

CLASS NIGHT THURSDAY

May 22, 1958

- I. Prelude Arnold Dean
 II. Invocation Charles L. Cheatham
 III. Salutatorian Phyllis Bryan
 IV. Aspirations of Youth

How beautiful is youth! how bright it gleams
 With its illusions, aspirations, dreams!
 - Longfellow

Scene: An airport. At right is a window facing across stage. A sign at stage rear says, OAKWOOD AIRLINES, INC. ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD SERVED. Left and center rear of stage is occupied by several easy chairs. Here and there are racks with advertizing magazines, folders, and tables with several reading magazines. On the walls at strategic places are maps, charts, etc. of Airlines. A slot machine for the convenience of the customers is also provided. Through the glass window in the rear can be seen part of a huge airship, ramp, etc.

INTRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER (unseen): Attention please! Attention please! Flight Number 21 ready. En route to New Orleans, Dallas, Albuquerque, Los Angeles. Gate Number 21. Attention please! Attention please! Flight Number 21 ready. En route to New Orleans, Dallas, Albuquerque, Los Angeles. Gate Number 21.

TWO TICKET AGENTS: (Enter, go behind booth, pull up shades, take down closed signs, put up name plate, also arrange file case with reservations and scales for weighing the suitcases respectively)

PEARSON: I wonder how business is going to be today. It was very heavy yesterday.

LEWIS: I hope we won't have the rush we had yesterday. I certainly was tired when I got home last night.

BERYL: (Enters dressed in dark suit, has brief case, goes to window)

PEARSON: May I help you, Sir?

BERYL: I should like to pick up my reservation for Sierra Leone, Africa. (Give name)

PEARSON: (Looks in files, gets reservation, etc., hands it to Beryl) Check your luggage at the next window, please.

BERYL: (Goes to a seat and begins reading a newspaper)

PAUL: May I pick up my reservation for Munich, Germany. The name is Paul Jones.

PEARSON: Yes, -- your flight leaves in an hour at 3 o' clock. (Paul sits by Beryl)

FRANKIE: Give me a ticket to Malamula Africa. My name is Frankie Fordham.

PEARSON: All right. Next please. (Goes over by Paul and Beryl. They arise, offer her seat)

OLIVIA: I have come to pick up the reservation for Olivia Brummell. It is for London, England. (Goes over by magazine stand, sits down and reads)

LAWRENCE: Pheonix, Arizona. (Goes over by window and looks out)

CHEATHAM: Madrid, Spain (Dressed in chaplain's service suit) Sits down in another part of room and starts writing in a pad)

STIDHAM: Denmark-- Copenhagen. (Looks at one of the signs)

STEWARD: (Dressed in Bible Worker's cape, goes over to Stidham)

LEON: Tokyo, Japan (Goes over to Lawrence, begins chatting)

DAVID: Rome, Italy (Sits down, then gets up and examines picture on wall)

BOB: Mexico City, Mexico (Sits down and reads)

PHYLLIS: Cambridge, Massachusetts (Sits down alone and looks around)

ELLEN, GENEVA, ROSIE, (enter together)
Ellen, Cincinnati, Ohio
Geneva, Buenos Aires, Brazil
Rosie, Helena, Montana

The three leave together and walk over to a corner and stand chatting.

KENNET Calcutta, India (Goes over to greet Ellen, Geneva, Rosie)

MILDRED: Boston, Massachusetts

SCENE II

(Everybody suddenly realizes that they are not entirely strangers but by some same coincidence have met in the station at the same time) Greet one another, shake hands, girls kiss or embrace, boys pat on the back some of the men in their happiness at seeing each other once again -- air of merriment prevails)

PHYLLIS: Oh.' Isn't it strange? Everyone who graduated in our class is here except Charles Bridges! Let us get together a little for old times sake. (Form a circle and sing "Auld Lang Syne")

OLIVIA: Do you remember when we first came to Oakwood in 1954, there were 79 members in our class: Twenty-nine young men and fifty young women.

ROSIE: Who's missing now?

FRANKIE: Charles Bridges isn't here.

LAWRENCE: Do you remember Nathaniel Abbey?

PAUL: Yes! By the way, I just heard from him the other day. Do you remember he came to us from Africa and became sick of leukemia and had to go home. The doctors gave him six months to live. But God works in strange ways, and he is still living and working in Africa, doing a great work in the Master's Vineyard.

CHARLES: (Rushes in hurriedly, runs to ticket window, gets his ticket. Exclamations of surprise and joy by the other members of the class. Rush over to greet him.)

ELLEN: Oh, here you are, Charles. We only a little while ago called your name. We're just reminiscing a little bit for old times' sake.

MILDRED: You know some of the folk got married. I can think of Katrine Johnson, Doreatta Hayes, Barbara Black, Cordelia Weathington, Bettye Miles, Richard Barron, Margaret Burks, Anna Armstrong, Ella Eilum, and Roy Holman.

CATHERINE: I was visiting in Hinsdale recently, and I saw Irene Lee who is taking the nursing course there. She was able to bring me up-to-date on all of the pre-nurses who were in our class. I learned that Beverly Stewart is enrolled at Glendale; Pretha Boyce and Gloria Castleberry are at Loma Linda; Claire Lawrence is in training at Porter Sanitarium; and Josiephine Phillips is at Paradise Valley now.

CHARLES: I'm so glad to be here. Remember Clyfford Hazel, Bert Reid, and Warner Rice? They are all attending Union College.

GENEVA: Do you know I saw Lillian Palmer in New York last summer, and she looks just fine. She's Elder Bradford's secretary at Northeastern Conference.

LEON: I remember when Lillian was here. She.

ANNOUNCER: Attention! Because of bad weather all planes have been grounded. ATTENTION! Because of bad weather all planes have been grounded, and all flights temporarily cancelled. For the benefit of those who already have made reservations and received them, this announcement is given: Everyone will board the same plane on Flight 1958 to Atlanta where contacts will be made for your individual flights to different places. Everyone will board the CAPITAL AIRLINES SILVER EAGLE Flight number 1958 for Atlanta; whence you will go to your several destinations. Hour of departure is five o'clock. Hour of departure is five o'clock.

BOB: It always amuses me when I think of our class night programs at Oakwood when the various wills and testaments are drawn up.

STIDHAM: When I think of Oakwood, I think of my friend Harry Swinton. I'm going to will him

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- FRANKIE: I leave to Eunice Vanderberg my ability to sleep until daybreak.
- PAUL: I will my quietness to Lloyd Wilson who never seems to be at a loss for making his thoughts known emphatically, dramatically, and vociferously.
- KENNETH: I will my senior class privileges to Benjamin Cummings.
- MILDRED: I bequeath my ability to check the bread line swiftly in the cafeteria to Mercedes Singleton.
- ROSIE: I will my position as assistant in the Biology Department to Essie Jean Holcombe.
- PHYLLIS: I will my seats in Miss Wiles' many classes to prospective "school mams," Sandra Chandler and Lilly Bond.
- BERYL: I bequeath my parking space to Leslie Anderson.
- CHEATHAM: I leave my ability to pronounce my syllables distinctly to Melvin Cox.
- LEON: I will to Billy Hill the Junior Missionary Volunteers.
- CHARLES: I, Charles Bridges, do duly will my hair to Cecil Jackson.
- GENEVA:
- OLIVIA:
- CATHERINE: I, Catherine Steward, do hereby will to Morris Wren my perpetual smile.
- DAVID: I, David Jones, do leave my lieutenant bars to George Pearson.
- ELLEN: I, Ellen Turner, will my excess calories to Marie Hoyle.
- LAWRENCE: I, Lawrence Jacobs, do hereby will my ability to stay out of trouble with Gene Smith to Melvin Seard.
- BOB: I will my happy days at Oakwood to Mr. Benjamin (Babylon) Cummings.

GENEVA: It's been lovely thinking about the past and the present. But really I'm concerned about the future. I've always dreamed about being an efficient teacher of typing. At last my dream has come true:

SCREEN: Students, before we begin our typing lesson for today, I would like for you to assume correct posture. In order for you to develop control as well as speed, we must sit erect with shoulders back and feet flat on the floor.

CATHERINE: Many times questions come to our minds which we can not answer. Questions like these: Why am I here? What happens after death? Where are the dead? What will happen when Jesus comes? And what must I do to be saved? The Bible is the only book that can give us the correct information; it is the answer to all perplexing problems.

KENNETH: I'm on my way to Kungo, India, to conduct some meetings in the village there. The roads are so bad that it's impossible to travel there by car during this time of the year. For you see this is the rainy season. But the gospel must go on, and ole "Suzie" solves my problems just right.

STIDHAM:

PAUL:

ELLEN: Mr. Lopez, according to the test we ran two months ago and according to the way the insides of this guinea pig look, there is proof that the lungs are affected by this solution. You know, Mr. Lopez, before this guinea pig was tested, there were adipose tissues surrounding the entire cardiac cavity. After testing him with this solution and in the outer space chamber not only are the adipose tissues gone, but a hole has been eaten in the pericardial lining. We can conclude then, Mr. Lopez, that man will not be able to travel outer space by being projected with this solution. When shall we try this same test again?

BERYL:

OLIVIA: A dream has come true after four years of preparation. I miss my school days, but I find a great deal of joy in work as a private secretary. However, I work many hours typing, taking dictation, filing, meeting office callers,

and doing various other office duties. After all, we enter school to learn, and we depart to make our dreams come true.

ROSIE:

BOB: I can better understand your attitude, Mrs. _____, now. However, we must always remember that all things work together for our good. Then too the Lord will not allow you to be tempted above that which you are able to stand. If we would constantly remind ourselves of this fact, daily joy would flow through our souls. We are but frail, sinful, finite beings. Our eyes have not as yet been opened to the glories and mysteries of God. Christ inspired His disciple to write those wonderful words: "Now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face, now we know in part, but then shall we know even also as we are known."

Let us learn to trust in God and not question His divine all-wise leadership. The world may be disturbed; however, we as Christians have our hope built upon the Solid Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ. Now let us ask the Lord to grant us His blessings.

FRANKIE: Children, this is the day we have been planning for. Remember, we are going on an excursion to the Museum of Natural Science. I want you to pay special attention to the guide and be sure to keep together. We are going to see many of the animals we have studied about in our nature class: the lion, the tiger, the serpent, the elephant. I know you will enjoy yourselves and be happy after your trip is over.

LEON: Business has been very profitable this year. We have constructed 300 La-Ca-Wyn homes and the Leta house is off of the drawing board. Believe it or not, the church school will be dedicated tomorrow, and it is second to none. I would say the best in the denomination. MY DREAMS ARE AT LAST BECOMING REALITIES.

MILDRED: Boys and girls, today we are going to learn about two insects: the bumble bee and the honey bee. The honeybee gives us honey and the bumble bee helps our flowers, plants, etc. to grow by distributing pollen from the male flowers to the female flowers. These insects are very important to us. Today as you leave to go home, watch for these two insects. Tomorrow be ready to tell the class about something interesting about each insect.

I have given you the yeast of an inquiring mind. Now it's up to you to develop your own loaves of bread, interest. This is the day I've dreamed of and prayed for.