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Music Ministry

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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### The Shelby Daily Star July 29, 1970

Nancy Young

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**Attends Workshop**

Mrs. Roland Leath of Shelby has been selected to participate in the workshop for counselors and teachers of disadvantaged adolescents at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this week.

# Standing Ovation Given To Singers

By NANCY YOUNG  
Star Staff Writer  
(A Review)

The Good News Singers of America entered Blanton Memorial Stadium last night to a standing ovation. Throughout their concert there were several more ovations and each one was well deserved.

The 138 high school and college students under the direction of Van Ramsey gave area people a chance to hear the concert they have prepared to deliver in France, Great Britain and Russia.

The Rev. Gene Watterson of First Baptist Church introduced the group and explained the purpose of their trip abroad.

"For the first time in 1969 the Russians invited amateur groups to appear in their country," said Watterson. "Previously all cultured exchanges had been among professionals. Concerts Abroad set out to find six choirs to tour Russia, but only found one — the choir you see here tonight. These young people will be leaving Thursday for Russia where they will represent you, our country and our Lord."

Mayor Hubert Plaster said that the choir was an inspiring sight and so was the nearly 4,000 persons who attended the concert.

"Shelby is proud to be home base for such an undertaking."

The concert was opened with the National Anthem and the anthems of France, Great Britain and Russia, all sung in their native language.

The first portion of the show was devoted to songs with a more religious nature. Even though the Russians censored all hymns, some of the more classical songs with spiritual lyrics were allowed as were Negro spirituals.

One of the highlights in the first part of the program was the rendition of Mozart's "Regina Coeli" which featured an octet backed by the entire choir. The eight young singers were almost unbelievable as they handled the complicated music of this song and the Latin lyrics.

The real crowd pleaser in the first part was the Negro spiritual "Dry Bones" which was done with spirit as well as a deeper feeling.

Soloists Gwen Bissette of Shelby and Priscilla Davis of Charlotte were also exceptional in their performance. It is unusual to hear such well developed talent in such young performers.

Following intermission, the audience was brought back to life with a group of popular tunes starting with "Aquarius-Let The Sunshine In." The choir seemed to pick up more spirit that carried through the remainder of the concert.

After a standing ovation following "Fifty Nifty United States," the only song that is somewhat patriotic other than the National Anthem, the choir sang "Up, Up and Away" and finished off with an awe inspiring version of "The Impossible Dream."

The young people have to be given a great deal of respect for the work they have done not only to make the performance an excellent one, but in earning the money to make the trip possible.

Director Van Ramsey deserves all the accolades given to him. His direction is smooth and brings a deep feeling to the words of the songs.

Pianist Patty McBrayer gives an outstanding performance. She handles the piano as well as the singers handle their lyrics

and music to present a very complimentary sound.

Assistant Conductor James A. Berry, who will accompany the group to Russia, is a well known artist who does an excellent job with what is supposedly a group of amateurs.

With the feeling and the work the young people have put into their music it is easy to believe the words to the theme song for the trip, "Man And His World." It seems possible that "peace shall come with lasting brotherhood, and nations live as neighbors."

## Tech President Is Attending Annual Workshop

James Petty, President of Cleveland County Technical Institute, is in Charlotte this week attending the fifth annual North Carolina Community College President's workshop.

The session got underway Sunday afternoon at U. N. C. C. with registration being held, followed by a dinner Sunday evening.

"Challenge of the Seventies" is the theme for the three day conference.

Among the few who were asked to preside during the workshop was Cleveland Tech's Petty, who presided Tuesday, at which time Dr. James C. Stone, president of the University of California, was guest speaker.

Two members of Tech's administrative staff, Jack Gold and Alvin Sherlin, were in Charlotte for Tuesday's meeting.

U. S. Department of Agriculture food programs aided 3,027,325 persons in low-income families during April in nine southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.



WELCOMING AUDIENCE — Mayor Hubert Plaster (left) and the Rev. Gene Watterson of First Baptist Church welcomed the audience of nearly 4,000 that came to Blanton Memorial

Stadium last night to hear the Good News Singers concert. The concert is basically the same as will be presented by the singers in Great Britain, France and Russia. (Staff Photo)

# Nixon Faces Bigger Deficit Problem

By FRANK CORMIER  
Associated Press Writer  
SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)

— Winding up a first round of budget-making conferences today, President Nixon faced problems underlined by disclosure of a bigger-than-expected \$2.9 billion budget deficit for the past 12 months.

The Western White House announced Tuesday results of federal spending and outlays for the 1970 fiscal year that ended June 30. The red-ink total was \$1.1 billion more than a May forecast of \$1.8 billion. An official projection last February called for a \$1.5 billion surplus.

Nixon and his associates took heart from the fact that spending was below both the February and May estimates, said George P. Shultz, director of the

Office of Management and Budget.

In May the administration

had predicted spending of \$198.2 billion and revenues of \$196.4 billion, compared with a February estimate of \$197.9 billion in spending and \$199.4 billion in receipts.

Undiluted mint oil holds such a concentration of the essence that one drop is sufficient to flavor the frosting of an entire cake.