

Will Thomas Celebrates 90th Birthday Aug. 25

Expressing surprise that he had made it this far, W. A. (Will) Thomas of Cofield celebrated his 90th birthday Aug. 25 in the President's Dining Room of Chowan's Thomas Cafeteria.

The site of the luncheon party - attended by a number of his friends - was appropriate. The cafeteria is named in memory of Thomas' father, the late Dr.

Dell McKeithan Now in English Department

Mrs. Dell McKeithan, dean of women at Chowan College for the past three years, has resigned to accept a position as professor of English at Chowan.

She is a graduate of the Universities of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with the B.A. and at Greensboro with the M.A. She has done additional work at Salem, Wake Forest and Northwestern University.

Before coming to Chowan she served three years as a dormitory counselor at UNC and was adviser to student government legislature. Prior to that she was a teacher with Forsyth County Schools and Veteran's School of R. J. Reynolds High School. She has also served as industrial editor for the Reynolds Tobacco Company.

Shrewsbury to Teach Math

An instructor at Tidewater Community College of Portsmouth, Va., Wesley L. Shrewsbury, has been named professor of mathematics at Chowan College.

A native of Basin, W. Va., Shrewsbury is a graduate of Concord College in Athens, W. Va., and the University of Georgia where he received his M. Ed. He has also served for four years as teacher and chairman of the department of mathematics at Osbourn High School of Manassas, Va.

He is married and has one child.

R. P. Thomas of Cofield and his wife, the late Mrs. Mary Green Mitchell Thomas, who graduated from Chowan.

Those attending included Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, president of Chowan; Russell Lee, vice president and manager of the Ahoskie office of Wachovia Bank; Charles Revelle, Sr. of Murfreesboro, chairman of Chowan's board of trustees; George Underwood, Murfreesboro, former trustee; Dr. Raleigh Parker, Woodland, former chairman of the board; the Rev. Oscar Creech, Ahoskie, former director of development and honorary life trustee; and several Chowan staff members.

Thomas, known affectionately as "Mr. Will," was cited for his unselfish service to the college, church, community and area. It was said that Thomas was always willing to take the jobs being offered without pay.

This sense of duty runs deep in the Thomas family. Their service to Chowan College, which spans more than a century, can be traced to Thomas' grandfather, Judge Abraham Thomas. One of Chowan's first trustees, he was a leader in the founding of the college and a generous contributor.

Thomas' father, who was both a physician and farmer, was also a member of Chowan's board serving 33 years, 17 as chairman. Both are records. Dr. Thomas' wife supported the college through her leadership as a member of the alumni and contributions, notably to the library and endowment fund.

On his 90th birthday, Thomas, following the family tradition, can point with pride to his own support of Chowan, which Dr. Whitaker has termed as "loyal and sacrificial." He served two four-year terms as a trustee including three years as a member of the executive committee.

In addition, he has been a long-time benefactor as have been his sisters, Miss Mary Thomas and Miss Ruth Thomas, Chowan alumnae.

Dr. Whitaker described the Thomas family as "one of the most loyal and consistent in their support and contributions to the college."

Thomas' list of church and community accomplishments are equally impressive and include member and chairman of the Hertford County Board of Education and treasurer of the West Chowan Baptist Association, both duties assumed for many years. He has served as treasurer, deacon and in other capacities at Bethlehem Baptist Church and was a member of the Farm Commission and member and chairman of the County Rationing Board.

Thomas, who attended Wake Forest University from 1898-1901, is a former vice president of the Bank of Ahoskie, predecessor of the Ahoskie office of Wachovia Bank and Trust. He has served as a member of the later's board of directors since 1932.

Underwood offered the opinion that Thomas was "one of the most unselfish men I know in his service to the county and area."

The Cofield resident and former farmer is enjoying good health and has never encountered any serious ailment. He could not dispense any "secrets" to his longevity. "I didn't expect to be here for my 90th birthday," he said, while enjoying his birthday cake presented after the meal. "I can't tell you why I am here."

In answering for him, his friends emphasized the close relationship he has maintained with his church and Maker. Thomas commented that he had always attempted to do this.

Thomas also agreed that he had not spent a great deal of time worrying. "I tried not to cross any bridges before I got to them," the modest and quiet Thomas said. Still alert and active at 90, he added he had tried to avoid going about with a "long face."

In closing the luncheon, Dr. Whitaker told Thomas "we are grateful that you've shared this occasion with us." Thomas fielded goodnaturedly a request and invitation from Chowan's president to returning 1980 for the celebration of his 100th birthday.

Laughing, he replied "I believe I will."



125 Years of Service

Representing over a century and a quarter of service to their church and Creator are these two Baptists seated in Chowan College's cafeteria. They are W. A. (Will) Thomas left, who celebrated his 90th birthday August 25, and the Rev. Oscar Creech of Ahoskie. Both have served as trustees and Creech, a former director of development, is an honorary life trustee. An interested observer is Chowan's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker.

Outstanding Students, Faculty Are Honored

Chowan College honored its outstanding students and faculty members May 7. Under bright skies in Chowan Stadium, President Bruce E. Whitaker made the presentations with four women students walking off with top honors.

Heading the list was Pauline Robinson, Ahoskie sophomore, named Best All Around Student. The Superior Citizenship Award went to Carolyn Brinkley, sophomore of Corapeake, while Brenda Gregory, freshman from Camden, and Mary Anna Rascoe, sophomore of Windsor, were honored for maintaining the highest scholastic averages.

Five sophomores were selected to receive the Order of the Silver Feather award. Criteria for selection includes citizenship and overall service to Chowan. They were Lee Dunn, president of the Student Government Association, High Point; Carolyn Brinkley, secretary of the SGA, who was a double winner; Priscilla Renn, president of the Women's Council, Frederick, Md.; Tom Keithley, president of the Men's Council, Charlottesville, Va.; and Frank Granger, graphic arts major, Elizabeth City.

A second student winning two awards was John Wesley Raymond, Jr., of Chesapeake, Va., presented the English Department Honor and Mary E. Wood Science-Math Award.

The faculty was represented by two who received Excellence in Teaching awards, Mrs. Daisy Lou Mixon and George Hazelton.

In addition, the annual, The Chowanoka, was dedicated to Jerry Hawkins of the physical education department. Hawkins, in his twelfth year at Chowan, serves as assistant football coach and baseball coach. This season he led the baseball team to a 16-7 record and position in the district tournament, where the Braves lost in the finals. They also played in the regionals.

Another award, initiated this year, was the President's Cup, presented to Superintendent's Barracks.

Others receiving awards included Barry Joseph Brown, Hampton, Va., and Phillip Robert Ferguson, Newtown Square, Pa., Cash Award to Outstanding Sophomore in Graphic Arts (tie), Marianne Pugh, Camden, North Carolina Press Association Mechanical Conference Award to Outstanding Freshman in Graphic Arts; George Randolph Whittemore, Union Level, Va., Department of Business Academic Honor; Donna Lee Burnette, Newport News, Va., Alpha Pi Epsilon Scholarship Award; Peyton Barton, Tappahannock, Va., Most Outstanding Athlete, Jeanne Gay, Charlottesville, Va., Miss WRA; John Munley, Virginia Beach, Va., Joseph Lee Parker Memorial Scholarship; Brenda Gregory, Camden, Mary Pierce Music Scholarship; Velda Lynn Gardner, Macclesfield, Nursing Department Honor; Russell Jones, Richmond, Va., Delta Psi Omega Award; and Mrs. Marcell Cooper, Como, Merit Award.

Contributions of Thomas Family Are Reviewed

The recent celebration of the 90th birthday of W. A. (Will) Thomas, Baptist layman of Cofield, was also the occasion to review the Thomas family's service to Chowan College, which spans more than a century.

Thomas' grandfather, Judge Abraham Thomas, was a leader in the founding of the college, established in 1848, and a generous contributor. He was also one of Chowan's first trustees.

Dr. R. P. Thomas, Thomas' father, was also a trustee, serving 33 years, 17 as chairman. Both are records. Thomas Cafeteria, where the luncheon party was held, is named in memory of Dr. Thomas and his wife, Mrs. Mary Green Mitchell Thomas, a Chowan graduate.

Following the family tradition, Thomas served eight years as a trustee including three as a member of the executive committee. In addition, he has been a long-time benefactor as have been his sisters, Miss Mary Thomas and Miss Ruth Thomas, Chowan alumnae.

Chowan's president, Dr. Whitaker, described the Thomas family as "one of the most loyal and consistent in their support and contributions to the college."

Thomas, who attended Wake Forest University from 1898-1901, was also cited for his unselfish service to his church, community and county. A member of Bethlehem Baptist Church, his ser-

vice includes treasurer and deacon. He was also treasurer of the West Chowan Baptist Association for many years, and member and chairman of the Hertford County Board of Education.

His friends cited the close relationship he has maintained with his church and Maker as reasons behind the good health he continues to enjoy. Thomas commented he had always attempted to do this and added he had tried to avoid going about with a "long face." He fielded goodnaturedly a request and invitation from Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker to return in 1980 for the celebration of his 100th birthday.

Laughing, he replied "I believe I will."