

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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TREE PLANTING FOR MRS. ELLIOTT

On October 18, our distinguished president, Mrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, was honored anew by her fellow citizens. A tree in the Honor Grove in Central Park was dedicated to her in the presence of several hundred of her friends.

The Honor Grove, situated in the west section of Central Park near 81st Street, was founded by Mrs. William Albert Lewis, and now has forty-two trees, among which are those planted in honor of former Governor Alfred E. Smith, General P. Summerall, and Commander Byrd, whose tree, an oak, is adjacent to Mrs. Elliott's. The distinctive purpose of the Grove is to render honor to those prominent in civic or philanthropic work while they and their friends are still living.

It is significant that the speakers of the occasion, whose subjects were the merits of Mrs. Elliott, were all people of well known discernment. All remarked on Mrs. Elliott's nine years as Trustee of Hunter College, on her four terms as President of the Associate Alumnae, and on her work in the realization of the dream of new buildings for Hunter College.

Dr. James M. Kieran, President of Hunter College, was a simply swell (our editor is at liberty to substitute another word) opening speaker. He said, "If you don't know Mrs. Elliott, you ought to hasten to remedy the defect. She's good—able—kindly—honest—diligent. We of Hunter College esteem her very highly. We point to Mrs. Elliott as one of our graduates who have contributed of their life, of their substance, without thought of self. My hope is that this tree will drive its roots down deep into the soil and long remain as an emblem of her who is honored to-day."

Mrs. Gustave Gordon Schick, who presented Mrs. Elliott's name as one which deserved to be represented in the Grove, was the next to pay a tribute. She spoke of the dedication of the tree as "an honor she (Mrs. Elliott) richly deserves for years of service in the educational work of the city" as Trustee of Hunter College, President of the Associate Alumnae, and Chairman of the New Building Committee. "The elm with its wide-spreading branches," said Mrs. Schick, "is symbolic of her wide-spreading influence."

Mrs. Otto Hahn, our Vice-President, representing the Associate Alumnae, said in part, "Every year brings to the heart of a tree a new ring; so every year a new circle of loyal alumnae revolves around our Presi-

dent. This loving growing band rejoices in every honor which she acquires, as when a western college conferred upon her a master's degree; but we know what counts most with Marion Elliott is the appreciation she receives right here in the city of her ancestors; the assurance that we bring to her that in each successive administration she has welded together in closer, more loving contact, with more productive results, in united service to our College and our City, the long line of graduates of three-score years."

Dr. Harry P. Swift, of the Board of Trustees, speaking of Mrs. Elliott in her capacity as trustee, declared, "In spite of her many outside activities she always has time for Hunter College. No matter what work is assigned her, she always does it in the most efficient, quick manner. Practical things she has done will always be remembered. She was the first to make the suggestion to move Hunter College to Jerome Parkway."

Professor Blanche Colton Williams spun a clever little phantasy. In Robin Hood's day, Maid Marian chose as the tree symbolic of herself the elm, graceful, early-budded, growing rapidly, sound at heart. Many years later when the tree was to be cut down, the woodcutter prophesied, "Other elms shall arise under brighter western skies for another Marian." Professor Williams said that Marion Rhoads Elliott was rooted in Manhattan even as the elm was rooted, for she had served the city all her life; and turning, the speaker hailed this Marion of Modern Days as "Marion of Manhattan."

The last speaker, District Attorney Thomas C. T. Crain, gave the dedicatory address. He said that he could not "imagine a more splendid tribute that could be paid to any one than to have a tree in the honor grove. There is something about a tree emblematic of beauty, of the power to help, succor, and sustain. There is nothing more emblematic of the life and work of Mrs. Elliott than a tree."

Finally, Mrs. Elliott made a short speech of acceptance, declaring, "The memory of these exercises and the recollection of this honor will inspire me to greater efforts."

As soil was cast upon the roots of the elm by many hands, including those of Messrs. Maxwell Hall Elliott, Senior and Junior, a number of Hunter undergraduates in cap and gown sang *Fame*. Mrs. Lewis attached the name plate to the tree and recited these lines by Van Dyke:

"Thou hast lived before, live after me,
Thou ancient, friendly, faithful tree."

SUE MOSKOWITZ

HARVEST HOME

"Summer's green all girded up in sheaves"

In *Harvest Home* Helen Gray Cone has given us her final selections from five volumes of verse, published between 1885 and 1919. The publication of these poems must be greeted with keen interest not only by the innumerable friends and admirers of Hunter's beloved poet and teacher, but also by all lovers of the art that "lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world."

The suggestive title strikes the keynote of a collection rich in "mellow fruitfulness". The book opens fittingly with the well-known *The Common Street*, verses which proclaim an ardent love of humanity, and rises to a climax in closing with the noble *The Coat without a Seam*, uplifted by its strong moral fervor and lofty expression of the poet's faith in the ultimate destiny of man. This note is sounded again and again in the various poems comprising the collection, most poignantly, perhaps, in *Intimations* and in *The Way of the White Souls*, the lovely lines in memory of Joyce Kilmer. Closely bound up with the love of Man and the hope for universal Brotherhood is Miss Cone's hatred of war, which has motivated some of her most stirring lines.

The love of Nature pervades the poet's work, most exquisitely expressed in the colorful *The Going Out of the Tide* tenderly whimsical *The Spring Beauties*, *The Dandelions*, and *Pale Sunset*, and in the muted beauty of *A Mystery*.

One can not think of Helen Gray Cone, Emeritus Professor of English, without associating with her the wealth of the great literature she loves and taught so many to love. *Harvest Home* includes poems inspired by "worshipful Shakespeare of Stratford town", by Keats, "young priest of Beauty", "old Chaucer", and other writers of England. Nowhere is the passion for the glories of England's past so powerfully revealed as in the immortal *A Chant of Love for England*. None can fail to be moved by the challenge of such ringing lines as:

"Glory of thought and glory of deed,
 Glory of Hampden and Runnymede;
 Glory of ships that sought far goals,
 Glory of swords and glory of souls!
 Glory of songs mounting as birds,
 Glory immortal of magical
 Glory of Milton, glory of Nelson,
 Tragical glory of Gordon and Scott;
 Glory of Shelley, glory of Sidney,
 Glory transcendent that perishes not,—
 Hers is the story, hers be the glory,
 England!"

To those who know the poetry of Helen Gray Cone it were idle to comment on the perfection of workmanship of these poems, on her gift of swift, singing verse, on the clear beauty and magic of her language, on the freshness of her imagery. To those who have yet to make our poet's acquaintance, *Harvest Home* will prove a most delightful

introduction. The many readers who know and love the verses published in *Oberon and Puck*, *The Ride to the Lady*, *Soldiers of the Light*, *A Chant of Love for England*, and *The Coat without a Seam* will welcome the author's selections from these earlier volumes. In the sheaves Miss Cone has gathered, we are rejoiced by her sure mastery of form, the clarity of thought and intensity of emotion expressed in her exquisitely patterned language.

EMMA K. TEMPLE

HARVEST HOME, Selected Poems of Helen Gray Cone, New York, The Knickerbocker Press, 1930.

GRADUATE GLEANINGS

Ethel Ericson, 1917, has had a book of original verse published this summer in England. The book, which is called "Cape Cod Woman and Other Poems", is on sale at all the Brentano Shops at \$1.50 a copy.

Ruth Heimoff of the Class of June 1929 and Theodore J. Richter, New York University, were married on June 3, 1930. Their new address is 725 Riverside Drive, New York City.

On June 3, 1930, Beatrice Schapiro, Hunter June '28, married Sidney Lechner, City College June '27, Columbia June '28, University of Maryland Medical School June '32.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Russell are the parents of a daughter, Jeanne Evelyn, born October 2, 1930. Mrs. Russell was Elsie Nickles, 1929.

IN MEMORIAM

The summer of 1930 has been a most unhappy one for the Class of 1904. The sudden death of our classmate, Elizabeth Eager, has brought an irreparable loss to us all.

Miss Eager has been one of our most loyal and faithful members. Her spirit of willingness, of cheerful service, and of devotion to the interests of both her class and the Alumnae Association, has been and always will be an inspiration to all who were privileged to know her. She has passed on into a larger life, but she has left behind in all our hearts a beautiful memory that will abide with us always, to bless and strengthen all our lives.

We wish also to extend our heartfelt sympathy to our dear classmate, Mrs. Anita Ansbacher, in the death of her husband, Dr. S. Ansbacher.

If our loving thoughts can do anything to ease the sorrow and pain which has come to Mrs. Ansbacher and Mrs. Eager, may we extend to them both the hand of loving fellowship and sympathy.

BELLE DAVIDSON