



Members of the Danish Gym team in their native folk costumes.

#### Former G-W Student

## NJC Opera Company Star Performs At Dover Chapel

By Becky Bost

September 24, 1974 marked the return to the Gardner-Webb campus of Joseph Blanton, a former student here. Mr. Blanton is a world-famous opera tenor and his one-hour performance in Dover Chapel exhibited his excellent talent.

The program began promptly at 8 o'clock with the German, "Dies Bildness ist Bezauernd Schon" from Mozart's opera, THE MAGIC FLUTE. After this number, Blanton introduced himself and introduced the theme of the performance, love. The next two numbers were "Zueignung" by Strauss and "Still Wie die Nacht" by Bohm.

After a short break, Mr. Blanton returned and explained he would be singing from Italian and French operas. He then sang Gounod's "Salut! demeure chaste et pure" from FAUST. One of the best numbers was "Enferment les yeux" from Mas-

senet's MANON. Mr. Blanton reached a very high note and held the pitch with amazing strength and clarity of tone.

After the intermission, Blanton sang in English, "Serenade," from THE STUDENT PRINCE by Romberg was especially beautiful and the audience seemed to enjoy it most of the English songs. At the conclusion of the concert, Mr. Blanton was so well applauded that he sang two encores.

Joseph Blanton is a native of Shelby as is his wife, Sandra. He received his Associate of Arts degree from Gardner-Webb and then went to Carson-Newman College where he studied music for a year. The next year, he majored in voice at Wake-Forest University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Later, he studied opera at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

While a student at Gardner-Webb, Blanton studied

voice under Mrs. Kay McGee Phillips. His first voice teacher in New York was Gerhard Pechner and his first coach was Estelle Lieblich. Currently, his voice teacher is Lili Wexburg and his coach is Leo Mueller.

Mr. Blanton has received many awards for his vocal talent. Among them are: the North Carolina Governor's Award, Command Concert and Opera Award, first place in N.C. State Metropolitan Opera Auditions and runner-up in the Regional Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

The roles he has played include: Ferrando—COSI FAN TUTTE; Tamino—THE MAGIC FLUTE; Rodolfo—LA BOHEME; Pinkerton—MADAME BUTTERFLY; Fritz—L'AMICO FRITZ and Duke—RIGOLETTO. He has sung with the Israel National Opera Company, the Johan Brownlee Opera Theater, the Estelle Lieblich Opera Studio, the Rossini Opera Company and he was guest artist at the Winston-Salem Summer Festival. For the past two years he has been singing with the Bonn, Germany Opera Company and is under contract to the New York City Center Opera.

On Sunday, September 22, Mr. Blanton sang during the morning worship service at First Baptist Church, Shelby. On Monday, September 23, he gave an opera seminar for interested music majors in the O. Max Gardner Recital Hall at 4 o'clock.

The gymnasts do not receive a salary for their performances, and are unified by their dedication to physical education.

The performance included a variety of modern rhythmic gymnastics, skillful vaulting and tumbling, and a selection of Danish folk dances in native costume. Classic and modern music was used in the program along with old Danish folk tunes. The performance showed the difference between boys' and girls' gymnastics in today's world. The exercises were powerful, decided, and courageous, and graceful.

The highlight of the program was the vaulting and tumbling performed by the boys' team. The vaulting and tumbling was done with style, rhythm, and precision. At the completion of

the exhibition, the team was given a standing ovation.

Exercises on the balance beams of different heights were a highlight of the girls' program. The girls also worked with hoops, balls, and ropes, which made their performance effective and enjoyable.

Women's gymnastics in Denmark differ from those in the United States. This team in particular, emphasizes grace and movement. In the United States, the emphasis has been on balance beams, floor work, parallel bars, and strength.

It was the gymnasts' teamwork, beauty of movement, time, and precision that held the attention of the audience. Dr. Blackburn said that it was an excellent program and he was very pleased with the presentation.

## Religious Education Majors Sponsor Retreat

Several members of the Religious Education Club went to Lake Norman for a retreat on September 20 and 21. They stayed at the cottages of Mr. McGraw and Mr. Best. Mr. Best's son, David, attends Gardner-Webb.

The emphasis for the weekend was placed on find-

ing one's own self and trusting people. The sessions were led by Dr. Lamb, Dr. Cullinan, and Dr. Pople. Dr. Lamb stated, "This is the first retreat the Religious Education Club has been on and I feel that we all enjoyed it immensely."

Twenty-three students participated in the retreat.

## Social Sciences Host Internship: Field Trip Made

The Social Sciences Department here has been achieving outstanding results with its newly-instituted internship program. Presently, seven students are working in the program. They are: Vickie Cook, "Gin-G" Hedrick, Richard Swanner, Lynn Williamson, Shelin Wray, Thomas Fonder, working the county drug prevention program and Tommy White, active with the Boy's Club.

Social Sciences Field Trip  
The Criminology students of Miss Doris Jones and Mr.

Stanley Smedley recently toured the Western Carolina Correctional Center of the North Carolina Department of Corrections at Morganton. These students toured each of the sixteen floors of the facility where they had described for them the recreational and educational programs.

Roughly five hundred youths ranging in age from 14-18 participate in a behavioral-modification program designed on a positive reward system, instead of a punishment system.

## Reflections Begins On Seventh Issue

Gardner-Webb College's literary magazine is beginning its seventh year of publication. Reflections appears on campus every spring and includes poetry, prose and artwork by college students as well as community residents. This year the North Carolina Arts Council has

provided funds to enable the Reflections staff to award cash prizes for exceptional work. All interested persons are encouraged to submit this work to the English House or contact Gerrie Ward or Wanda Watson. Staff positions are also open to interested students.



A few of the fellows take a break.

## tubing Racers Float To Success

Although it was Friday, the 13th, it turned out a perfect day for the first annual Broad River Inner-tube Race. The race was officially begun when the Boiling Springs Rescue Squad sounded off their siren.

The Rescue Squad and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department were on duty to assure that the "tubers" returned safely. The best area of the river for the race

seemed to be near the Hwy. 150 Bridge because of the chopper rapids in that area.

The first place winner was Steve Davidson, a sophomore, second place was taken by John Eaton, a junior.

Although there were no girls involved in this semester's event, there will be another chance to get involved in next semester's race.