

Burton, Christine

March 5, 1982

Is Eagle really friendly after all?

To the editor:

I have just finished reading a recent article clipped from your paper and sent to my husband, a former Eagle resident. The article was about Eagle, Wisconsin, the "friendly?" little town just west of you.

Robert Burns said it best when he said, "O wad some power the giftie gie us / To see oursel's as ithers see us!"

There is another side to that "friendly?" little town and it should be heard. Mr. Sasso is one of the few men of his generation who still lives there. If it were such a haven, that one would like to remain in for life, how is it that all of his old childhood chums are gone and have no plans for returning, not even to that cemetery lot!

As one who married into Eagle, I can tell you all about the friendly overtures extended by the old-time Eagle populace. They don't exist. A newcomer at any Eagle gathering can count on lots of people standing around and staring and whispering, but not much else. Outside of family members and one lovely soul, now deceased, named Mary Breidenbach, no Eagle residents ever bothered to try to get acquainted with me, though I spent several months there when I was a bride, and most drivable weekends for

the following five years.

The closest I made to a friend there was another "Eagle Bride" and she is the one who introduced me to the "Eagle Prayer." When we pray, we do not say, "And deliver us from evil." We say, "...deliver us from Eagle."

The last time I was in Eagle was just before we moved south in 1955. Not one soul told me they were sorry to see me go. None had bothered to get acquainted, so I don't think it was because they disliked me. But then there are those people that one takes an instant dislike to and perhaps, to Eagle people, I am one of those.

A number of people did say to me, "You sure are going to miss Eagle when you are gone." I repeat this to show that the "Eagle pride" has existed a long time and to afford me the opportunity to say, "It has been a good miss."

You can print this if you wish, and I don't mind having it signed. By now I am sure that all in Eagle know how I feel about the place, as I won't even go with my husband on duty visits.

Now if you want to find a *really* friendly town, y'all come to Atlanta.

— Christine M. Burton,
Atlanta, Ga.