

Jan. 28, 43

Dear Folks,

I'm sorry about that last letter not getting off sooner. It was rather thoughtless. The letter to Skipper was even done. Words on such occasions are so inadequate that what might seem like a typical letter of condolence would in my opinion be worse than nothing. but I suppose

Evidently the reference is to Gamble's death.

Quite a bit re local trees

That isn't true at the  
 receiving end. It may  
 therefore be better to  
 consider that what one  
 says doesn't matter so  
 much rather than  
 feel one shouldn't  
 say anything unless  
 or until one can express  
 it more or less properly.  
 A compromise then  
 would be the logical  
 thing, and both effort  
 and practice should  
 produce results even if

2 3  
one should not try to  
develop a standard form.

Any close person would

of course require very  
special treatment in

words. Yes, telegrams.

I suppose are to be  
expected too, but with

so few words they must

be almost harder to

formulate. Faith, incidentally

was kind enough to write

me a sweet letter.

Bon voyage to Henry.

Though he may never have



4  
occasion to leave this  
country. You ground  
new should be right  
up his alley, and I hope  
he volunteers for some  
and gets it. I wouldn't  
know what the chances  
of getting what one asks  
for with a draftee these  
days, <sup>or</sup> but how many  
men on the ground is  
it that it takes to put  
a plane in the air?  
If he doesn't have the  
bad luck of having to

5  
get a lot of training in  
southern swampy country  
where malaria and other  
things are prevalent, he  
should be able to get  
into really fine physical  
shape, and he certainly  
should have some  
interesting and valuable  
experiences.

The Golden Treasury  
did arrive and she also  
the swell henries,  
which I'm most grateful  
for, but forgot to acknowledge.

The mist water, by the way, has behaved well, and seems to be ideal.

Bad weather has been a little more prevalent here of late, but there has been little in the way of real cold. The redbud trees, both in the woods and in front of people's houses, are in bloom, but, as you doubtless know, *Cercis canadensis* is a tree that blossoms before the leaves



come out. Red maples,  
 in the swamps, on the  
 other hand, are fast  
 getting their new leaves,  
 which are, however, still  
 small and red. Sweet  
 gums still have many  
 of their old leaves, and  
 some still show "autumn  
 color. Hickories and the  
 deciduous oaks are still  
 quite bare, or in the  
 case of some of the oaks,  
 still have their old leaves.

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Magnolia and live oak  
make up for the Hickories  
and the sweet gum in  
the hard wood hammock,  
in fact, outnumber them,  
but the swamp hard-  
woods, except for some  
of their smaller trees, are  
principally deciduous.

Tupelos, cypress and again  
sweet gum, being the  
commonest trees. The  
poorer soil oaks, that  
often alternate with  
the pines, are deciduous  
and of the red oak group.



9  
Palmetto, the commonest  
shrub; and of course  
evergreens. They are often  
thick under pine stands,  
the hammocks having a  
greater variety of shrubs  
and also trees.

My knowledge of  
the local flora is  
pitiful and even  
embarrassing. There are  
even good-sized trees  
I can't identify, but  
I intend to write to  
the state university  
very soon for advice on

books. Small, the standard, is probably too large and expensive if not actually unobtainable. The title is something like "Flora of the Southeast."

My last day off was spent mostly at the Ponds in Atlantic Beach, where I rode my bike from town and left it. Next week I hope to ride it to St. Augustine, a little over 30 miles, and may try the beach.

Love to all  
Toots