



### THE MAN ---

# What He Gave Up And What He Has

By JOHN G. THOMAS

A North Carolina college president, who started out life toward a goal of professional golfing and wound up in the ministry, a few days before his inauguration said that his love for young people and education has left him no desire to return to the ministry from the field of education.

Dr. Travis White admits that he spends a great deal of his time now preaching in the various churches of the Christian denomination in North Carolina but indicated that his first love has become the field of education.

He also believes that Atlantic Christian College is a growing institution in Eastern Carolina and proved it recently when, on a six weeks tour to raise funds for the college with the Rev. J. M. Waters of Araphahoe, he helped in the raising of \$100,000.

"None of the donations was more than \$3,000," he said, "and many of them were much smaller."

Dr. White is a native of Hammond, La., where he grew up in the bayou country of that state as a boy. Later he and his family moved to Shreveport, La., where he finished his early school.

One of five sons of his parents, Dr. White then attended Texas Christian University in Texas. Later he did graduate work at the University of Chicago in 1934.

Incidentally, the son of parents of moderate means, Dr. White worked

his way through college caring for the grounds of the place along with other boys who wanted an education enough to work for it.

In his youth he became interested in golf, was a caddy at the Country Club at Shreveport, La., and later worked up to assistant to the professional.

"I meant to be a professional myself in those days", he grins today, "and I still play golf though I don't have as much time as I used to. But at college I became interested in the work of the Christian Endeavor, youth group of the Christian Church, and this turned me toward the ministry. Incidentally, talking of golf, my brother, Ned, is professional now at the Broadmore country club in Shreveport."

His rise in the ministry was rapid. In 1935 he took his first pastorate at the Christian Church in Paris, Texas, a church with some 650 members. He stayed there for seven years and in 1942 he moved to the pastorate of the First Christian Church of Little Rock, Ark., with some 1,500 members. He stayed there until 1948, when he moved to Texas Tech College at Lubbock, Texas as director of the Student Center and minister of Lubbock's First Christian Church. Here he was when he was called to become president last year of Atlantic Christian College in Wilson.

A lover of young people Dr. White decries the theory, advanced by

some these days, that youth is on the down grade.

"There is no difference to me in the youth of today than there was 10 years ago and vice versa. They are still wonderful," he will tell you.

Dr. White married a Kansas girl while at Texas Christian University, a girl he met on the campus, and the two have three children, two boys and a girl, Travis Jr. is now a student at TCU, a member of the ROTC, and is studying in the field of science. He does not intend, his father said here today, to enter the ministry. Ned, the other son, is 15 years old and a student in Charles L. Coon High School in Wilson. His father says that Ned's ambition at the present is to become a rancher in the west, an occupation that Dr. White, incidentally, dearly likes.

"I used to spend much of my time in the west on horseback helping to brand the cattle and participating in the round-up," says the president.

His daughter, Diana is four. Mrs. White, incidentally, is an accomplished musician, especially at the organ.

Dr. White? "I am certainly not a musician" he smiles "but I like music."

By his own admission Dr. White's "greatest delight" is quail hunting and his "favorite companion" is his setter bird dog, Joe.

"I've done some goose hunting down at Belhaven since I have been in North Carolina, but I haven't seen many quail," he said here.

A great traveler, Dr. White traveled some 35,000 miles around the world back in 1952 visiting the mission field. Here at home he keeps busy traveling too, and when he arrived in Dunn this past week he was just ending five weeks of preaching in various places in North Carolina. Though he only arrived in the state for the first time last August, he has, he says, been all over it already.

He is also extremely active in civic work. A member of the Lions Club he has held every office in that organization except president and "I haven't the time to do that big job." At present he is a member of the Wilson Lions Club.

He likes sports, especially basketball, and even though the past basketball season is a thing of the past he continues, with some delight, to tell of the night when Atlantic Christian College's Bulldogs set a new scoring record in the Conference Tournament.

A Christian man in every sense of the word and a believer in teaching Christianity to the youth of today, Dr. White is, however, definitely sure that he likes the field of education.

"I have no desire to return to the ministry now," he says, "It was a wonderful experience and I still preach, but I love the idea of education — educating the youth of today and tomorrow."

This is the man who was inaugurated seventh president of Atlantic Christian College on April 30.



## They're Sad; We're Glad

"We hate to see him go!" "We're glad to see him come."

We can easily understand why the people in Lubbock didn't like the idea of losing such a valuable man as Dr. White, who was a pulsating movement in the community life there as he has come to be here in Wilson. Even in Lubbock his work was not bound to the denominational level alone, but stretched into the crevices of forgotten lives, and reached the heights of valuable inter-denominational status.

His popularity as a speaker brought him applause from "all around the town" and the state. The love for "our Texas friend" literally grew in leaps and bounds across the country and the world while on his "Round the World Tour," to the extent that he was well-liked here before he ever arrived to take over the new responsibilities.

Upon arriving on the campus of Atlantic Christian he immediately drew people to him with his winning personality, and the students "fell for him." The magnetic force of his very presence commanded respect and love for a man who has a word for everyone he sees.

But naturally one of his ability is taken from the campus on numerous occasions because of the great demand for his speaking gift. Far and wide across the state he has traveled to various churches and civic clubs to speak, carrying with him the good-will of the college and boosting it wherever he goes.

We feel that we have a "prince of a man" as our new President, who first considered professional golfing as his profession, but later realized where his real talent lay and began to prepare for it with an earnest endeavor and honest conviction. The students of Atlantic Christian College treasure the friendship of this man with high esteem, and love him with deep devotion.

—James Hemby.