

MARCH

WHEATON

Alumni'

VOL. XXIII No. 3 March, 1956

MAGAZINE



WE REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES

Above left Marilou and Ed McCully, Stephen and Michael; right, Jim and Betty Howard Elliot and Valerie; right, Myra Jean Arnold; far right, Pete Fleming, Ed and Jim, with their families and below left, Ed and Jim again with Indian friends; lower right, Nathan Saint with Marge, Cathy, and Stephen.



A LETTER FROM HOME

As the days went by in early January it became increasingly apparent that we were living through strange and heart-stirring experiences.

The Campus atmosphere was quiet, little groups just naturally gathered here and there to talk, and later, to pray; we watched the bulletin boards, kept up hour by hour by Mrs. Mina Hill; many letters went out asking for prayer and answers very soon came saying Wheatonites were praying; the hymns we sang were prayer hymns; visitors were stirred. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it."

At first we knew only that Myra Jean Arnold '44, missionary to Brazil, had gone suddenly into the Lord's presence through an automobile accident. It happened on January 3 at Whittier, Calif., as she and a missionary friend, Mrs. Richard Gibbs with her baby daughter Susan, were on their way to deputation meetings in Arizona. The baby also lost her life and the mother was injured. Myra Jean's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Arnold, of Long Beach, both survive, as does a sister, Charlotte.

Before coming to Wheaton Myra Jean attended Multnomah School of the Bible and the University of Oregon. After her graduation here she taught in week-day church schools in Eugene, Ore., returning to Wheaton where she was assistant personnel secretary for a time until her appointment as a missionary under CBFMS.

She was a faithful, capable, lovable and loving worker in Brazil for two terms. We looked through all her records, especially her always regular letters from the field, and we think we found the secret of her usefulness. We couldn't count all the native people she mentioned by name with deep concern for their personal salvation and welfare. We had known it in a way but not by the keen impression which came as we read the letters carefully in the light of a finished service. Yet not finished. There will be those who will go to Brazil to love the people in Myra Jean's stead.

Then came January 6 and the shock of that first late Sunday evening report from Ecuador. There's no use to even try to make this a news story. The *world* got the news. We only want to say it as one would write to members of the family who are away when great loss comes at home. Our boys, Jim and Ed and Nate, and their friends Pete and Roger, and our girls Betty and Marilou and Marge, and their friends Olive and Barbara, were in trouble. So we waited and prayed, and Bob Cook from here in Wheaton, rallied many Youth for Christ prayer groups and they prayed, and our churches prayed. And everybody everywhere waited from one news time to another from HCJB in Quito. And the newspapers and radio and television gave the story everything they had. Later as we thought of it we thanked the Lord for the reverent, lovely words we are sure He put into the hearts of the newsmen to tell the world about it. We trust you saw *Life*, and *Newsweek*, and others.

Vol. XXIII, No. 3

March, 1956

Wheaton Alumni Magazine

Editor.....Rana B. McDonald '41

Advisory Committee: Howard Fischer '38, Lorraine Hoey Helmer '53, William Geidt '42

Published every month during the year by the Wheaton College Alumni Association, Wheaton, Illinois. Subscription price \$1.00; single copy 25c. Entered as second class matter at the Post Office in Wheaton, Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

WA-2

We would not want to fail to express also our thankfulness for Abe '41 and Delores Van Der Puy's '41 faithful reporting during the time of uncertainty. We understand Abe is being asked to make a complete report of everything in writing.

While we were waiting for news from Ecuador we learned that Lester Burton had lost his life in a battle with a shark or other sea monster as he was swimming while on his way back to Costa Rica after furlough. Lester worked with Joe Coughlin '40 and was known and loved by many Wheaton people. This was an added sorrow to Joe, already troubled by the serious illness of his wife, dear Ruth Petty Coughlin '42.

By the end of the week we knew that Jim Elliot and Ed McCully, both Wheaton '49, and Nathan Saint '50, and Pete Fleming and Roger Youderian, had fallen before the fierce Auca Indians, their bodies had been found and buried by a searching party, and five wives were left without their husbands.

On Campus were those close to the tragedy by family ties. Jim's own sister Jane Elliot '54 is Mrs. Gerald Hawthorne of the faculty; his brother-in-law is Tom Howard '57. Jim's wife was Betty Howard '48. Ed's wife was Marilou Hobolth whose brother Kirk is a sophomore and sister Billie was graduated last year. They have been a blessing to us all in their courage. Jane and Gerry appeared on John Daly's coast-to-coast newscast and read one of Jim's letters, a beautiful testimony read beautifully.

President Edman sends his message to you here at this time instead of in his regular column:

As well you all can understand, hearts have been deeply stirred and saddened here on campus by the martyrdom of three of Wheaton's brave sons, and two other stalwart servants of the Lord, in the jungles of Ecuador—saddened for the loss to loved ones there and at home and to the Lord's work, and stirred to face the challenge of picking up the torch where they dropped it and carrying the Light into Auca darkness.

Life's last chapter is written in eternity, and not in time; and only when we read the last chapter shall we fully understand how this seeming tragedy was used by the Lord of the Harvest to bring Aucas and other Indians of the forest to the Saviour.

On Friday in a beautiful chapel service led by Prexy the song the boys in Quito loved and sang together before they went to the Aucas was sung by Dick Jones '58. He not only sang it in a lovely bass but with tenderness, partly because his own roots are deep in Ecuador where his father, Clarence Jones, was co-founder of HCJB. The song, to the melody of "Finlandia," begins:

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our
Defender;
Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the
praise
When passing through the gates of pearly
splendor
Victors, we rest with Thee through
endless days.

Dave Howard '49 went down from San Jose, Costa Rica, to be with his sister Betty and her little Valerie. Phil Saint '41, Nate's brother, is also in San Jose and near if he needs to help Marjorie and her three, Kathy, Stephen and Philip.

Marilou McCully flew home with sons Stephen and

Michael to attend a memorial service in Milwaukee for Ed and to wait for the coming of her third baby. The service was a great challenge and a beautiful tribute to a wonderful life. Many hundreds of friends crowded Juneau Hall and a number of them were from Wheaton. Among those who gave tribute to Ed were President Edman and James Rust, classmate. Rust said, among other things, "McCully and his fellow missionaries in South America showed the world there is something worth dying for." He added, "McCully always went 'all out' whether he was in the classroom, on the athletic field or in the chapel." Ed's brother John "Jay" was graduated from Wheaton in '52 and married Janet Rust '51, sister of Jim Rust.

Within a week fifteen fellows on campus had quietly told Prexy they were going to the Aucas. The class of '49 was so deeply stirred that we felt we were on holy ground as we were privileged to read many, many letters which came quickly from everywhere. It really is "everywhere" for '49 was not only a great class on campus but the Forty-niners march on and they find gold. Ed and Jim now lay theirs at His feet. A meeting of representatives of the class was held at Jack and Ellie Swanson's and it was particularly nice that Art and Muriel Johnston could be there just before they left Wheaton again. They organized a Memorial Committee to establish a project and implement its continuance. The committee selected consists of Jack Swanson, Jim Rust, Dave Howard, Charles Strobeck, Bryan Baker, Bob Gray, Frances Willard Cooke, John Varland, Dick Trebilco, Gloria Gunderson Buscarello, Don Anderson and Barbara Dean, plus past officers as ex-officio members.

Ed Coray was moved to say from his "Corner":

The martyrdom of Ed McCully, Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, and their missionary companions has brought new meaning to the value, as well as the cost, of a life wholly dedicated to God.

Last evening I sat in the living room of Jack and Ellie Swanson with several classmates of Ed's and Jim's. The group met to activate a '49 memorial project. The idea came from letters from '49'ers from all parts of the world indicating a desire to perpetuate the testimony of these men on Wheaton's campus. The class of '49, a group with closely-knit ties, was again springing into action, motivated by love for their martyred classmates and their families, as well as a desire to maintain their witness to present and future generations of Wheaton students. It was interesting to me to hear the talk drift from present plans back to class escapades and particular associations of those present with Jim and Ed. They became college boys again, with love of fun, enthusiasm for sports, yet through it all, seriousness of purpose.

Many in the world will not forget five young men who gave their lives in an effort to take the Word of God to savage Indians who did not understand the love of those who really cared for their souls. The Wheaton family will never forget these heroes of the Faith. I pray that I may never forget and that Wheaton friends on campus and around the world may never forget the One who impelled these young men to go.

The other four girls are still in Ecuador beginning a new world of living. Marge Saint has a new assignment in Quito, Barbara Youderian returned to their former work at Macuma. And Betty went again to her home in the jungle, Olive Fleming with her, and they will



live in this little house and work together. And the tropical rain will fall on the roof and animals will walk in the jungle but they will not be afraid. Betty's heart was prepared for all the Lord's ways when she wrote while still on campus:

Perhaps some future day, Lord, Thy strong hand
Will lead me to the place where I must stand

Utterly alone.

Alone, O gracious Lover, but for Thee.

I shall be satisfied if I can see

Jesus only.

I do not know Thy plan for years to come,
My spirit finds in Thee its perfect home,
Sufficiency.

Lord, all my desire is before Thee now;
Lead on—no matter where, no matter how,
I trust in Thee.

MORE WHEATONITES GO HOME

Dr. Carey S. Thomas, Hon. Alum. '33, passed away on January 9 in the Presbyterian Hospital, Denver. He is survived by a daughter, Helen Thomas Carlberg '32, and a son, William C. '29. Dr. Thomas began his ministerial service in 1909 in Millburn, N. J. There followed 43 years of labor in three pastorates in Millburn, Philadelphia, Altoona, Pa. During the past four and one-half years Dr. Thomas was president of the Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary.

Helen Jones, Acad. '07, died December 11, at her home in Egan, Ill. She is survived by two sisters, Eva, Acad. '06, Lora, Acad. '07, and three brothers, Aery, Acad. '11, Harry, Acad. '10, and Willard.

Word has been received of the death of H. Theodore Sorg, husband of Mildred Hoops Sorg '30.

Gladys Andrews Gillespie '25, wife of Robert H. Gillespie '27, died in January after apparently well on the way to recovery following a December operation. Their home is Anderson, Ind., where Bob is in business. Gladys is survived, in addition to her husband, by two sons, her mother, and a sister, Helen Andrews Gillespie '26, who is married to Bob's brother David '27. So it is a Wheaton family, indeed, and here at home we join them as they suffer and trust through this loss.