

Candy Coles Lands Paying Position in Summer Stock

Candy Coles, song and dance performer in tonight's spring musical, has wedged a foothold in the world of professional entertainment. She has signed a contract to appear in summer productions of "Sound of Music" beginning in June.

The job is with the Music Fairs, theater group operated by the partnership of Guber-Ford-Ford. Academy Award winning actress Shirley Jones will play the lead role made famous in the movie version by Julie Andrews. Candy will play the part of one of the nuns in the heart-breaking musical. Whether it will be a speaking part or not will be determined when rehearsals begin June 7 at the Westbury Music Center on Long Island.

Hill's newest gift to the entertainment field will receive \$115 per week. If not, she will draw a minimum of \$105 per week.

Candy's plunge into professional theater is partly the result of her acquaintance with Earl Bagaley, the dance instructor who worked with the cast of "Little Mary Sunshine" last year and with the cast of tonight's production, "Ernest in Love."

Bagaley recommended her to a former pupil of his who is responsible for casting for the Music Fairs productions. Candy flew to New York City Apr. 26 for audition and claimed the last spot still open in the cast.

"I'm going to use this summer as an evaluation period," she explains. "First of all I'm going to find out whether or not I think I would be happy in professional theatrical work. Also, I'm going to get as much professional judgment as possible on myself and my own ability. If the professionals with whom I come in contact think that I have talent for this sort of thing, then I'm going to plunge in and try to succeed in this field."

Business Club Honors Four

Three members of the Business Club shared the spotlight recently with retiring president Hoyt Blackwell during the annual reunion of former members of the club.

Jackie Mitchell, graduating senior, was named recipient of Business Club Alumni Association medal.

Bernon Eugene Thomas, another senior, was named winner of the Wall Street Journal Award, given annually to an outstanding student in finance and related projects.

The BCAA's annual scholarship was awarded to Thomas H. Sparks a junior for 1966-67. The reunion was highlighted at a banquet at which Dr. Blackwell was eulogized. "The Hat We Wear" was used as a theme, and he was presented a hat as a retirement gift.

Mrs. Barbara Brown, secretary of the registrar, was elected secretary of the BCAA for 1966-67.



Dr. Blackwell opens a small gift with which he was presented at the faculty meeting last Friday (May 13). Looking on are three others who are retiring also: (l. to r.) Mrs. Ruby Sparks, Miss Eva Brewer and Mrs. Evelyn McLeod.

Retirement A Thing To Laugh At Or Cry Over, Says Mother Sparks

In addition to Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, whose impending retirement has been well noted, three other long-term members of the college faculty and staff are retiring.

They are Miss Eva Brewer, who has served as college nurse since 1940; Mrs. Evelyn McLeod, English teacher who first joined the faculty in 1924 and who has taught continuously since 1934; and Mrs. Ruby Sparks, dormitory hostess since 1943.

Miss Brewer, who will be honored as "Alumna of the Year" at the annual alumni banquet next Saturday evening (May 28), has built a new home in Birmingham, Ala., and will retire there.

Mrs. McLeod, to whom the 1963 Laurel was dedicated, will, of course, continue to reside in Mars Hill. Her husband will continue as head of the English Department.

Mrs. Sparks, a native of Madison County, is the senior dorm hostess in terms of service.

Some of the memories and recollections which Mrs. Sparks will take with her as she retires from the college have been recorded here by staff writer Judi Ellis in Mrs. Sparks' own words.

"Times were not always so easy during those first years. I was often discouraged, but I soon discovered that for what was seemingly impossible, strength was always provided. Many times I looked up at these hills that surround the campus and recalled: 'I lift up mine eyes to these hills from whence cometh my help.'

"Perhaps the most trying time was the autumn of 1945, when a serious flu epidemic hit the campus. It fell my lot to nurse the boys in the gymnasium. For more than three weeks I worked, sometimes getting as little as three or four hours of sleep a night. We had much snow and rain, making the path to the infirmary mostly mud and water. I made countless trips from the gym to the infirmary both day and night; consequently, I never had dry feet. I didn't catch the flu, but when Christmas came, I was so overcome by fatigue that I couldn't go anywhere. I could not understand it, for I wasn't used to being tired. Later, I found that this was the forerunner of a serious attack of arthritis.

"During the war many good paying positions were open to women. Often people asked me why I remained here when I

could be making more money elsewhere. I suppose there were really two reasons why I chose to remain at Mars Hill: The first was the love and respect of the students and the second was my first experience with a young man in trouble.

"He lived in Landers Cottage. One night he had brought in a little wine to 'have fun with the boys,' he said. However, he was reported for drinking. At that time drinking was seldom heard of and was an offense sure to bring expulsion. He was brought before the executive committee and was asked to leave school.

"I was heartbroken. I believed in the boy and felt that he should have another chance. That night at prayer meeting I talked with President Blackwell. He said that he would see if he could help. The next morning he got up at 4 o'clock and drove as near to the boy's home as he could get, walking afoot the rest of the way. He talked with the parents of the young man. They came and had a conference with the executive committee and the boy was permitted to remain in school.

Summer School May Reach 300

Summer school applicants already number 265 was the announcement of Dean R. M. Lee earlier this week.

He urges all persons interested in summer school to come to his office and register immediately. Individual needs may be met more easily this way.

There will be 55 courses definitely offered. Others may be offered if there is a demand for them, he said.

Actual registration will begin June 6 at 8:30 a.m. and continue to 1:00 p.m. Classes begin the next day at 7:30 a.m.

Brown and Melrose Dormitories will be used to accommodate men, and Fox will provide housing for women.

"The thing that meant most to me was the fact that the president of the college could be so dedicated to youth. In the presence of such an inspiring person, how could I think of leaving? I could not give up having a part in the great cause of the youth.

"And so I stayed as mother to the boys at Mars Hill. These 23 years have been filled with many mountain-top experiences, joys and sorrows. There is never a dull moment working with boys. If there isn't something to laugh about, there is something to cry about."

With a smile and a little gleam in her eye, Mother Sparks began to tell of her own family and the plans she had for the future.

"I will visit with my children a while, and then perhaps I will travel a little. I am not sure. When I look into the crystal ball of the future, I see that there are not many years left, but I don't see only dull ones. I suppose that no matter what I do, I can still say, 'If there isn't something to laugh about, there is something to cry about.'"

When asked to tell some of the greatest rewards Mother Sparks had received during the years, she thought for a moment and then said:

"I guess the letters I get from my former boys mean most to me. I get them quite often, but perhaps the ones that stand out in my mind most of all are one from Dr. Robert Seymour, my former pastor, and from the father of Professor John Hough. And then there was the statement from Dr. Moore, the former president of the college, when he said to the young men, 'This lady's word counts here.' And there was the statement from President Blackwell at the time I turned 65 and had mentioned retirement, 'You are much too valuable to let go.' I suppose that these things are closest to my heart. They are gems I treasure."

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