

REV. F. C. STIFLER TELLS OF JOURNEY TO EUROPE

(Continued from Page 41)

Americans eat too much meat anyhow. If there is anything that needs redeeming about tourist third, the trick is turned by the company you have. What a delightful group it is, mostly people whose wealth is in their heads rather than in their pockets. On the way over they probably know more about the lands they are to visit than any other class on the boat. On the way back they probably would be found to be planning to do more good with what they learned than any other group.

On the return trip I noticed fully fifty Phi Beta Kappa keys among our six hundred. I became casually acquainted with possibly 100 people, and only one of them was not engaged in some intellectual pursuit, he was the manager of a grocery store, a really great calling, all admit. And he sang in a Church choir—modesty forbids me to mention the denomination.

Among these intellectuals, there were agnostics and fundamentalists, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics but they were thinkers. They were also normal Americans on an outing. Two thirds of our passenger list were women. One said as he looked at them, "Here is American womanhood at its best." Yet how they did smoke. Yes, how. That is just it. Like novices, holding the cigarette in the middle of their lips and puffing it out like a locomotive of the DeWitt Clinton type. The day the boat rolled and pitched, not one of them smoked.

I fell into conversation with one young woman, who without knowing anything about me, told me of her ac-

tivities in a certain church whose pastor is an old friend of mine. She both smoked and drank liquor in my presence. I suppose it was pure cussedness on my part, but before we were through, I unveiled myself and told her how well I knew her pastor. She turned pale, and implored me to never tell all I had seen of her life on deck. She feared she would lose her job as head in the children's division of the great public library, and knew of course, that she would then have to give up her class of darling kiddies in the Sunday School.

Of course I'll never tell. But I believe that there was much smoking and drinking among the tourists that belongs to vacation days only.

We had wonderful times playing together. Our program of deck sports brought half the second class cabin sneaking through the canvass barrier from their deck. Oh, how they wished they might have as good a time together. And our so-called concerts in the dining room. I shall never forget the Y. M. C. A. secretary with his number thirteen foot who played the part of Cinderella, riding off the "stage" in a chariot consisting of an unadorned trunk truck.

If one wants to be fussy, there is plenty to complain about in the tourist third cabin. Five bathtubs for 600 people, and all located in one spot: no call button in the room, only three lady stewards, crowded social rooms, yes, lots to criticize, but Columbus had a harder time, and the Pilgrim Fathers, and the A. E. F. and no one of these had more delightful traveling companions. I would commend the tourist third to everyone except those who cannot climb stairs, those who suffer from stomach disorders, those who have a keen and irritating sense of smell, and those who are unusually susceptible to seasickness.

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 Rev. Joseph H. Taylor, assistant pastor

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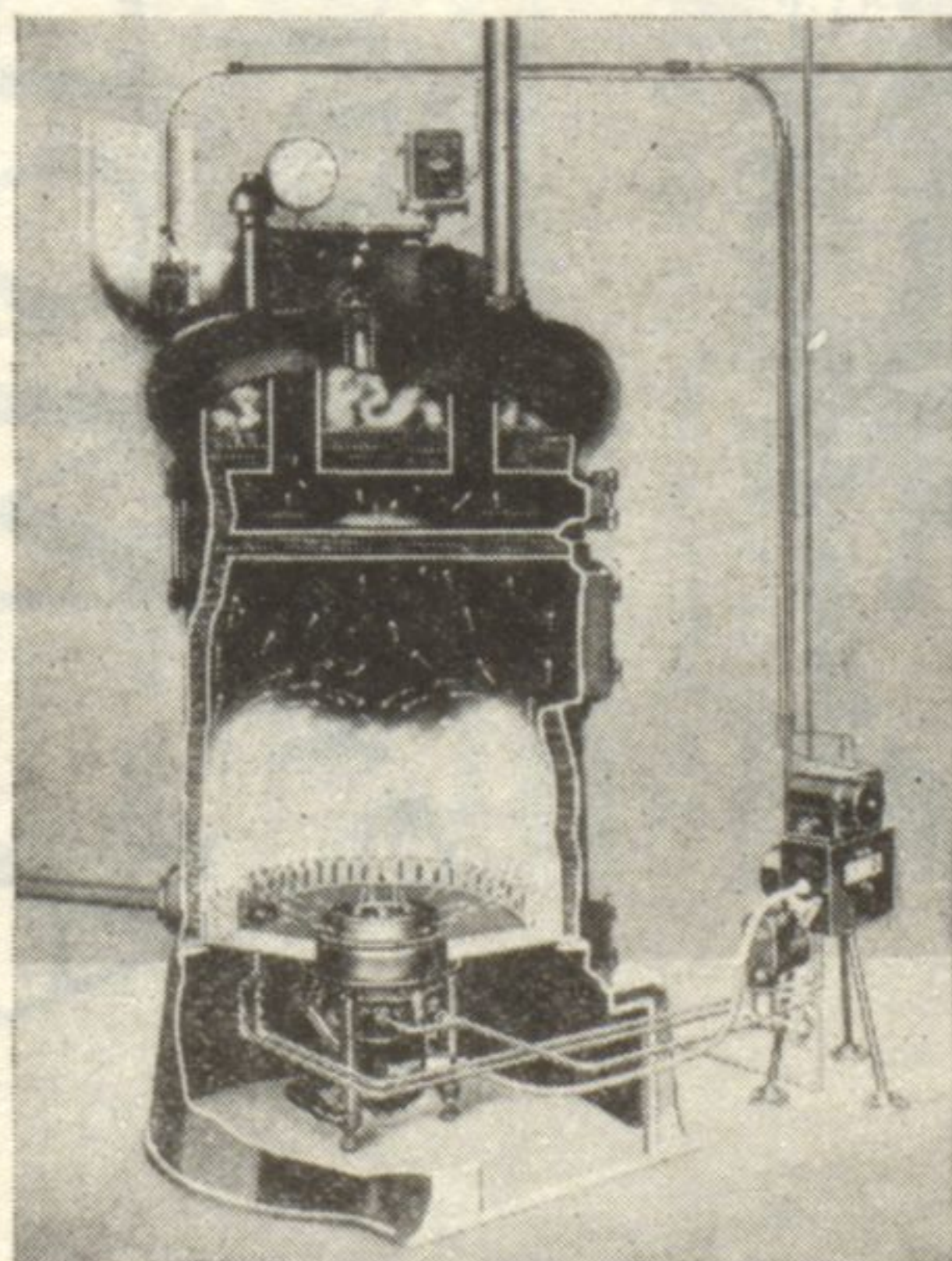


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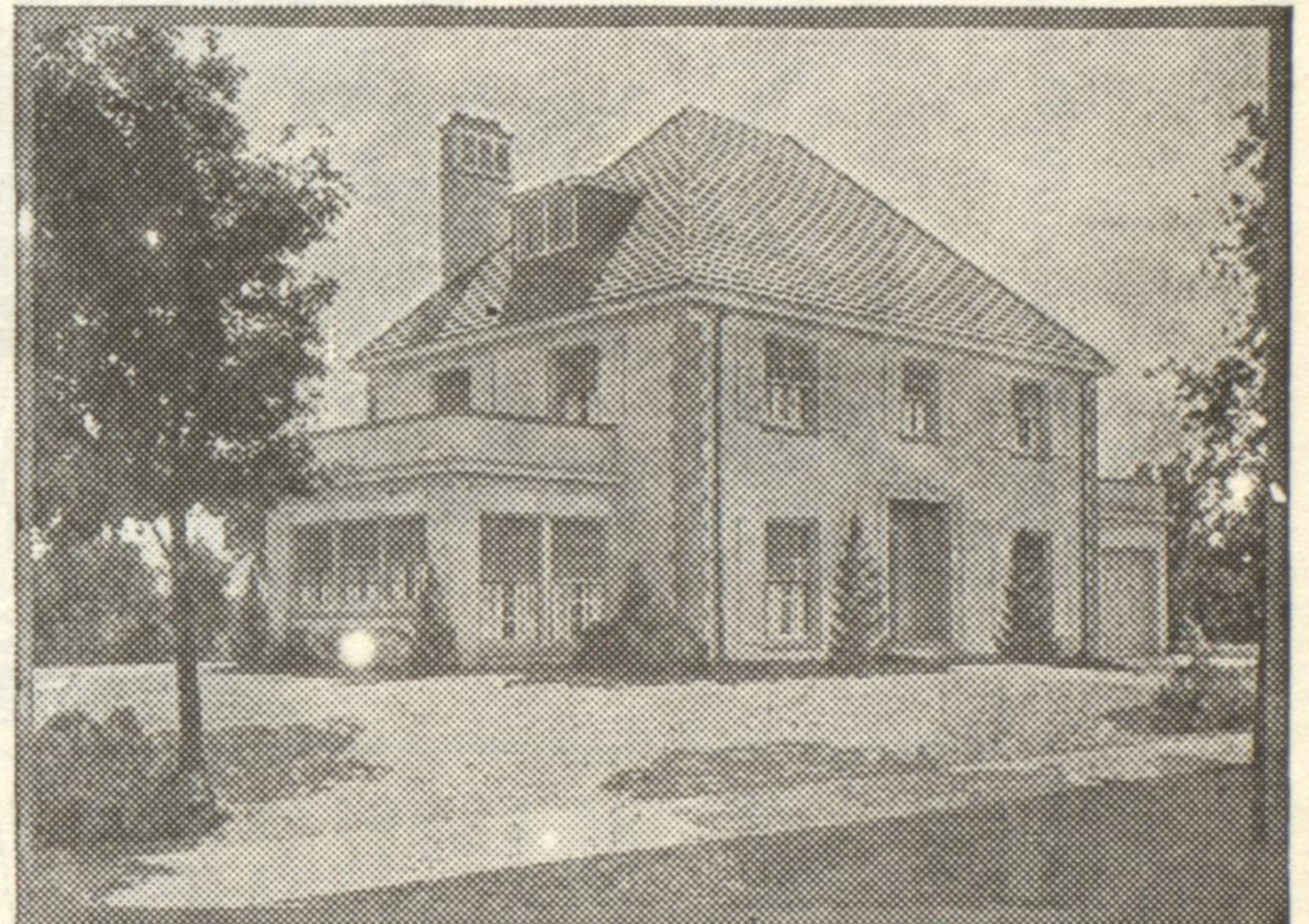


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