

# 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