

# Dormitory Named For Parker

Chowan College's newest men's residence hall, opened in the fall of 1970, has been named Parker Hall in honor of a Murfreesboro couple, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood W. Parker.

The announcement was made by Chowan's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, following the action of the Board of Trustees.

Parker is a former trustee of Chowan and a long-time supporter. At present, he is a member of the Board of Advisors. Mrs. Parker graduated from Chowan in 1929 when it was a four-year institution for women. She was a member of the annual staff and one of 36 in her class, the largest to that date in the school's history, which dates to 1848.

## Generous Supporter

In naming the building in the honor of Parker and his wife, the Board of Trustees noted that Parker is one of the most faithful and generous of Chowan's supporters. His support has been both personal, in terms of involvement and financial.

The occasion will be marked with the placing of a plaque in the lobby of Parker Hall and the name on the outside.

## "Looked Hopeless"

"To some, it looked like a hopeless cause," Parker commented recently. "The college had only one building, the Columns and it was rundown to say the least. The campus was covered with weeds and underbrush. You had to have a vivid imagination to picture a functional, operating college. I told the people that the college was not dead and with their support it had a bright future," he said.

Parker received an enthusiastic response, he commented. "I had their faith. They knew I wouldn't say something unless it was true. They became convinced that Chowan was going to reopen and gave their support," he stated.

As for the present, Parker said it is not possible to place a value on what the college has meant to the community, area and state. "The progress from 1949 to the present is beyond any dream or imagination," he said. "It is due in great part to the untiring effort of one of the greatest educators and presidents Chowan has ever had, Dr. Whitaker. Without him I don't believe it would have attained the prominence it has in such a short time."

## 125th Year

Reminded that the 1972-73 academic year would be Chowan's 125th year of service and 23rd since its reopening, Parker commented: "There was a time when we didn't think we'd have another anniversary. But I am very proud to say that, in my opinion, Chowan is one of the best colleges of its kind there is to be found."

The nine-story dormitory provides housing for 280 men. It cost in excess of \$1,200,000 and contains 58,000 square feet. Each room is fully carpeted and individually heated and air conditioned. There are two elevators and the first floor provides for a lounge, recreation area, post office and apartment for the head resident.

Enhancing the beauty of the area is an adjacent eight-acre lake. The lake was envisioned by Charles Revelle Sr., a close



Parker Hall . . . Chowan's Newest Dormitory

friend of Parker and a member of the Board of Trustees. Revelle often accompanied Parker when he was soliciting support for the college's reopening.

## Whitaker Tribute

Applauding the decision of the Board of Trustees was Dr. Whitaker. He commented, "I think the designation of the name Parker Hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood W. Parker by the Board of Trustees is a fitting tribute to their interest, efforts and personal support of the college as an institution of Christian higher education."

He continued, "As the college honors Mr. Parker, along with Mrs. Parker, the college honors itself. They represent the best of the American tradition - churchmen, belief in and practice of hard work, frugality and support of good causes. 'Mr. Elwood' during my tenure of service at Chowan has been a constant source of encouragement, counsel and strength to me personally. I am delighted that this, the largest building on campus, will bear the name of these two good friends."

Plaque in lobby  
depicts dedication to  
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Parker.

