

Vision of Friendship & Service...The Birth of Pilot

Cast of Characters:

Narrator:	Janice Clark
Hostess/Server	Teresa Begley
Elizabeth Leonard	Susan Harbin
Lucy B. Allen	Celeste Sherer

PROPS NEEDED: table, tablecloth, small vase of flowers, serving tray with two cups & saucers and a teapot

SETUP: Elizabeth Leonard is already seated at a table for two.

Narrator: It begins as a simple lunch between friends and blossoms into a Vision of Friendship & Service...The Birth of Pilot.”

The setting is the Dempsey Hotel in Macon, Georgia in September of 1921. Miss Elizabeth Leonard has already been seated. Her close friend, Miss Lucy B. Allen, is about to join her for lunch.

And so it begins...as the Hostess/Server escorts Lucy to the table to join her friend Elizabeth.

Server escorts Lucy B. Allen to join Elizabeth Leonard, and then leaves to get tea.

Lucy: Thank you (to server). Oh Elizabeth (touches Elizabeth’s cheek)! It is so good to see you but I was surprised by your note to meet for lunch today. (takes seat)

Elizabeth: Lucy, thank you for coming. I have an idea which I think to be very exciting and you are the first I thought to contact.

Server brings back a tray and serves tea, then leaves again.

Elizabeth: *(to server)* Thank you so much! *(pauses until server leaves)* Lucy, you know I am always thinking...and now with the women’s suffrage movement over and the adoption of the 19th Amendment...

Lucy: *(interrupts Elizabeth)* Oh, I know...I so enjoyed my first experience in voting in the last National election. It was so fulfilling!

Elizabeth: Exactly! A newfound sense of purpose has filled me. You know my employer is a member of the Lion’s Club which just started here in Macon last year. They call themselves a

“service club.” All these businessmen have come together to foster civic leadership and form important and lasting ties. The Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs, also for men, have similar goals, banding together to do good. This sounded like something I should be a part of. I tried to see if I could join one of these clubs because it sounded so right. But they don’t take women...none of the clubs do.

Lucy: Oh dear, Elizabeth. What do you want to do?

Elizabeth: Did you read the recent article in the Macon Telegraph by that reporter Bridges Smith?

Lucy: Are you talking about the article where he suggested that having gained the vote, all that women needed to complete their independence was a “down-town” club?

Elizabeth: (*big smile*) Yes. We may not be able to join other civic clubs but I can envision a club where businesswomen such as ourselves are able to improve the lives of others through education, volunteerism, financial support, scholarships and research. As women, our strength lies in our friendship and service to others.

Lucy: Can we do this Elizabeth? Really?

Elizabeth: Absolutely! I’ve done some research and Mark Twain wrote in his book, Life on the Mississippi, “A Pilot, in those days was the only unfettered and entirely independent human being that lives in the earth.” I think we should take a page from Mark Twain and use the riverboat pilot as OUR guide.

Lucy: Splendid idea! We could even call ourselves “Pilots.”

Elizabeth: And we could use the 8-spoke pilot wheel as our emblem.

Lucy: Perhaps our motto could be “True Course Ever” like a river boat pilot.

Elizabeth: Yes, and our colors could be GREEN for life and vigor and GOLD for sincerity of purpose.

Elizabeth: I am delighted that you are excited about this idea, too! Let’s set a date to get some of our close friends together for lunch. How about September 7th? Perhaps we could set a deadline to work towards, like the middle of October...say the 18th.

Lucy: October 18th. Will that be enough time? Oh, Elizabeth. Can we do it? Should we do it?

Elizabeth: Yes, we can do it! We can be Pilots. We can be someone to lead, someone to guide others, someone to help during troubled times.

Lucy: Can you just imagine, Elizabeth, what Pilot Club will become in a hundred years? *(Laughs and throws hands in the air)* 2021 here we come!

Narrator: So began the founding of the visionary organization, Pilot Club International. Our founders had every intention for the organization to succeed and grow. They were truly visionaries, not to mention very determined, influential and energetic ladies! Join me in applauding their efforts as they leave the stage today.

(Lead applause.)

Adapted by the Hundredth Anniversary Committee from the script of Rhonda Knudson, KS-MO District.