

Cluster Society

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THE MERCER CLUSTER

May 4, 1956

Debate Trip to NY Holds Fond Memories for Team

By Jackie Walters

Think of viewing Manhattan from a boat during a snow storm, of shopping in Greenwich Village, and of seeing the "Firestone Hour" from the director's box. Think of losing the affirmative debate by one point to the team who later wins the tournament.

Think of watching a pink and blue and grey sunrise from an airplane window and of talking to a Broadway actress in Downes Restaurant in New York. Think of all the many wonderful things that could happen to a group of Mercer students on a trip to New York and then a vague impression will be formed of what three Mercer boys, one Mercer girl, and a faculty member experienced a few weeks ago.

Mercer's debate team entered the Tau Kappa Alpha National Debate Fraternity tournament in New York on March 26-28. The question was the same one debated all this year: Resolved that the non-agricultural industries of the United States should guarantee their employees an annual wage. Mercer's team consisted of Katie Reed and Milton Gardner, affirmative; Douglas Fullington and Henry Heflin, negative; and Dr. Helen Thornton, faculty adviser.

Leaving Atlanta at 5:30 on Friday morning, March 23, the group traveled by plane to New York. An idea of the versatile atmosphere of the trip became apparent in the contrast found at Washington. A lovely springtime with green grass and flowers characterized the trip as far as the capitol city; but from Washington to New York there was a white world with every object covered with snow.

Arriving at the Idlewild Airport, the Mercerians saw many foreign people. As a natural consequence, they first toured the United Nations building. Following this came a bus

Kappa Sig's Attend Meet

Alpha Beta chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity sent representatives to the District Conclave at the University of Florida. The representatives were Bobby Jones and Wilma Holloway. Their sponsor, Miss Ann Tumlin, accompanied them and visited the Chi O's at Gainesville, Florida.

The Alpha Betas were honored by meeting a former active who had been initiated, while at Mercer, in 1896.

Phi Delt's Have "Willard Party"

Phi Delta Theta had a "Willard" party last Saturday night at Ingle-side Community Club.

Brothers, Plodges, Alumni, and dates enjoyed a steak supper in the dining room of the club.

After the dinner the couples danced. Captain Stone and Sgt. Chapman were chaperones for the party and Maurice Hilliard and William Burgamy were in charge of the affair.

trip to see the city and the "Guy Lombardo Show."

The snowy boat trip began Saturday's excursion. Despite the slippery boat and steps, the misty flakes of snow, and the freezing weather, the Statue of Liberty held her majestic reign; and below, Bedlow Island was covered with white. Broadway's "No Time for Sargeants," written by Mac Hyman from Cordele, Georgia, and "Il Trovatore" at the Metropolitan Opera House provided theatrical entertainment. Walking down Broadway at midnight amidst all the great crowds of theater-goers is a vivid memory for these students.

Sunday became the day for church, art, bells, and tombs. First came services in Riverside Church, whose tower holds hundreds of bells, then Grant's Tomb, the Metropolitan Art Gallery, the Empire State building and, finally—studying! After all, the debates were the purpose of the trip!

Monday the debates began. Two debates each day for each team (of which Mercer won three out of six affirmative and two out of six negative) and student congresses were held. Fifty-two top universities in the United States were represented. Mercer debated with such schools as Harvard, West Point, won the National tournament with a 10-12 score.

The students did much more than debate, however. Just as the group began its trip with sightseeing, they continued this between debates and at every snatched moment. Lasting impressions were: the director of "Firestone Hour," who because he had married a Covington, Georgia, girl, invited the Georgia team to watch from his own box; the musical comedy, "Pajama Game;" shopping in Greenwich Village and in Chinatown; the "I-still-don't-know-what-but-it-was-good" food from Lee's Chinese Restaurant; "The Desk Set" with Shirley Booth; Radio City Music Hall's Easter Show at Rockefeller Center; an Italian Restaurant; the Movie "Carousel" at the Roxy Theatre with ice shows and a band during intermission; the German Restaurant Luchow's; and an actor, Hal Riddles, whom Dr. Thornton taught in Murray State College.

From the symbol of American liberty to the place of striving for world peace, from the Chinese Restaurant to the guaranteed annual wage question, from the bells in Riverside Church to "Pajama Game"—this trip was a vital experience in what America is and means.

After supper in the New York

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Terminal Airport on Thursday. March 29, the team went via the New Jersey Turnpike the Newark Airport for the home trip. In contrast to the bright dawn of the trip up, the return was at night after a drizzling rain, with no view because of fog and darkness, and was full of air pockets. Arriving at Atlanta at 2:30 AM, the group reached Mercer at 5:00 Friday morning. Afraid of falling into a deep and weary sleep, they set up to be ready for 8:00 o'clock class...

Happy and excited and tired, each treasured his collected souvenirs and his vivid experiences.

Sigma Nu's Have White Star Ball

The week end of the White Star was a big event for the Sigma Nu's and their dates. Friday night began the week end festivities with an informal party at Jonesco. All enjoyed roasting hot dogs and, later in the evening, dancing. Entertainment was in the form of a take-off skit on "Gone With The Wind", and a baseball pantomime by Dick Mitchell, an alum.

Saturday night was the night of the annual banquet and dance. Several presentations were made to outstanding members. A trophy was given for the outstanding athletic, Jimmy Carnes; a watch was given for the outstanding junior, Charles Hardy; an award was given to the outstanding senior, Dudley Horton; and Tom Campbell was named outstanding brother.

The speaker for the banquet held at the Hotel Dempsey was Mr. Charles Morgan, a Macon alum. Following the banquet, couples danced to the music of the Blue Stars.

After the lead-out Miss Iris Balcom was named the new sponsor for Sigma Nu.

Sunday afternoon climaxed the eventful week end for the Sigma Nu's and their dates as they attended an open house in their suite.

Mercer Chapel Choir Holds Annual Picnic

The annual Mercer Chapel Choir picnic was held yesterday afternoon at Lakeside Park.

Approximately seventy-five choir members and their dates enjoyed the swimming and other activities available at Lakeside. Noel Doster was chairman of the social committee and was assisted by other staff members.

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Socially Speaking

By Beverly Irvin

Sunday night . . . the end of an eventful weekend for many Mercerians. A hundred visitors have been on the campus to take part in the weekend's activities. The Macon florist shops have been kept busy supplying flowers to beautify the festivities. Dinner jackets and evening dresses have been borrowed, rented, made, or pressed for folks to wear. But it's Sunday night now and the visitors have gone home . . . the flowers have wilted . . . and the evening clothes have been put back into moth balls. And now the old chapel clock will have the last word of the weekend as she strikes the hour of midnight . . .

ONE . . . this time Friday night some folks were coming back from the Sigma Nu party at Jonesco; BSU'ers had returned from a fun-filled day at Lakeside; Ann Tumlin, Wilma Holloway and Bobby Jones had arrived at the University of Florida for the Kappa Sigma District Conclave; and KA's and rushees were coming in from a stag party at the Policeman's lodge.

TWO . . . there was a lot of merry-making about midnight in the dorms on that night over several new engagements. Duane Akin had given Jane Smith an engagement ring. Jo Kidd and Bill Young had become officially engaged. Judy Mavity came in sporting a diamond given to her by Billy Snow. And Morton Boyette and Betty Keel were pinned.

THREE . . . in the Lambda Chi suite the talk was all about Carlyle Irby being pinned.

FOUR . . . and then on Saturday night around midnight Jo Womack and Red McDaniel had been Mr. and Mrs. for about five hours.

FIVE . . . Sigma Nu brothers and alums and their dates and wives were having their annual breakfast at Pinebrook following their White Star formal . . . Since there were more alums at the White Star than there were actives, it was almost like a homecoming weekend.

SIX . . . one could not begin to name all the alums who were here for the dance and for Jo and Red's wedding, but to name a few we would mention Eddie Trent, Lucille and Don Carter, Barbara Fisher, David Register, John Hulsey, Wallace Harrell and his wife, Charlotte, Marilyn and John Jewett, Joe Watson, and Jewell Childress.

SEVEN . . . Phi Delta had been to a steak supper or rather to a "Willard" party. It was inevitable that the Phi Deltas would have a "Willard" party since that has been their pet word all year.

EIGHT . . . KA's had an informal dance and banquet that night to entertain some prospective Mercer students.

NINE . . . it's midnight again and the busily planned activities are over.

TEN . . . most folks are in bed asleep except for those of us who like to reminisce about all the past gaiety.

ELEVEN . . . so in order to give the old clock the privilege of having the last featured activity of the weekend, we will hastily add congratulations to the newlyweds, to the engaged, and to the pinned couples . . . TWELVE.

Law Students Have Outing

An extra holiday and a long weekend will climax the Walter F. George Law School's picnic which was held yesterday at Jonesco. Swimming, softball, and golf were included in the activities at this annual affair.

Barbecue was served at the law school function attended by the law students, their dates, and members of the faculty and their families.

Flora Lee Von Phippen was chairman of the committee in charge of this gathering. Other members of the committee were Jane Carol Adams, Homer Drake, Mitchell House, and Lion Barfield.

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KA's Entertain High School Boys

The KA's entertained a group of high school seniors this past week end. Friday night the boys attended a hamburger fry for stags only. This event was held at the Policemen's Lodge. Saturday night an informal dance was held at Jonesco for the rushees and their dates. They danced to the music of a local combo, and at intermission they joined in a KA song fest. Light refreshments were served.

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