

## IN MEMORIAM—HARRY STRAUS

[To honor a friend of Brevard college, who died at his home in Biltmore Forest on Tuesday morning, February 27, the *Clarion* publishes these remarks spoken by the president for the college, assembled in the James Addison Jones Library on the morning of February 28, 1951]

We are assembled to pay homage to a great man of this state. He was an adopted son, but he has done more for the development of the community in which we live than any other man who has ever been in this area. It is appropriate, therefore, that we, here on this campus, we who have received the benefit of his life, should assemble to consider the significance of that life to us.

Mr. Straus exemplified throughout his lifetime the finest qualities of a God-like gentleman. It was my privilege to spend a few hours with him not many weeks ago, and during that time he spoke of what he wanted to do for this community. He spoke with modesty and great humility. He recognized that he had a trust, a trust to share, not only with those who were associated with him in business and those connected by ties of blood, but with those who were associated with him by the ties of friendship, for although most of us never met him, he was, indeed, our friend.

He made into a mighty industry a process which before it aroused his interest had been confined to Europe. He brought to this community a process of manufacturing fine papers, and particularly the fine cigarette paper. He selected this area in the North Carolina mountains because of its natural resources and because of his belief that here was one of the richest areas for the development and the advancement of mankind.

So frequently when a great industrialist moves into an area, the area is blighted by the touch of his hand, the workers become little better than slaves, and the natural resources are depleted. No so with the hand of Harry Straus. Everything he touched in this area bloomed. He brought into fruition the promises of this mountainside and valley. The homes of his workers are among the best anywhere in this nation. The children who come from these homes are better educated than are children from the home of the average worker. They have opportunities unlimited.

Mr. Straus was not a man of education; he was a man very much like the late J. B. Duke, a self-made capitalist; and, like Mr. Duke, Mr. Straus was personally interested in the development of the area in which his plants were located. He was interested, moreover, in the individual people who live in this area. Led by this interest in individuals, he sponsored the Ecusta band in order that children here might have musical education without cost. Moved by the same interest, he provided for young people scholarships in nursing and caring for the sick.

He was the great support of many churches in this area, and I know there is hardly a church within a radius of fifty miles that has not, at one time or another, leaned on Mr. Straus to tide it over a trying time. There is not an institution of learning in this state which has not received from his open hand; and we here have received, not only monetary gifts, but gifts of the spirit.

There is a difference between the check that is written and given without interest, and the check which is written and followed with devotion, friendship, and good will. During the days of the last depression, when this institution was fighting for its very existence, Mr. Straus gave generously in order that the faculty might be paid and the institution remain open. Without this magnificent gift, we would not be here today honoring his memory.

His interest in the school did not stop there. He was vitally concerned in all of our affairs, and only his sickness of the past few years has kept him from active participation in the life of our campus. It was most moving that on the morning after the fire in the Administration building he, who was among the busiest of men, took time to send word, "I am at your service, and everything that is at my command is at your service." That indicates the caliber of Harry Straus, the greatness of spirit and the greatness of heart.

A mighty prince among men has fallen in our midst; his like we shall not see again: for it takes a man of great character, a man of great understanding, and a man who has suffered himself, to fully understand the needs of others as did Harry Straus.

There is little that we can do, there is little that we can say that can add luster to his memory in this community; for it is glorious, and will go on forever; and here on this campus will be enshrined the memory of a friend who, if God had willed, would have been an even greater friend.

For his friendship and his unselfish affection, we are most thankful this day.

## EX LIBRIS...

### THE GOLDEN WARRIOR

By HOPE MUNTZ

[Editor's Note: We are introducing in this column for the first time a book reviewed by a student not on the *CLARION* staff. The staff hopes that other students who have good books and who would like to introduce them will use this column for that purpose. Jack Folline has reviewed *THE GOLDEN WARRIOR*.]

*THE GOLDEN WARRIOR* is a superb and authentic novel of the Norman Conquest, which the distinguished English historian, G. M. Travelyan, has termed "a remarkable book."

*THE WARRIOR* is not an ordinary historical novel, for the historical novel usually avoids the great personages and the famous scenes, and fills its canvas with imaginary characters. But this book is a saga of Harold and William.

Miss Muntz has drawn her figures to epic scale. She knows how to give the student sights and sounds and smells of this life. Her dialogue is pungent and crackling, and she manages to race the story along like a truck going down-grade.

I recommend this book highly to all students interested in the history of England.

## Merchants Receive Advertising Space

Advertising makes a newspaper, and the *CLARION* appreciates its advertisers. As a courtesy to advertisers who have supported it this year, the *CLARION* has devoted a full page of this issue to an advertisement of Brevard.

## Staff Expresses Thanks For Auto Loan

The *CLARION* staff expresses its appreciation to Mrs. Louis P. Miller, of the Brevard college music department and to Mr. Thomas King McCrary, of the McCrary Auto Company, for the use of their cars in the Brevard College Loyalty Drive parade on February 23.

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