

G-W College Is Accredited As Four-Year Senior College

BOILING SPRINGS. — Gardner-Webb College has received four year senior college accreditation from the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. The action was taken at the association's annual meeting in Miami on December 1.

The Baptist owned college entered the four year college field two years ago and graduated its first class this past spring. Three hundred and fifty graduated in the spring and summer programs.

Dr. E. Eugene Poston, president of the college and Thomas J. McGraw, vice president of academic affairs, were in Miami when the announcement of accreditation was made.

"I am grateful to God that our dream has been fulfilled, an accredited senior college with a Christian atmosphere," said Dr. Poston after the announcement was made. "It was a genuine thrill for us for several reasons. First, because of the students—I did not want one single student to have a degree from a non-accredited senior college; second, the faculty, staff and administration have worked hard and sac-

rificed for this day; third, the trustees, advisors and associates have gone all out to help the college reach accreditation; fourth, the workers and contributors for the past two campaigns have put forth a great effort for this day; fifth, the Baptists of North Carolina have supported the college in a marvelous way; sixth, the entire area around the college has encouraged and supported us in this program for an accredited senior college; and seventh, Mr. McGraw for his outstanding leadership in the academic program after taking the job at the illness of Dr. Thurman Lewis."

Dr. Poston added that, "this is the beginning of a new era at Gardner-Webb. Our greatest task of excellent quality is ahead of us and we still need the help of all our friends."

McGraw added that "now that this day is here I believe that we shall be a college which will continue to upgrade its program and continue to be a college where the most important thing we have is the student. The next few years will be decisive ones for all of us as new innovations are introduced in the field

of higher education."

Gardner-Webb received approval in the fall of 1969 from the North Carolina Board of Higher Education when the third year program was instituted to grant a four year degree.

The long road to accreditation was started September 11, 1967, when the Board of Trustees approved Dr. Poston's request for the college to enter the senior college field. Even earlier, in 1961, upon becoming president of the college, Dr. Poston outlined his hopes to make the senior college field.

In November of 1968 the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, meeting in Raleigh approved the quest of the college to become a senior college. The administration immediately began a program to earn senior college accreditation.

In the fall of 1969 the college began the preparation of a status report which was submitted to the Southern Association in December 1969. In the spring of 1970 an advisory committee visited the campus and later filed a report of its findings with the college.

In October 1970 the Southern Association's Committee on Admission to membership reviewed the status of the college and suggested further steps to be taken toward accreditation. An evaluation committee was au-

thorized by the Southern Association at the December 1970 meeting and this committee visited the campus at Boiling Springs and made a report back to the college in June of its findings and recommendations.

The Committee on Admissions to Membership met in Atlanta this past October and talked with Dr. Poston and other college officials. This group made the final recommendation for the approval at the meeting in Miami.

Many things have been accomplished since the college officials began the journey toward senior college status with full accreditation.

Several faculty members have been added to strengthen the college's course of study in various fields. Many of these additions have been professors with doctorates. It is necessary that at least one third of the teaching faculty have earned doctor's degrees.

A campaign to raise funds for the construction of badly needed buildings that would provide for living and teaching facilities for the students and faculty was begun.

A goal of \$1,500,000 was originally set and it has been reached and over subscribed by more than \$1,000,000.

This \$2,500,000 will be used for the construction of a new library which is already nearing



By M. E. GARDNER
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Most home gardeners have used peat ("moss"). However, many readers do not know that there are differences in the physical and chemical characteristics of peat, depending upon the kind of plants from which it

the construction stage. The present library will be remodeled into a classroom building. A new dormitory will be built and there will be an addition to the present administration building.

Involvement of hundreds of people in this campaign has gone a long way toward spreading the influence of the college in the area around the college. Campaigns for funds were conducted in Boiling Springs, Shelby, Upper Cleveland County, Gastonia, Belmont, Charlotte, Spindale, Rutherfordton, Cherryville, and Kings Mountain. A campaign is now in progress in Gaffney, S. C. and after the first of the year another will begin in Forest City.

GARDEN TIME
m. e. gardner
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originated.

How is peat formed? It is formed by the laying down of successive generations of plants under water. In the absence of air, these plants decompose very slowly.

How many plant groups are involved? Generally speaking, there are four major plant groups; the sphagnum group, composed of various herbaceous plants. This peat has a strong acid reaction (pH 3.5 - 4.5); the hynum group, associated with the mosses, sedges, and other flowering plants. This type is generally neutral or slightly alkaline in reaction; the reed-sedge group, formed from sedges, cattails and grasses; and the shrub and tree group, formed from blueberries, alder and willow. This last group yields a peat which lacks uniformity because of the coarser material content such as decaying bark, twigs and branches.

Sometimes the terms peat and muck are used interchangeably between the two products. Peat usually has a mineral content of about 35 per cent while muck soil may range between 35 per cent and 75 per cent. Much of the "organic soil" you buy from your favorite supplier is muck.

The peat you buy is, for the most part, imported from Germany or Canada and is formed by the decomposition of the sphagnum group. It has an acid reaction and a nitrogen content ranging from 1 per cent to 3 per cent. It is low in both phosphorus and potash and is relatively free of weed seed and fungi.

Peat has many uses. It increases the water-holding capacity of sandy soils and provides better aeration in closer textured soils. It is a must for successfully growing the acid loving plants and is used in large quantities by the nurseryman and florist for seed germination, rooting cuttings and in the preparation of soil mixtures for potting plants.

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