

# Music Department Honorees

## Ballou's the One...



Miss E. Johnson

### Johnson's the One ...

Miss Evelyn A. Johnson is a native of Petersburg, Virginia. She did her undergraduate work at Fisk University, where she received a BA degree in Music. She studied an extra year and received a diploma in Piano and Music Theory. She received her Masters of Arts Degree in Music and Music Education at Columbia University in New York. She did further study at Columbia University and American University. She did special study in Choral Music with Dr. Harry Wilson, Paul Christiansen and Olaf Christensen, Peter Wilhausky, Elaine Brown, Julius Hereford and Vito Mason. Miss Johnson was chairman of the ECSU Music Department for 33 years.

The majority of her years teaching has been at Elizabeth City State University. She has seen it grow from Elizabeth City Normal School to the present status, and worked with associations that have rated the school. She has taught music in Elementary and High Schools and College. Before Sororities and Fraternities were on campus there were social and literary clubs. She was sponsor of the Be-Natural Club. There is a scholarship fund named the Florence F. Lassiter Scholarship Fund that is still sponsored by this club. It is named in honor of its first deceased member. Miss Johnson set up the first lyceum concert series. It was organized by a group of senior students that were interested in every type of cultural activities and it was through their efforts that the Baldwin piano is on the stage in the auditorium. There were records purchased and the radio phonograph combination which is in Mr. Wendell Wilson's office.

When Miss Johnson came to the music department it consisted of one person for many years.

Mrs. Jean Jackson Butler was added to the music faculty. It was not until 1948 that the music

It was on August 9, 1962 that Mr. Leonard Ballou, advisor to the Compass joined Elizabeth City State University as assistant Professor of Music. Before coming to ECSU Mr. Ballou held teaching positions in Virginia. The Compass staff is especially proud to announce Mr. Ballou as the "professor of the month".

Mr. Ballou was born in Staten Island, New York. He received his formal education in the public schools of Staten Island and Newport News, Virginia, graduating from Huntington High School of the latter city.

He received the B.A. in Music from Fisk University and the M. A. in History from Virginia State College. Other study was at the Eastman School of Music and the College of William and Mary.

His formal teaching career, before coming to ECSU, includes teaching music at Florida A&M (his first job, 1947); St. Augustine's College, where he served as Music Department chairman; Alabama State and Virginia State colleges.

He has been or is affiliated with a number of organizations including the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, American Guild of Organists (of which he is an Associate and past Dean), Society of Ethnomusicology, National Council of College Publications Advisers (from which he received a Citation in 1967); NAACP; Society of American Archivists; and he is an adviser-elect of the campus chapter of Alpha Phi Gamma, national journalism honor fraternity.

He was a charter member of the Museum of the Albemarle of Elizabeth City; a founder and first chairman of the Albemarle Pan-Hellenic Council; and is president of the local graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and serves as Executive Secretary of the Fraternity's Southern Region.

While at ECSU, he serves on the Curriculum Committee and com-

partment gained another member. In 1961, Miss Johnson set up the music major program after the institution's name changed to Elizabeth City State College when the music program grew much more. She remained chairman of the department through Feb. 1965, the year of graduation of the first music major. She resigned as

chairman of the department but remained as professor of music presuming the duties of choir director, teacher of music major subjects and music methods to both music majors and elementary education majors.

piled the "Elizabeth City Loge," a bulletin of faculty creativity. Although not holding the title, he did much of the institutional research during most of his time at ECSU.

He also edited and produced several of the University's catalogs, faculty handbooks and information bulletins and cooperated closely with SGA in producing student handbooks.

Then former SGA president Jethro Williams (former Compass and Viking editor) produced a proposed Honor System, Mr. Ballou was asked to join Mrs. Thelma Anderson and Mr. Williams in explaining the proposal to the student body.

In connection with the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Ballou, a past dean (president) of a chapter, also established Guild Student Groups at the Alabama State College High School and College, and at Virginia State College. The latter was named in honor of J. Harold Montague, late music chairman and choir director there.

When Mr. Ballou became an Associate of the Guild, in 1951, he was one of some two dozen Negroes in the United States who had won this coveted certificate. Mr.

Ballou recalls that racial problems existed in AGO, as elsewhere; one chapter having disbanded rather than admitting him to membership.

Mr. Ballou is proud of accomplishments of present and former Compass staff members. He recalls that former Associate Editor Ingrid East (now Mrs. Dildy) became "Miss ECSC"; that Jethro Williams is now director of admissions at Delaware State; that former Editor Ulysses Bell, now teaching in Africa after receiving his masters from Columbia University, was the first Negro to be elected president of the College/University Division of Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Editor Barbara Fearing (now Mrs. Gaines) has done graduate study at Temple University.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Music Educators National Conference
2. The North Carolina Music Educators Conference
3. American Choral Directors Association
4. National Education Association of the United States
5. American Associates of University Professors
6. North Carolina Teachers Association

#### CIVIC AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. National Association of College Women
2. Womens Club of Elizabeth City
3. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Mr. Ballou feels his major creative work thus far (aside from nearly four dozen organ recitals in various states) is his manuscript on Negro musicians in America up to 1900. He began work on this in 1951 and largely from his own resources continued looking for information during the next 15 or 16 years, ranging in his search from Alabama to Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Mr. Ballou was editor of the Huntington "Mirror," his high school paper; a contributor to the Fisk "Herald," a magazine; advertising manager of the Fisk "Oval" (the yearbook); managing editor of the Alabama State Teachers Association "Journal" (for its first 11 issues) and "News."

He was editor, 1953-58 of the Alabama State College Music Department publication, "Tones and Overtones." The latter periodical was beamed towards music educators and also highlighted accomplishments of Negro musicians.

He was named to "Who's Who in the Choral and Organ World." He was proud to be a participant in dedication ceremonies for the new downtown Wachovia Bank Building (Elizabeth City) for which services he received an engraved silver tray which he cherishes.

He has served as organist, Base Chapel, Langley Air Force Base (Virginia). He still remembers with pleasure an opera produced by music students at St. Augustine's College; music lessons given Julian and Nathaniel Addersly at Florida A & M, among many other students he has been privileged to teach and know.

He feels that hard, honest work never hurt anyone and remembers jobs as store porter, sleeping car porter, newspaper carrier, and shipyard laborer, to earn school expenses.

Mr. Ballou is the son of John J. and Edna (DeHart) Ballou who now reside in Norfolk. His father, former band director at Huntington High, Savannah State, Hampton Institute and most recently Norfolk State, was among Mr. Ballou's early music teachers.

He remembers that, as a youngster, his mother thought it was alright to practice Beethoven, but not Fletcher Henderson; she has since modified her views. He also remembers among his early musical experiences his aunt who served as a church organist in New York.

He is proud of teachers who took time with him, including at Fisk his organ teacher, Arthur R. Croley and Harold Schmidt, John Ohl, Carl Parrish, and the late John W. Work, who taught him



Mr. L. Ballou

other music subjects. During his graduate work, he remembers with appreciation Professors David Stone and James H. Brewer, respectively Temple and Virginia State.

He looks forward to the potential of ECSU but most of all is a proud father who hopes his children realize their own potential.

Mr. Ballou has written several musical compositions including "Diamond Anniversary March" for organ, for the 75th Anniversary of ECSU.

He produced "Pasquotank Pedagogues and Politicians" in 1966. This sketches early educational efforts of Negroes, the beginning of ECSU, and something of the life of Hugh Cale.

In 1967, his "Handbook of Early American Negro Musicians" was privately printed. This summarizes activities of these persons from 1695 to 1900.

When asked about his future plans, Mr. Ballou said that he would like to publish completed manuscripts. These include an approximate 800 pages called "Lost Symphony," which details Negro American musical endeavor through about 1900.

He also would like to publish another manuscript called "Gentleman from Pasquotank" which gives the story of Hugh Cale, founder of ECSU, and the setting in which he lived.

When asked how he felt about being "Compass" adviser, he said, "I've had a lot of fun and a lot of headaches since 1963 --when I became adviser."

He also praised the staff, speaking of its "togetherness" in most instances, and was proud that it had won, then improved, its honor ratings from ACP.

Mr. Ballou spoke of enjoying meeting the students in his classes, and of his organ students, several of whom he has taught in high school then carried them through their organ paces at ECSU.

At ECSU, he has served on various committees, including former chairmanship of the Academic Affairs Council during its existence; the Research and Study Committee; the Publications Committee; and he is currently chairman of the University Property Committee -- which deals

(Continued on page 12)