



Mary Turner

When Mary Wiggins Turner came to Chowan College in the early 1900's it took her all day to travel to Murfreesboro— by boat.

Chowan was a four-year Baptist college for women when Mary Wiggins entered college in 1908. She attended Chowan through two college presidents' terms, and remembers learning from both presidents, including a philosophy to live by from President John Scarborough which has helped her through many years: "Never falter, never stop. Go forward and pray to God, and he will carry us through."

And that is the philosophy Mary Wiggins Turner has carried through 99 years, because today she is the oldest known living alumna of the college.

Sitting in the front parlor of her farmhouse, Sunnyside Manor, near Gatesville, N.C., Mary Turner

Mary's dream comes true



Mrs. Mary traveled by boat to Chowan (above). She was a member of the painting club (left).



recalls fondly her days at Chowan, when it was a four year Baptist college for women. For many years, it has been her dream for Chowan to return to a four-year college.

"I was born in Mintonsville, and raised on a farm near the Chowan river," she explains. "When it was time to return to college, I would get up at 4:00 a.m. and go to Holly's Wharf to catch a boat to Edenton. The boat, carrying all Chowan students, would stop at Tunis to take on more students from two different trains, one from the south and one from up north."

"Then we would travel on up the Meherrin River, and wouldn't arrive at the docks of Murfreesboro until about 11:00 o'clock that night. A carriage from the college would come down and meet us and take us to Chowan," she remembers.

She entered Chowan in 1908 and studied painting, music, elocution, and voice, among other subjects.

Two large paintings she completed in the art classes at Chowan are displayed in the parlor at Sunnyside Manor.

Life at Chowan was a little different when it was a four-year college for women. There were oil lights, and no running water in the years 1908 through 1912. When the girls needed water, they took pitchers down to the kitchen to get hot water for baths and washing. Lights were out each nights at 10:00 p.m. and the girls were up by 7:00 a.m., dressed and ready to go to breakfast. Classes began promptly at 8:00 a.m. Living quarters, classes, dining room, parlor, and library were all centralized in the McDowell Columns Building.

"To study after 10:00 at night, we would take a light and go into the closet," she recalls.

After graduation, Mrs. Mary taught school for a number of years, and married Mr. O. C. Turner in 1919.

But, life has not always been happiness for the Turner Family, as they lost two children, a daughter at age 3, from ptomaine poisoning, and a son, who died in a plane crash in 1943 while in the service.

Each time, she lived the philosophy she learned so well, to "never falter, never stop, God will carry us through."

She taught Sunday school for 27 years, and served on the Chowan Board of Trustees from 1951-55. Only the crippling power of arthritis has slowed Mrs. Mary down. She was the first woman in Gates county to have a driver's license and learn to drive on a Model T Ford. Today, she still gets around, but with difficulty and she walks with a cane. Surrounded by the quietness of the farm, she lives alone and likes it that way.

Mrs. Mary insists on seeing her guests to the door when they leave, and as she does, she stops and looks toward the future for a moment.

"I do hope to live long enough to see my dear Chowan College return to be four-year once again."

It is ironic that the 1912 Chowan graduating class 'officers' listed Mary Wiggins as the "Prophet".



Daryl Allen



Bob Goff



Ryan Poe



Lonnie Mister

Four coaches join staff

Daryl Allen begins his first season as offensive line football team coach. After graduating from Perquimans High School, Allen played center and linebacker at Chowan before finishing his college education at Guilford College in 1959. For the last 19 years, Allen has coached at Ahoskie and consolidated Hertford County High School, winning 4 Eastern Championships while finishing state runner-up twice.

Bob Goff begins his first season at Chowan as the linebacker coach. Goff, a native of Spring Valley,

New York. Goff is a graduate of Bradley University with a B.S. degree and has done graduate study work at Springfield College and the University of Maine.

Ryan Poe begins his first season at Chowan College as the defensive line coach. A 1990 graduate of Troy State University with the B.A. in journalism, Poe was an offensive center and a 4-year letterman.

Lonnie Mister also joins the coaching staff as the wide-receiver coach. Mister graduated from Chowan in 1985 and is a graduate of North Alabama College.

Homecoming set for October 13

Friday, October 12
7:30 p.m. Class of 1965 Silver Reunion Banquet, President's Dining Room

Saturday, October 13
8:00 a.m. Chowanian Society Meeting, President's Dining Room

10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association, Thomas Cafeteria

11:00 a.m. Class Reunion Celebrations, Thomas Cafeteria
Enjoy the company of friends, classmates, and professors for your class reunion. This year's class hosts & hostesses are listed below.

Classes of '55 & '56
Mrs. Appenzeller & Udvarnoki

Classes of '60 & '61
Mrs. Crouch and Mr. Wallace

Classes of '65 & '66
Mrs. Batchelor & Mr. Ruffin

Classes of '70 & '71
Mr. Dewar & Mrs. Jones

Classes of '75 & '76
Mr. Gatewood & Mrs. Whitaker

Classes of '80 & '81
Mrs. Dewar & Mr. Nicholson

Classes of '85 & '86
Mrs. Eason & Mr. Eubank

12:00 noon Alumni Picnic, Daniel Hall Lawn
Partake of a sumptuous feast before going to the game. Special guests will be on hand for you to meet
Cost: \$5.00 per adult

2:00 p.m. Homecoming Football Game
Chowan vs. Potomac State, Garrison Stadium
Tickets: \$4.00 per adult; \$2.00 per child

4:00 p.m. Post Game President's Reception, Ella Cobb Camp President's Home

7:00 p.m. Hall of Fame Banquet, Thomas Cafeteria
Celebrate the triumphs of former Chowan athletes as four are inducted in the Hall of Fame. This year Daryl Allen '57, Robert Alligood '54, Gerald Mathews '67, and Bobby Gray '61 will join the ranks of former inductees.

8:00 p.m. Alumni All Campus Dance
Lakeside Student Center