

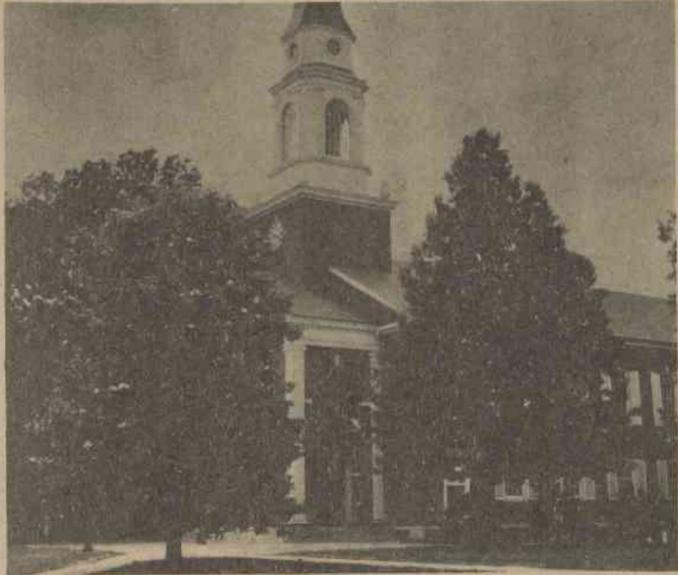
"Believing that an informed campus is a Key to Democracy"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1972

BENNETT COLLEGE, GREENSBORO, N. C.

VOL. XXXVI, NO. 1

THIS IS BENNETT . . .



HISTORY OF BENNETT COLLEGE PRIOR TO 1926 PART I

The Methodist Episcopal Church was among those northern religious denominations who moved into the South at the close of the Civil War for the purpose of educating and evangelizing the freed slaves. The Freedmen's Aid Society of this church established a school for the newly emancipated slaves near Greensboro, North Carolina late in 1873.

On December 5, 1865, a Quaker from Germantown, Pennsylvania, purchased 34 acres of land near South Buffalo Creek, Guilford County. Yardley Warner transferred this property and an additional one and one-half acre to the Philadelphia Association of Friends. Later it was subdivided into acre lots and sold to newly freed Blacks at low cost. In honor of its founder it was named Warnersville.

According to research done by B. W. Harris, chairman of Adult Education and Community Services at North Carolina A. & T. State University, a representative of the Methodist Episcopal Church offered in behalf of his church a school for the residents of Warnersville and membership in his church. In 1866, Rev. Matthew Alston founded Warnersville Methodist Episcopal Church which is presently called St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. It was in this church that a small day school began.

Like Blacks every where, the residents of the community were eager to have a local school. The Rev. Mr. Alston who had been an active member of the North Carolina Conference since 1870, was instrumental in urging the Freedmen's Aid Society to establish a school in Greensboro.

On June 18, 1873, the local newspaper, the Greensboro New North State, ran the following article:

The colored citizens of Greensboro, and as many of the whites who are interested, are requested to meet tomorrow (Wednesday) night, at the Warnersville Church, to consider the question of the establishment in Greensboro of a colored Normal

School or College. This institution will be established under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church North, somewhere in the state. The object of the meeting is to advocate the claims of Greensboro. The citizens of Wilmington, High Point, and Thomasville are all desirous of having the school located within their boundaries.

One month later the same paper announced that a Normal College for the education of colored teachers would be established in Greensboro. Several reasons were offered for this choice. First, the geographical location of the city and its location offered a direct railroad to Richmond and Atlanta. Second, the people of Greensboro were receptive to education for both races. In addition, Greensboro established the first graded school in North Carolina in 1870. Pre-Civil War restrictions upon education of Negroes were opposed on Guilford County despite North Carolina laws that made it illegal. A third probable reason was the total population of blacks around the general area which accounted for 40% of 4,415.

The first president (called principals during the early days) was W. J. Parkinson who began his term in January of 1874. He reported that nearly 70 students studied under him that first winter-term in the basement of the Warnersville Church.

The school received the name Bennett Seminary in honor of Lyman Bennett of Troy, New York. Generous donations from him made possible the purchase of land for a permanent campus during Parkinson's administration and the erection of the first building under Edward O. Thayer's administration. This plot of land contained twenty acres and was purchased at a cost of \$2,156.37. C. N. McAdoo of Guilford County transferred this property on May 25, 1875 to the Freedmen's Aid Society through Parkinson.

(Part II next issue)



DR. HANKINS HEADS PROJECT

Bennett College is the site of an Academic Year Institute to prepare Directors and Assistant Directors for Learning Centers under the direction of Dr. Lela R. Hankins, Director of Teacher Education.

The project, supported by the U. S. Office of Education, began September 9, 1972 and will end June, 1973.

The institute will focus upon training personnel for Secondary Schools, Community Colleges, and Technical Institutes. It accommodates 32 post-baccalaureate teachers and provides new methods for evaluating the results of the participants' efforts. Videotape recordings will be utilized as part of a pretest-posttest procedure. Techniques in reading and library science will be included with some emphasis on counseling.

A certificate will be issued to each participant who completes the requirements of the institute. Four semester (Continued on Page 2)

Dr. Edward Wright Speaks

Sunday, September 17, 1972 at 4:00 P.M. in Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel, was the scene of the year's first Vesper Service. The speaker for the occasion was Dr. Edward Wright.

Dr. Wright is Dean of Students, Registrar and member of the faculty, Harvard University Divinity School. He served as Assistant to the President on Minority Affairs at Harvard, 1970-1971.

He has a B. A. from Virginia Union University; and B. D. from Colgate-Rochester, S. T. M., Andover Newton Theological School. He has served as Danforth intern in campus ministry, Grinnell College.

Dr. Wright is chaplain to students at Harvard and Radcliffe and pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church.

A member of the Ministry to Higher Education Project (B. T. I.), Mr. Wright served two terms as President of the Baptist Convention. He is a member of the Executive committee of the World Student Christian Federation and is presently a member of the National Selection Committee of the Protestant Fellowship Program. He is an ordained minister.

DIVISION OF SCIENCES RECEIVE RESEARCH GRANT

Bennett College is the recipient of an \$125,415 Minority Schools Biomedical Research Support Award from the National Institutes of Health. The announcement comes from Dr. I. H. Miller, Jr., President of the College.

According to Dr. Miller the grant "is among those awarded from a special HEW appropriation designed to eliminate the inequities in the research activity in the minority (traditionally Black) schools and where ethnic minorities constitute the majority student enrollment." Bennett College was among 41 recipients of the awards from a field of 75 applicants.

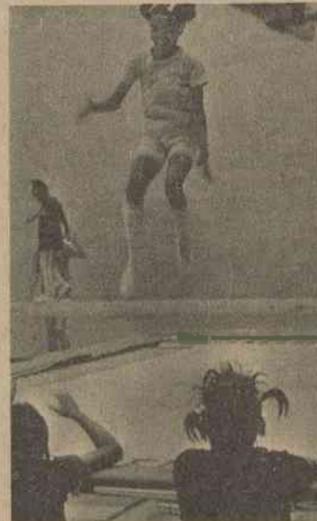
The grant permits Bennett College to expand its research into the biomedical sciences including problems in biology, reproductive endocrinology, immuno-biology, developmental biology, pharmacology, and biochemistry. Although Bennett College has continually performed some research in these areas, the work has necessarily been hampered by limited personnel, equipment, time (because of high teaching load requirements), and available funds. "These deficiencies," says

Dr. J. Henry Sayles, director of Biomedical Research Program, "each contributing significantly to the perpetuation of the other, have created a cyclo phenomenon which strongly selects against the success of biomedical research at colleges and universities where such inadequacies exist."

"The overall objectives of the program," he continues, "are to strengthen biomedical research training at Bennett College; attract a greater number of competent research-oriented faculty to the College; and strengthen the undergraduate science programs in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry.

The grant provides for release time for faculty members, permitting them more time to devote to research projects. It also provides money for research personnel, stipends for students, and will make possible the purchase of sophisticated equipment necessary for biomedical research. The grant will also permit faculty and students to travel to professional meetings.

"Although the funds will (Continued on Page 2)



Bennett College Physical Ed. Inst.

ELIZABETH HEMINGWAY

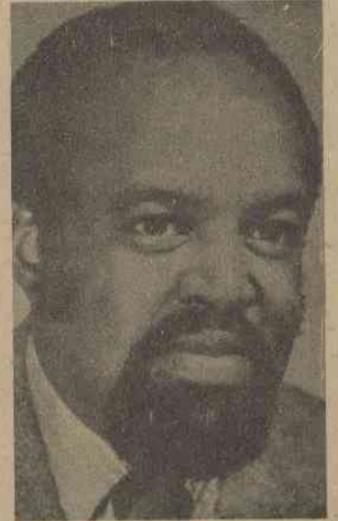
Bennett College received a \$26,712 federal grant to conduct a summer institute in physical education and modern health concepts for about 300 girls.

The grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development was made available through the High Point Model Cities program.

The institute which was in operation from June 5 to July 14 was composed of girls ranging in age from 8-14. These girls from the High Point Model City area attended two week sessions from which they received many learning experiences.

The program is "an attempt to look at motor development for girls supposedly in an ideal environment for learning," explained Dr. Dawn Chaney, institute director and associate professor of physical education at Bennett College.

(Continued on Page 2)



J. Washington, Jr. At Bennett College

Joseph Washington, Jr., a leading authority in Black thought and religion, spoke on "The Dynamics of Black Religion in America," at Bennett College on Wednesday, Sept. 20th, at 9 A.M. in Black Hall auditorium. Dr. Washington is Professor of Religious Studies and Chairman of Afro-American Studies at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His talk covered topics which he has explored in many articles and several books: The Negro and Christianity in the United States, Black and White Power Subreption, Marriage in Black and White, and Black Sectarianism, among others. In his writing and lectures he is a leading figure in ongoing debates over the intellectual and religious foundations for Black development. He received his Th.D. from Boston University in 1961, and has taught at such schools as Albion, Dillard, Dickinson, Beloit, as well as at U. of Va.