

## THE STORY OF A REST-ROOM

From the files of Beulah Glover

On one corner of the courthouse square in the town of Walterboro stands a small concrete building, making a restful picture with its ivy-covered walls, a red roof giving the needful touch of color. Shading the spot are several large scyamore trees, while the grounds surrounding are laid off in flower beds, with graveled walks leading to the building. The Coastal highway which runs directly thru the center of the town passes the door of this building. Outside the building hangs a sign bearing the words: "Civic League Restroom." This sign tells the purpose of the building and to the visitors coming into town or passing thru it is as a sign of welcome and to them it means a place of rest and refreshment. It means that inside there are conveniences which make for comfort. Rocking-chairs, a couch, a Morris chair, a crib for the baby, a rocking-horse to keep the little boy amused. Table supplied with current magazines. Ice-water and electric lights. White curtains to the windows add to the attractiveness of the room. Friends see to it that the tables are supplied most of the time with cut flowers. This completes the main room. In a small adjoining room is a dresser, a lavatory and other toilet necessities. One corner of the main room is cut off by a screen, behind this screen is an oil stove, a table, and a cabinet full of dishes. These things come in nicely when suppers are served.

An average of about ten persons a day visit this room, and hardly a day passes without an expression of gratitude from some of them to the Civic League which made this room possible.

This building was erected as an engine-room in which to keep the engines necessary for the town's water-works. It was soon found to be inadequate and another and larger building erected for the purpose, thus, this building was abandoned. It stood unused for many months, then the Walterboro Civic League conceived the idea of using it for a rest-room. The League consisted of less than seventy-members then, but they had as their motto: "Our Town, Our County, Our State" and with such a purpose in <sup>their</sup> hearts were ready to attempt big things. One of their greatest desires, and one of the town's greatest needs, was a place where strangers could

go and be comfortable the hours they spent in town, or stop over for a short rest in passing thru. This concrete building, because of its size and location, seemed to be the very thing for the purpose. A petition for the use of this building was readily granted. A starting fund was created by giving a few social events and this was used in doing over the building and putting in fixtures. Several pieces of furniture were donated, each of the three banks contributing a rocking-chair, and some of the merchants making donations. The water and light supply is furnished free by the town; the members of council being much interested in this and other undertakings of the League, and cooperating where possible. The Highway Commissioner has always been ready to aid, and has done much to assist in getting the grounds around the building in good condition.

The sign which acts as a guide post to strangers is made from a circular saw (the idea was suggested thru The Woman's Home Companion) painted white with lettering done in red and black. This work was donated by a friend of the League's and so was no expense.

The running expenses of the room are small, the laundry bill about \$1.00 a month; most travelers use their own towels so this makes the laundry bill light. The ice used in the cooler amounts to \$2.00. The building is opened in the morning by a friend who works in one of the banks and arises early. In the evening it is closed by a member of the League who is near the building.

The president of the League goes there nearly every day and when necessary to have cleaning up done she carries a servant to attend to it. Members of the League have assisted from time to time in setting out plants and shrubbery.

The building's greatest value is to visitors but it is also used in the community as a meeting-place for clubs, committees, etc. On occasions light suppers are served.

Tourists coming thru on the new high-way are making use of this room and when all the links in the chain of high-ways is complete it will be of benefit to people from many states, and this "little house by the side of the road" will prove a friend to many.