

COLLEUMNS

"Who
Never Turned
His Back

But
Marched
Breast Forward"

Volume VI

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President Patten Dies In Midst Of Plans And Labors

Improvements Planned By Late President

Of his partially executed plans and only envisioned dreams for the development of Alma Mater, physically, academically, and religiously, perhaps President Patten's most notable recent endeavor was his timely-born aspiration of bringing Louisburg College into the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. This effort, deprived in its infancy of its creator, if effected, would insure the acceptance of credits from Louisburg College on an equality with those of colleges and universities throughout the nation. In his program for improvement this end was ardently his goal.

A building for science with a cafeteria combined was among physical additions promised from the government through his efforts. Other plans were expansion of library facilities, beautification of the campus by hard surfacing the circle and by general landscaping, and a graded athletic field. Of the Methodist College Advance funds, he had announced \$100,000 as the sum to be used to provide a phys-

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His Christmas Greetings Through The Years

Carefully planning and phrasing of his Christmas greetings through the years were apparently a cherished experience of Dr. Patten's. These messages of Louisburg years, 1939-1946, reflect the march of events as well as of his own thinking.

In 1939 the greeting carried a group picture of the college students and the cheering words "Christmas Season brings a flood of Joy and Gladness into our lives. At the turn of the year an old college with its endless procession of youth is facing forward."

In contrast with the war clouds that had just gathered over our nation in 1941, the greeting that year showed the cozy hearthside scene in the Patten home with "May the Joy of the Hearthside, The Peace of the Infant Child, The Goodwill of the Serving Christ, Enflame our Hearts to Kindness, To Rejoice and to be Grateful."

With the shocked world of 1942 seeing war a stark reality as never before, came a different note: "Might, glory with victories, . . . Strikes to crush Freedom, Peace and Good Will. . . . To thwart such human disaster Centuries ago a child was born Possessed with love divine To inflame the souls of men

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EDITORIAL

With the passing of Dr. Walter Patten came the end of a great life. He had devoted himself wholeheartedly to what he believed was necessary for a true Christian college life, and ever present in his mind was the desire for greatness and prestige for Louisburg College. Facing him was a tremendous job of rebuilding, reorganizing, and refurbishing. With a will he tackled the job and made phenomenal gains. At a time when his hopes seemed most likely to be fulfilled, he was taken from us.

No grieving, no tears, no remorse can help now in our loss. We must be thankful to have had a great person among us. We must realize that his presence with us was an inspiration and a blessing. To say that all is lost would be the dropping of the torch. We must take his unfinished work and carry it on to the best of our ability. Such would be his desire.

We must not let that cause be forgotten in our grief, but must give thanks that we had such a leader to show us the path of achievement. As the soldier takes the banner from the fallen leader and carries it on in the face of difficulties, so we must take his works begun and give them the utmost of our efforts.

A PRAYER

March 8, 1947

The Thought of the Last Public Utterance of President Patten

(Note: This prayer was spoken at a ceremony at the Marine Recruiting Station, Raleigh, about two hours before President Patten's sudden death at his home in Louisburg. The ceremony was an awarding of a posthumous medal of heroism to Pfc. Albert E. Smoak, Aberdeen alumnus of Louisburg, killed on Iwo Jima in 1945. The prayer so deeply engraved itself upon the consciousness of Dean Rainwater, present on the occasion, that he later recalled it clearly enough to attempt this phrasing.)

We are grateful, Father, for the millions of Thy children who have so recently given themselves in a spirit of altruism and for their unselfish sacrifices.

We are likewise thankful, our Father, for individuals who stand out among us as believers in the great ideals of Thy Kingdom. We are grateful for their leadership and inspiration, for their untiring efforts and valiant hearts.

Especially are we grateful, our Father, for the young man whose faith in Thy high ideals and whose unselfish sacrifice for them have brought us together today. As we think of him and others who have sacrificed so nobly, we realize that they have left for us a legacy of truth. . . . May we accept this legacy in a spirit of dedication. May we be faithful to it, realizing our obligations to preserve, to enrich, and to pass it to the generations of men following us.

We are grateful for the parents of the young man whom we honor today, and for all members of the family. May they have consolation in realizing that their son and brother gave himself for the fine ideals of home, country, and church; and may they be strengthened to continue to nourish the ideals for which he gave himself.

These things we ask in the Master's name and for His sake. Amen.

President of Louisburg College Dies



Dr. Walter Patten

Excerpts From President Patten's Messages On Various Occasions

"People do not wisely seek education to amass material wealth but to enrich life. . . . Are we possessed with a constant love for all mankind? Are we rich in the capacity of our souls to recognize and share in the beauty of the world, to discern the good from the evil, the eternal from the temporal, to find joy, peace, and happiness in the simple things of life?" (Orientation, 1946)

"All we can do is to open the door, open the windows and let you see the stars, dream your dreams and see your visions. You of this class have the greatest opportunities of any class ever to graduate from this school—even greater than that of the class of last year, for you have inherited the victory,

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Ends Comes As Severe Shock

Dr. Walter Patten, president of Louisburg College, died at his home in Louisburg Saturday afternoon, March 8, at 5:30. His death came suddenly from a heart attack.

Dr. Patten, 66, had that afternoon gone to Raleigh with Mrs. Patten and Dean Rainwater to attend memorial services held for Pfc. Albert E. Smoak, Louisburg alumnus, killed in action on Iwo Jima. Dr. Patten had offered the prayer. In less than an hour after returning to Louisburg, Dr. Patten had succumbed to an acute attack of the heart.

Presidency, Pastorates, Parentage, Education, Offices

He had been president of Louisburg College since 1939. Previously he had served in pastorates in Oriental; for two terms of service in Chapel Hill, a total of ten years; Greenville; New Bern; Fayetteville; and Wilmington.

He was born in Bridgeville, Delaware, son of the late Wellington Patten and Mrs. Ellen Frances Hancock Patten. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wesleyan University, Middleton, Conn., in 1907, later being honored by his Alma Mater with the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1928.

Dr. Patten was one of the leading men in the Methodist Conference, secretary of the board of missions, 1921 to 1927; president of the board, 1931 to 1939; vice-president, 1939 until his death.

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Traditions Established By President Patten

Among lingering memories of the late President Patten, some are doubtless those of his appearance on certain occasions that came to be tradition.

Orientation

Louisburg College scholastic years began with the president's well-remembered custom at orientation of giving new students a warmth of welcome in his first platform address of the year. His words on this occasion bespoke a characteristic friendliness and optimism.

Christmas Reading

At the Christmas season came his reading of Dicken's *Christmas Carol*, in a voice flexible and interpretative, synchronized with slides of early Victorian engravings. This event was followed by the serving of doughnuts and coffee during a genial social hour.

Patten Tea

A further tradition was the tea

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President Walter Patten in Formal, Administrative, and Friendly Role.

Various Expressions Testify Concerning President Patten

Dr. Patten's passing is a loss to the college, the church, and the community as a whole that cannot be estimated.

His eagerness and anxiety over the planned program for the college kept him always on the alert, though, as busy as he was at all times, Dr. Patten was never too preoccupied to have a word for everyone who came his way. I his postman, found that to be a rule with him to which no exception existed. He took time out to speak a pleasant word or to joke a member of the faculty or student body and to often kid me about his undelivered mail.

His body and soul have departed from this earth; but his memory and good works will live on.—Citizen of Louisburg.

In the passing of Dr. Walter Patten, Louisburg lost a strong advocate of every movement for the betterment of its town and citizenship. His stand on every issue was positive. A clear-cut, logical thinker, he went direct to the heart of every question.

His keen sense of humor, his ability and his willingness to do his part made him a most valuable member of the Louisburg Lions Club. Regular in his attendance, he was often called upon to serve the club and he always performed exceedingly well.

Not only was Walter Patten a success as President of Louisburg College but also a great leader for the cause of righteousness. He had much to do with eliminating and keeping closed the Franklin County

ABC Stores. A power in his own right, his energy, courage, and determination gave confidence to his colleagues.

The good influence of Dr. Patten has touched the lives of many who are, and will continue to be, better citizens because of his example.—A member of the Lions Club.

Dr. Walter Patten seemed to hurry toward his very last hour with the conviction that a Christian should, "Do with your might, what your hands find to do." He must also have thought often of the hymn, "Work for the Night Is Coming." He was best known as a valiant promoter of "impossible" causes in the Kingdom. Splendid victories were achieved for the Kingdom and human welfare in

Pamlico and Pitt counties, at the university center in Chapel Hill, and finally at Louisburg College. However, those who knew him best will remember him most fondly as a Christian brother who was "generous to a fault," and whose love for people could not resist any appeal from those who suffered need. The day after his death I saw his golf clubs and fishing tackle standing, long unused, in a corner, while from his work-desk I picked up a card of the kind he used in convincing many Methodists of the "human welfare" opportunity which the support of Louisburg College offered. Like John Wesley he parted company with leisure. And, like a few others he gave his life to Christian youth through Louisburg College. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his

life for his friends."—A brother minister.

Dr. Walter Patten has rendered a highly constructive and acceptable service as president of Louisburg College since his election in 1939 to the moment of his unexpected death Saturday evening, March 8, 1947. For two years prior to becoming the executive head of the institution he served as public relations secretary.

Incident to an expansion program which was succeeded by the depression and other adversities, the college continued several years under an embarrassing load of debt and the need of physical improvements. Under the wise and tireless leadership and labors of our late president, together with the cooperation of a loyal board of trustees

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