

**SOME TRADITIONS
BEHIND MAY DAY
CELEBRATION**

The custom of celebrating the first of May with the gathering of flowers dates back, certainly to the Roman Floralia or Floral Games. There are other ancient May Day celebrations, such as the Druid feasts in honor of Bel and the phallic festivals of India and Egypt, but these seem rather for the purpose of sacrifice, and are in no way connected with flowers.

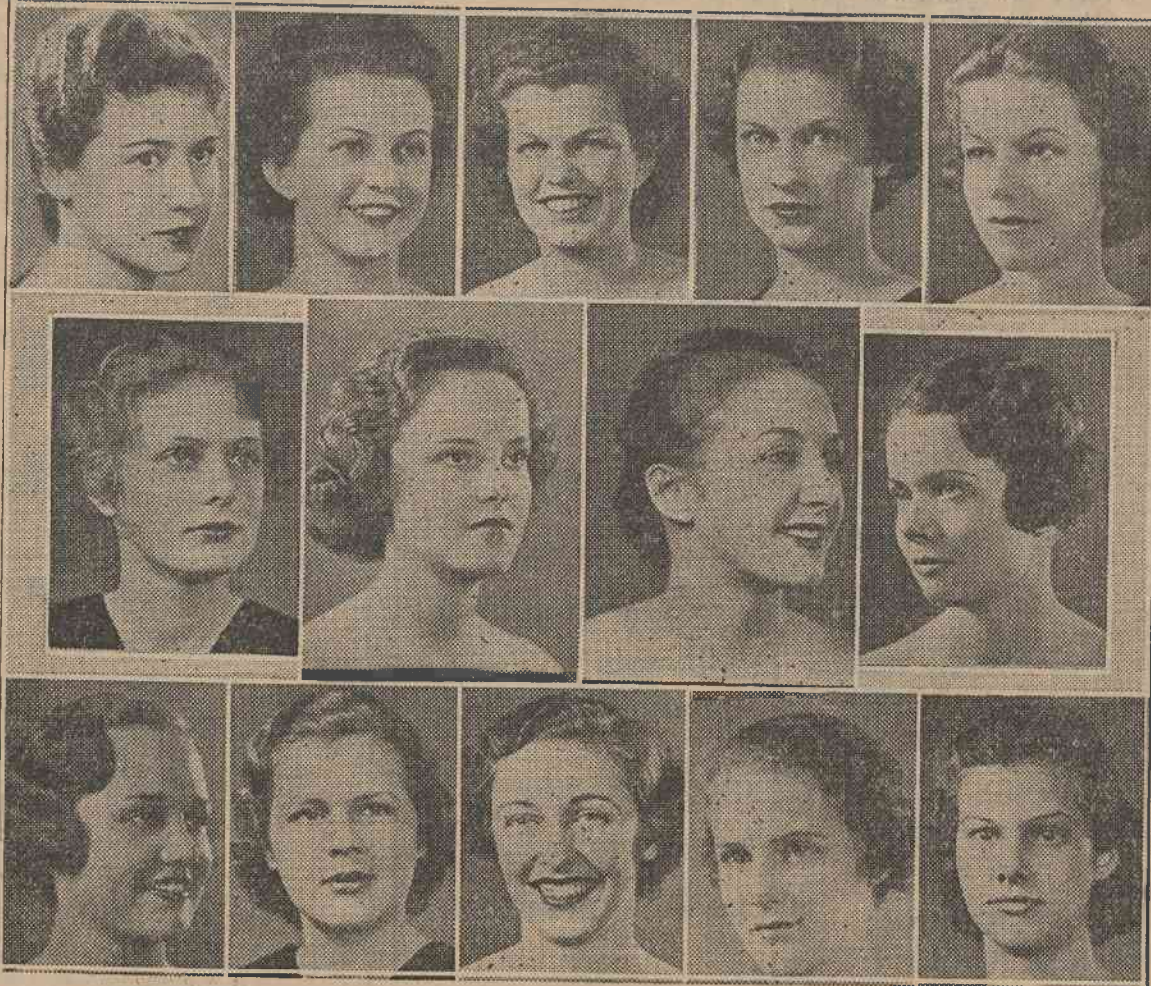
In England in the sixteenth century it was customary for the middle and lower classes to go out at a very early hour of the morning to gather flowers and hawthorn branches, which they brought home about sunrise, to the accompaniment of music and with great joy and merriment. By a natural transition of ideas, they gave the hawthorne bloom the name of May; they called the ceremony "bringing home the May;" they spoke of the expedition to the woods as "group a-maying." This lovely custom is seen in these lines from the May Carol, a very old ballad, dating probably from Elizabethan times, which will be sung in the Salem May Day pageant:

"I been a rambling all this night,
And sometimes of this day;
And now returning back again
I brought you a branch of May
A branch of May I brought you here,
And at your door I stand;
'Tis nothing but a sprout but well
budded out,

By the work of our Lord's hand."
Not content with a garlanding of their brows, their doors, and their windows, these merry people had in every village a fixed pole. "as high as the mast of a vessel of a hundred tons," on which each May morning they suspended wreaths of flowers, and round which they danced almost the whole day. The May-pole had its place equally with the parish church or the parish stocks. The Puritans had the May-poles uprooted, but after the Restoration they were re-erected and the appropriate rites re-commenced with great gusto.

The custom of having a Queen of the May, seems to be a relic of the heathen celebration; this maid appears as a living representative of the goddess Flora, whom the Romans worshipped on this day. Chambers in "The Book of Days" say, "Be it observed the May Queen did not join in the revelries of her subjects. She was placed in a sort of bower or arbour, near the May-pole, there to sit in pretty state, an object of admiration to the whole village — It must have been rather a dull office, but doubtless to the female heart had its compensations."

SALEM COLLEGE MAY COURT



These lovely girls compose the May Day Court of Salem College. Top row: Misses Cordelia Lowry, Bedford, Va.; Marjorie Robinson and Jean Robinson, Lowell; Helen Jones, Fayetteville; Julia Preston, Washington, D. C. Middle row: Cornelia Wolfe, Charlotte; Phyllis Clapp, Winston-Salem, May Queen; Garnelle Raney, Salisbury, maid-of-honor; Etta Burt Warren, Trepton. Bottom row: Sarah Katherine Thompson, Bluefield, W. Va.; Dorothy Wyatt, Winston-Salem; Mariana Hooks, Wilson; Helen Totten, Atlanta, Ga., and Virginia Lee, Kinston.

**WHERE THE "WHERE-
WITHAL" FOR MAY
DAY COMES FROM**

Let's start back with last September, or even before that, when we think of finances for May Day. After all, while May Day is based largely on beauty, originality, and cooperative working, there is, in spite of everything, a need for money in connection with the festival. If one thinks of all the time and energy that has been spent in accumulating funds, May Day takes on more significance, and stands out—not as the events of an hour or so — but as the very peak of a structure of many months' work.

Frankie Meadows and Kea Council could tell you of many an hour spent in making sandwiches down in "The Wee Blue Inn," and Jo Reece reports that they have been quite successful this year. As a student ran down to "The Wee Blue" in between Math problems to get a sandwich and a dope, she perhaps never even gave May Day a thought — most probably she didn't, but each time she contributed something to this event. Even Frankie, scurrying through the halls collecting bills, might have forgotten May Day herself!! (You could hardly blame her!)

The finance committee of May Day sponsored an art exhibit — most of the faculty members contributed some of their artistic triumphs. Remember Miss Ferguson's drawing of a Medieval Manor — entitled "I traced it, too!"? Anyone who'd had Freshman history at Salem was much impressed by that picture. And Mr. Curlee had everybody in school looking up the title of his picture in the dictionary! The pictures were auctioned off after the exhibit, and some brought fabulous prices of a dollar or so.

Money from the budget last fall was also added to the fund, and the Costume Committee arranged to rent a good many costumes, which brought in clear profit.

Many of the girls in the pageant and in the dances this afternoon have spent much time in helping to finance May Day, and so have some of those beautiful ladies in the court.

This information should not detract from the beauty of May Day; instead, it should help each member of the audience to realize that the program is the result of much careful planning.

Coco Henderson, treasurer of the May Day Committee, is also head of the finance committee. The members of the finance committee are: Louise Freeman, Betty Bahson, Aggie Brown, Mary Hart, Ellen Moore, Helen McArthur and Janie McLean.

Jones: "Your office sent me a cook last week."

Employment Office Manager: "Yes, that's right."

Jones: "Well, it will give me the greatest pleasure if you will dine with me tonight."

CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

May Day Committees

Josephine Reece —
Chairman
Elizabeth Torrence
Vice-Chairman

Finance Committee
Mary Coleman Henderson —
Chairman

Pageant Committee
Jane Rondthaler —
Chairman

Flower Committee
Marion Mitchell —
Chairman

Dance Committee
Eloise Sample and
Margaret Sears —
Chairmen

Ushers and Program Committee
Martha Schlegel —
Chairman

Property Committee

Eleanor Watkins —
Chairman

Costumes Committee
Jane Crow —
Chairman

Dress Committee
Cordelia Lowry —
Chairman

Publicity Committee
Josephine Whitehead —
Chairman

Tea Room Committee
Frances Meadows —
Chairman

Music Committee
Mary Frances Hayworth —
Chairman

**HOW THE PAGEANT
WAS WRITTEN**

It was evident that a pageant had to be found, written, or borrowed before the music for the May Day fete could be chosen, the dances worked out, and the very foundation laid for the May Day program of 1936. Josephine Reece therefore, being the Chairman of May Day, began to consider various ideas which might be used as a basis for the pageant. Anna Wray Fogle and Nancy Schallert helped her to write one of these which was particularly good, and to it added ideas and suggestions of their own. The result of this was turned over to the Pageant Committee headed by Jane Rondthaler who, with this group did most of the writing of the pageant which is being presented this year.

To Josephine Reece goes the credit for the original idea, and to the Pageant Committee credit for writing up this program in a most interesting way.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

DANCERS

SPIDERS

Felicia Martin
Anne Austin

Corrine Pate
Peggy Rogers

Virginia Piper
Martha Schlegel

Marjorie Powell
Annette McNeely

MAY POLE

Margaret Stafford
Eleanor Stafford

Helen Smith
Mary Hart

Frances Alexander
Katherine Bellamy

Bill Fulton
Josephine Ritter

Madeline Smith
Florence Joyner

Willena Couch
Carlton Thorpe

FLOWERS

Virginia Bruce Davis
Margaret Shackford

Edith Rose
Covington Cole

Frances Salley
Margaret Loftin

Peggy Bowen
Charlotte Nelme

Elizabeth Torrence
Eleanor Ann Ivey

SOLDIERS

Ethel Watkins, Mary Grier, Mary Daniel, Susan Caudle, Elizabeth Taylor, Mary Thomas, Louise Frazier, Emma B. Grantham, Rebecca Brame, Carlotta Washburn, Mary W. Spence, Mary Lee Salley, Virginia Fulton,