

February 5, 1957.

THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

Memo to the Directors:

Back from Florida and the big news is Morrison. He has done a fabulous job in five months. A year ago I said the Sanctuary was a jungle: this year it is a garden.

The most extraordinary thing that he has done is to desegregate the rest rooms. Taking a fresh new look at the situation, he concluded that very few Negroes visit the Sanctuary and that most of the visitors are from the North. He checked with Hartwig and got his approval: then put up modest "Men" and "Women" signs only and sat back to see what would happen. Nothing has as yet.

He has also got people to scatter pretty well all over the acreage on recital days, using very simple methods. He has put up a few small signs, given trail names to one or two of the northern paths, and added "walking time three minutes". He has planted rye grass, which is fresh and green, put new sawdust on all the main trails, and placed benches in secluded spots where people can listen to the bells in solitude. He is also installing "St. Francis" feeding stations and hollow gourds to inspire birds to alight.

He has installed small signs to identify trees and plants, but more are needed. The signs explaining E.B. and the Sanctuary dedication draw many people and seem to answer those who think that Coolidge gave it.

About one-third of the southeast, south, and southwest slope beyond the Tower plateau has been planted with rye grass and looks handsome. The rest will be similarly planted this season, plus a foundation grass that will grow after the rye grass has gone by. This area extends about halfway from the plateau to the boundary road and is attractive to those who sit there to hear the music.

The old white posts and wire used to fence people off the grass have been replaced with green and some removed altogether. The grass walk where the calla lilies grow has been shut off at both ends with low planting instead of the wire, and looks much better.

The new water system is in operation, to everyone's great relief: we have more than we need and there is ample pressure. The drought has been broken in Florida, but the lakes are way down and it is odd to see made sandy beaches stranded well above the waterline.

There are ten wood ducks and two white swans, most photogenic. The swans haven't yet developed an evil temper and waddle about on the paths near the Reflection Pool without bothering people or being bothered. It is hoped that all the birds will nest and multiply.

MacMillan looks five years younger. "Some of my dreams are coming true", he said.

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Morrison has fixed the northern end of the Reflection Pool so that it looks very neat and nice. Its sixty-five foot extension, and the marble coping around the moat, will be done this spring. So will the installation of the chimes.

The parking lot is now completely paved and curbed, and Morrison is giving thought to beautifying the strips between the lanes with plants and trees. No water can be taken there, however, without digging another well.

I was furious to find that the pointing and weather-proofing of the Tower had been very carelessly done, so that white smudges and streaks are rather painfully apparent in spots. The firm we used were recommended and approved by Cornell & Son, our Philadelphia engineers, but we will certainly not use them again. The result isn't glaring, being so high, but we could see it in detail from the upper balconies and it was very careless work. The streaks will wear off in time and cannot be removed now without injuring the polish of the marble.

Two of the original big palms inside the moat at one of the front corners of the Tower have suddenly died and are being removed. We will wait before replacing them to see if the soil is infected and if we feel we need replacements. Things grow so fast there that the problem is one of thinning out.

A photographer from the Curtis Publishing Company spent three days in the Sanctuary while we were there, getting shots, including aerials, for the new booklet.

The new office, just West of the Western parking lot, is in use; very plain but ample, and badly needed, for as we know, the Major used to do the Sanctuary correspondence on his knee. Morrison and Harwell use a part-time stenographer.

The contract with the Corporation is still in abeyance. It was on McCarter's desk for execution in early November when he suddenly died, and when the new President - Hemphill - and some of the directors looked it over, they felt that McCarter had run ahead of his hounds and had given us too much. They began making objections and are still at it. Some don't want a contract at all. Hartwig does and so does their lawyer, whom I met and discussed some changes with. But they are a temperamental lot, and either it's hard to get them together or it's hard to get them to agree. This is all so much on the boil that I'll have to make it the subject of a separate memo later when there is action. I'm doing all possible to speed it along.

I spoke to Brees about his services after the chimes are in. His reaction was that he work eight months - the present winter five

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plus three in the summer - with two recitals on the bells per week and two on the chimes. He believes in not giving the public too much. This is all new and tentative and I must obviously work things out with him.

Rachel Carson was held in the North by critical illness in her family and couldn't get down. We missed her and hope for better luck next winter.

C.B.