

Furlough in 1927-28

The few months of health-leave in 1920-21 had served us well. It had been a busy time with us in Japan, and the growth of both our schools had been amazing. Maggie Lee had served as Principal of the Girls' School for the two years 1925 to 1927 to relieve Mr. Rowe, who was regaining his health in America. At last we were to have our second furlough after a total of 21 years of work.

The sea voyage to San Francisco in the late spring of 1927 was fine and Maggie Lee rapidly regained her strength. We went to Los Angeles for a stay of two weeks, the longest we have ever had in California. We went to a sanitarium for a check-up, and found ourselves able to move into a nice cottage just outside the city limits in Glendale and hard by the Little Church of the Flowers.

We were having a good rebuilding time in Southern California, when some really thrilling news reached us. Bun and Peggy also had landed at San Francisco from Argentina. Their furloughs and ours had usually missed each other and we had not met in a long time. What was more thrilling, Bun was calling for a family reunion in Scottsboro or thereabouts in July. So we had only two weeks in Glendale.

Family Reunion-July 1927

Just a day or two later and the Reunion would have coincided with the 99th anniversary of John Bouldin's birth (July 15, 1828), but there was an eagerness to get together which was natural and becoming. We hurried up our packing in the basement at Glendale and were able to visit Betty at her husband's bedside in Wellington, Kansas. Frank pilant had been in an automobile accident and was in

a hospital at Willington. He made a partial recovery and lived till October 19, 1935; but Betty was not able to attend the Reunion, and Mattie was the only one of our seven sisters to attend the Reunion, while all the seven brothers were present.

Virgil, the oldest brother, had been on the Bench of the Supreme Court of Alabama for three years, but he still had his home in Scottsboro, and the court being on summer vacation, he was able to be at home and act as the hospitable host of the Reunion.

Brother Frank brought his daughter Maxine, not quite sixteen, from Ft. Worth, Texas and brother Tom brought his daughter Helen, nineteen, from St. John's, Arizona to the Reunion.

The big day was a day or two before the 15th when Paint Rock Valley did itself proud, kinfolks and those not blood kin, spread a great feast in Mr. Jimmy Robertson's woodland and then the multitude kept quiet while the Bouldin boys made speeches one after another.

July 1927

There were four of us boys, Virgil, Tom, Bun and I that were together for a few days after the Reunion. All but me had played golf more or less and there were links near Scottsboro, so I too went along and we had a few games together.

Tom had to get back to Arizona to his medical practice and Bun had only a short furlough from his job in Argentina.

As for me, well, there came to Maggie Lee and me the main part of our inheritance in cash, (\$900) and it did for me what one might expect, if one knew me. I had to look for some way to invest it.

One brother and his family had some land and needed a house. This soon led to an agreement: I will build the house and the use of it for so many years will pay for the land, and thus I had a house and land with my \$900, until we came to Cumberland Mountain in 1945.

But things were moving in America. Bun left his 1922 Buick with me and I undertook to teach myself to drive. Maggie Lee had three lady friends and the five of us decided on a trip to Ridge Crest, since none of us had been to the Bouthern Baptist Assembly there. We got a cottage for a week and kept house and went to the meetings. It was interesting and Maggie Lee and I spent another week there in June 1943 on our way to Washington. These are the modern "camp-meetings" and things would not be the same without them.

When we had returned to Winchester and then to Scottsboro, a plan for a pine-pole bungalow had taken form in my mind. My two oldest brothers had considerable land on Poor House Mountain near Hollywood, Alabama and there were many tall slender pines growing on top of the mountain. I soon had permission to cut down the necessary hundreds of these pine poles and three or four young fellows and I were cutting and peeling the bark off of them. The days were long and hot and dry and it was amazing how quickly the poles dried out.

I got two farmers who were also carpenters and we started building. But with my home-made drawings to leave with the men, I left them before the end of September and started with Maggie Lee to Louisville.

Back at the Seminary at Louisville

My first three years at the Seminary in the old buildings at Fifth and Broadway had ended in May 1906 when I received my T.h.M.

and we were soon to sail for Japan. Now, after an absence of 21 years and back for a year and we have new buildings on a fine campus. There were two good buildings with apartments for married students: Rice Hall for couples without children and Judson Hall for those having children. Since we didn't mind being in a building with children, we took an apartment in Judson Hall and we enjoyed the company of several families with children.

At least four of my old teachers were still carrying on: Drs. Mullins, Sampey, Robertson and Carver. Since teaching in Japan was mainly in the New Testament, I had four courses with Dr. A.T. Robertson: two in English and two in Greek. Near the end of the year, Dr. Robertson told the class one day that he had been teaching forty years but that I was the first student who had ever taken all his courses in one year. Two of these courses I had had before and two were taken in 1927-28 for the first time. I took a course with Dr. W.O. Carver studying the history of philosophy and sat in Professor Kyle Yates' class in Junior Hebrew.

Maggie took the under graduate courses in Old and New Testament and in many ways enjoyed the life at the Seminary. I took part in several schools of missions among the churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, usually with Dr. W.W. Stout and Dr. T.W. Ayers, Field secretaries of the Foreign Mission Board. In the middle of the summer I spent two weeks with the Southern Baptists of Southern Illinois, and it ^{was} while in those meetings that I received notice that we were to be sent back to Japan with money received in the Lottie Moon offering. We sailed in August and were relocated in Fukuoka and from September were working in Seinan Gakuin.