

Roland Hayes, Noted Soloist, To Appear At A. & T. College

Appearance Of Mr. Hayes Is Looked Forward To With Utmost Anticipation Old Favorite In Greensboro

By J. Archie Hargraves

Greensboro, — Roland Hayes, the most musical of the present crop of vocalists, will sing at A. and T. college as part of its Semi-Centennial celebration, Friday night, March 7. His concert is set for Richard B. Harrison auditorium at 8:30 p. m.

The appearance of Mr. Hayes here is being looked forward to with a great deal of anticipation. He has always been a favorite with Greensboro music lovers, having at his last concert given here in 1936 completely captivated his audience. Although the music public is generally fickle, laying laurels upon some new crop of singers which emerges each concert season, Greensburgers have never forgotten Hayes. They still regard him as one of the best of tenors now singing and have reserved a permanent niche in their all-time entertainment diary.

It is well that they do. For it is the consensus of the most expert opinion that the years have done little to alter the natural musicality of his voice and likewise the pellucid diction and patrician phrasing which he gained only by dint of hard work.

His conduct at A. and T. will follow immediately the annual Town Hall concert in New York City. Both audiences although differing as to degrees of sophistication will undoubtedly be agreed that the concerts will offer some of the most sincere and unaffected singing being done today.

The story behind Roland Hayes' present fame is without parallel in music history. He is a living example of success in spite of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles. He has so overcome prejudice that the South welcomes him as its favorite recitalist.

Yet it was but a short time ago that this same south recognized him only as a laborer in its fields and factories. Hayes' mother was an ex-slave in the back country settlement of Curryville, Ga. With several children to support, her lot became so unbearable that she moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee. Here the boys could take turns going to school while the others worked.

Roland worked in a factory which made window weights. The task was made less grueling to himself and the rest of the workers by his singing. Getting more and more confident by virtue of entertaining the whole shop, Hayes joined a church choir where he came to the attention of a music teacher, Arthur Calhoun.

Soon Hayes began to take his singing more seriously. His mother spurred his ambition and became his first real critic by influencing him to sing in the most sincere and unaffected style. "When you sing, Roland, stand every syllable," was her advice. Thus the reason for his remarkable phrasing today.

Hayes' ambition was further spurred by an old phonograph record of the great Caruso. Never could one sing with such beauty, he thought.

With the aim in mind to match Caruso's singing, Hayes next journeyed to Fisk university where he first began the serious and formal study of music. At once he was prevailed to join the Fisk Jubilee Singers and traveled with them to many corners of the United States for a number of years.

While in Boston with the Jubilee Singers, he decided to remain. He moved the family from Chattanooga to be with him. He began a long series of lessons with Arthur Hubbard. For eight years he studied and practiced assiduously.

Finally came chance for first recital in Boston's Symphony Hall. He was immediately a success and was asked to tour the United States.

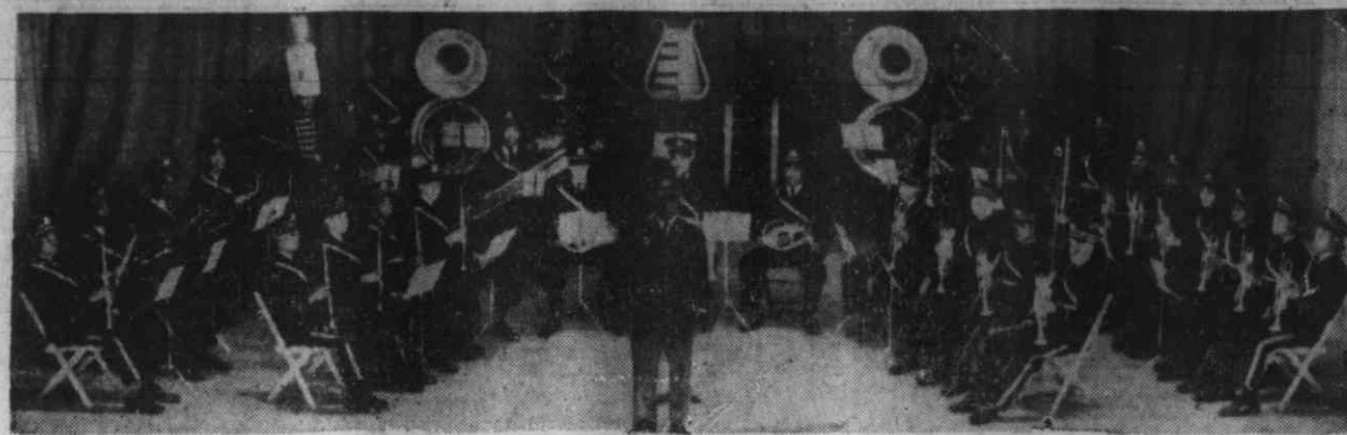
But Roland was not ready. He decided instead to go to Europe for further study and concertizing. In London, he came the darling of noble audiences and received a summons to sing a "Command Performance" before the late King George V at Buckingham Palace.

The continent likewise capitulated to this tenor. Germany, France, and Austria, welcomed him with open arms and he was called by New York Times' critics "The greatest concert tenor since Enrico Caruso." Audiences in the most provincial of towns acclaimed him.

Although since that time new stars have arisen on the Negro artist firmament, Hayes is still hailed as the best of them. London and Paris rapturously welcomed him back last spring when he sang there after an absence of several years. Hayes has completely conquered musical America. No other artist can leave his audiences conscious of a rare musical experience as he can. His sweet style of singing, his perfect technical mastery, and the deep sincerity and power with which he attacks each composition will keep him the musical master of this country for a long time.

A. and T. could not have fixed upon a more appropriate artist for its Semi-Centennial Celebration. As the New York Sun says, "Despite the emergence of a new crop of Negro vocalists there remains a place for the artist who was not only the first of them, but who remains one of the greatest of them."

Roosevelt names Admiral Land to coordinate ocean transportation.



Sixty-five teachers of band and choral music in North Carolina high met at A. and T. College recently for the first state-wide music clinic sponsored by the music faculty of A. and T. College.

Warner Lawson, head of A. and T. music department, was clinic director. Others on the faculty were Bernard Lee Mason, instructor in instrumental music at A. and T., F. Nathaniel Gatlin, of the Bennett College music faculty, and Noah Ryder, director of music at Winston-Salem Teachers College. The A. and T. Choir was used for demonstration purposes.

AMEY'S FUNERAL HOME OBITUARIES

DAVID LEWIS

David Lewis, aged 52, died in Lincoln Hospital February 22. He leaves a wife, Mrs. Margaret Lewis, who resides at 209 West Proctor St. Funeral was held from Union Baptist Church, February 24. Burial in Beechwood Cemetery.

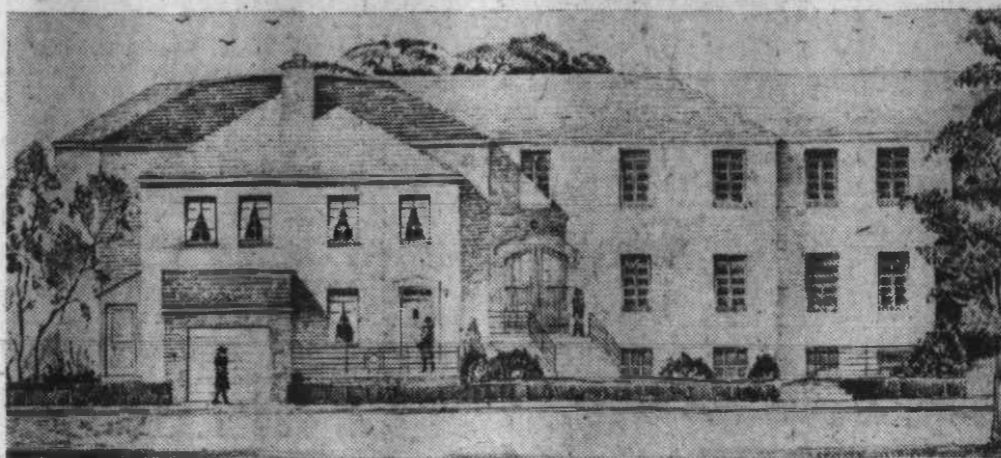
MURRELL DAVIS

Murrell Davis, age 70, was found dead in bed February 24, 1941 at his home 504 Foster St. Burial pending arrival of relatives.

MRS. ANNIE M. ARMSTRONG

Mrs. Annie Martin Armstrong age 37 died February 25, at 602 Pickett St. She leaves a son, Walter Armstrong, 700 1-2 Fayetteville St. Funeral will be held from Mount Vernon Baptist Church Friday night at 7 p. m.

Proposed Annex St. Joseph's A. M. E. Church



Pictured above is the architect's drawing of the proposed \$35,000 annex to St. Joseph's Church. Members of this historic congregation are now in the midst of a campaign to raise \$5,000 to complete the building fund.

CHARLOTTE SOCIAL NOTES

BY MRS. BESSIE HARDY
TELEPHONE 31628

Mrs. David D. Jones of Bennett College will be the speaker at the public affairs forum Sunday March 9th at New Emanuel Congregational church.

April 20 to 26 will be the 60th Anniversary of Girl Reserves Junior members of the YWCA.

West Charlotte High School sponsored a variety show at Second Wad school last Friday evening.

Mrs. Estelle Smith is out again after being in for a week with an attack of influenza.

Members of the Pick Wick bridge club met with Mr. Arthur Grier last Friday evening at his home in Grier Town.

The ladies auxiliary to the Charlotte Medical society met with Mrs. Estelle Hogans last Thursday at her home on Beatrice Ford Road. Plans were made for a fashion show that will be held in April. The exact date will be announced later.

Anyone wishing to take part in the fashion show will get in touch with Mrs. Mildred Brodie, president of the auxiliary.

Mrs. Eugene Alexander of Flint street who has been ill, is reported improving.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a housewives banquet last Thursday evening in Johnson C. Smith University's dining hall. Mr. Ned Ravis executive secretary presided. 100 guests were present.

We have long entertained a serious doubt of the ability of anybody to develop religion by himself.

Tired of goody-goody glamour roles, Ida Lupino begged for a chance "to act". She got her wish and her roles grew tougher and tougher. She is about as tough as they get in her role in "The Sea Wolf."

Bing Crosby and his brother, Bob, together with several golf pros, will soon make a cross-country tour, playing golf by day appearing in theatres by night, all for the benefit of the British relief fund.

So strenuous is her role in "The Flame of New Orleans" that Marlene Dietrich lost a couple of pounds a week since production started. It was not only hard on Dietrich, but also on the dressmaker who has to keep her sixteen dresses, which she wears in the film, fitting properly.

Race May Get Defense Jobs

WASHINGTON, (A N P) —

The appointment of several Negroes to important posts in the near future, to do with the problems of placement and training in national defense, is reported in the plans of the advisory group in the Council of National Defense, following the urging of such a group of appointments by persons close to the administration.

Throughout the long series of discussions and meetings on what the Negro could best serve the country in the crisis, was the ever present bugaboo of the economic set up whereby the Negro would not benefit through the vast amount of money being expended for defense projects.

From certain sections came reports that Negroes would not be included in the general setup which caused apprehension in the minds of some leaders. Promptly, they went to work and suggested the appointment of men in each state to look into the situation and to attempt to integrate the Negro into the labor situation whereby he could profit by his training and experience.

Although the plea is as yet nebulous, there is every reason to believe that in the very near future there will be several appointments made whereby Negroes in various states where there is a heavy labor problem, will have representation to work out their problems and see that they receive fair play.

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