



In 1904, the Kings Mountain Association of Baptist churches decided it was time to develop an institution that "could have the best possible educational advantages under the distinctive Christian influence." By 1905, Boiling Springs was selected as the location for such a school, and the school was chartered as the Boiling Springs High School, Incorporated. Construction work was begun in 1907 on the main building, the Huggins-Curtis Hall, and the cornerstones were laid in June of the year.

In 1928, the school opened as a junior college with J. Blaine Davis as its first president. The school remained basically the same until 1939, when the grounds and buildings were partially beautified and renovated. In 1942, the college

was led in an effort to raise \$150,000 which resulted in the expansion of the campus from five to 35 acres, and in that same year, the trustees of the college changed the name of the institution to Gardner-Webb Junior College in honor of North Carolina Governor O. Max Gardner and his wife, Faye Webb Gardner.

Gardner-Webb was admitted to the Baptist family of colleges of North Carolina in 1946. Also in 1946, the college achieved the goal of attaining the highest accreditation within its reach-- full and unqualified membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The next goal of Gardner-Webb Junior College was to become a four-year senior college. This goal,

however, was not as easily attained as the previous goals. It took 23 years, until 1969, for the college to accomplish this objective. The first class of four-year students graduated from Gardner-Webb College in May 1971. And here we are, after 85 years of evolution-- from high school to senior college. Now is the time to think about the future and what it holds for Gardner-Webb College. Why, just in this very issue of *The Pilot*, plans to go NCAA Division II have been unveiled. The natural move after that, of course, is to change from a college to a university. Gardner-Webb College is not standing still and neither should you. The future of this institution is in your hands; take and mold it into a masterpiece. Enjoy the scenes from the past!

