

Easter Service: Quiet, Sober Worship

By Sarah Vance

The Easter season, is one time during the church year when every Moravian who is able will return to the home and church of his youth to worship. For Easter is not a social season, but a time of quiet and sober worship in a Moravian family, more than any other season of the year.

Easter preparation begins on Ash Wednesday—the first day of Lent. However, the services are more frequent during Holy Week, which begins with the Holy Communion on Palm Sunday. That evening and each evening of Holy Week, the congregation gathers again to read the Acts of Jesus Christ and His last week on Earth paralleled from all four gospels.

By Thursday, the first of the visitors will arrive for the Maundy Thursday Communion. They will see Salem Square flawlessly groomed decked in special Easter raiment of new budding leaves and the blooming pear tree.

Up on Church Street the maple trees will be sprouting their first spring greenery. The iron gate at the entrance of Cedar Avenue will be down and the bright winter grass in the graveyard will look like a piece of green cloth checked with all sorts of brilliant flowers—potted lilies, azaleas, narcissus blooms, gladioli, jonquils, pansies, fruit blossoms and violets.

On Friday afternoon a few of the visitors usually find their way into Home Church for the reading of the Crucifixion from the **Passion Week Manual**. They listen reverently to the Acts of Friday while the bright afternoon sun makes the stained glass windows vivid with color.

Many visitors will come to the Good Friday Love Feast. They will not hear a long and polished address, simply a short account of the burial of Our Lord as recorded in the gospels. They will also share together a very simple meal of coffee and buns.

Early the next morning, men and women scattered all over the green checkerboard are on their knees scrubbing the flat white stones

until they glisten in the sun. A loud-speaking apparatus is set up from one end of the graveyard to the other, and a system of microphones runs from the entrance of Cedar Avenue to the scaffold where a pastor conducts the service. All day people are milling through the graveyard—to scrub stones, arrange flowers, do technical work or just to look and watch.

Late in the afternoon, some people walk south from the graveyard to Home Church. It may only be five o'clock, but still they go inside the church and stay.

By six, the church is rapidly filling, and it is full by seven—a whole hour before the combination of many Moravian choirs and outside townspeople, and a small orchestra, sing and play the Easter cantata, **The Seven Last Vocals of Christ**.

After this musical worship service, the activity is just beginning in the church. By one o'clock, there must be many gallons of steaming coffee, hundreds of dozens of eggs scrambled, baked hams sliced and sugar cake cut, because at one, about five hundred band members will meet in the Fellowship Hall of the church for breakfast, along with ushers, choir members, and other helpers.

At two o'clock, the bands usher in Easter morning by playing two choral tunes in Salem Square: "Sleep Thy Last Sleep" and "Sleepers, Awake". Then they divide into groups, and board buses which take them to all parts of the city. The band members play in the street

to proclaim the risen Saviour and return to the church at five.

At six, the bands are stationed from Home Church to Cedar Avenue and the center of the graveyard for antiphonal playing. One group will continue it all through the graveyard while thousands of people walk quietly from the steps of the Home Church, where the Bishop leads in the Easter Litany, "The Lord Is Risen", to the center of the graveyard.

Here the service is concluded at 7:00 a.m. with the entire band playing Beethoven's "Creation Hymn" and the choral "Sing Hallelujah. Praise the Lord."

Elections

(Continued From Page One) and May Day activities.

Linda, new president of the rising Juniors, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Chappell. A history major, Linda was chairman of Rat Court this year; she is sophomore editor of **Sights and Insights**, a Parents' Day committee chairman; she has been class hockey captain and a cheerleader in intramural athletics.

From Cheraw, S. C., Martha Duvall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Duvall, is planning to major in sociology-economics. She is a member of the Choral Ensemble, the Lecture Committee, and the Pierrettes. She is currently secretary of the Freshman Class and a participant in the May Day pageant.

Comps Show Sophs They Aren't Too Wise After All

By Judy Golden

After being apprehensive about comprehensives for about a month, all the sophomores trudged en masse to the science building last Monday for the first of the tests. We dreaded them and we were justified. They were terrible! Everybody suddenly realized how little they knew about the world and current events.

The test was divided into three sections. The first was concerned with public affairs. It included questions on government, economics, and education. Questions on internal improvements and international events were sprinkled thoroughly all through it.

One of the easier ones was, "Where are the Olympics to be held in 1956?" Everybody thought it was easy until they checked later. Most people put Australia. The answer was Finland.

The next part was on medicine and science. There were questions on the polio controversy and lung cancer's being caused by smoking. The questions on science were particularly hard for most of us, but a lot of the topics have been shown in news reels. Jets, guided missiles, and atomic energy were subjects.

A typical question in this section

was, "Where are the most important atomic weapons laboratories of the U. S. located?"

The third section, literature and arts, was easier for most people than the other two. It contained questions on novels and poetry, Broadway plays, sculpture, movies, television, and architecture. Some of them were hard, however, such as—"What is the essential characteristic of an abstract painting?"

There were various reactions to the tests. When we turned to the first page there was a general titter throughout the room, not to mention the roar when everybody started to answer—"How did Secretary Benson seek to raise hog prices in 1955?"

After the tests everybody was asking "Who was Albert Schweitzer?" and "What did you put for . . . ?" I asked a few people what they thought of it. There were reactions from "I thought it was fun" to "I've got a headache" to "It gave me an inferiority complex." I think everyone was impressed with how pitifully little they knew about current events.

After this I'm going to start taking a daily trip to the library to read the paper. I don't even know what's happening around me!

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