

## Fiftieth Annual Presentation of Oratorio Recalls First Rendition

**Augie Presents "Messiah" for First Time in April of Year 1881.**

When Dr. O. Olsson left Rock Island in 1879 for a trip in Europe probably no-one knew what far-reaching effects that trip would have on the musical history of Augustana, of the tri-cities, and of the Middle West. A study of the history of the Handel Oratorio society reveals an interesting story.

Dr. Olsson was a great lover of music and was a thoroughly trained musician in his own right. Therefore, when in London on this European trip of 1879, he did not miss the opportunity of hearing a performance of George Friedrich Handel's oratorio "The Messiah" at the Crystal palace. His letters from London reveal the great inspiration he received at this rendition. In one he wrote "There is more Christianity in 'The Messiah' than in numerous heavy volumes on Theology." Upon his return to Rock Island he zealously worked for the organization of a society which should present "The Messiah," and in 1880 the Handel Oratorio society was founded. It is interesting to note here, also, that at this time the college orchestra was started, for the purpose of accompanying "The Messiah" performances. Now, after a lapse of some years, the college orchestra will again play for "The Messiah" at the fiftieth annual performance at Augustana college. In April of 1881 "The Messiah" was presented in Moline and Rock Island for the first time in this section of the Middle West. The following year Carl Swensson of Bethany college borrowed the chorus and music and directed a performance at Lindsborg. In succeeding years the Oratorio society was invited to give "The Messiah" in Omaha, Minneapolis, and in numerous Iowa towns. Thus "The Messiah," with its profound Christian message, became heard in all parts of the Middle West.

Probably thousands of people are indebted to Dr. Olsson for the privilege of hearing "The Messiah" and of receiving inspiration from it, due to his enthusiastic pioneer work in 1879 and 1880. Proof of the good of his work is found in the fact that "The Messiah" has been presented every year since, and will be presented for many years to come.

### AUGIE ORCHESTRA TO PLAY FOR "MESSIAH"

Last Monday evening the Augustana college orchestra rehearsed with the Oratorio society chorus which will sing in the presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at Augustana on Dec. 6. Great satisfaction was expressed by various auditors. In previous years the Messiah Orchestra has been wholly recruited from sources outside the institution. This year the plan is to use about ten members of the college orchestra as a nucleus for the "Messiah" orchestra and to fill the necessary number by procuring talent from outside the school. Those members of the college who will play at the "Messiah" performance are Frederick Swanson, Clara Florin, Rachel Branticon, Francis Sackville, Ray Anerill, Leona Peterson, Mabel Peterson, violins, Erland Borg, bassoon, Elenor Krebs, cello, and Harry Olson, cornet. They are rehearsing twice a week in preparation for the concert.

### AUGIE WOMEN ARE INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT SUNDAY

Miss Lydia Olsson of Rock Island, assistant librarian at Denkmann Memorial library, Augustana college, and Grace Stevens of Rock Island, a student in the Augustana academy, are in the Lutheran hospital, Moline, suffering from injuries received last Sunday morning at 11:45 when an automobile, after a collision with another machine at the corner of Forty-third street and Seventh avenue, bounded over the curb and struck them as they were returning from St. John's Lutheran church.

Miss Olsson, besides minor injuries, received a deep scalp wound and suffers from a general nervous condition caused by the shock. Miss Stevens was caught between the fender of the car and a water hydrant, according to her mother, Mrs. Clarence Norquist of 3922 Eighth avenue, Rock Island. She incurred injuries to her right side and thigh and a deep cut on one knee. Both are being attended by Dr. Joseph de Silva of Rock Island, and their condition is im-

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## Geology Department Exhibits Bone of Prehistoric Elephant

**Well Preserved Fossil Found in Peat Bog Near Geneseo.**

An enormous leg bone of a prehistoric elephant, recently unearthed near Geneseo by Mr. Fred H. Wills of that city, has been loaned to the Augustana department of geology for an indefinite period, as a paleontological specimen.

The bone was turned up by the Wills Construction Company, during the excavation of the Big Slough drainage Canal through a peat bog six miles northeast of Geneseo. It was scooped up by a steam shovel, and discovered by the operator, who carefully removed it and turned it over to his employer, Mr. Wills.

The fossil was brought to Augustana by Dr. Fryxell, who will

treat it in the manner necessary for the preservation of fossils which have been exposed to the air, and exhibit it in the geology laboratory, along with the many valuable fossils owned by the department. Mr. Wills has agreed to lend the fossil to the department for an indefinite period, and to give the college first option on the relic in event he should decide to sell it later.

The bone is forty-two inches long. Its minimum circumference is nineteen inches; its maximum, thirty-one. It is intact except for a chip which has long been missing at one end, and a scar from the steam shovel. Dr. Fryxell considers it unlikely that other bones of the same animal will be found, since large prehistoric skeletons were usually widely scattered, separate bones being carried away by streams.

### SPEEDS GIVE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING TEA

The Speeds held their annual benefit tea Wednesday afternoon in the reception room of the girls' new dormitory, the hours being from three until six.

Table appointments and refreshments carried out the Thanksgiving idea. During the afternoon hours vocal and piano selections were given by Esther Hall and Maxine Anderson.

The proceeds of the tea will be added to the fund for furnishing the Speed room in the girls' new dormitory.

### MEMBERS OF AUGIE VARSITY DEBATING TEAMS ARE CHOSEN

**Women's and Men's Squads Are Chosen Nov. 13, 14 Respectively.**

Students have been selected for membership on the Augustana women's and men's varsity debating squads, as a result of try-outs held last week.

Trials for the women were held in the lecture room of the Denkmann Memorial library Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 13, while the men met last Thursday evening. Judges for the debates were Prof. A. F. Schersten, men's debate coach; Prof. A. F. Gustafson, English instructor; and Sigfrid Engstrom, co-ed debate coach.

The subject this year for the women's debate in the Illinois Intercollegiate Debate league is, "Resolved, that chain stores are detrimental to the community."

The question for debate among the men's teams of the State league is "Resolved, that the United States should ultimately adopt a policy of national disarmament."

Of the women's squad, Linnea Carlson, of Reed City, Mich., and Irene Crossell, of Tampico, were varsity debaters last year. Those selected to complete the squad were Margaret Edwins, of Hankow, China; Marie Hankla, Margaret Swanson and Rowena Odenweller, all of Moline; Eileen McCarthy, of Davenport, and Dorothy Harder of Rock Island.

Howard Colson and Paul Schweibert, both of Moline, were members of last years teams and form the nucleus for the men's teams this season. Members of the House of Representatives organized two four-man teams and held their try-out in the form of a debate. Two other men from the college also gave five minute speeches. Those who were selected for the debate squad are William Berg, of Tustin, Mich.; Martin Ringstrom, of Bertrand, Neb.; Emmett Tomm and Roy Anderson both of Iron Mountain, Mich.; and Harry Gersick and William Herman, both of Rock Island.

The men will meet the following colleges of the Illinois Intercollegiate Debate league: Lombard, Loyola, Monmouth, Mt. Morris, Illinois Normal university, North Central, St. Viator, and Wheaton.

### SCIENCE CLUB TO HOLD MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT

A group of geology students will entertain the Science club at its meeting next Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 5:00 o'clock. Their topic, "Byrd's Antarctic Expedition," should prove very interesting to all who take the opportunity of attending the meeting.

## Students of Ten Seminaries Will Attend Conference at Augustana

**WOMAN'S CLUB PARTY PROVES HUGE SUCCESS**

The Turkey-Time party held by the Augie Woman's club last Friday evening in the girls' dormitory was enjoyed by about forty co-eds. The party was very novel in that the "old-fashioned" idea was carried out during the entire affair. All the girls were dressed in costumes which were in vogue during their grandmother's youth, old-time songs were sung and old-fashioned games were played.

Margaret Swanson, senior from Moline, was awarded the prize for the best costume, and during the games a prize was awarded to Esther Swenson.

After the social hour a Thanksgiving luncheon was served by Millicent Dahlsten, senior from Rock Island, and Evodia Hult, freshman from Portland, Ore.

An interesting feature of the evening was the reading of a letter which was sent to the Woman's club by Mrs. Andreen while she was in Jerusalem recently.

### GOOD ATTENDANCE IS FORECAST FOR PLAYS TOMORROW EVENING

Tickets for the four one-act plays to be presented by the department of oral expression in the college chapel tomorrow evening are going fast, according to Henry Stanley, senior of Rock Island and business manager of the production. "The demand for reserved seats is especially great," says Stanley, "but there are still a number of choice places left."

The plays to be presented—"Confessional," "Toast and Tea," "Afterwards," and "A Likely Story"—are much varied in content and contain highly entertaining elements of pathos, comedy, love, and tragedy. The casts are composed of students of the department, many of whom are experienced amateur actors. Final dress rehearsals are being held tonight, with the assurance that everything will be properly prepared for the opening curtain tomorrow evening.

The plays are under the direction of Miss Iva C. Pearce, head of the department, with Lowell Dunavin, junior of Rock Island, as stage manager, and Theodore Moberg, senior of Aledo, as property manager.

## Pugs, Gabs, Local Fraternities, Gain Prominence on Campus

**Social Fellowship, Augie Spirit Are Main Ideals of Pug Group.**

Ku Klux Klan rule prevailed for a short while at Augustana back in 1916, although there is no record of any fiery crosses, Grand Keagles, or midnight lynchings, or any other bad effects. It is probable that not even any of the dormitory sheets disappeared—for the local K. K. K. was merely a group of fellows with common interests who had formed a social club.

Not long afterward they adopted the Greek letters Pi Upsilon Gamma, since the Klan did not have a very savory reputation at the time. The initials of the Greek letters suggested the word

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**Sessions to Occupy Three Days Beginning Friday, Nov. 29.**

At least ten Lutheran seminaries of the United States and Canada will be represented at the Lutheran Inter-Synodical Seminary conference, sponsored by the Concordia society of the Augustana seminary, which will be held on Zion hill, Nov. 29, 30, and Dec. 1. The sessions of this conference will be open to anyone interested.

This conference will be the first gathering of its kind ever held for students of the various Lutheran seminaries, and is planned with the hope that it will promote harmony, coöperation, and friendly understanding among the instructors and students of the various institutions.

The conference will open Friday morning, at 9:30 o'clock, when Dr. Paul Buehring of Capital university, Columbus, Ohio, will speak on the subject, "The Growth, Power, and Influence of the Lutheran Church." For the afternoon's activities, a sightseeing trip about the tri-cities has been arranged for the visitors.

The only closed session of the convention will be the fellowship banquet, Friday evening, at the Fort Armstrong hotel, Rock Island. For this occasion the committee has secured as its speaker Dr. E. E. Flack, Hamma Divinity school, Springfield, Ohio, whose message will be centered about the topic "The Lutheran Church and World Evangelism." In addition to this address an elaborate toast program has been arranged, with greetings from all the seminaries represented.

The executive director of the National Lutheran Council, Dr. J. A. Morehead, whose headquarters are located in New York city, and who for years has been active with all Lutheran bodies, will feature the Saturday morning program in his address on "Lutheran World Consciousness as Expressed in the Two World Conventions of Eisenach and Copenhagen."

"Contributions of the Lutheran Church to American Life, Literature, and Culture" will be the theme of the opening presentation, Saturday afternoon, by Dr. G. M. Bruce, Luther seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Dr. S. G. Young-

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**Membership of Gab Fraternity Totals 120; Includes Many Prominent Alumni.**

Gamma Alpha Beta was organized in 1917, with seven charter members, "in order to promote the spirit of brotherhood among those students of Augustana college desirous of enjoying the benefits of congenial social companionship; in order to provide for social activities; and in order to foster the true 'Augie Spirit.'" Several of those charter members are still known to Augustana students, among these being Prof. C. A. Fryxell, associate professor of economics and commerce at Augustana, and Dr. Paul Youngberg, campus physician for men. A third charter member in the

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