



### ING OF DREAMS OF THE FUTURE

Other additions projected in the sketch include classroom buildings, a gymnasium and pool, head-houses connecting Vann and Brewer dormitories with Johnson Hall, an infirmary, a student center, an outdoor theater and lake, a library, and a chapel (the latter two buildings are not included in the present Expansion Program). Of particular interest is the long-range plan for a well-landscaped double drive leading to a Johnson Hall without the present front steps.

## Campaign Worker Makes Direct Appeal to Alumnae: "A Gift from Every Alumna" and \$100,000 Set as Three-year Goal for Meredith Alumnae Association

By Ruth Couch Allen

Just so you will not forget the figure, I repeat: the Executive Committee of the Alumnae Association has designated \$100,000 as our alumnae goal—as our special part in the general Meredith Expansion Program. Except for the immediate family on the campus—the faculty—who have already pledged, we alumnae want to be the first to bring our gifts. Let our slogan be "A GIFT FROM EVERY ALUMNA." Our \$100,000 is to be used for a classroom building. In a conspicuous place in the building we shall have a plaque indicating our part in the undertaking. We also want a roll book of donors with the name of every alumna in it.

#### The Challenge

One-hundred thousands dollars is a lot of money; but the sum is no bigger than the generous hearts of Meredith Alumnae. It may be bigger than our combined annual pocketbooks, but not bigger than our combined triennial pocketbooks. Remember that it is a three-year pledge that we want from each alumna—either with or without cash at the time of pledging. The monthly bills plus March 15 may have flattened the billfold temporarily, but there are other months coming, and Mae Grimmer is always at home to alumnae letters, especially cordial when they contain checks. There is no gift too large



BUSY DAYS: Pictured above is a typical scene in the Alumnae House as Miss Mae Grimmer, left, executive secretary of the Alumnae Association, and Mrs. LeRoy Allen, alumnae director of the Expansion Program, lay plans for alumnae participation in the drive.

and none too small; we must all give if we are to reach our goal.

#### Divisional Organization

We have been busy with organization which we hope will make possible a personal call on every alumna in North Carolina. Since our divisions are large, we have re-

zoned them into working areas. In the Elizabeth City Division we have six areas—Scotland Neck, Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Greenville, New Bern, and Elizabeth City; in the Greensboro Division, three areas—Raleigh, Greensboro, and Oxford; in the Wilmington Division, four areas—Smithfield, Fayetteville, Lumberton, and Wilmington; in the Charlotte Division, five areas—Winston-Salem, Statesville, Shelby, Charlotte, and Rockingham.

Because the Land of the Sky is always in a class by itself, the Asheville Division does not have to conform to the divisional procedure of the rest of the state. There will be a planning meeting in Asheville to which representatives from all towns within a reasonable driving distance will come. The other alumnae of the area and I will work out a special technique for their smaller groups, but, barring unrecorded changes of address, not an individual will be overlooked.

#### Details of Procedure

In each of these area towns we shall have a planning meeting to which representative alumnae will come (a committee meeting), or in divisions where the regional vice-president prefers it so, there will be a meeting to which all alumnae of the area are invited—a combined general rally and committee meeting. To every meeting we shall take, from the alumnae office, pledge cards for all alumnae of the area, with names already on the cards ready for distribution to the workers. We also have information leaflets presenting in concise form some facts about the College and the alumnae which may bring up-to-date news to some alumnae who have not visited Meredith recently. We hope, too, that workers may present some ready-made arguments for active participation in the Expansion Program—if anyone could need argument other than the prompting of her heart. Our *Brief for Workers*, to be distributed at the meetings, has specific suggestions about campaign procedures.

In each hostess town the chairman of that town with her committee will arrange the meeting (in many cases has already done so) and notify chairmen in her area towns. Before the meeting, she will have set up her organization of majors, captains, workers—if her alumnae group is large enough to justify that particular organization (Continued on page six)

#### ANSWERS: MEREDITH I.Q.

- (1) 8,000. (2) 3,400. (3) 625. (4) 79; 10 and the District of Columbia; 1 (Rotary scholar from Denmark). (5) 50. (6) 71.9 per cent.

### chedule of Funds

	\$1,230,000
	\$300,000
	300,000
	300,000
ries)	150,000
	100,000
	80,000
	200,000
	200,000
	\$ 50,000
	50,000
	50,000
Lake	25,000
	25,000
	500,000
	120,000
	\$2,250,000

## "WE CAN NEVER BE DONE WITH GIVING TO A REALLY GREAT CAUSE" — AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

By Mary Lynch Johnson

Meredith College was, in Andrew Carnegie's phrase, "born to the blessed heritage of poverty," for the whole history of the school has been marked by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, by financial crises which threatened its very life. Because of these, the College has been the more keenly aware of "the guidance of the good hand of God," "the Divine Favor," "God's signal blessings," to which Dr. Vann often referred with gratitude in his reports to the Convention.

#### Initial Difficulties

It must have been difficult to see the blessing of poverty when the construction of the Main Building, begun in 1895, had to be halted several times for long periods because there was no money to pay for materials or labor. In 1896, the chairman of the executive committees of the trustees wrote in his report: "It was very trying to us to see the pretty fall days passing by while our walls stood day after day without rising higher, but we were forced to wait until money came in before going further." In 1897, he reported to the Convention that the roof was on the building and the windows boarded up for the winter.

#### Renewed Determination

Yet the stopping of the work brought no note of discouragement into the report; instead, there was renewed determination. "A female university is a necessity to our work," that 1897 report asserted, "and the heart of our people has laid hold of it and said, 'By the grace of God it shall be.'" In virtually every issue of the *Biblical Recorder* were pleas from the editor, from the trustees, and from pastors for sacrificial giving to "this struggling child who so much needs and so richly deserves it."

"No work is sweet to us until we have made sacrifices for it. . . Some of us feel that we can never have rest of mind until the institution is open for our girls."

"The slow pace of progress in the completion of the institution should draw our hearts closer to it. . . Educational institutions are

not made of bricks and mortar and money. They are never great until sanctified with sacrifice."

#### The Women to the Rescue

In 1898 at the Convention, Fannie E. S. Heck and fifteen other women pledged themselves, Miss Heck afterwards wrote, "solemnly, in the presence of God and in reliance on His strength, to spare neither prayer, time, thought, pride, nor purse in securing among the Baptist women and friends of education in North Carolina \$1,000." This meeting led to the formation of the Women's Educational Union. Miss Heck's example reinforced her precept, "Give first yourself until sacrifice brings joy, and then you will be ready to influence others to give."

#### Sacrificial Giving

There were generous responses to these pleas. Some gave hundreds who could ill afford tens; many others gave dollars who could ill afford dimes. With her gift of ten dollars a school teacher wrote, "I can do without the clothes I meant to buy with this, but we cannot do without the school." (Those who are considering giving ten dollars now might remember that the average pay of the North Carolina school teacher then was less than twenty-five dollars a month for terms ranging from three to eight months.) A country preacher barely able to make ends meet wrote: "I can't pray if I turn my back on a work like this." A drayman pledged twenty dollars to be paid in hauling; a childless widow gave her husband's watch.

#### As the College Opens

The College opened in 1899 with a debt of \$35,000 instead of the endowment of \$100,000 for which its friends had hoped. At the Convention of 1901, with the third academic session well under way, Dr. Vann reported:

"A debt of \$43,000 on a property worth \$100,000 with no endowment is a load which no enterprise can carry. The income from students has been large beyond all expectations, and yet because of this debt, with its annual interest of \$2,500

we have been compelled to overdraw our bank account and depend on outside collections from our brethren to meet the deficiency. This course, if pursued, can have but one result, and that will be swift and fatal." The following extracts from articles in the *Biblical Recorder* and from letters to Dr. Vann make clear how the "swift and fatal" result was averted:

"I feel as if many of us could afford to do as the early Christians—sell our possessions and pay the debt that the institution might be raised to that high place of usefulness to which the Lord has called it."

"Your burden is greater than ours, no matter how liberal we are."

"As per your plan in the *B. Recorder*, I will join the list of 500 to send you \$1.00 for the B.F.U. hope you will meet with Success."

"Enclosed herewith find check for \$100.00 for you to use for the benefit of the Female University. Ought of sent it sooner, But the condition my family is such that keeps me short with my work. May the Lord bless you in your work."

"We have built this institution to last as long as Baptists have anything to do with education. . . It is nothing that many of us have been called on before. We can never be done with giving to a really great cause."

The College was successful in meeting the offer of the General Education Board made in 1910 to give from the Rockefeller Fund \$25,000 if the College raised \$50,000.

#### Her Darkest Hour

What was perhaps the darkest hour in the history of the College came after it had moved to the new site. The new buildings were financed by bonds issued in one of the financially roseate years, 1923. When they had to be paid off in the grim days of the depression, with numerous rooms in the new buildings empty, financial disaster seemed (Continued on page eight)



Johnson Hall will receive attention in the long-range plan for a well-landscaped double drive leading to the present library will be eliminated and an attractive triple doorway.