

## PLANS PROCEED FOR MAY DAY



COURTESY JOURNAL-SENTINEL

A chairman (Gracie Gillespie) and assistant chairman (Eve Tomlinson)—Here they are at work on writing the pageant for May Day and planning other details for costumes and properties and dances and so forth.

## STORY OF OLD & NEW MAY DAY

In 1927 Salem had its first May Day celebration, with formal exercises on lower campus. In the past thirteen years this occasion has become one of the outstanding traditions at Salem, and in another two weeks we will be on the very verge of witnessing a new and lovely May Day.

In 1937 Cordelia Lowry (Bedford, Va.) reigned over cooks, gardeners, oysters, hedgehogs, ladies and gentlemen, courtiers, May-pole dancers, and executioners. Alice in Wonderland, the King and Queen and Knave of Hearts with the royal children, Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee, the Duchess and the Mat Hatter, a carpenter, and four animals—a white rabbit, a walrus, a door-mouse, and a March hare—were the individual actors in the pageant.

In 1938 May Day, with Margaret Briggs as general chairman and Virginia Lee as queen, was on a Grecian plan—costumes, scenes, story, all but language.

The pageant last year, written by Mary Turner Willis, was a May Day scene on a Southern plantation. There were graceful Virginia-reelers, pickaninies and negro mammies, besides the usual May-pole dancers. Last May Bill Fulton, now Mrs. F. L. Lilley, reigned as the queen.

This year's May Day, with Grace Gillespie's skill and originality and Louisa Sloan's beauty and majesty, is to be in the form of a Gay Nineties Review. The pageant in the afternoon will be followed in the evening by an I. R. S. dance which can not be surpassed in interest and fun, even by Junior-Senior.

Any one who has not been "behind scenes" before May Day can never realize the endless work and energy and time and thought and trouble that must go into this hour of entertainment for the 5000 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 music, costumes, dances, flowers, properties, and dresses must have their work completed; and on May Day the program committee presents the fruits of its labor.

Of course everything centers on the pageant, and it must be finished long beforehand. Grace Gillespie and Eve Tomlinson wrote it this year, and from all indications it will be

unusually interesting and colorful. The main characters in the pageant are Grandfather, Wyatt Wilkinson; Grandmother, Lee Rice; and their two young grandchildren, Patty McNeely and Lib Tuten. Since Grandmother had been May Queen at Salem exactly fifty years ago in 1890, the old couple come back to Salem to entertain the queen and her court with pictures from their album filled with scenes taken in their youth. The pictures come to life and perform various dances in front of the queen. These dances will be done by Gay Ninety Bathing Beauties, waltzers, and Can-Can dancers. Eve Tomlinson and Kelly Ann Smith will represent Grandmother and Grandfather in younger days, on their "Bicycle Built for Two."

The music this year will be selections from typical, familiar Gay-Ninety songs. Salem's Choral Ensemble is to sing the May Day carol at the end of the pageant, and the college orchestra with Sarah Linn and Margaret Vardell at the pianos will furnish the instrumental music.

The Home Economics Club is making the twelve costumes for the girls in the May Pole Dance, in addition to those to be worn by the Can-Can Dancers and the members of the Barber Shop Quartet.

When we think of the pageant costumes, we think, too, of the court dresses. Louisa Sloan's dress will be of white paper-taffeta with long leg-of-mutton sleeves, sweetheart neck, bustle, and eleven-yard train. Vera Mae Lanning will wear a dress of yellow mousseline de soie, made in typical Gay-Ninety style. The court will also wear mousseline de soie, with bustle, sweetheart neck, and elbow-length leg-of-mutton sleeves. These dresses were designed by Nell Curtis Kerns, Grace Gillespie, and Eve Tomlinson, and were made by Montaldo's.

The unsung heroes, the chairmen of the various committees are—Eve Tomlinson, vice chairman; Betsy Hobby, dances; Nell Kerns, dresses; Elizabeth Norfleet, costumes; Jane Alice Dilling, programs; Anne Mewborne, publicity; Gladys Blackwood, Wee Blue Inn; Ella Walker Hill, flowers; Esther Alexander, properties; Margaret Patterson, nominations; Sarah Linn, music.

With this brief resume, we can catch only a glimpse of the excitement lying in store for us, but we know it will be worth waiting the next two weeks for.

## PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY TO PLAY HERE

On Wednesday evening, April 24, the final Civic Music Concert of the current season will take place at 8:30 o'clock, when the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Ormandy, will play in Reynolds' Auditorium.

This will be a unique occasion for Salem College, for the highlight of the evening will be the orchestra's performance of Dean Vardell's Carolinian Symphony. The other numbers are Variations of a Theme by Haydn (Brahms), Daphnis et Chloe (Ravel) and Romeo and Juliet Fantasy—Overture (Tschaiakowsky).

This orchestra consists of 100 men. One of the violinists is a Polish Buddhist who speaks Chinese fluently and hopes to be the High Lama in an Asiatic Monastery. Also in the violin section are two former generals who fought on opposite sides during the World War. In addition, the orchestra includes five distinguished philatelists, a ship's captain, a famous cook, an author, and a double-bass player who has the largest collection of double-basses in the world.

Ormandy, the conductor, comes from an intensely musical family in Budapest, Hungary. When he was three, he was taken to a concert by a well-known violinist. He was told to keep his mouth shut, but he blurted out, "You played an F-sharp instead of F." After the concert, he was taken backstage to make his apologies. The violinist, however, insisted on thanking the child critic.

He started violin study at the age of three, and at five became the youngest pupil ever registered in the Royal Academy of Budapest. At sixteen he received his diploma, and the next year he became a professor. He made a successful series of tours as a violin virtuoso and came to America in 1921. Since his arrival here he has steadily risen as a conductor and has been with the Philadelphia Orchestra since 1936, when he was appointed co-conductor with Stokowski.

## PIERRETTE

Tonight at 8:00 the Pierrette Players will present "Sanctuary," competing with the young people's players from Centenary Church and the Little Theatre in the city-wide one-act play contest. This contest is sponsored by the Winston-Salem Recreation Department at Reynolds' Auditorium.

"Sanctuary" was given last weekend for Hospitality Day, as part of the day's program for Salem guests. The setting of the play is in a convent in France during the French Revolution. The cast: Mother Marie, Barbara Plummer; Sister Francois, Margaret Ray; Sister Ann, Agatha Walker; Mademoiselle Cice, Katharine King; Margaret, Lee Rice; Cityonne Kern, Jackie Ray; the Widow, Elizabeth Tuten.

## STUDENT GOV'T OFFICERS ELECTED

Elections for student council officers were brought to a close with the announcement of Patty McNeely, of Mooresville, for on-campus vice-pres.; Sue Forrest, of Winston-Salem, as off-campus vice-pres.; Leila Johnston, of Barium Springs, for secretary of the council; and Eugenia Baynes, another Winston girl, for treasurer.

These well-qualified new officers will be installed at the beginning of the next school year.

## GREEN PLANS SALEM DRAMA

Paul Green, North Carolina's greatest playwright, this week made public the consideration of tentative plans for the presentation in 1941 in Winston-Salem of a musical drama in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the city.

The pageant will be based on the first settlement of this area by the Moravians.

"It can be bigger and better than 'The Lost Colony,'" Green said. "It should become the great American Passion Play."

"While 'The Lost Colony' was first a portrayal of the search for political freedom, this new drama will show first the search for religious and spiritual freedom."

Tentative plans call for musical score and arrangements by Dr. Charles G. Vardell, head of the Salem College School of Music, whose recent "The Carolinian" symphony has received nation-wide acclaim.

Green said he understood the construction of an outdoor theatre, possibly on the back campus of Salem College, is under consideration. The drama would be shown in this amphitheatre in performances lasting for months, perhaps even for years. "The Lost Colony" has run three consecutive summers.

Although no organized group has been formed to sponsor the proposal, it is understood a large number of citizens and civic leaders are interested.

Green returned to Chapel Hill from Williamsburg, Va., Tuesday, where he had been working on plans for a drama in that city.

He said that nowhere in the South were the dramatic and musical possibilities so great as in Winston-Salem. Green visualizes a choir of hundreds, accompanied by a band, a cast "the finest dramatic talent in America."

The playwright said he discussed the plan with a distinguished New York play director while he was in Williamsburg and the director was most enthusiastic.

## JUNIOR-SENIOR DANCE PLANS COMPLETED

Saturday promises to be a full day for Salem's upperclassmen, when the Junior Class will honor its elder class at the annual Junior-Senior dances. Everything is near completion, the orchestra is by this time practically on its way, and pale billowy dance dresses are parading up and down the halls on Clewell's second floor and in Senior! Prospects of arriving dates are also evident in the faces of about a hundred Salem lassies.

In the afternoon when the bell rings the festivities will begin. The tea dance in the gym—for which mysterious decorations have been floating around for the past several days—will last from four 'til six. From then 'til nine o'clock, when the nights' formal dancing will begin, girls and boys will scatter far and wide for dinner parties being planned by several private groups.

The night's dance will be by card and during intermission refreshments will be served in the recreation room of Louisa Biting Building.

The presidents of the two classes will lead the figure to take place during the evening and will be followed by class officers and representatives. Those in the figure will be: Patty McNeely with Bill Alexander, Mooresville; Agnes Leo Carmichael with Johnny McBride, Cheraw, S. C.; Julia McCorkle with Ed Salmons, Winston-Salem; Eve Tomlinson with Jim Swain, Winston-Salem; Elizabeth Norfleet with Norman Bennett, Winston-Salem; Lillian Lanning with Rockwell Deaton, Mooresville; Ruth Schmedl with Frank Morgan, West Point, Ga.; Sarah Linn with Lane Cox Drye, Landin, N.C.; Louisa Sloan with Jim Dorsett, Salisbury; Mary Ann Paschal with Charlie Reece, Winston-Salem; Mildred Kelly with Clayton Moore, Winston-Salem; Nell Kerns with Sam Hayworth, Asheboro; Elizabeth Tuten with Louie Propst, Lake

(Continued On Page 4)

## STUDENT GOV'T HEADS ELECTED



PATTY MCNEELY



SUE FORREST

—JOURNAL-SENTINEL STAFF PHOTO.



LEILA JOHNSTON



EUGENIA BAYNES