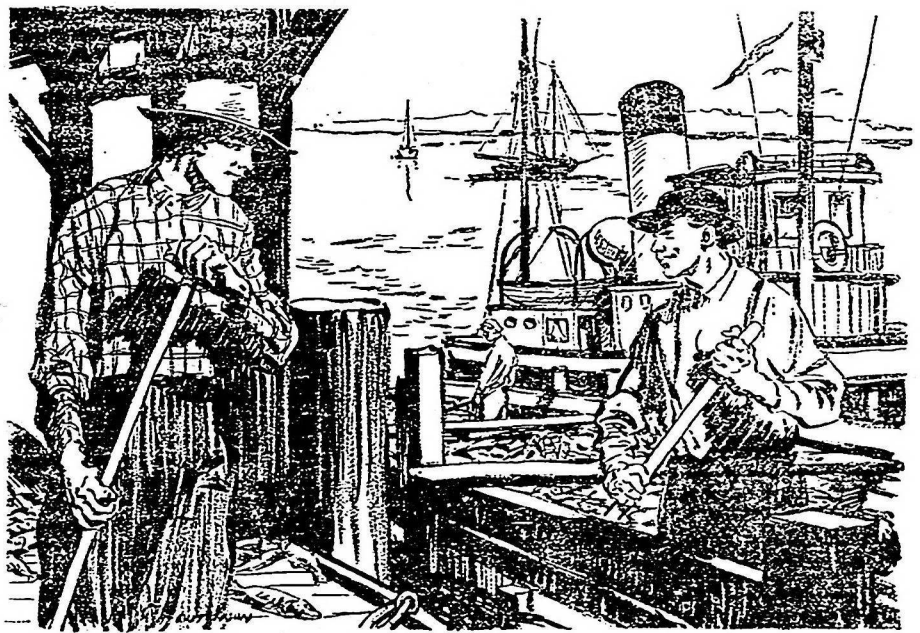
Let the telephone take the sting out of "goodbyes". It's so easy and inexpensive to send your voice winging back home or to friends you have just been visiting. It's almost like being with them again.

Just ask the Long Distance operator about rates as soon as you arrive. You will find them surprisingly low.

On both "Anyone" and "Person-to-Person" calls, Low Night rates apply after 7 p.m. and Low Week-end rates ALL DAY SUNDAY.



# Have You Renewed?



## CANADIANS AND THEIR INDUSTRIES—AND THEIR BANK

### FISHERIES

JIM: "Bill, do you ever get tired of handling fish, fish, fish, all the time?"

BILL: "Yes, Jim, but it helps me to keep goin' when I think of the thousands of folks we're helpin' to feed!"

JIM: "That's right—fish is important and we're in a fine big business."

BILL: "Wasn't always big, though. The Chief was tellin' me the other day about how this company started. It seems funny, now. He and his partner figured they would do a whole lot better if they could keep their bait fresh for all-year fishin'. They went to the Bank of Montreal and borrowed on their personal securities to build a cold storage plant. Of course, they soon paid back the loan, because a lot of folks saw what a good thing this business was goin' to be and bought stock in the company. Now look at the business!"

But the Chief admitted to me, confidentially, of course, that if it hadn't been for the Bank of Montreal, they couldn't have succeeded, and he said it was the same way with a lot of the other fishery concerns."

JIM: "A good story, Bill, and I know it's true, because the Chief told me, too. I reckon he tells 'most everybody, because he likes to talk about his Bank. It's my Bank, too. I have a savings account there."

BILL: "Have you, Jim? So have I."

Some of the Bank's services to the Fishing Industry and its employees: Business chequing accounts; financing of shipments; commercial loans; trade and credit information, safekeeping of securities; savings accounts; money orders; travellers cheques; banking by mail.

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