

PATRONIZE
THESE
ADVERTISERS

ROCKY MOUNT

MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

BY
WILLIAM T. GRIMES

THE DRAMATIC STORY OF THE MESSIAH

In 1711 George Frederick Handel was starting on one of his aimless wandering missions which had become a regular routine for him. For forty years Handel had written stately music for the Aristocracy of England and the continent. Kings and Queens had showered him with honors.

At this point the court society turned against him. Jealous rivals began breaking up the performances of his operas. Handel was reduced to poverty. It has been said by Doctor K. Antrim that "Four years before this period a cerebral hemorrhage had paralyzed his right side. He could not walk, move his right hand or write a note. Doctors had little hope for his recovery. Handel went to Alva Chapel to take a healing bath. He was advised, however, that staying in the hot water longer than three hours might kill him. Handel disregarded the doctor's order by staying in the water, at a time. Slowly strength came back into his muscles and he could walk and move his hands again."

Following this event, he wrote four operas in succession. Honors were again heaped upon him. The death of Queen Caroline, one of his patronesses, caused his income to be reduced to a meager sum. A frigid winter gripped England, and there was no way of heating theaters, so no engagements were filled which caused Handel to sink deeper and deeper into debt. Having lost his creative spark, life for him was without hope. From the depth of his soul he cried, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?"

Hoplessly he returned to his shabby lodgings. Entering, he saw a package on his desk. He broke the seal and found a sacred oratorio from Charles Jennings with a letter asking Handel to start working on the Oratorio immediately. He also added, "The Lord gave the words."

Handel grunted, repeatedly to himself, "Why did Jennings send this religious stuff instead of an opera? I wonder," he said, "If Jennings thinks that I was inspired by God?"

Lisztlessly Handel began reading through the Oratorio when one passage caught his eye. This passage read as follows: "He was despised and rejected of men. He looked for someone to have pity on him, but there was no man; neither found he any to comfort him." With a growing sense of kinship and interest, Handel read on. "He trusted in God, God did not leave his soul in Hell. He will give you rest." At this point the words began to come alive to him and as he read they began to glow with meaning.

"Wonderful Counselor," "I know that My Redeemer liveth," "Re-

CHOIR ASSISTS IN RAISING FUNDS FOR NEW MT. ZION ORGAN

The Senior Choir of Mt. Zion Baptist Church celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special program to raise money for the new Organ which was unveiled Sunday night, November 21.

The theme was "Types of Music in the Church." Speakers were Prof. O. R. Pope, Hymns in the Church.

The senior choir then rendered suitable selections. The ladies taking part on the program were Misses V. B. Sessions, "Anthems in the Church"; Mrs. L. Y. Brown, "Gospel Songs in the Church." Selections were beautifully rendered by the St. James Choir under the direction of William T. Grimes. The unveiling of the Organ was by former members of the Senior Choir, while the Organist played music softly.

At noon when he returned, the tray was not touched. Handel could feel the old fire rekindling. In his mind wonderful melodies tumbled over one another. Grabbing his pen, he started writing the notes. With sufficient fuel piled after page 10, he found him bent over his desk. Putting the breakfast tray within reach of him, he slipped out.

Before the Senior Choir's offering, the pastor, the Rev. R. H. Underwood and the congregation read Psalm 100.

At the closing the Senior choir offering was then carried out with a "Candle Light Service."

FEDERATED CLUBS MEET IN ROCKY MT.

The Mary E. Talbert Federated Clubs met at Davis Tea Room.

Miss Ruth Bush the state President of the Federated Clubs was the guest speaker for the evening. Her talk was very inspirational. She spoke briefly on the duties of the organization.

Members present were as follows:

Mrs. Mildred Johnson, Mrs. L. S. Pittman, Mrs. Carrie White, Mrs. May Walker, Mrs. Julia Cotton, Mrs. Lucy Bimel, Mrs. Matie Colvin, Mrs. Cope Parker, Mrs. Mary Lynch, Mrs. Cheenie Bryant,

Mrs. Addie Byrd, Mrs. J. W. Burnett, Mrs. A. B. Armstrong, Mrs. O. S. Harper, Mrs. L. P. Armstrong, Mrs. C. C. Stokes, Mrs. Gladie D. Smith, and Mrs. L. V. Brown.

Honored guest was Mrs. C. F. Rich.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Fannie Hawking, 153 Atlantic Avenue, Thursday, December 9, at 6:35 P.M.

Mrs. L. V. Brown, Handel's daughter, was present. Handel died in the Messiah for it he lit a torch that has been carried around the world to light the dark places of the earth.

His Great "Messiah" will always be a musical monument to George Frederick Handel.

WASHINGTON — The Washington Bureau of the NAACP this week asked the School Lunch Division of the Department of Agriculture to investigate complaints that colored children in Waxahachie, Texas, are being discriminated against by local school authorities in the school lunch program.

In a letter to C. Roy Perry, acting chief of the School Lunch Division, Leslie Perry of the Washington Bureau said he had received information that until last year local school authorities had refused to provide lunches altogether for Negro pupils. In 1947 after protest by colored parents in the community, lunches were supplied to Negro children.

This year Mr. Perry said, the local authorities have adopted a more subtle means of discriminating against colored children.

Lunches are prepared in the white high school and hauled 14 to 15 blocks "half cold through dusty gravel streets" to the colored school.

The National School Lunch Act contains an amendment which the NAACP fought to have included providing that "if a State maintains separate schools for minority and majority races, no funds made available pursuant to the Act shall be paid or disbursed to it unless a just and equitable distribution is made within the State, for the benefit of minority races, or funds paid under the Act."

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