



BENNETT COMMENCEMENT PRINCIPALS — Dr. Willa B. Flayer, president of Bennett College, Greensboro, is shown with three of the principals in the 85th commencement exercises held recently. Dr. Alvin C. Eulich, vice president of the Fund for the Advancement of Education, who delivered the address, stands between Dr. John L. Tarpley, Bennett trustee (second from left) and Ben L. Smith, certifying superintendent of Greensboro public schools, who was presented a citation by the college in recognition of his 22 years of educational statesmanship and his particular contributions in the field of human relationships. Mr. Smith was presented by Dr. Tarpley.

After 28 Years Service:

Dr. S. D. Williams Retires As Elizabeth City's President

ELIZABETH CITY — After twenty-eight years of service as dean and president of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College, Dr. S. D. Williams is retiring as the head of this noted institution. The students, faculty members, alumni and friends assembled for the 1953 commencement exercises were shocked to hear for the first time that the man who had done so much to make the Elizabeth City State Teachers College an outstanding teachers college of the country had decided to lay down his mantle.

Dr. Williams came to the college in 1925 to serve as dean, a post he held for fifteen years. His loyalty and cooperation to his institution and general efficiency were responsible for his selection as the fourth president in 1945.

During his administration, the institution has grown to be one of the most effective schools in the country designed for the training of elementary school teachers. His greatest contribution as dean was the reorganization of the curriculum of the college.

His plan to guide students in the areas of personal, social and economic growth in the preparation of teaching and good citizenship was a contribution to the present popular trend in higher education. President Williams received national recognition for this noble effort.

He began his administration as president by appointing to state officials, members of the Advisory Budget Commission, the General Assembly for a later appropriation for the college. In response to conscientious, factual, sincere and thought-provoking requests, the appropriations were eventually granted to transform the college into a first-class institution which has now become the pride of the citizens of North Carolina. Under the administration of President Williams every building has been remodelled and put into first-class shape.

The campus through the addition of roads, walks and shrubbery has now become a show place of the town. In the past ten years two exceptionally modern dormitories have been erected, a science hall, a physical education and fine arts building have been firmly modern in its appointments, an up-to-date gymnasium and an athletic field have been added. In addition, four homes for faculty members have been provided.

Academically, the college has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the American Association of Colleges for Teachers Education and the American Council for Accreditation of

Teacher Education. His efforts in this respect have resulted in the graduates being recognized as well-prepared teachers able to hold their own in any school system in the nation. Graduates of the college are making excellent records in the leading graduate schools of the nation.

For many years, President Williams saw the need of expanding the curriculum of the college in order to meet the needs of youth who did not wish to become teachers. As a result, during the past year courses have been added in commercial education, cosmetology, brickmasonry and electronics.

President Williams' administration has been marked by his first interest in the professional growth of the teachers and administration of the state. His constant and increasing striving for improved instruction at the college, high school and elementary educational level has become a source of inspiration to all teachers of the state.

As the organizer of the Northeastern North Carolina Schoolmasters Club, the oldest of the state, and as president of the North Carolina College Conference and the North Carolina Teachers Association, Dr. Williams has been a tremendous influence in shaping the lives of hundreds of teachers and principals of the state.

Many months were spent in making the decision to retire. It was not easy for I love this institution and all connected with it," said the president in talking with friends. His lovely wife who has been an inspiration to him through all of his years of service, shares his feeling in leaving the institution which has been their heart for these twenty-eight years. Mrs. Williams, a teacher in the P. W. Moore High School until her retirement recently has endeared herself to all who have known her.

It was President Williams' desire to retire a year ago but he did not wish the new board to be appointed at that time to have the task of appointing a new president as soon as they entered upon their duties and before they could become familiar with the affairs of the college. He also was concerned about the new program of education being initiated.

It is significant that the Board of Trustees named him as a member of the committee to select the new president for he believes that the best person available should be chosen, one who has exceptional training and experience in college education that the institution might move ahead. These beliefs are indicative of the great love and interest which he has in the college where he has labored so long and effectively.

Being a modest person, quietly going about his duties and responsibilities it is not generally known that President and Mrs. Williams contributed financial aid to many boys and girls who would have been denied an education otherwise. He is an elder in the Antioch Presbyterian Church here and has been active in the affairs of the community. Not only has he held membership on many local civic committees, but he has served on many state boards and commissions.

In 1948, the Johnson C. Smith University of Charlotte, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Education in recognition of his work as a leader in the education of youth.

All who have known him regret that he feels it prudent to step down at this time, but they also realize that he has earned the right. It goes without saying that his influence in the community will be missed.



INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR AT RECEPTION—The President's Reception for graduates, alumni and friends given during commencement at AAT College last week took on an international flavor as James Dennis, right, Monrovia, Liberia, one of a score of African students at the college, passes through the receiving line of from left to right: Mrs. Daniel A. Chapman, Dr. Chapman, ambassador from Ghana to the United States, Mrs. Starmoth T. Gibbs and Dr. Gibbs, president of the college. Chapman delivered the commencement address at the college.

464 Graduates:

Ambassador Chapman Delivers 60th Commencement Address At And T

By MARCUS H. ROULWARE GREENSBORO — For the purpose of reminding 464 A and T College graduates of their brothers

N. C. ELKS NEWS

ODDS-ENDS

By ROBERT G. SHEPARD

A MORATORIUM ON DOCTORATES: Isn't it about time for Negro colleges to declare a moratorium on honorary doctorates? The practice of conferring these honorary degrees has become so wide-spread and promiscuous that it closely resembles a racket. It is not checked now this degree supposed to represent the highest level of achievement in the various areas of learning and accomplishment, will soon become empty and meaningless.

We have no quarrel with the institution that confers these honors on individuals who, by meritorious and distinct service to their fellow man over a period of time have proven through their services and contributions that they are deserving of such honors. Schools of higher education where doctorates are earned through hard work and studious effort, measure each candidate for a doctorate, degree with a yardstick that determines with unflinching accuracy the candidate's fitness to receive this degree.

Is it not, therefore an insult to these men and women who, by their effort and labor, have earned these coveted degrees to be placed in the same category with those who have these same honors "thrown" upon them because of political, financial or social expediency? Possibly without exception all honorary doctorates conferred by white institutions have been well earned by the recipients. These recipients are men and women whose distinction is so well known that the mere mention of their names brings to mind many of their notable achievements.

It is that it should be our colleges and universities must recognize the harm they are doing in this respect. They must realize they are not helping to raise the intellectual level of our group by this practice, but are cheapening and lowering it. Our schools should exercise the greatest care in determining that the sum total of achievement of the individual is such that he is deserving of honorary doctorate degrees equals or surpasses the standards set by the leading institutions for those attempting to qualify for these degrees. We need and need badly men and women, who either through scholastic attainments or proven abilities and achievements, have qualified themselves to contribute to the betterment of our race, our state and our country. A group parading around in the hollowed vestments of honorary doctorates will never contribute anything in this direction.

DO WE WANT ANYTHING? We heard a small group of "our people" discussing last week what the Negroes in Raleigh need. One said, "we need Negro firemen and more Negro police officers." Another said we need more and better homes or better streets. Then there was the suggestion that maybe more jobs and better paying jobs would cure our ills here. And et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

While the discussion was going on one thought continued to occupy our mind. "Do the Negroes in Raleigh want anything worthwhile?" It is axiomatic that when you want something, that is really want something, you will work unceasingly to get it. And you won't give up until you have what you want.

Looking over our situation squarely in the face, it is rather difficult to believe that we actually want anything here if our wants are to be judged by our efforts. There may be those who believe that wishing for things to change will somehow bring about a change for the better. Some day these wishful dreamers will awaken and learn how they have disillusioned themselves.

By MRS. EVELYN H. ADAMS

GASTONIA — First of all on behalf of the delegation of N. C. Elks who attended the State Association in Asheville week of May 11-14 I'll say we were overjoyed to see our Grand Exalted Ruler Hon. Robert Johnson and to see him looking so well after his recent accident. We were pleased to know that obstacles don't deter our leader. There is a saying that "The set of the sails and not the gales determine where we go." And so our Grand seems to feel that as long as he is leader, he will lead. And that he has shifted his aim to visit each State Association to no one. Although he was most ably assisted by Hon. Hobson Reynolds, Grand Commissioner of Civil Liberties and Press Sec. Clay Clayborne, Mr. Johnson was definitely in control. Yes, we salute our Elk Leader.

Now, as we have said, North Carolina just closed another State Assn. and as Mrs. Letitia Smith State President Daughter of Elks, it should have been, yes, she said we are supposed to improve. Under the Dynamic Leadership of President Kenn P. Battle and Exalted Ruler of the Asheville Lodge Rev. Otis Dunn and Mrs. Lenora Bair Whiteside, Daughter Financial Secretary, District Deputy Asheville, This N. C. State Association was tops.

The delegation was not so large because most of our Elk members come from the Eastern part of North Carolina. And this meeting was held in the far west of the State in the land of the Mountains and sky blue water, 5,000 feet above sea level Asheville is one of the most beautiful spots in N. C. The newly acquired Elks home there and the beautiful churches where we held our meetings all lent their charm to make this 35th N. C. State Assn. a success.

There were many highlights and changes in this year's program. First of all the meetings began on Saturday. In former years they had officially begun on Tuesday.

The "Big Day" this year was Sunday, when hundreds turned out to hear the Memorial Service preached by Rev. Dunn, State Chaplain and Assistant Grand Chaplain. And too, his freedom day rally or Civil Liberties Program was also on Sunday. The main speaker was Honorable Hobson R. Reynolds, Grand Commissioner from Philadelphia. In the absence of State Chairman of Civil Liberties, Rev. A. D. Mosely, D. Harold Epps, Attorney at Law of Asheville acted as Master of Ceremonies. Then the Asheville Temple and Lodge and Mayor of City gave the State's Delegation a most unique welcome. Mr. Clayborne, Grand Press Secretary, spoke in behalf of the Grand Exalted Ruler.

Let me pause here lest I forget to congratulate Mr. Clayborne for the way he is handling the Eagle, our national paper. Since he has taken over, we see a definite trend to much improvement as it should be. Many thanks to the "Ole" Stewart and true Champion Judge William C. Houston who had carried on with the Eagle for so many years. But the old must give way for the new in many instances. And so it was with the Eagle. May it go on with Mr. Clayborne and continue to show progress with the years as it did with Mr. Houston.

Now getting back to the Association. There were so many wonderful happenings. Yes, too numerous to mention all, but I will go a bit further. Since I want to encourage all Daughters of Elks I must mention Mrs. Jessie Konegay of Goldsboro, who was the first Daughter to become a member of the newly formed Past States' Presidents Club, organized by Mrs. Sadie W. Artis, State Vice President.

There are many, many things we need in Raleigh. There are many things we could get that we do not have. Until we began to seriously consider our needs and realize the effort needed for their attainment, we really do not actually want anything.

in Africa, as well as what is happening to them, Daniel A. Chapman, Ambassador from the new nation Ghana, cited nationalism as the greatest force in Africa today. This was his main thesis when he delivered the 60th commencement address on the college quadrangle, main campus, at 4 p. m.

Chapman contended that:

First, nationalism is a movement to eradicate the disabilities imposed on Africans by the European powers and peoples as a result of the authority they have assumed over the affairs of large areas of the continent.

Second, nationalism is a movement to substitute for these disabilities genuine freedom and advancement in all fields of life—political, economic, social, and cultural.

"Nationalism therefore is not a sinister plot hatched within the innermost recesses of the Kremlin," said the speaker.

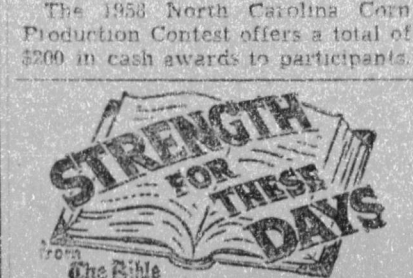
Mr. Chapman added: "It is a home-grown product, rooted in the soil of Africa itself. It is a reaction against imperialism and colonialism."

Throughout the long history of her past, "Africa has never been without champions for her cause," Mr. Chapman informed his audience.

EIGHTY-NINE PERSONS received certificates in trades and industries, 12 received commissions



HAS SUMMER STUDY GRANT—Shown here is Mrs. Cynthia S. Bond, instructor in the area of science and mathematics at the Fayetteville State Teachers College, who was recently awarded a summer grant to study chemistry at the Fifth Chemical Institute, at the University of Montana's School of Mines at Butte, Montana. Mrs. Bond is a native of Camden, South Carolina. Her grant was made by the National Science Foundation.



... for in These do I trust; cause me to know the way wherein I should walk... — (Psalm 143, 5.)

When we seek Our Father's guidance in all we do or hope to do, surrendering in love our will to His, praying not once but many times daily for His direction and then obeying without question, we have the wonderful assurance that we will be doing what is right — what is best for all concerned.

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