

# The Mercer Cluster

VOL. XXXIII

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, G. A., NOVEMBER 20, 1952

No. 5

## Annual Presentation of Messiah To Be Given on Dec. 2 in Chapel

By Terry Pate

Final arrangements have been completed for the ninth annual presentation of Handel's oratorio, The Messiah, at eight o'clock, Tuesday, Dec. 2, in the Willingham Chapel on the Mercer campus.

The performance will be under the direction of Dr. Arthur L. Rich, with Mrs. Rich at the Willingham organ.

Soloists will be Suzanne de Derian, soprano, who is coming here directly from an engagement with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Eleanor Knapp, who is beginning her fifth year as leading mezzo-soprano of the Philadelphia La-Scala Opera Co., and who sang

with the choir last year in its presentation of the Messiah; Paul Knowles, tenor, the first singer to be engaged for three consecutive years for the Mercer Messiah presentation; and Chester Watson, bass baritone who has had great success as soloist at the Bethlehem Bach festivals.

Decorations will be arranged by Dr. and Mrs. Victor Heck, B. J. Jackson and a committee of students, headed by Barbara Toward, Mary Stanford and Marlene Timmermann; lighting effects will be by Mervyn Reagin, Louis McLen-don and Jamie Buckingham.

The annual presentation of the Messiah is Mercer University's contribution to the observance of Christmas in Macon, and the performance is open to the public without charge, up to the seating capacity of the Willingham Chapel. Because of the solemn nature of the affair and limitations of space, no infants or small children can be admitted.

Generally considered Handel's masterpiece, and one of the greatest expressions in the field of sacred music of all time, The Messiah utilized chorus, soloists and organ in its exposition of the life of Christ, His maturity, death and resurrection.

## Announcements From the Deans

Mr. Sidney Weiss of Warner Robins will present a violin recital this Sunday afternoon at 3:30 in the Willingham Chapel. All students are invited to the recital and reception.

Seniors from Lanier, Miller, and the Vocational school are to be guests at the Mercer Player's production of Brother Rat, Friday night.

Miss Connie Byrd will review Howard Spring's book, "The House in Between", this afternoon at 4 o'clock in the special reading room of the library. Students are invited. Chi Omega sponsors.

## Tempest Taming Holds No Threats For Teaching Threesome and Tippy

Have you noticed lately any unusual change in the weather? How do you account for this hot-one-day, cold-the-next weather we're having? You know, we haven't always had an earthquake to wake us each morning and a howling gale to put us to sleep each night. As I was looking for a plausible reason for all this strange weather, I came across three young women who gave me the reason.

Ever since Misses Frances Pingrey, Lucille Pollard and Dr. Helen Thornton met in Denver several years ago, it seems that they have carried the storms with them wherever they have gone. Remember the blizzards in Denver and Pennsylvania, and the floods in Iowa? Well, they were there.

While they were in Sioux City last year, Miss Pingrey was an instructor at the hospital; Miss Pollard, a director of activities for the community playgrounds; and Dr. Thornton, a professor at Morningside School.

In Sioux City they found the fourth member of their group, a dog which they call Tippy Mc-Chewilek. Just like the others, she has certain talents that the others do not have. You see, Miss Pingrey is the musician of the group; she sings and plays the piano and organ. Miss Pollard is very fond of nearly all types of sports; and Dr. Thornton loves to relax and paint. Tippy has a unique talent all her own—she can bark.

At the present, the four are very happily situated in Bartlett House. This is just right for them because the hall is large enough for Miss Pollard to practice golf on rainy

days; there is room for Tippy, and Miss Pingrey can play the piano to her heart's content without fear of bothering the people in the neighboring apartment.

As you know, Miss Pollard is an instructor in Mercer's Physical Education Department, and Dr. Thornton is head of the speech department here. Miss Pingrey is the director of nursing education at the Macon Hospital.

Speaking of storms doesn't mean that they were a quarrelsome lot. They made an agreement in the beginning that went something like this: "When we get mad at each other one of us always stays sober to be the referee." And so far it has worked very well.

Naturally, the fact that they all have common interests in spite of their varied fields of study leads to a better understanding. They all like to travel (need that be men-people, and animals).

Then there's that school in the mountains that they will start when they are ready to settle down; where Dr. Thornton will teach drama and art, Miss Pingrey will have the music department, and Miss Pollard will teach dancing and physical activities.

## "Brother Rat", 3-Act Comedy, To Be Staged In Chapel Tonight and Tomorrow Night

By C. C. Lynch

Eager anticipation has enveloped the Mercer campus this week as certain time for the fall production by the Mercer Players draws near. The play, "Brother Rat," is expected to fill Willingham Chapel for both its performances tonight and tomorrow night, November 20 and 21. Time to begin is 8:14 each night. For the information of new students who might wonder about admission to such events, the Student Activities card, which was issued recently, will serve the purpose for Mercers. Prices for visitors will be 65c for students and \$1 for adults.

The setting for the play is in Virginia at the Virginia Military Institute. The conditions under which the "Brother Rats" survive should not be a memory of Mercer's own "graduated rats."

The story commences when Joyce Winfree (Mackie Kilmer) comes to visit her grandmother, Mrs. Brooks (Nancy Stone), who lives near V.M.I. With her comes Claire Ramm (Marlene Timmermann), her roommate at college. Claire is the commandant's daughter. But, in order to assure her dowdiness, her name is changed so that the boys do not know they are stepping out with the daughter of the commandant, Colonel Ramm (Wade Hiltabide). A fountain of comedy and helpful advice pours forth from Jenny (Helen Faulkner), who is Mrs. Brooks' housekeeper.

The fireworks are really ignited when Claire is introduced to Dan Crawford (Mack Flowers). And, when she hooks him, they make quite a couple.

Then to add hysterics on top of laughter, Kate Rice (Jane Coppedge), who is secretly married to Bug Edwards (Eddie Trent), announces to him that a bundle of sunshine (a baby to the conventional-minded) is on the way.

Bug is pitcher on V.M.I.'s baseball team, but if his marriage is known he will be expelled from school. In addition he is about to fail chemistry. All this points him to one thing: The team will have to play without him and undoubtedly lose.

Meanwhile, because of the innocent faith in Bug's part, Billy Randolph (Chuck Haffenden), Joyce's eventual mate, decides to bet all the money he can get on the game. He even pays the U.S. government property tax (Bobby Holaday), a advertisement, which helps make the bet for the boys.

Other students involved in the madcap antics are Townsend (Mack Willingham), "Newsie" (Scott Hill),

(Continued on Page 3)



Mickie Kilmer rubs Charles Haffenden's neck before being interrupted by Marlene Timmermann and Mack Flowers.

## Tentative Plans Combine Bear Day Homecoming; Queen To Be Chosen

By Beverly Irvin

Tentative plans have been made for the Annual Homecoming Weekend. Mary Nell Johnson, chairman of the committee for this activity says that these plans are indefinite and are liable to many changes.

Friday, February 20, 1953, "Miss Homecoming" will be announced at a dance sponsored by the I.F.C. If they decide not to have the dance she will be announced some time that day.

"Miss Homecoming" will be chosen from a group of ten girls. Two girls from each woman's group will be selected and from this selection the choice for "Miss Homecoming" will be decided by ten Mercer professors. Judging be based on appearance and personality.

Saturday, February 21, 1953, will be "Bear Day". Floats, based on the theme, "Historical Events" will form a parade. The Student Government float will be "Homecoming Event", and "Miss Homecoming", along with "Toby and Tot", will ride on this float.

"Toby and Tot" will be elected by votes from the student body. Each ballot cast will cost ten cents and there will be separate ballots for the choice of a girl for "Tot" and a boy for "Toby". The boy and girl receiving the most votes will be "Toby and Tot".

Saturday night the Mercer bas-

ketball team will play Stetson College and during the half-time of this game "Toby and Tot" will be formally presented.

Proceeds from the "Toby and Tot" election will go to the "March of Dimes".

## Mercer Mimics

Safety man blandly watching UO Phi Delta championship football game while his opponents are completing a pass for a touchdown.

Post seen at 10 minutes after starting across campus trying to get to the run.

A considerate and thoughtful student observed carefully bearing the pained ends of a broken pipe both into the gutter with his feet.

## Mercer Alumnus Heads Coca-Cola

Hammond Burke Nicholson, a graduate of Mercer of the class of 1914, was elected president and member of the Board of the Coca-Cola Company on Aug. 2, 1952.

After serving as superintendent of schools in Richland and Cordele, he was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1922 and practiced law in Atlanta for several years.

He joined the Coca-Cola Company in 1933 and serves in various capacities in the United States and Europe, becoming President of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, 1939-1944; chairman of the Board of Coca-Cola Ltd. (Canadian company) since 1941; vice-president of the Coca-Cola Company since 1942 and treasurer since 1940.

## Cluster Rests; Thanksgiving

There will be no issue of the Cluster next week due to the Thanksgiving holidays. The next issue will appear on Dec. 4th. The news staff will meet on Monday, Dec. 2. Happy Thanksgiving!

## BSU Is Sponsor Of Basket Drive

The B.S.U. of Mercer is sponsoring a drive to collect baskets of food to be distributed to needy families of Macon for Thanksgiving.

The fraternities, societies, M.L.C.A., the Ministerial Association, and all religious organizations have been asked to prepare a basket.

All baskets must be turned in by Monday, November 24, and they will be delivered on Tuesday by members of the B.S.U.



Chester Watson Eleanor Knapp