

Development News

Joe Murray, account manager of Sprint Carolina and Telepbone, presents a check to E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development, to be used toward the construction and furnishing the A. J. Watkins Instructional Materials Center of Whitaker Library. The new facility, to be dedicated later this spring, will be used primarily by students majoring in teacher education.



David Harris, left, presents a check to R. Clayton Lewis, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, in support of the annual "Day for Chowan" campaign. Harris, manager of Georgia-Pacific's Conway plant, presented the check in behalf of his firm.



W. E. Horner, Sr., printing program benefactor, dies

William E. Horner, Sr., a former state representative, highway commissioner and founder of The Sanford Herald, died Monday, Feb. 7. He was 92 years of age.

Horner, whose benefaction made possible the construction of Chowan's graphic communications center and in whose honor the facility was named, was born in Durham County. He was married to the former Nannie Andrews, who predeceased him.

He attended Trinity College (now Duke University), but transferred to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was awarded a B.S. degree in commerce in 1922.

In 1930, Horner and a friend purchased *The Sanford Journal*, a financial shaky weekly publication, but within a few years he became sole owner of the newspaper.

Changing the name to *The Sanford Herald*, Horner increased the publication to twice a week and in 1952 it became a daily newspaper.

Although officially "retired", Horner continued an active role in the operation of the newspaper until several years ago. His son, William E. Horner, Jr., is the current publisher, and grandson Bill Horner, III, serves as general manager.

Horner was devoted to the journalism profession and he held a genuine interest in the education of young people preparing for careers in the printing and publishing industry.

During his long and distinguished career in journalism, he was active in the North Carolina Press Association and served one term as president.

Survivors include a sister, Sue Sample of Statesville, and three children: Nancy Horner Hulin of Wilmington, Louise Horner Bowles of Greensboro, and William E. Horner, Jr., of Sanford.

Funeral services were conducted at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Sanford on Feb. 9th.

Sawyer Scholarship established by former student

Church youth leader offered encouragement for student to get college education and attend Chowan

Ida C. Sawyer probably never had thoughts that one day one of the members of her youth groups at First Baptist Church in New Bern would honor her with a memorial scholarship fund at Chowan College.

Lydia Piner Burns, now of Charlotte, one of the many young people whom she taught and encouraged in Sunbeams and GA groups, and her husband, Wesley M. Burns, have established the endowed Ida C. Sawyer Scholarship to help "deserving young people gain a quality Christian education at Chowan."

E. Vincent Tilson, vice president for development, said "over the years the scholarship will touch for good the lives of many young men and women and their families just as Ida Sawyer touched the many youth of New Bern."

"The Ida C. Sawyer Scholarship will help Chowan help the many young people who want to attend college," he continued, "but who do not have the financial means to do so."

In establishing the memorial fund, Mrs. Burns expressed how she valued the help and guidance she received as a young girl from Mrs. Sawyer. Her father worked on the railroad and was home infrequently with his five sons and two daughters. His wife had died when Lydia was 15 years old.

As a young girl, Lydia became active in the First Baptist Church in New Bern where she met

Ida Sawyer. Through those early years she received much guidance and encouragement in the junior department of Sunday School, Sunbeams and GAs from Mrs. Sawyer who was a beloved teacher and youth leader.

As Lydia approached college age, financial difficulties of the family prevented her from attending the college of her first choice. It was through the encouragement of Ida Sawyer that Lydia considered Chowan, then a small Baptist school.

Lydia followed the advice of her friend and teacher and enrolled at Chowan in December of 1937 and was a member of the Class of 1939—one of the first two-year classes after the college had made the change to a junior institution.

Mrs. Ida C. Sawyer had known throughout life the value of a good education.

She and her two sisters were taught at home by their mother and father, who were both blind. The girls were schooled in all subjects by their parents, except for instructions in writing which was provided by a qualified neighbor.

Reaching young adulthood, Ida's parents "had the vision" to insist that each of their daughters be exposed to a college education even though they were in an era when it was not "fashionable" for young ladies to go to college.

On a semester-by-semester basis, Ida Sawyer rotated with her sisters as a student at Meredith

College and caring for their blind parents until each had completed three years of college education.

Ida Sawyer and her husband, James H. Sawyer, a wholesale grocer in New Bern, were the parents of three children: James H. Sawyer, Jr., of Nashville, TN., an engineer; Dr. C. Glenn Sawyer, a cardiologist at the Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem; and Mrs. Lucille Harris, also of Winston-Salem, a retired music teacher.

Ida Sawyer died April 13, 1967—a day spent as she had all others of her life—helping others. She had taken two elderly friends to purchase their groceries, and after arriving back at her home, a massive heart attack ended her life at the age of 80.

In establishing the Sawyer memorial scholarship, Mrs. Burns confirmed her "love and admiration in a tangible way" for a woman who "so positively influenced" her life and the lives of many other young people.

Tilson said the principal of the Ida C. Sawyer Scholarship Fund will be held in perpetuity, and only a portion of earnings distributed annually to provide financial assistance to qualified students.

The scholarships will be awarded on an unrestricted basis, but preference will be given to young people of First Baptist Church in New Bern.