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Easom, Horace (Education & Music Minister)

Music Ministers, Organists, and Education
Ministers of First Baptist, Shelby

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The Shelby Daily Star, Feb. 11, 1963

Retirement Doesn't Slow Horace Easom Of Shelby

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story about Horace Easom of Shelby was featured on page 1 of the Jan. 24 edition of "Charity and Children," the newspaper of the Baptist children's homes of North Carolina, of which John Roberts, formerly of Gardner-Webb College, is editor.)

He has retired twice but still holds two regular jobs. His nights and weekends are filled months in advance with speaking and singing engagements, as he is much in demand throughout the state.

Who is this business tycoon and what is his business?

He is Horace Easom of Shelby and his varied career centers around the church. He ranks with the best among Southern Baptists as a church music and education director.

His many talents led him to several years of promotion and money raising and he topped off

40 years of denominational service with a stint as North Carolina Baptist Brotherhood secretary.

A MUSICIAN

"I'm a musician, of course," Easom booms in a jovial voice when asked his vocation. "I came to see as a college youth that the Lord had a place for me and my voice and I yielded to His leading." He readily agrees that church education has also been his life and he sees the two as equally vital ministries.

Horace Easom is beyond doubt one of North Carolina Baptists' best known laymen. He has preached, sung or spoken in more churches than most people have visited.

For 25 years a common comment in Baptist circles was, "Get Horace Easom; he can do it." This included everything from music to program planning and from committee work to fund raising. He did it with ability, organizational skill and an extra measure

of personal persuasion.

Easom's life has many highlights. Measured in terms of personal happiness he places at the top his 17 years as music and education director at First Church, Shelby, during the pastorate of Dr. Zeno Wall.

This service was in two terms; 1928 to 1934, and 1936 to 1947.

Another high point was his two years (the missing link in his Shelby service) as educational director at First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, when Dr. George W. Truett was pastor.

LED CAMPAIGN

Then there was the five-year period, 1947 to 1952, when he led the Wake Forest College Enlargement Campaign. This was an effort to raise \$1 million through the state's Baptist churches. He and his staff passed the goal with \$100,000 to spare.

In 1952 Easom became the first Brotherhood secretary for North

Carolina Baptists. The men's organization was not well known and convention officials decided to tack on an added responsibility as Baptist Foundation secretary.

In 1958 Easom retired, but promptly took a job as vice president and director of public relations for Union Trust Company, a chain of eight banks in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.

He retired again in 1961 but still keeps a full schedule.

A native of Smithfield, Easom studied at Buies Creek Academy (now Campbell College) and Wake Forest College. A short career in journalism ended abruptly when he returned to school and spent his summers leading revivals for the late Fred N. Day Sr.

"He was a layman, a jeweler from Winston-Salem," says Easom. "He sent me and dozens more through college with offerings received from the revivals."

BACK TO CHURCH

After singing his way through

His many talents led him to several years of promotion and money raising and he topped off committee work to fund raising. He did it with ability, organizational skill and an extra measure of...
In 1952 Easom became the first Brotherhood secretary for North...



HORACE EASOM RELAXES AT HIS PIANO
...music is a major part of his life

ings received from the revivals."

BACK TO CHURCH

After singing his way through World War I, and rising to sergeant in the infantry, Easom became director of education and music at Southside Church, Wilmington, in 1921. A year later he went in a similar role to First Church, Asheville, staying six years before his call to Shelby.

Mrs. Easom, the former Miss Margaret Stevens of Clinton, is the daughter of a country doctor there, the late Dr. John A. Stevens. Since their marriage in 1926 she has kept a scrapbook on her husband's travels and church work.

Easom's first fund-raising was for Gardner-Webb College in 1941, when he led an effort for a half million dollars for the school. The drive was a success and he came to be regarded as a money raising expert. Two years later he had a brief stint as acting president before Dr. Phil Elliott took the helm.

More recently he has served both Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest as trustee, becoming board vice chairman at the former. He is a deacon in First Church, Shelby; past moderator of Kings Mountain Association and former district governor of Kiwanis International.

MAN OF YEAR

In 1960 the Shelby Lions Club named Easom "Man of the Year." A few days later the Jaycees honored his son-in-law as "Young Man of the Year."

"Our real year for God's glory was 1930," says Easom. That was the time he and Dr. Wall preceded a 10 day revival meeting by organizing a week of prayer meetings in 161 homes. The special service closed with 217 additions to the church, most by conversion.

The twice retired Easom is now executive director of United Fund in Shelby and is in the employ of the Dover Textile interests in that city. He is director of music at Buffalo Baptist Church near Waco, leading the congregation in song each Sunday with the same fervor for which he is remembered by thousands of messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in former years.