

Meredith Professors Make Soviet Tour

By SUZANNE LEATH

Among the delegation from the American Association of University Women which attended the meeting of the International Federation of University Women in Helsinki this summer were Dr. Leslie Syron and Dr. Ethel Tilley of the Meredith faculty.

Following the Helsinki meeting Dr. Syron and Dr. Tilley, along with other A.A.U.W. persons, spent three weeks and four days in the Soviet Union. Since the opening days of school, they have been deluged with requests for speaking engagements and participation in various programs. They have been glad to share with us some of their impressions from the glimpse they had of Russia and Russian life.

People Were Cordial

The people with whom Dr. Syron and Dr. Tilley came in contact were quite cordial, generous, and eager to guide the Americans around their cities. In Tivlisi a man on a bus paid Dr. Tilley's fare because he did not want an American tourist to have to pay her own way. Although the majority of the people whom Dr. Syron and Dr. Tilley met were eager to know about America and Americans, an aura of carefulness and caution was discerned. The guide who was with the A.A.U.W. group throughout their Russian tour was quite interested in pictures of Dr. Syron's home in Raleigh, even though the guides are true to the party line.

Russians Seem Happy

The Russian people are continually told to surpass America. This very tactic of the leaders would imply that they consider America ahead of them. One unusual thing which was noted was the absence of any mention of Khrushchev or a leader by the general public. The people spoke in terms of the seven-year plan, increased production, and technological advancement. For the most part the people, seemed satisfied, happy, and settled in their life.

Group Sees Education Minister

The American women were granted an interview with P. I. Polukin, the Minister of Education for the Soviet Union. He was eager to return the cordial treatment he had received during his trip to the United States. The persons in authority claim that it is now possible for any person who desires a formal education to have one. Since the Russian education system has received much attention recently, people are intrigued with their program. The schools below university level in Russia are sponsored by factories and industries. The public schools are in session six days a week, and the study of foreign languages begins in the fifth grade. Any liberal education which the student receives comes below the university level; for once a person gets into a university, he chooses his field and specializes in it.

Social Studies Program Differs

The education program manifests a dearth of liberal social science. Russian courses in philosophy and social studies consist of a compar-

ison between socialism and communism. In the history of socialism the study revolves around Marxism and Leninism. Much of the type training which we receive in colleges and universities is received in institutes in Russia. These institutes also concern themselves with technical training. Soon to go into effect in the Soviet Union is a requirement that students must have two years of practical work before entering a university.

The University of Moscow, in which 24,000 students are reportedly enrolled, has facilities comparable to those in America. The persons who graduate from the universities are favored over others in job placement.

Many Women in College

The Minister of Education stated that more than 50 per cent of the students in the colleges and universities are women. Today the Russian woman is being admitted to many fields of study and work. Many are entering the area of medicine. Perhaps because the doctors in the Soviet Union are poorly paid and the training period is not so long as ours, 70-80 per cent of the doctors are women.

Kindergarten Visited

Both Dr. Tilley and Dr. Syron visited a Russian kindergarten which they found to be quite similar to one in America. The children enjoyed outdoor play, lunch at school, and rest time on the cots provided. Unlike many of their counterparts in our country, the children in the kindergarten were quiet and well-mannered. Although Dr. Tilley and Dr. Syron remained throughout the morning, they observed no quarreling or misbehavior.

Russian Styles Are Different

The appearance of the Russian women may be characterized by the word "sloppy." According to our standards, their clothes are dowdy and unattractive. Even the women who hold executive positions are not what we would term well-dressed. Many of the best dressed women in Russia wear high heels with socks. Little make-up is used, and they wear loud prints in combinations which would not appeal to us. Although each quality was observed in isolated instances, practically no one successfully combined color, quality, and style in her wardrobe.

Moscow, a City of Flowers

The city of Moscow itself has wide streets with many trees and an abundance of flower beds. Even within the Kremlin, flowers flourish in great quantity. The many apartment buildings in the city are just blocks of structures with no variety or attractiveness. In apartments which are only two or three years old, bricks are already falling out. The drabness and poor construction of the apartment buildings are in decided contrast to the ornateness and careful workmanship which characterize the public buildings.

The summer was interesting and educational for Dr. Syron and Dr. Tilley. Through them we as Meredith students are able to gain some insight into life in the Soviet Union. Perhaps as more citizens of our two countries exchange visits and insights, we may reach an understand-

Janis Meggs Is N.C. Student NEA President

By JANET MOORE

Janis Meggs, a senior on our campus, is the president of the student division of the North Carolina NEA. Janis became vice-president of the Meredith NEA last year and was elected to the state office in March, 1959, at the state convention. She will hold her state office until June, 1960.

This past summer Janis attended a Student NEA conference in Kansas and an NEA convention in St. Louis. At these meetings she was a member of the Council of State Presidents, the governing body of the Student NEA. She also served as reporter for a discussion group.

The main event toward which Janis has been planning is the fall convention of the Student NEA—to be held in Raleigh, November 14—at which time she will preside over all meetings that are held.

Janis mentioned that the spring NEA convention (to be held in Asheville) will see the initiation of a new NEA policy. The Student NEA presidents and secretaries—as unofficial delegates—will be allowed to voice their opinions although they cannot vote. Previously the students have been allowed only to observe.

Most of the work Janis does concerns the students of N. C. She is very happy about the *News Letter*, a newspaper that facilitates correspondence between colleges concerning NEA work. Linda Jenkins is the editor of the *News Letter*, and Jeannette McDonald is the corresponding secretary of the NEA.

Exchange Supper Program Begins

By MARY CAROLYN HAWKINS

Doesn't it seem strange to see our Meredith dining hall graced with the presence of men on Wednesday nights? These fraternity men, however, are only a part of the exchange supper program between the State fraternities and Meredith College.

Many of us felt that a program of this kind would be a good opportunity for girls, especially freshmen, to meet more boys and to have a chance to date in a preferred fraternity. The social standards committee has worked hard on the program; and Betty Galloway, chairman, has appointed one person to take charge of getting girls for each fraternity visit.

Ten girls from Meredith are asked to eat at the fraternity house while ten more girls eat at Meredith with ten of the boys from the fraternity. Then the twenty girls attend a party at the house that night.

So far, we have exchanged suppers with the Delta Sigs, the Sig Eps, (Continued on page four)

ing which will enable us to live in peace together.

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Sigma Phi Epsilon Led By Dave Thomas

By AMY LU BELL

At 11:01 on a Meredith hall, an excited girl screams, "I've got twenty new pearls!" Thus, another girl is pinned to a member of one of State's most popular fraternities.

The Sig Eps reside on Clark Avenue (2512), the present "fraternity row." This year they have as their president Dave Thomas.

The brothers boast of having three outstanding athletes this year: Eion Faeltton, who plays varsity tennis; Dan Wherry, varsity basketball; and Bill Biggerstaff, varsity track.

The main events of the year for the Sig Eps are the Sig Ep Ball in the spring, the spring and fall IFC's and Charlie's Day—a joint function with neighboring chapters. They also conduct a Christmas party for underprivileged children.

Famous names that go under the long roll of Sig Eps include Woody Herman, Duncan Hines, Ted Mack, Tom Ewell, Edward Arnold, Hal Boyle, and Basil O'Connor, president of the Polio Foundation.

Meredith is happy to have among her students Betty Reid Walton, who is the sweetheart of the Sig Eps. She is pinned to Jim Frye. Five more brothers are pinned to Meredith girls: Bill Biggerstaff, pinned to Gigi Padgett; Bill Garwood, pinned to Gwen Spearman; Tom Jones, to Jackie Young; Ed Gibbon, to Lois Haigh; and Charlie Garrison, to Gayle Kelly. Lucky girls!

The Sig Eps are off to a good start this semester. They have in their possession the fraternity trophy from last year. Incidentally, they say they're going to take it again this year. Quite a few Meredith lassies hope they do, too!

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Meredith Honoraries:

GREENE AND SAULT ARE ALPHA PSI OMEGA MEMBERS

By LOIS HAIGH

This, the second in a series of articles in the history and present function of the four honoraries on the Meredith campus, concerns Alpha Psi Omega.

Sponsored by Playhouse

Sponsored by the Playhouse, the Eta Nu Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, national dramatics fraternity, was the first national honorary society established on campus. When the fraternity was installed in May, 1938, there were eleven members. At the present time the membership of Alpha Psi Omega is composed of two juniors, Zelma Greene and Suzanne Sault.

Group Sponsors Award

The fraternity recognizes the achievements of those who love the theatre and its work and who have excelled in dramatic endeavor connected with the Playhouse. Each year at Society Night an award is made to the senior who has contributed the most to the Playhouse.

In no way does Alpha Psi Omega displace the Playhouse, for it is not a producing organization. Any Playhouse member who has earned at least fifty points is eligible for membership. The point system on which Alpha Psi Omega is based is to be found in the Student Handbook.

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