

75 Years of Progress

Our Fifth President

It was January 4, 1891 when we got started. We were brave, courageous, and careful. We were especially careful about the men who were chosen to lead us up the way to better college education for all. It is a tough road but we are still building, however, we are building better than ever now because of leaders like our current President, Dr. Walter N. Ridley.

Let's trace Dr. Ridley's history to see just why Elizabeth City State College needs a man like him.

The man started in Newport News, Virginia, his parents being Mary Haywood and John H. Ridley, both natives of North Carolina. Then, from John Marshall Elementary, and Huntington High Schools in Newport News, he went to Howard University in Washington, D. C. where he graduated Cum Laude in 1931 as a Psychology major. Later in 1933 he received his M.A. there and proceeded to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville to secure his Doctor of Education degree, which he received in 1953. Thereby, he became the first Negro admitted to graduate school and receive a degree there. He studied further at the University of Minnesota and Ohio State University.

Having a sound academic foundation, he subsequently proceeded to apply his knowledge in both professional areas and otherwise.

First, from 1934-36 he was an Educational Advisor for the Civilian Conservation Corps, as well as Director of Extension of Virginia State College, 1930-43. Dr. Ridley was Professor and Head of the Psychology Department, and Coordinator of the College Counseling Service at Virginia State College, Petersburg, from 1943-57. He served as President of the American Teachers Association from 1944-47, and as one of its Trustees from 1947-57 and as Treasurer since 1957. In addition, he became President of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society in 1958. It was from St. Paul's College, where he was Dean, that he came to us in 1958. Since then the pace and extent of our enlargement has increased in a mammoth way because this man thinks big.

Among the dreams that have come true during his administration are these. The Library book collection has exceeded the 50,000 mark which includes a Negro collection of 1,000 books. In 1961 the College became accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. A large renovation project was started and completed which improved Lane, Moore, and Williams Halls and the Lighthouse. The laundry was converted into the Industrial Arts Department. Further, the Reading Laboratory was organized. In 1959 teachers at the College were given ranks: Professor, Associate professor, Assistant professor, and Instructor. This year a new rank of instructor has been added, that of

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President Walter N. Ridley

Physical Ed. Building Completed

An imposing structure with massive, white, towering pillars dominating its front, the Fine Arts and Physical Education Building was constructed in 1950. The building now occupies a most conspicuous place on the campus of Elizabeth City State College. Visitors to the campus, as well as the students, praise its beauty.

Upon entering, one is immediately attracted by its halls, finished in cool, refreshing colors, and the floors of asphalt tile in striking contrast. A huge glass trophy case faces the main entrance, and to the right and left are beautiful, spacious rooms which are used for classes in Fine Art.

When the building was first constructed, the second floor front was designed for classes in Homemaking. This division, when fully equipped, contained four model unit kitchens, model bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen and bath. These facilities were placed there so that the students would receive superior training in the art of home management.

Extending from the main hall front to the back of the building is the gymnasium which is perfect in form and detail. It is adequately built for any type of indoor athletic activity and is modern in every respect. Among the main features are folding bleachers, an electric score board, dressing rooms, a stage and gymnasium office.

The Fine Arts and Physical Education Building is the pride of the campus, for it represents definite progress in the education of young men and women at Elizabeth City State College.

The First Twenty-Five Years of Growth

by Brenda Pearson

On January 4, 1892, the State Normal School at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, was organized and began operation as an Institution for the training of teachers. At the beginning there were only two teachers, the principal and his assistant—Prof. John H. M. Butler. The principal at that time, Dr. P. W. Moore, organized the Institution and the General Assembly appropriated nine hundred dollars for its maintenance. At that time, the school did not own any land or buildings, therefore, it rented a small frame structure on the campus of Roanoke Institute for several years. Afterward, the State Normal School was moved to the Old Normal Building on Shannon Street. Nine counties were represented by sixty-four students, who were enrolled at that time.

Professor John H. M. Butler was succeeded as assistant by Reverend James W. Brown, who was pastor of Mother's Zion Church, New York City. At the time Reverend Brown was assistant principal, the General Assembly increased the appropriation from nine hundred dollars to fifteen hundred dollars.

Because of too many Normal Schools in the state at that time, the state thought it would be best to reduce the number of schools to three. Dr. Moore and his friends fought hard to keep the school at Elizabeth City. Dr. Moore spoke in the State Legislature before the leaders of the state, pleading for the School to remain at Elizabeth City, and he was granted his wish.

The School was then moved to a beautiful site on Southern Avenue, formerly known as Shannon Street, where it is located today. In the beginning, as previously stated, the School did not own any land or buildings, but in 1925 it owned forty-one acres of land, two homes for teachers, and eleven well equipped buildings. The total value of the School property in 1925 was three hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and twenty dollars. The School now employed twenty-eight teachers, instead of two. The enrollment increased to seven hundred and fifty students, who represented forty-one counties and nine states.

Editor's Note: This information was taken from the 1925 edition of *The Normal Light*.

NORMAL SCHOOL GETS \$109,000

Many things were to happen during the year 1937. However, one of the most significant things to happen was an appropriation totaling \$109,000 out of \$177,000 that had been requested.

Mr. G. R. Little, chairman of

Lt. Governor Scott, Founders Day Speaker

Brenda Pearson



Lt. Governor Robert W. Scott

On Founder's Day, the students of Elizabeth City State College will be honored to have Robert Walter Scott, Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, as their guest speaker.

Mr. Scott is the son of W. Kerr and Mary Elizabeth (White) Scott. His father was elected to the Senate in 1954, and he was re-elected in 1955 where he served from November to April 16, 1958.

Mr. Scott, who is a Democrat, was born in Alamance County on June 13, 1929. He attended Hawfield Graded School, 1935; Alexander Wilson School, 1936-1947; Duke University, 1947-1949; and North Carolina College, 1950-1952, where he received his B. S. Degree in Animal Industry.

Mr. Scott is a dairy farmer, and a member of the North Carolina and American Societies of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, North Carolina State Grange, of which he was Master during 1961-1963, and with Mrs. Scott, they were the "Young Couple of the Year," of the National Grange in 1959. He is also a member of the Burlington-Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, the Soil Conservation Society of America and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. He is a member of the Alpha Zeta Fraternity and the Phi Kappa Phi Fraternity. He also holds membership in the Blue Key.

Our Lieutenant Governor was past Chairman of the United Forces for Education in North Carolina, Alamance County's "Young Farmer of the Year," in 1957, President of the North Carolina Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in 1957. He was Democratic Precinct Chairman and County Vice Chairman of the State Solicitorial District Executive Committee during 1960-1964 and the Kerr Reservoir Development Commission in 1961-1964. He was also a member of the North Carolina Seashore Commission in 1962-1964. Mr. Scott was a Special Agent in the U. S. Army with the Counter Intelligence Corps during 1953-1955.

The Lieutenant Governor is a member of the Hawfield Presbyterian Church where he has been an Elder since 1963. He was a Deacon of the Church during the years 1959-1963.

He is married to the former Jessie Rae Osborne. They have five children: Mary Ella and Margaret Rose Scott (twins), Susan Rae Scott, W. Kerr Scott, and Janet Louise Scott.

Cost of Education Goes Up

The cost of tuition has increased greatly, but look where it has come from.

In 1917-1918, tuition "for those who intended to teach in the public schools in North Carolina", was FREE. Those "who did not intend to teach" had to pay \$10.00 for tuition.

No, in case you are wondering, board was not free. Board was (payable in advance) \$12.00 per month. This included fuel, light and room rent. Entrance fee was \$12.00 and board and laundering, per month, for men was \$12.00.

Approximately 25 years later, expenses had gone up a bit, but tuition in 1943-1944 was still

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the Trustee Board of the institution come to Moore Auditorium where the students had assembled. \$75,000 of the appropriation was to be used for the construction of a new dormitory, \$10,000 for equipment, \$2,000, for new classrooms, and \$2,000, for classroom equipment. He also stated that the school may be able to get an additional \$89,000 grant. If this was to be the case, a new library building was to be added to the institution, and the old agricultural building was to be remodeled for the use of the Physical Education department.

Mr. Little thought the reasons for the state's liberal attitude toward the school were the merit of the request.

That library was eventually built and is now known as the G. R. Little Library.