

## DR. ERDMAN DIES AT AGE OF 93

Dr. Charles R. Erdman, president of the Board of Trustees from the time the school moved to Princeton from Columbus, Ohio, in 1950, died May 9th at the age of 93. William M. Lanning, who succeeded him as president of the board, wrote of him, "Dr. Erdman's service to the school cannot be adequately stated in any letter; devoted to the students, he was a constant inspiration to the boys and to the staff, faculty and trustees. All of us have certainly benefited personally from association with one of the most remarkable and truly great Christian gentlemen of our time."

A former moderator of the Presbyterian Church and active in a great many community interests, he was well known to, and beloved by, the generations of students who attended the Boychoir School during the past decade, for he frequently dropped in and always had a warm, friendly word for the boys who quickly gathered about him. His widow died October 2nd at the age of 92.

## BOYCHOIR BOYS GET STAGE ROLES

Lee Bratton, who was one of the boys singing the part of Amahl in "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on tour last year, was chosen from a field of 15 candidates to fill the role with the NBC Opera Company, which will take the Menotti opera on tour, as in previous years, for one month during the pre-Christmas season. The company will perform in various parts of the country as far west as Denver. Lee's home is in Hillsdale, Mich.

David Gress, who served as understudy for two boys in "The Sound of Music" all last year, played the part of a singing boy in the American Shakespeare Festival production of "Twelfth Night" this past summer at Stratford, Conn., with Katharine Hepburn and Robert Ryan. When the play opened, Brooks Atkinson said in his review in the New York Times, "... little David Gress was touchingly sweet as a madrigal singer."

## MUSIC CRITICS HEAP PRAISE ON CHOIR

The Boychoir's scrapbook continues to fatten on newspaper reviews praising the choir for its high standards of musical excellence in concerts all over the country. Here's a small batch of sample clippings:

Gather a group of boys together just before their voices start cracking in adolescence and—with proper training—they can put an adult choir to shame.

Such a group of 28 lads, the Columbus Boychoir of Princeton, N. J., sang Monday night in Merrill Hall of Milwaukee-Downer College. Hearing those clear soprano voices, a listener might muse that he is as close to the generally accepted sound of heaven as he'll get while still earthbound.

Directed by Donald Bryant of Columbus Boychoir School, the choir's forte lay definitely in the religious music of three and four centuries ago. One wonders how boys in their early teens or pre-teen years can acquire a feeling for such music, but it was there.

The sopranos particularly

## Community Concert One Of The Best

An air of expectancy pervaded the Academy Theatre on Monday night as it filled to capacity for the fourth and last in the current series of Community Concerts.

The great crowd was not disappointed for the Columbus Boychoir "America's Singing Boys" presented a concert of such variety and excellence that it left nothing to be desired.

These 28 boys, ranging in age from about 10 to 15 years, have won the hearts and the enthusiastic applause of audiences in various countries of the world and Lindsay there was no excep-

The choir's amazing accuracy in both relative and absolute pitch, whether accompanied or a capella, was well exemplified by the deceptive ease with which they sang excerpts from the very difficult "Ceremony of Carols" (Benjamin Britten) which formed the second group.

This highly gifted and superb-trained boy choir is America's outstanding children's musical organization. All immaculate in bearing and all so well disciplined they are the product of extremely careful and thorough training under the brilliant direction and superb accompaniment Donald Bryant.

## N. J. MUSIC FEDERATION GIVES AWARD

The New Jersey Federation of Music Clubs has awarded the Columbus Boychoir School an honorary membership, one of the first two recipients of this distinction. At a dinner in May, the Federation's president, Mrs. Gertrude Berry, presented a certificate to the headmaster commending the school as a builder of "young Americans -- culturally, musically and spiritually."