

# AMERICAN ABACABA

Notes of Interest Gleaned from Annuals of Previous Years

## 1915—SALEM DAY

On February 4th, 1915, Salem Day was celebrated by the college and academy.

The Day began with special chapel exercises, followed by classes, but at 3 o'clock the excitement started. A loving cup had been offered by Barber's Book Store, to be given every year to the winning basketball team or either the "Enterpriser" or Hesperian Literary Society. The Hesperians were victorious, thereby gaining the cup.

Next there was a grand rush for the library, where each class was to give a "stunt." The Freshmen presented a ludicrous mock circus. The Seniors held a class reunion in 1940, each member presenting her possible future destiny. Then the Junior gave a symphony concert, the orchestra being composed of instruments ranging from tin horns to a beautiful gilded harp (which had been made by Mr. Barrage). But the best was yet to come, for the Sophomores treated us to a real negro minstrel, and Grey, Bailey, Ross and Penton, as emcees, amused us with jokes. Then the Glee Club of Liberty entered, and the performance ended with the patriotic songs of all nations.

—Class History by Blanche Allen.

## 1907

And we like to be disappointed. We've the classes gone before, For Memorial Hall is finished.

And our longings are no more. Proud of you, are we, old Salem, Of your faithful daughters, too, Who this building have erected, Showing their great love for you.

—Class Poem by Phoebe Phillips.

## 1908

With the turn of the year came thoughts of parting from the school which we held so dear. How could we express in tangible form our love for our Alma Mater? What memorial could we leave which should tell to classes following our love for her? We determined to have erected at the head of '05 Memorial Steps two stone pillars, each bearing aloft a globe of electric light. May they always be symbolical of the warm regard we have for Salem College.

—Class History by Celeste Huntley.

## 1906

The next step in our evolution was the assuming of the Oxford cap and gown. On September 27, we heard our caps and gowns had been shipped, so of course we thought that they would be here on the following Saturday. Bright and early on Saturday morning Seniors began telephoning to the express office inquiring if the caps and gowns had arrived. By some mistake we heard that they were there, and would be delivered at two-thirty. By one o'clock the office steps were packed with Seniors. The express men had been notified, so most of them were here also waiting. Finally we were told that the express wagon had started and when it at last arrived at the office, about four o'clock the President, Blanche Nicholson, lost no time in seizing the box which she thought contained the priceless caps and gowns, but she let it go when suddenly she discovered it bore the name of Mrs. S. B. Donthier. There was never a more disappointed company of girls; but our faces became bright and happy again when the express wagon came up on Monday, October 2, bearing a box which we knew contained the long-expectated treasures, and they were here at last! Every Senior was at the office, impatient to see the gown of classic cut and of "staid wisdom's hue." Well, it goes without saying that we felt more important than we ever had before; perhaps even several members taller.

—Class History by Laura Heiverson.

## 1916

And now as we draw near the close of the first year of Student Government in this institution, we feel that it has been a success. The girls have entered admirably into the spirit of self-responsibility; and we feel that we owe much of the success of the 1915-16 term to the deep root the ideals of Self-Government have taken in the hearts of our students. Thus, basing our hopes on the evident improvements of this year, and believing that Self-Government is one of the best means of developing character, we feel safe in predicting that, in the future growth and development of our College, a great part will be played by the Student Self-Government Association.

—From an Article by Lucille Spears.

## 1910

Article XII. Not only to the Senior Class of 1911, but to all future classes, we bequeath the lat burning ceremony which may take place on the evening after the arrival of their caps and gowns. This ceremony, which was instituted by us at 7 p. m., September 30, 1909, we thus hand down as a sacred privilege for all time to come.

—LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

—Class of 1910, per Phoebe Martin.

## 1917

We felt very much honored in being asked to be present at the Alumnae Luncheon given on Salem Day. Then for the first time we began to realize what it does and will mean to us to be daughters of Salem. We are proud in having gotten so far, but we also see what responsibility is put upon us on becoming alumnae of our dear Alma Mater.

—Class History, by Elizabeth Bainter.

## 1905

And again, although previous attempts have been made, the first Annual owes its origin to members of the class of '05.

—Class History by Florence Morrison.

## 1914

It seemed a fitting sequel to the glorious basketball games when a few days later Helen Vogler gave a party to the class. We spent a happy afternoon playing Rook, but the moment which stands out in our recollections was when plates were brought in, on which reposed not only ice-cream and cake in our class colors, but also bunches of violets held by dear little class pins, with our motto in letters of gold. Then we almost raised the roof in our enthusiasm realizing that we had attained the distinction of being the first class to have both pins and rings.

—Class History by Margaret Blair.

## 1922

Yes, this is for us, a class of twenty-seven seniors, the year of all of us, spelled with capital letters, W. We deem ourselves very fortunate indeed for having the great privilege of celebrating our graduation with the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Salem.

—Class History by Margaret Stevens.

## 1912

After a seemingly short vacation, we returned to school. Instead of living in Main Building, as all Seniors formerly had done, we had a whole house to ourselves, which we readily named "Senior Home," or "Senior Hall." While occupying our cozy, comfortable home apart, we do not forget that we are important members, and leaders of our great student body.

—Class History by Faith Farrington.

## 1926

First: We do will to the Class of 1930 our class colors, and also our abundance of pep and "Salem spirit!"

—Last Will and Testament.

Treasurer—Mary Alta Robbins.

## 1909

On the tenth of December, 1908, the Senior mascot, Diogenes, the famous owl, arrived. To say that he hissed and expressed his dislike for us in the superlative degree expresses it mildly. His disposition was much like his namesake's, and though we tried hard to be friendly with him, he never reciprocated our kindnesses by so much as a gentle nod of the head—instead he would puff up his feathers and roll his eyes in such a warning way that all preferred remaining standing at a very respectful distance.

—Historian of Class of 1909, Edith Willingham.

## 1911

How we did sing in the procession next morning, and Bishop was so proud of us that he took us for a walk up through town and gave everyone the great opportunity of seeing the Seniors of Salem Academy and College in their caps and gowns. Of course all were impressed by the sight, at least we thought they were, and that answered just as well.

—Historian Class 1911, Pauline Peterson.

## 1913

Motto: "Dux femini facti." As we are leaving our motto goes with us. It does not specify what a woman can lead, and it may be a mere man, but we hope at least to lead him to something worthwhile.

—Historian Class 1913, Maude McGee.

## 1915

On the 31st of October, Carolina and Davidson played football here, and we enjoyed going to the game in the afternoon. At night the Carolina Glee Club was heard and after the concert, we entertained them and the teams by a reception given in the college parlors.

—Historian Class 1915, Blanche Allen.

## 1919

Hey there, postman, Have you any mail? Yes, ma'am; yes, ma'am. So much it must be stale. One from your mother. One from your dad. One from the only one. In France—a soldier lad.

—"The Senior Playhouse"

## 1927

For many years there has been no celebration of May Day at Salem. This day at other colleges is a great event, and an occasion for presenting an elaborate masque over which reigns the chosen May Queen. This year, May Day is one of the important events on the Salem Calendar. Much interest has been shown in the choosing of the Queen and in the preparations for May Day celebration. It is to be hoped that the beautiful ceremony will become traditional at Salem, and as charming an occasion as Senior Hat Burning, a Class Day.

The May Queen Bessie Reize Clark Maid of Honor, Louise Elizabeth Culler The May Court, Frances Millikan Frances McCormick Frances Coleman Julia Daniels Elizabeth Sifford Pearl Fisher Louise Thompson Elizabeth Hastings Mary Johnson La Verne Warr Sara Kincaid Jennie Wolfe Chris Wootton

## 1920

The event of our Junior year was, of course, the Junior-Senior banquet. For three years, we had dreamed of this great occasion, but now that the time had really come we found ourselves unable to decide on any plans that would satisfy our ideals of what this occasion should be. The library we immediately dismissed as entirely too commonplace (our recent frequenting of that room had taken away its attraction as a place of enjoyment.) Finally, someone timidly suggested the Zimendorf. We were horror-stricken. Yet, so fascinating was the thought, that we could not resist talking it over, and as we discussed it, its fascination grew upon us until we ventured to suggest it to Dr. Rondthaler. To our overwhelming delight, he consented. So, for the first time in the history of Salem, the Junior-Senior banquet was held at the Zimendorf. We never quite realized just how wonderful that banquet would be until we beheld the palm room of the Zimendorf as it was that night. A huge rainbow extended from one corner of the table to another, ending in a pot of gold. Palms, flowers, music, new dresses and the banquet! Words fail me here, so I will leave the remainder to your memories.

—Class History by Mabel Elizabeth Williams.

## 1924

All the girls of Salem College who were fortunate enough to have birthdays in June, July and August and September were guests at a clearing and delightful Baby Party given by the Y. W. C. A. on Monday afternoon. About fifty children in their party frocks and suits came at five o'clock to the recreation room. Master "Buster" Baper received a prize in the tug of war contest. Little Miss Polly Taylor was considered the prettiest baby at the party and the prize for the cutest baby was awarded to little Miss Rosa Caldwell. After the games delicious refreshments were served to the children and their guests.

## 1885

Candles have, for time, been entirely superseded in the Academy, but next lanterns, which are lighted and hung up in the halls outside of each room door, to be taken down and used by any one requiring a portable light.

—The Academy.

## 1884

The following are a few of the "statistics" of the Class of '84: The weights of fifteen members of the class (two being absent at the time the statistics were taken) were 145, 144, 147, 126, 135, 124, 121, 120, 119, 117, 116, 114, 109, 105, 104. The heights were: 5.8, 5.7, 5.7, 5.6, 5.6, 5.5, 5.5, 5.5, 5.4, 5.3, 5.3, 5.2. Average height 5 ft., 5 in. Brunettes predominated. The pure blondes were only three or four. The ages we skip. Other general features of the class are pretty well known, sufficiently so at least to render a record of them unnecessary here. Besides, they are gone! and to dwell upon them here is but to "harper up one's feelings."

## 1886

In addition to our morning prayers in the Academy Chapel we haveavers every evening about 6 o'clock. It is a quiet, restful round-up of the day's work, and has become endeared to us, as if we had always enjoyed it.

## 1923

When the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States convened in New Orleans from December 6th to the 9th only seven of the thirty-five colleges applying were admitted. Salem was one of these seven. The standards upheld by this association are very high and it is indeed a mark of distinction, a formal recognition of the worth of an institution, to receive the A1 rating. It was through the untiring efforts of Dr. Rondthaler, as well as the co-operation of the faculty, student body, alumnae and patrons that this honor came to us. The student body, at a recent meeting, appointed a committee to draw up resolutions of appreciation to Dr. Rondthaler.

From an article by Rachel Jordan in The Salemita, December 12, 1922.

## 1878

The birthday of the Principal on the 12th of December was rendered memorable by his granting us the liberty, from that day forward of convoking during meals. We doubt not that former pupils, who may read this, will rejoice with us, perhaps envy us, for we certainly enjoy our meals more than when the silent system prevailed.

—From the Academy.

## 1879

A Quilting Party met in Old Ninth Room (on Easter Monday. The work was intended for the Oxford Orphan's Asylum. The enterprise was finished in the hands of our young folks.

Bishop Dr. Schweinitz and Mr. Rondthaler left Salem on April 24th, en route for Germany. They sail from Philadelphia for Liverpool in the Ohio, of the Pennsylvania line, on May 3rd.

—The Academy.

## 1928

We have a new "Alma Mater," and it is beautiful! The words were written by Miss Marion Blair and Miss Anna Pauline Shaffner, and the music was composed by Dean Vardell. Today in Chapel the sister classes participated in the singing of it, and the Senior-Sophomore group won.

## FEBRUARY 3

Founder's Day was observed today, beginning with Chapel exercises this morning. During the afternoon, Salem Historical Museum was opened to students and friends of the College. The Trustees were the guests of the Senior Class at dinner tonight, after which the Alumnae Association met.

## 1910

## SEPTEMBER

The new library is, perhaps, the most marked improvement for the term, and will give us accommodations and equipment which have been sorely needed. This library has been arranged in the beautiful chapel, and the former furniture has been removed and book racks erected, so that this very large hall is now receiving the old library transferred, and the addition of many new books, selected with special care for the various departments of college instruction. Reading tables and reference alcoves are arranged for, and the new library is fast becoming one of the most beautiful halls in our entire equipment.

## 1880

Ten pins has been resorted to more frequently of late than formerly. At all hours of the day, the rolling of the balls may be heard, but the Seniors are so much depressed by the prospect of Physical Geography examination that they cannot find heart to indulge in this recreation.