

Dr. Plemmons Aply Heads Sixth Largest State College

By LARRY PENLEY

Dr. William H. Plemmons, president of the sixth largest white college in North Carolina, is an educator of educators.

Under the capable administration of Dr. Plemmons, the enrollment at Appalachian State Teachers College has soared from 1400 in 1955 to over 2900 resident students in 1963. Included in the total resident students are approximately 1299 Baptist students, which represents about 44 per cent of the students.

Although Dr. Plemmons has been associated with public schools and state colleges in North Carolina during his professional career, he is a product of Mars Hill Junior College and a cum laude graduate of Wake Forest. The latter college honored him with an honorary doctorate degree. He has the M. A. degree from Duke and the Ph.D. degree from the University of North Carolina.

The college president is described by his associates at Appalachian and throughout the state as a warm, friendly, sincere person who has a genuine interest in people. He is thoughtful and considerate of those who work with him. His dynamic personality seems to draw people to him.

His enthusiasm for education, Appalachian College and people in general is contagious. Others have sat at his feet and acquired a full-measure of his progressive spirit. Daily this spirit is being demonstrated in the lives and habits of a highly capable faculty and in the student body.

Dr. Plemmons was not born with a "silver spoon" in his mouth, but he had to work hard to achieve his goal in life. A native of Buncombe County, he was reared on the farm where he had the usual responsibilities of a farm boy. He lost two years in high school due to the urgent needs of the farm.

For the first six years of elementary schooling, he attended a three-room school. His graduating class in high school



Dr. W. H. Plemmons puts in his usual long day at his office in the administration building.

consisted of five students, three girls and two boys. Dr. Plemmons and two of the girls became teachers. The other boy became a Major General in the Air Force and is now vice-president of the Westinghouse Corp. Dr. Plemmons and Albert Boyd were both included for the first time in Who's Who in America two years ago.

Throughout his years in college, Dr. Plemmons worked in the kitchen and dining hall to help pay his expenses. He worked in a grocery store at Mars Hill during the fall semester of 1926-27 to earn money to continue his education at Wake Forest College.

Although Dr. Plemmons had to work his way through college, he did find time to participate in football, basketball, baseball and intercollegiate debating at Mars Hill. While at Wake Forest he was a member of the track team. Since coming to Appalachian Dr. Plemmons seldom misses a football or basketball game when he is in Boone. He demonstrated during his college life that a student can participate in sports without neglect of the academics.

In spite of a busy schedule which consists of administrative duties, six to ten speaking engagements a month, and various meetings on campus, he finds time during the summer months to work in his garden. In addition to gardening, his hobbies include local history, reading, traveling, sports, hunting, fishing and golf. Dr. and Mrs. Plemmons have traveled in all but a few of the states, and have made three transcontinental trips.

Prior to coming to Appalachian, Dr. Plemmons held the following positions: teacher in Asheville city schools, 1928-33; manager Jax-Fax Store, 1933-35; principal Leicester School, 1935-36; principal Lee H. Edwards High School, Asheville, 1936-41; teaching fellow, University of North Carolina, 1941-43; admission officer, University of North Carolina, 1943-46; registrar, University of North Carolina, 1946-49; executive secretary of the North Carolina State Education Commission, 1947-49; professor of education, University of North Carolina, 1949-55.

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Documentary Of Daniel Boone Is Now Being Produced For TV

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORTS

by HERMAN W. WILCOX
President Chamber of Commerce

We are working with Television Station WSJSTV, Channel 12, Winston-Salem, in producing a documentary of Daniel Boone's trail through North Carolina, into Kentucky. The script has been written by Jerry Simpson of WSJSTV. The story will cover some of the events of Daniel's experiences with the Indians on his way from Salisbury through our state and on into Kentucky, including the capture of Daniel Boone. The burial place of his parents will be shown which is near Mocksville.

Mr. Carl Clark, coach at the East Forsyth High School, has been chosen to play the role of Daniel Boone. Mr. Clark was at one time cast in "Horn in the West" Room in the 30 minute film has been reserved to promote "Horn in the West." The film is scheduled to be ready for showing on WSJSTV in January. It will be available later on in the spring to promote the

1964 production of our drama. This is another fortunate event for us, and will mean much in promoting our area. We are glad to have had the opportunity to work with these fine people in producing this historical presentation.

Another Area Attraction

To add to our tourist attractions in this area, our good friend, Mr. Hugh Morton, who is a valued member of our Chamber, is completing a 40-acre lake across the road from the

entrance of Grandfather Mountain. It perhaps will be the highest lake in the Blue Ridge range, 3950 feet above sea level. Eighty-nine thousand cubic yards of earth was used to form the earthen dam. The spillways will be built with concrete. Canoes and electric driven boats will be permitted on the lake. No gasoline driven boats. Homes will be built around the lake, and the entire area will be developed.

Again Mr. Morton shows his confidence in the future of Av-

ery and Watauga counties, which will, in the not too distant future, become the "Playground of the South". The lake will be filled before spring and be stocked with fish. It is expected to be open for next season.

Street Decorations
The street decorations had to be held to a minimum this year for several reasons. The condition of the wires and light sockets was so they could not be used in safety this year. New wire and sockets had to be pur-

chased. The large bells that were used last year could not be used on account of the wind, which last year caused the light power lines as well as the telephone lines to short out, causing considerable damage to these circuits. The bells proved to be too large for the amount of wind we have. We attempted to exchange them for smaller ones, but too late to secure them for this season. The committee has some plans they will work on this year for a much better job in 1964.

CATCHES BABY IN FALL

Albany, Calif. — It was the quick thinking of Bass Gaddie that saved a 19-month-old baby from what might have been a fatal fall.

Walking home with his arms full of groceries, Gaddie looked up just in time to see Christopher Cotton fall from the ledge of a 36-foot-high window. He jumped a 6-foot fence and caught the baby.

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