

The Salemite

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Rondthaler-Gramley Restoration on Schedule

By: Barbara Teates

If you have wandered near the old Rondthaler-Gramley House during weekdays this fall, then you have also probably noticed the activity which has accompanied the renovation and restoration of the building. With the completion of the restoration in the spring of 1986, the old residence will serve as a central location for on-campus entertainment.

Annex Hall, as the building was originally known, was built in 1889 as dormitory space for young academy students. It later served as a senior residence hall, faculty housing, and the home of two distinguished Salem presidents, Edward Rondthaler and Dale Gramley. In 1972 it became the Orton Center for Special Education, and in more recent years it has served as a location for seminars, classes, and housing for various on-campus organizations. Dr. Litzenburg renamed the building the Rondthaler-Gramley House in honor of the two presidents in 1984.

The purpose of restoring the old residence is to enhance the campus as a whole, and to provide a

location for on-campus entertainment for students, parents, faculty and administrators, alumnae, and guests. Formerly, the house has served as a location for various receptions, parties, and other activities involving guests.

The rooms in the restored Rondthaler-Gramley House will provide elegant areas for academic functions as well as much-needed space for student organization meetings which have been restricted to the Club Dining Room and to various residence hall reception rooms.

The Committee on Furnishings, which recently supervised the renovation of the refectory, Main Hall, and the academy reception area, is funding the renovation through private donations. So far the committee, co-chaired by Mrs. Gordon Hanes and Mrs. Thomas V. Litzenburg, Jr., has raised in excess of \$250,000 in money and furnishings.

The first room, to be completed in November, will be the dining room. The room is to be named for long-time Old Salem resident Anne Allen, whose friends have

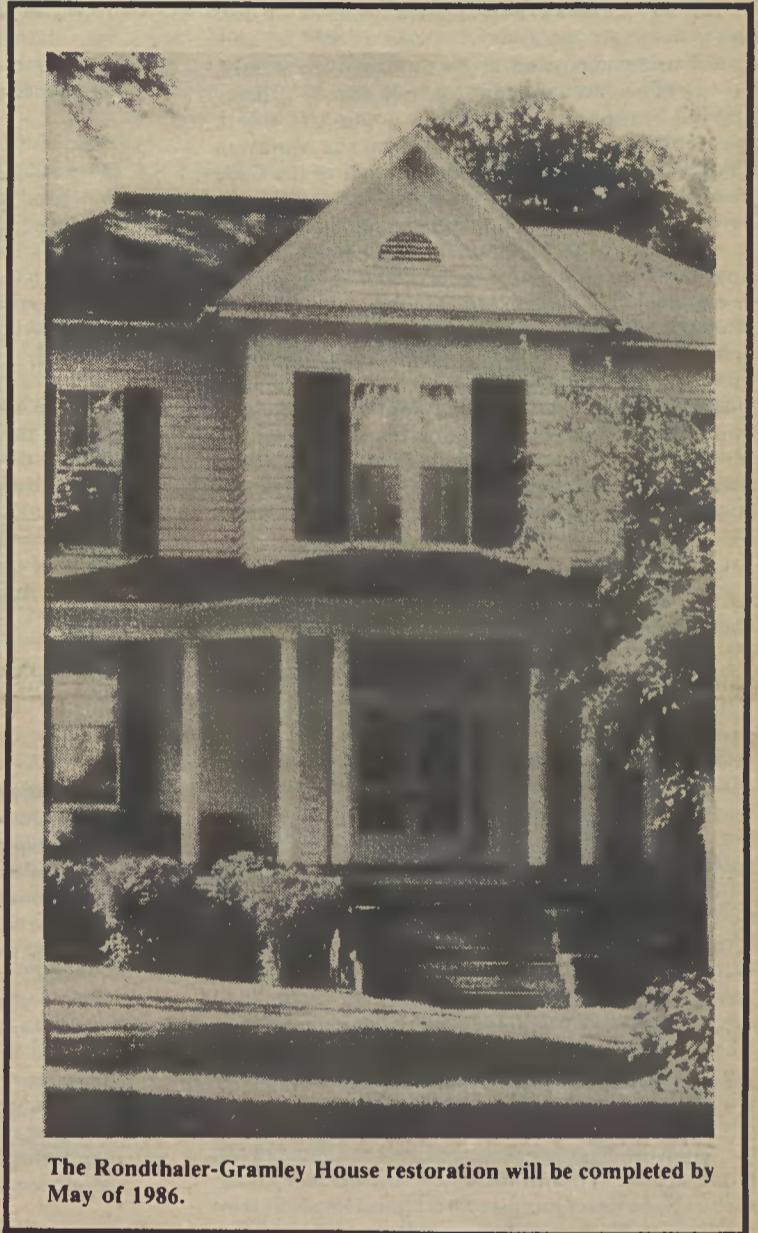
donated funds for the room's restoration in her honor. The entire downstairs should be completed by February of 1986, and the upstairs should be done by May.

The first floor will house the dining room and three parlors. One of these parlors will serve as a room for weekly teas where students, faculty, and administrators will be able to meet and talk on an informal basis.

The upstairs of the house will consist of five bedrooms which will serve as guest quarters for students' families, alumnae, and friends of the institution. The building will eventually resemble a bed and breakfast establishment.

The additional meeting space that the Rondthaler-Gramley House provides will be beneficial to the faculty, the administration, and to the college students. It will provide a comfortable atmosphere for students and organizations to meet outside existing areas of the campus.

The renovated Rondthaler-Gramley House will be officially opened during Alumnae Weekend in May.



The Rondthaler-Gramley House restoration will be completed by May of 1986.

The Pursuit of a Painful Reality

By: Lois Gramley

I remember meeting her once before -- this woman with a deep, strong voice, a hearty laugh, and much to tell. And I recall wondering how Matlalepula Chabaku could laugh at all as long as memories of her past remained with her. Chabaku is a native South African, a woman who is not afraid to speak out for her beliefs and her rights, and who barely got out of her country with her life. Recently I had the opportunity to speak with her at her home in Raleigh, where she is currently living and teaching, and once again I was awed by her wisdom and her strength.

Despite her troubles in the United States with the immigration office (which will not grant her American citizenship), Chabaku knows she cannot return to her native country.

"I love South Africa very much. I am dreaming of returning to South Africa, but I have to be realistic," she said.

To go back would be to risk the "very strong likelihood of being detained indefinitely without trial, or dying mysteriously through death squads that are assassinating people who oppose the present government of South Africa." But Chabaku is "a global woman," not bound by race, religion, or geography; and here in the United

States, she believes, God has a plan for her.

Risk is a situation that has become very familiar to Chabaku. Being a Christian in South Africa is risky because "following Christ's teachings that we should be one people" increases the chance of being arrested by a government that is obviously at variance with such beliefs. Another risk is that "if you make friends with White people you risk your life with Blacks who have given up any hope in any White people and see anybody having connections with Whites as being a spy, someone to be gotten rid of. . . ." Also, she says, there is "the risk of being killed by Whites who do not want to see Blacks around. . . . My conviction is that we are called to take those risks." Chabaku has seen oppressed people that have suffered so deeply from violence by the government "that violence has become a thing to be used rather than to be feared." Even in the United States, she encounters the risk "of being labeled a communist, just like Luther."

"It is not communists who denied me my vote; it is not communists who took my homeland; it is not communists who took my natural resources," Chabaku said. It is a "goliath" government made of Christians

and Jews, and "it is Christians and Jews who need to put it right." The churches have all condemned South Africa's apartheid system, but they continue to finance it, to trade with it, and, she said, "that's like feeding it. . . it's a double standard."

Chabaku explained that the violence in South Africa has exposed the racism of the Western World. Children have been shot, and the Western World has not done anything about it.

"Is it because it is Black children. . . Are they waiting to have White children killed?" she demanded. She contended that it is not just reform that is needed, but the destruction of the apartheid system; "and one way is to stop the kind of umbilical cord" that keeps the apartheid system alive. Only one percent of the labor force in multi-national corporations (that Americans and other foreigners finance) is Black.

"We believe very strongly that Blacks will free themselves," she remarked, "but we don't want to be hampered by outside forces." We would rather "have them help us destroy the evil without killing," she contended. "Africans must rule in South Africa. . . . It is a painful reality we must pursue," a reality "rooted in peace that can only thrive if it is watered with justice."

Admissions Forecast

By: Ellen Mixon

The 1986-87 admissions year has gotten off to a terrific start. Increases in assorted statistics have the admission's staff overjoyed and busy at work. And according to Admissions Dean Paige French, interest in Salem, based on several specific indicators the admissions office uses to gather its information, has appeared to be on the rise this year.

An inquiry pool is constructed from the overall number of students that express any interest in Salem. This includes any type of correspondence a student has made in contacting Salem. These statistics are up 23% over last year; this statistic usually increases by only three or four percent.

An even better indicator than the inquiry pool is the increase in the number of spring and summer visits to the campus. This has

increased by 11%. The admissions staff has also expanded the number of high schools it is visiting this semester.

Another good sign is the opening burst of applications that have come into the admissions office. Although it is still very early in the admissions year (the peak months are November, December, and January), the applications are running substantially ahead of last year's total at this time. They are, in fact, at the second highest point of the last six years.

French noted that while these early signs are all very good, there is always the chance that statistics may decrease during the year. There is no definite stability as to what is to come because it is early in the year. Based on what the admissions office has already seen though, French said that Salem's future looks very bright.