

**Chatting...**

with M. H. B.

**DID YOU KNOW** that we won't be having Easter as early again until the year 2008? We were in a local clothing store Saturday afternoon, when the rush for new spring finery wasn't particularly noticeable. And no wonder. Outside the snow was being whirled into a regular blizzard by a piercing March wind. But as we said, it is unusually early for Easter, and there will be plenty of nice weather in store for us yet.

**THE OTHER DAY** we were reading a woman's magazine, and there was one article that made us smile — a little guiltily, perhaps. The authoress was welcoming spring with a great deal of enthusiasm, translating the time-honoured exhilaration into a real binge of housecleaning. After telling us at length of all tasks she had accomplished and giving hints on the correct method to use — she ended the article by saying "The March winds are sweeping the earth clean, and I am swooping through the house like a sea gull!" Ho-hum... spring-fever... Gad, what energy! Maybe the odd person does feel like a sea-gull when she's housecleaning... We have our doubts...

**AFTER LIVING** in town for two years, in the house on Charles Street, owned by her late parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. S. Douglas, John and Elaine moved back to Toronto today. Since moving here Mr. Douglas and son John, a student at Lawrence Park Collegiate, have commuted to the city every day, so that they will find living in the city much more convenient. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas have bought a home in the Lawrence Park district on Dawlish Avenue. Elaine will be attending Blythwood Public School. The new owners of the Douglas house, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Townsend, moved here on Wednesday. Mrs. Townsends parents will make their home with their daughter. Both families formerly lived in Toronto.

**WE HAD** thought that the acute housing situation had eased somewhat, here and in Glen Williams. However, a recent classified ad for a "House for Rent" in Glen Williams, brought no fewer than thirty-six inquiries. It came as a surprise to the owner of the house too... Reading of the future expansion of the A. V. Roe Company, Malton, and of what it will mean to the growth of our neighbouring town, Brampton, couldn't help wondering what effect it will have on Georgetown. Probably, to a much lesser degree, the same. We have never discussed it with anyone who might tell us the answer, but it has always seemed odd to us that the community of Malton itself, does not grow to accommodate the thousands of workers at A. V. Roe who now commute. When the big plant was first established, we expected to see Malton mushroom into a large town — but for some reason unknown to us — it just hasn't happened.

**SO MANY** readers told us they enjoyed reading the letter Mrs. Dave Saxe wrote us from New York, when she and her husband spent a week there in the fall, were happy to say we have another interesting "travelogue" for Mr. and Mrs. Saxe have been back from their holiday in St. Petersburg, Florida, for a couple of weeks now. While they were down south, however, Mrs. Saxe wrote us a letter which we're including in "Chatting" just as written (Incidentally — the Saxes beat the letter home. It was mailed via air mail from St. Petersburg on Wednesday and they arrived home also by air, on Saturday. The letter reached us on Monday.) Here it is:

Dear Mary:

"We are having simply gorgeous weather — even the natives are surprised, but I'm not, as it is just what I expected. The temperature goes up to 82 degrees or so in the daytime and down to 65 degrees or so at night. There is always a balmy breeze from the Gulf of Mexico and the swimming is very nice. The water is quite green today, sometimes it's blue and at other times rather dark — very changeable.

When we got off the plane at Tampa, after a short five hour ride, it was lovely to see the people in their summer togs. And, of course I was intrigued with the palm trees. All over the place, like the maples at home. Besides all the beautiful flowers — hibiscus, flaming vines, azaleas, all so very colourful. We drove from the airport to a hotel in Tampa and saw oranges and grapefruit growing along the way and began to feel that we were really in Florida. The lobby of the hotel had baskets of tangerines and oranges for people to help themselves and in the morning gave free glasses of orange juice. After spending the night in Tampa we drove over to St. Petersburg, found this beautiful spot (Hotel Arvilla) on the Gulf of Mexico and have been living this lazy life for the past

week and a half. There are people from all over the States — New York, Michigan, Minnesota, etc. and I'm constantly amazed at how little they know about Canada. It's quite a common thing to have them say "We know so-and-so in Montreal, Winnipeg or some far away place—do you know them?" Another lady told her husband we were from Ontario, not Georgetown. He said Ontario was a state therefore we could be from both places!

**WE WERE** invited to a... shall I say? tea party, last night at our host's and they had a couple there just passing thru' from Palm Beach. The woman must belong to Cafe Society at its best! She knows the lad who is supposedly trifling with Wally Simpson's (Duchess of Windsor) affections — think's he's a dear boy and just loves him! even tho' she (the Duchess) is old enough to be his mother! She had been to a dinner in Palm Beach for 85 — not a buffet, mind you! The centre piece had been real grass and flowers growing and the food and wines were fabulous. She has been everywhere and seen everything and was very interesting. She told us about

Billy Bishop — Canada's ace flyer of World War I, how he almost drowned in the undertow at Palm Beach. She told us three times they drove a Lincoln Cosmopolitan — I gather it means something, but just what, I can't quite figure. Her husband is a colonel, but Dave thought he looked more like a lap dog! You probably know the type.

**BACK TO THE** scenery — the buildings here are the prettiest I've ever seen. Most of them pastels... pinks, greens, blues and white — all with pretty trims. They look so clean and new. Land on this island is very expensive — you can buy a lot next door to this hotel for \$400 a foot! This part of the state is becoming very popular as Miami is so crowded. So many people stopping here are saying it's much nicer than Miami as it's not so over-run with people and they like the climate better.

The city of St. Petersburg seems like an old city and is famous for its green benches. All the streets have the green benches in front of the stores. They are well used by people waiting for people and others just resting.

**EVERYONE DOWN** here plays shuffleboard. All the hotels, motels and guest homes have a court and nearly everybody tries the game sooner or later. It's not too strenuous and good fun. At this time all the big league ball clubs are training here in St. Petersburg.

**THE SUN IS** playing tricks on us. Sunday night quite a storm blew up — wind and rain, thunder and lightning. In fact some parts have even had snow. We have spent the last two days anxiously watching a small fishing boat that was obviously in trouble in the Gulf. It was anchored about 200 yards off the beach and had two men in it. An airplane came over and could do nothing and then a helicopter tried, but could do nothing either, so there they stayed. I felt sorry for them as they must have been very cold and hungry. The boat is gone today so I presume things are under control. But the weather is definitely sweeter weather and the sun is only half trying to shine. Lucky we got our suntan when we arrived because it's impossible to sit in bathing suits today."

We might add that the distaff side of the family really did acquire a suntan. It was somewhat painfully acquired tho, because, unaccustomed as they were to a tropic sun, they found after suffering bad sunburns, that even an hour out in the sun down there, is quite too much at one time. Apparently you are not even aware of getting a burn, until too late... A tip for other some-day southern vacationists to remember!

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**Beautiful Easter Music At St. John's Service**  
St. John's United Church was beautifully decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday. Easter lilies were provided by the Woman's Association and bouquets in memoriam were placed to the memory of Mrs. A. Ruddy by the family, to the memory of Mrs. Sarah Cole by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kentner and to the memory of Mr. A. Denham by his parents, wife and family.

Morning worship was based on the themes "Christ is Risen" and "The Fellowship of the Resurrection." The choir under the leadership of Mr. Norman Laird provided suitable Easter music. The anthem was entitled "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" and the chorus by the combined choirs was "This Joyful Easter." The Junior Choir sang "Thy House Forever" and Miss JoAnn Ruddy of North Bay sang "This is my Father's World."

The evening worship was based on the account of the Disciples of the Emmaus Road and was presented in scripture, poem, hymn and meditation. Miss Isobel Dobson accompanied the congregational singing at the piano.



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