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THE SALEMITE

Baker Remembers First Stage A Visit From William Olvis Appearance As Smallest Swan Thrills Salem Choral Group

By Emily Baker

came when I was all of three years and four months old as I portrayed the smallest swan in Swan Lake.

I didn't have any ideas about the story, the dance, the stage; all I knew was that I would be led by an older ballarina in the swan chorus. Had it not been for her firm grip on the back of my tights, I would never have made an entrance or an exit.

I am told I was quite an attraction in the ballet, for up to that time there had never been such a small swan in the chorus. Because of my great attempts to trip the 'light fantastic', it was agreed by all that it might be a drawing card for the show.

They even considered making me the ugly duckling, but because I was an only child, the teacher feared this would hurt my mother. (They didn't know my mother very well, evidently!)

My costume took less material than anyone's and because my skirt was so very short, I didn't get nearly as many sparkles on it as the other girls had on theirs. I fussed so much they put extra only three years and four months

sparkles on the skirt; so many that My first appearance on the stage I'm afraid I looked more like a shiny star than a swan.

The other girls had a bandeau of white feathers that came over their ears very gracefully, but my bandeau was of ordinary, short, white legan chicken feathers. All the neighbors saved them for us when they killed chickens.

My feet looked like packages wrapped in white tissue paper. On each shoe was placed a half yard of wide white ribbon that was tied in a massive bow. The others in the chorus had one yard of ribbon on their shoes.

In the composition of the dance, I became lost under all the big white skirts in the tour jete. The only solution was to put me out front.

Since it was my first experience, my mother was very proud of me. It didn't matter to her if I was wearing chicken feathers, if I was smaller than all the rest, and if I did jump up when all the others went down.

perience on the stage; and I was

By Jo Smitherman

The Salem Choral Ensemble, rehearsing in Memorial Hall for Thursday's chapel performance, hiking in the San Bernardino driven from their Los Angele gazed in astonishment at handsome mountains. William Olvis, tenor opera and concert star, when Mr. Peterson time musician, his love for the out-called "Bill" down from the balcony.

Young Olvis, a success at the ripe age of 24, was unusually wellat-ease before the fifty admiring choristers who hung on every one of his beautifull-spoken words. He appeared last night on the Civic Music agenda.

Eager to learn about Bill Olvis, we exploited a very ready source and came up with some tales about this 24-year wonder.

Salem concert-goers should know that young Olvis very nearly missed entering the profession that in and there are hundreds of old two seasons has brought him success in concert, opera and radio.

It seems that the six-foot singing star set out in earnest on a musical career only a few years ago, and

able taste for the outdoor life; when he was not on the athletic field training for track or in the gym scoring in basketball, he was

Now, even though he's a full-Norma, he manages to hit the skitrails in season, and now that his first nationwide concert tour is under way, he plans to take time out and explore new mountain trails in the Rockies and in the East.

Bill admits to the vice of collect-"The records, scores, and ing. books are crowding us out of house and home," Olvis admits, "but I can't arrive in a city without im- The latter gentleman, convinced mediately looking up the secondhand book stores. I'm only 24, in the school "after hours," stouth scores that I still need in my work. So, wherever my tour takes me, I his error. lose no time hunting for new trophies."

Mrs. Olvis has found one cure hour late, but his spontaneous ex After all, this was my first ex- then mainly at the insistance of however. "If I can just find a new planation of the reason for hi friends who admired his voice. movie directed by Elia Kazan, Bill tardiness had the audience in hi From boyhood, he had an insati- often gives in, and we do that in- hands before he'd sung a note.

stead of the bookstalls." Bill himself hails from Hollywoo the movie usually wins out.

Young Olvis still recalls with shudder how he almost got locke out from one of his earliest pro fessional dates. The young Ameri can singer and his wife, who us ually serves as his accompanist, ha tant, where they were scheduled t appear in a recital before an augu ladies' guild. Wishing to freshe up with a shower after the long drive and dress, he found the only available quarters were at the local high school.

After wangling permission to us these facilities, Olvis warmed un with a bit of practice, finished dressing, and then prepared t leave the building. To his horror he found he was locked in, and only the most frantic shouts managed to rouse the superintendent he had caught an errant youngster refused to open up, until the frantic Olvis finally convinced him c

By the time Olvis reached the auditorium, the concert was a half

N.BURG

NUNE

Here's The Score

By Jo Smitherman

Tomorrow (Dec. 11), Salem will be represented at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Athletic Federation of College Women. by Ella Ann Lee, piano, and Bar-Leaving for Raleigh and Meredith bara White, vocalist. Group sing-College at the crack of dawn, possibly eight delegates will attend a Joyce Taylor danced, and Charlton full day of discussions, elections, Rogers played the ukulele. The and fellowship, and return in time story "The Littlest Angel" was to dress for the Christmas Dance. told by Maggi Blakeney.

Donald Caldwell and Jo Smitherman were elected by the A. A. to act as official representatives and to vote for the Salem delegation. Other students planning early in the week to attend were Katherine Oglesby, Betty Morrison, Ann Darden Webb, Francine Pitts, and the adviser, Miss Collett.

Donald will lead a panel discussion on the weaknesses and possible corrections in the schools' award systems.

The intramural volleyball tournament ended Wednesday afternoon when the sophomores trounced the seniors 41-34. Having already defeated the freshmen and juniors, the sophomores, also winners of threatening seniors during the entire game.

Orphanage Party

old.

(Continued from Page One) boys and girls, and to present a

Christmas program. The program consisted of solos

ing was led by Martha Thornburg,

The juniors placed second in the round-robin tourney. They won two out of three possible games. Except for Duke's preparation for the Orange Bowl, king basketball has set up his kingdom and begun to reign. The Blue Devils began drills last week for their clash with Nebraska in Miami on New Year's Day.

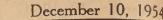
State, Wake Forest, and Duke all opened their respective seasons with scores in the hundreds. But this week, the scores dropped and two of the three dropped from the undefeated list.

On Tuesday night, State beat Wake Forest 100 to 81; and Clemthe hockey tournament, led the son edged by Georgia 74-72. Maryland sneaked by Duke, 49-47, and Davidson trounced Guilford 78-69.

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Gala party dress with the new "Long Look"



Merry Christmas From Juild House