

Large Crowd At Rendition Of 'Messiah'

The Elon festival chorus and its guest soloists thrilled a capacity crowd in Whitley Auditorium on Sunday evening, December 7th, with the twentieth annual presentation of Handel's immortal oratorio, "The Messiah."

The presentation, given under the direction of Prof. John Westmoreland, featured an outstanding group of soloists, three of them being guests on the Elon campus and the fourth a member of the Elon College music faculty.

The soloists included Miss Virginia Groomer, soprano, of the Elon faculty; Miss Lillian Chockasian, contralto, of Chicago, Ill.; Harold Haugh, tenor, of the University of Michigan; and Robert Nicholson, bass, a native of Australia, who is now a resident of Washington, D. C.

The entire program was magnificent in its grandeur, with the sweeping recitatives, the arias and the stirring choruses gripping the entire audience, many of the listeners being persons who return to Whitley year after year to hear the great Yule season production.

The Festive Chorus, which numbered more than one hundred voices, was handled superbly by Prof. Westmoreland, who maintained the perfect control that is necessary for the most effective rendition of the Handel masterpiece, and Prof. Fletcher Moore, who took a break from his graduate work at Columbia University to return to Elon for the event, added much to the pleasure of the audience by his work at the organ.

More than seventy-five members of the chorus were regular Elon students, but they were joined an alumni and guest group that included Mrs. Belva Hanford, Mrs. Elizabeth Russell, Miss Harolyn Hanford, Miss Jeanne Rader, Miss Peggy King, Miss Elizabeth Ward, Willis Boland and Wayne Moore, of Burlington, N. C. and Mrs. D. J. Bowden, Miss Edith Brannock, Miss Ruth Dunn, Mrs. Ann Twiddy, Mrs. Sarah White, Mrs. W. W. Sloan and James White, of Elon College; Miss Norma Jean Edwards and Wallace Owen, of Gibsonville; Charles Lynam, of Wake Forest; Miss Emma Jean Clayton, of Durham; and Jack Castle, of Danville, Va.

Following up the presentation on the campus, the Elon Choir carried "The Messiah" on its annual tour of eastern Virginia last weekend, using student soloists in the featured roles. The oratorio was sung four times on the trip, with appearances in South Boston, Va., at Bethlehem Church near Suffolk, Va.; at South Norfolk, Va.; and at the Christian Temple in Norfolk, Va.

Anne Boleyn Life Next Player Show

The next full-length play to be presented by the Elon Players will be "Anne of a Thousand Days." Maxwell Anderson's dramatic story of Anne Boleyn, second of the six wives of England's King Henry VIII.

The choice of the new play was announced by Mrs. Elizabeth E. Smith, director of the Players, who stated that it will be presented in mid-February. Tryouts for parts are now in progress and will continue tomorrow from 3 to 5 o'clock.

No more dramatic story can be found in English history than that of the tempestuous love story of Henry Tudor and Anne Boleyn, and Maxwell Anderson makes the most of it as his play carries right down to Anne's tragic death on the block.

Student Waits In Vain For Arrival Of Santa

At least one Elon student now knows what it is to wait in vain for a visit from Santa Claus!

Cletis Peacock, special student in Journalism at Elon, who is a regular member of the photographic staff of the Greensboro Daily News, did just that on Monday when he waited for Santa in the midst of a driving snowstorm that pelted North Carolina's famous "Lost Cove."

Jolly Saint Nick had planned to pay a helicopter visit to "Lost Cove" as part of the Ninth Air Force's annual "Operation Christmas," but Santa's visit there was blocked when his helicopter cracked up in making a landing near Black Mountain in blinding snow.

One of the most isolated spots east of the Rockies, "Lost Cove" is located in Yancey County, about thirty miles northwest of Burnsville, being home for a community of less than forty persons, and one of Peacock's jobs was to prepare the children—and adults too—for Santa's aerial call.

The Elon student went ahead by car to Burnsville during the weekend, carrying photographic and sound equipment to record Santa's visit, and at Burnsville he was met by the school master of "Lost Cove," who made the rest of the trip with Peacock. It was necessary for them to park the car at the little village of Poplar and finish the journey on foot, hither-

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VACATION PERIOD STARTS ON FRIDAY

The Christmas vacation for Elon College students will get underway at noon on Friday of this week, according to an announcement from the office of Dean D. J. Bowden, and the entire campus is agog with an air of excitement and expectation.

The Yule season holidays will continue for two full weeks, with classes scheduled to be resumed at 8 o'clock on Monday morning, January 5th, the extra weekend stretching the rest from studies to sixteen full days.

The exodus of students from the campus will begin as soon as each student is through with classes Friday, and many of the faculty will also get away for visits with the home folks or friends.

Phi Psi Cli Will Name 'Miss Elon' In Contest

The Phi Psi Cli staff has announced plans to select a "Miss Elon," whose picture will be published in the 1953 college annual, selection to be made in the first beauty contest at Elon in recent years. In former years organizational heads were allowed to publish photos of their sponsors, but that was discontinued in 1943.

Each class has named two candidates for the "Miss Elon" honor, including Jean Tew, Durham, and Shirley Cox, Elon College, freshman; Natalie Toms, Burlington, and Patsy Summey, Dallas, sophomore; Betty Thompson, Burlington, and Rachel Matthews, Portsmouth, Va., juniors; and Betty Van

Sharpe, Burlington, and Aleane Gentry, Timberlake, seniors.

Four of these girls, one from each class, will be chosen by special judges at a Yule season dance to be held in Society Hall Thursday night, December 18th, immediately after the annual Christmas dinner for dorm students, which is to be served in the dining hall that night.

Photos of the four remaining contestants will be made and sent to Kay Kyser, famous band leader, who has agreed to pick "Miss Elon College." The winner will remain unknown until the Phi Psi Cli appears next spring.

Party Tonight For Children Of Orphanage

The spirit of real Christmas giving will light the Elon College campus tonight when the members of the student body join once more in playing Santa Claus to the children now living at the Elon College Christian Orphanage, with the annual party scheduled for 6:30 o'clock tonight in the Student Union.

This Christmas party for the orphanage children is not a new one here, for the 1952 event marks the sixth successive year that the college students have entertained the children of the orphanage family, and past years have proven that the college students have as much fun and look forward to the party with as great anticipation as do the youthful guests.

The plans were 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 that year.

The Alpha Pi Delta boys have continued to sponsor the Christmas party each year, although the other Greek letter organizations join in heartily, and the great majority of the student body falls in with the idea and "adopts" one of the children, for whom gifts are provided.

There are 82 children now living at the orphanage, according to an announcement last week, including forty boys and forty-two girls, their ages ranging from four to seventeen years. A list of their names, with ages given, has been available at the College Book Store for several days, and students have been "adopting" them by signing on blanks beside the names of the children.

The gifts for each child are expected to be something of approximately \$5 value, and in many cases two or more college students will join in providing gifts for a certain child. The gifts will be distributed by old Santa Claus in person tonight.

The Pan-Hellenic Council, which includes the four fraternities and four sororities, has already made plans to provide once more two new bicycles, one for a boy and one for a girl, with recipients of these shiny gifts to be designated by the orphanage authorities.

Members of the Pan-Hellenic Council, which is thus cooperating with Alpha Pi Delta, include Lewis Winston, of Kappa Psi Nu; Charlie Crews, of Alpha Pi Delta; Larry Nightlinger, of Sigma Phi Beta; Ned Gaudin, of Iota Tau Kappa; Elizabeth Ward, of Beta Omicron Beta; Jane Boone, of Pi Kappa Tau; Virginia Jernigan, of Tau Zeta Phi; and Carolyn Abell, of Delta Upsilon Kappa.

'Open House' Held Sunday Afternoon

The members of the Freshman Sunday School Class of the Elon Community Church held "Open House" from 3:30 until 5 o'clock last Sunday at the home of their teacher, Mrs. Leon E. Smith, Sr., and were hosts at that time to many members of the student body and faculty.

Officers and members of the Sunday School group who welcomed and directed the guests included Gerald White, Terry Emerson, Ann Kearns, Marie Weldon, while other members of the class served in the beautifully decorated dining room.

After refreshments were served, many of the guests enjoyed the singing of Christmas carols, with Bob Phelps and Susan Fuchs accompanying at the piano.



Special Delivery By Reindeer Express . . . .

Old Santa Claus Answers Appeal From Boys Of East Dorm . . .

Old Santa Claus has a place in the minds of college students as well as the smaller fry, a fact that was proven by the letter that "the boys of East Dorm" wrote to the jolly old fellow, and Santa himself thinks of college people, too, for he wrote back at once to the boys over in East Dorm. The return letter, which came by Reindeer Express, was intercepted by one of the secret operatives of the M. and G. staff. Both letters follow:

East Dorm, Dec. 9, 1952.

Dear Santa Claus: A lot of people say that you don't exist, but we think this is just heresy. We are writing to remind you of what we want for Christmas.

First of all, Shaw is no good; therefore, a new janitor sure would be nice.

Next, the age-old request that you haven't granted yet, please use your influence to eliminate exams.

These were requests everyone would appreciate, but there are a few individuals who want something in particular.

Bob Mercier would like to have two new front teeth. His are false you know.

An easy-to-follow reducing diet would be appreciated by Gordon Hanford's bed for its occupant. It has so much to bear.

Just fill George Barron's stockings with Bertie Lewis, and he'll be satisfied.

Joe Bage wants a kerosene

lamp to study by when the lights go out, for he always has a test tomorrow.

We know you will look out for the rest of us, so good night and

Love,  
The boys in  
East Dorm.

AND THE ANSWER . . .

North Pole, Dec. 10, 1952.

The Boys in East Dorm, Elon College, Elon College, N. C.

Dear Boys:

You may fancy that Santa Claus is an imaginary character. Many have expressed such ideas. I resent such opinions, for I am really a personality, and I do

exist, even though I have never been touched or felt. I am here, there and everywhere.

As for your first request regarding one Shaw, who I understand is a janitor for your dorm, I have no authority over adults. I only deal with children.

As for examinations, I shall see that your requests are granted for all who are "A-plus" students. The matter of being exempt from examinations depends on two things—your ability and your willingness to apply yourself. Santa deals justly.

With regard to Gordon Hanford's bed, I do have sympathy for it. The best way to make it easy for the bed is to stop the "big boy" from eating. That will do the trick.

With reference to George

Barron's request, I am afraid that if you filled his stockings with Bertie Lewis it would take more than her feet, which would be bad judgment.

It is encouraging to know of Joe Bage's studiousness. I am sure that Santa Claus will see to it that he has plenty of light on the outside to match his light on the inside.

Please be assured that Old Santa Claus will do the very best he can for the boys in East Dorm and all others on the campus. Keep your ears stopped and your eyes closed on Christmas Eve night, for I shall be coming around. If I see you looking or listening, I'll not stop.

—SANTA CLAUS.