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3/30/59

Dear Chick: Another
lap on our wonderful trip.
This time to Beirut on this
smaller but excellent ship.
Perfect weather save for rain
yesterday, a fine week on
Sicily last week but this trip
every day makes this boat
without a doubt very popular
with us.

Chapin



Mr. Chick Reland, City Editor
Republic-Herald Building
Takoma Washington

A.S.A.

Vera foto



*1960 greetings and
again thanks for making
this wonderful trip possible —*

Wesley Gardens
Christmas, 1959

For some forty years we have been sending Christmas Cards to relatives and friends. Each card has differed from the others but this year we will do something quite 'different' for us because this year has been so different from the other years. This year's card will be a 'letter' giving a little glimpse of the wonderful trip given us by Historical Society Board members and others.

In the spirit of the season it seems proper to begin with Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. Uncertain as to standing before the actual manger, there was no question but we were standing in Bethlehem, on or near the spot where the most important birth in history occurred. So also at Shepherd's field, not far from Bethlehem. Shepherds and their flocks were passing us. It was easy to feel that from this spot shepherds left their flocks and walked to Bethlehem to see the Babe. We stood in the cave where each Christmas Eve the Y.M.C.A. sponsors a commemorative service. This must be a most impressive service.

Not far away is the Mount of Olives commanding a view of Jerusalem. The New Testament comes alive when the story is read again of all that occurred on the Mount and in the Garden of Gethsemane below. We visited the Garden again on our last day in Jerusalem, also the Garden Tomb for the second time. To us it always seems vital that historical spots be preserved or restored to their condition as related to history. That is why the Garden Tomb, which many say fits best into the New Testament account of the burial of Jesus, left a lasting impression with us. No ornamentation, just a tomb in a garden, near the "Place of the Skull".

On that last day we walked again the "Way of the Cross", from the traditional courtyard of Pilate to the last 'stations' in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here three faiths have been allocated space and mental confusion is difficult to avoid in passing from one section to another. In the Jerusalem area, where we spent nine thrilling days, we visited Jacob's Well near Nablus, Bethany and Emmaus. Those days will never be forgotten, nor will other days on this trip.

It should be in order now to turn back to Page One, which found us on the Constitution en route to Naples from New York March 13. The trip to New York had been a non-stop night flight from the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, which is only three miles from Wesley Gardens. A fine delegation of relatives and friends saw us safely in the air. New York had had six inches of snow the day before our arrival but there wasn't much left for us to slush through.

The Atlantic passage was uneventful, but pleasant. Our dining companions included a young couple en route to Geneva, he to represent the Chrysler Corporation; also a couple en route to Teheran where he would be assistant secretary to the American embassy. One does not lack for entertainment aboard ship.

Our travel agency had done an excellent job of mapping our trip but, naturally, we were wondering a bit as to what would happen at Naples. Still aboard, a man came through the purser's office calling, "Mr. and Mrs. Foster". He had a cab ready to take us to our hotel. It was that way during the entire trip. A travel agency man always met us and took us to our hotel, and came for us when we were ready for the next 'leg', whether by air, sea, rail or bus.

We left Naples the following day after nine days at sea, going to Sicily for five days. Sicily had been a name on the map and an item in history with us, but a trip around the island with overnight stops at Taormino, Palermo, Agrigento and Syracuse and stops along the route to see many ruins, brought that important island into much clearer focus. Much history and many ruins. We were at the snow line on Mt. Etna, always smoking. Since our return it took a turn at erupting but without serious damage. Evidences of much poverty seen along the way.

Back to Naples for Easter Sunday. We went to the only Protestant church in Naples, a city of a million and three quarters. As we stood in the aisle, Mary a few steps in the rear, a young man tapped her on the shoulder and said: "Aren't you Mrs. Chapin Foster?" It was Tom Murfin, whom we had known since he was born in Sunnyside, and had entertained in our home 25 years ago in Chehalis. Now he was American consul in Naples. He had gone to the early service but with rain threatening, his wife directing the choir and two boys singing, he thought he'd better attend the second service to help with the trip home. Small world. Mutual surprise truly an understatement. Incidentally, that half day of rain was all we encountered in three months. Certainly a travel record we appreciated.

In Naples we visited famous Pompei, also Elcelarno, cities buried under volcanic ash from Mt. Vesuvius 2000 years ago. Visited two cameo factories. From Naples we left on the Ausonia for Beirut, Lebanon. Four very interesting days there. A city growing every day. New apartment houses in every direction. American University campus, Lebanese National Museum, Pigeon Rocks, Tyre, Sidon. To ruins of ancient Byblos, Phoenician city dating back to 3000 B.C. Once very important shipping city, today mostly ruins. A grave 5000 years old. Other ruins.

Then Baalbek which in tradition goes back to the time of Adam. Once a city of 250,000, today only 12,000. Some of the most impressive ruins in the world. Built by slave crew of 150,000. Stone was quarried five miles away, moved in some mysterious manner to city. One stone estimated to weigh 300 tons and a still larger one still in the quarry. Sixty to 100-ton columns--how put in place? Answer still a mystery. Then Cedars of Lebanon--famous in history but today they exist only in history. Selective logging unknown. King Solomon used them in building Temple in Jerusalem. First and Second world wars took their toll. Others took them; today only a few remain. Reforestation program recently inaugurated.

From Beirut to Damascus by car and a day in that oldest of cities, dating back 5000 years. Old and new Damascus. What has happened in ten years seems hardly possible. Apartment houses, paved streets--very new along with very old. The house of Ananias and its basement chapel. Window in wall where Paul escaped. One wonders what would have happened in world had Paul not been 'stopped'.

Here one of the most impressive Moslem temples and here also a glimpse of the Arab refugee problem encountered everywhere in Middle East. A million displaced Arabs. Impossible to appreciate until seen first hand. Communism can find no easier place to work than among these refugee huts. From Damascus to Amman by bus and then to Jerusalem by car with our own guide. In the Middle East it was always a car, driver, guide and ourselves--a perfect arrangement. We stopped at the Dead Sea for a coke, meeting real heat for the first time. The Sea 1200 feet below sea level. In the distance we could see hills where were found the famous Scrolls we were to see in Jerusalem. Soon the Jordan River. We could imagine Jesus walking into the river somewhere, to be baptized by John. Soldiers at the bridge so no pictures. Then Jericho. Visit to famous well, then small section of wall that fell before Joshua. In the distance the mountain they called the "Mount of Temptation".

A few miles farther and a refugee camp of 40,00. Huts jammed together, babies playing in the dust, children running but no place to go. A Y.M.C.A. vocational school adjoining. Seemed deserted but "Y" director brought us back to see splendid three-year vocational training program at work. A great work which should be multiplied many times over. Training young men 16 to 20 to work.

Jerusalem and her sacred spots have been covered, save to add that one is impressed more deeply all the time with the thought that we walked where Jesus walked. Add the Dome of the Rock, famous Moslem temple on the site of Solomon's temple, where Jesus drove out the money changers and where as a boy he astounded the 'experts'. And the bazaars, narrow streets, shops, meat hanging in the sun, beggars, donkeys, children, old folks--one could stay for weeks and find more to see. Jerusalem besieged 38 times, completely destroyed eight times. Each time rebuilt on ruins of previous city. So hard to realize all this. To the museum built through Rockefeller money. Director gave us a guided tour ending with visit to 'Holy of Holies' as he called it--the rooms where they work on the Dead Sea Scrolls. Ten year's work ahead. A behind the scenes visit not to be forgotten.

A zig-zag line through the city--"No Man's Land" and exactly that. Our hotel looked down on this 'Land' and U.N. patrol station where half dozen jeeps headquartered night and day. Unbelievable bitterness toward Israel. We've read arguments on both sides. Both positive. Still, a million refugees away from their homes, living 11 years in huts. To many, settlement seems impossible but the answer must be found if there is to be peace. A challenge to the United States and every nation. To us it seems a compromise must be found, with Israel making the first offer--one that goes the second and third mile.

Through this area armies of Babylonia, Assyria, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Europe, Napoleon, Alexander the Great crossed and re-crossed leaving behind some construction but today nothing but ruins. Wars must leave some better. Here Christianity began and here Christianity can prove that Jesus is the only answer. It rests with followers of Christ to give the answer. The world is looking for leadership--to America more than any other in the most critical period of history. Christians must take their beliefs seriously. From Christian pulpits must come messages of conviction, not convenience. As Congressman Walter Judd has well said: "We must have better Christians than ever before, or no Christians at all". An age of challenge but, also, an age of opportunity.

From Jerusalem to Cairo by air. A few weeks later one of the company's planes must have gotten over the Israeli border, shot at four times. Our pilot made no mistake. We could look down at the desert sand and turn imagination loose again. Imagine Moses and the Children of Israel leaving Egypt; Joseph, Mary and the Babe fleeing to safety; chariot wheels from Nile to Euphrates. History.

In Cairo history backs up 5000 years to the Pyramids which we could see from our hotel on the Nile. Still one of seven wonders of the world. The Pyramid of Cheops 481 feet high, 2,300,000 blocks of stone. 100,000 slaves working for years. Granite brought 600 miles, quarried to fit certain spot. Each block weighing tons. How was it done? Still a mystery. Yes, we rode camels to the Pyramids. Not recommended for long trip. Also to Memphis, famous city of Pharaohs, and more mystery. Famous Citadel overlooking city. Temple and fortress. More bazaars, donkeys, beggars, wealth and poverty, American College, American College for Girls. Some hours in Cairo Museum. Dozens of mummies but none quite like Ankh Unifer in our Historical Society Museum in Tacoma.

To Alexandria by train. Pompey's Pillar, another 'wonder'. Ras-el-Tine Palace, residence of last kings of Egypt. 500 rooms. We saw many of them. King Farouk's summer palace, Montezeh--museum by day and gambling casino by night. Again, pictures of Nasser everywhere. Indications of unrest. Nasser criticisms of Krushchev more bitter than anything we see at home, but suddenly cut off. K. must have spoken. Iraq situation critical then and still is. Krushchev expected to take over any day but he hasn't yet. Leaving us at Damascus, our Moslem guide had said: "The last chapter in Iraq has not been written, Arabs not yet heard from."

Back to Naples on the Esperia. The last night on the Mediterranean was ROUGH. We didn't get sick. In Naples only an hour and then to Rome by train. Three days in Rome. Through an Olympia friend we were given tickets on our arrival to a public audience of the Pope in St. Peters. Possibly 300 to 400 seats and we had two of the very best. Probably 20,000 standing for three hours. We were no more than 30 feet from the Pope. An experience to be remembered. Also the Vatican museum, far beyond our expectations. Sistine Chapel where Michaelangelo lay on his back 12 years painting the ceiling. Colosseum, Forum and Catacombs. Ten thousand Colosseum martyrs buried in Catacombs. Willing to stand up and die for new Master.

To Florence by bus, and more art museums. Without seeing them, difficult to realize the number, size and beauty of paintings we saw in Italy. Milan and more art. La Scala Opera House, believed to have been bombed out of existence but fully restored. Little mission where hangs Michaelangelo's "Last Supper", also believed destroyed but restored. Cemetery beyond anything we know of. Today its sculpture would be worth millions.

Venice--canals, gondolas, art galleries, St. Marks Square, shops, palaces. One hates to be brief in Venice where so much to be seen and remembered. To Geneva from Milan through the Alps. Beautiful scenery but we too have beautiful mountain scenery. Not long in Geneva but busy every minute. United Nations building closed as big Conference to open in two days. In little car up 4000 feet above city by cable. Supposed to see Mt. Blanc but didn't. They have clouds, also.

Paris by train. The Louvre, Versailles, Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Napoleon's Tomb and more. Some will say we didn't see Paris because we didn't do night life. Can't see everything or do everything. We liked our choice.

By night train to London. Tower of London, Parliament Buildings, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Wesley Chapel, British Museum, Buckingham Palace and changing the guards--all intensely interesting. By bus to Stratford-on-Avon with stops at Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Oxford, Sulgrave Manor (home of Washington's ancestors). Cotswold country beautiful. A play at Stratford. Ann Hathaway's cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace. Newspapers in London writing of need for religious revival. Needed, certainly, but not only in England. Needed around the world. We saw evidences of this need everywhere during our trip.

Two days in the Land's End district. One day in Falmouth in Cornwall, and a day in Paington in Devon. Looking up records of ancestors--Hitchcock and Chapin--who came to America early in 17th century and took prominent part in settling New England. Two delightful and restful days.

Then to Southampton and the French liner Liberte for return to America. Again the last night something to be remembered. A hurricane dodged, they said, but enough remained to make the night ROUGH. Still, not sick. Entering New York harbor, we really wanted to salute the Statue of Liberty and the Stars and Stripes. One returns very humble after having seen so much; very thankful to be an American where we take so many wonderful blessings of liberty for granted; and challenged to be a more valuable citizen dedicated to the cause of peace and world understanding. From New York brief stops in Washington, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Litchfield. Delightful air trip across a wonderful country.

This didn't start out to be so long. If you are still with us, we are including the most sincere Greetings of the Season from Wesley Gardens.

Mary and Chapin Foster

Conference Council

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE . . .

The Methodist Church

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814 Olympic National Building

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November 4, 1963

Dear Friend Click.

Last week I was speaking in Tacoma and a man who has a daughter in Yakima showed me a fine clipping from either The Herald or Republic, telling what we're doing for Methodist history.

I didn't get a chance to look at the story at all and he was gone when I finished. I think the date was October 17. Would it be possible to have one of your fine, personable young ladies send me three or four copies? I'll pass one along to Earl Howell. Father Wilbur will have to rustle for himself.

I think we should have quite a book when it's finished. We're not rushing the job and as we move along it increases in size, a fact which you can appreciate.

Faternally



Pres. Conference Historical Society
Earl Howell certainly appreciated your cooperation and the first thing he said was that he'd have to return for another session in your library.

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wesley Gardens
Des Moines, Washington

May 12, 1964

PROJECT —
A History of
Northwest
Methodism

Historian:
Erle Howell,
Seattle

Editor:
Chapin D. Foster,
Des Moines

Mr. Click Relander
Yakima Republic
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

The Historical Society of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of The Methodist Church is engaged in producing a history of The Methodist Church in Washington and Northern Idaho. It is sponsored by the Conference and will be published by the Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee. It is expected that the manuscript will be in the hands of the publishers by the end of 1964.

It is our hope, not only to place several thousand volumes in the hands of the 95,000 Methodists in our territory, but we will place a complimentary volume in every library of our area.

That we may promote pre-publication sales among our people, we are issuing a brochure describing the volume.

For the brochure we are asking a number of persons throughout the state of known reputation in the field of history and education, to give us a statement not to exceed fifty words, stressing the importance of publishing this history and its placement in every Methodist home in this area, together with the desirability of placing these volumes in the libraries of the territory.

We feel that to know what it cost to lay the foundations of Washington and Northern Idaho and the part that Methodists played in laying those foundations will aid in the development of a determination to have a part in building a great Northwest on these foundations.

If you are willing to write such a statement, please send it to me at the above address at your early convenience.

With grateful appreciation,

Sincerely,

Chapin
Chapin D. Foster, President

*A comment
from you would be
very helpful —*

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814 Olympic National Building
Seattle 4, Washington
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Wesley Gardens, Des Moines

Dear Friend Click:

Thanks for the clippings.

Believe me, Earl Howell and I do appreciate your cooperation on Father Wilbur. I was discussing it with Earl yesterday. I knew you had a good deal of material but didn't realize it was so voluminous.

Earl will be planning another trip to Yakima before long, with the Number One purpose of spending some time in your library. He also appreciated very much the interest of Mrs. R.

Wilbur is one of the really great men of Northwest Methodism and I would want to argue very strenuously with anyone placing him in the Number One spot.

Sam Hill--Boy, you've got a live one there. I don't have any definite material to offer but when at Grandview I used to hear a bit of gossip now and then when Sam was boosting for roads. I suspect you are cat ching up now and then with the idea that he was something of a ladies' man. I recall a lady in Prosser having some ideas along that line. I'm sure you will catch up with a lot of material, whatever you do with it. Did you ever talk with Dolph at the Maryhill Museum? He probably couldn't say very much but might drop a hint somewhere around Stonehenge.

I think I can do something about a Pix, one was taken out here that isn't too bad.

See you in Tacoma the 10th.

Fraternally

