



The Decree



NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE
Rocky Mount, N. C.

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Cynthia Gooding

sings
SPANISH
MEXICAN
and
TURKISH
FOLK SONGS

Russell Scholarship Announced

A full tuition scholarship to N. C. Wesleyan, to be known as the Leon and Alta Russell Scholarship, has been established by the Russell children and will be awarded annually by the college here.

The Rev. Mr. Russell, currently superintendent of the Goldsboro Methodist District, was pastor of the First Methodist Church in Rocky Mount at the time of the campaign to establish N. C. Wesleyan. He has served on the college's Board of Trustees since its founding in 1956.

He is widely known throughout the N. C. Methodist Conference as a builder, having fostered the construction of several new churches while serving as their pastor. One of these was the \$1/2 million

sanctuary of the First Methodist Church here, a funds campaign for which he spearheaded and saw completed along with the college drive.

The scholarship fund is to be administered by the college without restrictions, but the donors requested that in making awards preference be given children of ministers and students from Rocky Mount, Greenville, Goldsboro or Burlington -- cities in which the Russells have served.

For the present, one scholarship will be awarded each year. As funds accumulate, through investment returns and additional gifts from the children and possibly others, the number of annual awards will be increased.

Folksinger Appeared Here

Tuesday night, February 6, Cynthia Gooding performed for Wesleyan students in the cafeteria. Sponsored by the N.C.W.C. Calender Committee, Miss Gooding presented a concert of Spanish, Mexican, and Turkish folk songs.

Born in Rochester, Minnesota, where her grandparents still live, Miss Gooding recalls that she began singing when she was very young, to the accompaniment of the carillon of the Mayo Clinic. Her family moved to Cleveland when she was three, and she was educated at private schools there and in Toronto. The Goodings moved again, to Lake Forest, Illinois, where Cynthia made her debut.

After a brief stint during the war as mailgirl at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, she returned to Rochester for a time, and then, at 19, she went to Mexico City. There she worked in the American Embassy, first as a messenger and later as a bilingual telephone operator.

Returning to Rochester for two years later with a guitar,

a fluent knowledge of Spanish, and a matador's cape, she did a weekly radioprogram of Spanish music and commentary in honor of the city's many Latin American visitors.

Miss Gooding feels very strongly that folk singing is a highly personal art - an expression of the singer's own experience of the subject of emotion represented in the songs she sings.

She is not one of those folk singers who sing what is required by the current market. In fact, she says, "The artists are those who sing as they think and feel they must and wait for an audience to find them."

Miss Gooding differentiates sharply between folk music and popular music.

The latter, she feels, tends to present life through rose-colored glasses, while folk music, springing as it does from the realities of man's experience, expresses the fact that life is NOT easy and that man is responsible, in large meas-

As a performer Miss Gooding is not a "grandstand player." She meets an audience very much as she would meet people at a social gathering. There is a gradual warming-up process, the performer and her listeners becoming acquainted with one another. Always the song and her feeling about it comes first, and so complete is the communication between singer and audience that even a large auditorium becomes an intimate room.

She finds that the folk buffs she hears from have a number of things in common: they are above-average in education, curious, and seem to have a desire to create something that is theirs, even though it is only a small work of art.

As for the current revival of interest in folk music, Miss Gooding thinks that any one of the explanations being circulated may have some validity: It is a symptom of the search for a "national identity," a return to simplicity in a too-complex, technological age, or at the simplest level a part of the "do-it-yourself" craze.



Dr. James Publishes Book

Dr. Ralph E. James has had his book, "The Concrete God," published by Bobbs-Merrill Publishing Co.

The 236-page book, based on the thought of contemporary American philosopher Charles Hartshorne, proposes an alternative to radical theology. Dr. James maintains not that God is dead as some theologians suggest, but that God is changing.

Dr. James, assistant professor of philosophy and religion, was honored with an autograph party Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Pickwick's in Tarrytown Mall. "The Concrete God" discusses the uses of Hartshorne's philosophy as a new horizon in Christian thinking about God, Christ and the Church.

Of the book, the "Library Journal" says, "The reader should not lightly dismiss this unorthodox view; although sympathetic to Hartshorne's view, Mr. James . . . presents his commentary logically and sin-

cerely. Christianity is challenged, but not denied. The relation of Hartshorne's work to that of Whitehead, Hegel,

Heidegger, Husserl, and even Marshall McLuhan should widen the scope of reader's interest."

Dr. James graduated from Wake Forest and earned his B. D. degree at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and his Ph.D. in philosophical theology at Drew University.

An ordained minister of the Western Conference of the Methodist Church, he served as a pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, Newark, N. J., prior to coming to Wesleyan in 1964.

A native of Asheville, N. C., Dr. James is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the American Philosophical Association.

He is married to the former Mary Lou Chapman of Asheville. They have two young sons, Bradford and Randall.

Watch For It!

The Second Annual N.C. Wesleyan

Monogram Club Horse Show

Will Arrive Next Month