

The International Voice

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The International House Program

Jacksonville State College

Jacksonville, Alabama

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A WORLD OF LOVE IN A LITTLE PLACE

Editor's Note: The following article comes to the International Voice from Raquel Nodal of Havana, Cuba, who was in the Program for two years (1949-'51). Raquel visited Jacksonville during the past summer. She is now teaching in her home town.

If anybody can tell the World, and it must be said, what The International House Program is at Jacksonville College in Alabama, it is I, and like me, all the students who have lived and worked in the Program, and put in it a little of their best.

I had the honor and joy of being the first Spanish speaking student at the International House. When I decided to come to Jacksonville I did not know much about the International House, and nothing about the College, the people or the place. Dr. Jones had written me some letters about an idea of promoting understanding among the people; I liked this idea and, as I was wanting to learn English at the time, I joined the Program.

I could never realize what a treasure this opportunity was going to mean for me. As the time passes I recognize more of the great thing that happened to me when I was invited to participate in one of the most needed kinds of programs in the World today.

On my way from Miami to Jacksonville, Alabama, for the first time I felt as a foreigner in a paradise of beauty. But this paradise was empty for me because, all the way through, I was not able to speak English. The only thing which I made understood in the cafeterias was "Ham Sandwich and coffee". Right at that moment I began to realize what a needed thing "Understanding" is, even in the minor things of life. This paradise, though, to my astonishment, became completely full when I arrived at a place,

just as big in friendliness and love and understanding as it was little in size: Jacksonville, Alabama. It seemed as if everybody there had been inspired by the spirit of the International House Program.

I found so many lovable and thoughtful people - at the College, at the Church, at the stores and everywhere - who wanted to help me and do things for me. I could not afford to feel as a foreigner any longer. But most of all I found a real father and a wonderful mother in Dr. and Mrs. Jones, the promoters and sponsors of the Program. They showed patience, love and care all the time, by forgiving me when I did something wrong, and being as proud as parents are when their child does something good. I found also true sisters among the American girls. How could I ever forget Betty Morgan, Julia Brumbelon and so many other girls within the Program or from the College who were so nice, so sweet and so ready to help. I do not want to fail mentioning how my teachers at the College went a long way beyond their duty in helping me with my broken English and my lack of understanding of the language. I could go on and on mentioning kindness and love shown to me everywhere I went.

I knew I had done nothing to deserve all this expression of love, it was given to me graciously and abundantly without the least thought of receiving anything in return, but I can tell now that my friends spared no efforts, and they knew how to sow seeds deep within the heart.

Jacksonville is, for me, like my own country and its people are as my own. Even if they forget me I will not forget them. For it is easier to forget what you give than to forget what you receive. Seldom passes a day in which I do not mention or talk about something that is related to Alabama and to its people, either to my pupils, my family or my friends. I am always happy

when my telephone rings and find out that it is an Alabamian who needs me or just wants to say "Hello" to me. I really welcome anything I can do to assist.

By working with you, living with you and feeling as if I were one of you, I learned to appreciate and love your ways of living and your ways of thinking. I have come to understand Americans more than ever before. Now I know really what you are and why you act the way you do. Now I am able not only to appreciate your natural beauties which are as perfect as drawn by the hand of our own Creator, but I can also see through your daily activities, your worries, your anxieties and your goals, the real heart of a Christian country that strives to approach the ways of the Lord through the practice of the teaching of Jesus Christ. I sincerely admire you.

I am very grateful for the knowledge which I obtained during my two years at Jacksonville College. Actually, I am getting a good advantage of it. Just a few days ago, on the 14th of October, the first Protestant University in Latin America was inaugurated. It has been established because of the constant efforts, the faith and enthusiasm of the most dynamic Methodist preacher in Cuba, Dr. Carlos Perez, who is at the same time President of Candler College and President of Candler University. I was conferred the honor of belonging to the faculty of this new university which, I dare say, is one of the most outstanding institutions of the kind of all Americas. I owe this honor to Jacksonville College. I am also teaching at the Commercial Department at Candler College. I owe it mostly to Jacksonville College too.

What I appreciate most from the International House Program is not only the education that I obtained there or the opportunity of knowing a great and beautiful country like the United States or so many other opportunities that were offered to me, but the widening of my mind to the realization of another world unknown to me. At the International House we learned a new philosophy of life that can only be obtained by living with peoples of other countries,

by measuring and comparing our own thinking, our reactions and our ways of living, by appreciating and exchanging good to increase our own accomplishments in abundance of living and raise levels of conduct. In this program, we learned to forgive mistakes and weaknesses of others so that, disregarding the small human differences in ways and customs, we could join all together in a spiritual fraternity of love and understanding.

If this kind of spirit could be extended to all nations and all parts of the world we would be able to live in a peaceful world where love and understanding among the people would not permit that anyone be in want or helpless, and this could be a world in which the preaching of Jesus Christ would become effective in every human heart ; then, the men would see the answer to the Lord's Prayer : "Thy Kindom come".

Places like the International House of Jacksonville,Alabama, are like lights that send their beams through the conscience of men who try to build a better and more brilliant future for humanity. Places like this one have to have the sympathy and cooperation of all persons who really have love in their hearts for mankind and are really planters of goodwill and peace upon the Earth.

A ROSARY OF DAYS

Note : On the occasion of the New Year the International House received this poem from Mrs. Eithylle Wright Neill, President of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Neill has always been one of the most faithful supporters of the International House Program.

As we turn the page to a new group of days,
A challenge to us is hurled ;
Will each of us sing a new Hymn of Praise
At the end, - Peace in the world ?

It is ours to make it whatever we will ;
Each in our own little sphere,
Our Faith can move mountains, go on or stand still.
What will we do with this year ?

Dear Lord, Thy gift is a Rosary of Days,
May each one be counted for Thee,
Give us Faith that Thou wilt direct all our ways
Through this year. O Lord let it be !

FRIENDSHIP

The following poem was sent also by Mrs. Neill
on another occasion.

IF THE wealth of the Indies I possessed,
With new grandeur added each day ;
Still the richest gem in my treasure chest
Would be Friendship we shared on the way !

NO matter how long or dark is the way
That leads to the journey's end,
It will always brighten the darkest day
Just knowing you are my Friend !

THERE is only one thing in this world apart,
That can equal your Friendship true,
And that is deeply enshrined in my heart,
Tis the Friendship I have for you !

Our Activities

By Isaac Goldfield

The Christmas vacation, the final examinations and the registration days, restricted our activities greatly this month. Still we had time to hold one of our meetings, in which we discussed the important problem : "The Role of The Woman in The Countries we represent". The discussion was very disputed as we dealt with equality of rights.

Very shortly after this we all took off for our vacation and here is in brief how each of us spent his time.-

As usual, thanks to Mr. Hughey and the kindness of Rotary clubs, two groups went to Florida as guests. The first of these groups went to Tampa, Sarasota and St Augustine. It was composed of Hanspeter Gut, Switzerland ; Carmen Leonori, Spain ; Denis Payne, Ireland and Maria Guimaraes, Brazil, and was headed by Hanspeter. The second group, led by Martin Broadbent from England, and composed of Aida Ferrarrone, Peru ; Marie-Paule Simon, Belgium and Genevieve Aurousseau, France, journeyed to Fort-Myers, Naples, Fort Myers Beach and Winter Haven.

Some of us had other plans. Tomiko Sato, Japan, wanted to visit some friends and family, so she travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio. She says she enjoyed herself greatly. Kooros Hemmati of Iran visited Troy and Montgomery.

During the Christmas vacation, a Presbyterian Youth Convention was held in Lexington, Kentucky, in which some of the members of the International House participated : Rosalio Wences, Mexico ; Tomiko Sato, Japan ; Sergio-Lerda Olberg, Italy ; Mohammed Boutaleb, Morocco and Frank Sprayberry, Trion, Georgia.

Some of the people who attended the Convention still managed to find time to do something else. Mohammed worked in Gadsden and spent two days in Nashville, Sergio worked in Sears and Roebuck and visited friends, Rosalio worked in Gadsden as a salesman.

Some of our American members had a good time too. Erin Woodruff, from Alexandria, Alabama, spent a few days in New Orleans. She was lucky enough to attend The Sugar Bowl, and to visit the races.

Marianne Shelton, from Jacksonville, stayed with some friends in New-York, and came back engaged ! Congratulations Marianne !!

As for myself, I went to visit some friends in St Petersburg, Florida. I had the most wonderful time.

Some of our members graduated this semester, they are : Rowe Hudson from DeArmanville, Alabama, and Weyman Trayler, Gadsden, Alabama.

These are the headlines of the past month, now we are already planning for the one ahead of us.

Christmas Vacations in Northern Florida

By Hanspeter Gut

Our first stay in Florida was at historical St. Augustine. In our fourteen-hour bus-ride down there we passed through the "BIG JACKSONVILLE". In St. Augustine, which is the oldest settlement in the U.S.A. and a sightseers' paradise, we visited different museums, the old Spanish castle and the "Oldest House". We also enjoyed visiting the world famous Marine Studios, where Maria got the chance to feed the jumping porpoises and to earn an authentic certificate of a Marineland-Jumpmaster ! I almost forgot to mention the Alligator Farm and the Mystery-House : two real experiences.

We gave a program for the St. Augustine Rotary Club and also had a meeting with the Episcopal youth group.

After three days in St. Augustine the Greyhound carried us across the state to Sarasota, where we had the wonderful surprise of staying at the Gulf and Bay Club on the island "Siesta Key". Our cottage was right on the Gulf of Mexico ! At the end of our program the Rotary Club of Sarasota presented us with electric shavers. Our girls were especially surprised, because they had to get acquainted with the idea of "lady shavers"...

Thursday, Dec 19, we visited the Rotary Club of Venice. This was an evening meeting where all the Rotary Anns were invited, and everybody really seemed to enjoy our contribution. We stayed in Venice for one night and made some good friends.

Back in Sarasota we were guests of the Sunshine Springs Water Circus. This waterski-show has everything : Even an elephant appears on water-skis ! After the show, one of the champions gave us instruction in water-skiing. All of us tried and all of us skied- mostly submarine style ! That evening we were guests of an amateur

radio fan. Although we could not contact our native countries, we enjoyed carrying on a German conversation with a radio fan in Austria.

We left Sarasota Sunday afternoon after a delicious barbecue steak. We stayed in Bradenton for two days and gave a program for the Rotary Club on Monday. In the afternoon we went water-skiing - of course !

Our last "port of call" was in Tampa, where we visited the Rotary Clubs of Interbay, Dade City and Tampa. During our stay in Tampa we got to know Mr. J.C. Hughey, who has arranged this Christmas vacation for the International House students for the last eight years. He was very kind and helpful and we all are thankful to him.

We spent a very enjoyable Christmas Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs Kelton, the sister of Mrs Jones. Also in Tampa we went waterskiing and swimming - Skiing on one ski by the way, since we had become real champions by that time ! We visited one of the great citrus plants where we saw high pressure jets of orange juice flowing out of big pipes !

One morning, Mr. Farnell called us and said :
"Today you are my guests. Well, put on your Blue Jeans and boots, because we are going out into the country !" He took us to his beautiful Lake Ranch where we had a big time. We rode on horseback, picked oranges and went hunting. Carmen says that she shot two birds ! We also went water-skiing, although Mr. Farnell had told us for sure that there were alligators in the lake !

Cypress Gardens were a paradise. First we admired the beauty of nature, and soon afterwards we saw a breathtaking water-ski-show. One evening we were guests of Mr. and Mrs Hartmann, Mr. Hartman, a retired actor, is 84 years old, but I have never seen anybody as energetic and young in spirit as him.

On New Year's Eve we went to parties and all of us had a good start for 1958. But soon, much too soon, our vacation was over, and we had to leave. We rode on the bus all night and arrived in Jacksonville at 7 a. m., Jan. 2 : exactly in time for breakfast and the first class at 8 o'clock ... This surely was an abrupt change ; from sunshine and waterskis to Bibb Graves and the Library !

Vacation is over, but often we think back, look at our pictures and say to each other : "It was great in Florida, it was absolutely great ! "

"True eloquence consists in saying all that is necessary, and nothing but what is necessary"

La Rochefoucauld.

"We have all of us sufficient fortitude to bear the misfortunes of others."

La Rochefoucauld.

Christmas Vacations in Southern Florida

By Aida Ferrarone

For the second successive year, four of the foreign students spent nineteen days at Christmas as the guests of Fort Myers, Naples, Fort Myers Beach, and Winter Haven Rotary Clubs. The students were Genevieve Aourousseau from France, Marie-Paule Simon from Belgium, Martin Broadbent from England and myself.

The vacation started with a twenty four hour bus journey to Fort Myers, where we were met by Rotarians and the President of the High School Student Council. We spent four very enjoyable days in Fort Myers, giving a program for thirteen hundred in the High School auditorium - an experience that we shall remember for the rest of our lives: a radio program on the local net-work, a steak roast, and of course we met many people.

We moved from Fort Myers to Naples where we tried our hand at water skiing and the Europeans experienced their first picnic on a palm fringed key. Our host here was rotarian from New York. When we asked him what he was doing in Naples he replied, "My business only keeps me in New York for the six summer months". His business - an ice-cream merchant. We had a most successful program with the Rotarians and their wives at an evening party.

It was now time to move again - this time to Fort Myers Beach. We girls lived in a cottage that was part of a motel and Martin stayed with the Episcopal Minister. Here we went fishing, skiing, swimming in the Gulf of Mexico and generally relaxed and had a good time.

After three days we returned to Fort Myers for Christmas, giving a program for the Rotary Club and appearing on a television show, besides going to parties, dances, and having a 'ball'.

The day after Christmas we moved on again, this time to Winter Haven, the center of the citrus belt and city of a hundred lakes. Here we saw Cypress Gardens, Bok Tower, and the Great Masterpiece: water skiing became even more popular. We returned to Tampa after the New Year where Mr. Hughey showed us around the city.

I find my English inadequate to describe what a fabulous vacation this was, one we shall always remember, one where Rotarians showed true kindness, a vacation that was so strenuous we needed a rest at the end of it, a vacation where the sun shone down day after day, a vacation where we met many interesting people, a vacation that was truly great.

On Islam

By Mohammed Boutaleb

In the sixth century of the Christian Era, in the hot desert of Arabia, a boy was born posthumously and soon lost his mother. Mohammed, as he was named, was raised by a nurse and later by a well-to-do uncle and grew up among a community of Jews, Christians and Pagans. His poverty led him to find employment with a travelling caravan until he worked for a wealthy lady whom he later married.

Because of his sincere belief in the Mosaic and Christian standards, Mohammed was very serious and honest in his daily living. The Judo-Christian tradition affected his thinking so much that he devoted regular hours everyday for meditation. Somehow or other he could not help but ponder with regret over the shameful activities in which his fellow citizens engaged despite the ethical teachings already in existence. "What could be done ?" might have been the question which occupied his mind. It was thus, that, during a quiet evening of meditation, a voice seemed to come out of the mountain near which he was seated. The voice, claiming to be that of Angel Gabriel, appointed him by a divine order, to serve as a prophet in propagating what had come in the Books of Moses and Abraham. More and more revelations came down to the prophet, all of which were destined to constitute the Holy Scripture of the Koran,

The most important fundamentals which every Moslem is required to follow are those called the "Five Pillars of Islam". The first principle is a mere statement of the creed which goes, "I testify that there is no god but Allah (God), and that Mohammed is his prophet and Servant". The second one deals with the prayer to God. From the age of seven, every Moslem is required to pray five times a day at regular hours : morning, noon, afternoon, sunset and late in the evening. The prayers are preceded by a cleansing process or ablutions performed in a definite order.

This consists of rinsing three times the hands, the mouth, the nose, the face and the arms up to the elbows, and once the ears, the head and the feet up to the ankles.

Verses are quoted from the Qur'an during each prayer. All worshippers face the same direction, the Kaaba, which is located in Mecca. Although the place of worship - the mosque - is open all day, there is no requirement about attending the daily services. One can pray wherever the due time finds him. However, the Sabbath service - Friday noon - is attended by the majority.

The third principle requires every adult to fast a month which, according to the Moslem calendar, is called Ramadan. Two meals only are permitted, one before dawn and one after sundown. A complete abstinence of food and inaction is imposed. There are cases in which a person can be excused from the duty, among which are long journeys and serious sickness. The fourth principle, called "Zakat", expects each independent individual, and possessor of capital, to give out a yearly contribution for the support of the poor people or beneficial projects in the community. The fifth principle is the pilgrimage to the Holy Land and birthplace of Islam. This can be done only if it is within the possibilities of the practisant, physically, financially or otherwise.

These are, one might say, the initial characteristics of a Moslem. However, there are also ethical principles which are supposed to control every activity or relationship, whether in family life, in politics, in business or in mere conversation, such as sincerity, honesty, respect, humility, patience, forgiveness, temperance, and others which are stressed as much as in other faiths.

From the contacts a Moslem may have with non-Moslem circles, especially Western, he can easily notice some misconceptions about Islam, of which the most obvious one would be that concerning polygamy. It is true that apparently a man is allowed to marry as many as four wives at one time. But what if we study the Koranic statement and compare it with its immediate application ?

The laws governing marriage and divorce are the strictest ones to face, particularly by the husband. Actually Islam did not by any means enforce polygamy which before had been predominant and was practiced without any regulation. On the contrary, it stiffened it by laying down limitations and austere rules. A man who desires to take more than one wife must have, in addition to an adequate financial basis, a fair sense of equality and justice in sharing himself. But because of the impossible fulfillment of these prerequisites, Islam advises monogamy which is the most common practice among Moslems today.

In divorce, although a man seems to have more valid rights than those of a woman, his responsibilities are heavier. He must support his ex-wife at least for three months during which she is required to remain un-married. He also must take care of his children, should he have any. After three consecutive divorces a couple can re-unite only if the woman is divorced from a second marriage.

Of all the conceptions which Islam holds about man, the worth of the individual is by far the most striking. Supposedly endowed with all the abilities to live a regulated life, man is fully responsible for the execution of all duties - religious or others - without any control but his own. Besides, he is even given the right to apply his will and reasoning to suit his conditions.

Non-Moslems may undoubtedly ask the question : "How does Islam look on other religions ?" Being the last monotheistic religion revealed, it is only natural that Islam may be considered by the Moslems as the carrier of a complete and pure worth of the universe. Islam considers as humans and prophets all those who intervene on earth in the name of God, such as Abraham, Moses, Christ and Mohammed. In spite of a determined conviction of truth in general, Islam still shows "tolerance" toward other faiths, recognizing the difference of peoples and beliefs. To those of other faiths a Moslem is supposed to answer in case of challenge : "You have your faith and I have mine".

"AUVERGNE"

- A land of old traditions -

By Genevieve Aurousseau

If one day you want to linger in a small inn where the cabbage soup and the "tripou" (made of rolled lamb tripe) are a delight, where the wine is good and the cheese too, take the route that leads to the central part of France, the Massif Central, called "Auvergne".

Geologically, it is the oldest volcanic region of France. The volcanoes, which have been dormant for a long time, stretch from the north to the south and dominate the region. Some are dome-shaped, others have crumbled and have been filled by lakes. Auvergne is the "water-tower" of France. Among all the watering-places, Vichy is the most famous.

The scenery is strange and varied : eroded mountains (between 1,500 and 4,000 feet high), high plateaux, agricultural plains and their industrial towns.

In the southern part of Auvergne, the valleys slope down. They are bordered by a rugged landscape covered by pastures and limestone plateaux called the "Causses" the soil of which is rocky, dry and meagre, and where only sheep can survive. It is a forsaken region where nature is inhospitable. Those barren plateaux are cut by roaring rapids into deep canyons, and the underground streams have formed many caverns and grottoes with hanging stalactites and stalagmites.

The main resources are agricultural : breeding of oxen and cows, culture of chestnut-trees, potatoes and corn. It is the home-land of strawberries, sheep and Roquefort.

Every morning one can hear the cowbells of herds

climbing slowly up the slopes of the mountains, across the meadows perfumed with gentians, During the six summer months, the shepherds have the most monotonous existence that one can possibly have. Their daily work consists of milking the cows or the ewes, making the cheese and playing accordion in their small "burons" (huts).

The famous Roquefort cheese, whose processing has been known since Roman times, is made from the milk of sheep in natural caverns in the rock of the mountains, where the right temperature and humidity can be obtained for the molding and greenish coloring of the cheese. This explains why Roquefort cannot be made anywhere else.

Among the picturesque things that strike the visitor are the villages and little hamlets attached to the rock, the medieval towns which have witnessed the "Hundred Years War" and the English domination, the chateaux, their ramparts and thick portals, the twisted and narrow streets and ancient houses crowding about them, the Roman church or the chapel, the monasteries of the Middle Ages, the inns, the old bridges and the public fountains on the squares.

Auvergne is marked by tradition, a tradition made of old customs of the peasant family : it is where the heart of their life is their work, which is loved for itself ; it is where man loves the fields, to him a gift of God, which have been ploughed by his ancestors ; it is the evenings by the fire, the feast of Saint-Jean, the colorful songs and dances, the well-known "petanque" (bowling) and the local dialect. The catholic religion has greatly influenced the people, their minds and their ways of life.

The average farm is built of stone. The rooms usually have a low ceiling, the black wooden beams of which are visible. It is not unusual to find sausages and one or two hams hanging from the beams. The fireplace is the centre of the family life, especially during the autumn nights when the chestnuts are roasting on the embers. The whole atmosphere is one of friendliness, well-being and contentedness.

The men of this arid region have been following the path of their forebears for generations. They are peasants, ruddy, tanned by sun and by wind, bent by hard work in the fields. The clogmaker, the blacksmith and the carpenter are people of simple faith but not lacking in nobility.

Woman's existence is extremely hard. Not only does she have to take care of the house, of the children, to prepare the meals, but she must also help her husband in the fields. She has no time at all for leisure or for complaint.

The rare occasions of pleasure are the cattle-fairs or the village feasts which take place once a year. These are the times everyone looks forward to. The cattle-fair is an occasion which attracts the population of the surrounding towns. While men buy or sell bulls or pigs, the women go to the market, usually close to the church, to sell the products of the farm in wicker baskets. It is during the village feast that they dance the famous "Bouree". It is one of the most ancient and colorful dances of the French folklore, full of vitality and rhythm, where even the "papous" and "mamettes" (grandfathers and grandmothers) relive the gaiety of their youth in the beat of the hurdy-gurdy or accordeon.

If, to conclude, we take a look at the whole of this old rugged country, we are struck by its extreme variety in everything - in the geographical structure, the vegetation and the ~~climate~~ and by the faithfulness to traditions such as the religious cult, the family bonds and the love of the "petite patrie". But for how long will this devotion to tradition resist the outside levelling force which threatens the provincial originality and the old virtues of this land of Auvergne ?

Christmas Greetings from Alumni, Parents and Friends

Christmas 1957 was especially wonderful for the International House because, as always, we heard from many of the former students of the Program. We were indeed happy that so many people remembered us and we do, of course, have a great deal of news for you.

International House looked most attractive during the pre-Christmas weeks and the fine tree and decorations along with all your kind wishes for the festive season and 1958 made it seem all the more like home to the foreign students. The true meaning and spirit of Christmas was most apparent to all of us and in our thoughts we shared it with all of you in your respective countries. Let us take a little trip to Europe first and hear from the former students who remembered us.

First stop, Barcelona, Spain, where we heard from Maria Nieves Franques (1955-1956) and Francisca Jofre (1956-1957). Then to England, where we had a card from the first British member of International House, Margaret Dewar of Erith, Kent, who is now studying at College in Cambridge and training to be a teacher. Margaret was selected to be the scholarship girl of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs while she was in International House.

Next we travel across the English Channel to France where we heard from many of the French students who have studied in the Program. We were pleased to hear that Monique Gaillotte (1949-1950) is the proud mother of a three month old son, Pascal. Now living in Paris, she is Mme L'Huilier. We are pleased to hear that you enjoy reading the International Voice, Monique.

Odile Sawicka (1953-1954), also from Paris, writes of the teaching experience she has had teaching language in France and England. "I am only sorry" she writes, "that I cannot come and see for myself the work you have achieved in the Program since I left, but it is good to read of all the news in the International Voice".

We had a long letter from Genevieve Jeannerat (1951-1952), who is of Paris also, but who, in her work with Air-France, travels all over the world. She wrote us from New York where she was spending a few days, and which, she says, "is so big and cosmopolitan that you don't feel "at home" like you do in the deep South, and especially at International House". She tells us also that she sees many of the former students in Europe and that she will be working with an African airline early this year with a possibility of work with an American line in the spring. Thank you for your kind invitation, which you gave to all the present students, to come and see you in Paris some day, Genevieve, and also for the card which you sent us from Casablanca.

Jeanne Bonvin (1947-1948), from Paris, and who is now Mme Lovie-Bovin, writes us that she is very happy "and ... busy!" in her work with an international bureau and that her husband is working at the French Atomic Energy Centre. Jeanne says that she would love to come and visit us, as do many of the students who write us, and we think that we are going to have to have a special airline for International House so that we can all tour around and visit each other !

We also had other "Meilleurs Vœux" from France from : Mme Andree Alvernhe in Paris, who sends greetings to "the whole family"; Paul Fays (1956-1957) of Tourcoing - "God bless all of you in your world brotherhood program" ; Odette Michel (1946-1947) of Paris, who is now Mme Jean-Pierre Couture and is living with her husband and two children, Sophie and Bertrand, in Nancy, France; Francine Laloue (1956-1957) from Le Mans, France, - "Best wishes and love for Christmas and the coming year", and last, but by no means least, of the French students, is Marianne Malandre (1952-1953) of Besançon, who is now Mme Victor Grabstock and is living in Paris. It was good to hear from all of you and we hope that you will continue to write us and let us know of your activities.

Now we go over the French border to Belgium. We had Christmas cards from : Jacques Gorman (1951-1954) of Froidchappelle ; Jacques Hermia (1955-1956) of Liege, who writes " ... and may 1958 bring you the greatest happiness in the wonderful international family". Jacqueline Verhaegen (1956-1957) from Brussels, who is now studying in Barcelona, Spain, where she sees Francisca very often ; Lily Cuitte (1949-1950) of Vise, who is now Mme Jose Humblet and is living in Liege. She writes that she has seen Arianne Weber and Françoise Schyns recently, and that her husband has been stationed with the Army near the Russian frontier ; Françoise Schyns writes that she is enjoying her work as an assistant to a political science teacher with whom she is going to attend an International Law Congress. She was a student in International House from 1954-1955.

From Belgium we go to Switzerland where we had a card from one of the former students of the Program and his wife, They are Ernst and Dolly Schwarz, who live in Zurich, Switzerland. Ernst was a member of the Program from 1951-1952. They both send "... best wishes for a successful eleventh year of international goodwill". Ernst initiated the idea of International Voice and was editor the first year of its existence. A valuable contribution, Ernst!

Next we pay a quick visit to Elverum in Norway to see Randi Furseth (1953-1954), who writes "... and the present world situation makes your work in the Program even more important. Educating people from different countries and giving them an opportunity to know and love one another, seems to me one of the best ways of improving international relations." I think that you have voiced the sentiments of all of us, Randi, and we are pleased to hear that you enjoy reading the International Voice.

Now we travel south to Africa, to Elizabethville in the Belgian Congo, where we have heard from Claire Ryckmans (1950-1951). Originally from Boitsfort in Belgium, Claire is now Mrs. Daniel Amory and has a little daughter, Elizabeth.

From here, our next stop is in Korea where we call on Eui Sook Cho (1955-1956). Now married, she is Mrs Chin Ho Chang and she lives with her husband in Seoul.

Her husband teaches English in a boys' High School and both, he and Eui Sook, are planning work together in the Korean educational field. At present, Eui Sook is working for the George Peabody College and enjoying her position very much.

We stop in Thailand en route to see Fritz Burhman (1953) who is a long way from his native Holland but is employed in that country.

Traveling yet further west we come to Mexico City, Mexico, where we had a card at Christmas from Cesar Real (1952-1953). Next to Havana, Cuba, to see Raquel Nodal (1949-1951) who sends love and best wishes to all the present and past members of International House. From Cuba to Cristobal in the Canal Zone, where we have news of Freda Flenniken (1949-1952), now Mrs. Andrew Stohrer. She and her husband enjoyed their summer in the States very much last year and they both made excellent grades at the University of Tennessee. They hope to return in 1959-1960 when Freda intends to complete her Masters Degree in English. Freda and Andrew have one daughter, Anne.

Last stop before we go to the United States is in Merida, Venezuela, where we heard from Rolanda Goetze (1951-1955). Married to Dr. Manfred Hartung, and with one son, Carlitos, we understand from Randi that Rolanda is expecting another child in April. Do write us in due course, Rolanda, and tell us about your new addition to the family.

It is not really surprising to learn that so many of the former International students liked the United States so much that they stayed here and many of them married. We had a great many remembrances at Christmas from both the American students of the Program and those who decided to remain here in this great country, so let us tour quickly around and look one or two of them up.

First stop, Massachusetts to see Michel Bevillard (1949-1950) who is now living here with his wife, Marie Elizabeth, but is originally from Versailles, France. Now to Middlebury, Vermont where Fernand Marty (1946-1947) and Simone Repussard (1946-1947) are living at Middlebury College where Fernand is a professor of French. They have three children, Alain, Jocelyne and Robert-Gerard, and are all very happy together. They say that the ten years since they left International House have passed so very quickly and that so much has happened in that time. The time certainly does pass very quickly and especially for us here in the Program it just seems to fly past. Next to Brooklyn, New York, to call upon Dora Miranda (1953-1954) of Camajuani, Cuba. Now Mrs. Robert Cerasualo, she tells us that she was to spend Christmas in Cuba with all her family and we are sure that it must have been a great reunion. While in New York we have news of some other former students of the Program who are residents there now. Tom Wheatley (1951-1953) writes that he is still teaching Drama at the C. C. N. Y. and that he has just become a member of the Actors' Studio. Tom made the drawing of the International House Program emblem for us and it is indeed a fine one. Here too, we find Hans Struth (1952-1955) from Mainz, Germany, who is now living in Hudson Falls with his wife, Maria, and little son, John Frederick. Before we leave this northern part, let us just cross over the border to Canada and see Pierre Perron (1953-1954) who is living in Montreal and still pursuing his great interest in the organ. From Quebec we find Elaine Amyot (1952-1953) who used to live in Joliette but now lives in Petrolia, Ontario, with her husband, Andy Anderson. They have two children, Heather and Thomas Gorden, the latter was just a week old at Christmas time.

Now back to the States again and this time to Washington, D. C. where we had a greetings card from Walter Neil Letson (1952-1954) who is from Gadsen, Alabama. We travel west to Iowa next to see Jack Street (1948-1950) who is from Gadsen also, but now lives with his wife, Sonia, in Iowa City. He is on teaching fellowship at Iowa State University and he was to take the Ph. D. comprehensive examinations in January. We hope that you did well, Jack. He hopes to find a job this year in a University or College and he and his wife and son, Steve, send greetings to all those past and present of the Program.

A big jump now to Oklahoma, where at Lawton we find two of the former students of the International House. Mimi Ballart (1947-1953) from Cuba and her husband Lt. Jack Churchill of Alabama, who was a member of the Program from 1950-1951. They have one son, John. Also in Oklahoma, at Fort Sill, are Lt. and Mrs Robert G. Cooper who were members of International House from 1952-1953. They sent us a Christmas card with best wishes to all their Program friends.

Next, we visit the Pacific coast and en route we stop in Colorado, in Rangeley, to look up Clarence Chastain (1946-1948) and his wife, formerly Elene Sparks (1946-1949). They are from Anniston and Gadsden, Alabama, respectively, and have four children, Don, Alan, Carol and Lee Ann, the eldest one is four years old. Clarence is Principal of the Elementary School in Rangeley. They have a great interest in fostering a foreign language program and Elene started work in January, teaching French to a class of 16 and using the Berlitz method. They very kindly offer hospitality to any of the students who might find themselves in their part of the world and we appreciate your kindness very much. They send greetings to all participants in the Program, past and present students, from "two ex-members, active, still, at heart." I think they have expressed here the feelings of everyone in that last phrase, and it is the hope of all of us that the spirit and significance of the Program will spread all over the world.

Now California, here we come !! First stop, Los Angeles. Here we find Hanna Maisels (1951-1952), now Mrs. Alan Rosen, and she and her husband wish "you all" all the best for 1958. Hossein Ghaffari (1956-1957) of Teheran, Iran, is now studying drama in Altadena and he, too, sends greetings to everyone. Last stop here is to see Tommy Watson (1949-1952) of Anniston, who is now on teaching fellowship in languages at University of California in Berkeley.

Turning south again towards "home" in Alabama, we stop in Missouri, where, in Kansas City, we find Beatrice Frossard (1950-1951) of Lausanne, Switzerland. Now Mrs. F. F. Kelly, she tells us how much both she and her husband enjoy the International Voice and they both send warmest greetings and good wishes to everyone.

In Sweet Water, Tennessee, we say "hello" to Yvonne Goetze (1951-1954) of Merida, Venezuela, and her husband Dan Traylor (1950-1953) who is now with the Tennessee Military Institute. They have a young son, Alan, and they write " we hope this year will see all the fondest hopes of the Program realized." Also in Tennessee we hear news of B.K. Walker, Jr. (1955-1956) and his wife, Beverly, who are living at Lebanon, where B.K. is a law student at Cumberland University.

West to the "Peach State" where in Atlanta, Georgia, we heard from Regula Schlatter (1952-1953) of Zurich, Switzerland, who is now Mrs. Heinz K. Meier. Her husband is a student and instructor at Emory University where he is on teaching fellowship. Heinz is at present in Washington where he is working on a thesis. He will be there for some months and his mother will be staying with Regula while he is away. Regula hopes to resume her own studies in Spring and she, Heinz and their little daughter, Barbara, send best wishes to everyone. Also in Atlanta is Margaret Ann Swann (1946-1948) of Roanoke, Alabama, who is now Mrs. Harry V. Smith. They have two children, Peggy Lynn and Harry.

Jackie Cobb (1946-1947) of Alabama, now married to Bill Callier, is living in Marietta, Georgia, and we were pleased to hear from them at Christmas time. Also in Georgia, we find Martha Elton (1949-1952) of Gadsden, Alabama. Married to E. R. Maddox, they are living at Avondale Estates. They have one child, Leslie and all three send best wishes for the continued success of the Program.

Now we are home again in the "Heart of Dixie". From Jacksonville itself we heard from Katie Goulielmi (1954-1957) and her husband Maurice Johnson. Formerly from Corfu, Greece, Katie is now in her Senior year at college and she sends her best wishes to everyone. We had a card from the Southern twins, Velma and Thelma of Birmingham, Alabama. They were members of International House from 1956-1957. Also we heard from Louise Stanton (1955-1956) who is at the Y. W. C. A. in Birmingham. Lila Tommie (1956-1957) remembered us also this Christmas and sends greetings to all the new and old members of the Program. She is from Birmingham, too.

Frenchie Whitten (1955-1957) and his wife, "Bobbie", are still very near to us in Pell City but Frenchie is a law student now at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. From Talladega, we heard from Betty Cook (1954-1955) who is now Mrs. Huel Love and has a nine month old son, Kenny.

Steve Sirisinha (1953-1957) of Bangkok, Thailand, is now a dental student at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and he wrote us a nice letter from Washington while he was taking some time off to make a short trip there. He wishes to be remembered to all the former students and says that he misses seeing his picture with the international group !

Lt. William Jackson (1953-1956) of Vincent, Alabama, and his wife, formerly Helen Smith, (1953-1957) of Dalton, are now living in Columbus, Georgia, where William is stationed at Fort Benning. "Hello" to all of you from both of them.

Mary Del Campa (1954) of Vernon, Alabama, remembered us also. She is married to L.W. Price.

Bobby Hawkins, of Pell City, where he is in insurance business, was a member of the Program 1953-1954 and he, his wife, Sue, and their two children, Gregory and Cynthia, send all good wishes to everyone for 1958.

Humberto Godoy (1955-1957) of Guatemala is studying at the college here and is in his Junior year now.

We heard also from Joyce Collins (1953-1956), now Mrs. Sizemore, who used to live in Talladega, and from David Pearson (1950-1951) of Leesburg, now married to Faith Hedgepath (1950-1951) of Jacksonville, where they are both living, so they are still close to us in International House.

We hear from Julia Brumbelon (1949-1950), now married to Reinald Tidwell (1947-1948) and living in Tuscaloosa, that she and her husband had an "event" earlier in January. They are now the proud parents of a little baby girl, Alice Ann. Congratulations ! We are certain from what you say that she must be very cute and we are pleased to hear that you have now moved into your very own home. You must be very happy with a new house and baby - such an exciting month you all had !

In addition to hearing from all these former students of the Program, it was so good to receive greetings from some very faithful friends of International House and from some of the parents of the students.

We were all deeply touched by this Christmas message from M. Henri Bonnet, French Ambassador to Washington during World War II and for about ten years thereafter, and his charming wife, Madame Bonnet : "Merry Christmas, we miss you always, one of our best memories is the enthusiastic understanding and great work of the Jacksonville State College. God bless you all ! Affectionately, The Bonnets, Hellete and Henri Bonnet."

We also had greetings from El Sayed Ali Mohamed, the Cultural Attaché in the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C. ; from Mr. and Mrs E.T. Marshall and sons of Baltimore, Maryland, who are almost part of International House themselves ; and

from Melle Marcelle Andre, that fine person from Rueil-Malmaison, S. & O., in France, who selected all the French students during the three first years of the Program. Thank you very much, everyone, for remembering us and showing so much interest in the Program. It is indeed good to know that we have such loyal and firm friends as these.

We are pleased to hear of the great interest of the parents of the students in the Program each year and we were indeed thrilled to receive your greetings at Christmas.

We heard from the parents of Steve Sirisinha, in Bangkok, Thailand ; from the parents of Randi Furseth in Elverum, Norway ; from Lima, Peru, from the parents of Aida Ferrarone, a present member of the Program in her Junior year at college here ; from Wallasey, England, from the parents of Denis Payne, in his first year in the Program ; from the mother of Genevieve Aourousseau, the Parisienne girl, also in her first year in International House ; from the parents of Isaac Goldfield of Geneva, Switzerland, at present studying in the Program ; from the parents of Sergio ("Satch") Lerda-Olberg, Mr. and Mrs Giovanni Lerda-Olberg, Rome, Italy. Satch plans to graduate at the end of this semester ; from the parents of Carmen Leonori, of Barcelona, Spain, who recently had the opportunity to see their daughter while on a business trip to the States ; from Mr. and Mrs Wallace Woodruff and family of Alexandria, Alabama. Their daughter, Erin, is a most active member in the Program, and finally from Mr. and Mrs Elmer Sprayberry, the parents of Frank Sprayberry of Trion, Georgia. Frank is one of the American representatives in the Program.

Well, that is all for this edition. We have come to the end of our little trip. We will be back again next month with more news for you, we hope !! Whether we do or not is entirely up to you, so please do write us. We look forward

so much to hearing how you are all getting on and of the progress you are making. We often talk about you and wonder how you are and what you are doing, but how are we to know unless you write and tell us ? So do please write us as often as you can because we really appreciate hearing from you. If you haven't written us all your latest news yet, why not sit down and do so right now ! From all of us to all of you, best wishes for 1958. May it be your best year yet. Write soon, we will be looking forward to hearing from you.

EDITORIAL NOTE

This edition of the International Voice marks yet another stepping-stone in its history. The end of last semester saw Mohammed Boutaleb, the editor for two years, take up a teaching appointment at Anniston High School. This surely is a sad blow to the International Voice, the International House and its many activities. No one has contributed more to the program than Mohammed - he was a credit to his country, the International House and all it stands for : everything he undertook as editor, co-chairman of the program and scholarship boy of District 238 of Rotary International was of the highest that he knew.

Each year more and more students become connected with the International House and the circulation of the International Voice becomes increasingly larger. Believe it or not, but I am told that some of the students have never written to say how they are getting along.

We send copies of the International Voice and have no means of telling whether you are receiving them or not if you do not occasionally write us and tell us how things are going.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE SHALL CROSS YOUR NAMES OF THE MAILING LIST IF YOU DO NOT KEEP IN CONTACT WITH US, FOR, AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD WE SEND OUT THE INTERNATIONAL VOICE WHEN WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHETHER YOU RECEIVE IT ?

Martin Broadbent.
