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CONTENTS

A story of Dellineas, The Architect  By Ralph Reeves 6

A Year-round Vacation House 8

The Inside Story  By Harold T. Spitznagel 10

Roster of Members 11

Architect Tapped for Second Term 25

Calendar of Events 26

Index to Advertisers 26
Here beginneth an account of how

DELINEAS, THE ARCHITECT,
DID PREPARE THE CONSTRUCTION
DOCUMENTS

as recorded by Ralph Reeves
and illustrated by Bob Chartier

And it came to pass that the Patron had looked upon the designs of the building and had favored them.

And Delineas determined then to prepare the drawings of work, and he entered into the place of the long tables and the instruments and the lights that swivel about and the catalogues of Sweets.

And from the stocks of paper, he selected sheets of fairest white, translucent such that the light of the machine that prints blue could pass there through and in such fashion produce images in many numbers.

And he selected slivers of purest graphite and shaved them to fine and true points.

And upon the translucent sheets he rendered many lines with the points of graphite, coursing true and proper with divers instruments including the triangle and the compass and the moving edge which is straight. And the sheets became charts which shew the positions of the rooms and the walls and the doors and the windows and the roof, and the materials whereof each and every part of the building would be wrought.

And he made the charts to finite scale in such fashion that the mechanics and artisans who would build the building would know the size of the whole and of each and every part.

And there came into his place of work persons who were knowledge in the mechanical and the electrical sciences. And these persons manipulated the rule which slides, and to the work they applied the great Laws of Thermodynamics and applied the scale of Fahrenheit and applied the powerful Law of Ohm.

And this was done to the end that those who would dwell within the building would find warmth in the winter's cold, and would find light in the night's darkness, and would find water with which to cleanse away the soils and the sweats of their labors, and would find the alternating current with which to cook their food and to light the large tube of the flickering pictures and of the advice of wares to purchase with the fruits of their labors.

And Delineas prepared a book with descriptions and requirements for the materials which the builders would be beholden to employ in the construction, such as the measure of straw that was to be moulded into the bricks and the forces of the concretes, and the true manner and fashion to place the walls plumb and the windows true and the floors level, and the instruments that were to be exercised such as the trowel and the hammer and the brush and the shovel.

And there came from far places ambassadors of the Lords of Industry who made the materials and fabricated the parts, and they prevailed upon him to write in the book the names of their wares. And after much time had been consumed, Delineas, in ire, smote the large table in such fashion that the graphite points did break and the catalogues and manuals leaped about.

And he said, "Get thee from my place of labors and take thee no more of my time which has become of such depletion that the Patron hath anxiety that his building will not have the footings dug when the weather warms and the sun of Spring shines upon the land!"
And the ambassadors were troubled and went away in fear that their lords would vent anger upon them because their names might not be written.

And in the book Dellineas described the conditions which would prevail upon all manner and style of work, in order that each and every man of contract would know the requirements that would be made upon him.

And so many were the materials envisioned by him to go into the building, and the conditions to prevail, that the pages of the book numbered an hundred and forty-seven.

And when Dellineas had accomplished all that he knew to do in preparing the documents, from the charts he made clear images. And for their witness, he sent them to the Marshal of Fires and to the Controller of Properties and to the stewards and vassals of the Great White Father who dwelt far off in the low marshes of the Potomac.

For the Great White Father had proffered large and handsome monies for the Patron's benefit to withstand a portion of the costs of the work, and is it not said that he with the fatted purse the loudest speaketh?

And the Marshal of the Fires directed that a door be placed athwart the main corridor to dissuade the smoke, and the Controller of Properties directed that the metal work be altered from aluminum to the tempered iron that is called steel and further that it be coated with layers of paint that would cause it to rust not and to be of pleasure to behold.

And the stewards and the vassals of the Great White Father ordered that there be written in the book a scale of wages, less than which it would be unlawful to pay the mechanics and artisans.

And the stewards and the vassals of the Great White Father said that if this did not come to pass, then the Great White Father would keep his monies unto himself and not let the Patron have any of them, thus forcing the Patron to pay each and every cost out of his own purse. And Dellineas wist that the purse of the Patron was not of sufficient fatness so to withstand the largeness of the costs.

And Dellineas took up his graphite points and his several instruments of work, and he altered the charts to provide a door athwart the main corridor such that the smoke would not travel about, and to require that the metalwork be the tempered iron which is called steel. And he wrote in the book that the metal was to be coated with assorted types of paint in the fashion and number of layers that would please the Controller of Properties.

And he added to the book a page which set out in every manner the leastest wages that could be paid the journeymen and the laborers, setting forth a description of every sort of labor that was to be performed and the monies that were to be paid for each and every hour so long as the work continued.

And he wrote out instructions that no man could work more than a described number of hours in the week, or hours of the day, or minutes of the hour, else the builder would be made to pay him half again the wage set out in the instructions of the Great White Father.

And when all this was accomplished and the Marshal of the Fires and the Controller of Properties and the stewards and the vassals of the Great White Father looked with favor upon the work of Dellineas, the Patron so directed him to place within the newspaper and within the journals of the trades of construction a proclamation exhorting builders from far and wide, and desirous of making the building, to come unto the house of the Patron and to place upon his table their bids.

Here endeth the Construction Documents Phase.
Year-Round Vacation House
Albemarle, North Carolina

architects:
Sherman Pardue & Company, A.I.A.
Charlotte

general contractor:
Coley & Miller
Norwood

photographs:
Gordon H. Schenck, Jr.
Charlotte

This year-round vacation retreat is located on a large tract of wooded land on Baden Lake near Morrow Mountain.

The exterior materials of field stone, rough sawed siding, and cedar shakes blend with the natural setting. The interior spaces express the exposed wood beam construction dramatically in the two-story living room while emphasizing the use of natural materials throughout the house.

The open plan reflects the casual living required by the owners, Dr. and Mrs. Whitman Smith, Jr. The balconied upper level provides sleeping and play area for the owners' three children, and insures privacy for the guests' bedroom. The small exterior balconies afford an elevated view of the lake and mountain over the tops of profuse dogwood trees.

1st Floor

2nd Floor
THE INSIDE STORY

An address to The North Carolina
Chapter AIA, July 21, 1967

by Harold T. Spitznagel

One would think that when one was 1143 miles away from home that he would have the advantage of being able to improve his image by resorting to half truths and exaggeration, largely based on the fact that his listeners were unaware of his weaknesses. Unfortunately, today I do not have the advantage of the enchantment lent by distance. My dilemma arises from the fact that I was met at Raleigh, North Carolina, by Charlie Kahn who, unfortunately for me, worked in our office while on vacation and still in school. It is true that it may well have been quite as unfortunate for Charlie as it was for me, despite the fact that his total summer's work consisted of turning out the working drawings for a band room to be added to a small rural school. In Charlie's defense I should say that even this early in his career he showed signs of being a cut or two better than the average draftsman as he managed to make the job last right down to the moment of his departure for home. Charlie was quite proud of his maiden effort and we were equally delighted when he stated that the work was completed for there were times when this fact was in question. It later developed that excessive deflection of the roof joists increased to a point where the water could not be persuaded to run uphill to the drain, which in turn accounts for last week's leakage. Nothing we have been able to do to date has cut down the reverberation time to an acceptable level, and the clients have not to this day seen fit to avail themselves of our services since the dedication of the Kahn Memorial Band Room. Despite this it still is difficult for me to depart too far from the truth because while Charlie may not have known his shortcomings until this morning, he has, unfortunately for me, observed most of my own. Thus, whatever I say will have to hew pretty close to the line of truth.

About a month ago I called Mr. Hammond and asked him to give me some idea as to the composition of the audience with which I would be confronted, and he told me that most of the firms in this area were, with a few notable exceptions, relatively small averaging perhaps 9 employees. Knowing full well that I had no great message to deliver, he suggested that perhaps it would be interesting if I would speak on some of my experiences during the 37 years that I have hoodwinked my clients. For what it's worth and be it interesting or not, this is what I intend to do.

So that you may have a better idea as to my viewpoint, I should tell you that our office is located in a community of 70,000 and we practice (and I mean that literally) in an area which could be circumscribed by a 400 mile radius. Our firm employs about 30 people (you will notice that I use the word PEOPLE and not necessarily WORKERS) and they are as follows: 11 architects and architectural draftsmen, one specification writer, two interior designers, 4 mechanical engineers, 2 electrical engineers, 3 structural engineers, 2 superintendents, 1 bookkeeper and 4 clerical and stenographic employees. 18 are graduates of an engineering or architectural school and 10 of the employees are licensed. I have always felt that our efficiency curve is somewhere along the bottom of the graph and our cost of producing drawings has run well off the chart. To date, I might add, we are having some difficulty determining as to whether we operate a non-profit or profit making organization. If I were to enumerate all of my PROBLEMS it would require most of the time which you intend to devote to this Conference; however, I am sure that I could delineate our outstanding accomplishments in considerable detail in a relatively short period of time. Now that you know most everything about our practice I will take the liberty of commenting on some of the facets of present day practice which particularly impress me.

I would rather imagine that my experience with recently graduated draftsmen is probably the same as yours. The fledgling architect at this stage in his career is usually convinced that one of the current architectural luminaries can do no wrong; and thus all of his work reflects that designer's vocabulary. At one time or another it seems to me that I have had a dedicated representative of all of the well known architects from Frank Lloyd Wright to Paul Rudolph, all anxious to imprint their idol's mark on one or more of our products. This may be all well and good, but unfortunately they would like to conduct their experimentation at OUR expense. At the present time I believe that I have a miniature I. M. Pei, a Mies Van Der Rohe, a Louis Kahn, a Corbusier and oh yes, one who

(Continued on page 20)
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THE INSIDE STORY
(Continued from page 10)

is wavering between Philip Johnson and The Architects Collaborative not having as yet made up his mind as to whose details he intends to trace. It gives me considerable pleasure to tell you that for several years now I haven’t had one single follower of Frank Lloyd Wright who in the past not only incorporated the master’s details but not infrequently embellished them with a few prefabricated leaks.

If the foregoing were not enough, I am constantly beguiled by the fact that each of my embryo designers fancies himself to be something of a Piranesi. Every drawing is executed with the same care and attention usually accorded a steel engraving. This in itself is bad enough but when one stops to consider that the same detail is drawn first at one quarter inch to the foot and then successively at one half, three quarters, one inch, an inch and one eighth and three inches to the foot before it finally is traced on the working drawing it is little wonder that most architects are prematurely gray. To make matters even worse it requires constant vigilance to prevent these assorted scale details from finding their way on to the working drawings themselves. If the foregoing represented all of the crosses that one is forced to bear, it would not be so bad; but unfortunately most of the younger fellows are endowed with a fervor for contriving details which, if they are supposed to hold water do not and if they are intended to shed water they retain it. Just today I noticed one of my fledglings busily engraving a roof flashing detail which on the job could only be accomplished if the roofer were to apply the hot pitch with a ruling pen. On those occasions where I have become so bold as to suggest an alternative solution I usually meet with a certain amount of resistance which I can as a rule overcome by agreeing to allow the employee to proceed with the detail as designed but only with the understanding that if when it is constructed it doesn’t work out, the cost of revising same will be at the expense of the proponent. This seems to have a very sobering effect on some of my younger geniuses who upon learning of such a proposal usually retreat into the field of reality.

From what I may have said you perhaps have concluded that I have worn a bit thin as a result of the efforts of my uninhibited henchmen, but I must quickly admit that without the constant infusion of new blood I fear that the work in the average office would rapidly deteriorate. We are fortunate in usually having enough new faces on hand to prevent us from
lapsing into a state of conformist mediocrity. As in the
case of my good friend Charlie Kahn (you notice that
I have added the words “good friend” as I am de-
pendent upon him to provide transportation back to
Raleigh) I have found that the student who seeks
summer employment is not always too helpful, but
I view him as a necessary evil and certainly the pro-
fession owes it to the student to provide this period of
indoctrination. Unfortunately I have found that at the
end of the summer few of our short-term employees
have learned even so much as to how to prolong their
coffee break.

So much for employees, perhaps it would be
interesting to indulge in a few observations of my
clients. Today’s architect is unfortunately, due to cir-
cumstances beyond his control, unable to enjoy the
relatively few pains and the many pleasures that go
with working with a single individual client. Unfor-
tunately most clients in this day are committees,
boards, city, county and state department heads and
governmental agencies. Today the client seems to be
less interested in achieving a satisfying result than he is
in speed of accomplishment and minimum completed
project cost.

To me the most illogical and demanding client is
the one that has suddenly acquired the necessary fi-
nancing and cannot wait to start construction. Most
couldn’t care less as to how well you render your
services and would be more than willing to instantly
write you a check if you would simply turn over most
any kind of a set of plans Right Now! They completely
overlook the fact that (providing the architect is not
dawdling) the time and energy he devotes to the con-
tract documents is at HIS, the architect’s, expense.
This fact unfortunately is frequently overlooked.

The individual client of yesterday did his best
to achieve an outstanding result and while he was not
always overburdened with funds with which to
achieve his goal, he was usually not stingy by nature
nor was he impatient nor primarily interested in speed.
It was the final result in which he was interested and
while there still remain some clients who are thus
motivated, it has been my experience and certainly
in my area that these are indeed in the minority.

There is little question that one weakness which
unfortunately is much too prevalent is the apparent
inability of the architect to offer the client a more
accurate estimate of the cost of a project. To make
things even worse the architect, as the work progresses
and in his interest in obtaining a good result, frequent-
ly upgrades the construction with details which rad-
cially increase the cost without advising the owner
of this fact. This latter error can be easily corrected,
but unfortunately this is not always done.

Few firms are large enough to employ a full time
experienced and capable, and I would like to empha-
size both of these qualifications, estimator. It is little
wonder, therefore, that when a contractor has COM-
PLETE plans and specifications at his disposal the
proposals submitted still may well vary from 10 to
20%. How then can an architect accurately advise the
owner as to the ultimate cost of the project when he
has but the most fragmentary preliminary drawings on
which to base his appraisal. Obviously this is not so
difficult where the building is of a repetitive type such
as a school, a dormitory, an office building, or any
other type of building with which he has had recent previous experience; but unfortunately the degree of error is apt to increase in direct proportion to the non-conforming complexity of the structure. No architect likes to face the day when upon opening bids he finds that he is substantially over the budget; and while this is sometimes partially excusable, it is nonetheless a weakness of the profession which is sadly in need of improvement.

With the Institute engaged in a thorough and costly investigation of the trends in architectural education, I would be the last to offer any suggestions to my friend Henry Kamphoefner or for that matter any other educator. There is one recent trend in education, however, which is somewhat alarming at least to me.

A.I.A. Journal that unless there is a revision in the curricula of the architectural school, and thus a change in the end product, the profession will be faced with a major manpower problem considerably more complex than that which exists now. I couldn’t agree with him more. After all no one will deny that there is a need for skilled planning on a much wider horizon than now exists, but after these comprehensive plans are completed, there still remains the task of designing and constructing the buildings themselves and this, as you well know, requires an entirely different type of technician than does that required by the planner.

As I see it, the profession is in a state of angst, as the Hippies refer to frustration, and those architectural seers who peer into the future usually see and that is the increasing emphasis on urban and regional planning. That there is a need for this type of technician is beyond question, but there is an equal if not greater need for the competent, should I say “general practitioner,” type of architect. Despite the exploding population, the trend of which has been considerably diminished by the pill, we will probably see in the not too distant future a greater shortage of the type of architect who can cope with the individual building than there will be for the planner versed in the specialized skill required by the large scale plan. Bill Caudhill recently stated in the May issue of the
by training or experience a person who can replace the architect any more than the architect can replace the
eengineer. Certainly not the package dealer even
equipped though he may be with a captive architect
who, as a rule, if he has considerable talent or ambition
does not long remain a captive, nor can the con-
tractor accomplish a satisfactory result if he proceeds
without benefit of an architect. In the end the architect
whether viewed as a necessary evil or a benefactor
is still in my opinion a most indispensable person.
Without him we can only look forward to a welter of
mediocre buildings.

During the past few years there has been a great
deal of discussion as to the format of the architect's
office of the future. There are those who say that only
the large office can survive and even these will have
to be adequately staffed with economists, psycholo-
gists, sociologists and all variety of scientists who, up
to this point, have been foreign to the practice of ar-
chitecture. On this basis, there would be but a few
remaining firms and certainly the American Institute
of Architects composed largely of individuals and
relatively small firms would vanish from the scene.
In the meantime, this position has softened somewhat
and now some of its most ardent proponents can see
that these assorted scientists, when required, could
be engaged as consultants much as are the structural,
mechanical and electrical engineers by many present
day firms. Those who hold that only the big firm can
survive are usually the big firms themselves, but I
believe that if the pill does not substantially stymie
the exploding population that there will be work for
all. There are unquestionably some jobs which by their
very nature require the services of a large organiza-
tion. By the same token there are innumerable projects
where the small or medium sized firm might well ren-
der the client as good and in many cases better service
than would be the case with the remotely located
larger organization. For a while it was suggested that
probably the only work that the future would hold
would be the multi-million or billion dollar project
and that everything of lesser scope simply would cease
to exist. Time it seems is softening the argument of
those who can foresee only the large organization.
One should not forget, however, that with present day
transportation and communication, such as it is, the
large remotely based office has proven beyond doubt
that it can perform in areas where it previously would
have been unthinkable.

Perhaps one of the liveliest of all of the topics
which intrigue today's architect is of the com-
puter. There are almost as many opinions as there are
types of electronic devices and they vary from wild
enthusiasm to total ignorance and mistrust. I was in
the office of an architect employing about 70 men who
was convinced that the computer holds all of the
answers to the problems of the architect. He has invested a considerable sum of money in programming and even more in the paper stock for which the computer seems to have a voracious and insatiable appetite. Another firm with about the same number of men praises the computer's accomplishments publicly while privately admitting that he is not at all sure that it is all that it is cracked up to be. Despite a sizeable investment he is not as yet thoroughly sold.

To satisfy my curiosity I called a representative of International Business Machines and I find that the least costly computer rents at $695.00 per month and with very little effort the rental could rise to $400,000 or more per month. I would rather think that at $695.00 per month, the computer's memory might be somewhat short and perhaps subject to absentmindedness. If anyone is thinking of purchasing a computer outright he should be thinking in terms of $28,000 for a minimum stripped down version and he could, without straining the resources of the manufacturer, quickly select a model that might well cost $30,000,000 or more.

When one of my friends told me that he leased time on a computer at $500.00 an hour I was astonished at his apparent affluence; but when he went on to explain that some of his problems required no more than bursts of 25 seconds of the computer's time I was somewhat less bewildered. However, this particular computer writing at the speed of 900 lines per minute makes one conclude that if my friend didn't run out of money he might well run out of pulp for the paper that the device devours.

Perhaps before concluding I should say something about the Institute and its affairs. At the outset may I say that if you are not confronted with enough problems within your own organization, just serve as a Board member or an officer of the Institute and this will no longer prove to be a problem. If it is not one thing it is another and many of our problems, at least so it seems to me, to an extent defy solution even if we had unlimited funds at our disposal with which to solve them.

There was, as you know, much drum beating and thunder in connection with the revision of the documents, and I would be the last one to say that our negotiations were beyond criticism; but of one thing I am sure and that is that we are, despite all of the hullabaloo, infinitely better off with the new documents than we were with the old which left the architect in a most vulnerable position.

Over the years I have observed that in its efforts to do right by the membership the Board not infrequently becomes involved in operations which could be considered something less than a complete success. What at the time seems to be a most desirable and beneficial activity not infrequently turns out to be so
much dross. I am afraid that it will always be so and we can only hope that the law of averages will leave the membership on the plus side of the ledger. One venture that was undertaken during the past year will, however, I am sure be most informative and worthwhile for probably every member of the Institute. I refer to the comprehensive study of the cost of architectural services, a short preview of which was revealed at the New York Convention. The study is now in its final phase and I expect that it will be released this fall. For years nearly every architect has wondered how his colleague operates and how he fares as a result of his activities. This study will give a factual across the board answer to many of these heretofore unanswered questions.

This year the Board is placing considerable emphasis on Public Relations, an activity of the Institute that has during the recent past been not only neglected but allowed to expire. Director Philip Meathe is Chairman of this Committee and immediately upon being assigned to the task made an exhaustive and detailed historical review of the problem, coupled with 14 recommendations which were submitted to the Spring Meeting of the Board. Many of these recommendations have already been implemented and action on the remainder is not far off. An investigation being conducted as a result of these recommendations is at this time being completed by the Gerson Walter & Associates of Washington, D. C. Actually, this consists of a public opinion survey to find out insofar as possible the place that the architect holds in the mind of the general public so that the efforts of the Public Relations Program can be aimed in the proper direction.

The War On Community Ugliness will be emphasized as President Durham is quite anxious that we come up with a second film to follow "No Time For Ugliness," and funds have been allocated and the preliminary steps have been taken toward this end. In the meantime, we have announced a competition for LOCAL Slide Shows and to encourage the various Chapters to produce these shows we are offering three prizes consisting of two first class round trip tickets from Portland to Honolulu to each of the three shows which are adjudged the best. Details of this program will be announced in THE MEMO, the contest is to be judged the latter part of May 1967.

Finally, I should report the disappointing fact that as most of you know the Fine Arts Commission saw fit to reject the design for the new Headquarters Building. As of this date we have not, or at least I have not received the transcript of the decision. Of one thing I can assure you and that is that the Officers and the Board have no intention whatsoever of relaxing our efforts to accomplish our goal and it is important that those that have not contributed to the Headquarters Building do so and those that have made a pledge make it a point to fulfill their obligations as promised.

Over a period of years, that are many more than I care to recall, the Institute has never been without its threats to the organization if not to the practitioner himself. On many occasions these have been formidable indeed. But to date we have not only survived each and every one but have grown in numbers and strength. I see no reason to believe that there will be a radical change in this process.

I have, I am sure you will agree, talked much too long. Without further imposing on your patience, I will cease and desist. At future Board meetings I will do my best to avoid Director Rothschild as he will no doubt have to assume at least part of the blame for this meandering discourse.

Architect Tapped For Second Term

Fred W. Butner, Jr., AIA, a Winston-Salem architect, has been appointed by Governor Dan Moore to a second five-year term on the North Carolina Board of Architecture. He currently is vice chairman of the five-member board of architects charged with the responsibility of licensing architects and enforcement of laws and regulations governing the practice of architecture.

Butner, a graduate of North Carolina State, has practiced architecture in Winston-Salem for 15 years under the firm name of Fred W. Butner, Jr. Associates. He is a past president of the Winston-Salem Council of Architects and the Winston-Salem Engineers Club, and he has served two terms as a director of the North Carolina Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 5: Durham Council of Architects, Jack Tar Hotel, 12:30 PM, Max Isley, AIA, President

Sept. 6: Charlotte Section, N. C. Chapter AIA, Charlotte Mall Community Hall, 12:30 PM, Paul Braswell, AIA, President

Sept. 7: Raleigh Council of Architects, YMCA, Hillsborough St., 12:15 PM, William C. Correll, AIA, President

Sept. 12: Public Hearing, Amendments to State Plumbing Code, 10:00 AM, Auditorium, Highway Building, Raleigh

Sept. 21: Greensboro Registered Architects, Cellar Antoine's, 12:30 PM, R.E.L. Peterson, AIA, President

Sept. 21: NCAIA Executive Committee Meeting, 10:30 AM, AIA Tower, Raleigh

Oct. 21: NCAIA Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 AM, City Club, Raleigh NCAIA Chapter meeting, 2:00 PM, Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh

Nov. 5-8: Carolinas Branch AGC annual meeting, Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Florida

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Andeo Industries Corp. ............................................. 25
Borden Brick & Tile Co. ............................................. 2
Boyd & Goforth, Inc. ............................................... 23
Brick & Tile Service, Inc. ........................................... 27
W. A. Brown & Son ..................................................... 24
Ferree Studios .......................................................... 24
Giant Portland Cement Co. .......................................... 21
H. R. Johnson Construction Co. .................................... 22
Mabie-Bell Schokbeton Corp. ....................................... 20
McDevitt & Street Co. ............................................... 23
Ezra Mier & Associates ............................................... 21
Mid-State Tile Co. ...................................................... 3
Peden Steel Co. ........................................................ 4
Producers' Council, Inc. ............................................. 26
Renfrow Distributing Co. ........................................... 20
Salisbury Lumber & Supply Co. .................................... 23
Southern Elevator Co. ............................................... 24
Space Planning Associates ......................................... 21

CAROLINA'S CHAPTER

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