

CAMPUS NEWS

The boys are back in town

College grows as GI's come home

Amanda Wood
Pilot copy editor

John Roberts traveled with his father and sister to Boiling Springs one Sunday morning in December 1941, the day America changed forever.

Roberts' sister was a student at Boiling Springs Junior College, and he and his father drove her back to school after a weekend visit home.

While their car was parked in front of his sister's dorm, Roberts listened to the radio as it crackled over the news that Japanese air crews had attacked Pearl Harbor.

"I heard it right out front there," Roberts said, sitting in a wing-backed chair in the Fireside Lounge of the Dover Campus Center, where the Huggins-Curtis building once stood.

According to Roberts, he and his father listened to radio news reports about the attack all the way home. "Son, you'll be in this before it's over," Roberts' father told him.

His father was right. Roberts served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. He was in the Philippines when Japan surrendered in 1945. He also served in South Korea.

"After two years in service I came back and enrolled at Gardner-Webb," Roberts

said. And Roberts wasn't alone.

The GI Bill of Rights

According to Gardner-Webb University Historian Lansford Jolley, the end of World War II brought change to the school after the hard times it faced during the Depression and the war.

"I think the school really turned around in the 1940s," Jolley said.

On June 11, 1942, the school changed its name from Boiling Springs Junior College to Gardner-Webb Junior College in honor of the Gardner and Webb families of Cleveland and Rutherford Counties.

According to Jolley, O. Max Gardner, a North Carolina governor and U.S. ambassador, played a significant role in the school's turn around through his long-time financial support.

In addition to the aid from Gardner, Jolley credits the GI Bill as another reason for the turn around. "Your tuition was paid, your books were paid," Jolley said.

According to Jolley, the tuition benefits provided by the GI Bill created a great influx of new and returning male students after World War II.

By the 1946-1947 school year, 420 students attended

Gardner-Webb Junior College.

According to Jolley, that was almost double the number of students who attended GWJC two years before.

Veterans come home

In November 1946, GWJC began construction on Memorial Drive to honor GWJC students who served in World War II. Memorial Drive circles around the Elliott House near present-day Royster Hall.

Roommates Freeman and Zeb Lowery were among the veterans who enrolled in GWJC after World War II ended.

According to Lowery, he came home from the Pacific with Navy fatigue pants and chambray shirts. While he was a student at GWJC, pants with turned-up cuffs were in style. So Lowery turned up the cuffs of his pants and stapled them to hold them in place.

According to Lowery, he and Freeman received an allowance of \$21 a month to go to school, and they both played football and baseball during their two years at GWJC.

But the best thing about their time at GWJC was meeting their wives, according to both Lowery and Freeman.

According to Lowery's wife, Helyn Goode Lowery,



photo property of Gardner-Webb University Archives
A group of guys pose with moss on their heads in this 1950s photo from the Gardner-Webb Archive.

GWJC played a significant role in the veterans' lives.

"This college was what these GI's really needed when they came out," Lowery said. "It gave them the opportunity to enter civilian life again."

Both Lowery and Freeman attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and they both went into education as teachers and coaches.

They remain life-long friends.

As for John Roberts, he earned his associate degree from GWJC in 1949 and received his bachelor's degree from Furman University.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my two years at Gardner-Webb," Roberts said. "I missed every minute of it."

NEWS IN BRIEF



photo courtesy of Noel Manning
Carl Cartee (right) performs on stage during last year's concert with a fellow artist. Cartee will play at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 in Dover Theater.

Free concert a GWU tradition

Musician Carl Cartee, originally from Shelby, will perform his seventh annual Christmas concert at Gardner-Webb University at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 in Dover Theater.

The price of admission is one canned food item or a new toy for kids. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Salvation Army.

Cartee lives in Nashville, Tenn., where he writes and records professionally. His CD's, including his new Christmas album, will be on sale at the concert.
— Sarah James

Christmas festivities to take place at GWU

The Festival of Lights, Gardner-Webb University's annual Christmas celebration, will take place in Dover Theatre on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m.

A GWU tradition, the concert kicks off the Christmas season for faculty, staff, students and the community.

"There will be standing room only, so make sure to get there early," said Noel Manning, interim director of university communications.

At the end of the service, the campus will be lighted by luminaries. The annual lighting of the Christmas tree will also take place.

Apple cider and cookies will be served after the service.

"If this doesn't put you in the Christmas spirit, then nothing will," Manning said.
— Sarah James

Y: Students help in community

From Y's sense of satisfaction. "It's just worked out perfectly," said Sandy Kieffer, chairperson of the club's service committee.

According to Darnell Hunter and Emily Stephens, the club's faculty advisor, the big picture includes building a sense of community on campus.

"We wanted to have a club that everyone could be a part of," Stephens said. "We've tried to provide some social things to bring people together."

For club members, participating in the club's service projects and community building activities provide a

Course off to a good start

Robin Taylor
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb University offers an Army ROTC course on Thursday afternoons this semester.

This course is considered a general elective for freshmen and sophomores.

It provides training and teaches valuable leadership skills to prepare people for the Army.

Six students are involved with the four-year program this semester. Four of the students are nurses.

And, although it's a four

year program, people who are interested in joining the ROTC program can do so at any time without effecting when they graduate. The program offers training sessions to catch people up to where they need to be in order to graduate on time.

One of the perks of the program is the educational assistance provided for the cadets.

Students interested in joining or finding out more about the ROTC can contact Major Dawn Cox by telephone at 704 756-4597 or online at dcox@jcsu.edu.

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A GHOST STORY

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HTTP://WWW.CUSTOMFLIX.COM/206177

Showtimes: Nov. 19 - Nov 21 2, 4, 7 & 9 p.m.
Where: Carmike 10 at Shelby Mall
Tickets: \$2 for GWU students / \$4 for non students. Tickets can be purchased through CSH 110 by 5 p.m. today or 30 minutes before showtime.

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY THEATER

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a new play in workshop
written by Steven Walters
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