



THE BENNETT BANNER

Student Publication of Bennett College

GREENSBORO, N. C., DECEMBER, 1942

NUMBER 3

VOLUME XII

Little Theatre Guild Orchestra Heard Presents "The Living Madonnas" Of the Year

The most beautiful story ever told, that of the Nativity, related in a series of animated tableaux, entitled, "The Living Madonnas", was presented to a large audience here December 13 in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, by members of the Bennett College Little Theatre Guild, under its director, Miss Gladys Forde, Director of Dramatics.

These tableaux, which were representations of some of the world's great masterpieces of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, received able support for their story of the Birth of Christ from the beginning of anthems and traditional Christmas music by the Bennett College choir of 40 selected voices, under the direction of Orrin Clayton Suthern, II, celebrated organist and conductor, who was at the organ. The reading of selected Scripture was by Miss Oriol Banks; Janet White sang as a solo, Schubert's, "Ave Maria."

The series opened with the representation of Fra Angelico's 15th century painting, "Annunciation," and closed with Gossart's, "Madonna and Child." Others in the series included Honthorst's, "Nativity"; Goes', "Adoration of the Shepherds"; Durer's, "Adoration of the Kings"; and Murillo's, "Holy Family."

Although the entire series was an impressive dramatic spectacle and drew the outspoken approval of the audience, it was, perhaps, in the "Nativity" tableau, which featured Sara Harris, of Wilkesboro, as "Mary"; Rachel Manley, of Greensboro, as "Angel"; Miss Vivian Ayers of Chester, S. C., as "Angel" and Miss Francis Spurlock of Detroit, Michigan, as "Joseph"; and the "Madonna and Child" tableau, featuring Miss Anona Blanchet of New Orleans, La., as "Mary" and that the production reached its greatest height.

Other students participating included Miss Edwina Schnyder of New Orleans, Miss Ellen McLester of Camden, S. C.; Miss Claire Johnson of Salisbury; Miss Ruby Doyle of Seneca, S. C.; Miss Isabele Collier of Cleveland, Ohio; Miss Wilhelmina Chappelle of Columbia, S. C.; Miss Willie Perrin, of Greenwood, S. C.; Miss Winifred Taylor of Marshall, Texas; Miss Betty Ann Artis of Columbus, Ohio; Miss Carrie McDonald of Cherew, S. C.; Miss Helen Frazier and Ann Ford of Greensboro; Miss Laurita Ashmore of Appling, Georgia; Miss Anna Atkins of Winston-Salem, N. C. and Yvonne Lyon of Greensboro.

Also assisting were Miss Naida Willette, of Belleville, N. J., and Miss Grace Pollard, of Richmond, Virginia, as pages; Miss Bettie Wade of Winston-Salem and Miss Helen Horton of Gary, West Virginia, in charge of lighting. Miss Nancy McDowell of New York City, Instructor of Art, painted the background for the settings, and Mrs. Marie Bather of Brooklyn, N. Y., Instructor of Clothing, designed the costumes.

OMEGA

The untimely death of Irma Graham, '42, was a distinct blow to all who knew her. Our only consolation lies in the fact that during her brief span she found herself and made her contribution.

The Bennett College all-girl orchestra, under the direction of F. Nathaniel Gatlin, instructor of public school and instrumental music, played its first concert of the year here December 5, before an enthusiastic audience in the auditorium of the Little Theatre on the college campus.

The highlight of the program was the performance of the orchestra in Excerpts from the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. The symphony is representative of all symphonies. It is used today as and considered the victory theme of the Allies.

Opening the program was the masterful "March of the Miester-singers" by Wagner. It is a regal but stirring musical procession, particularly adapted for the strings. It set the mood for the rest of the concert and left the audience in a warm and receptive frame of mind for the rest of the program.

Other compositions included "Themes from Piano Concerto," (Tchaikowsky); "The Young Prince and Princess" (Rimsky-Korsakoff); and "Hungarian Comedy" (Keler-Bela). Featured as soloists were Director F. Nathaniel Gatlin, concert clarinetist, who played "Finale from Concerto op. 44" (Mendelssohn) and Miss Lucille Foxe, trombonist, a freshman from Rocky Mount, who played "Ciribiribin" (Pestalozza). Miss Farra Young, a graduate of The Oberlin Conservatory of Music and now a member of the Booker Washington High School Faculty of Rocky Mount, appeared as guest cellist.

As an innovation, the Bennett College "swing octette," also under the direction of Mr. Gatlin, was introduced during the intermission and responded by playing Handy's "St. Louis Blues," much to the acclaim of the audience.

The performance of the orchestra won the acclaim and the outspoken approval of the entire audience, and it represented the willingness of the participants to subject themselves to long hours of preparation for such a concert. It exhibited also the great extent to which these young inexperienced musicians have progressed over a period of three short years under their director and founder, F. Nathaniel Gatlin, a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory and a former member of the Oberlin Symphony Orchestra and the Wood-Wind quintet.

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 20, 1942, 4:00 p. m. — Christmas Carol Concert, Freshman and College Choirs.

December 23 — Coral concert by Dormitory Groups.

December 24 — Christmas party by Student Senate in each dormitory. 2:30 p. m. Christmas dinner.

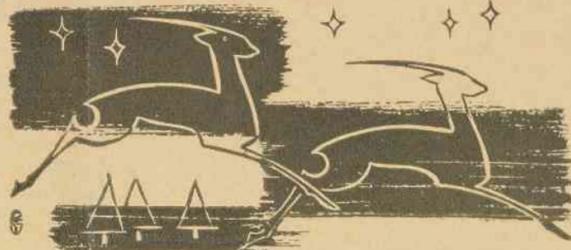
December 26 — 8:15 P. M. — 3 one-act plays in the Little Theatre by the Little Theatre Guild.

December 31 — Little Theatre Guild Entertainment.

December 31 — 11:00-12:00 p. m. Watching for New Year in Gymnasium.

January 1 — Dining Hall Girls Entertainment.

January 3 — 4:00 p. m. Paul Robeson recital.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Christmas — a magic word for an equally magic season. Christmas — the mere mention of the word conjures up a mental rosy glow — recollection of small boys' choirs singing quavering "Ave Marias" — visions of festive menus — memories of childhood happiness, gifts. But suddenly reality comes back to us — the glow fades — a gray chill takes its place, 1941-1942 WAR!!

What place has Christmas in a mad world at war? — Christmas with its evangel of "Peace on Earth," "good will to men". A cynical reaction is likely to set in, "Peace on earth!" Indeed! It'd be funny if weren't such a grim war we're fighting. Oddly enough this is the time that Christmas should have its greatest import—NOW when the world is in aching chaos. Of course the pure enjoyment of the holiday season must be curtailed somewhat drastically — of course the family cannot expect all its members around the Yuletide fire—but the essence of Christmas, the ideal it commemorates is something that can live in the heart of every man—regardless of nation, principles, creed, or color. THE BENNETT BANNER staff pauses to wish you a joyous holiday season — and a meaningful one. May the ones in years to come more nearly approach the herald of the angels—"Peace on earth; good will to men!"

—Editor, VALENA E. MINOR, '43.

Choir Holds Annual Christmas Concert

The Bennett College choir, under the direction of Orrin Clayton Suthern, II, presented its annual Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 20, in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel at 4:00 p. m.

The program consisted of French, English, Russian carols and Negro spirituals. The trio for the occasion were Misses Janet White, Priscilla Brown, and Betty Artis of the Junior Choir. The entire Junior Choir sang a group of selections also.

De Burgo's "Rock de Cradle Mary" and "Gloria in Excelsis" by Mozart were the high points of the well-rounded program. The candles in the chapel added immeasurably to the impressiveness of the occasion, as did the new maroon robes of the choir.

Hazel Harrison Gives Concert At Bennett

Hazel Harrison, concert pianist, displayed extraordinary musical intelligence and universally smooth-flowing technique to the large group of students and local townspeople who attended her concert here December 11, which was played in the auditorium of the Little Theatre on the Bennett College campus and presented as the third in the series of lyceum programs for the year.

Beginning with Rudolph Ganz's, "Perpetual Motion," an arrangement of the very popular Finale of Weber's "C Major Sonata," and following with Busoni's, "Chaconne", arranged for piano from Bach's, "Fourth Sonata," Miss Harrison immediately disclosed sound musicianship and skill that won tremendous applause and set the stage for the audience's ready acceptance of the rest of her program.

Although her interpretation of Chopin and her Brahms playing were satisfying and disclosed the excellent (Continued On Page Two)

North Carolina Methodist Conference Holds Special Session At Bennett-Bishop Shaw Speaks

The North Carolina annual conference of Methodist churches met in a special roll call December 15 at Bennett college, with Bishop A. P. Shaw, of Baltimore Maryland, resident bishop, presiding, and reported a total contribution of \$2,037.41 to the college endowment fund drive.

Opening the morning session, Bishop Shaw said, in his address on "Sacrificial Giving," "It is not possible to do too much for Bennett college." He praised the delegates for their efforts in behalf of the endowment drive but admonished lest they permit the success which the college has enjoyed for the past few years become a deterrent in their further support of the institution.

Following the address by the bishop, financial reports were read by conference districts, and superintendents of these districts reported as follows: Greensboro, Reverend R. W. Winchester, superintendent, \$674.21; Winston-Salem, Reverend R. F. McCallum, superintendent, \$573.85; Western, Reverend G. M. Phelps, superintendent, \$419.25; and Laurinburg, Reverend R. B. McRae, superintendent, \$370.10.

Great enthusiasm was occasioned by the reports, when President David D. Jones, of Bennett college, in thanking the conference for its contribution, announced that the General Education Board, of New York City, has modified the terms of its conditional grant to the college endowment fund, and will now pay an unconditional 66 2-3 cents pro rata supplement to the endowment fund for every dollar raised by the college. Luncheon was prepared and served to the ministers in the Science building by Miss Ware and members of her Foods 101 B class.

Student Senate Sponsors Annual Christmas Party

The tradition of the Bennett Christmas Sisters reaches its high point tonight, Christmas Eve, at the Party given in Thirkfield Gym. by the Student Senate. There around the Christmas tree will be placed all the presents given by the Bennett girls and faculty members to their Christmas sisters. The presents will be distributed by a real Santa Claus—in this case represented by Mr. Orrin Clayton Suthern, II, of the Music Department.

The Christmas Sister is as much a part of the Bennett tradition as the Birthday Dinner, or the Thanksgiving White Breakfast. Girls in each dormitory select by drawing names, some girl to play sister to during the holiday season. The girl whose name is drawn does not know who has drawn her name but is constantly surprised by little acts of thoughtfulness and kindness. Each girl does her bit toward making another girl's Christmas happy and each girl is in turn made happy. Little deeds like turning back a girl's bed at night, sending her things from the book store, sending her your dessert in the dining hall, are usual expressions of the Christmas Sister.

The faculty members exchange names with the city students. Secrecy and anonymity are the real joy of this tradition. Not until the annual Christmas party are the Christmas Sisters revealed by name. There under the Christmas tree in the gym the presents are placed—not expensive presents, just remembrances of the occasion and the season — and when each girl or faculty member opens her present, she finds who has made her days so pleasant.

This year is the first year in history of the institution that the Christmas Party has actually been held on Christmas Eve. Heretofore the Party has always been held a few days before the girls leave for home. In the light of the curtailed holiday though the greater majority of the students will be on the campus this year and the Party will be more fun than ever since it is much nearer the actual Yuletide.

Annual Founders' Day Observed

The Founder's Day exercises were held at Bennett on November 16 in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel at 10:10 a. m. The Rev. Amos Thornburg, pastor of the Matthewson Street Methodist Church, Providence, R. I., was the main speaker.

At this exercise the faculty made a contribution of \$1,000 and the student body made a contribution of \$450 towards the endowment fund in an effort to prove "There'll Always Be A Bennett".

The academic robes of the faculty and the customary white dresses worn by the students added much to the beauty of the service.

37-47

ARCHIVES
Bennett College
Greensboro, N.C.

Bennett College
Holgate Library
ARCHIVES

Publication