



The Skirl



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Sam Johnson's Literary Club Outgrowth of S.E.W.

At the last service of Spiritual Enrichment Week. Dr. Frye said most college students are familiar with seventeenth century literature but know nothing about contemporary twentieth century writings. He challenged us to learn something about the world around us. The following morning when Miss Walker went into her Sophomore Lit. class, the students immediately began to question her about why they were studying eighteenth century literature. Replying that we must know something about our heritage in literature before we can understand present writers and their philosophies, she immediately brought the class back to the eighteenth century. Discussing Samuel Johnson's Literary Club of 1764, a group which met and discussed current writers and their works, Miss Walker came up with a "bright idea." Why don't you students form a literary society of your own? The class was all enthusiastic about the idea. Membership will be open to any interested peo-

ple who are willing to read and share views in group discussion. The plan is to obtain paperback books from a publishing company at fifty cents a copy, read a book a month, and then discuss them. Anyone interested is invited to sign up on the second floor bulletin board and to be looking for books she is interested in reading. You can find these titles by looking in the book review sections of *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines, the *New York Times*, and your hometown newspaper.

Sam and his friends met and discussed literature over their cups of tea. We have progressed past the point of the tradition of the English tea, but we still have the same intellectual curiosity. If you pay fifty cents to see Rock Hudson in a love scene, why not pay fifty cents to hear a twentieth century writer present in his way some of the more serious aspects of life?

A book a month from the century twenty
Will stimulate your mind
but plenty.

Seminary Deputation Team To Visit FMC

by Martha Perry

Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education are sending a deputation team to Red Springs on February 27 and 28. This group of students is coming as a vocational team to present to college students the various vocations available within the church and our denomination.

The team will arrive on Saturday and spend the night in homes in town. Sunday morning one of the group will visit in the W.F. Sunday School class and present the morning lesson. After one of the U.T.S. students preaches at the morning worship service, the visitors will be guests of the W.F. at dinner in the college dining hall.

Sunday afternoon is reserved for individual conferences with the team at the college. Any students interested in learning more about the U.T.S.-P.S.C.E. program are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to receive first-hand information about it.

Sunday evening the deputation team will again be guests of the W.F. at the regular 6:30 meeting at the church. Again there will be time for questions and discussion for those interested in the program they are presenting.

Some who remember Ruth Evelyn Topping may be interested to know that she is a member of this team and has helped in its preparation for us.

Home Concert Mar. 19

Lorine Mitchell from Port St. Joe, Fla., choir manager, has worked very hard in planning the Choral Club's "Florida Tour" during April 6-10. The club will also sing in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. As flutist, Lorine will accompany the choir in Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Magnificat," also featuring Margaret Ann Martin from Pineville, Ky., contralto soloist.

This year's program includes works of Handel, Palestrina, Brahms, R. Vaughn Williams, Brubb, and Hindemith. Other featured choir soloists are Jane Woodard, Raleigh, N. C., Carroll Shoemaker, Virginia Beach, Va., and Violet Culler, Jefferson, N. C. The accompanists for this year are Jeannette Davis, Atkins, Va., Gwen Hawley, Morganton, N. C., and Margaret Ann Martin, Pineville, Ky.

As student director, Alice Carol Huggins will conduct a portion of the program.

The traditional tartans, representing different Scottish plaids will be worn for the choir's secular programs. Featured also will be a group of Highland airs and dances. The dances are under the direction of Miss Ethel Bateman, Physical Education Dept. The choir robes carry the school colors, royal blue and white, and initials.

Picture postcards of the 1960 Club may be purchased for five

Dr. Vardell Is Acting President

Deans Gwynn and Decker Vice Presidents



CHARLES G. VARDELL

The mid-winter meeting of the Flora Macdonald College Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 9, with the Chairman of the Board, Halbert McNair Jones, presiding.

The highlight of the business session was the appointment of Dr. Charles Vardell, Jr. as acting president, succeeding Dr. Marshall Woodson, who in December accepted the presidency of the Edgar Tufts Memorial Association at Banner Elk.

The new acting president was born of distinguished parentage and has a distinguished record. He is the son of the late Dr. Charles Graves Vardell (Flora Macdonald's first president) and

Linda Rumble Vardell, who founded the FMC Conservatory of Music; and the grandson of Jethro Rumble, and Mrs. Jane Wharton Rumble, of Salisbury. His wife is the former Eleanor Ferrell of Macon, Ga., and they have one daughter, Mrs. Clemens Sandresky of Winston-Salem. He will combine his new duties with his present position as Dean of the Conservatory of Music.

Dr. Vardell received his early education in Red Springs, after which he was graduated from Princeton University as an honor man; from the Julliard School of Music, also with the highest honors; and from University of Rochester, where he received the M. A. and Ph. D. degrees. He is a man of unusual ability, and his career has been one of conspicuous success. He is exceptionally well qualified for his new position.

Dr. Vardell came to Flora Macdonald from Salem College in 1951, where he had held the position of Dean of the School of Music since 1923. While at Salem, he was acting president of that college for several months during the illness of the president, and was a member of the Board of Trustees for a number of years.

Dr. Vardell is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists, and the offices he has held include President of the Southern District of the North Carolina State Music Teachers' Association, and Vice-President of the Southern District of the National Association of Schools of Music. In addition to being one of North Carolina's foremost musicians, he is a composer of considerable note. Among his best known published compositions are "The Inimitable Lovers," a cantata for piano and orchestra; and "Joe Clark Steps Out," a setting of old folk dances.

Among other actions taken at the board meeting, Dr. Price H. Gwynn, Jr. was elected Vice President in charge of academic affairs, while continuing as Dean of the College. Rodger W. Decker, Administrative Dean of the College, was named a vice-president. The Dean of Admissions told the Board that the registration for the coming year is double what it was at this time last year.

No memorial to Dr. Vardell would have been complete without music, for both he and his wife, who founded the conservatory, were lovers of all things beautiful. Mrs. Ruth Sinclair played Chopin's Etude in
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PRICE H. GWYNN, JR.



RODGER W. DECKER

Alumnae Honored Dr. Vardell on 100th Birthday

by Linda Phillips

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

—Longfellow

On Friday afternoon, February 12, 1960, at 4:00 in the college Auditorium, the alumnae and students of this college shared a unique opportunity — that of commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the birthday of the late Dr. Charles Graves Vardell, Founder and

Builder of Flora Macdonald College. The Memorial Service — touchingly beautiful in its simplicity and sincerity — was sponsored and presented by his many 'girls' who loved him — the members of the Flora Macdonald Alumnae Association.

A spirit of reverence permeated the service; there is a sacredness about the memory of one to whose greatness is borne such immeasurable testimony as that of the lives of those whose destinies were shaped by his character and by the quality of the institution he founded.

The service opened with an organ prelude by Mrs. Frances McPhaul McMillan and a prayer by Mrs. Hannah McNeill McMillan, both of Red Springs. Mrs. Phebe Harlan Emmons, Alumnae President, brought greetings from several alumnae who were unable to be present, among them Dr. Vardell's daughters. She then read an old account of the celebration of Dr. Vardell's fiftieth birthday in 1910 at the college.

Recordings of last year's tour are still available and will be sold following all concerts. The high fidelity recording has eight selections by the choir.

The 1960 Home Concert will be Saturday, March 19 in the college auditorium.