

OUR ALMA MATER

The Southeastern Alma Mater was composed by the college's first music instructor, Miss Ruth Smith — now Mrs. L. L. Davidge of Shreveport — during 1930-31. The song was sung before the then, small student body by a mixed quartet composed of Frances Robinson, Rose Wolf, William Hyde, and Lloyce Varnado and was adopted as the official Alma Mater. Miss Smith left the college in 1932, and the Alma Mater apparently fell into disuse for the next two years.

Dr. Ralph R. Pottle, the former head of the music school, came to

Southeastern in 1934. His proposal to have the band play at SLC football games received the whole-hearted approval of A. L. "Red" Swanson, the head grid coach at the time. However, the band needed an Alma Mater to play, and the only one available was "SLC My SLC", which was used for two years.

Dr. Pottle found the original Alma Mater, with the help of Anna Webb McGehee, and reharmonized the chorus and arranged the song for band. This version has been played by the band since the 1936-37 term.

The verse remained lost. Last year, with the aid of Rose Wolf and the 1936 "Le Souvenir", the verse was retrieved, revised lightly by Dr. Pottle and reharmonized by his music theory faculty.

ALMA MATER

Ruth Smith

Arr. Ralph R. Pottle

M.M. 92

Southeastern Louisiana College

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'M.M. 92'. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics are: "Down in dear old Loui---si-an---a stands our coll-ege home, Its Whisp' ring pines and migh---ty oaks are sway---ing in the gloam, How can we pay thee trib-----ute who guides us all so well? We lift our voi-ces once a-gain thy prais--es proud to tell. We hail Thee now South-eas-tern, For Thee we'll al-ways sta-----nd; Thy ea---ger sons and daugh---ters form one u-ni---ted band. We'll sing thy prai-ses e-----ver from sea to shin-ing sea---, and love Thee Al-ma Ma-----ter, Thru all e-ter-ni-----ty-----." The score concludes with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte).

mp
Down in dear old Loui---si-an---a stands our coll-ege home, Its
Whisp' ring pines and migh---ty oaks are sway---ing in the gloam, How
can we pay thee trib-----ute who guides us all so well? We
lift our voi-ces once a-gain thy prais--es proud to tell.
mf
We hail Thee now South-eas-tern, For Thee we'll al-ways sta-----nd; Thy
ea---ger sons and daugh---ters form one u-ni---ted band. We'll
sing thy prai-ses e-----ver from sea to shin-ing sea---, and
love Thee Al-ma Ma-----ter, Thru all e-ter-ni-----ty-----.