

Glee Club Concert in '95 Had Audience of Janitor and Friend

The Glee Club of the University of Missouri, which recently ended its annual trip, has been a living organization in the University since 1899 and was organized by Mrs. J. C. Jones, wife of the president of the University. This bit of news was picked up the other day in a conversation with one who was a member of the club at the time of its organization and who had attended the concert given by the Glee Club in the University Auditorium under the direction of Prof. Hermann Almstedt.

But the trials of the club have been many. A glee club was organized in 1894 and existed for two years. A trip through Kansas, after Missouri had defeated the Jayhawkers in football in the fall of 1895, caused the downfall of the organization. The financial strain of that trip was too much, and the members of the club did well to get back to Columbia. George H. English, now an attorney in Kansas City, a student in the University at that time, was leader of the club.

No large audiences, such as greeted the Glee Club on its recent tour, were in evidence on that trip. At one town in Kansas the janitor of the building in which the concert was held and a friend comprised the audience. There were other small audiences present on that tour, but none that compared to that.

The club disbanded on the return to Columbia, and there was no musical organization in the University from then until the fall of 1898, when Mrs. Jones organized the University Choral Union, composed of students, professors and citizens of Columbia interested in music. There was no music department in the University at that time, the choral union having been the incentive to foster music in the University and in Columbia.

The following fall, the Men's Glee Club was organized by Mrs. Jones, it having been an outgrowth of the choral union, and was composed solely of men attending the University. It has been in continuous organization since then. Mrs. Jones directed the club for about two years.

One of the outstanding features of the first program given by the Glee Club was the fact that the resurrected words of "Old Missouri" were sung to open and close the program.

Missouri's song was written by Prof. George A. Wauchope, professor in the English department, in 1894, in response to a request of the glee club for a song truly representative of the University.

However, when the club disbanded after the Kansas trip in 1895, the written words of the song were lost and it came into disuse.

When Mrs. Jones organized the club in 1899, "Old Missouri" was needed by the club—and needed badly. But no one could remember the words—and Professor Wauchope had left the University. So Mrs. Jones, Guy A. Thompson, now an attorney in St. Louis, and George H. English, now practicing law in Kansas City, the latter two students in the University, recalled the words from memory.

A program of the second performance given by the choral union in May, 1899, shows that there were 125 members, including a number who now live in Columbia: Soprano—Miss Madeline Branham, Miss Acena Booth, Mrs. J. S. Branham, Mrs. Mary H. McHune, Miss Cornelia Crumbaugh, Mrs. N. T. Gentry, Miss Lois Gribble, Mrs. L. E. Thompson, Mrs. R. Weeks, Miss Gertrude Ammerman, Mrs. G. S. Morse, Miss Bertha Cunningham, Mrs. J. N. Belcher, Mrs. Gertrude Conley, Miss Daisy Gordon, Miss Carrie Jesse, Miss Lavinia Lenior, Mrs. E. M. Price, Miss Margaret Sinclair, Mrs. C. B. Sebastian, Mrs. W. G. Brown, Miss Virgie Lipscomb, Mrs. W. R. Nifong, Miss Julia Burgess, Miss Roberta Hearne, Mrs. T. A. Ficklin, Miss Mary Jesse, Miss McGee, Mrs. J. H. Garth, Miss Margaret Trimble, Miss Lelia Willis, Miss Nellie Hall, Miss Ola Turner; tenor—H. Winfred Morgan, Dr. H. M. Belden, G. W. Hatcher, A. H. Welch, W. A. Vivion, C. W. Davis, Lloyd Jones, H. H. Broadhead, George H. English; contralto—Miss Ethel Allen, Miss Eva Johnston, Miss Lill Johnson, Miss Snowden Willis, Miss Mary Garth, Miss Kate Lonsdale, Miss Mary Inglehart, Miss Joy Fewsmith, Mrs. S. H. Baker, Miss Campbell, Miss Rosalia Gerig, Miss Lizzie Sweitzer; bass—B. F. Hoffman, Dr. J. Pickard, William F. Switzler, Jr., Dr. B. Munday, N. T. Gentry, R. N. McMillan, Jr.

The officers of the choral union were: President, Mrs. John Pickard; secretary, treasurer and business manager, H. W. Morgan; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary Garth; director, Mrs. J. C. Jones.

The artists listed in the program are: Soprano—Miss Ada Black of St. Louis; tenor, Joseph Buse, St. Louis.

Soloists listed are: Soprano—Miss Turner, Mrs. Sebastian and Mrs. Brown, Columbia; tenor, H. W. Morgan, Columbia; base—N. T. Gentry, Columbia.

Miss Gertrude Ammerman of Columbia was accompanist.