

## Dr. Rondthaler Interprets Luke's Christmas Story

### Comments On Salem Christmas Traditions

#### First Address of Advent Season Is Inspirational Talk By President

At expanded chapel on Wednesday, December 9th, Dr. Howard E. Rondthaler prefaced his remarks on the Christmas story as found in Luke, with a few comments on the holiday season. In view of the sleazy storm, he remarked that during the Civil War such a storm was called the "widow's wood-chopper." He reminded the students of some interesting traditions of old Salem—the Christmas cakes made by half-century old cutters and recipe, the hand-made bees-wax candles, annually distributed at Christmas Vespers, and the Christmas star, also made by hand, which hangs in Memorial Hall during the Christmas season.

Dr. Rondthaler read the story of Christ's birth as told by Luke, the physician, and interpreted the Christmas story for his audience.

Luke tied his story down to truth by the use of well-known, historical Roman names and incidents. Rome, at that time, was the mistress of the world, and Caesar, being ruler of Rome, issued the command for the people to be taxed. Rome was crafty in her taxation of the almost penniless Jews in that she made every Jew take a pilgrimage with his family back to the town of his ancestors to be taxed, for the Jews thought a great deal of their ancestral places and customs.

He pictured crowds of people traveling toward Bethlehem through a winter much like the present one—Joseph and Mary, both of the house of David, were in that crowd, but left a little behind, taking about four days for the sixty-mile journey. Mary rode a little beast and Joseph walked slowly beside her over the rough roads of the mountains and over the detour they made in order to avoid profaning themselves by passing through Samaria territory. At twilight they reached the inn at Bethlehem to be greeted by the news that there was no more room at the noisy inn. In hospitality was not entirely to blame for the poor welcome which Mary and Joseph received in their ancestral town. Bethlehem was, as it is today, a small hilltop village, and crowds had already arrived. Homes as well as the inn, were filled. The eastern inn was no more than a series of half-open stalls around an open court where the animals were lodged.

Joseph talked to the innkeeper who finally led him and Mary apologetically to the cave stable beneath (Continued on Page Three)

### Miss Setzer Hostess To Alpha Iota Pi

#### Roman Customs Discussed at Latin Sorority Meeting

Miss Pauline Setzer delightfully entertained the members of Alpha Iota Pi, Salem's Latin Club, at her home Tuesday evening, December 1. After a brief business discussion, Miss Dorothy Sims talked on "Roman Dress" and Miss Eleanor Phillips discussed "Roman Schools."

Temple refreshments were served to the following guests: Misses Eleanor Phillips, Dorothy Heidenreich, Dorothy Sims, Virginia Langley, Julia Heares, Sarah Graves, Mary Miller, and Misses Margie Hastings and Leslie Brown Phillips, members of the Salem faculty.

### Christmas Vespers Proves Inspiring

#### Various Yuletide Readings Add to the Program

Christmas Vespers Service was held in the Louisa Bitting Recreation Room on Sunday evening, December sixth.

A goodly number was present to enjoy the singing of Christmas carols and the various Christmas selections. The Scripture reading was read by Miss Jane Williams. Following this, Miss Rebecca Hines sang "O Holy Night." Miss Rachel Bray accompanied her at the piano.

A poem, "A Christmas Prayer," was given by Miss Phyllis Noy, and Cokey Preston followed with a Christmas reading.

The inspiring service closed with the choral anthem and the Y. W. C. A. Watchword.

### Sororities To Begin Basketball Practice

#### Four Social Sororities Preparing for the Approaching Tournament

The four social sororities of Salem College recently began practice for the rapidly approaching inter-sorority basketball tournament which is to take place immediately after the Christmas holidays.

Each of the four sororities, namely, Alpha Phi Kappa, Beta Beta Pi, Delta Sigma Delta, and Theta Delta Pi, has several excellent players. Last year the Kappas were the victors; the year before the Thetas won. The outcome of the tournament is uncertain as all teams are well-matched.

The rules governing this tournament were announced at the meeting of the *Salemite*, the main issue of which was that five official practices are required for entrance to a game.

### President Of Salem Attends Convention

#### Mary Baldwin Admitted to Southern Association

During the past week Dr. Rondthaler attended the meeting of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States, which was held in Birmingham, Alabama. Salem has been a member of this association since 1922.

It will be of interest to note that Mary Baldwin College, which is in Staunton, Virginia, was granted membership.

During the convention, the question of a uniform system of grading was discussed. However, no definite plan was made.



### Mr. Lamar Springfield Talks at Music Hour

#### Mr. Vardell Plays Three of Mr. Springfield's Compositions

At the Music Hour on Thursday afternoon Mr. Lamar Springfield gave his third and last talk on "Folk Music."

Mr. Springfield, who is head of the Institute of Folk Music at the University of North Carolina, told of a recital held recently at Chapel Hill. All of the pieces on the program were by modern composers, and the outstanding selection, "Dance," was written by an eighteen-year-old boy who is a Freshman at Chapel Hill this year.

According to Mr. Springfield, great American music must be based on American folk songs. Since jazz is borrowed music, it will never amount to anything. Jazz is based on the works of former composers. One of the best jazz pieces, "Rhapsody in Blue," is based on Brahms' *Second Symphony* and on two other great pieces. Also, jazz has regular rhythm, which is contrary to nature. When a person is excited his heart beats faster than it does ordinarily. Likewise, true music varies in speed.

Mr. Springfield asserted that folk music should be taught in the elementary schools. Music helps develop the imagination of children, and it helps give strength and beauty to their characters. Music is an art which children naturally learn. When they know nothing at all of the technique of music, they delight to sing and hum to themselves. The proper musical training of children will raise the musical taste of the country and will strengthen the national character. The ideal song for children should be music of the purest order, should appeal to children, and should be simple enough for them to learn easily. Folk songs, which are natural, pure, and simple, fulfill these requirements. It is especially important that children learn the folk songs of their own country.

Mr. Springfield remarked that he would like to hear some American patriotic songs. The "Star-Spangled Banner" is an English camp song, while "America" is the British national anthem.

Mr. Springfield urged all girls (Continued on Page Three)

### WINNERS OF PASSES

The management of the Carolina Theatre announces with pleasure the winners of this week's complimentary passes: Miss Mary Olive Biles of the Editorial Staff of *The Salemite* and Miss Isabel Pollock of the advertising staff of *The Salemite*. The winners have been chosen according to their ability and work on *The Salemite*.

### Seniors Are To Sing Christmas Carols

#### Candles Will Bring Special Music on Friday, Dec. 18th

Tune your set of ears in on the Seniors the last night before going home for Christmas, because on that anticipated night, Friday, December 18, at midnight they are going to sing in different parts of town, so watch for them as they produce the "Volga Boatman sound effect."

Any one who wants special attention will have a song sung under her window if she places a lighted candle where it can be seen on the outside. Save your beeswax candle for Sunday Vespers and get the Christmas Spirit in your bones before you depart for the holidays.

## Academy Will Give Christmas Carol Program

### President's Forum Conducts Chapel

#### Student Government, Annual, And Salemite Are Represented

It has recently been planned to have The Presidents' Forum take charge of the morning Chapel services when Dr. Rondthaler is unable to be present. Different organizations will preside at different times and the programs will be entirely in their charge.

Last Thursday the Student Council was represented with Miss Anna Preston presiding. The program consisted of a monologue given by Miss Marietta Way and a song by Miss Josephine Courtney.

The Annual, "Signs and Insights," was represented on Friday by Miss Leulah Mae Zachary in charge and Miss Mary B. Williams, who sang two songs.

Miss Sarah Graves, editor of *The Salemite*, led the services Saturday.

The college newspaper was also represented by Misses Martha Davis, Mary Alice Beaman, Susan Calder, Edith Leake, Miriam Stevenson, and Margaret Johnson. Speeches were given by Misses Mary Alice Beaman and Susan Calder and the Scripture was read by Margaret Johnson.

### Underclassmen To Entertain Seniors

#### Santa Claus in Person Will Give Seniors and Faculty Gifts

Next Thursday evening, December 17, 1931, at 8 o'clock, the underclassmen will delightfully entertain the Senior Class at a Christmas party in the Recreation Room of Louisa Bitting Dormitory.

This party, which is sponsored by the Junior Class, will follow the Annual Christmas banquet which will take place in the college dining room and in which the entire school will participate. Miss Irene MacAnally, President of the Junior Class, will be toastmistress at the banquet and will also preside at the party. The members of the faculty and administration, as well as the day-student Seniors, will be guests of honor at the banquet and party.

The traditional delicious Christmas cakes which were originated in old Salem will add a quaint touch to the festive banquet. At this banquet every Salem girl will have a chance to do one thing she has wanted to do ever since she has been at Salem—put up her glass with her knite during the song "Jingle Bells."

Old Saint Nicholas himself (three guesses as to who he really is!) has promised to appear on the scene. It is rumored that he plans to bring a pack full of good things for the faculty and the Seniors.



### Tableau To Be "Holy Night"

#### "Morning Star" By Moravian Missionary Will Feature the Program

A long-established Christmas tradition at Salem is the Christmas Carol Program which the Academy is to give on Thursday afternoon, December 17, at 5 o'clock, in Memorial Hall. Miss Knox, of the Academy Faculty, is directing it, and the entire school will take part in it. Miss Ruth Marsden will play the organ accompaniments and will also give an organ prelude.

The tableau this year is to be a copy of Correggio's "Holy Night." This living picture, in which there will be the Madonna, Joseph, the Babe in the Manger, and the Shepherds, will form the background for the carol singers. The colors of the costumes and the lighting effects have been well adapted to bring out the lights and shadows which are characteristic of Correggio's painting. The dramatic, and at the same time graceful, action is another feature which will be well done. Two Angels will draw the curtains. The girls to be in the tableau are: Varena Mays, Frances Bowland, Martha Jones, Zoe Towell, and Ellen Zimmerman.

The scripture reading will be the Christmas story from Luke. "The Three Kings," in which Laura Ellen Nunsford, Carolyn Welch, and Jane Rondthaler will sing, is to be the only solo. The other Carols which will be sung in a chorus by the rest of the Academy are:

- "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen."
- "Good Christian Men Rejoice."
- "The First Noel."
- "O Come All Ye Faithful."
- "Bring a Torch."
- "Born Is He."
- "Once Upon A Time."
- "Silent Night."
- "Lo How a Rose."
- "What Child is This?"
- "Morning Star."
- "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

Particular interest is attached to "Morning Star," which has been sung through many years in the Christmas season at Salem, and which is known far and near to all Salem girls. It was written by Reverend F. E. Hagan, a Moravian missionary and minister who was born in 1815 at Salem and who at one time served in nearby congregations. He lived to be ninety-two years of age and remained throughout his entire life a great devotion to his community and an un-fading delight in his work. Mr. Hagan was a musician of considerable ability, both as an organist (Continued on Page Three)

### History Club Meets In Recreation Room

#### Dr. Francis Anscombe Discusses the Historical Point of View

The History Club met last Tuesday evening, December first, in the recreation room of Louisa Bitting.

The meeting was called to order by Edith Leake, president. Hilma MacDonald, secretary of the club, called the roll. A short business session was held at which it was proposed that the next meeting would be in February at the home of Dr. Anscombe. This proposed meeting will be, primarily, a social function.

Dr. Anscombe gave an interesting and brief talk on the many different points of view from which history is written.