

# Dr. Whitaker's Message to the Alumni

A RECENT SECOND READING of *A History Of Chowan College* by Edgar V. McKnight and Oscar Creech reveals much about the sweat, toils, foibles, and accomplishments during the 116 year history of Chowan.

IN THE PREFACE to the aforementioned history, I wrote, "It is timely and appropriate that *A History Of Chowan College* should be written at this juncture in the life and work of the College. It is important both as a guide to the future and as a memorial to the patient and persistent labors of the men and women who over the years, have participated in its struggles, achievements, and service in the field of Christian higher education." There is always a sense in which "What is past is prologue." What of the future of Chowan College?

## Long-Range Planning

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES has authorized a "Long Range Planning Committee" to give attention to the future of the College. The committee is made up of members of the faculty, administration, Board of Trustees, and the Alumni Association. A landscape architect of wide experience has been employed. The study is currently underway. I do not know what recommendations will be brought by this committee to the Board nor what recommendations will be altered, disapproved or approved. It is important and significant that, at this juncture in the life and work of the college, there is thought to be given to the future of the college.

ATTENTION SHOULD be called also to the fact that quite soon, the faculty will become engaged in a self-study under the guidance and supervision of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, our accrediting agency. This is being done under the newly inaugurated plan of the Association whereby each member institution will undergo a self-study every ten years. Mrs. Daisy Lou Mixon, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Religion, has been chosen to serve as General Chairman of the Self-Study. This study will require depth of thought, imagination, and long hours of labor. It will culminate in the visting on the campus of a committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in the fall of 1967. We are approaching this venture of self-analysis not as a chore, though we know it will take much work, but in knowledge of the fact that it will "reveal ourselves" to us in terms not College? Is our curriculum adequate, or should it be and do as an institution of Christian higher education.

## Many Questions

THERE ARE MANY questions facing us on many levels. What is the purpose and function of Chowan College? Is our curriculum adequate, or should it be revamped, with deletions and additions? Are we meeting the needs of our area as a "community college"? What size should the college be, in light of our resources and good educational procedure, within the next 10-15 years? In terms of the anticipated number of students to be served, what additional building facilities and educational equipment will be necessary? What are the existing and anticipated resources available both for the operation of the college and for additional facilities? Where shall additional buildings, if any, be located? Should any thought be given to four-year status in the light of foreseeable limited resources, but also in light of rapid establishment of comprehensive community colleges with state and local tax funds? There are questions ad infinitum. But this is as is expected in a dynamic and growing institution of learning.

IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED and accepted that we have two immediate needs ahead of us; a new library and extensive renovation and restoration of The Columns. Along with these two obvious needs is the correlative need for doubling the size of our library volumes within the next five years. Currently we are constructing a new infirmary which will cost a minimum of \$100,000.00 equipped. Mrs. W. S. Penny of Raleigh is providing 51% of the contract price of the structure. But we need now from other friends of the College the additional funds to complete construction. An excellent opportunity is afforded here for a memorial gift in order to equip this much needed medical facility. Equipment is expected to amount to about \$5,000.00. Also, we must upgrade our faculty in terms of additional graduate study on the part of our present faculty and by the addition of other qualified people who hold the Ph. D. degree.

CHOWAN HAS RENDERED tremendous service over a period of 116 years. The alumni, the business establishments and the friends of Christian education to say nothing of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, must see to it that the quality and extent of the future service are not diminished but rather strengthened and extended. To this task all of us must set our hand.

## Alumni Encouragement

I HAVE BEEN encouraged by the fact that the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association has re-

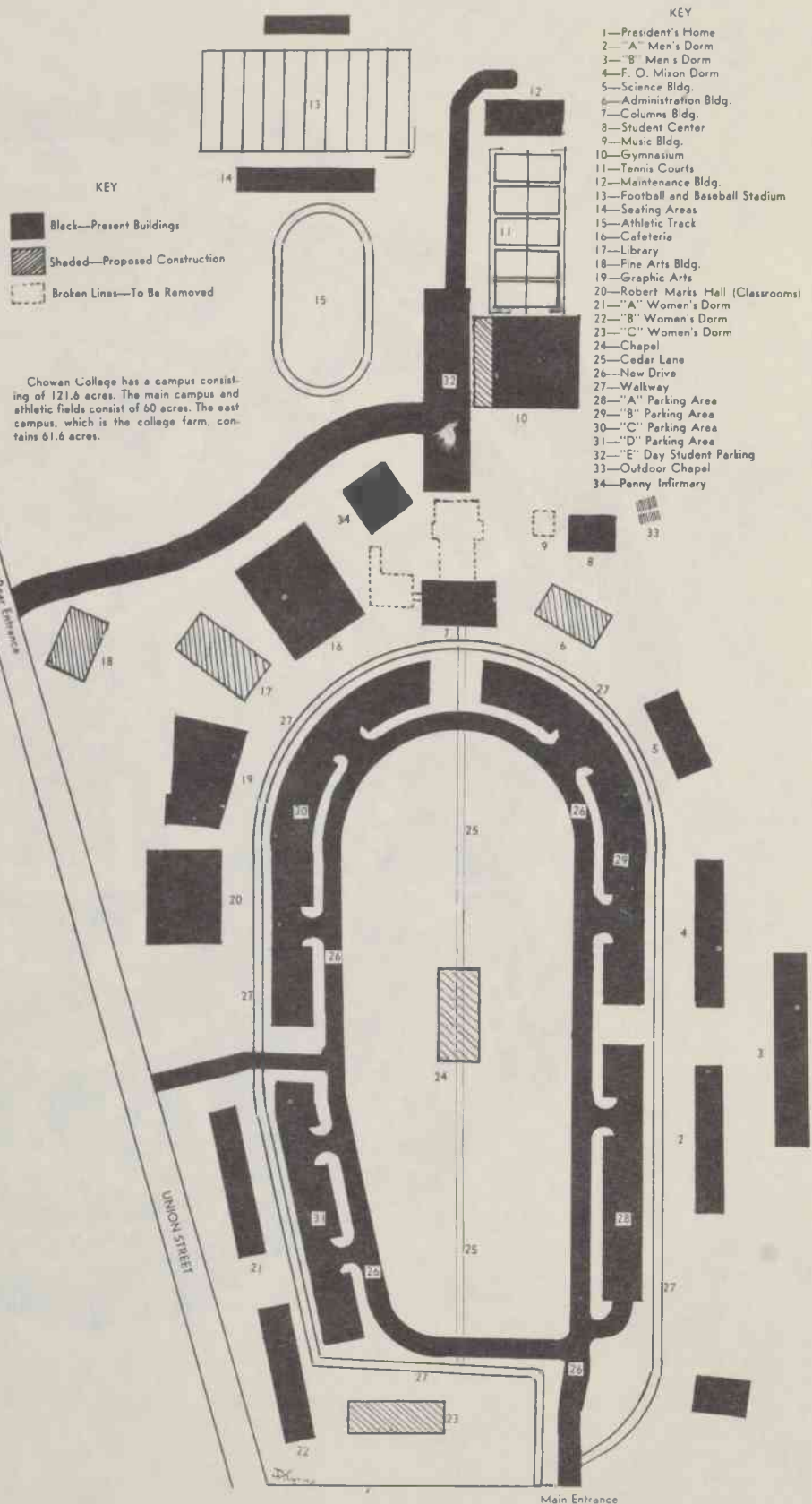


Diagram Chowan College Campus

sponded to the challenge that this year, for instance, a strong effort shall be made to provide at least \$5,000.00 through the Alumni Loyalty Fund this year in order to purchase additional volumes for the library. This is the type of approach needed to "get under the load" and bring to pass what we need and what we want to do in the interest of this beloved institution. Higher education, nation wide, is becoming more and more expensive. Chowan College must have more and additional funds in order to fulfill its mission.

OUR STUDENT BODY is more capable in terms of ability—college board scores, I. Q. and, hopefully, in motivation—than has been true within the last 15 years. This fact is attested to by members of the faculty who have been here during this period of time and by student performances here, at senior colleges and universities, and in graduate schools. In order that they may accomplish their full potential, the friends of the college have the moral respon-

sibility and challenge to see to it that they are provided with the best in terms of faculty, library and laboratory facilities, and other types of teaching aids and equipment. This we must and will do.

I WRITE WITHOUT the benefit of the full study and recommendations of the Board of Trustees' "Long-Range Planning Committee", but it is immediately obvious that we must launch forth in a development program which will provide a minimum of \$500,000.00 for a new library and, at this moment, an undetermined but large amount of money in order to renovate and restore The Columns. Competent engineers tell us The Columns building will not be standing 20 years from now without major restoration! We must begin now to organize and plan for this effort. It will require planning, work, and response in giving. Good will or "best wishes in your effort" will not do the job.

(Continued on Page 5)