

Dalhousie Gazette

Founded 1869 "THE OLDEST COLLEGE PAPER IN AMERICA"

EDITOR'S NOTE: This special edition of the Gazette, published in the interests of the Delta Gamma Society, consists in large part of contribution from the female population of Dalhousie.

Elizabeth Reeves and Mary Macdonald deserve special mention for their initiative and enthusiasm as co-directors of the undertaking, as do Marg Morrison, Connie Archibald, Nita Sederis, Marg Leonard and Joyce Sawler who lent time and talent in the preparation of this issue. Copy editing, page lay-outs, circulation and proof-reading was done by the regular Gazette Staff.

J. C. McL.

DELTA GAMMA IN EVOLUTION

Delta Gamma is one of the major societies of the campus, having grown from a small society of many years ago. Yes, Delta Gamma had its beginning about half a century ago, as found in an October issue of the Dalhousie Gazette in 1889:

"For a long time the girls of Dalhousie have felt the need of a society in which they might read and discuss subjects of general interest. It was formed Friday, Sept. 29, and was called the Delta Gamma Society of Dalhousie University. The first meeting was held on Oct. 7, 1889. The meeting was fortnightly and the only interest was debating."

In a 1900 edition of The Gazette is found this information: "The first Science meeting of the Delta Gamma Society was held at Mrs. Forrest's, Spring Garden Road, where Miss M. A. O'Brien gave an interesting talk on 'The History of Anatomy'."

In 1911, the Gazette in an account of Delta Gamma states that "the purpose of the society is two-fold—first, literary, and secondly, to fulfill a social need."

Today we take the Sadie Hawkins Dance for granted and regard it as one of the "big" dances of the year, but apparently there was a time when such was not the case, as a 1920 Gazette indicates:

"The latest news from the Council chambers makes one believe that Delta Gamma's dance will be included as one of the eight official dances of the year."

Beginning in the '30's there was a growing lack of interest in Delta Gamma and finally in '36, "owing to the fact that this society was gradually dying and that its former purpose has been outgrown, this year Delta Gamma ceased to function in its original capacity. The society was formed for debating only. Henceforth Delta Gamma will be a debating society."

However, in 1938, due to the impetus of enthusiastic freshmen, Delta Gamma came back to life. '38 Pharos says: "Instead of the annual tea dance in November an informal dance was held at Shirreff Hall which was one of the most successful in Delta Gamma's history." Thus Delta Gamma has inaugurated open Saturday night at Shirreff Hall.

Today Delta Gamma sponsors and is responsible for most of the girls' activities on the campus—debating, athletics, dramatics, social and war work. The purpose of the society is to make available to all its members a variety of those activities best suited to complement an academic life. Herein lies the value of Delta Gamma—the woman's society of Dalhousie.

Thomas Raddall Interviewed by Gazette Staff Writer

Novelist Gives Frank Answers to Questions

by NITA SIDERIS

Everyone, even a college student, has his own ideas of the post-war world, but few merit the attention that do those of Thomas H. Raddall, well-known author of such noted books as "His Majesty's Yankees", "Roger Sudden", etc. In an interview this week, Mr. Raddall, now residing in Liverpool, N. S., gave us the following comment:

"I am an optimist about the post-war period. Apart from some weird political theories, and notwithstanding the Depression, the world made more progress in the 20 years after the 1914-18 war than in the 20 years before it—in art, science, production, standard of living, everything. War is destructive, but it stimulates men's minds for the work of reconstruction, and that stimulus is powerful and long-lasting; there is a follow-through that lifts the world by its own bootstraps. For six years millions of young men have been dreaming of a better world. What can come of that but good?"

Educated in Halifax

Warning us that answers to most questions would be brief because he didn't intend to write an autobiography for at least another 20 years, Mr. Raddall proceeded to tell us about himself. He was born (an untold number of years ago) at Hythe, England, and at six years entered St. Leonard's Boys' School there; left at nine years when his family moved to Halifax, N. S. Here he entered Chebucto School and the old Academy, which he left to enlist in 1918.

He became a wireless operator and served on various Canadian ships, ranging from a transport to a 2500-ton tramp "The greater part of the time," said Mr. Raddall, "was spent at sea, with such ports of call as London, the Azores, New York, Boston, and so on."

Back-ground For Novels

Mr. Raddall was then asked if writing had always been his great ambition.

"I had a vague ambition to write," he said, "from the time I went to sea, but I did nothing much about it until I married in 1927 when I discovered that two cannot live as cheaply as one." (He now has two children, a boy aged 10, and a girl, aged 8.)

"I had become greatly interested in the people of Queen's County and their story and it occurred to me that I might satisfy my literary instincts and at the same time earn a little extra cash by writing for magazines.

"For 10 years it was simply a useful hobby. By 1938 my tales in Blackwood's Magazine had received such favorable comment from people whose opinion I valued that I threw up my job as accountant and devoted my time to writing."

His first short story, a tale of Sable Island, had been bought by MacLean's Magazine in 1928.

The next question was "What do you consider your best piece of writing?"

"My novel, 'His Majesty's Yankees', fruit of ten years of research, is my most serious piece of work. Of my short stories I like 'Blind McNair' best."

The next question boldly put forth was whether the greater part of his "fan mail" was from men or from women.

"My 'fan mail' seems to be divided equally between men and women; perhaps the women write more—I'm not sure."

"Who do you consider the three most interesting of prominent, modern-day women?"

"Madame Chiang Kai Shek, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Katharine Hepburn—but as a personality, not as an actress."

"If you could meet any three people who have ever lived, whom would you choose?"

"What a question! Well, I should like to meet Napoleon, I suppose, because I was born in the army and learned to walk in a barrack square, and he was the greatest soldier ever. And I'd like to meet Shakespeare to see how he worked and where he got his material. But, most of all, I'd like to meet Jesus Christ, to feel for myself the inspiration of his personality. I don't say this out of piety, for in the ordinary sense I'm not a bit religious; but to hold speech with such a man must have been a marvellous experience."

"Who is your most unforgettable character?"

"My father. He was killed while leading the Winnipeg Rifles at Amiens in the last war."

Getting personal, we then asked Mr. Raddall what he considered his outstanding characteristic.

Good, Bad Characteristics

"I suppose my outstanding characteristic is stubbornness, a bad trait in many ways, but it has carried me over many difficulties. Apart from that, an abiding curiosity about people and the reasons why they do the things they do."

"What do you consider your most favorable characteristic?"

"The abiding curiosity, probably. How should I know?"

"What is your worst fault?"

"My worst fault I asked my wife (who should know), but she refuses to decide. There are so many."

"What are your pet hates?"

"I have a number of pet hates. Who hasn't? I love music but hate opera. I hate books in dialect, and people who talk in theatres, and spaghetti and cheese, and people who phone when I'm writing, and Sundays in Halifax. Quite often I hate myself."

"What is your favorite food?"

"My notion of the perfect dish is lobster chowder."

"Do you smoke?"

"I smoke continually; pipe, cigarettes, and cigars—when I can get them."

"As a boy, did you like to read very much?"

Voracious Reader

"I have been a voracious reader from boyhood. I think I began with 'Buffalo Bill', whose adventures sold at a penny an instalment. I liked Ballantyne, Cooper, Henty, Mayne Reid, Marryat, Stevenson. A much-travelled road and a good one. I still admire the skill with which my father led me along it. His one mistake was Dickens, whose works (apart from 'A Tale of Two Cities') I considered—and still consider—a lot of balderdash. Now I find Ballantyne dull, Cooper absurd, and Henty preposterous, but Reid, Marryat and Stevenson hold their charm."

"I still consider Sherlock Holmes the only detective worth reading about. The modern mystery story leaves me cold. There is too much mystery and not enough story. I'm aware that many people read them because they like to puzzle their wits; but in that case why not play chess?"

How about it Why not?

Taking Pharos Pics Sunday In Gym

All group pictures for Pharos will be taken Sunday, in the Gym at 4.30. Included are Football team, Basketball teams (boys and girls), Ground Hockey, Hockey, and the Executives of the Law, Engineering, and Medical Societies.

Classes watch for notice concerning class pictures.

CHORISTERS NEEDED

The Dalhousie Glee Club Chorus will participate in a variety show being held March 23 and 24 in the Dal Gymnasium under the auspices of the Halifax Youth Council.

Additional members for the chorus are urgently needed. Rehearsal and tryouts, Sunday, 2.30 in gymnasium.

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HAPPENINGS —

(Continued from page 1)

In Federal politics Mr. Fraser said his party would support closer relations to England, and he condemned the C.C.F. as an anti-British party. "The Liberal party will lean first to the U.S.A.," he said, and this attitude was likewise condemned.

He said that wholesale condemnation of the B.N.A. Act was not justifiable. "In spirit the B.N.A. Act does not sanction measures which would foster discontent." But, he went on to say, economic and social conditions had changed since its enactment, and because of this certain

aspects would have to be modified.

Provincial Program

In provincial fields he said that Nova Scotia's future would remain blighted as long as the present unfriendly, disinterested powers continued in Ottawa.

The four steps the Progressive Conservative party would institute to correct our "horse and buggy stage" education are:

- (1) Support a Minister of Education.
- (2) Increase teachers' salaries.
- (3) Establish Vocational Schools.
- (4) Afford equal educational opportunity for all Nova Scotian youth.

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