

MUSE REVEALS PITTMAN HISTORY



STANDING THE TEST OF TIME . . . Eliza Battle Pittman Auditorium still looks just as it did 66 years ago.

Delving into early 1900's copies of the *Muse* reveals that the Eliza Battle Pittman Memorial Auditorium has an old and interesting history.

The Oct. 1905 *Muse* reads, "And here it is well to speak further of the Pittman bequest, received in Sept. . . . under the pro-

vision of which two new scholarships are established and the erection of an auditorium assured.

This gift comes through the provisions of the will of the late Mrs. Mary Eliza Pittman of Tarboro, N. C. Mrs. Pittman's maiden name

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

We understand that in the over-all plans for buildings during the "Decade of Renewal" at St. Mary's, a fine arts center including an auditorium is to be built and the Eliza Battle Pittman Auditorium is to be razed. We are well aware of the need for a fine arts center and a new auditorium, but we also feel that the Pittman Auditorium, though worn and greatly in need of renovation and improvement, is a graceful, charming, and acoustically superior building that should be kept.

Acoustics can be of a very uncertain quality

in the construction of new auditoriums. Several disastrous examples are in use currently in Raleigh. To do away with a small hall with such excellent acoustics would be a great loss. The graceful lines of the interior would easily lend themselves to renovation and redecoration that could result in a really elegant little theatre, unique in Raleigh.

It is obvious that the auditorium cannot be left to deteriorate until the new building is available. Rather than doing minimal repairs to keep it usable until that time, it is our strong desire that the campus planners seriously consider the saving of the Pittman Auditorium and plan the renovation at as early a date as possible.

There is far too much bulldozing of our past in Raleigh. St. Mary's - of all schools - should stand against this wherever possible. Let us begin with the Pittman Auditorium.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN MYERS BIZZELL, '57
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EDITORIAL

SMC's "Decade of Renewal" has seen the renovation of Holt Hall and the erection of a beautiful new cafeteria-student Ragland Building, and a grand gymnasium. Future days at SMC may dawn even brighter when plans for a new fine arts building, auditorium, dorm, and infirmary are realized.

To complete this program and make improvements, certainly some of the old must suffer. And admittedly no one will grieve if the old infirmary is torn down. It would be foolish to allow such an unattractive building to remain merely for the sake of tradition or sentimentality. Pittman Auditorium and the hop's House, however, may be another story.

In part, St. Mary's tradition that sends each Alumnae Day when former students proudly return to their Alma Mater. But during this "Decade of Renewal" we must remember that the line between tradition and sentimentality is very fine. The decision of what must go and what may remain is a tough one. Whatever the verdict, however, the new must learn to coexist gracefully with the old.

was Mary Eliza Battle and by her first name she was Mrs. Mary Eliza Dancy. She provided in her will that one-third of her real property should be used for some religious or charitable purpose to establish a memorial to her daughter, Eliza Battle Pittman, who died in 1899. Her son, Frank B. Dancy, of Atlanta, is her executor . . . and inasmuch as both Mrs. Pittman and Miss Pittman were former pupils of St. Mary's, he decided to offer the memorial to the trustees of St. Mary's for the erection of "The Eliza Battle Pittman Memorial Building." The value of the bequest was found to be \$13,000."

Mrs. Pittman, who attended St. Mary's in the 1840's, was one of St. Mary's earliest students. Miss Pittman attended in the early 1880's.

Finally, the June 1907 *Muse* records the dedication of the auditorium as a part of the commencement exercises that year. The article continues to describe the structure:

"The building is a model of its kind, pretentious, but well-adorned, and beautiful throughout. The central skylight is the crowning bit of adornment, and in the varied architectural effects is lovely. The stage is spacious and can be readily equipped with scenery and adapted to the various and varying need of the student appearances, as was evidenced at the commencement, while it is at present all that could be wished for lectures and recitals."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER ???

By SUSAN GOTHERMAN

The moment I hit the Raleigh city limits, I knew something was strange. There, wrapped around the Hillsborough exit was a bedspread which looked identical to mine. By the time we reached Daryll's, I had become conscious of blue jeans and t-shirts draped across each street light. As we entered St. Mary's, I saw a laundry bag at half-mast.

I forgot about signing in and dashed to my dorm. Then I wished I hadn't. The trail of baby powder was three inches thick. The trail started at the front steps and led inside. By this time, I recognized the poster of Jan-Michael

Vincent as being mine. I followed the directions marked by tennis shoes, hair ribbons, perfume, and old Tam's albums.

When I opened the door to my room, I was aghast. In the corner, where my bed had been for nine months stood Jack Pisani's mini-fridge . . . and nothing else. At that moment I heard a noise outside and rushed to the window. There I saw my telephone dangling by the cord.

The whole hall started singing and I was brought me out a Baskin-Robbins ice cream cake. Mother must have called my roommates and informed them of my accomplishments. I finally got a blind date who didn't make his own clothes.