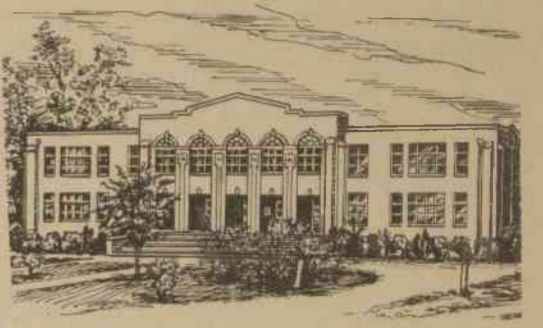




The Columns



VOL. XXV

LOUISBURG COLLEGE N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1965

No. 2



Honored

Miss Ruth Merritt, Louisburg College English Professor, is shown above, center, receiving plaudits from friends and students in ceremonies naming the new girls' dormitory in her honor here last Friday night. Others pictured, left to right: President Cecil W. Robbins, Mrs. Tommy Patterson, Mr. Patterson and Miss Diane Jones of Durham, President of the Women's Student Council and Vice President of the Student Body.

-Photo by Jeff Bartholomew.

Lettermen, Entertainment Highlight Of Year

In the entertainment highlight of the year, the famous Lettermen performed twice in the College Auditorium. The first show was an impromptu session given on November 8, the full concert being given on the following Monday night.

The Lettermen, long noted for their own style of music, were scheduled to perform early in the month, but an illness of Bob Engemann left the group without an integral part. Nevertheless, Tony Butala and Jim Pike sang and joked their way through and off-the-cuff performance lasting for an hour and a half. At the end of the jam session, the Lettermen had an autograph and question-and-answer period. The bus session lasted for some time, and many students took advantage of it to get a closer glimpse of the life and thinking of an entertainer.

Fortunately, the Lettermen were able to schedule another show to be given on Monday, November 15. This time Tony, Bob, and Jim more than made-up for the previous week by presenting their complete concert. The performance was so extraordinary that two standing ovations were given to what some call the best singing group in the country.

An unusual sidelight was the excellent performance of the electric bass player of the Wilson Brown Trio, Dennis Minor. He filled in admirably during

the first performance and sang several folk tunes to the enjoyment of the audience at both concerts. Minor stole the show with his effortless folk renditions of "Maria" and "Scotch and Soda."

During the past few years the Lettermen have been entertaining audiences the width and length of the country. They have been received best on the college campuses because, as Jim Pike pointed out, we have grown up together. Within the short time the boys have produced more than a dozen hit singles and albums. At the present time they have one hit on the charts, and they are to release new albums within the next few weeks.

The success of the fresh, magnificent vocal group did not just develop overnight. The Lettermen had been together for some time before one of their single releases became a hit. The trio is also a performing group as well as a vocal group. Their routines are accented with medleys of songs and jokes that leave the audience in stitches. One listener was heard to remark as he left, "No, they weren't great, much!"

The boys try to fill the gap between rock-n-roll and classical music by giving the public, young and old alike, what they want to hear. The Lettermen blend their voices on

the old, standard ballads in combination with today's instrumentation. They sing folk songs, old songs, new songs, but always in the Lettermen style.

Individually, the Lettermen had been in vocal groups for several years, Tony Butala in a quartet and Jim Pike and Bob Engemann in trios, before they formed their own group. Jim and Bob knew each other through singing at Brigham Young University, and they met Tony on the west coast. This was born the Lettermen. A sidelight is the fact that each boy was a letter winner during his high school days.

To open the program the Wilson Brown Trio gave a jazz version of "The 'In' Crowd"

featuring a solo by Wilson Brown at the piano. This is the back-up group which is accompanying the Lettermen on their tour. The Lettermen began their show with "More," the theme song from the motion picture "Mando Cane." Particularly exceptional was a medley of songs from *West Side Story*; this proved the group's versatility. One of the funniest medleys was a take-off on the various rock-n-roll groups which were popular a few years ago.

Out of the many requested songs several were sung, and the curtains fell only because the voices were beginning to falter at the end of an excellent performance.

Surrender Observed

On October 19, 1781, the allied armies of France and the United States received the surrender of the British forces at Yorktown, Virginia. This momentous event, which virtually ended the hostilities of the American Revolution, was commemorated here at Louisburg College on the one hundred eighty-fourth anniversary. The surrender, which is not often celebrated, is most significant, for it was the toll and bloodshed of the American Revolution that molded our nation.

partment, the service was attended by faculty and students of the college and has become an annual occasion. The commemoration, dedicated to those who have fallen in the defense of our liberty, consisted of readings from the works of Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Paine, and amid a volley of musket fire a thirteen star flag of the American Revolution was raised. The service concluded with a reading of Washington's prayer for the nation.

Sponsored by the history de-

Building Named For College Professor

The Board of Trustees of Louisburg College met November 12 in the new Trustee Conference Room to hear a delegation of students request that the new Women's Dormitory, erected in 1963, be named for and in honor of Miss Ruth Merritt, English Professor at Louisburg since 1941.

Miss Merritt, a native of Winfall, North Carolina, attended secondary and high schools in Windsor, Mount Olive and Rich Square. She attended Littleton Junior College in Littleton, North Carolina, and later received the A.B. from Duke

University and the M.A. degree from Scarritt College. She has done further graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Duke, Peirce University and Peabody College.

Since coming to Louisburg College in 1941, she has been active in virtually every phase of the college program. Initially she organized the framework for the publication of the student newspaper, Columns, which was first published October 24, 1942. Miss Merritt has always been interested in religious drama, directing

many plays which have been presented at the College and in various churches.

At special ceremonies Friday evening, President Cecil W. Robbins stated, "The primary concern of Ruth Merritt is her students. She has spent her life for them, giving extra help and wise counsel through every waking hour of the day. The students of Louisburg College are to be commended for choosing so noble and deserving a servant as Ruth Merritt, whose name will forever be carried at the institution she loves."

Miss Diane Jones of Durham, president of the Women's Council, was spokesman for the group, who told the Trustees of Miss Merritt's love and devotion to the college, and particularly, of her consideration of students. Miss Merritt formerly served as High School English teacher and as a missionary in Brazil before coming to Louisburg. After hearing the request and the many testimonials for Miss Merritt, the Board of Trustees passed unanimously that hereafter the new Women's Dormitory be known as Ruth Merritt Hall.

Profile On William F. Wagner

Mr. William F. Wagner has been a teacher at Louisburg College since 1961. His duties include teaching Spanish and advising the yearbook staff. The years Mr. Wagner has spent in Louisburg are only part of an exciting and varied career

which he has experienced. Mr. Wagner was born in San Angelo, Texas and spent his early years in Texas and California. His family moved to Richmond, Virginia where he attended Saint Christophers Prep School during his high

school years. After completing prep school, Mr. Wagner joined the Navy for a period of five years. Of these five years he spent two and a half years on a submarine. Following this tour in submarines Mr. Wagner decided to become

a frogman and spent the next two and a half years as a frogman traveling all over the world. During his five years in the navy, he traveled throughout the Orient and the Far East. Mr. Wagner enjoyed the navy

See WAGNER page 2



Lettermen

Honor Society Initiates

Two local girls, students at Louisburg College, were among the three initiated into Phi Theta Kappa, National Junior College Honorary Scholastic Society, Tuesday evening at Louisburg College.

Judith Anne Wilder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wilder of Route 1, Louisburg; Ethel Christine Roberson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Robertson of Route 3, Louisburg; and Linda Carol Allred, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Allred of Siler City, became members of Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa in a ceremony presided over by Mrs. Jane W. Wilder of Route 2, Franklinton, president. She was assisted by Mrs. Janet L. Wester of Route 4, Louisburg, Danny Payne of Onancock, Virginia, and William Lee Harris, Jr., of Route 4, Henderson.

Following the welcoming of the new members, Dr. C. W. Robbins spoke briefly of the high achievement of Phi Theta Kappa members. They should be proud of their attainment and always cherish it, he stated. Miss Ruth Merritt and Miss Elizabeth Johnson, sponsor, were present.

Louisburg College Gets \$5,000 Plus Valuable Paintings

President Cecil W. Robbins announced the \$5,000 gift, plus valuable paintings, bequeathed to the College by Mrs. Martha E. Conway of St. Petersburg, Florida, the former Martha Mann of Louisburg, who passed away recently, at Friday's Board of Trustees meeting. President Robbins also announced an additional grant of \$10,000 by the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation of New York City to be used for the recently completed library.

The Board heard a report by President Robbins, who called for a continuing Development Fund emphasis with phase two of this fund beginning in 1966 for the construction of a Science Building, an Infirmary and a Student Union Wing.

Dean John B. York reported on Academic affairs and pointed out that 676 students are enrolled for the first semester of this academic year. Mrs. Genevieve Perry, treasurer, gave a financial report, and David E. Daniel, Director of College Relations, reported that of \$278,181.56 pledged in the Development Fund program in 1962, \$247,818.68 has been paid and that

only \$4,000 is in arrears. Dr. Herbert Herring, member of the Board and College Consultant, presented an extension of the College retirement plan to include all employees of the college. The

extended plan passed unanimously. Dr. James E. Hillman, Chairman, presided at the meeting and after luncheon, led the Trustees in a tour of the recently completed Library.

Adult Education At Louisburg College

Adult Education in an evening program was begun at Louisburg College one year ago. Meeting two evenings a week, the program offers a variety of college courses for audit or for college credit.

It was thought that many adults in the area would be interested in continuing their college education which may have been interrupted, that some would want to begin college work, or that some would want to gain knowledge in a field of interest for personal edification.

Adults have been coming to the college each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7:30 until 9:00, taking such courses as English, Accounting, Psy-

chology, Typing and Shorthand. To date adults from a three-county area—Franklin, Warren, and Vance—have participated.

The program has given this opportunity to fifty-five persons in the first semester and around forty-two the second. Adults eighteen years of age or older can take any course in the Louisburg College curriculum if there are ten or more people to register for that course. The college is prepared to continue and enlarge the program as a service to citizens of Franklin and surrounding counties.

The Spring semester of Adult Education will begin Tuesday evening, January 25, at 7:30.



Initiated Into Phi Theta Kappa

Three Phi Theta Kappa initiates are pictured in the front row before the initiation table. They are left to right: Christine Roberson, Louisburg; Judith Anne Wilder, Louisburg; and Linda Allred, Siler City. Initiating officers of

Gamma Upsilon Chapter are in the back row (l to r) William L. Harris, Jr., Henderson; Mrs. Janet L. Wester, Louisburg; Mrs. Jane Wilder, Louisburg; and Danny Thomas, Onancock, Virginia.