



The Skirl



Volume No. 6

Flora Macdonald College, April 1958

Number 3

FMC May Day Tradition and Trauma

By Ann McLeod

In order to reach the heart of this May Day business, your reporter gained an interview with the Grand Mogul of May Day herself, Miss Bateman. Though there had been a "May Day" before she came to Flora Macdonald, she doesn't know how, or when it was begun. By consulting Mrs. (Publicity) Bullock, Miss Hazel Morrison, and Mrs. Perry, it has been established that May Day existed as early as 1908, which was fifty years ago. The two societies began the event. They had some sort of exercises, in the course of which Epsilon Chi planted a maple tree, and Zetesian planted ivy, which is still growing on the auditorium. Some of the early May Queens that they remember were Eliza Patterson, Mable Croom, and Flora McKinnon (Mrs. Perry).

There have been some changes made in the presentation during the time that Miss Bateman has been here. May Day used to be held in the amphitheater on the back of the campus, but for the past several years it has been on the front terrace with the May Court seated on the porch and the spectators seated below the drive. Pictures used to be posed for the day before May Day to assure good shots; now, they are taken during the performance. For a long time May Day was always on the first Tuesday in May at five o'clock in the evening, but the time has been changed from Tuesday to Saturday and is earlier in the evening.

Miss Bateman gives much credit to others for the success of May Day. What she failed to mention was that she bears the big responsibility of planning what everyone is to do and seeing that everything is done. It is a tremendous task and she puts it over well.

As an expert on the subject, Miss Bateman chooses as one of her favorite May Day's "Southern Plantation." There were belles with hoop skirts, gentlemen with high-topped hats, pickaninnies with many patches, and a coachman. The May Queen came in an old victoria. Guests came in buggies, a wagon, and a buckboard. Then, the early American dances were begun.

As Miss Bateman says, May Day is a time when many "old girls" return and many people from the surrounding area visit the college. It is Flora Macdonald tradition at its best.

Church Groups

The leadership of the Methodist Student Movement during the next year falls upon five freshmen. They are Freda Burgess, president; Gwen Hawley, vice-president; Alice Carol Huggins, secretary; Barbara Peek, treasurer; and Becky Whetstone, Fellowship chairman.



Flora Macdonald's "Cinderella", Joy Stalvey, poses in the college gardens. The 1958 May Queen will officially reign on May 3.

"Cinderella" And Court Prepare For May Day

"Cinderella" will soon be throwing off her rags and donning her ball attire for May Day at Flora Macdonald College. Miss Bateman has revealed that "Cinderella" is to be this year's theme for the May Day Festival, which will be held on Saturday, May 3.

Joyce Juanita Stalvey is the May Queen this year. The Maid of Honor is Sarah Jessup Dawson. On the May Court are: Senior class representatives, Mary Louise Howell, Elizabeth McNair Calhoun, and Barbara Ann Wingate; Junior class representatives, Mary Adalyn Burrows, Virginia Sue Harris, and Nancy Jo Thompson; Sophomore class representatives, Elizabeth Ervin Carruth and Jeannette MacDonalld Cole; Freshman class representatives, Laura Alyce Culbreth and Rebecca Ellen Thatcher.

We don't know yet who will be Cinderella, but as the day draws nearer the program continues to take shape. There will be many varied types of dances this year. The Juniors will be doing the traditional Highland Fling and other dances, too. The

program is to include Mexican dances, Spanish dances, Italian dances, French dances, and Czechoslovakian dances. There will be square dancing, and lords and ladies of the court will do a very stately court dance. All of the plans are not definite, but we understand that there may be "mice," who will be transformed to draw the coach for Cinderella.

For the next two weeks, nearly everyone on the campus will be preparing for the big event. The girls will be working hard together to learn the dances and to make costumes. Mr. Lang and his crew will be performing innumerable tasks. The ever-calm Miss Bateman will be supervising all of these activities with the greatest of ease, while everyone else is in a frenzy because the time is near at hand and the work isn't finished.

The campus is becoming more beautiful each day as spring makes itself seen in the flowers and trees. Providing the weather is good, May Day promises to be a big occasion with all of the traditional trimmings.

Decker's Approach To New Position

by Jane Lowe

It was announced last month by Dean Gwynn that Mr. Decker, present head of the Guidance, and professor, will work in the capacity of Administrative Dean of F. M. C.

Concerning the duties of this position, Mr. Decker said, "The position of Administrative Dean is to improve the total realm of pupil services at F. M. C. There will be a new attempt to co-ordinate publicity, recruiting, and admissions so that a student may easily learn about Flora Macdonald College, gain necessary data easily, and be admitted, if qualified, in an efficient manner. The office will further attempt to serve the Flora Macdonald student by carrying on the functions of registrar. The

final tie-in will be an attempt to continue a strong tie between the college and the graduate through the Alumnae office. Thus, a single officer of the college will be able to co-ordinate the efforts of the people concerned with detecting the prospective student — admitting him to the college — aiding him during his stay at the college — and continuing his relationship to the college through the Alumnae office. It is obvious that no one person can do this task, but we will attempt to form an efficient team relationship that will render these important services."

There will be a new staff member to administer the duties of Guidance Counselor and head Guidance Center, Mr. Decker added.

Skirl Adopts New Policy

What is this thing we call The Skirl? Is it a newspaper? Is it an honor sheet? Is it a bulletin? Or is it just a piece of paper to be thrown into the trash can?

We, the staff of The Skirl want it to be yours, the readers'. We realize, and we hope you realize, our limitations. Since the paper will be coming out only once a month it would be hard to write up all events and make them interesting because once something happens here at F. M. C. everyone knows

about it, and by the time it gets in the paper it's completely stale. When we feel that the news is important and is not too outdated, however, we will include it.

Since we can't have a genuine "news" paper, the staff feels that we can and should have the "voice of the students." This last statement is the reason why you may notice a different style of writing this time from that to which you have been accustomed in past issues.

News Briefs

The new officers of the International Relations Club for 1958-59 were installed March 26. They are Nancy Ritter, president; Phyllis Washburn, vice-president; Della Evans, secretary; Nellie Faye Cribb, treasurer; Pauline Holder, reporter and custodian of the club's scrapbook.

At the March meeting of the William Bartram Scientific Society the following new officers were chosen: Becky Whetstone, president; Chase Collins, vice-president; Dewitt Dukes, secretary; Judy Rembert, treasurer; Betsy Carruth, finance chairman.

Three freshmen compose the classical club's slate of officers for the next year. They are Nancy David, president; Sylvia Jennings, vice-president; and Susan Bryant, secretary and treasurer.

Sarah Hatcher was chosen president of the Mathematical Honor Society at its March meeting. Serving under her are Kathy King, vice-president; Jane Lowe, recording secretary; Julia Yokeley, corresponding secretary; Ann McLeod, treasurer; Jo Rita Cox and Barbara Peek, co-finance chairmen.

The society will hold its annual spring picnic at Lakewood May 9. Traditionally, the new officers are in charge of this picnic.

C. A. Employs New Method

The Prayer Band Leaders for the year 1958-59 were tapped into service during the Chapel period Friday, April 18. This is a new method being put into effect at this time. Heretofore, the Leaders were merely asked to serve and were installed at the forthcoming vesper service. The Christian Association Cabinet in deciding to change the manner in which the new leaders were told of their selection felt that the tapping ceremony would have greater meaning both to the Prayer Band Leaders and to the student body. It is hoped that by having the new leaders introduced to the whole student body the students will feel a closer tie to the leaders and that in turn the leaders will feel a closer tie to the cabinet. The Prayer Band Leaders are the main link between the students and the Cabinet.

Also during the service Cecilia Heins was installed as Secretary of the Christian Association to take Martha Kessler's place. Martha plans to be married in September and to accompany her husband to Scotland where he will study. The cabinet is sorry to lose Martha, but is glad to welcome Cecil, and feels that she will be a benefit to the Work.