



ELON: THE TOWN

By Kathy Davis

Elon College, N.C. originated with the building of a railroad running from Goldsboro to the city of Charlotte. The time: 1851. A freight depot was constructed in 1887 at Ossipee and Altamahaw for textile facilities and the area became known as Mill Point.

On what is now Trolling Ave. was the home-site of James N. Williamson, founder of the Ossipee Mill, now part of Burlington Industries. The home is now the oldest dwelling in Elon College.

Graham Institute was established in 1852, and can be considered as the forerunner of Elon College.

In 1889 a four-year educational college was founded by the Christian denomination. The previous year the citizens of Mill Point had donated 40-50 acres of land to the newly established college, 25 acres of which was to be used for the campus proper. W. H. Trollinger of Haw River donated an additional 23 acres to the college and resident and other individuals donated \$4,000.

The name "Elon" is Hebrew for oak, and since oak trees were prevalent in the area, the name "Elon" was selected to be the new title of the college. Elon's construction began in 1889 and when finished in 1890, one brick building represented the entire Elon cam-

pus. Classes opened in 1890 with 108 students. In 1891 East Dormitory was built.

In 1905, Elon College had the services of electricity and water. The college was later to supply the town with both electricity and water. In 1893, the town of Elon College formally adopted its name.

Several businesses

came to the town including: a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, (now part of the public school grounds, a grist mill, a sawmill and woodworking shop, a brickyard, a bank which functioned for about 25 years, and a publishing house which published and distributed the "Christian Sun", the Christian churches periodical. The

(Continued on page 4)

editor's note

In this issue of the Maroon and Gold the staff has attempted to examine the problems facing the town of Elon College and its relationship to the college.

What are the problems of a small town such as Elon College? What goals and proposals does the town have? What can the town offer to the students of the college? What do the students want the town to offer them? And what do the students contribute to the town?

We have attempted to answer questions such as these concerning the development of the town in this study.

Maroon & Gold

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Elon College, N. C.
PERMIT No. 1

Return Requested

VOLUME 50

Elon College, N. C.

Thursday, November 20, 1969

NUMBER 9



Students, Merchants Give Views On Elon

by Richard Youmans

Have you ever stopped and thought about where the merchants of Elon College would be if it were not for the patronage of Elon College students?

This is perhaps a crude statement to make, but let us consider it for a moment. The town of Elon College is not very large, as we are all aware, and if there were no college, where would this leave the merchants of the town?

As stated by Mr. Bill Cole, proprietor of Swift Cleaners Inc., "this business is both dependent on Elon College students and citizens of the town, but the majority of the income is derived from the college students." Cole stated that he has

"been in business here for the past seven years, and I have no immediate plans for improvements or expansion, since we have just finished remodeling due to the fire last spring. I enjoy conducting my business here in Elon College and the courteous Elon students are very friendly."

Many businesses in Elon College would suffer if no college existed, but several would feel no change at all. The stores which would be affected very little would be the food stores, such as Tiny-Tote and Gentry's Grocery Store. Mr. Gentry, proprietor of Gentry's Grocery Store has been in business in Elon College for the past 22 years. Gentry has no immed-

iate or future plans for improvements or expansion, as he said, "I have a good little store here and there is no reason for improvements or expansion, either at the present time or in the near future." Asked how he feels about operating a business in a college town, Gentry stated, "I would not have been in business this long if I did not like it. Most of my customers are good hand-picked customers, whom I have had for a long time and a very small percentage of the store's income comes from Elon student patronage. The students whom I am in contact with are friendly and I have no complaints about their manners or courtesy."

More Services

By Cathy Albair

The Charter of Elon College states "the objects of the corporation are to provide equipment and facilities necessary to the well-being and success of a college offering Christian training and instruction in the liberal arts, sciences and/or any specific field of higher education and learning that may appeal expedient or useful."

The purpose of Elon College is clearly defined. What the college has to offer its students is set down in black and white. But what does the town of Elon College have to offer and accommodate the some 1800 students who reside within

the town limits?

The town, or business section of Elon College, N. C. consists of three grocery stores, two gas stations, a post office, two grills, a laundromat, one furniture store, two barber shops, one dry cleaners, the town hall and the College Ku Klub, a pool hall.

What do students think about the town of Elon College? What would students like to see done to the town to answer their needs? These are the questions posed to several students this past week.

Generally masculine reactions were the same. Indifference was the main response, although a

(Continued on page 2)