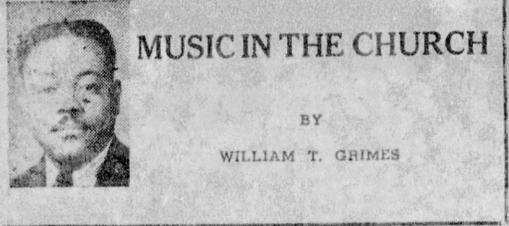


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MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

BY WILLIAM T. GRIMES

According to the great English choral directors, the three most important things about choir singing are: Diction; Diction; and Diction. In my opinion they are correct, for without diction a chorus is inarticulate. A choir may be singing the most beautiful tones ever produced by the human vocal machine, but unless the words are alive and full of meaning, those beautiful tones are dimed and dull unless the group is humming. It is very beneficial for the choir director to work with vowels in choir training; but the consonants have to be reckoned with also, when it comes to tone production. A fine slogan to keep in mind is, "Fine diction makes fine singing and is an axiom of utmost integrity, for words have a direct bearing on intonation, phrasing, balance, blend, color, and clarity of tone. We too often hear this criticism on choirs and soloists. They have lovely voices but I couldn't understand a word they said or sang. This is a common fault found in the average church choir. That has been the case and still is because many of the singers who compose these organizations have been allowed to develop the habit of inertia—another name for plain laziness. While on the other hand many of them have not had and do not have competent instructors to guide them in their work. The style of unclear speech and a lack of training plus not having the will. Rhythmic music, such as that of the hymn style where all voices are singing the same syllables at the same time, does not create such a problem; but when contrapuntal music is introduced where voice parts are singing different syllables and where melodies are being transposed from the bass clef to the treble clef and vice versa, diction becomes a real problem. Now let us get down to the root of the trouble. When there is no physical deformity or mental handicap, the trouble usually lies in the present inability of the muscles of the mouth, tongue, cheeks and lips working at less than their capacity which is a case called "inertia", but that is not the whole story. A great deal of the trouble lies in the habit of unclear speech and a lack of training plus not having the will. Then how can this trouble be remedied? I wish to offer the following suggestions for the individual singers. We recommend that you find out whether or not you have the ability and the talent to sing. Study to improve your speech as to pronunciation and enunciation by learning to give the proper sounds to the vowels and consonants. Practice musical scales, using various vowels, stands ascending and descending forming the crescendo, fortissimo and pianissimo. Push the muscles that have to do with tone production into greater activity, even if you have to exaggerate a little at first. But remember that there should be no constriction in the delicate muscles of the throat, tongue, or jaws while practicing or performing. The choir will improve in proportion to the improvement of each member.

Good Things Happen Over Coffee



Ted Malone, radio's Roving Reporter, starts discussing plans for the nationwide recruiting of Girl Scout Leaders by having Leader Anne Teyer pour him a man-sized cup of coffee while Mrs. George Brown looks on. On November 4th, local Girl Scout executives will hold "coffee groups" with prospective leaders to hear Malone tell why young women should volunteer their services. Malone broadcasts Monday through Friday over 209 stations of the ABC network.

Caswell County High Has 35 On Honor Roll

BY W. W. STURDICK 30 students made the honor roll at Caswell High for the first period. They are as follows: Seniors—Hettie Mae Diggs, Annie Mae Florence, Nettie Gunn, Gloria Swann, Elizabeth Yancey, Elsie M. Brown, Mae Frances Brown, Geneva Kinler, Minerva Studler and Lillie Studler. No boys. Juniors — boys: Roscoe Allen, Roy Johnson, girls: Theola Bigelow, Mildred Brown, Mary Reddick, Mary Witcher, Zeena Slade, Evelyn Williamson, Mary Yancey. Sophomores — boys: Charles Blackwell, John T. Digelow, girls: Lillie Lipscombe, Lillie McGuire, Barbara Price, Jean Richardson, Aquilla Watkins, Celester Budner, Mary Byrd, Eroll Graves, Alease Lipscombe, Mary F. Stephens, Dorothy Totten, Lillian Pinchback. Freshmen — Cledde Allen and Georgia M. Taylor. Graves Quartet, Blanch N. C. Blackwell Quartet, Yanceyville and many others. A grand time was had by all. The meeting was held at Caswell Co. Training School. Mrs. Minnie Bower made the welcome address and principal N. L. Dillard served as master of ceremonies. Elton College — Mrs. Ora Berries of Newark, N. J. and Mrs. Olga Ford of Madison, N. J. motored down and spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. James E. Brown. Mr. Brown is veteran supervisor of CCTS.

CHURCH NEWS

The Daughters of Zion Sunday School Class of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church sponsored a Baby Contest on October 17. This Devotional exercises were given by the Holman Kindergarten pupils and consisted of two songs, a prayer and a scriptural recitation. The main speech was delivered by Dr. Margaret Battle of the staff of Park View Hospital. She was introduced by Dr. L. P. Armstrong. Her subject was The Care and Health of Children. Total receipts were \$588.81 with a few reports to be added making an approximate total of \$600. First prize won by the Little Misses Yvonne and Yvette Alston twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Alston of Winston-Salem, N. C. Mrs. Alston was formerly Miss Geraldine L. Clanton of Rocky Mount, N. C. Second prize was won by Little Miss Rosita Cehon Purvis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gertrude Purvis of Rocky Mount. Honorable mention goes to the following babies: Baby Royster, Baby Harrison and Baby Gwynn. The church as a whole thanks the many friends who boosted our babies. The proceeds will go toward the Pipe Organ Drive, DEBORAH BIBLE CLASS. The Deborah Bible Class of the Mt. Zion Church celebrated its 28th anniversary Monday night, October 18. Mrs. L. A. Wells, president, presided. Reports were presented by the four tribes, No. 1, Mrs. A. B. Byrd; 2 Mrs. Lucy Battle; 3 Mrs. Minnie Allen; 4 Mrs. L. B. Smith. Welcome address by the teacher, Mrs. R. L. Levitt. Response by Mrs. A. A. Braswell Taft, ex-president of the class of Greenville, N. C. Visitors from various churches of the city were present. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Mrs. Lula Lucas. The class presented mother Annie Simpson a gift as a token for her faithful service.

CASWELL CO. NOTES

The Gospel Four of Yanceyville commemorated their 7th Anniversary last week in a battle of song. Some of the groups participating were: The Little Star Quartet, and The Harmonizers of Danville, Va., St. Maria Quartet of Reidsville. Former Williamston Man Now In Gifu, Japan With the Eighth Army in Gifu, Japan — Pfc. Roscoe Clemmons, son of Mr. Joanna Clemmons of 211 Sycamore Street, Williamston, N. C., is a member of the 24th Infantry Regiment, now stationed at Gifu, Japan, it has been reported. Pfc. Clemmons is a rifleman in Company B, and is now on guard duty at Kobe Base, the supply point for southern Japan. He entered the Army in December, 1942, received his basic training at Fort Leavenworth, Missouri, and departed for overseas duty in January 1944. Before entering the service Pfc. Clemmons attended Williamston High School. The demand for various fruits during 1949 will be about the same as for the current year. The 1948 cotton crop will be the largest in 11 years.



The construction work was done by members of the corporation. Zollie E. Chelcor is the store manager.



COOPERATIVE OPENS STORE — The photos above show the business establishment of the Citizen's Grocery Company, Inc. This business concern stands as a monument of credit to the Negro citizens of this city and state. It is the first of its kind to be organized in this city and among the very few in the state. On the night of June 17, 1947 the idea of organizing was born in the minds of the members of the corporation are as follows: Messrs. Jessie Arrington, Luther Avant, J. L. Bonner, Willie Battle, J. E. Bridges, Luther Bullock, S. T. E. Hyman, Oscar Knight, George Moore, Jessie Ricks, Eugene Word, Sylvester Battle, J. D. Battle, Joseph Barret, James Davis, Ulysses Davis, James L. Davis, J. Joyner, Jessie Lane, J. W. Perry, Frank Sommer, C. H. Yarbough, R. C. Gay, Sr., R. L. Grimes, James Hilliard, J. C. Bines, M. P. Bines, W. B. Harrison, T. L. Joyner, Curley Moore, Leonard Purvis and Fletcher Westry. Officers shown in the lower picture include: President, James Davis; vice president, J. C. Bines; secretary of board, Jessie Arrington; recording secretary, James Hilliard; executive secretary of Corporation, J. L. Bonner; treasurer, J. Joyner. Members of the Board of Directors include: R. C. Gay, Sr., James Davis, J. Joyner, Oscar Knight, T. L. Joyner, Jessie Lane, and Jessie Arrington. This corporation has opened business at 811 Gay Street in Rocky Mount. To serve the people better with the best groceries, kind and dependable service is the motto. You are invited to come in and see this fine business. Citizens of Rocky Mount are proud of this business and are giving it their patronage.

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