

Waiting List At Salem

It takes us back years and years, to Salem's beginning.

The "Salem Boarding School" began with ten pupils. There was not room for more in the emergency quarters which had to serve until a house could be built for the school. If there had been more room there would have been more pupils, many more perhaps, for even then Salem had a waiting list. When the school's building—our present South Hall without its third story and its north end—was completed twenty girls and three teachers moved into it, and before the end of that year there were forty-one girls living in it. The following year there were fifty-five, and within the next few years the number rose to a hundred. A hundred girls, living, eating, sleeping, attending classes, doing their piano practice, in South Hall as it was then! No one was comfortable, and the school authorities, who had not expected such a state of things, undertook to reduce the attendance. That was not easy, for there was still a waiting list, a bigger one than before. Besides, would-be patrons frequently bundled their daughters into coaches or mounted them on horses and thus brought them to Salem, traveling for days over unimaginably bad roads, without any advance notice or so much as a by-your-leave. To refuse girls brought thus was embarrassing and did not conduce to good relations with patrons of the school. Various circumstances, some of them relating to the War of 1812, made further building impossible at that time (history does indeed repeat itself), and the trustees were driven to the expedient of inserting in the few newspapers then existing in this and other Southern States an unprecedented advertisement, asking that parents do not bring or send their daughters to Salem, "there being no prospect of the probability of their admission in the present year." Those who already had permission to enter their daughters were earnestly requested not to avail themselves of the permission for the time being. And would patrons be so good as not to resent the notice.

Whether or not there was resentment we are nowhere told, but the waiting list continued. In the years that followed it fluctuated. Sometimes it was short, and there were times when it dwindled almost to the vanishing point, only to lengthen again. By the year 1836 the school was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the waiting list was growing so long that many would-be patrons despaired of getting their daughters into Salem and took them elsewhere, sometimes not with the best grace. Some left their daughters in private homes in town in the hope that places for them in the school would be found later on.

Old and yellowed letters preserved from those days contain urgent requests and arguments from patrons who thought themselves entitled to special consideration. A South Carolinian from Chester, having been informed that he would have to wait until late autumn to place his daughters in the school, protested that they ought to be accepted earlier because "it will not do to take children from the South to that cold climate in the fall or winter." From Chester to Salem! A former Salem girl brought her daughter as far as Salisbury and left her in a school there because she learned that her Alma Mater was full. She wrote that she was greatly prepossessed in favor of Salem and was, moreover, "unwilling to risk my Daughter's Health in so unhealthy a place as Salisbury." A gentleman of Alabama wrote somewhat indignantly:

"From the very liberal patronage your School has received from Alabama, we feel that we have some claim on you to make something more than exertion to provide for the reception of our daughters."

Yes, Salem's waiting list is traditional. (The above article, "Waiting List at Salem", was written by Dr. Wenhold, who has been engaged all summer in research on early days at Salem. It is hoped that the results of Dr. Wenhold's research will be published. We shall await eagerly further stories of early days at Salem.

The Editor)



Snyder Heads Campus Men

By Anne Dungan

"Brooks F. Snyder—Interview" the assignment board glared forth at me. When the full impact of those words hit, my knees began to shake. Interview!!! Imagine me asking Brooks F. Snyder, President of the Men's Organization of Salem, a lot of questions about his college life.

It wasn't bad—in fact, if all subjects are as nice and friendly as this one, interviewing would be a wonderful profession.

Although Brooks wouldn't say much about himself, it is easy to tell from his conversation that the boys here at Salem know how to pick their leaders. He has already smiled when I asked him the name made many plans for this group. He of the organization. "We were talking about that yesterday," he said, "but so far, the most sophisticated name we can think of is just Men's Association of Salem." This organization has had only two meetings, but plans are being made for social gatherings with the faculty and students. . . . "and we'll have at least one business meeting a month," Brooks added.

Salem is Brooks Snyder's second fling at college. He was stationed at the University of Wyoming for eight months of his "three years, three months, and three days" of service in the army. "We lived in a new girls dorm, private rooms and everything," he informed me. "Boy, we sure hated to leave."

So you see, Brooks feels right at home around this school. He is a member of the Freshman class and likes the work. However, he and most of the boys think it's hard to get down to studying after being out of school for so long. As for his future college life—"I'm planning to attend Carolina's School of Commerce after leaving Salem."

Brooks and all the boys are working on "some type of party" for the Salem girls. He says the boys like the girls and want a chance to meet and know them better. Look at the picture above . . . do I hear any objections?

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Daye Dawns On Salem



By Louise Dodson

To every gold-digging girl (that couldn't be a Salemite) we present a money-ed male, Anies Daye, Jr., treasurer of the Men's Association. He is already accustomed to the jingling of the coins. From the time of his graduation from R. J. Reynolds High School in 1936, until he entered the army in 1942, Anies worked for the Hanes Knitting Mill in the payroll department. He is now majoring in accounting. He has all the training for a reliable treasurer, boys!

Anies served in the army for four years. He was in the European Theater in the 76th Infantry Division as a battalion clerk. For meritorious service he received the Bronze Star.

Anies likes Salem. He said he had expected the teachers to ignore the men completely in classes, but that they are given very much attention (from the teachers, of course) and "it's such a surprise to be treated so swell." As a freshman, he says he had his share of "ratting"—referring to the hugging he received from the freshman girls on back campus.

Anies greatest outside interest is dramatics. In high school he was active in the Dramatics Club. Since then he has taken part in the Little Theater of Winston-Salem. His largest role, he said, twisting an imaginary mustache, was that of the villain in "The Curse of the Aching Heart." He is continuing in dramatics at Salem and is secretary of the Salem Players.

Academic Dean Reports Change

The Academic Dean has announced an important faculty regulation passed last June. At the end of each semester, students are required to have passed a certain amount of semester hours. This year it is necessary to change that regulation to this effect: freshmen must pass sixteen semester hours, and six must be of merit grade. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors must pass eighteen hours, nine of which must be merit.

If after nine semester hours of work on her major subject, a student is not doing work of C grade value, she forfeits her right to major in the department.

Miss Farrell Joins Staff

Miss Mary Farrell has accepted by wire the position of secretary to the Academic Dean. Miss Hixon is awaiting a letter for further confirmation.

Miss Farrell, of Greenville, South Carolina, is the daughter of a former president of Salem's Alumnae Association. In 1943, she was graduated from Averett Junior College in Danville, Virginia. Since then, she has been working in Greenville.

This tall, slim brunette says the "brightest part of Daye" is the time when a girl passes. At Salem he finds ecstasy.

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Dewey's

Coeds Have Informal Party

The male students held a smoker in the club dining room Tuesday night so that they might become better acquainted with the men on the faculty. Thomas Transou, J. B. Self, Jr., and Dallas Cline composed the committee which planned the get-together.

The smoker proved to be loads of fun, and the faculty as well as the students joined in the fun wholeheartedly. Dr. Vardell started the ball rolling by taking the piano over and giving a short concert. After Dr. Vardell's performance, Mr. Peterson led the group in singing. A few games were played and the men did a lot of talking. Punch, cookies, and salted nuts were served later in the evening.

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