



The Decree

Wesleyan College Library
Rocky Mount, North Carolina

Trumpet Of Peace In A Troubled Land

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The Wesleyan hearse, which has been parked behind Edgecombe Hall for four years, came alive suddenly this week under the expert direction of Dave Litch. See story page 3.

Special 1963 Decree Reprinted This Week

In the March 6, 1963, issue of the DECREE many long range plans were discussed. In fact, the paper was a "Special Long-Range Planning Issue." Discussed in the issue was a new library, new dorms with suite arrangements, scholarship expansion, a chapel, a gym and swimming pool, and a new auditorium. The headline read as follows: "Wesleyan Plans for 800 Students in 1968."

Included in the issue is an article on the proposed chapel. In the article students were given new insight on the chapel that is proposed for future construction. Also in the issue is an article concerning the proposed gymnasium and swimming pool. "Features of the new building will include an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a sun-bathing area." The article also said that there will be spectator space around the swimming pool with folding bleachers being used. "The pool itself will be 75 feet long and 25 feet wide. Quoted from the article is the following para-

graph: "Swimming meets may be held and complete dressing and locker space will be available for Wesleyan students and visiting teams. Doors will open from the pool area to an outside bathing deck."

Another article in the "Special" DECREE was entitled, "College Planning to Have New Auditorium By 1968." The first paragraph read as follows: "Although there have not yet been architects' drawings made of an auditorium for Wesleyan, the college definitely plans to have an auditorium, or fine arts center, by the music, art, and drama departments of Wesleyan."

Other articles were on academic standards that are to be strengthened, expanded program of sports, and more physical education courses, complete representation by the Student Government Association and full social lives for Wesleyan students.

Page four of this issue is a review of that edition.

Hearse Gets New Lease On Life

Many Wesleyan students have been shocked beyond belief in recent weeks by the resurrection of that infamous corpse-carrying Cadillac, "The Black Hearse." The hearse was abandoned some two years by the few remaining Wesleyan members of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity affiliated with The Boy Scouts of America. The car was not functioning properly, and the fraternity did not have the money they thought necessary for the repairs.

And so, to make a long story short, Don Henchel, who is the last remaining APO member on campus, recently sold the hearse to David Litch, a fresh-

man resident student, for approximately \$50. As it turned out, David got the car back into working condition simply by crossing the two "hot wires" under the dash. At last reports, the hearse, since its revival, has reached speeds up to 45 M.P.H., and can be seen practically every day making several laps around the campus.

And so, another landmark of the Wesleyan campus---a broken-down 1951 Cadillac hearse---is gone. And in its place one can find a much more meaningful object, destined to become a campus landmark---a functioning 1951 Cadillac hearse! Congratulations, Dave! And thank you.

Medieval Pageant Casting Is Completed By Theatre

Two medieval Christmas pageants will mark number two on the schedule for Wesleyan's theatre series this year. Next year December 2nd "The Annunciation and Conception of The Virgin Mary" and "Second Shepards Play," directed by Mr. Dick Kagey, will be staged in the experimental theatre as the second production following "A Flea In Her Ear."

Both shows were known in their time as cycle plays and come from the larger grouping of plays which at one time were used to reflect teachings of the scriptures as they were in the Bible. The "Virgin Mary" play comes down to us from the Hegge cycle while "Second Shepards Play," which is probably the most well known and popular cycle play today, comes from the Wakefield cycle. These original cycles were created sometime around the 13th century and would often take all day to produce while touring the streets of England's cities.

Auditions at Wesleyan were last Tuesday and Wednesday with a turn out of approximately 16 people. The final cast was posted Thursday and consists of Joe Vinson as Contemplation, Myra Dean as Truth, Liz Martin as Mercy and Beth Speake as Justice. The parts of Peace and Gabriel are played by Peggy Berg and Berl Garrett with Gail Sharer as Mary. Dough Ashton and Ralph Rose will portray Call and Gib while Daw, Mak and Gill will be portrayed by Lee Smith, Jim Keeter, and Jeannie Johnson. Sean Moran will be assistant to Mr. Kagey and Carl Harris will design the set and lights. Other helping with the show will be Dr. Davis and the Chamber Singers.

A simplicity of quality and

unsophistication are indicative of both plays. This is proven with the personification of characters through the ideas of Truth, Mercy, Peace, and Justice. A purpose for this simplicity may be the original meanings of the plays themselves. When the plays were written the Catholic church of England wished to express, as best they could, some teachings of the Bible, or ways of the lower class. The play would serve as a medium for the peasants to obtain some of the church's ideas and philosophies. Yet religious overtones don't necessarily make the plays too serious to be a good form of entertainment. In fact, "Second Shepards Play" is indeed a comedy that depicts that form of English theatre which preceded Shakespeare.

Mr. Kagey's direction of the plays will be a first for both him and Wesleyan. Since designing is his basic job, directing is an area in which Wesleyan has yet to judge his versatility. He plans to stage the show within a gothic period rather than medieval with a great deal of emphasis on the pageantry effect. "We want to present the shows as they were," stated Mr. Kagey, "on a simple and unsophisticated

level so that we are telling the story with a slight wink. We will not do them as a museum piece and intend to show that such cycle plays can be an enjoyable evening of theatre entertainment."

These plays in context with the other productions of the season provide a wide variety of theatre entertainment. This is a main reason that the cycle plays were chosen.

Music Teachers

Elect Dr. Davis

News Bureau--Dr. John S. Davis, of 532 Park Place, Rocky Mount, was elected chairman of the Composition-Theory section of the N.C. Music Teachers Association at its convention in Winston-Salem October 30-31. Dr. Davis, assistant professor of music at N.C. Wesleyan College, has composed a number of works which have been presented at the college and at other concert locations throughout the state.

Among his compositions are two operas, piano selections, and music for 25 Psalms arranged for choral groups.

Dr. Davis directs Wesleyan's select 16-voice group, The Chamber Singers, for which he arranges the musical scores.

'Battle Of Brains' Proves To Be Delightful Evening

The first annual "Battle of the Brains," sponsored by the Senior Class, was held on November 1. It involved competition among members of the faculty and students in a game similar to the G.E. College

Bowl. Helen Steiner presided as Mistress of Ceremonies and Tim Coggins and Gail Mabe were the scorers.

Team 2, consisting of Dr. Tucker, Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Matthews, and captain John Morton, bested Team 1, Mr. David Jones, Mrs. Francis Harrison, Mr. Vance Mizzelle, and captain Robin Gulick 95-75 in the first round of play.

In the second round Team 4, Mr. Sturgill, Dr. Hemmes, Mr. Rushing, and captain Nancy Tonkens, defeated Team 3, which consisted of Purser, Dr. Sasser, Dr. Cordts, and captain David Forrest, 141-140.

Team 4 played Team 2 in the playoffs with Team 2 victorious.

The contest was well received by the participants and the thirty-plus spectators who turned out for the event. Mr. Mizzelle, one of the participating faculty members, commented, "I think it is simply marvelous that our students and faculty members can get together for an intellectually stimulating evening, and have so much fun in the process."



The Senior Class President, Helen Steiner, acts as moderator for "The Battle of the Brains." John Morton's team (left) is pictured opposing Robin Gulick's team.