

Once-A-Week 1928-29

12-20-1928

Once-A-Week, 1928-12-20

Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools

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ONCE-A-WEEK

Published by the Students of The Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools

VOL. III No. 13

DECEMBER 20, 1928

"SINCERITY"

W. Grant Egbert

Editorial Note. This number of ONCE-A-WEEK is published as a memorial to the founder of Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools. The article "Sincerity" was written several years ago by Mr. Egbert.

Webster's definitions of sincerity are: Honesty, free from hypocrisy or dissimulation, straightforward, true, real, genuine, frank, upright, unvarnished, unaffected, not falsely assumed, but being in reality what it appears to be. —My appeal in this communication is to each and every student of the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools to apply frequently these definitions to himself, his work and various activities and become his own critic as to whether or not he is living up to them. The future, not only of our students and schools, but our civilization, will depend largely upon how truly we apply these definitions to ourselves rather than to the other fellow.

Higher standards of life and work are obtaining throughout the world which means that the individual is raising his standards. One is so prone to think, "I am only one little atom." True, but think for a moment on what a force for good or evil one little atom can be. If we can produce in our student-body thousands of human atoms who can withstand the disintegrating test of the above definitions, what may we not expect, what power will rebound not only to your Alma Mater, but to You! What we should really worry about is; is what we are doing good? It should be everyone's duty, not solely his pleasure, to develop all his latent possibilities if he is doing the work which justifies his existence.

A word of warning. We are aiming to develop highly specialized atoms of humanity. This does not mean we should



narrow our horizon entirely to our individual specialization. Here more than in most professional schools, we may enjoy the privilege of study and association with those from other professional schools; an opportunity not to be overlooked. We do not want to suffer the handicap through life of one-sided preparation. A cart needs more than one wheel to make it a safe conveyance. Likewise the young student preparing to meet the world, compelling it to disgorge its hard-earned dollars and approval needs the broader experiences leading to well-balanced judgment, the background of association and study, the alert mind, sharpened by competition to meet wisely and forcefully the problems always facing him in the deciding of which will rest success or failure. Wise judgment is more to be desired than genius, which is rarely accompanied by it.

Education, no matter how highly specialized, may prove a dangerous or ineffective thing without a knowledge of humanity and things to be acquired right here, by mixing with people, events, sports and helpful student activities of various kinds. You must know humanity and modes of procedure well enough to properly apply your knowledge if you would succeed eminently.

Have you studied the lives, personalities and ways of eminent instructors here with whom it is a privilege to mingle? Have you learned the secret of their success? They have succeeded eminently or they would not be here. Make sure that you miss no opportunities. They rarely announce themselves, so one needs to be always searching for them, but the offer every day and oftentimes the greatest opportunity may be found through cheerful, helpful service.

"THE ONCE-A-WEEK"

Published every Thursday morning by students
in the Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools

ELSIE L. WATERS	- -	Editor-in-Chief
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A LIFE WORTH-WHILE

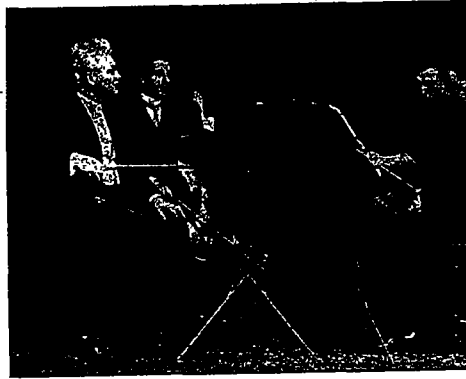
In the Royal Hochschule in Berlin more than a third of a century ago a young American, struggling to master the intricacies of one of the great musical languages and at the same time rise to scholarly attainments with his violin, glimpsed a vision. For the moment it seemed a passing fancy; then the immense possibilities in that vision unfolded and he began to plan for their realization.

The young man was W. Grant Egbert, founder of the Ithaca Conservatory. His vision was an American School of music equal in service and culture to the famous old world institutions in which he had studied. Between the vision and its materialization lay a vast gulf of hard work, no capital, a long struggle.

The Cornerstone Laid

He saw these possibilities in 1892 and, upon returning to America in that year at the completion of his studies and concert tours, laid the cornerstone of the present Ithaca Conservatory and Affiliated Schools. Without capital and with little support but an inordinate amount of optimism and determination, he rented four small rooms in an antiquated building in the business section of Ithaca. Here began the early struggle.

Friends sought to encourage him in starting the venture in a larger city but against their entreaties he remained in the city of his dreams. One great thought always gripped him when friends tried to dissuade him. "There is in and about Ithaca the life and environment that make for cultural growth" he repeated again and again, "and above all, cultural surroundings are necessary to the success of a school of music." He saw Cornell University growing and discerned its fine influence upon the development of culture and he went about his task unflinchingly though at times he found himself without many ne-



EGBERT STRING QUARTET

In his home city Mr. Egbert was remarkably generous with his musical talents. He repeatedly appeared on local concert programs, without remuneration, and as the founder of the Egbert String Quartet about 15 years ago he may be said to have given many Ithacans their first appreciation of chamber music. The other members of the quartet were Jerome Fried, Prof. P. A. Pope and Harold Riegger. They played together for several years, and gave a series of public recitals each season.

cessities of life that his small but loyal faculty might be paid.

The little four room school began to grow; to gain prestige and as it went on attracting more students and splendid teachers the Ithaca Conservatory of Music began to partake of that vital sustenance of success—Stability—the quality of steadfastness, of fixedness of purpose and permanence which are the guiding principles of achievement.

Reaching the Pinnacle

At the end of five years Mr. Egbert saw his early ideal approaching achievement but the original vision had taken on a vaster shape as visions do in the minds of builders. "It is my plan to build a school second to none in the excellence of its faculty, the soundness of its educational ideals and the quality of its instruction," he said, "but to reach the pinnacle I have had in mind I desire to surround our institution with allied schools encouraging breadth of view and cultural contacts too often neglected by the young student."

The Future Secure

There is no speculation as to the future of the Conservatory and its Affiliated Schools. It is on the high road to its destiny. Its thousands of graduates in all parts of the globe, enjoying the golden gifts of their Alma Mater, re-echo the fundamental ideals of the founder.

Mr. Egbert was a charter member of the Delta chapter of the Phi Mu Alpha Fraternity. Also he was a patron of Mu Phi Epsilon Sorority and was prominent in obtaining a charter for a chapter of this Sorority in the Conservatory.

FROM A FORMER STUDENT

Mr. Egbert constantly inspired the highest ideals in his students. The following poems written by Doris Joy Starr, one of his pupils, epitomize the love and reverence which his inimitable artistry and kindness awakened in the hearts of all who have ever been taught by him.

A TRIBUTE

To W. Grant Egbert, our Teacher of Violin,
on his Birthday, December 28th, 1926.

We give gay honor to his birth, tonight
With joyous laughter—we students whom he
has taught.

And yet, beneath our smiles, beyond his sight,
There is a deeper honor, far lovelier wrought,
Of all our wordless homage, than this red rose
Is wrought of the silent earth, from which it
grows.

All that our hearts have found, or shall yet
find
Of highest ideal—most unselfish thought
Of ever-unfolding vision—of keenest mind,
We recognize in him. So have we brought
Our gifts—not only a shrine of art;
But to a greater shrine—a noble heart.

He is our teacher, and we trust and love him
Beyond all power of poor words to reveal.
Only the never-ending Heaven above him
Might measure it. So in our hearts we kneel
Each to a secret Birthday prayer for him.
(Like little candles of the Heart to glow
When these upon the cake have all burned low.)

ECSTASY

He has found the soul of Life within
That old, brown violin;
All he had missed before, the longings and
desires
He thought were dead— dreams that had
come and gone—
He knows them now as slumbering sunset fires,
Waiting through velvet night for his passionate
bow
To wake and kindle them to gorgeous dawn.
He has found at last each twinkling, lost de-
light
In the star-like notes that quiver away, yet glow
Forever after in the radiant chords below.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A special memorial service was held for W. Grant Egbert, founder of this institution, on Thursday morning, December 13. Lynn Bogart, a former pupil of Mr. Egbert, played Meditation from "Thais", by Massenet, one of Mr. Egbert's favorite selections. Dr. Martin Hardin, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, dwelt, in his address, upon the charm of Mr. Egbert's personality, and of the perfect balance he maintained between his art and his everyday living.

CALENDAR

For the week beginning Thursday, December 20th.

THURSDAY

- 4:00 P. M.—There will be the usual Faculty Recital in the Little Theatre. Miss Strong will read.
- 7:00 P. M.—The Amard Revels will be held in the Dutch Kitchen of the Ithaca Hotel.

FRIDAY

- 7:30 P. M.—The Preparatory Department will give a Christmas Recital in Conservatory Hall.

SATURDAY

Christmas vacation starts. The Once-a-Week takes this opportunity to wish Conservatory students, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

MONDAY—January 7, 1929

- 7:00 P. M.—There will be Basketball practice in the Gym.
- 7:00 P. M.—A dress rehearsal of the Six Student Scampers will be held in The Little Theatre. Everyone be on time.

TUESDAY

- 8:15 P. M.—The first performance of the Scampers will be presented in the Little Theatre.

WEDNESDAY

- 8:15 P. M.—The final presentation of the Scampers will be held in the Little Theatre.

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MU PHI EPSILON

Lambda Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon Sorority feels deeply the loss of one of our beloved patrons, W. Grant Egbert. He aided the advancement of music not only in our local chapter but also in the National Organization.

We are happy to announce that we have elected to membership Grace Jessup, Dorothy Tennent, Janet Rice, Virginia Jarvis, and Mary Elizabeth Dinning.

An informal musicale was held in the Chapter house on Sunday afternoon. The program was as follows:

- Serenade— *Till*
Geraldine Bachman, Clarinet
Genevieve Herrick, Flute
- Slumber Song— *Schuman*
Sleep, Why Dost Thou Leave Me— *Handel*
Dorothy Clarkson
- Estrelita— *Ponce*
Polish Dance— *Wieniasowski*
Margery Seeley
- Aufschwung } *Schuman*
Soaring }
- Marjorie Fisher

Following the program, a buffet supper was served. We had as our guests Mrs. Spencer, Miss Jones, and the newly elected members.

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MR. EGBERT'S EARLY EDUCATION

Mr. Egbert received his early education in the public schools of this county, and he later attended Syracuse University. His musical taste developed early, and from 1890 to 1892 he was able to attend the Joachim Royal Hochschule for Musik in Berlin, Germany. About ten years later he returned to Europe to study for three years with Prof. Otokar Sevcik at Prague, and with other European masters of the violin. With the exception of these early years, he spent practically his entire life in Ithaca. The honorary degree of M. A. in Music was awarded him by Syracuse University in 1904.

A TRIBUTE

Several years after the opening of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music in 1892 Mr. Egbert was joined in his important work by his staunch ally, President George C. Williams. In speaking of Mr. Egbert and his work, Mr. Williams expressed himself in the following words:

"Mr. Egbert and I have been closely associated in bonds of affection and endeavor for almost half our lives, thirty-two years. His high ideals in art and its relation to life were ever the inspiration for the founding and developing of the Ithaca Conservatory which he so dearly loved to which he devoted his life, in a most beautiful and unselfish way to the very end.

"Mr. Egbert possessed a personal charm of manner that endeared him to everyone. His many students and those of us who have been closely associated with him, feel his loss deeply."

ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP

by James Whitcomb Riley

Who once has found a friend has found
The Link 'Twixt mortal and divine;
Though now he sleeps in hallowed ground,
He lives in memory's sacred shrine;
And there he freely moves about,
A spirit that has quit the clay,
And in the times of stress and doubt
Sustains his friend throughout the day.

No friend we love can ever die;
The outward form but disappears;
I know that all my friends are nigh
Whenever I am moved to tears.
And when my strength and hope are gone,
The friends, no more, that once I knew
Return to cheer and urge me on
Just as they always used to do.

They whisper to me in the dark
Send words of counsel and of cheer
When hope has flickered to a spark
I feel their gentle spirits near.
And oh! because of them I strive
With all the strength that I can call
To keep their friendship still alive
And to be worthy of them all.

Death does not end our friendships true
We all are debtors to the dead;
There, wait on everything we do
The splendid souls who've gone ahead.
To them I hold that we are bound
By double pledges to be fine.
Who once has had a friend has found
The link 'Twixt mortal and divine.

NOTED SINGER SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY



Charles Trowbridge Tittmann

Mr. Bert Rogers Lyon has received a letter, expressing sympathy to the School and other friends of our Founder, the late W. Grant Egbert, from Charles Trowbridge Tittmann, an Honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha.

Mr. Tittmann, who is one of the foremost Oratorio Bass singers in the country, having been soloist with the Bach Festivals held in Bethlehem for a number of consecutive years, will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to have heard him, when he appeared as soloist in the Music Festival held by this school in 1924.

He was not only a personal friend, but also a warm admirer of Mr. Egbert's and was one of the first to extend his sympathy to the school.

Christmas Thoughts

Christmas! The coming of the Christ! Peace on Earth, Good will to Men! These thoughts flash thru the mind of the writer as the driving force of "things to be done" is temporarily forgotten and thoughts are attuned to the contemplation of qualities which may be expressed by all loyal students. On the Eve of this Christmas time, as an Institution, we have suffered a great loss. We are still in the first realization of it. But it is helpful to remember that sorrow invariably elevates fine natures, because it forces them to throw off the sham and turn wholeheartedly to the real. Pettiness drops off like a worn-out garment.

Facing the facts, we know that our own beloved friend and teacher has only passed from our sight. He is not dead, but he has gone on to greater fields of activity. While in the flesh, his heart was in this school, and one cannot help but feel he is still watching its progress. Mr. Egbert's dream for our Alma Mater, which he glimpsed while a student in the Royal Hochschule in Berlin in 1891 is not fully realized. The task of making this dream come to its fullest development is no longer his. The work of W. Grant Egbert is done, and his confidence in our ability to "carry on" and complete the task which he so bravely started thirty-six years ago shall not be abused. His influence is still with us.

Having listened to the recital of his hopes for this school, many, many times during ten years association with him I have come to know how much he expected from us in a progressive and cooperative way. May this Christmas Tide and all it means so fill our hearts and minds with genuine kindness, that petty criticism of every sort shall be no more. Then and then only shall we be following our Founder in the fulfilling of his ambition for this truly remarkable affiliation of schools.

May your Christmas be such a joyous one that wherever you go, you will increase the happiness of those with whom you come in contact.

GERTRUDE EVANS, '22

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WILLIAMS SCHOOL NOTES

Miss Clarice Gage gave a program of readings in Spencer, New York, Tuesday evening, December 11 at the Spencer Ro-Ki Club.

President George C. Williams gave a very interesting account of his travels abroad in Assembly, Thursday morning, December 6th. The talk was entertaining as well as informative due to the humorous incidents, unusual happenings, and the short introductory poem Mr. Williams gave.

Miss Louise Lippincott, who has been ill in the the infirmary for the past week due to a severe cold, is rapidly recovering and is now able to resume her studies.

Miss Helen Brennan is at home because of a cold.

Last Thursday evening, Miss Isabel Glass gave a series of readings in a concert with Mrs. H. B. Potter at Hornell, New York.

ASSEMBLY

On the Thursday morning after vacation, January 10, the address at our Assembly will be given by Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, the Home Economist at Cornell University. She is also Associate Editor of the Delineator. In 1923 Miss Van Rensselaer was elected as one of the 12 greatest women in the United States by the Committee appointed by the National league of Women Voters.

Geraldine Seybert spent last week-end in Elmira.

Pauline Beere expects to spend part of her Christmas vacation in Cleveland, Ohio and Eleanor Leonard will spend hers in Glens Falls, N. Y.

SINFONIA FRATERNITY Phi Mu Alpha

It is with great feeling that Delta Chapter mourns the loss of Brother W. Grant Egbert. He was a Charter member of Delta, an ardent supporter and a great factor in the doings of the Chapter.

President Nettleton, and Brother Gelder will spend part of the vacation recess in Chicago where the National Convention is being held. They are anticipating a pleasant trip and incidentally meeting Phi Mu men from all parts of the country.

The Rainbow Men, under the management of Brother Lester Brown will spend the vacation touring Southern Pennsylvania. They have a full schedule and the boys are primed for the trip.

The Happy Hour Club has removed its meeting place to the Temple where we are entertained by our own Roger Schwartz at the organ.

The following men were pledged to Phi Mu Alpha Sunday night: Payne, Watson, Davis, Pettigrove, Latham.

O—GO—S

Last Tuesday night the Outside Girls assembled in the Club Room for the Christmas party we had been looking forward to so long. The decorations were very attractive and were effective in creating an atmosphere of gaiety. The earlier part of the evening was spent in dancing; later we gathered around the brilliantly lighted Christmas tree and received the presents which Santa had been so good to leave for us. Then we enjoyed dainty sandwiches, hot-chocolate, popcorn and fudge. Everyone had lots of pep and voted our first party a huge success. A great deal of credit is due to the different committees who put forth every effort to make this gathering interesting and enjoyable.

MARTIN HALL

Last Friday, Dr. Barrows, the Assistant State Medical director paid us a visit. He is much interested in our work and predicts that the future will see more speech work being done in the schools.

Last Thursday Miss Kay Hawkes, one of our Normal Students, was taken to the Memorial Hospital where she was operated on for appendicitis. You will be glad to know that she is recovering satisfactorily.

Some Wednesday evening when you just can't practice that flute or saxophone, come over to the Gym and watch the boys of Martin Hall play basketball. We can assure you of a good laugh. We think we have developed the game to the extent where we do not need rules.

Next week we all hope to go home and have a delightful vacation. We wish a very Merry Christmas to the whole Conservatory.

AMARDS ANNUAL TWELFTH NIGHT REVELS TO-NIGHT

The annual "Twelfth Night Revels" of the Amard Dramatic Fraternity will be held to-night in the Dutch Kitchen of the Ithaca Hotel at seven o'clock.

The Merry Carollers clad in gay costumes of the time of good Queen Bess will visit all the dormitories during the dinner hour singing Christmas carolls after which they will repair to the Dutch Kitchen where the banquet will take place. Dancing will be held from ten till twelve. Mr. Williams, the founder of the Amards will act as Master of the Revels.

A goodly number of old Amards are expected back for this annual affair which is a fitting close to a highly successful term of Amard activities.

PHY ED NEWS

The big season of football and Field Hockey is over for the Phy. Eds., and so are the long walks to Percy Field.

Our new athletic sport is track, under the supervision of the well known Cornell coach, Mr. John Moakley.

Track for both women and men is becoming more and more popular in the field of Physical Education, and we are fortunate to have such a person as Mr. Moakley to teach us the fundamentals of this sport.

Excitement was at its height at the I. S. P. E., when Dr. Sharpe returned.

The whole student body met in the balcony and a hearty welcome was given him.

Mr. Mate and Mr. MacIntosh led a cheer with such pep and enthusiasm that the building seemed to shake. The one hundred and twenty-five students of the school made more noise than the three thousand at a Cornell football game.

Dr. Sharpe complimented the cheer leaders, and students on their spirit, was pleased with the reports of the school.

He gave a short address on his experiences at Washington University. He stated that Washington U. lacked spirit, and he explained that this was due to the fact that a dormitory system did not exist there. Most of the students at Washington University are residents of St. Louis, and because of this, they do not get the close relationship and spirit which the dormitory system gives the students.

Miss Schramm and Miss Chickering wrote a song, to the tune of "Smiles," in honor of Dr. Sharpe, which he appreciated very much.

The frosh have a fine basketball team this year. Their uniforms are bright enough to put ginger in any team.

The Collegians have put in some hard practice periods of late, and they are all set to run up some high scores in the future.

The Phi Delta Pi Fraternity, Egbert Hall, and the Outside Girls have organized basketball teams. These teams have starring players and we hope to see some keen rivalry.

Miss Anne Safford is coaching the Ithaca High School Girls' Basketball team this year. Miss Safford has great ability along this line, and with her able coaching, the High School team is favored to win the Southern Tier Championship.

EGBERT HALL

Egbert Hall had its formal house dance last Friday evening. Ribboned tinsel over pink and blue crepe streamers made our hall very attractive. Contrary to the superstition concerning the number "13" the thirteen couples present all seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

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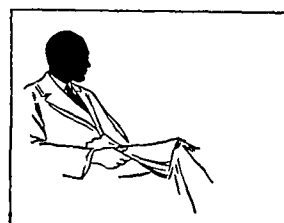
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