

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Salemities!

## Around The Square

By Sue Froneberger

You can feel it in the air! Yes, Christmas is just around the corner, and you have only to walk across the square, peep through any dormitory window, or eat dinner at Salem to know it. Everyone has an added bounce to their step and a special smile on their face. Many Salemities are seen trying to pay a cab driver while balancing a stack of packages on their knee. There are mischievous grins on the shoppers' faces—they have just bought presents for their "roomie" and their "peanut".

Brightly colored wrapping paper, red ribbon, red and white striped candy canes, jolly Santa Claus faces, Christmas holly, glittering stockings, cotton snowmen — all these and many more Christmas decorations adorn the room doors. Up and down every hall, Johnny Mathis' Christmas album can be heard.

Red ones, green ones, plain ones, glittering ones—cocktail dresses of all descriptions are hanging on doors to let the wrinkles fall out. Salem's Christmas Dance is almost here.

The sophomores are especially busy with plans for the sophomore-senior Christmas Banquet to be held next Wednesday night.

There is extensive planning for the dorm parties which are always big successes. Also coming up is the orphanage party which is the highlight of Salem's Christmas season. This is our chance to make some child wear an especially wide grin. Our eyes will have an added sparkle, when we see their happy, excited little faces. This is our chance to express our love to some child who will appreciate it with all his heart.

Clarissa Joyce's Christmas present came early in the form of a fraternity pin. After Christmas, it usually takes a week to sing all the "Congratulations" and "Best Wishes" to those to whom Santa brought a very special present.

Yes, tinsel, ribbon, crinkly Christmas paper, festive cocktail dresses, parties on top of parties, presents for that special one, and a warm, happy, excited feeling—a feeling that comes from giving to others, as we commemorate the birth of the greatest gift of all — these are Christmas at Salem.



## The Salemite

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EDITOR Susan Foard

BUSINESS MANAGER Betsey Guerrant

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## Letters To The Editor

### Two Seniors Give Views On Report

Dear Editor,

As practice teachers in the elementary school, we feel that our case was not correctly stated in the article "Salem Practice Teachers Give Conflicting Opinions on Full Day Schedule" which appeared in the December 4, 1959, issue of the *Salemite*.

We also feel that the reporter did not reach her goal in getting "a cross-section of student opinion". Some students were contacted before Thanksgiving vacation by notes telling them to get their thoughts together. Most of those who received notes did this, but were not contacted later by the reporter to give their views. Then we read in the fore-said article comments by some students were not given for fear their grade would be affected. This statement would put any practice teacher, not mentioned in the article, in the position that they do not trust the integrity of the teachers in the Education Department.

The article further stated "other girls expressed their disappointment in Salem because they said that Salem is not really a liberal arts school, but a teachers' college . . ." Salem is primarily a liberal arts school. What teachers' college, and for that matter what other college in North Carolina which offers elementary education, requires an elementary teacher to major in an academic subject outside the field of education. We will continue classes of the college during our practice teaching, which enables us to keep in contact with Salem and with our liberal arts courses.

We do feel that we are under a great pressure, but this pressure was also there under the previous program. We read in the *Salemite* that we are expected to make up completely all work that has been missed. From our own experience, several teachers in our academic courses have worked with us to alleviate any undue pressure.

We would like to express that improvements have been made over the previous system. Although we have not taught under both systems, the opinion of one who has participated in both is most helpful. Mrs. Mary Brown Puellen, a 1956 graduate of Salem, and a primary education practice teacher, is the critic teacher of Barbara Payne at Ardmore School. She has expressed an opinion that the new program is superior to the previous one, in that the student is given more practical application in her teaching. We agree with her statement, from what we know about the two methods.

With any plan there are good points and bad points. No system is ideal. Some things must be given up in order to gain others. Which is more important?

May Terry  
Lina Farr

### Jennette, Guerrant Clear Up Fallacies

We are not writing to defend the system of teacher education at Salem, but rather to clear up certain fallacies which appeared in the December 4 issue of the *Salemite*.

The Education Department did not initiate the present program for student teaching. The activities of the Education Department are established jointly by a faculty committee, with Dr. Lucy Austin as chairman and representatives from each department, and the three faculty members of the Education Department. Thus, Salem remains as a liberal arts college, for the very large majority of this committee represents the liberal arts at Salem. Also to be noted is the fact that both Dr. Welch and Mr. Bray are graduates with liberal arts degrees.

It is appalling that not only student integrity, but also the integrity of the faculty has been questioned. We as students may speak for ourselves, but when stating facts about others we should know all the correct facts.

We as a campus have become very careless with our criticisms. Valuable criticism is good, but criticism based on incorrect facts can do nothing except cause bad impressions and hard feelings.

Frances Jennette  
Betsey Guerrant

### Hughes Explains Reporter's Job

Dear Editor,

I would like to clarify my position regarding the article on practice teaching in the December fourth issue of the *Salemite*. I have been told that many people say that I made many mis-statements concerning the feelings of student teachers. I feel that I should say that none of the opinions stated were my own, for I know too little about the education department and how it is organized to make any judgments about it.

I was asked to write an article about it, and I only relayed the views that I gained from talking to the students. The fact that I did not give the opinions of the whole class of practice teachers is due to the time factor, the newspaper space factor and the fact that it would be almost impossible to talk to everybody.

Also, there could be no point whatsoever in my fabricating such statements and ideas, and from some of the comments I have heard, there are people who believe that I did just that. I am sorry that so many people were offended by the article, but I feel that the controversy caused by it can stimulate the thinking of the students, and give students who are in favor of the plan, and those who did not have an opportunity to comment the incentive to make their views known.

Susan Hughts

## Beyond The Square

By Nancy Butler

The President of the United States, at present, is making the most extensive expedition abroad ever made at one time by one of our presidents. He is visiting eleven different countries, conferring with their leaders and other dignitaries, such as the Pope. His trip will be climaxed by the western summit meeting in Paris, lasting from December 19-21.

Why should a man assume such a task? The answer lies mainly in the fact that Eisenhower has a point to put across to these people. As he explained Thursday evening to the nation, he is going abroad as a representative of the American people and their ideas. It is hoped that as a result of this trip, other people may gain a better understanding of the American people, and at the same time, it gives us an opportunity to learn more about other people. It is necessary to clarify to the people of the world the goal which the United States hopes to attain. Since we have taken freedom for granted for so long, we seldom stop to think of the other countries who have never known such a way of life. Therefore, it is up to us, one of the strongest free nations in the world, to help the less fortunate countries achieve this status. By freedom, Eisenhower is referring not only to a democratic government but also to a free world. Contention between nations would be eliminated and each could progress unmolested and without fear of other more powerful nations.

In order for such a state to exist in this world, it would be primarily imperative to alleviate the tension among the various nations. Thus, Eisenhower proposes military disarmament as a means for reducing this tension. However, he believes that it is up to the United States to maintain a strong protective force, but only until disputes could be settled arbitrarily. He is discussing these plans with all of the leaders he meets, explaining his views and purpose. At the same time he welcomes any suggestions or ideas offered by them. During the Western summit meeting in Paris, he will present these ideas, plus his own, with hope for arriving at an agreeable decision.

The achievement of this goal cannot be accomplished by the President alone. Everyone must contribute. One of the first things Eisenhower did in Rome was to encourage the employees of the United States' Embassy to try to give a more exact picture of the United States when dealing with other people. Although it may seem like all of the work is in other countries, that done at home is equally important to that done abroad. After all, if we cannot settle our own problems at home such as the steel strike, how do we hope to aid others? Besides this, our harmony at home will unify us into a strong nation, thus increasing our chances for the promotion of good. By examining other countries we realize our own shortcomings. In such a way we may renew our faith and rededicate ourselves to freedom, as were our forefathers.

Eisenhower expects to make more trips like this one to foreign countries before his term runs out. Using the prestige of his office, to promote peace in the presence of justice. Under his guidance and with our support, it is hoped that many other countries may also enjoy freedom in the near future.