

# FEATURES - FEATURES

## SALEM MAY DAY PLANS COMPLETE

The scene for Salem's May Day of this year is an English garden on April 30, 1938. Cecilia, an English girl, is reading a book, when a group of other girls come in, talking and laughing.

Cecilia: Oh, hello. It must be later than I thought. I've been reading about how the Greeks celebrated May Day.

Rosalind: Really? What a queer picture! Who are they?

Cecilia: They are women of Thebes going to the mountain revels in honor of — wait a minute — Dionysius. "In the cold moist glens of Parnassus, Attica, and mountains of Asia Minor, worshippers of the god of wine, followed by a wild chorus of nymphs and Satyrs, held rites; goats and fauns were sacrificed. It was the primitive belief that the wild storms of late winter set free spirits which encourage vegetation." And that was how May Day started.

Audrey: And is that a woman of Thebes?

Cecilia: No; you see, later the other Greeks held celebrations, too, and chose the fairest maiden to rule over the day.

(Two girls have been playing with a hoop and have wandered over to a mushroom beside the brook. A small gnome raises his head and looks at them.)

Elizabeth: They must have been lovely ladies.

Cecilia: I should like to have seen them.

Rosalind: So should I.

Gnome: Pardon me, young ladies. I have been eavesdropping, I confess. If you would like to see a Greek celebration of May Day, maybe we can arrange it. You must promise not to speak a word until I tell you; that would break contact.

(He goes to a large clock of years and turns it back to 900 B. C. He sits on the mushroom; and the girls sit down too.) (A group of about twenty Grecian-clothed people come in.)

Gnome: You see, they have selected the fairest maid in Athens and have come to celebrate before her and her court. She is coming now.

(Heralds, flower-girls, and the court precede the queen down the hill. One of the group comes over before the queen with a flute and kneels.)

Gnome: Now they are going to give a dramatization of Odysseus among the Phoenicians. You remember the story — Odysseus finds himself on the shore of King Alcinoos' kingdom and lies down to sleep. Nausicae, the daughter of King Alcinoos, goes to the river to wash the clothes.

(Nausicae comes in with six maidens and a cart filled with dainties. They begin washing and then lay the clothes out to dry. Odysseus is asleep on the right. The seven girls sit down to their midday meal; later four of them get up and dance, and finally Nausicae and the other two join them and play ball. The ball rolls over to where Odysseus sleeps; he wakes; the maidens flee, but Nausicae stays and gives him raiment, food, and drink. There is another dance, with large balloons, before they leave in the cart and afoot. They come back and bow before the queen who acknowledges them, they begin to back off-stage slowly.)

Cecilia: Oh, that was lovely — but must they go?

Gnome: Yes, it's very late!

Audrey: Mayn't they stay just a bit longer and see how we celebrate May Day?

Gnome: Well — yes; they shall see your May-pole dance.

No one who has not been "behind scenes" before May Day can ever realize the endless work and energy and time and thought and trouble that must go into this hour of entertainment for the 5,000 people

that watch Salem's May Day each year. There are seven main committees that actually plan for the celebration, besides the pageant committee itself and several others that do their work throughout the year. Shortly before May the committees for costumes, dances, flowers, properties, and dress, must have their work completed; and on May Day the program committee does its work.

Of course, everything centers on the pageant, and it must be finished long beforehand. Margaret Briggs wrote it this year and has been the guiding hand behind all of the celebration this May of the old custom.

Four dances add grace and beauty to the scene in the garden. Besides the May Pole dance, there are three Grecian dances — a scarf dance, a fountain dance, and a solo dance by Willena Couch. There are six people in the scarf dance; four in the fountain one, and twelve in the May Pole dance. These girls started practicing a month ago with Edith Rose and Miss Grace Carpenter. Mr. Kerenoff, a Russian dancing teacher in Greensboro, created and taught all of the dances except the May-Pole one.

The music this year was orchestrated by B. C. Dunford, and he also composed the processional and music



LEFT TO RIGHT, MISS VIRGINIA LEE, MAY QUEEN AND MISS MEREDITH HOLDERBY MAID OF HONOR IN SALEM'S ELEVENTH MAY DAY FESTIVITY.

## PREVIEW OF TOMORROW'S MAY COURT



TALKING ABOUT MAY DAY ARE SOME OF THE FAIR MAIDENS OF THE COURT. LEFT TO RIGHT, MARY LIB WALSTON, CORNELIA WOLFE, DOROTHY WYATT, FRANCES BRITT, MARY GRAY THOMPSON AND NELL HOLT

## AS WE SEE THEM BEFORE MAY DAY



EXCITED ABOUT MAY DAY, THESE COURT BEAUTIES SMILE FOR THE BIRDIE. LEFT TO RIGHT THEY ARE MARTHA RAWLINGS, BILL FULTON, PEGGY JONES, BETTY SCOTT, MARY LOUISE McCLUNG AND MILDRED KELLY.

for the solo dance of the pageant; he has been doing his part for May Day for perhaps two months. Salem's glee club is to sing the May Day carol at the end of the pageant, and a twenty-two piece orchestra with two pianos will furnish the instrumental music.

Two weeks before Easter the Home Economics Club began its project of costumes which the Costume committee had already planned. The Home Economics majors were divided into five groups, each under the direction of a committee member. Charlotte King helped on all of the groups, and is still working on "odds and ends" of the forty-some costumes. There were two groups for dance costumes, one for warrior clothes, another for men's garments, and a fifth for women's outdoor dresses. There were also heralds and pages and flower-girls to be dressed, and the only costumes which could be used from previous years were the May-Pole dancers' dresses. There were several individual costumes, too — an Ionic chiton and a Doric one, and Mary Woodruff's green gnome suit of bolero, skirt, long pants, and cap. A few of those well-known hockey tunics of our seniors will be used, and some dyed hockey pants will go under the dancers' dresses. Mrs. Meinung helped the costume committee to calculate at first, but Charlotte's efficiency has needed little other direction. The May Pole dresses are the only ones of the costumes which are in pastel shades. Peoples of ancient times used herb-dyes and consequently could have no pastel colors; so Salem's May Day this year is very vivid with royal and navy blue, purple, plum, gold, brick red, blue-green, vermillion, rust, and white.

When we think of the pageant costumes, we think too of the court dresses. Virginia Lee's dress is of white lace with an eleven-yard train, leg-of-mutton sleeves, a stand-up collar, and a square neck with a slight point. Meredith Holderby's dress is brilliant jade green; it has an accordion-pleated skirt and a pleated bodice with wings across the neck which reach nearly to the ground. Like the twelve dresses of the attendants, the maid-of-honor's has a low "V" neck. Margaret Briggs drew sketches of the type dresses that she liked for her May Day, and Miss Montaldo took the sketches to New York and had sample dresses made from them; so the very vivid blue, American Beauty red, and yellow dresses are Briggs-Originals. They have redingote skirts and very full bodices with pointed girdles. There are wings on the shoulders and a row of covered buttons in the small of the back below the split-back. These dresses were begun in January and were all here before Easter.

Flowers, too, are of interest with the dresses. Our queen is to carry a huge bouquet of red roses, and her maid-of-honor will have Dutch orchids and Talisman roses. The attendants will have arm bouquets of white peonies and white snapdragons, tied with a bow and long streamers of white tulle.

Another phase of the work for May Day which will be very much in evidence tomorrow is that of gathering properties for the pageant. Six weeks ago the committee for that job began its task. Mr. Burrage, who is always priceless when it comes to this day of the year, lived up to his reputation for tireless work in getting things just exactly right; and we couldn't have done without Mr. Oerter and "Roy" either. The queen's crown was part of the costume committee's work, but all of the other "extras" fell to the lot of Martha O'Keefe and her group of six girls. Mr. Burrage and "Roy" were the makers of the huge mushroom, the two bronze cornucopias, the clock of years, and the chariot which play such prominent parts in the afternoon. Besides these things, there had to be two large water-jugs and several deep, colored bowls; three footstools; a tea table with two dishes of cook-

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