

June 13, 1961

GLOBE-TROTTING With GINNY

By Virginia Harris Hendricks

Hardy Baptist Aged
Climb Stairs To Third

PIERREFONDS, France (BP)--This village nestles in the heart of the Forest of Compiègne. On the main street there is a manor, called "La Rosaraie" or "The Rose Garden." The "human" roses which this garden features are Christians over 65 years of age, for this is the French Baptist Old Folks' Home.

When the French Baptist Federation bought the neglected manor, it needed many hours of hard volunteer labor to restore it. German soldiers had occupied the building. A few miles away is the site where the Armistice of 1918 was signed. Twenty-two years later on the same spot, Hitler forced the French to sign the hateful Armistice of 1940.

My family entered The Rose Garden and I climbed to the third floor to visit two members of the newly opened home. As I puffed my way to the top of the house, I could hardly believe the occupants I was on my way to visit were 85 and 89 years of age. They would use these stairs several times each day!

Our 89-year-old host adjusted his navy blue beret rakishly on his head as he welcomed us enthusiastically.

"How do you like the Home?" he was asked.

"I am very happy here," he replied. "I had no place to go."

Pictures of deceased family members decorated the bright pink walls. His windows opened to the breathtaking view of the forest and a splendid feudal castle.

His eyes sparkled mischievously. "The food is delicious. But the wine! Alors, it is most special: It is called 'Water a la Pump!'"

As I left to attend the dedication service below, Monsieur Pinea was gracious. "Come back anytime! Our doors are always open to you!"

As I descended the stairs, I was happy that French Baptists have provided doors always open for aged evangelicals who have "no place to go."

-30-

Cutline: "La Rosaraie," Baptist home for aged.