

MIRROR

WEEKLY
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VOLUME 8

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1966

NUMBER 50

The history and progress of the Schaumburger Fairytale Singers could easily be called a modern fairytale. In February 1950, Edith Moller, the Conductor, founded the Choir in Obernkirchen near Hannover.

From these small beginnings this Choir has grown to its present importance and, in this process, has received recognition as one of the best choral ensembles in the world.

Miss Moller founded the Choir with only the idea of giving small local concerts. However, she did hope that eventually she might be able to turn over whatever profits they made to a fund for creating a children's home for orphans.

In 1956, the children's home became a reality in a city called Buckeburg near Obernkirchen. A villa had been purchased for the orphans which was also used by the Choir as their headquarters.

In July 1953, the Obernkirchen were participants in the "International Musical Eisteddfod" in Wales, and won first prize in competition with 25 international children's choirs.

It was at this time that the Choir acquired its second name, "The Obernkirchen Children's Choir", since the first name, "The Schaumburger Merchensanger", was even more difficult for foreigners to pronounce and translate.

It was here in Wales that the Choir sang for the first time in public "The Happy Wanderer" which was later to be recorded by the BBC and become a hit throughout the world.

This song acted as a front runner for the Choir and prompted the many invitations they received to travel throughout the world. The actual traveling started in April 1954 for these fairytale singers, so called because they performed tales in the form of "singspiel".

Aside from extended tours in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, it is interesting to note that when the choir played the Berlin Sports Palace they were sold out ten times over and six times over at the London Royal Festival Hall.

In the Fall of 1954, the group visited the United States and Canada for the first time. Their fame preceded them, and after two months they left behind them a trail of happiness, good will and echos of a success rarely achieved.

Their first appearance at Town Hall in New York was a sensation, and four other concerts had to be arranged immediately to Standing-Room-Only audiences. An additional 15 concerts were given at Town Hall, as well as a concert in the new Philharmonic Hall in Lincoln Center.

These were followed by many television appearances, which were, in turn climaxed by an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Christmas Spectacular. Through these performances, many Americans became friends of the Obernkirchen Children's Choir.

One of these tours led these "fairytale singers" to the West Coast to the fairytale world of Disneyland near Los Angeles. Here the Choir was personally greeted by Walt Disney, and later films and programs were prepared and shown on his pop-



ANGELS IN PIGTAILS—Pictured in their homeland are members of the Obernkirchen Children's Choir (see Looking Glass) who will appear in New Bern this year for Craven County Community Concerts. The local organization, conducting its annual drive this week, has four top attractions booked for the approaching season, but you'll miss out if you fail to join with other music lovers. Headquarters is on Belk's second floor, through Saturday. The New York Herald

Tribune, praising the Children's Choir, says, "Nobody could fail to be completely enchanted by both the sight and sound of this delightful chorus." The New York Times adds, "The choir is a rare blend of innocence and musical sophistication. Its singing is first-rate by any standard. Altogether the concert showed what can be accomplished by gifted youngsters and a skilled conductor."