

Dissertation on Gene Talmadge Is Being Written by Miss Lemmon

By JEAN TAYLOR

Have you ever heard of Gene Talmadge? If you know Miss Sarah Lemmon, assistant professor in the department of history and government at Meredith, the name of this controversial figure in recent Southern history is probably very familiar to you. Miss Lemmon is now writing her doctor's dissertation on the public career of Eugene Talmadge, covering the period from 1927 to 1937, when Talmadge was Commissioner of Agriculture and later Governor of Georgia.

Since a dissertation for a doctorate must be concerned with a subject no one else has ever completely studied, the choice of a subject is quite a problem. After considering many possibilities for her dissertation, Miss Lemmon suddenly decided to write about Talmadge. One morning the thought dawned on her, "Why don't I write on Gene Talmadge?" She describes her choice of a subject as simply as that! Being a Georgian, she was naturally interested in Talmadge's career and it seemed a perfect topic for her dissertation. Since that time Miss Lemmon has been absorbed in the "ins and outs" of Georgia politics.

Amount of Research

It is very unusual for anyone to choose as the subject of his dissertation a figure of the contemporary period. A dissertation must cover all of the available material on a given subject. When the dissertation is finished, its author is supposed to be the foremost authority on the subject of his dissertation. Naturally many candidates for doctorates would rather write about a subject on which an overwhelming mass of material does not exist.

In the past, famous figures did not leave a great deal of their personal papers. Fortunately or unfortunately, the famous peo-

ple of today leave masses of papers and letters filed for posterity. Therefore, in writing on a contemporary figure or subject, a tremendous amount of research is involved. There are newspaper accounts to be read, personal and governmental papers to be covered, interviews with persons involved to be arranged. The task is difficult. But, according to Miss Lemmon, it is challenging and rewarding.

Last summer Miss Lemmon devoted her time to research. She worked in Atlanta at the office of the governor, in Talmadge's old law office, and in the state library. Since Herman Talmadge, Gene's son, is the present governor of Georgia, Miss Lemmon was given every help in her task. She was given access to all of Talmadge's papers and even worked at Talmadge's old desk.

While Miss Lemmon was working in Atlanta, Georgia politicians were planning for the State Democratic Convention. This contributed an atmosphere of excitement to her research, and offered many interesting experiences in the field of politics.

Recording Material

At present Miss Lemmon, in addition to teaching at Meredith, is recording the material she gained last summer. She manages to fit her writing into her crowded schedule by devoting every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and night to her dissertation. The dissertation is sent, chapter by chapter, to her adviser at the University of North Carolina, who "blue-pencils" it.

After he returns the material to her, Miss Lemmon rewrites it. It is then returned to the University of North Carolina where other authorities in contemporary American history read it and make suggestions. Miss Lemmon again rewrites the material, which is then in its final form.

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FROM THE MUSIC WORLD



By JANE SLATE

The first graduation recital at Meredith College for this year was given on December 2 by Dot Allen. We all give her a rousing cheer for her excellent program and look forward to her Bachelor of Music recital to be given in the spring. Look out, you rising organ majors; you really have a record and a half to live up to.

The second of the faculty recitals was given on December 5 by Miss Helen Ashley. By this and other performances given and to be given we know that Meredith offers to her students the very best teachers to be had. Speaking of faculty performances we cannot overlook the very lovely solos sung by Miss Beatrice Donley in the *Messiah* last Sunday at Memorial Auditorium.

One of the highlights of the past few weeks in the world of music around Raleigh was the presentation of the opera "La Boheme." The two leads, Davis Cunningham as Rudolpho the poet (tenor), and Marguerite Lamb as Mimi, an embroiderer, (soprano) did an excellent job in the portrayal of two lovers. Their stirring duet in the third act will not be soon forgotten by the audience. The lesser part of Musetta (Graciela Silvain) and her lover Marcello (Richard Torigi) can not be passed without comment of their portrayal of a coquette and her lover who tries to keep her in hand.

One of the best supporting actors was William Wilderman, a philosopher (bass); the true beauty of his voice was shown

in the fourth act where a moving aria is addressed to his battered coat when he is forced to sell it. Ralph Telasko as Benoit, the landlord, and Alcindoro, a rich admirer of Musetta, also deserves credit for supporting roles. Before closing this discussion of the opera I think it only fitting to mention the very lovely scenery which greatly added to the effects of the entire performance. I am certain that the opera was enjoyed thoroughly by all its listeners.

The concert last Friday, was one of the highlights of performances given at Meredith this year. The Beal Duo violinists displayed their talents in a marvelous fashion with a brilliant display of technique and a varied repertoire. Their program was out of the ordinary for a chamber music concert but was heard with much pleasure by the audience. They were true masters of their instruments, but of the two, Gerald Beal showed a better developed technique than his brother Wilfred. Evidence of this fact was re-

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In the Alumnae World

By JOAN LANGLEY

Meredith's alumnae, it seems, are not lacking in Christmas programs. Several chapters have already reported as having planned pre-Christmas meetings.

The Durham chapter had its meeting on November 28 with Mr. Allen Bone, director of the Durham Civic Choral Society, speaking about music. This was a dinner meeting at the home of Mrs. George Watkins, mother of the president of the chapter, Jane Watkins Sullivan, a graduate in 1946.

The Greensboro chapter has had its meeting on December 5 at the home of Mrs. Lois Sawyer Pritchard with Mrs. Loretta Nichols and Mrs. Gertrude Hutchings as hostesses. Mrs. Hedrick of Greensboro will talk on Christmas decorations for the home and illustrate it with mantle and door decorations. Mrs. Jewel Hyatt Penny, of the class of '46 is the president of the chapter. The Wake County Chapter will also have a meeting in December.

It might be of interest to the student body to hear that since the Alumnae Magazine had to curtail the publication of the fall and winter issues because of financial reasons, a vote of the Alumnae Council on November 10 made it possible to publish the spring issue, according to information given out by Miss Mae Grimmer, Alumnae Secretary.

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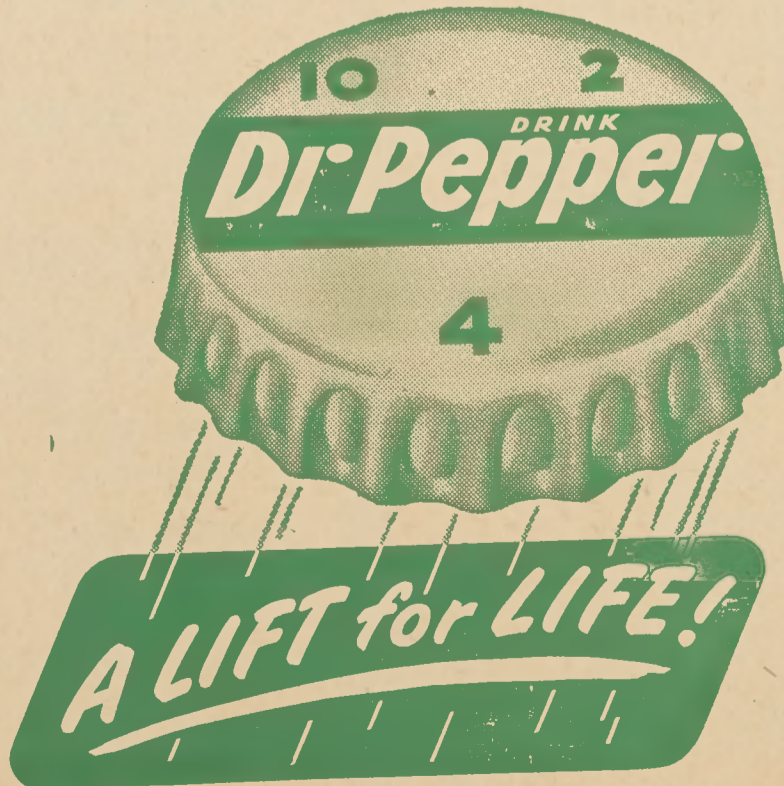
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