

DR. EMMETT K. McLARTY

A MAN OF DISTINCTION

By Bruce Armes

On May 3, 1957, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. Emmett Kennedy McLarty to succeed Robert H. Stamey as president of Brevard College. On July 1 of that same year, Dr. McLarty officially took the helm and proceeded to lead B. C. through the next eleven years of unprecedented progress in the areas of building and educational amelioration until his death in May of 1968.

Dr. McLarty's first aim after becoming president was to see that the College was supplied with greater and more advanced material facilities. Plans were made for a long-range building program, the effects of which are now quite evident on the campus: the Bryan Moore Science Building (completed in 1961); the Boshamer Gymnasium (1962); the Beam Administration Building (1965); the Lena Sue Beam Residence Hall (1966); the James Addison Jones Library (1967); and the A. G. Myers Dining Hall (1968). Construction is already under way on the new classroom building, and plans were completed last year for the new student union building. In the past eleven years the physical value of the college has been augmented by over three million dollars.

This building program has, as planned, greatly enhanced the academic standards of the college and allowed for an added twenty-four faculty members, double that of 1957. Under Dr. McLarty's leadership, the curriculum of the college has been greatly expanded; eighteen preparatory courses of study are now offered at B. C.

Dr. McLarty was a very devoted person. Agressive, yet totally unselfish, he for eleven years embodied a resolution and an earnest desire to make Brevard what it is today — one of the finest private two-year colleges in America.

I became acquainted with Dr. McLarty during my freshman year mainly through interviews with him for the *Clarion*. Although he had an extremely busy schedule, he never refused me the time for a discussion. In fact once after I had already been informed by Mrs. Kenerly, his secretary,

that he was too busy to see anyone, the President emerged from his office and said that he would talk to me for a few minutes. Mrs. Kenerly has told me of numerous occasions when Dr. McLarty would be late to a meeting or perhaps even cancel one because he thought that a particular student's problem was more important.

Dr. McLarty firmly believed in the student as an individual. He once wrote in one of his speeches: "I cannot speak for all colleges, but I can speak for one: we, at Brevard, believe in the primacy of the individual; we are not interested in producing stamped out individuals all of a pattern . . . no grey flannel minds for us!"

What He Thought of Brevard

To Dr. McLarty, Brevard College was a gratifying experience in which he involved himself deeply. Brevard College, its needs and its wants, were always of first concern to him. He was often out of town representing the college (a fact of great importance for the successful building program here).

Dr. McLarty was invariably worried that Brevard's students would lose sight of the true purpose of the college and that they would ignore the school's direct connection with the Methodist church. This was certainly a valid reason for concern.

The building program, mentioned previously, is the tangible evidence which shows Dr. McLarty's positive interest in Brevard College and its possibilities. He knew that high merits in academics are not possible without relatively modern teaching facilities and equipment.

President McLarty was ever striving for excellence. In the speech which he had planned to give at the recent convocation, he wrote . . . "Aim, then, at excellence. Think on these ways of breakthrough to excellence, and employ the will in pursuing it; in self respect, in conviction, in resolution, in social conscience, and in reverence."

My grateful thanks go to Mrs. McLarty and her daughter

Sallie, from whom I was able to learn a great deal of President McLarty's personal concerns of Brevard College. Their generous and meaningful conversation with me brought out many things that, ordinarily, would not be thought of.

What Brevard Thought Of Him

Mrs. Kenerly — "Before I came to Brevard as Dr. McLarty's secretary, he was my minister, and I respected and admired him as an outstanding minister and pastor. As his secretary for eleven years, my respect and admiration for him grew because I saw in his dealings with people every day, all people, that he was worthy of all the respect a person can be given. He was my employer, but above all he was my friend, and I would have no greater hope that some of his faith in people, his high ideals, and his limitless compassion would influence my life. He has touched many lives over the years, and I know that these persons are better for having known him.

Mr. Hardin — "We who worked closely with Dr. McLarty were most impressed with his genuine interest and concern for persons. He never let the often hectic and frustrating duties of the Presidency keep him from going out of his way to show his interest in persons. Many illustrations could be given of this characteristic, but I particularly like the story told me this summer by a minister in the Western North Carolina Conference.

This young minister had been a page at the General Conference of the Methodist Church held in Dallas, Texas, in late April and early May. He was assigned to room with Dr. McLarty who was a delegate to the Conference. This Conference lasted for two weeks and took on many of the characteristics of a political convention with long sessions, some heated floor fights, and late caucuses. It was a tiring experience and Dr. McLarty returned to North Carolina about three weeks before his death a very tired man. However, this young minister told me that the very day after Dr. McLarty had returned home, he took part of his Sunday afternoon to sit down and write this young minister a most gracious letter thanking him and expressing his pleasure for having roomed with him for the two weeks.

This young minister told me how impressed he was that Dr. McLarty would take the time to write such a gracious letter when most of us would not have bothered to write at all. It was such incidents as this when he would go the second mile where persons were involved that I will forever remember about Emmett K. McLarty.

Dean Roberts — "He was a good man, an honest man, who if he knew dishonesty and subterfuge existed in the world, never gave them credence by

taking note of them. He was a source of strength and safety to all who knew him, and now that he is dead, the administration building has been for months a building without a heart.

Dean Burgess — "How privileged I was. On Friday morning I landed at the Asheville airport and walked into the waiting room. I looked for a student who might have been sent to meet me, and saw none who fitted this description. Then when President and Mrs. McLarty introduced themselves, I registered my astonishment that the President himself should drive over. How typical of him, in several ways. That he was so personally interested in people; that he came with Mrs. McLarty, for he so obviously enjoyed his family; that he wanted to talk with me himself so he would have his own impressions; that we talked about many things as we drove to Brevard, as he was interested in many things.

His deep love for the students, for the staff and faculty of the college, his vision of Brevard's possibilities, his dedication to the church and his abiding faith in the living God were apparent in even such a short meeting. It doesn't take long to discover that you are in the presence of a truly great man. His presence is still very much with us.

From The Faculty

Mr. Miles — "During the eight years I knew him — and his death occurred exactly eight years to the day after my first visit to this campus — my respect and affection for him was constantly heightened. Never after I had talked with him did I have the impression that his first concern was not the total welfare of this school, its ability to offer the best education possible for its students. To that end he devoted his energy and time. But beyond that, constantly I had the feeling that he was concerned with the personal growth of those with whom he came into contact — students, faculty, staff, and administration. Their cares and joys became his. Few people are able to communicate such concern, and perhaps this was his greatest gift to all of us who knew him.

From the students — "President McLarty exemplified Brevard College more perfectly than anyone or anything I know. His personal characteristics were almost exactly those of the college. His friendliness, scholarship, Christian spirit, and willingness to help in any situation are the things this school stands for and seeks to establish in its students. When one wanted to know what Brevard College was like, the best way to show them was to introduce them to its president."

"He bowed his head and was quiet as he sat before his dinner. He spoke to my heart and the hearts of all who would listen. His life set an excellent example for all of our lives. I

pray that the justice we do Dr. McLarty is to live up to that example. Both in our personal lives and in the fellowship of this campus."

In closing, I would like to quote several lines from the tribute given Dr. McLarty at his funeral by Bishop Hunt . . .

"He was in love with life. He was in ecstatic love with life, and that love seemed to dance so gaily through everything that he did and all that he said until he became a memorable human being. But, O, what a human being. There are just so many things that you think about when you think of Emmett McLarty as a man. What a man he was."

I do hope, and with honest sincerity, that in this article I have done at least partial justice to a man whose intrinsic greatness I will probably never know or even be able to imagine — Dr. Emmett Kennedy McLarty.



Dr. E. K. McLarty
Mrs. Helen Furr
Mrs. Betty Murray

We cannot think of them as dead

Who walk with us no more
Along the path of life we tread;
They have but gone before.

The Father's house is mansioned fair
Beyond our vision dim;
All souls are His, and here or there
Are living unto Him.

And still their silent ministries
Within our hearts have place,
As when on earth they walked with us
And met us face to face.

Ours are they by an ownership
That neither time nor death can free;
For God hath given His love to keep
His own eternally.

THANK YOU

The student leaders of Brevard College wish to express their grateful appreciation to Mrs. E. K. McLarty for the delicious lunch prepared by her on August 29. This was a gracious gesture on the part of Mrs. McLarty and gives evidence to her interest in young people and especially in Brevard College.

The CLARION

The VOICE of Brevard College

Wayne Morton	Editor-in-Chief
Bruce Armes	Associate Editor
Sherry Baldwin	Feature Editor
Bob Williamson	Science Editor
Ronnie Smith, Larry Nelson	Sports Editors
Teresa Lax, Bill Rankin, Monte Sharpe	Columnists
Phyllis Joyner, Valerie Leisher	Business Editors
Ronald Smith, Kicky Nichols	Reporters
Mrs. Ena Kate Sigmon	Advisor

Published weekly during the college session, with the exception of holidays and examination periods, by students of Brevard College. Printed by The Transylvania Times, North Broad St., Brevard, N. C.