

Aniversary 'Messiah' Is Given Praise

By PROF. CYLDE McCANTS
(Guest Critic)

The Elon College Choir presented Handel's beloved oratorio, "The Messiah," to a large audience on Sunday, December 15th. It is striking testimony to the durability and timelessness of Handel's immortal setting of the story of Christ that this work received its 25th annual performance at Elon College this year and that the music still stands fresh with inspiration. This music is of a greatness which ever renews itself constantly revealing some unnoticed stroke of genius.

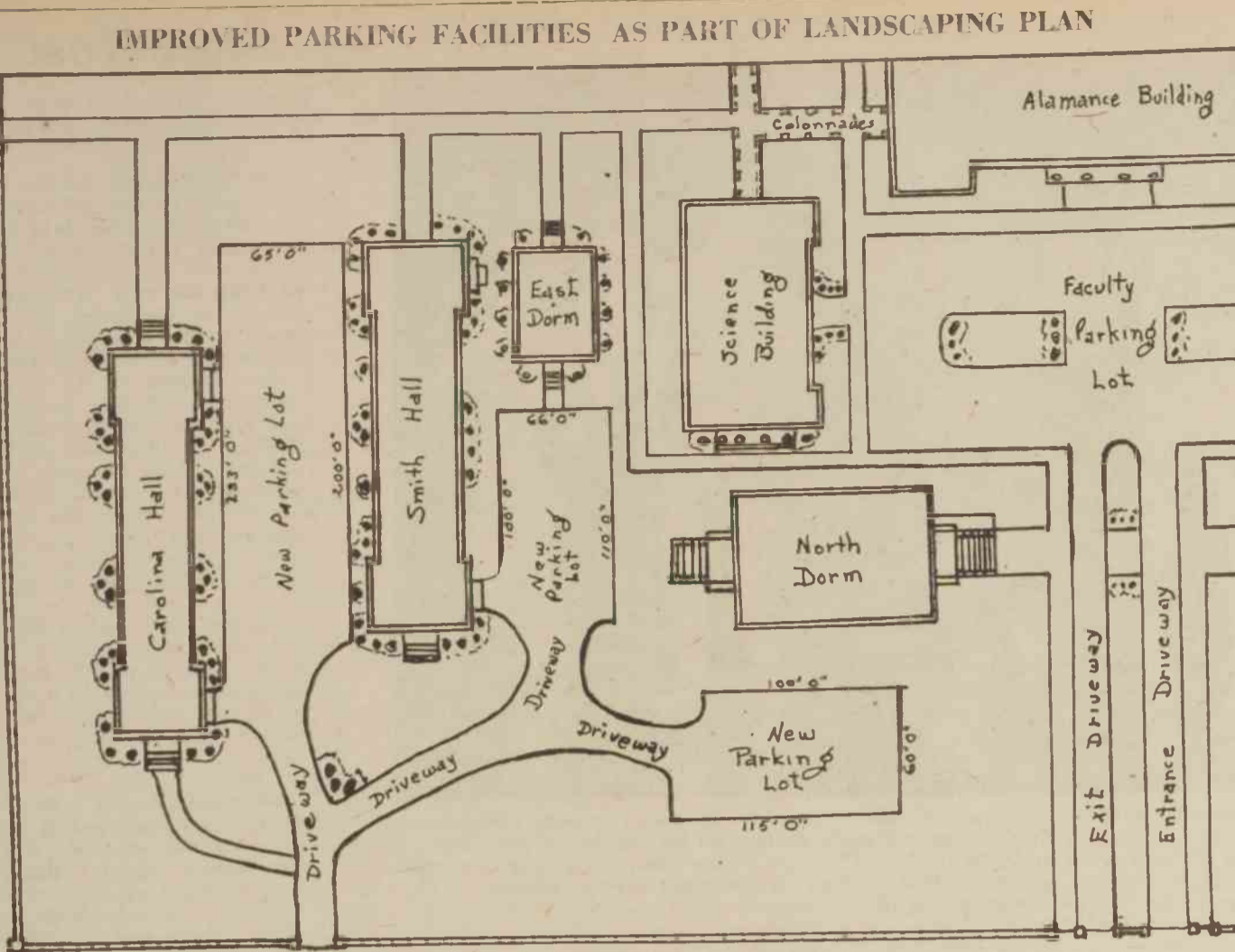
The very familiarity of this performance makes the ideal performance a virtual impossibility; everyone has his own conception of what "The Messiah" should be in performance, and even the experts are rarely in total agreement. The oratorio as given at Elon College, however, brought together those elements which seem most satisfying to the greatest number—capable soloists performing with a well-balanced chorus, beautifully accompanied and the whole expertly directed.

The soloists were carefully chosen from the alumni of Elon College. All of the soloists acquitted themselves well in this difficult music, and all sang with fervor and conviction. Those taking solo parts included Annie Laura Albright, Roger Gibbs, Dorothy Hilliard, Jeanne Meredith, Dorothy Jones Parker, James Rhodes, Jerry Smyre and Judy Ingram. Particular mention should be made of Charles Lynam, who sang "Why Do the Nations So Fervently Rage Together?" one of the most difficult arias in "The Messiah" with musicianship and agility such as one rarely encounters in the modern age, and Patsy Melton, who used her vibrant contralto voice with the intelligence and mastery of a true artist.

As in any performance of oratorio, it was the chorus which was the mainstay of the afternoon's program. The Elon Choir certainly deserves the highest possible praise for its part in "The Messiah." This group of young people sings with the sort of musicianship which belies the fact that many of the members of this chorus have not had specific musical training. The balance between parts, the surety and accuracy of the singing, and the sheer beauty tone achieved by the choir show that they have been trained thoroughly and carefully and that they have grown into the true spirit of the music. Words alone could never express the electric thrill produced by the choir on such passages as "His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Considering all of these elements, the overall credit for the success of this performance belongs with John Westmoreland, director, and Fletcher Moore, organist.

Prof. Westmoreland has made a thorough study of this score and understands the traditions of its presentation; combined with this is his ability at producing the desired results with his singers and his desire to approach the music in a fresh and original manner. Prof. Moore is as skilled an organist as our area, or any other, has to offer, and his all important part in the performance was done with true artistry and accomplishment. This was a performance to be remembered for years and, I feel, "The Messiah" by which all future presentations at Elon College will be judged—exciting, inspiring, and truly filled with the spirit of Handel's great message.



Northeast Quarter of Campus — Showing Projected Landscape Plan With Three New Parking Lots

TOP TEN STORIES OF 1957

(Continued From Page One)

Close study has brought for the top ten stories of 1957" in the following list, which is presented in the order of their rank in reader interest and importance—

1. Change of administration, with Dr. J. E. Danieley succeeding Dr. Leon E. Smith as Elon's president.
2. Undeclared football season, with its complications involving schedule and Conference title.
3. Building of another new boys' dorm, with contracts let in January and job finished by December.
4. Record enrollment of 1,469 students during Fall Quarter and consequent faculty enlargement.
5. Two commencements in May and August, with largest graduate list in years.
6. Choir activities, including annual tour and special programs, climaxed by 25th annual "Messiah" in December.
7. Dramatic activities, including no less than three full-length plays and Easter pageant.
8. Sports titles in basketball and baseball and trip to National NAIA Tournament by cagers.
9. Campus elections in April, with Jerry Loy elected president of student body.
10. Annual May Day weekend ruled over by Margaret Patillo and Larry Barnes.

LENOIR RHYNE

(Continued From Page Three)

- The line-ups—
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Pos.—Elon (48) | Lenoir R. (72) |
| F—Bell 14 | Cline 4 |
| F—DeRita 10 | Norman 14 |
| G—Burke 8 | Whites 13 |
| C—Watts 8 | Reese 20 |
| G—Bulla 2 | Sellari 9 |
| Half-time — Lenoir Rhyne | 39 |
| Elon 24 | |
- Elon subs — Carcatera 4, Wright 2, Robertson, Hargrove, Leonard, Hall, Lenoir Rhyne subs — J. James 10, D. James 2, Bowman, Goodnight, McCormick.

NEW DORM

(Continued From Page One)

structures adjacent to the campus: from the Bank Building, across the railroad tracks; and from old North Dorm, which has long been unsatisfactory.

The new occupants of Carolina Hall moved in on Monday, with East Dorm being cleared on that date. After a thorough cleaning,

a number of other boys from the vacated buildings were to move into East Dorm today. With moving completed, all campus men students will reside in Carolina, Smith and East. Prof. Clyde McCants continues as counselor for Carolina, and Prof. John Graves will serve as counselor for Smith Hall.

If students and faculty wondered what was happening when workers began felling huge trees north of old North Dormitory recently, they will be overjoyed to learn that the oaks were giving way to one of three new all-weather parking lots that are included in the landscaping plans for the northeast quarter of the campus adjacent to the various boys' residence halls. The three parking lots will be between North Dorm and the college wall, between Smith Hall and the rear parking lot and between Smith Hall and Carolina Hall. They will be curbed and gravelled when the grading is complete and will later receive the full hard-surface treatment. These lots are expected to relieve to a great extent the parking problem on the campus.

Exploration Reveals New Curiosities

(Continued From Page Three)

and then came to the physiology lab. More bottles, more flasks, more devices—and Ah! I recognized something. Nah, couldn't be just an ordinary refrigerator. But what was it, and was there to freeze defenseless little bacteria. Beside it was what looked like a built-in oven and my guess wasn't far off. It was an incubator for growing more bacteria after the others froze. Next to this was an autoclave, a round, metal thing-a-ma-jig with a drum-like top, used for sterilizing lab equipment under pressure. Then, too, at one end of a long table was a coffin with a metal top. "That's Professor Reddish's," my guide explained. He opened it and inside wasn't a corpse at all but a miniature greenhouse complete with 24-hour fluorescent lighting, for germination of seedlings. I didn't get to ask what the bluish liquid was in an enormous jug nearby, because my tour conductor was already at the other end of the room, rummaging in a cabinet of do-hickies and assorted knock-knacks. He pulled out a bag that didn't look like anything to me, but it was a kymograph. It was used for making smoked recordings of heart beats and stuff like that, but how it worked I didn't follow.

There was a metronome—for timing piano pupils. I always thought, but here it timed muscle twitches. Then an induction coil after U. S. P., batteries, etc., etc., and etc. Into the hall again and Swi-ss! "At ease. It was just a student running up his heart-beat to record on the kymograph."

And A Skeleton Too

In the safety of another room, the invertebrate laboratory, I watched as several curiosity's dissected cats. Across the table others applied the scalpel to frogs, and nearby crowded prospective biologists crouded around a human skeleton. "No this is the scapula. It is attached to this bone, the sternum, and the sternum connects with the rib bone, and the rib bone's connected to the back bone,

and the back bone's connect—(they hauled him away).

Two rows of work tables lined the floor and on the center one were two skulls; a large one and a small one. "Now, see," the lab instructor was saying. "This large skull is the skull of Abraham Lincoln." "Who's is the smaller skull?" "Well, that was Abe Lincoln's when he was a little boy."

After showing me more glass cases of preserved creatures and a few other pieces of lab apparatus, Dr. Haff directed me to the office of Mr. Dewey M. Stowers. "He'll tell you about the geography department," he said.

"First about yourself," I asked my third victim. Well, he was born in Springfield, Illinois, attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., where he met his wife, the former Emily Gilbert Mohler. She got her B.A. in biology, while he went on to Vanderbilt Law School.

While studying at Vanderbilt, he went to a lecture on geography, came home, threw up his law books, and transferred to Peabody College to take up geography.

He got his Masters there in History and is now after his Ph.D. studying summers at the University of North Carolina. The Stowers' have a three-year-old son "Skip" (or Dewey Marion Stowers III).

A Geographer's Philosophy
"What's my philosophy?" he gasped at my next question. "Well what was Prof. Haff's? I was going to say if his was 'Flunk a third,' mine would be 'Flunk a half. Haff. Haff! Get it?'"

"No seriously..." and he gave me an original quote as his philosophy. "To know the nature of the world is to know yourself." His hobbies are fishing, shooting and music (he directs the Elon band), he told me. Also that he liked tropical fish. In fact, he had an aquarium of them in the next room.

We saw the fish, then went into the zoology lab once more where Prof. Stowers holds his geography classes.

"He has seventeen all up-to-date maps," he told me. "Aneroid and mercuric barometers, a map table, up-to-date barograph and thermograph. See this gad-

get here? It's a Bausch-Lomb projector—best made. And we have fifteen hundred slides for it.

We subscribe to the National Weather Map Association; we have two 3-inch telescopes, that new aero-plastic elevated map you see over there, an astronomical planetarium (shows stars on the ceiling), a collection of state Geological Survey maps, and a Trip-pensee planetarium. This is it here. See, the earth revolves around the sun and the moon revolves around the earth and... No, this one doesn't feature a Sputnik."

Back in the office again, Prof. Stowers pointed to several cages stacked against the wall. "Make a note that we're looking for some animal specimens," he said. "We'll accept any kind—squirrels, skunks, ... especially creatures that are thought to have been extinct."

He looked at me, then at the cages, then back at me. Something told me to "git," and I got.

DANIELEY TRIP

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While in the Miami area, Dr. Danieley attended a meeting of Elon alumni who reside in and around Miami and also a luncheon meeting of Elon alumni in West Palm Beach.

He then went over to St. Petersburg to attend a dinner meeting of Elon alumni from the St. Petersburg-Tampa area last Friday night, and attended an alumni coffee hour at Florida Southern College in Lakeland on Saturday morning, followed by a dinner meeting of alumni in Orlando last Saturday night.

Other meetings for Dr. Danieley with alumni included a coffee hour session in Deland, Fla., last Sunday afternoon, a dinner meeting in Jacksonville on Monday night, and a dinner gathering in Charleston, S. C., on Tuesday night of this week.

ON DEAN'S LIST

Esther Lee Walker, of Burlington, was on the Dean's List for the Fall Quarter, but her name was omitted through error from the list of honor students which was published in the Christmas issue of the Maroon and Gold.

Christians Drop Contest To Belmont Abbey Five

Still having difficulty in hitting the basket, the Elon Christians fell victim of the sharp-shooting Belmont Abbey cagers at Belmont on Monday night by a 69 to 42 margin. It was the Crusaders' eleventh straight collegiate win of the year, and it marked Elon's third straight loss since Christmas.

The Christians made a battle of it for the first ten minutes of the game, holding a 10-9 lead at one point, but the Crusaders began hitting in the second ten minutes and pulled away from a 16-15 margin to a 35-21 spread at the half-time break. They came back to widen the lead in the closing half.

Frank DeRita, who paced the Christian scoring with 15 points, was the only Elon tosser to hit the double figures for the night. Trailing him with 9 counters was Gil Watts, Christian guard.

The line-ups—
Pos.—Elon (42) Belmont Abbey (69)
F—Bell 7 Belmont Abbey (69)
F—DeRita 15 Belmont Abbey (69)
C—Carcatera 5 Belmont Abbey (69)
G—Watts 9 Belmont Abbey (69)
G—Bulla 2 Belmont Abbey (69)
Half-time — Belmont Abbey 35, Elon 21.

Elon subs — Burke 2, Wright 2, Turner, Leonard, Belmont subs — Smith 2, Clair 2, Wrenn 1, Leffler 1, Harding.

Elon Girl Is In Durham Hospital

Roberta Morrison, 18-year-old Elon student and resident of West Dormitory, is in the Watts Hospital in Durham, where she is undergoing treatment for a painful knee injury sustained while playing in the snow with a group of her fellow students Tuesday afternoon of last week.

The girl, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Morrison, of West Hartford, Conn., fell over another student in the snow. She was first carried to the Burlington hospital, but she was transferred to Durham when fear of permanent injury indicated that the knee needed specialized treatment.

WORTH THINKING

(Continued From Page One)

various philosophies which may be presented to them most attractively, because a radical is generally an enthusiast and usually able to present plausibly his theories, however impractical they may be.

The country needs sound thinking on the part of the college students, college professors and the whole public. In this time of great crisis we need to review the fundamentals of our government and to adhere to the true and tried policies which time and experience have proven to be wise. It is a mistake to accept every new proposition and half it as a panacea for governmental ills, largely because it is something new. It is likewise unwise to reject constructive suggestions for changes merely because they are new.

The college student, as well as the average citizen, needs to attain a balance in thinking, as the salvation of our nation in the future depends on the judgment, wisdom and patriotism of those participating in politics and those voting in elections. Every citizen, as well as every college student, should take a lively interest in politics and a wholesome interest in elections.

Elon Professor At Meeting

Dr. W. W. Sloan, member of the Elon College faculty in the Department of Religion, attended the annual meeting of three learned societies in the field of religion and Bible study at Louisville, Ky., from Friday, December 27th, through Tuesday, December 31st.

The meetings, all of them held at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, were of the National Association of Biblical Instructors, the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Societies of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. Dr. Sloan has belonged to all three groups for many years and has attended many of their meetings. He has also written a number of articles for their publications.

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