

Students Tell Why
They Chose
Gardner-Webb

The Pilot

Gardner-Webb College

Family Ties Are
Strong At
Gardner-Webb

SPECIAL EDITION

MARCH 10, 1955

CHARITY AND CHILDREN

Why I Chose Gardner-Webb...

By Joyce Stevenson, Raleigh Freshman, Religious Ed. Major

Through a former student, I was first introduced to Gardner-Webb. I was told of the friendly Christian atmosphere, the understanding professors, and the many activities in which one might participate.

When first thinking about the future I decided to go to a college in my home town. After considering what I planned for my life's work, I decided it would help me to go away to college for at least two years. The background in studies as well as the dormitory life would give me experiences I wouldn't get without attending college away from home. I then began searching for a college and somehow everything pointed to Gardner-Webb. It was only 200 miles from home, at the foot of the mountains, which I love so much, and such a highly recommended college.

Since I have been at Gardner-Webb I have had many experiences that shall always be remembered. All I heard has been absolutely true. I made friends and soon found out that college isn't all play but lots of hard work and studying. Through the Baptist Student Union I have gained much by the three services it sponsors daily.

I plan to go into some type of Christian work. This has been brought out more strongly as I have become more aware of the need for religious leaders. Going out on a revival team I saw how God could use me in such a direct way. I have been able to witness in many ways for God while being in Gardner-Webb; by teaching Sunday School at our clinic, being in charge of Sunday night vespers, and trying to magnify the Lord in my everyday activities.

In the future I plan to further my education and where God leads me I am ready to go. As for now I am planning my life's work around social service or religious education. I know that where He leads me I will try to follow and do His will, and that I am receiving an excellent foundation for either type of work at Gardner-Webb. (Miss Stevenson is shown with cheerleaders, second from left.)

By Mae Hill, Woodruff, S. C. Sophomore, Journalism Major

I chose Gardner-Webb for several reasons. When I was in high school I spent quite some time trying to decide what college I would attend. Examining the colleges one by one, I found Gardner-Webb had more of what I wanted than any of the others.

First, I chose Gardner-Webb because it is accredited. I know that acceptable work done here is transferable anywhere, and that the quality of teaching here is comparable to that of any school I could have chosen.

Second, I am an athlete. I'm not the best, or the worst, but I enjoy playing the game. I am on the starting basketball line-up here, and at many a larger college I might not have made the grade. Gardner-Webb offers a full sports program and is a member of the fast-moving Western Carolinas Junior College Conference.

Third, Gardner-Webb has given me many opportunities and experiences outside the classroom. The campus has a friendly, cooperative atmosphere such as I have never seen elsewhere. I have learned, by doing, how to prepare a football program for printing, how to edit the sports page of the school paper, how to participate in a radio program, and how to prepare

stories for newspapers. In my chosen work as a sports writer, Gardner-Webb has offered me many opportunities both inside the classroom and outside.

If I were back in high school again wondering which college to attend, I would choose Gardner-Webb without a moment's hesitation.

By Gay Fisher, Washington, D. C. Sophomore, Primary Education Major

In order to relate accurately my reason for coming to Gardner-Webb I must begin my story in the summer of 1949 only six months after my conversion. It was at this time, high in "The Land of the Sky" of western North Carolina, that I realized God was calling me into his service. This, in itself, would have been satisfactory to me if He had not been so definite in His call, pointing straight to Africa.

I continued to turn away from such a decision until a consecrated child of God pointed out to me that there would be no peace outside of His will. That night I walked down that long aisle at Ridgecrest, announcing publicly that God was calling me to serve Him in a heathen land. This step was merely to get God to leave me alone and at that moment began a soul-torturing conflict which lasted for five years—five years during which I sought constantly to find other

ways to serve Him, here, in my homeland, where I might be near my friends and loved ones, where I might have the luxuries of civilization. But at every turn in the road I was brought face to face with the needs, and to me the horrors, of the Dark Continent.

During my senior year in high school I began to seek earnestly for God's leading in choosing a college. Again, when the answer came, there was no room for doubt for He was clearly leading me to Gardner-Webb. In this matter I determined to follow Him, feeling that if I went such a great distance to school, because it was His will, He would forget about Africa. But our Lord doesn't forget, nor does He change His will to be in accordance with ours.

At Gardner-Webb the conflict within my soul grew more intense. I became aware that the peace which I sought could be obtained only from Jesus, and I was not yet willing to pay the price. During my sophomore year I was allowed to go with a group to conduct the evening worship service in a nearby Negro church. It was here that God used a ten-year-old girl, with kinky black hair and warm brown eyes, to speak to me and to make His will my will. For the first time, in sincerity, I said yes to Jesus and He became Master of my life.

No more do the needs of Africa haunt me as horrors but shine as a beacon toward which I am yearning. There is no longer the dread, the fear, and the loneliness which before filled my soul, for by grace, I have "the peace that passeth understanding."

This has been the most direct influence of Gardner-Webb on my life. The contributing factors of consecrated Christian professors and friends have helped me to know my Master better.

Next year I plan to attend Carson Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and major in primary education. From here on the Lord is my guide. I have learned that faith is obedience and that Jesus is sufficient. Has He not said: "Lo, I am with you always" and "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"?

ALLEN SAYS...

College Exists For Those Who Need It Most

By W. Lawson Allen, Acting President

Gardner-Webb College exists for no other reason than to serve those who need her services. The college offers several distinctive services, but in the final analysis, Gardner-Webb exists for the expressed purpose of preparing young men and women for meeting the realities of life.

The dormitories, the classrooms, the cafeteria, the library, the administration building—all are to enable the young people who choose to begin here the quest to achieve the desires of their hearts. The student and his need must remain the center of Gardner-Webb's educational endeavor. The teachers, although they are the finest in spirit and preparation, are here only that the pupil may become better able to meet life with all its varied facets.

Education in its ultimate sense can do nothing better than open the eyes of the soul to the needs of the world. By the world, I mean the world of people. Every student who comes to our campus comes with desires, ambitions and ideas. These concepts may be changed. They may be strengthened. Every teacher has his individual concepts. The student and the teacher share with each other in the process of learning so that neither is ever the same because of that sharing. Problems arise. Difficulties, misunderstandings, frictions often cloud the horizon, but we must go on to open eyes, to share, to accomplish.

Gardner-Webb offers a home for those who will to come with us for two years. She offers opportunities for growth mentally, socially, and spiritually. Avowedly Christian—the college is, and makes no apology for being a Baptist educational institution. We are unashamedly seeking friends who will help us materially, for we believe that we have a mission to perform that merits the financial support to accomplish that mission. The cause of Christian education must not falter—our day is now.



W. Lawson Allen



THREE CHEERS FOR GARDNER-WEBB—This attractive group of students provides inspiration for the "rooters" attending Gardner-Webb's athletic contests. Left to right, the school's cheerleaders Pat Stout, Joyce Stephenson, Beverly Ward, Charles Starnes, Phyllis Henderson, Lib Moore, Marlene Steele, and Betty Joan Staton. Kneeling is Shirley Reavis.

CAMPUS BRIEFS...

Pres. Elliott's Influence Felt

He's down in Florida now, enjoying a well-earned rest, but everywhere you turn on the Gardner-Webb campus, the influence of Dr. Phil Elliott is seen or felt. Townspeople say, "You can't give any person all the credit for the miraculous growth of Gardner-Webb, but you can surely give a lot of it to Dr. Phil Elliott." Twelve years ago when he accepted the job—admittedly a difficult one—there were only 71 students and five buildings constituted the college. Today, there are new dormitories, a student center, library, heating system, and 18-bed hospital among many other improvements. Dr. Elliott has a heart condition, but is reported to be recovering satisfactorily. In his absence, W. Lawson Allen is acting president.

Gardner-Webb is currently engaged in a campaign to raise \$1 1/2 million for new buildings and endowment by the school's Golden Anniversary in October, 1947. Included in the enlargement program are plans for new dormitories, physical education building, science building, administration-classroom building, and faculty apartments. Of the total amount, \$500,000 is expected from the Co-operative Program of the Baptist State Convention. Dr. H. Hansel Stenbridge, Jr., Forest City, is chairman of the steering committee directing the campaign. Already the college has had several encouraging contributions, one a challenge gift of \$25,000 from the family of the late O. Max Gardner. Next month the college will launch a drive to raise \$100,000 endowment for the Church-Community development program as a memorial to the Rev. John W. Suttle, beloved Cleveland county rural preacher.

The debating team at Gardner-Webb is under the direction of Francis B. Dedmond, professor of English, and is composed of Mary Philbeck of Boiling Springs and Lois Hoyle of Cherryville, affirmative, and Sara Ballard of Mooresville and Reginald Stroupe, negative. The group recently visited on the Mars Hill campus and enjoyed a non-decision debate with the Mars Hill debaters before the literary societies of that college.

Adult education classes operated by Gardner-Webb through the Church-Community development program each year enroll from 1,200 to 2,000 people in all parts of central and western North Carolina and upper South Carolina. Six schools have been held this year or are now in progress, touching 868 people who enroll for nine weeks of instruction in church music, Christian sociology, church administration and the Bible. This program is unique in education circles, but is proving quite successful.

been 115 life commitments to service for Christ. It emphasizes the importance of attending a Christian college and demonstrates influence of the Christian college in the lives of the individual students. It also serves as a laboratory for Christian service to the many students who go on to the teams. Many times a young man preaches his first sermon or a young woman presents her first program.

Gardner-Webb Runs in the Family

By Betty Staton, Sophomore Charlotte, N. C.

Gardner-Webb seems to "run in the family."

Ask any number of students at the college if any of their family or relatives attended Gardner-Webb and 40 per cent of them would answer in the affirmative.



Take Gene and Martha Bridges, sophomores from Mooresboro, for example. Gene is a business major, and Martha plans to enter nurse's training at the Baptist Hospital next year. Where did their interest in Gardner-Webb originate? In their own home! Their father majored in religion here and later graduated at Wake Forest. Their sister, Lenora, took a business course here in 1948-49 and don't be surprised if Jimmy, 17-year old brother, enrolls when he finishes high school.

Ann Wheeler, freshman from Boiling Springs, S. C., follows in the best tradition of "like mother, like daughter," since her mother was a member of the 1934 class.

Ray Crawford, sophomore from Harris, has six relatives who attended Gardner-Webb, including his father, the Rev. R. L. Crawford, class of '43. He is pastor of the Sandy Springs Baptist Church in Polk County.

Both parents of Nancy Lattimore of Polkville, finished here—father in 1913 and mother in 1917. John McBrayer, Lattimore, is in the same category, as his parents were in the 1923 class. Eddie Hudson's father, Dr. E. V. Hudson, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Cramerton, graduated in 1913. And so it goes!

Generation After Generation

One of the most interesting "family histories, is that of Mrs. Dorothy W. Hamrick, college registrar, who was in school from 1933-35. She has four brothers and a sister who were also students here. Her grandfather, the late W. W. Washburn, was one of the original trustees, remaining on the board until his death in 1934. Mrs. Hamrick's father, J. C. Washburn,

was also a trustee and a brother, Dr. Ryan Washburn, is on the current board, in addition to serving as college physician since 1945.

Another faculty member with a rich Gardner-Webb heritage is John Roberts, associate director of public relations and a native of Shelby. He finished here in 1949, then went on to Furman and George Peabody College to get his A. B. and M. A. His mother was a 1910 graduate and three sisters—Laura, Irene, and Bonnie graduated in 1937, 1939, and 1943 respectively. To make it complete, his wife, the former Helen Goodwin, is a '48 graduate.

Miss Saranan Morgan is another alumni member who returned to teach. A '46 graduate, she joined the faculty in 1948 and teaches hygiene and physical education. Her brother, Robert, a '41 graduate, is serving his second term as state senator in the General Assembly in Raleigh.

The family of James Y. Hamrick has Gardner-Webb influence running all through it. Now dean of men and associate professor of English, he is a 1939 graduate. His brother, Charles, is pastor of Nebo Baptist Church and another brother, Hugh, who was here 1935-36, was a prisoner of war for four years. He died in 1940. A sister, Carolyn, who was a Gardner-Webb student 1936-38, now teaches in Cleveland County Schools.

Five Out of Nine
Hubert Dixon, professor of mathematics, has an unusual distinction. Five of the nine children from his family came to Gardner-Webb, with all brothers and sisters finishing at different senior colleges. Three of them—Basil, Goldie, and Ruby—attended at the same time and had their brother, Hubert, as teacher.

Felix Hamrick, Boiling Springs businessman, and his seven brothers and sisters attended Gardner-Webb, so that ought to be some sort of record.

If all of this genealogical research isn't proof enough that a family spirit exists at Gardner-Webb, visit the campus and see one big, happy family—studying, playing, and worshipping together.
(Editor's Note: The writer was too modest to mention that her own sister, Miss Gloria Staton, was in the 1949 class at Gardner-Webb.)

Revival Teams Are Having Busy Year

By Miss Mabel Starnes, Dean of Women

One phase of the church-community development program of Gardner-Webb is the work of the Youth Revival Teams directed by Miss Mabel Starnes. Some 40 young people have conducted worship services this year in 22 churches. These young people lead evangelistic services, teach Sunday school classes, lead department assemblies, give Training Union demonstration programs and lead panel discussions on vital problems facing Christian youth. A quartet or trio is usually with each team. The teams are personally prepared for their adventure by the Dean of Women and meet each evening for an hour the week prior to their engagement in the church. The writer accompanies them to the church and frequently addresses adult groups.

These Youth Revival Teams inspire and influence the young people in the churches visited. This year there have



IDENTICAL TWINS FROM LINCOLNTON—The Weast twins from Lincolnton—Hugh and Houston—are one of the most interesting student combinations at Gardner-Webb. They are alike not only in looks but in interests. After finishing high school together, they enlisted in the U. S. Air Force in September, 1950, serving for three years. During that time, they were separated only six weeks. On their way home after being discharged, they saw a highway sign which read, "Gardner-Webb, 6 miles." They investigated, liked what they saw and enrolled for the 1953 session. Both boys plan to major in political science and will probably enroll at East Carolina College next year—together, of course.



INDIAN STUDENT—Mazdene Carter, shown here, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Carter of Pembroke and is the lone Indian student at Gardner-Webb. Her father is connected with the Baptist State Convention and works with the seven Baptist Colleges in the state. "I feel right at home and feel that I am a part of campus life," the attractive 19-year old student says.