

RATIFICATION DAY

A walk into the future

Tri-cornered hats met burr haircuts and mini-skirts mingled with colonial costumes when Chowan celebrated Ratification Day by dedicating Ratification Walk (brick walk from Daniel Hall to Parker Hall) and burying a time capsule to be unearthed November 21, 2089.

Williard Scott announced the proceedings on NBC's *Today Show*, and students, faculty and area dignitaries joined the festivities in November to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Ratification of the United States Constitution by North Carolina in November, 1789.

A goodly crowd gathered on a cold day to observe the burying of the time capsule to be opened in 2089 and hear "Lemuel Burkitt" declaim his involvement as a delegate to the convention that approved the adoption of the document.

Students, townspeople, and special guests had supper together in Thomas Cafeteria, dining on foods that might have

been served in Fayetteville during the ratification convention 200 years ago.

The event opened on the back campus with music from the carillon and a welcome from Dr. Franklin Lowe, dean of the college. The Chowan College stage band, directed by Professor Bob Brown, played a tune characteristic of music enjoyed by colonists 200 years ago. Jonathan Taylor, president of the Baptist Student Union/Campus Christian Fellowship, brought the invocation and the U.S. and state flags were presented by Robert Mann Futrell, Jr., and Charles Andrew Paul of Boy Scout Troop 125, whose scoutmaster is Gilbert Tripp, professor of science.

Freshman Joel David McMahan sang the Star Spangled Banner, accompanied by the stage band. Warren Sexton, chairman of the Department of Social Science, offered a discourse on North Carolina and the ratification. He reviewed events leading to its adoption and the position the representatives from northeastern North Carolina took at the time.



President Emeritus Bruce Whitaker makes an entry into the time capsule.

Ratification Walk was dedicated by Polly Denise (DeeDee) Babb, secretary of the Student Government Association. Juliet Sellers Brooks, president of the Rotaract Club at Chowan, introduced the placing of items in the time capsule to be buried near Susan Parker Kerr Gazebo on the Alumni Green. Students, faculty and staff members placed items into the capsule to be unearthed one hundred years later. One of the items placed in the capsule is a letter from President Jackson to the president of Chowan in the year 2089. Duplicate items are placed in Whitaker Library on campus.

"People in the area seemed fascinated at the idea of the time capsule, and volunteered to put something in," stated Clayton Lewis, Director of Corporate Development at Chowan, who chaired the event. "We were delighted to see so many of the campus organizations participate in that part of Ratification Day."

After a prayer by Gaston T. Mann, sophomore, participants and guests enjoyed a dinner which featured seasonal delights from the time period, including vegetable/bacon and rice soup, roast pork and turkey, blackeyed peas with ham, boiled turnips, and buttermilk biscuits. Apple fritters with hot honey dip were a favorite dessert.



Jack Hassell (right), guards the time capsule, as Dr. John Davis (center), faculty host, makes an announcement while James Hobbs, SGA President looks on.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

On November 16, 1789, North Carolina called a second state convention to consider the ratification of the United States Constitution. Over 270 delegates attended at least one session of the six-day convention (November 16-21, 1789) in Fayetteville. On November 21, 1789, North Carolina ratified the United States Constitution by a vote of 194 to 77.

Music from the carillon introduced the third phase of the observance. The crowd was welcomed by sophomore William Franklin Mingo and Dr. James W. Chamblee, chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, gave a brief history of the colonial music he sang. He was accompanied by Carole Nicholson.

Dr. Hargus Taylor, chaplain, dressed in period costume, gave reflections on the U. S. Constitution, presented much as the Reverend Lemuel Burkitt might have spoken in 1789. Burkitt was the Hertford County Representative to the Hillsborough Convention of 1788 and author of religious and other works. His wife was the first graduate of Chowan College. John Virkler, professor in the Department of Social Science, closed the proceedings with a prayer of thanks for the rights given under the constitution.

Student ushers for the event included: Thomas Thurston Eason, Juan Daryl Lassiter, Donald Wayne Owen, II, and James P. Rainey. Sophomore hosts and hostesses were Wendy Marie Holland, Lori Denyce Nold, James Russell Johnson, and Kenneth R. Traino. Faculty host and hostess were Dr. John Davis, Department of Languages and Literature, and Mrs. Sarah W. Davis.

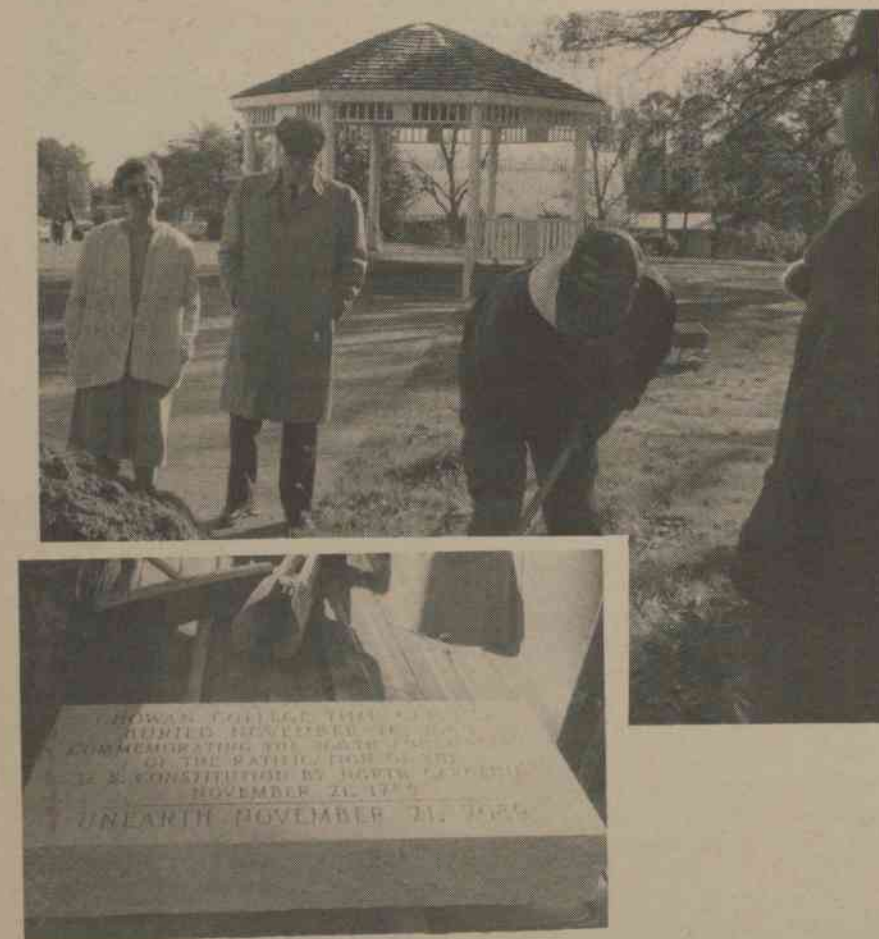
The day was sponsored by the Student Development Services, and the Student Government Association, with Elizabeth Genshaw, advisor and Dr. John Davis, faculty advisor.



Colonial garb mingled with modern in the celebration.



Chaplain Taylor as Lemuel Burkitt



The time capsule is buried near the Susan Parker Kerr Gazebo not to be unearthed until 2089.