



The Brown Lady is only one of the many stories and legends from the past in the Roanoke-Chowan region. Staff photographer Greg Lowe found the friendly spirit to be somewhat uncooperative. Consequently, Susan Edwards volunteered as a stand-in for the spirit.

Chowan's Brown Lady: Part of Region's Lore

The Brown Lady has returned to Chowan College at Murfreesboro each year as a phantom for a century...some say to the halls of the historic Columns building where she onetime roomed as a student, others, to the pines of the ancient drive as they whisper in the frosty autumn breeze.

Brown Lady is often heard, never seen. Her presence is made known by the distinct rustle of silk taffeta, unmistakably like the rustle of the dress she loved to wear while a student at Chowan. Sometimes there is a light rapping on the dormitory doors. Students answer to peer only into the empty shadows of the great hall.

The Brown Lady legend, in its several versions, has become a part of the Chowan College tradition. The new girls arriving each year are sure to hear it from upperclass sisters, faculty members and friends...that they, too, may be prepared for her visit.

One account says a student who frequently wore brown taffeta and could be recognized by her friends by the rustle of her dress died of typhoid fever; another contends she succumbed to a broken heart. Both agree her yearly visit to the campus is signaled by a distinct rustling like the once familiar silk taffeta.

At first she returned each October, but later the time was fixed at Halloween, an event which has been celebrated in an elaborate way since the latter part of the nineteenth century.

W.B. Edwards, a former president, encouraged the observance of Brown Lady's visits. He and Mrs. Edwards carried the students westward from the campus to Wise's graveyard as added excitement. Halloween at the school became so popular under Edwards' administration that both town and

country girls spent the night at the college sharing bunks with the college girls.

Mrs. Ethleen Underwood, a former Chowan student composed a poem entitled "The Brown Lady" which records both the legends and the mystery surrounding them:

Here's to the Brown Lady, a Chowan tradition
Of whom tales are told in many edition.
Some say she was tall, gaunt and severe,
Some say she was sweet and her memory rever.
Now like all tales of the dim yesterdays
The details are lost, but the memory stays

And the memory that's sweetest and
rustle and sway
Is that she loved Chowan and her name's still the same-
Brown Lady.

Some say that she came here, a girl bright and gay-
Who wore taffeta frocks that would rustle and sway
As she swept down the halls or dashed down the stairs
In her little-girl manner of grown-up lady airs.

So that memory remains and the name that she gained
Was then, as today-Brown Lady.
Now the story's confused of this lady's decease,
Some say she had fever and made her demise

But the tale that I like is the one that began
In the year '62 and here's how it ran:L:
She loved a tall lad, handsome and fair;

But alas, tho a Southerner, his heart was not there.
So disowned by his family and scorned by his friends,

Forsaken by all, save his Brown Lady dear,
He mounted his steed and rode sadly away

With a promise to come back and claim her some day.
Now a tryst they had kept 'neath the soft sighing pines,
And a vow they made-these were the lines:"My love it is thine, now, and all the tomorrows
And I swear I'll be true thru joys and sorrows.

The death should o'ertake me, I'll come back some way
To claim you my darling if God says I may."
They would meet there again for 'twas there she would wait
'Til the bitter war ended on some distant date-
Then a message came one day, so they say, and told
how the lad died in a battle far away-
Poor Brown Lady wept for she knew how her lover
had suffered to take arms against friends and brother.

Her laughter grew stilled and her heart quietly broke-
'Til she died one night at twelve on the stroke.
So if you hear rustling on the stairs, thru the hall
Or see her going tripping thru the pines in the fall

Or, of by chance, you should see her one night
Stroll 'neath the pines in the melting moonlight
She'll be keeping her "tryst" with her lover, they say,
For she knows he'll come back as he promised that day.

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President's Cup Competition Underway for 1983-1984

Competition for the President's Cup was begun in the fall of 1969 as a plan for helping Student Development to achieve its goals. The cup was contributed to the college by Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker.

Competition for the the President's Cup is among students according to residence halls and the Day Student Organization. Therefore, residence hall staff members form the grass roots of the competition. You are where the water hits the wheel. By giving your enthusiastic support to the competition for the President's Cup, you will not only be helping Student Development to realize its objectives but you will be endorsing the purpose of Chowan, a people-centered college.

Competition for the President's Cup in 1983-84 will include five components:

1. Academic grades
2. Attendance at college-sponsored events
3. Proration
4. Programming
5. Intramural sports

Let's look at these five components individually to see what you can do to involve your residents in the competition.

1. The quality point average for each residence hall and the Day Student Organization is computed and released at the end of the fall semester and at mid-term of the spring semester. Competition in this component ends at mid-term of the spring semester. The number of semester hours attempted and passed and the number of quality points earned by every member of each competing unit are used when computing the quality point average of the different groups. Therefore, a student

who studies is an asset; the student who does not study and who prevents others from studying is a liability.

One of your primary responsibilities is to see that conditions on your floor or section are conducive to study. Earning good grades should be the primary concern of every citizen in an academic community. The QPA of your residence hall is a reflection of your abilities as a residence hall member.

2. Attendance at college-sponsored events is the second component of the competition. Your residents who attend athletic events, lectures, concerts and programs are an asset. Those who attend but do not get counted in the competition have not helped you. Encourage your residents to give the checker the name of their residence hall when entering the stadium,
(Continued on Page 4)

INSIDE...

N.C.'s Safe Roads Act To Take Affect

How To Study: ACCOUNTING



PTK Sponsors Meet Here

By Eric Brown
Iota Delta of Phi Theta Kappa will host the North Carolina-South Carolina Leadership Conference for PTK this weekend.

The National Vice President for the Southern Region of Phi Theta Kappa, Lori Dowdy, will attend along with Lon Fluman, Jr. of Wesley College in Dover, Delaware. Fluman will represent the national PTK office.

Over seventy students and sponsors from the two state region are expected for the three day conference.

This afternoon, Fluman will speak to the group about Michelangelo. Fluman is Professor of Art at Wesley, as well as being the Phi Theta Kappa sponsor. He will speak Friday evening on Leonardo da Vinci. The public is invited to attend any of the sessions.

Ms. Dowdy, a student at Lees-McRae College, will address the conference Friday prior to the sponsor/advisor meeting.

In addition to a program scheduled Saturday morning, a tour to Williamsburg and Busch Gardens is

planned. Historic Murfreesboro has also extended an invitation to those attending to tour the local historic district.

The three day conference will conclude Sunday following a session on working with chapter yearbooks.

Mr. Ed Wooten, Professor of Mathematics at Chowan is the sponsor of the local chapter. Eric Brown is chapter president. "We (Iota Delta Chapter) have worked hard in preparing for the conference," said Wooten.

136th Year Off To A Good Start

"We're off to a good start," is the comment of Dean of Students Clayton Lewis as Chowan College opened it's 136th year.

As Chowan concludes its fourth complete week of classes, comments from all sectors of the college community echo Dean Lewis' comments about the start of the new school year.

Lewis noted, "I'm very impressed with the appearance of the student body. They appear to be eager to get into their classes and begin their studies. My associates in Student Development were very pleased with the participation of the students in Welcome Week activities."

Lewis continued, "It is evident that many new friendships have already been formed. I'm particularly grateful with the quality of our residence hall staff this year. They have been particularly helpful to new students in helping them make the adjustment to college life."

The Dean of Students said that he has begun to meet with new students according to their personality type as revealed on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicators, a personality inventory which new students took at orientation.

"The purpose of these meetings is to help individuals identify their strengths and weaknesses," Lewis said.

"I'm hoping the end result will be greater number of students graduating from Chowan College."

Lewis announced that Student Development has set up study rooms in East 114, Parker 13A and 14A, and Jenkins 233.

Associate Dean of Students Roy Winslow explained the weekend visitation program to Smoke Signals. He said the program approved on a tentative basis will be reviewed in December, 1983.

"Continued approval will be determined after the evaluation of the program in December," he stressed.

Weekend visitation hours are from 8-11 p.m. on Fridays, 2-5 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2-5 p.m. on Sundays in residence halls where residence directors are on duty. Open

house procedures formerly employed will apply during weekend visitations.

Winslow also pointed with pride to the improvements made during the summer to the Jenkins and Belk lobbies. He said were refurbished including new furniture, lamps, drapes, pictures and paint.

Winslow was assisted in spearheading the project by Jack Hassell, superintendent of buildings and grounds, and Chowan alumna, Joy Dilday.

Winslow said the renovation was the college's response to a request by the women residents last spring. "We wanted to provide new furniture and furnishings and brighten up the lobbies," Winslow reported.

He thanked Hassell and Dilday for their "valuable suggestions and help."

Joy Dilday, who lived in Jenkins Hall while attending Chowan from 1963-65, said the improvement would make the lobbies more attractive and comfortable to the residents and their guests.

Chowan President Bruce Whitaker, announced that important Fall Semester events include Parent's Day on Sept. 24, Homecoming on Oct. 8, Founder's Day on Oct. 10, and Campus Evangelism Week, Oct. 30 - Nov. 4.

Whitaker said the speaker for the 10 a.m. Founder's Day program in Helms Center will be Dr. Alton H. McEacher, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greensboro. Later that day two facilities will be dedicated, Turner Chapel-Auditorium in McDowell Columns and Roy Simons Hall (presently East Hall).

The mid-term break will be Oct. 15-18 and Thanksgiving holidays Nov. 23-27. The fall drama production, THE RAINMAKER, will be presented Oct. 19-22.

Final exams will be given Dec. 9-15 following by Christmas holidays. The spring semester will open Jan. 11.

Dr. Whitaker reported that Chowan concluded the past academic year operating in the black for the 25th straight year.

Parent's Weekend September 24

Chowan College will roll out the red carpet to family and friends next week as Parent's Weekend activities get underway.

Events for the annual Fall weekend will kick off with the President's Reception in McDowell Columns at 10:30 Saturday morning.

Also, at ten-thirty and running until noon, an art exhibit is scheduled in the exhibit area of Daniel Hall. A photography exhibit is scheduled for the Graphic Communications Center.

Dorms will be open for parents and out of town guests from eleven until noon.

After lunch, activities and attention will shift to Brave Stadium and football where the Chowan squad will face Harford Community College from Bel Air, Maryland.

Prior to the game, parents of the football team will be recognized.

Dean Clayton Lewis urges all students to attend the reception Saturday morning in Columns with their parents.

Parent conferences with instructors are also set for the morning.

Flotilla Holds Classes

Flotilla 56 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct a boating skills and seamanship courses at Chowan College, beginning Sept. 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Robert Marks Class Room Building Room 118. The course is free. There is a nominal charge of course material for those who wish to purchase it. The follow topics will be taught;

- Sept. 29 Registration
- Sept. 29 Chapt. 1. The Safe way to boating enjoyment
- Oct. 3. Chapt. 2. Boaters Language and Trailing
- Oct. 3. Chapt. 3 Boat Handling
- Oct. 10 Chapt 4 Legal Requirements
- Oct. 13 Chapt. 5 Rules of the Road
- Oct. 17 Chapt. 6 Aids To Navigation

(Continued on Page 4)



Summer does not mean a vacation for work on campus. Part of the work time this summer was directed at refinishing furniture for dorms. Taking part were Mike Bradley and Ken Bunker.