



# The Salemite



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## Christmas Traditions

As Christmas draws nearer and nearer Salem has begun to celebrate its usual Christmas traditions. On Thursday, December 2, the Christmas season was officially opened by the hanging of the traditional Christmas star in Memorial Hall during the chapel period. Christmas carols were sung during chapel, and Bishop Rondthaler told the history of the Moravian star.

This afternoon the traditional Christmas pageant was held at Salem Academy. This year it was a tableau, "The Alien Star". The Christmas story was read and Christmas carols were sung by the Academy Glee Club. The pageant was sponsored by the Dramatics Club and the Glee Club.

Later tonight, at 8:30 p. m., the Salem College Choral Ensemble will give its Christmas concert. The Ensemble will offer group selections and several solos will be rendered.

Bishop and Mrs. Rondthaler will complete their putz on Saturday, and all of the students are invited to visit their home and see the putz after that time.

On Sunday a twenty-five year tradition, Senior Vespers, will again be repeated. Senior Vespers were first held in Old Chapel, but it is now held in Memorial Hall. A large lighted tree and the Christmas star will decorate the stage. Bishop Rondthaler will read the poem, "If Bethlehem Were Here Tonight" by Elizabeth Maddox Roberts. The feature of the program is to be the singing of "Morning Star", during which time, pages, chosen by the seniors will pass Moravian beeswax candles to the audience. At the conclusion of vespers, these candles are to be lighted.

Next Tuesday the final assembly before the holiday vacation begins will be held. The Y. W. C. A. is sponsoring the program. Christmas carols will be sung and the Christmas story will be read. On Thursday, December 9, the German Club sponsored assembly. The club sang old Christmas carols, and Bishop Rondthaler delivered his annual Christmas message.

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## Creamer Works; Plays Hard; Is Bridge; Tobacco Fiend



by Lila Fretwell

Anytime (between the hours of 8:30 a. m. and 10:30 p. m.) you "hard-working" science majors feel like taking a look on 4th floor of Music Hall (just to see what goes on) you'll see my roommate, Helen Creamer "knocking herself out." She'll either be pounding out "Gardens In The Rain" by Debussy, accompanying someone or patiently tearing her hair out over a pupil who just can't count.

Helen's newest is the inevitable

## Snow Ball Strikes Gym This Weekend

"The Snow Ball" will be given by the I. R. S. Saturday night at 8:30—card dances start at 9. The shortage of men is going to be done away with by the invitations to many stags. Each girl has been allowed one stag invitation; this system is on a trial basis and will continue for coming dances if it works successfully at this dance.

The gym will be decorated with a winter theme of snow, pine trees, and icicles. Lyn Marshall and Connie Neamond are in charge of the decorations.

After the 7th dance will come the figure. Then refreshments will be served in the Club Dining room.

The members of the I. R. S. Council and their dates who will make up the figure are:

Betty Ann Epps, president, with "Tete" Pearson; Jean Padgett, vice-president, with Frank Fowler; Carolyn Dunn, secretary, with Jim Fox; Connie Neamond, treasurer, with Bob Sloane; Patsy Moser, with Robert Frye; Winkie Harris, Carl Rose; Sarah Clark, Bradford Cantwell; Betsy Schaum, Bobby Hackney; Dottie Covington, "Hut" Wilkins; Carol Ann Daniels, Bill McLean; Lyn Marshall, Bill VanStory; Lucy Harper, David Porter; Betty Pfoff, Garland Leary; Carolyn Harris, Howard Broughton; Sally Senter, Harvey Snyder; Jean Williams, Clay Ripple.

Harold Gale and his orchestra will play for the dance. There will be fourteen card dances.

The chaperones are: Dr. and Mrs. Howard Rondthaler, Mr. and Mrs. Carson French, Dr. Frank Hulme, Miss Elizabeth Welch and Miss Charlotte Hunter.

knitting—argyles, of course. And they're just liable to get finished this time because they're for Alan. Who is Alan? Well, he, like Helen, is a Florence, South Carolinian—he goes to the Citadel and he graduates in May—and he is the man.

Helen is hard-working, conscientious and dependable. She is also stubborn (absolutely like a stone wall) and worst of all, a die-hard when it comes to going to bed. Helen hates going to bed. I've lived with her two years now, and it gets worse every year.

Helen, like all the other music majors, is merely in love with Dr. Vardell. Every Wednesday she charges back to the room just before her piano lesson for "just a tad" of my new perfume "Savoir Faire."

But all told, Helen is really one of the most wonderful people I've ever known. She's always ready to lend a sympathetic ear and always good for a snapping good-bucker-upper—if she can't top your hard luck story with one of her own.

As for Helen's future plans I can't say, and as far as I know, neither can Helen, but who knows—my roommate may end up being a concert pianist in New York and standing room only!

## Four Piano Ensemble Commence '48-'49 Civic Music Season



The first Civic Music Concert of the season 1948-1949, will be presented next Monday, December 13, at 8:30 p. m. in Reynold's Auditorium. The concert will feature the well-known Four Piano Ensemble. The quartet, composed of Stephen Kovacs, Andray Kooper, Hans Heidemann and Sylvia Diskler, will perform special arrangements of varied music from Bach and Scarlotti to Brahms and Rossini.

This use of four pianos will enable the audience to enjoy a wide diversity of works not usually found on piano programs. Mr. Kovacs, arranger for the group and member of the ensemble, has been responsible for a large part of the success of the quartet. His transcriptions reveal exciting variations of appealing music, and have been used by almost all the celebrated piano teams of the concert stage.

The Four-Piano Ensemble is an expert combination of talents; each player is an individual artist in his own right. Their youthfulness and brilliance of performance always delight audiences, particularly as they slip from one mood to another in a deft, dramatic, and intriguing manner.

Each member of the Ensemble is an individual artist. Mr. Kovacs is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in Hungary and a pupil of the famous composer, Zoltan Kodaly. He is also known as a prize winner of the International Franz Liszt competition.

Sylvia Dieckler has studied as a scholarship student at the Curtis Institute and the Julliard School of Music. She made her first public appearance at fourteen with the National Orchestral Association in Carnegie Hall.

Another Julliard product is Hans Heidemann. His work has been supplemented by study abroad under the late Moritz Rosenthal. He has made aguest appearance with the Rochester Symphony and other solo recitals in the East.

The fourth member of the Ensemble, Audrey Kooper, is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Smith College. She is the winner of a Julliard graduate fellowship and holder of a cash prize for an orchestral composition. Miss Kooper has appeared with the Boston "Pops" under Arthur Fielder and given solo recitals in the East.

The Knoxville Journal of February 6, 1948, says in part: "A rare pianistic performance! To say that the audience was thrilled is to put it mildly—"

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## Bitting's Decorations Win; Clewell Comes In Second

by Catherine Moore

Congratulations and a carton of Chesterfields go to Bitting for winning the Dormitory Decoration Contest, sponsored by the IRS.

Simplicity, originality and economy were the key-notes of the winning dormitory. Over each window was a pleated valance of red crepe paper. In each window were red candles set in grapefruit which were decorated with spicy-smelling greens and red satin ribbons. A large arrangement of hemlock, three graduated candles and three pomander balls (oranges covered with cloves) high lighted the fire place. The coke machine was cleverly concealed by an original version of "Twas The Night Before Christmas" framed with pine sprigs. Current magazines, red and green rugs, potted plants and a new furniture arrangement completed Bitting's "Christmas at home" atmosphere.

Second prize goes to Clewell for carrying out the original Christmas Under the Sea motif. The pale red, blue and green light set the deep sea atmosphere for Neptune's Christmas. A tree decorated with fish, shells, presents falling out of a huge sponge, fish on the net curtains and mermaids helped Clewell hook second place.

Sisters received honorable mention in the contest. The doors and windows were decorated with large green wreaths and candles and the banisters were twined with evergreen. In one corner was a theme of "I'll Be Home For Christmas" centered around an easy chair, radio and soft lights. Over by the radio was a "Winter Wonderland" scene with skating figures made from pipe figures. The fireplace, a Christmas innovation for the dorm, had red stockings hung by it.

Judges for this contest were Dr. Hulme, Mrs. Pyron and Miss Reigner. (Ed. note. Lack of space prohibits our giving detailed description of every dorm. We think they were all very good and we congratulate each dorm on its hard work. Especial praise to Catherine Moore, chairman of the decorations in the

## School Days For 1949-50

Evabelle Covington, chairman of the calendar committee, announced this week the calendar for the school year of 1949-50.

September 16, Friday: Registration of all local freshmen.

September 17, Saturday: Registration of local music students not enrolled in the college.

September 19, Monday: Freshmen begin Orientation Program.

September 22, Thursday: Registration of Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores.

September 23, Friday: 11 a. m., Formal Opening.

12 noon, Classes begin.

October 4, Tuesday: Founders Day—classes suspended at 1 p. m.

November 23, Wednesday: Thanksgiving Holidays begin.

November 28, Monday: Classes resume.

December 15, Thursday: Christmas Vacation begins.

January 5, Thursday: Classes resume.

January 19, Thursday: Reading Day.

January 20—January 23: First semester exams.

January 30, Monday: Registration for second semester.

January 31, Tuesday: Second semester begins.

April 5, Wednesday: Spring Holidays begin.

April 13, Thursday: Classes resume.

May 17, Wednesday: Reading Day.

May 18—May 26: Second semester exams.

May 27, Saturday: Alumnae Day.

May 28, Sunday: Baccalaureate Sermon.

May 29, Monday: Commencement.

winning dorm. Let's visit around in all dorms in these few days before Christmas—let's all help spread the Christmas spirit.)