

## Frills Frolic; Skirts Swirl

by Ione Bradsher

Suddenly it's Spring! Suddenly it's May Day! Another May Day to go to early morning chapel out-of-doors. Another May Day to go to the wonderful pageant in the Dell, and to the dance in the Gym!

From the moment it first turned warm Salemites have been anticipating tonight. Term papers and Comprehensives will fade away. Dates and dresses will take their place!

Perhaps as you enter the Gym tonight, you'll see Marilyn Watson with Ben Massey. Marilyn's dress is of pink dotted swiss that has ruffles up the back of the skirt!

Claire Craig (just pinned to Frank Wood!) will be wearing a flowered cotton print.

For Bill Myers, Benny Manley wants to wear her blue marquisette. The dress is off-shoulder and trimmed in pink and blue flowers.

Tootsie Gillespie, (dating Hall Turner) is wearing lavender taffeta. The bodice is caught in soft folds that trail out to the hem.

In white organdy over blue taffeta will be Beth Kittrell. Her date is Harry Babcock.

Nancy Duckworth is wearing marquisette that has an outstanding blue rhinestone belt. She's dating Chet Hawkins.

Over having their picture taken (don't forget) will be Betty Beck and Don McPhearson. Betty is wearing an orchid chiffon dress with a bouffant skirt.

Sophie Bowen and Bill Mitchell! Sophie's dress is aqua marquisette that has a lace top trailing into points over the skirt.

Betty McBrayer, dating Sonny Woodson, is wearing ice blue marquisette.

For George Thomasson, Mary Louise White is wearing pale green taffeta.

A tiered skirt—white dotted swiss with red dots—that'll be Joan Hassler with her date, Ed Brown.

Two strapless dresses! Peggy Watkins, with Jack Divers, is wearing blue marquisette strapless; and Peggy Sue Taylor is wearing a white dotted swiss strapless for Bernard Johnson.

They're engaged! Lib Price and Charlie Wentz! Lib is wearing green and white organdy with a bouffant skirt.

And—suddenly it's all over! Another May Day gone by—But it was fun!

## Sophs Score Victory

On Monday the sophomores took the juniors by storm in a game that gave them a 14-7 victory at the end of five innings of play. Gloria Paul pitched to Lillian McNeil for the sophomores and Bet Epps pitched to Bitsy Green for the juniors.

In the very first inning of play the sophomores pounded in four runs. Jane White hit a tremendous home run and Gloria Paul, Lyn Marshall, and Eula Cain also scored. The juniors failed to score in the last half of that inning but came up in the second inning with three runs—by Nell Penn Watt, Carolyn Taylor, and Jeanne Dungan. Lyn Marshall scored the only sophomore run in the third inning; Bitsy Green scored the only junior run in that inning. At this point the sophomores led the juniors by only one run, 5-4, but a break was bound to come. In the first half of the fourth inning Frances Gulesian, Jane White, Gloria Paul, Lyn Marshall, and Eula Cain each brought in one run, bring up the score to 10-4. The juniors failed to break—with the exception of Carolyn Taylor who slammed the ball . . . to left field for an easy home run. In the first half of the fifth inning the sophomores led by Frances Gulesian, Jane White, Gloria Paul, and Eula Cain, brought in runs enough to make the score, 14-5, and to leave little hope for the juniors who were at bat last. In the last half of the last inning Bet Epps and Peggy Watkins scored, after two outs had been made.

## Byrd Gives Review Of "Raintree County"

The following is an excerpt from a talk made by Miss Jess Byrd entitled "Trends In American Novels 1940-47".

I have placed the new novel *Raintree County* by Ross Lockridge, Jr., with the group of historical novels, though the author himself says the book evades definition. In his words *Raintree County*, "though based on historical research is not a historical novel" but "an epic novel," "a complete embodiment of the American myth".

Whatever the type, this book, winner of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer award and January Book-of-the-Month Club is being widely read. There is certainly much more reality in this epic story of nineteenth century American life than in the other historical novels of the past decade. It follows the type in being excessively long and rambling. In its 1060 pages there are said to be 52 subplots.

The hero of the story is 53-year old Johnny Shawnessy, and the story is set in Roundtree County, Indiana. The book, an imitation of Joyce's *Ulysses*, covers one day in Johnny's life from 6 a. m. to midnight on July 4, 1892. But the story covers 48 years in Johnny's subconscious mind. Through flashbacks, the author leads his hero on an odyssey through election campaigns in the 1840's, the battle of Chicamauga,

the burning of Atlanta and Columbia, to a Washington Theatre when Lincoln was assassinated, to middle west revival meetings, to the centennial exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, to New York in the 1870's—to name a few of the 52 sub-plots.

The constant shifting back and forth in time is annoying to the reader. The author picks up and lays down various strands of his story over and over. For example, the events of the 4th of July in 1859 run through the whole book. One event of that day was the foot race between Johnny and Flash Perkins. The author starts this story on page 168, drops it, picks it up again and again, but we do not discover who won the race until page 909!

Lockridge also uses a strange device for tying chapters together. Every chapter ends with an incomplete sentence. The first word of the next chapter, usually capitalized, completes the last sentence of the preceding chapter.

The three chief characters offer variety: the hero, Johnny, a dreamer, idealistic, lover—a combination of Romeo, Thomas Wolfe and Abraham Lincoln; the materialistic and shoddy politician, Senator Garwood Jones, a satirical picture in the manner of Sinclair Lewis; the slightly bawdy wit, the scoffer, the intellectual "Professor" Jeremiah Webster Stiles, who is a combination of Socrates, biblical Jeremiah, Casanova and Mark Twain. The Professor

can quote Shakespeare or clope with the preacher's wife with equal facility. We follow him with mingled amazement and delight from his first appearance, "his thin frame shaking with soundless laughter" until he swings on the midnight train, waving his Malacca cane.

The style of writing is varied and uneven. Highly effective simple narrative is interspersed with long philosophical digressions in the manner of half the American writers who have ever lived, but most of all in the manner of Thomas Wolfe. I am a great admirer of Wolfe's rhapsodic and impetuous style, but I think his style is like Carlyle's, a part of the man, but not to be imitated.

The author himself describes the style in the quack phrenologist to Johnny; that he would "say oratorically" what he had to say; that he would be "both fluent and copious, even redundant and verbose." There is a close imitation of Wolfe in the symbols of the river, the train; and in the long philosophical passages about life, love, and the promise of America.

The book is obviously too long. The characters, certainly Johnny, do not entirely come to life, though the Professor comes near it. The style is often too imitative and too verbose. The author tried to do too much—no one book can embody the whole American myth. Yet to me, this is a very remarkable book for a first novel.

## Pierrettes Elect Head

A new feature will be added to graduation next year.

The Pierrettes at their meeting in the living room of Biting Tuesday night mapped out plans for the coming year, which included the election of new officers, the selection of the number and types of plays to be produced, and plans for the establishment of an honorary dramatic society for the recognition of outstanding work.

The officers voted in for 1948-49 are as follows: Betsy McAuley, president; Eleanor Davidson, vice-president; Betty Belle Sheppe, secretary-treasurer; and Peirano Aiken, reporter.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Rondthaler and with the unanimous approval of the club, it was decided that the Pierrettes will present a Shakespearean play in the May Dell, as part of the graduation exercises next spring. This event used to be an annual custom at Salem, and it is thought that its revival will be enjoyed by the whole college, as well as by the Pierrettes. The play will be selected and cast before school closes, so that the actors can learn their roles during the summer.

In contrast to the Shakespearean drama, two other productions will be given: a modern American play, probably a comedy, and a one-act work to be entered in the state contest at Chapel Hill.

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