

Three People In One . . .

These and other stanzas have been compiled into two printed volumes, the most recent of which is titled "It Could Be Verse" (\$1.50 on request).

"When I sit down to write," Mrs. Thomas observes, "the dishes have to be washed. The bed has to be made. I have to have a clear conscience.

"Then I start with a clean piece of paper and a rhyming dictionary." Mrs. Thomas has published a wide range of non-fiction articles as well. She just received a \$150 check from Catholic Digest for her piece on old telephones. Last month, Metro magazine ran her story on oysters; this month it will carry her examination of smoke detectors.

Not long ago a friend bet her \$100 she could not be printed in the prestigious Writers Digest, a monthly of how-to advice for people who want to publish.

The current January issue carries "Rhymes With Reasons" by Agnes W. Thomas. She began the Tidewater Writers Conference in 1977, carrying seven speakers and more than 100 registrants at its second outing this year in the Sheraton Inn.

In her spare time Mrs. Thomas, now a widow, is historian for the Woman's Club of Norfolk. She belongs to the Joie deVivre Club. She serves RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer People).

And when she talks, she knits.

Agnes White Thomas, 68 and still getting up steam.

"I don't want to add years to my life;

"Getting old is the least of my fears.

"I'm really concerned with the present,

"As I strive to add life to my years."

Alumni Group Makes Plans for Annual Giving Drive

The Board of Directors and officers of the Chowan Alumni Association met recently in the President's Dining Room of Thomas Cafeteria. The agenda included alumni committee reports, discussion of progress as related to alumni goals, and planning the phonothons to raise support for the Annual Giving Fund from the alumni. Those present included, from left: Miss Ann Bueche; Randy Britton; Mrs. Elizabeth Forbes Futrell; Edgar Parker, president of the Chowan Alumni Assoc.; Mrs. Glenn Smith Benthall; "Pike" Harrington; Mrs. Sandra Gatling McCoy; and Gary Williams.



Endowment Committee Plans Activities

Members of the Chowan Endowment Committee recently met for planning in Thomas Cafeteria. Members present include, from left: Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, president of Chowan; Bobby Cross, director of development; Gilbert W. Francis, chairman, Boykins, Va.; Mrs. Frances W. Coleman, Boykins, Va.; the Rev. Ira Hudgins, Franklin, Va.; Joel T. Lee, Conway; J. A. Pritchett, Windsor; Mrs. Dorothy H. Brown, Murfreesboro; Dr. John Cave, Rocky Mount; the Rev. Irby Jackson, Greenville; Edwin Branch, Enfield; Ben Sutton, Business Manager; and Charles Watson, associate director of development.

\$59,000 Bequest Received From Hedspeth Estate

Chowan has received over \$59,000 from the will of the late Bennie P. Hedspeth, a Conway native who went on to become a business, civic and religious leader in Suffolk, Va.

Hedspeth died on April 5, 1977 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie Lois Hedspeth, a Northampton County native who attended Chowan.

Hedspeth was chairman of the Board of Suffolk Gas Corp. Before retiring in 1969, he was active in the peanut industry with Old Dominion Peanut Corporation and for 18 years with Birdsong Storage.

Community Leader

President Bruce E. Whitaker said Hedspeth was a community leader in religious and civic affairs. He was a deacon emeritus of West End Baptist Church, member of Suffolk Rotary Club, a director of Virginia National Bank, member of Hiram Masonic Lodge 340, Suffolk Shrine Club, Norfolk Commander 16 Knights Templar, and Khedive Shrine Temple.

Whitaker said Hedspeth also served in the Suffolk community as a member of City Council for eight years.

Whitaker expressed appreciation for the gift. He noted, "As a business man, churchman and civic leader, Mr. Hedspeth

understood the great need in our time for institutions which help prepare young people for life in challenging times with an emphasis on the values which are found only in Christian precepts. He also understood that such institutions require support of church, business and community leaders and made provisions through his will to help assure that future generations of young people will have the availability of these resources."

Part of Endowment

He continues, "The Bennie P. Hedspeth bequest will become part of the college's endowment. As such, the income will be used to undergird the continuing work and service of the college in perpetuity."

Stated Dr. Whitaker, "Chowan from its beginning has served young people from the region of North Carolina and Virginia where Mr. Hedspeth lived and labored. This makes his gift doubly meaningful and significant."

HORSEMANSHIP MAJOR

Becky Bridges, a graduate of Chowan of the Class of 1978, is now a junior at Virginia Intermont College, in Bristol, Va., where she is majoring in horsemanship.