

The Hilltop



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McLeod, Former MHC Professor Dies

John Angus McLeod, 85, who taught English at Mars Hill College for 43 years before retiring in 1967, died Tuesday morning, October 28, in an Asheville hospital following several months of declining health.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at the Mars Hill Baptist Church.

Memorials to the John and Evelyn McLeod Scholarship at Mars Hill College may be made in lieu of flowers, a spokesman for the family suggested.

In addition to his teaching duties at the college, Professor McLeod did the research and wrote the official history of the college. The work was published in 1956, under the title "From These Stones," in connection with the school's centennial celebration.

Also in addition to his teaching over the years, he edited college catalogs, the alumni magazine, and other publications and directed the college news service. He also served as a community correspondent for the Asheville Citizen-Times for more than 20 years.

In 1927, with the assistance of J.P. Huskins of Burnsville and a few other students, he founded the college's student newspaper, *The Hilltop*. Huskins, who was the first editor, later became editor and publisher of the Statesville Daily Record and served in the North Carolina General Assembly.

In 1966 Furman University presented Professor McLeod its Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award as an outstanding alumnus and praised him as a man of "high aspirations and noble, humanitarian qualities of character."

Mr. McLeod was born in Alfordville in Robeson County on August 19, 1895; but most of his years prior to his coming to Mars Hill were spent in South Carolina. He attended North Greenville Academy and Haywood Institutes at Clyde before enrolling at Furman, from which he received a B.A. degree in 1923. During the 1923-1924 school year he was principal of Berea High School in Greenville. At the end of that year he was invited by Dr. R.L. Moore, president of Mars Hill College, to join the college English faculty.

Professor McLeod did graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill, receiving a master's degree there in 1929; and he later did post graduate studies at the University of Chicago and the University of London.

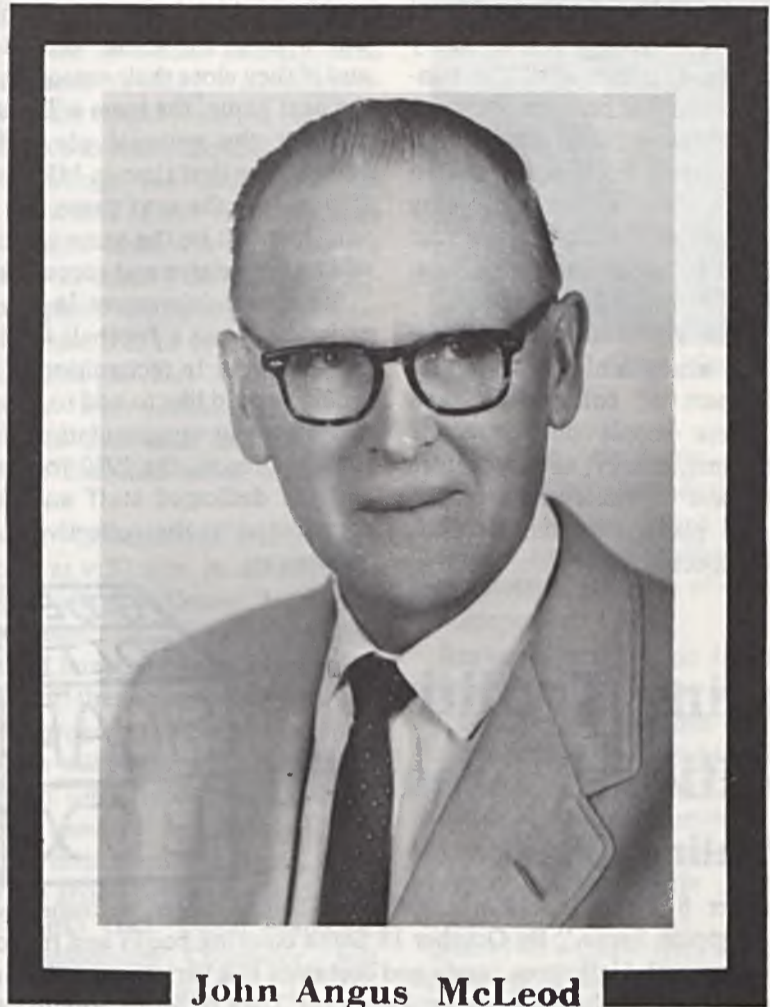
When his long-time colleague at Mars Hill, Dr. Ella Pierce, retired in 1965, Professor McLeod was named to succeed her as chairman of the English Department, a position he filled until his own retirement two years later.

An ordained Baptist minister, he pastored churches in the Greenville area while teaching at Furman; and, after coming to Mars Hill, he pastored the Jupiter and Key Mountain churches in Buncombe County and the California Creek Church in Madison. He also served on the board of deacons at the Mars Hill Baptist Church for more than 40 years.

Immediate survivors include his wife, the former Evelyn Allen, to whom he was married for 56 years; a son, Dr. John A. McLeod Jr., chief pathologist at Memorial Hospital in Asheville; and two daughters, Mrs. Evelyn Thomas of Bristol, Tenn., a music teacher at Milligan and King colleges; and Mrs. Graham Hoffman of Knoxville, Tenn., a University of Tennessee faculty member who is currently teaching history writing at Harvard University. Also among the survivors are 11 grandchildren.

Professor McLeod's history of Mars Hill College was hailed as a scholarly work which saved valuable materials which had been in danger of becoming lost. Few of the college's records were kept during the first 40 years of the college's operation, and most of those had been lost or destroyed by the time the trustees asked Professor McLeod to compile an official history of the institution.

Fortunately, there were a few elderly citizens still living in the Mars Hill area who remembered much of the college history. Mr. McLeod interviewed all of them, gathering as much information and as many facts as he could. To this storehouse of material he added his own careful research done in denominational records, public and private libraries, courthouse files, and other sources. His book not only defined the history of the college but also sketched the educational, sociological and economic conditions in which the institution was founded and through which it developed during its first 100 years.



John Angus McLeod

Group Discovers Diversity Through Midwest Adventure

Pat Buckner HILLTOP Reporter

Four MHC students and two experimental education workers were involved in a cross-cultural adventure during fall break to the Midwest as part of the Appalachian Center's Program of Experimental Education.

Those who ventured to northern Ohio and southern Michigan were: Pat Buckner, Ron Johnson, Sheila Ammons, Paula Edwards, Jill Mannisto, and Jerry Plemmons.

Highlights of the journey included: the Michigan vs. Illinois football game, tours of Michigan State University and the Henry Ford Museum, plus a visit to Detroit's Renaissance Center.

The objectives of this trip were to encounter a particular region through firsthand experience and to observe any diversity among the culture. Students did find many differences such as technological advancements, diverse ethnic groups, and a fast pace of life.

Another interesting contrast was the amount of crime in an urban area as compared to a rural one. In a town the

size of Mars Hill, the crime rate is fairly low, but in downtown Detroit crime is commonplace. In fact, a mugging took place in the Renaissance Center while the group was there.

A tour of Michigan State University proved big isn't always better. Even though facilities were geared for a maximum amount of learning, the MHC group found that students don't become acquainted with professors and that it is sometimes difficult to make a lot of friends. Of course, this could be attributed to MSU's enrollment of 48,000 and classes which sometimes accommodate up to 600 students.

Most importantly, students discovered that the Civil War is really over. There were no ill feelings shown toward them because of their southern background, nor did anyone from MHC hold any feelings against "yankees." In contrast, the group found obliging people like Ida Tibbels, Jenny Brown, and Crystal Noftz who allowed them to board at their homes with no expenses.