

SMOKE SIGNALS

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Then and Now

Chowan's Regulations Changed From 1848 to the Present

By BECKIE WORKMAN

On May 19, 1848 The Chowan Association approved to establish the Chowan Female Institute. In October of that same year eleven girls arrived and registered for classes. When fall semester began in 1931 the first men were admitted as full-time students. From its beginning years up until this day Chowan has changed its rules from time to time. Before you continue to read this article ask yourself "What are my feelings about the rules at Chowan?"

Then

The regulations for the 1948-51 year prescribed the dress which the girls were to wear: "In order to form habits of economy, and prevent rivalry in dress, the Board has prescribed a uniform for Sabbaths and holidays. For winter, a deep blue merino, or other suitable fabric — for summer, a pink calico or gingham, and white cambric or muslin. The bonnet to be straw, dressed with blue for winter and pink for summer. During school time any dress may be worn not more expensive than the uniform." Other rules were that expensive jewelry was not allowed to be worn by the students. Purchases for the young ladies were made under the instruction from their parents and guardians.

The next year these regulations were repeated and others were added. The boarding students at the school were not allowed to receive or make visits or attend any exhibition without the permission of the principal. When they left school they had to be escorted by a teacher. Students

were not allowed to open accounts with the merchants without the permission of their parents or guardians. All purchases had to be approved by the teacher who escorted the student.

The control of the students was left totally with the principal and his faculty, and the officials of the College declared that their discipline was mild. "Every effort is made to reclaim the erring by kindness and private appeals to the reason and conscience; if these efforts fail, the student is privately removed from the Institution. No young lady will be allowed to remain in the Seminary whose influence tends to encourage indolence or insubordination, or, whose influence is in any respect, of an unflavorable character."

Additional rules were stated in later editions of the catalogue. Students were restricted from visiting the post office or stores except in cases of need and then only when escorted by an official of the Institute or a relative. Letters received by the students passed through a member of the faculty. Where there was suspicion of an underhand correspondence, the letters were enclosed to the parents or guardians without the knowledge of the student.

By the school year 1856 the officials had changed the rules concerning dress. The dress was to be simple, modest, and not costly. Extravagance in dress was not allowed. No jewelry except a plain ring or breastpin were to be worn. Parents were asked to avoid the allowance of large pocket money, as such

indulgence has a tendency to promote extravagant and idle habits in the individuals and exert injurious influence on their companions. In the 1890's the boarding students were not permitted to have visitors except relatives and friends from their own community. In the Catalogue for 1900-1901 this rule was made a bit more distinct by the addition of "in case of young men, only on written permission from parents or guardians given directly to the President or to the Lady Principal." All students are required to attend morning and evening prayers in the Chapel; also Sunday School and public worship at a town church on Sunday, and at night services in the College chapel.

The rules were changed from time to time but were rather

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1974 Students



Students of the Past

Bicycles Recovered

By MIKE PATTERSON

With the recent trend in ecology, as well as the gas shortage the last few years, the bicycle has enjoyed a rebirth of popularity. People are once again discovering that it is a very pleasurable form of not only transportation, but exercise.

The bicycle fad has grown enormously in the past few years—and so has the number of stolen bicycles. Chowan College has proven to be of no exception in this matter. Euell Atkinson, head of the Security Department here at Chowan, reports that there has been "a rash of bicycle thefts here on campus." The Security Department is currently holding

several bicycles they have recovered, but that have not been claimed by their owners.

If those bicycles had been registered, the owners would have been fairly easy to find. But, alas, the previous owners didn't bother. So, if you have had a bike stolen recently you may want to check with the Security Department.

Bicycles, if the owner so desires, may be registered at the Security Department in the basement of McDowell Columns Building. The fee is a very nominal \$3.00 a year or \$2.00 a semester and well worth it if your \$110.00 Sears Special turns up missing.

Look Us Over Day Is Successful

By CATHY CAVE

Chowan College has given High School students the opportunity to visit the campus academically and socially. This was a fulfilled day of events throughout the school. Look Us Over Day was Saturday afternoon October 26, 1974. Students toured the college from lunch at 12:00, with interest programs of all sorts ending the day with a football game at 8:00.