

## Large Crowd Hears Elon Singers In Annual Rendition Of 'Messiah'

The Christmas season was formally ushered in on the Elon campus on Sunday evening, December 2nd, with the nineteenth annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" by the Elon Festival Chorus, a presentation which was hailed by the critics as "the best in the history of the local Yuletide program."

The presentation of the beautiful oratorio, given under the direction of Prof. John Westmoreland, featured an outstanding group of soloists, three of them appearing as guest artists on the Elon campus and the fourth a member of the Elon College music faculty.

The soloists included Miss Virginia Groomes, soprano, of the Elon music faculty; Miss Beatrice Donley, contralto of the Meredith College music faculty, Raleigh; Harold Haugh, tenor, of the University of Michigan; and Walter Vassar, bass, an outstanding concert artist of Greensboro. Prof. Fletcher Moore was at the organ.

The Festival Chorus itself numbered more than seventy-five voices, including members of the Elon College Choir and a goodly group of Elon alumni and friends of the college. Several of the alumni returned from distant points to participate once more in the singing of Handel's masterpiece.

One of the largest crowds in the history of the Elon rendition of "The Messiah" sat spellbound at time by the sweeping grandeur of the recitatives, arias and stirring choruses, all mingled in an enchanting pattern with the organ music.

The former Elon students and musicians of this area who were invited back to take part in the 951 program included Mrs. Belva Hanford, Miss Laurie Rockell, Miss Elizabeth Russell, Miss Jeanne Rader, and Mrs. Dolly Foster Shaw, all of Burlington; Dr. and Mrs. D. J. Bowden, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Boland, Miss Edith Brannock, Miss Shirley Cox, Mrs. Sharon Gero, Mrs. Pearl McDonald, Miss Kathleen McDonald, Miss Virginia Pla, Mrs. J. L. Pierce, Mrs. W. W. Sloan, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Twiddy, Miss Lois Scott, Miss Karen Martin, William H. Strubs and James White, all of Elon College; Miss Norma Jean Edwards and Wallace Owen, of Gibsonville; Mr. and Mrs. James Heffinger and Jack Castle, all of Danville, Va.; Miss Jeanne Meredith, of Waynesboro, Va.; Mrs. Dorothy Jones Parker, of Sunbury; and Miss Jane Dougherty, of Winston-Salem.

Among the Elon students who sang as members of the Festival Chorus were Annie Laurie Albright, Betty Boyce, Laverne Brady, Grace Bozarth, Ronnie Black, Richard Brady, Barbara Chapman, Mary Sue Colclough, (Continued On Page Four)

## Fire Drill Held For West Dorm

The girls in West Dorm were aroused from their slumbers in the wee hours of last Friday morning for a fire drill, which hustled all of them out in the night, some with muttered imprecations and others with the thankful thought that it was not rainy and cold.

Everything has its amusing side, and it may strike some as amusing that one of the girls, once safely outside, dropped down and fell asleep on a convenient bench. She roused a short time later to find that everyone else was safely back inside and she was locked out in the chilly night.

## ELON IS REPRESENTED IN STATE LEGISLATURE

The fifteenth North Carolina Student Assembly convened in Raleigh on November 29th, with junior solons from most of the colleges and universities in the state gathering at the state capital for the session, which lasted through Saturday, December 1st.

Representing Elon College in the mock legislative proceedings were Roger Gibbs, Matt Currin, Ray Euliss, Ronnie Black, Rosamond Bromley and Lynn Cashion. Gibbs, Currin and Euliss were in the Senate, while Black, Bromley and Cashion were in the House of Representatives.

Spirited debate was the keynote of the assembly, which had approximately thirty bills on the agenda for consideration. The most heated discussion was occasioned by a bill for the betterment of general welfare in the state of North Carolina, a bill submitted to the calendar committee by the delegation from Carolina.

This bill, which was divided into four parts for consideration in both houses, proposed to legalize gambling in the state, to legalize prostitution in the state, to provide for a commission to coordinate activities of the birth control program in the state by encouraging research in the field, and, finally, to recommend international distribution of information and material in regard to birth control. The bill also called for repeal of any existing laws that might hinder such a program. The first two sections were defeated overwhelmingly in both houses, but the sections in birth control were passed by the college lawmakers.

The Elon delegation, which was active in debate in both houses, submitted a bill to provide a statewide student loan fund, available to all qualified students at both public and private institutions. This bill was passed after considerable debate.

## Drama Group Admits Five New Members

The Lambda Omicron cast or chapter of the Alpha Psi Omega dramatic fraternity announced last week the addition of five new members. The formal initiation ceremonies for the five new members were held on Tuesday afternoon, December 5th.

Alpha Psi Omega is a national honorary organization, which has for its purpose, the development of dramatic talent and the art of acting, the cultivation of a taste for the best in drama and the fostering of the cultural values which are developed through dramatics.

The new members taken into Alpha Psi Omega in a candlelight ceremony last week included Joe Brankley, of Skipwith, Va.; Roger Wilson, of Providence, R. I.; Richard Newman, of Mebane; Happie Wilson, of Dunn; and Lynn Cashion, of Sanford.

Old members now active in the fraternity include Robert Walker, of Kernersville; Billie Greene, of Durham; Rosamond Bromley, of Huntington, West Va.; and Dick Levine, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Officers chosen for this year immediately after the initiation included Robert Walker, cast director; Lynn Cashion, cast stage manager; and Happie Wilson, cast business manager. These offices correspond to president, vice-president and secretary in other groups. Mrs. Elizabeth R. Smith, director of dramatics on the campus, is faculty advisor for the organization.

## HOLIDAYS START NEXT WEDNESDAY

The Christmas holidays for Elon College students will get underway promptly at noon next Wednesday, December 19th, according to an announcement from the office of Dean D. J. Bowden. The vacation will continue until Thursday, January 3rd, when all classes will be resumed upon regular schedule. There will be no chapel period next Wednesday morning, and the two final periods will be moved up half an hour so as to start the Yule holidays exactly at 12 o'clock.

## Elon Students To Play Santa Claus For Children Of Local Orphanage

### FUND RAISING EFFORT LAUNCHED AT BANQUET

A campaign to raise \$1,250,000 for the support and expansion of Elon College was launched on Tuesday, November 20th, at a dinner meeting at the Alamance Country Club, which was attended by more than 100 business, civic and religious leaders of this area.

Principal speaker for the occasion was Hon. J. Spencer Love, chairman of the board of Burlington Mills, who pledged the support of himself and his organization to the Elon College campaign and at the same time urged others to back the college in its program.

"The people of Burlington, Alamance County and the surrounding area owe a great obligation to Elon College," he declared, and he expressed the opinion that "the people of this section have been too prone to take Elon College for granted, not taking into consideration the great problems that confront such an institution."

Dr. Leon E. Smith, Elon's president, presided over the banquet gathering, and after the invocation he recognized a number of guests from Eastern Virginia and other distant points. He introduced several of those guests, who spoke briefly in support of the financial campaign that was launched that night.

In discussing this campaign and the needs of the college, President Smith pointed out that of the 619 students registered at Elon for the fall quarter, there were 307 from Alamance County. He also cited the fact that all 53 persons taking adult classes were from Alamance County and that a special course is in progress for 152 supervisors from the Western Electric Company, and he pointed to the fact that the college itself and the faculty and (Continued on Page Four)

## Choir Makes Virginia Trip On Weekend

The Elon College Choir spent last weekend in Virginia and north-eastern North Carolina, singing Handel's "Messiah" four times during the weekend trip that saw the musical group leave here on Friday afternoon and return to the campus Sunday night.

The first stop and first program was in Danville, Va., where "The Messiah" was given in the First Presbyterian church on Friday night. This was followed by an appearance in Sunbury high school on Saturday night under the joint sponsorship of several churches.

There were two appearances on Sunday, the first at the First Congregational Christian church in Franklin, Virginia, at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon and the other at the Christian Temple in Norfolk on Sunday evening.

Given under the direction of Prof. John Westmoreland and with Prof. Fletcher Moore as accompanist, the programs featured a number of students and alumni in the solo roles, with four sopranos, two contraltos, two tenors and four baritones singing the special parts.

The ten solos featured Annie Laura Albright, Judy Ingram and Shirley Swank, all students, and Miss Virginia Groomes, of the Elon faculty; the contraltos were Patsy Meiton and Dorothy Jones Parker, one a student and the other a graduate; the tenors were James Heffinger and Jack Castle, both alumni; and the baritones were Jimmy Rhodes, Ronnie Black and Charles Lynam.



## Shakespearean Show By

### Barter Players Here Wednesday...

One of the highlights of the year's entertainment program on the Elon campus is scheduled for Wednesday night of this week when the widely known Barter Players of Virginia will offer "The Merchant of Venice," one of Shakespeare's better known productions, on the stage of Whitley Auditorium. Curtain time is set for 8:15 o'clock.

The plot of "The Merchant of Venice" is an intriguing one, revolving as it does about the dilemma of the Venetian who borrows a sum of money from Shylock, a rich money-lender, promising that he will grant the lender a pound of flesh in case of failure to repay the loan at the specified time.

Such a contingency arises, and Shylock in greedy hatred prepares to claim his pound of flesh, planning to take it from a fatal spot. It is then that Portia, clever woman lawyer, comes to the rescue, and her defense furnishes the high light of the entire production.

Robert Porterfield, founder and president of the Barter Theatre, a group which was organized in the depths of the depression and has since grown into the only state-subsidized theatrical organization in America, is bringing a fine cast here for the annual Elon visit, and he has promised the most extravagant stage setting ever shown here.

Several of the cast which appears here this week have appear-

ed in successful Broadway productions, and others have made names for themselves in radio and television. Included in the cast are Patricia O'Connell, as Portia; Dina Farr, as Narissa; Woodrow Romoff, as Shylock; Hugh Mosher, as Antonio; John Holland, as Gratiano; and Clayton Corzatte, as Bassanio. Also in the cast is Michael Lewis, son of Novelist Sinclair Lewis.

This marks the third time that the Barter Players have presented a Shakespearean production at Elon. They offered "Comedy of Errors" last winter, and three years since they presented "Hamlet," a production that was later played as a command performance for the King of Denmark.

The Elon College students will join once more in playing Santa Claus to the children now living at the Elon College Christian Orphanage, with plans calling for a gigantic Christmas party for the boys and girls in the Student Union at 7:30 o'clock next Monday evening, December 17th.

This is not a new idea, for the 1951 party marks the fifth successive year that the college students have played Saint Nicholas to the orphanage children, and the occasion has proved so much fun each year that many of the college students look forward to the party with almost as much anticipation as the youthful guests.

The plan was originated in 1947 under the sponsorship of the Alpha Pi Delta fraternity, with individual credit for the idea going to Ralph Edwards, who was a member of the fraternity at that time and also president of the Elon student body for that year.

The Alpha Pi Delta boys have continued to sponsor the Christmas party each year, although a big percentage of the student body participates in the plan by "adopting" one of the Orphanage children and providing the gifts. Douglass Roane, of Norfolk, Va., president of Alpha Pi Delta, is in charge of arrangements for the 1951 gathering.

There are 79 children now living at the Orphanage, including forty girls and thirty-nine boys, with their ages varying from four to eighteen years. A list of their names, with ages given, is available at the College Book Store, and members of the student body are urged to "adopt" a child by signing beside that child's name on the list. Gifts to the value of from \$2 to \$5 may be left at the College Book Store, from which place they will be collected by the Alpha Pi Delta members for distribution at that party. Those providing gifts are asked to be sure that the gift is marked with the name of the child.

The Pan-Hellenic Council, which includes each of the four fraternities and each of the four sororities has already made plans to provide once more two new bicycles, one for a boy and one for a girl, with these shiny gifts to go to the boy and girl with the best record for the year.

Members of the Pan-Hellenic Council, which is thus cooperating with Alpha Pi Delta in the Christmas party plans, include Sonny Addison, of Kappa Psi Nu, president; Ted Webb, of Alpha Pi Delta; Joe Spivey, of Sigma Phi Beta; Jack Christy, of Iota Tau Kappa; Edna Burke, of Beta Omicron Beta; Joan Summers, of Pi Kappa Tau; Evelyn Booth, of Tau Zeta Phi; and Laciala Wilkins, of Delta Upsilon Kappa.

## Enrollment Down For Winter Term

With the winter quarter well underway at Elon College, the enrollment of regular students shows a slight drop from the number for the fall quarter. The registrar's office reports about 750 regular students, as compared with the 619 enrolled for the fall term. It is pointed out that there is normally a decrease at this time of year.

The above figures do not include the adult students enrolled in night classes, the veterans enrolled for night classes nor the more than 150 persons attending the special courses now being conducted for the supervisors from the Western Electric Company. These groups swell the Elon attendance to nearly 800 students.