

Aiken Debunks Drama News

by Peirano Aiken

Poets sing of the birds and flowers that awake in the spring, but we should give autumn her due in this revival business. There are things that lie dormant as door-stops all summer and come to life in the fall. Saddle oxfords are taken out of closets and given their annual polishing; woolen skirts shed their moth balls and go to all lengths to be impressive; and straggling campus clubs slowly materialize from summer abstractions into circles of activity. Among these are the dramatic organizations.

Salem Players and Pierrette planners have set their caps on a long busy season, as visions of new workers dance through their heads. Pierrettes look forward to casting new members they took in in the spring, and Salem Players are holding open stage for everyone. Come, all ye freshmen, sophomores, and upper-classmen—male or female—who feel the urge to speak a line or drive a nail in the scenery. Bernhards and Barrymores are desirable, but not necessary. The party for freshmen Tuesday officially opened local doings.

Last May when we had in the back of our mind the comfortable realization that we didn't have to write a line for three months, ideas for this little column flowed as alcoholically as any tears. Idea No. 1 was the feasible decision to go to Broadway and see some plays. Sensible as this plan seemed to me, however, it did not coincide with two of Papa's own firm-rooted convictions: that a body should always somewhat consider the cost of things, and that, in view of our nineteen undomesticated years, it would be more profitable for us to stay home and learn to cook. Enough said.

Idea No. 2 was to read voluminously from all the big, knowing publications, and from the columns of Atkinson, Brown and Chapman and rehash the summer's events for you. We could have swelled with pride at the success of historic state plays, such as *The Common Glory* and *The Lost Colony* by Paul Green. Or we could have vented righteous indignation at the riff over segregation between Actors Equity and National Theatre, Washington. The possibilities are endless, but, dear readers, we refuse to approach another *New York Times* with a stricken conscience and greedy scissors. You will have to read the *Sunday Times* for yourselves—a remarkable paper, really, with all the news that fits to copy.

Therefore, with grand ideas abandoned, we shall devote the rest of this space to a volume we came upon by chance this summer: *S. E. O.* compiled by Bennet Cerf and Van Cartmell. It is a collection of American plays of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There are no specimens of Eugene O'Neill or Maxwell Anderson, but there are some good plays in the lot. *S. E. O.* consists of fourteen pieces, ranging from "Uncle Tom's Cabin" to "Oklahoma!", which are united by their common box-office appeal. Each one, according to the editors, has netted a quarter of a billion and each has caused a slap-happy manager to hang out that magic sign of success, Standing Room Only.

A beginning playwright would suppose that the secret ingredient of a sure-fire success could be found here. Everything is here: the fantasy of "Rip Van Winkle", the wholesome humor of "Life With Father", the sentimentality of "Abie's Irish Rose", the coarseness of "Tobacco Road", and a dozen others as seemingly contradictory. Although there is some Victorian mawkishness in a few of the plays, we recommend it as a quick history of American theatrical taste and a light interlude between your Shakespeare. (And incidentally one of the authors, Mr. Cerf, is scheduled to appear on the Salem College lecture series this year.)

Musiquiz

by Margaret McCall

Music like golf, CAN be fun --- and enlightening at the same time. This feature, which will appear from time to time during the year, is designed for those who are not so technically musical. This issue initiates a series of quizzes on general musical data. Just a little common sense is all that is needed.

A small prize will be awarded to the first list of correct answers submitted for each group. A grand prize will be presented to the winner of the most groups. Any student is eligible. Leave your answer dated with the time and day, in Clewell 120 or the Salemite office.

Are you ready? Let's go with Series 1.

1. In the swing music language, a "cornfed" musician is: a. one who eats between each set; b. one who worked himself up by his bootstraps; c. a symphony-trained musician.
2. All but one of these is a member of the percussion family: a. tambourine; b. cymbals; c. harp. d. triangle; e. xylophone; f. bass drum; g. piano.
3. Robert Schumann, who is remembered as a romantic composer, began his musical education as a pianist after having abandoned the study of: a. medicine; b. law; c. mathematics; d. educational research.
4. A professional musician can usually play a piece of music in a different key from which it is written or in other words, he can: a. modulate; b. improvise; c. transpose; d. diminish; e. harmonize.
5. We have all been in the doghouse upon occasion, but it is sad to think that one of these musicians in a swing band never free him- in a swing band never frees him- words, the: a. trombone, b. accordion, c. bass fiddle; d. piano.

(Questions chosen from *The Music Quiz* by Burch and Ripperger.)



Salemities Shun "Frosh Fobia"

by Gloria Paul

Beware of Freshman Fobia, a temporary disease which sometimes hits students, from freshmen to seniors. F. F. attacks the freshmen with the "I'm afraid to meet people, I'll stay in my room and write letters:" attitude. F. F. attacks the upper-classmen with the "Gee, but I wish I knew the freshmen." attitude. So-let's pull ourselves out of our shells and meet as many as possible.

Unfortunately, the more-than-numerous and sometimes-forgettable introductions do not leave the girl at each end with a comfortable memory of names. Let's have a reasonable substitute now and find out who a few freshmen are and where they hail from; Marta Fehrmann and Ines Llorens are, I found out, from Mantanzas, Cuba; Mary Elizabeth Biles, from Missouri; Marion Ellis, from Texas; Connie Purvis from Florida; Jo Ruble, from Tennessee; Fay Stickney, from Massachusetts; Jeane Tegmeier, from New Jersey; Mary Zimmer, Louise Hecht, Vivian Jorgensen, and Janet Pette, from New York; Marth Hershberger, from Alabama; Joan Kenyon from Pennsylvania; Ann Rixey and Dotty Sutherland, from Ohio; Myra Wengolin, from Connecticut; and a large number from hereabouts in North Carolina and down yonder in South Carolina.

Look around and listen for names; you'll meet these and many, many more. Consider getting acquainted your first project - next to studying, of course. Forget what F. F. stands for. Remember that it's wonderful to meet people.

Neighborhood Gossips Reveal Varied Vacation Activities

by Peggy Gray

"Cream or lemon, Mrs. Gravely?" "Cream, please, Mrs. Hooch - - - Your toasted acorns are delicious."

The two ladies chatted amiably in Mrs. Hooch's elevated parlour overlooking Salem Square.

"My husband and I are certainly glad to have the college girls back again," said Mrs. Gravely.

"Yes, and so are we. Don't they all look healthy and tan after their vacations? I was telling my husband Ben yesterday that I'd never seen a finer looking group of girls!"

"Most of them visited the beaches during the summer months. From what I hear, Salem was well-represented at Morehead and the Myrtle Beach neighborhood all summer. And in June, Bev Johnson, Betty Pierce, Amy DeBusk, and some other sophomores housepartied at Wrightsville. The Coastal Festival in August down at Morehead City - - - you remember reading about that in the papers—attracted a big crowd. Sarah Coe, Wink Wall, and Mary Hunter Hackney were there, and so were Jean Griffin, Peg Broadus, Fay Chambers, Sophia Bowen, Helen Spruill, Mary Wells Bunting and Pinky Carlton.

"But," interrupted Mrs. Hooch, "our Salemities didn't play all summer. several of the girls had summer jobs. I heard that Genevra Beaver was camp counselor up on Lake James, and then you knew that

Peggy Davis reported for the Raleigh Times during the summer. Elaine McNeely was nursemaid to the most remarkable baby in the state, or such is his local reputation (her nephew, the son of Mary Frances McNeely, '45). Over in Concord, Margaret Fisher did the lab work in the hospital. I saw Susan Johnson working in the college shop of Ivey's the last time I was in Charlotte.

"Some of the girls went to summer school," added Mrs. Gravely. "That of course was work, but I understand they had a mighty big time too! Ann Southern, Dunc, Izzy, Peg Watkins, SaSo Morris, and Martha Brannock enjoyed the nostalgic atmosphere of Chapel Hill while studying such subjects as Archaeology and Sociology 210 (Marriage). Pinky and Collette took advantage of opportunities offered at Wake Forest. Jean Sloan and Anna Morrison studied at Davidson. Ginna Conner was a day student at Converse, and Ruby Moye was a day student at E. C. T. C."

"About a dozen of our girls were busy the last month of summer vacation preparing to make their debuts. I read in this week's Salemite that among the Salem girls to make their debut at the N. C. Debutante Ball in Raleigh were Carolyn Taylor, Ann Dungan, Barbara Folger, Dot Arrington, Anna Morrison, Penny Fagan, Mary Hill, Gussie Garth.

(Cont. on page five)

Welcome Students and Faculty
To Salem College

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SALEM

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welcome at MOTHER AND DAUGHTER
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