

M. P. Adds Special Reading Program

A program designed to provide intensive reading instruction for eighth grade students has been instituted this school term for the first time at Mary Potter.

This program is an outgrowth of a Self-study conducted at Mary Potter during the 1963-64 school term. The results of the study clearly indicate that reading is the weakest facet of the curriculum.

Parents, students the faculty and the administration worked for a period of two years in over fifteen workshops and numerous professional meetings to aid in making the program a reality.

The program is developmental rather than remedial, and seeks to improve motivation for reading while improving the reading background of students. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, reading comprehension and interpretation, fluency in reading, and the development of acceptable study skills.

Another aim of the program is designed to provide the eighth grade students with reading skills and techniques necessary to cope with the high school curriculum where

approximately 80% of the work encountered involves reading. It is expected that this program will reduce immeasurably the failures occurring at the high school level which are attributed to poor reading habits.

A controlled Reading Machine and three SRA Reading Laboratories are among the materials being used in the program. Other audio-visual aids and many varied books are also involved in the program.

The varied multi-level material in the SRA Laboratories permits each student to work at his own level and rate of speed thereby providing for individual differences. Specific skills are taught by the teacher in directed reading activities with small ability groups.

To secure maximum results from the program, the eighth grade is grouped according to reading scores obtained during the year prior to entering the eighth grade.

The guidelines used in setting up the reading program include the need to fulfill the basic needs of the boys and girls; an awareness of the need for security to the extent the

program would expect from a child only what he could do at his present level of development, an awareness of the need to achieve by providing opportunities for success which are within his experiences or which can be built on his experiences; an awareness of the need to belong to the extent that the reading center abounds in friendliness and a place where every child feels that he "belongs;" finally, to always remember the need to be understood on the part of the children for whose development we are responsible.

Miss Mary Eliabeth Venable is the teacher for this program. She has a graduate degree with a major in the Psychology of Reading and has wide experience in the area of reading.

Miss Venable has explained the reading program to the Mary Potter faculty in a staff meeting held recently. She has also talked to the Vance County and Henderson City Teachers about this reading program.

This is one of the first programs of this nature to be instituted in the Granville County Schools.



The members of the reading group are Herman Cooper, Bette Brown, Rosalyn Greene, Miss E. Venable, John Burwell, Audrey Fields, Willie Harris, Ermon Greene, Hardie Henderson, and Richard Harris.

The Mary Potter Gazette

VOL. LXX

OXFORD, N. C., DECEMBER, 1965

NO. 1

Thespians Set for Busy Season

The Mary Potter Thespians began the school year by setting their goals in drama for the Oxford Community and the state organizations.

The goal for the Oxford Community was attained when eleven young women and men played to a full house in the Mary Potter Auditorium, November 23, their fourth major Broadway Production, "Double Door," by Elizabeth McFadden.

The leading roles were played by three first year drama students inasmuch as many of the Mary Potter Thespians graduated in the spring of 1965.

The members of the cast were Joan Harris, a cruel woman; Arnetia McGhee, as Caroline, Victoria's sister; Lenwood Fleming, as Rip, Victoria's half-sick brother; Jacqueline Morris, as Ann Darrow, Rip's wife; Clifton Robinson, as Victoria's lawyer; Paul Carrier, as Dr. John Sully, Ann's friend; San-

dra Eaton, as the housekeeper; Ronald Jordan, as the footman; Stephen Powell, as Telson; and Harold Glover, as Mr. Chase and Lambert.

The play, "Double Door," concerns Victoria Van Bret, who rules her family with a maniac's firmness. Her sister Caroline is helpless before her, and her half-brother, Rip, cannot stand up against her. In a dark room that has not been changed since her father died, Victoria goes through her cheerless routine with cruel regularity. She is more cruel than ever, because Rip is marrying a lady who is not of his social station, and Victoria senses a threat to the integrity of the Van Bret fortune.

How Victoria tortures the bride with studied austerity and finally tries to murder her is the malevolent burden of the play.

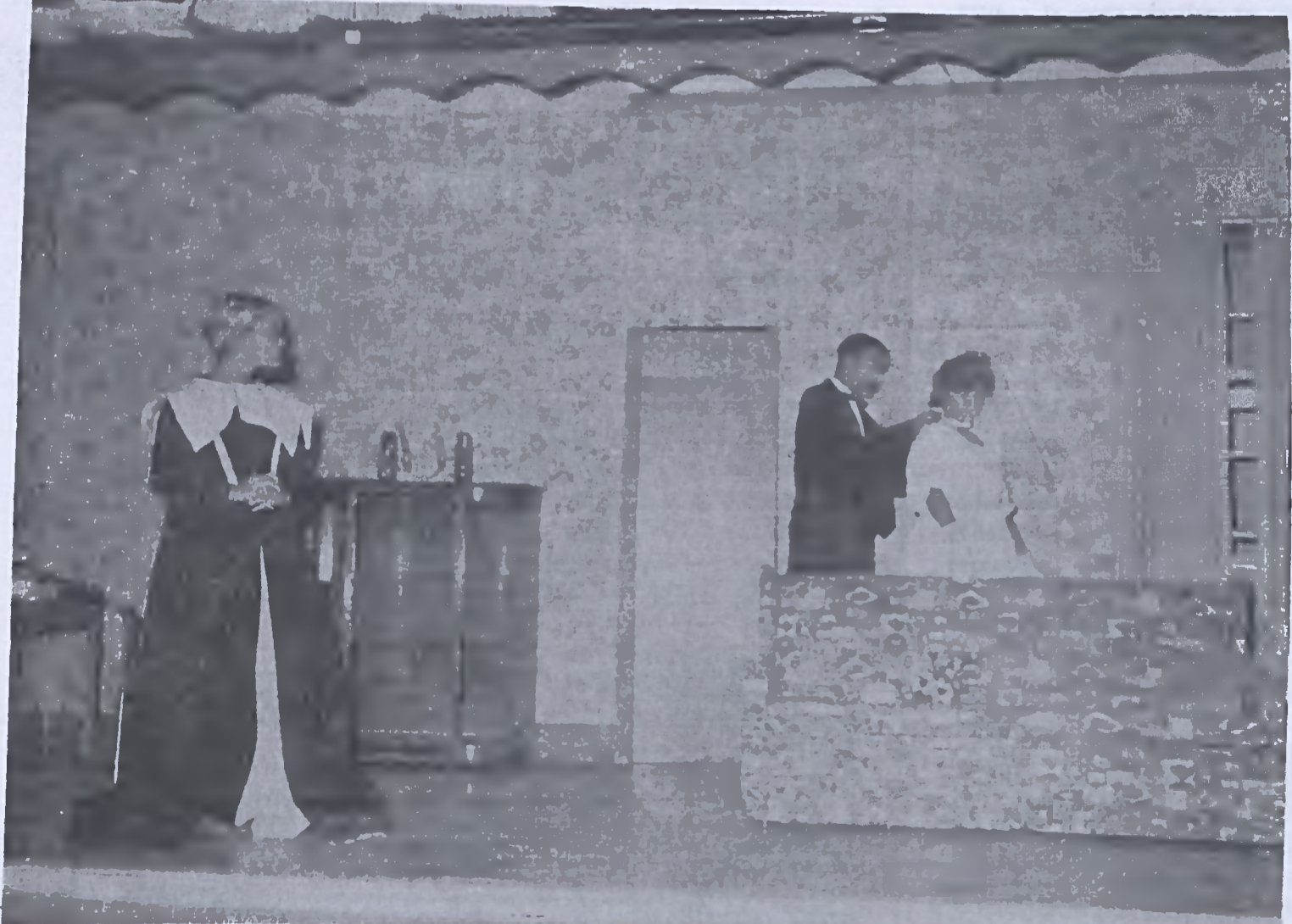
New Members Elected

Six new members were accepted into the National Thespian Society during the Drama Club's assembly program on November 22. Those drama students were Joan Harris, Jacqueline Morris, Brenda Wright, Stephen Powell, Sandra Eaton, and Clifton Robinson.

Drama Group Attends Clinic

The members of the Drama Club attended the Drama Clinic December 4, 1965, at Fayetteville. The purpose of the Drama Clinic was to prepare the drama students for the District Drama Festival in March, 1966.

The directors, Mr. Leonard Platt and Miss Thelma Howard, have chosen three one act plays for the Drama Festival at Darden High School, Wilson and Louisburg College, Louisburg. The chosen plays are "The Sisters' Tragedy," "The Locked Room," and "The Youngest."



Rip, played by Lenwood Fleming, is fastening a string of pearls, a family heirloom, around the neck of his bride, Ann Darrow, played by Jacqueline Morris, as Victoria, played by Joan Harris, looks on.

Miss America Pageant Set for '66

Fifty senior girls, representing the 50 states in the union, played to a capacity house of 400 on October 30 in the Oxford National Guard Armory. Because of the parents and seniors' interest, the Miss America Pageant may be given again in the fall of 1966.

The pageant for '66 will precede along the same lines as the one recently given, both based upon the Miss America Pageant held in September and televised nationally.

The pageant presented October 30 was divided into 3 major divisions: Swimsuit with 15 participants; talent with 15 participants, and evening dress with 20 participants and each girl representing a state in the union.

Finalists for the Miss America Pageant are selected in the following manner: one contestant is selected from the 15 bathing participants, 3 from the talent competition, and 1 from the evening dress competition. The judges used the following criteria for talent: interpretation of dance, musical, or dramatic number; stage decorum, poise and personality; for swimsuit competition, the figure, poise, personality, and the walk down the ramp; for the evening dress competition general appearance, poise, personality, and the walk down the ramp.

The Miss America and her runners-up are chosen upon the way they answer the question which is asked of each of them.

Pageant is Huge Success

The 1965 pageant was a great success according to general reports and the proceeds taken in.

The '65 Miss Mary Potter America is Carolyn Lawson, Miss Nevada, a 5 foot, eighteen year old senior who lives on Granville Street with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Perry R. Brooks, Jr and a brother, Perry Kenton.

When questioned as to why she wished to be a Certified Public Accountant, she replied that the job would be a challenge, offer varied opportunities, and pay well. The 1st runner-up was Theresa Lynn Harris, Miss Arkansas, a 5 foot 5 inch, 17 year old senior and the daughter of Mr. Theodore Harris and the late Mrs. Carrie Harris. When questioned about her career, she replied that she wished to be a psychiatrist because she was interested in the sick mind as others are interested in the healthy mind.

The 2nd runner-up was Inez Cooper, Miss Maryland, a 5 foot 4

inch, 17 year old senior. The 3rd was Juanita Puryear, Miss Alabama, a 5 foot 3 inch 17 year old senior and Ida Johnson, Miss Wisconsin, a 5 foot 4 inch 17 year old senior,

Talent Numbers Given

The talent contestants were trained by Mrs. Margaret Harrell Shepard, history teacher, and Mrs. Roberta Howell, librarian and music instructor.

The contestants and the numbers they presented are as follows: Jeanette Jones, Miss Mississippi, did "The Shake" (to Boogaloo); Audrey Peace, Miss Alaska, sang "My Buddy"; Libert Smith, Miss Hawaii, danced to "Hawaiian Moeds"; Gloria Black, Miss Montana, sang the "Rose of Tralee"; Gloria Brown, Miss Colorado, danced as "Patricia Spy" to "Peter Gunn"; Elaine Herndon, Miss Iowa, sang "Ave Maria"; Francine Hargrove, Miss Georgia, sang "Summertime"; Lynn Harris, 1st runner up and Miss Arkansas, danced "Latin Spirits" to "Tequila";

"Shall I Tell You What I Think of You", a dramatic excerpt from the play "The King and I" (Rogers and Hammerstein, Act I, scene 5) was played by Carolyn Lawson, Miss America and Miss Nevada; Clara Downey, Miss Michigan, sang "Go Down Moses"; Barbara Brown, Miss Delaware, danced to "Shangri-La"; Inez Cooper, Miss Maryland sang "Love Letters"; Carolyn Rogers, Miss Louisiana, sang "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes"; and Esther Holman, Miss Kansas, sang "Danny Boy".

The guest artists were Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Williams, Vance County instructor who sang to the accompaniment of the Mary Potter Band, the Miss America Theme Song; Miss Judith Carolyn Wortham sang "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" from the Broadway Hit, "My Fair Lady"; Calvin Timothy Gregory played a trumpet solo, "Autumn Leaves"; and Charles Anthony Miller played a clarinet solo "Andante and Finale" from *Rhapsody in Blue*.

The entire affair was supervised by Mesdames Esther Jordan McGhee, Margaret Harrell Shepard, and Roberta Ellis Howell.

Judges for the Miss America program were Mrs. Annie Gillespie, English Instructor, Dudley High School, Greensboro; Mrs. Blondola Lucas, Instructor in the Durham City Schools; and Mr. Rendall Howell, Principal of the New Hope Elementary School in Vance County.