

the Phoenix Nest

THE SOUL IS A NOMAD

THE soul is a nomad,
And like the roving bee,
To find its nectar,
Must go winged and free.

Here a little, there a little,
Through the sunny hours,
The soul to its music,
The bee to its flowers.

World-blight or winter-chill,
To keep alive,
The soul to its poem,
The bee to its hive.

—ELIZABETH LA DOW.

* * *

The young woman at the Chamber of Commerce desk in the lobby of the community-owned Brooks Hotel said, "Where it was? I can tell you where it is!" But first we missed Black Mountain Road and then we missed the fork into Dickinson Road, though we had been given "large white house" and "little red house" as markers for the way. The last we asked were the crew of a motored vehicle sprinkling chemical on country dust. We had been following the black signpost foxes of Howland Farm. We retracked into Dickinson Road and advanced slowly through the golden end of day. It was quite far out from the town of Brattleboro, and our eyes were still full of the tapestried mountains of Vermont. Through the trees to the right was a valley view. It should stand high upon the left, beyond a rising field. Then we saw it, through an opening in the trees, like a great ark riding the hillside.

It is weathered, verandahed and large and long. It is larger than I had thought it would be; and, some distance off to the right, as my artist friend and I stepped through the gap in foliage and stood at gaze, there seemed to be stables or a lodge. Nevertheless, it was veritably the Naulahka. My friend was already busy with sketch-book and draughting pencil. I shall always regret that I did not go up across the field.

The young lady at the hotel had said that curiosity- and memento-seekers had proved a pest to the present owners. That, as I looked at the distant dormers, served somewhat for a deterrent. Also there was a certain awe. The Anglo-Indian and the American girl who had come to the wife's property, at the end of their honeymoon, had first lived in a more modest house, where a certain pottery

designer and curator of the School of Art in Lahore had visited them, and made drawings for tales concerning the adopted one of the Seeonee pack, nicknamed The Frog; though I remembered better the drawings of W. H. Drake, for the first book; yet whose was the half-tone, opposite page 10, indelibly registered upon my mind from boyhood, with the caption "The Tiger's roar filled the cave with thunder"? J. L. K. was, of course, all through the second book, and the cover designs of both I'm sure were his. At any rate, after he had left the young couple, and after their first daughter was born, they upraised the Naulahka, probably partly at least upon the royalties from the book co-



white

authored with the brother, that gave the new home its name, and also on proceeds from the jungle stories. I could now imagine a black panther lying out along the bough of that golden maple, and a gray hathi detaching himself from the looming edifice as large and gray as he, to wind a ghostly challenge to the mountains of Vermont, like Kala Nag on the stamping ground.

I went down the road to see if another view from the entrance were better, but the chain wound upon the spiked double gates was real, and there was less of the house to see. Pine needles littered the drive under dark pines. Dry leaves rustled and danced in an eddy of autumn breeze. "Private Grounds. Not Open to The Public" and "No Trespassing" said all that the present owners had to say.

Here he had come, by way of success in London, from the dawn behind the tamarisks, from the parrots by the river-side, and the "staring Eastern Day," from the flying hoof on Simla Downs and the tonga-horn ringing to the Kalka hills—

*What can Life kill or Death undo?
If you love me as I love you*

That had remained true to the end. It was her country, her people. One of her brothers he had loved as his own; but one had poisoned the place

for him. What I remembered now was the dedication from the early ballads to the young publisher who died at thirty, through whom, in England, he met the wife of a lifetime:

*In simpleness and gentleness and
honor and clean mirth.*

A great tribute. And now the leaf-brown drive was shaded, and the cattle were coming home to the barn at the farms beyond. We must be on our way of return. The large car, with the four of us in it, wound its way through woodland, leaving the ark of a great artist's covenant still triumphantly riding the hillside.

I recalled one of the many signs along the roads we had come: "Through Way Ends Here." I did not believe it, of this through way. Because, to alter a seasonal word of his:

*—if you enter the woods
Of an autumn evening late*

you can still find the wolf pack's Council Rock in a New England meadow, and a phantom of Buldeo's village, beyond Brattleboro, off Black Mountain Road. —W. R. B.

* * *

HICKORY TREES AND WALNUTS

The hickory trees are pretty girls,
In autumn hues attired,
Who pose in shapely rows, assured
That they will be admired.

But walnut trees are worth so much
They have no need to preen,
These gray, gnarled, rich old women,
garbed
In rusty bombazine.

—HILDEGARDE WALLS JOHNSON.

* * *

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In one south-sea island, a bride can be purchased for a carton of American cigarettes.
—The News

In the south seas, warm and sunny,
Where the natives are simple folks,
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But a woman's a carton of smokes.

—ORVILLE E. REED.

* * *

—WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT.

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*Lottery, following the passing of a law in England making it illegal.

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(Continued from page 41)

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WOMAN VALUES FRIENDSHIP, laughter, books, music, strength of hills; would correspond with man with vital, liberal religion and progressive, responsible view toward social and world affairs. Box 994-B.

DREAMER, female, believing fairy tales, yet realist, knowing life is lonely; welcomes sincere correspondence, accountants to Zoographers. Box 999-B.

REFINED, charming young lady desires correspondence with gentleman of character and integrity. Box 1-D.

CAN YOU SPLIT RIBS? Candidates challenged to write ticklish collegienne, idiotic enough to laugh at anything. Box 2-D.

HOMESICK AMERICAN married to Frenchman needs American atmosphere to finish book. Few dollar credits, transfer of French funds illegal. Offer chateau life between Nantes and Bordeaux summer 1949 to person providing quiet, comfortable place to work this winter. Photos, details, references exchanged. Box 3-D.

SPORTSMEN, NATURALISTS, DECORATORS will find pleasure and usefulness in fine etchings of bird and natural life. Authentic studio by recognized artist. Popular gifts. Sizes 3 x 5 and larger, \$3 up. State size and subject for yours on approval. Box 990-B.

RECENT HONOR GRAD of top-flight eastern university, now up to his ears in successful but harassing discharge of executive duties in retail establishment, would correspond with young lady combining glamour with depth, imagination, and a sense of humor. Varied interests include foreign travel, flying, football, Spanish, semi-classical music, psychology, advertising, people and the art of good living. Box 31-D.

FEMALE AMPUTEE'S CORRESPONDENCE invited by young personable, professional male. Box 32-D.

VACATIONS

ENJOY OLD WORLD CHARM in America's oldest city. ALENCIA HOTEL, St. Augustine, Florida.

YOU'LL ENJOY SUDBURY INN on Lake Hortonia, Sudbury, Vermont. Write Bob Horton.

MERRIEBROOK, Poughquag, New York. Delightful, peaceful homestead. Adults only. Tempting meals. Inexpensive. North Clove 2421.

GREEN SHADOWS, Lyme, Conn., quiet informal country life; good food, comfortable beds.

APPLE HILL farmstead, built 1762, again offers warm informality, modern conveniences. From \$140 monthly inclusive. Special rates: writers, artists, couples. Apple Hill, East Pepperell, Mass.

LANIER (on the Piscataqua) Eliot, Maine. Food, lodging, gardens, pines, salt-river beach.

DIFFERENT FROM THE REST, come see for yourself. Accommodates 55, 29th season. Rates, \$12 a day, \$70 a week. TED OHMER'S WESTERN VIEW FARM, New Milford, Conn. Tel.: New Milford 440.

Reg. U. S. Patent Office

WORDS

49 27 97 110 115 183 150 58

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When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (second edition).

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