

# College Grows With Its Leaders

By MR. WINFORD HOOKER  
Campus Echo Reporter

North Carolina College at Durham as we know it today, is a far cry from its beginning in 1910. It was first established as a training center for Negro ministers and was known as the National Religious Training School and Chataqua. Later, the name was changed to the National Training School, Durham State Normal School, the North Carolina College for Negroes, and finally North Carolina College at Durham.

North Carolina College was founded by James E. Shepard, an energetic man who had a dream. His dream was "to provide religious, literary, and industrial training for colored youths of North Carolina and other cities . . ."

### Shepard Raleigh Native

Shepard was born in Raleigh, North Carolina and attended Shaw University where he earned his Ph.G. degree in Pharmacy in 1894. He served as comparer of deeds in the Recorder's Office in Washington, D. C. from 1898 to 1900. In 1905 he became field superintendent for the International Sunday School Board. It was in 1908 when Shepard first saw the need and began planning for his school.

On July 5, 1910, when classes first began, the campus consisted of five buildings—an auditorium, a dining room, classroom combination, two dormitories, and an administration building. During the first session, two more buildings—the president's house and a house for teachers—were added. The campus was then located one mile outside the Durham city limits on the Fayetteville Road.

Although the National Religious Training School and Chataqua was organized primarily for training Negro min-

isters, it had a broad curriculum. The first curriculum was comprised of English, French, German, Greek, mathematics, history, geography, philosophy, ethics, agriculture, domestic science, basketry, dress making, millinery, and physical education. So was the picture in 1910.

### Aims Changed

In 1915, the school's aims were changed along with its name. It was no longer solely a training place for ministers but it was reorganized to prepare Negro teachers. In addition, the school was now known as the National Training School.

The year 1919 was a memorable one in the school's history. During this year, the National Training School became the fifth state supported Negro institution in North Carolina. For the second time, the school's name was changed. It was now known as the Durham State Normal School. The name remained until 1928.

The North Carolina College for Negroes was the institution's third name. It was so named on September 2, 1928.

In addition to the name-changing, the institution began to grow. In 1929 a new administration building was erected and in 1930 a women's dormitory and dining hall were built. The year 1937 saw the dedication of a library, the erection of six cottages for faculty members, a men's dormitory and an auditorium. A science building and another women's dormitory were built in 1939.

### Graduate School Established

Also in 1939 a graduate school was authorized for North Carolina College by the State. At the same time, provisions for a law school were made. The law school did not actually open until the fall of 1940 with Dean Van Hecke of the University of North Carolina as its first dean.

At the time of Dr. Shepard's death, (1947) his college's name had been changed to the North Carolina College at Durham and had grown to 21 buildings. This growth was not easy. When the then 25-year old Shepard began his venture, he had very little financial backing. He made numerous trips to the north in an effort to get money to support the college. There were times when, in spite of Dr. Shepard's gallant efforts, it appeared that the school would not survive.

In 1915, the financial problem threatened to destroy the school. Due to tremendous debt and impatient creditors, the college was sold to pay off the debts. The property was bought by Thomas A. Gorman for \$25,100. Dr. Shepard again gained control of the school when Mrs. Russell Sage of New York City bought it from Gorman and returned it to Dr. Shepard and a new board of trustees.

### Disaster Strikes Again

Disaster struck again on January 28, 1925 when fire destroyed the administration building, the men's dormitory and dining hall. The problem was met and dissolved when temporary barrack-lack structures were built in place of the fire-destroyed ones. The administration building was rebuilt in 1929.

These tragedies and many others failed to destroy Dr. Shepard or his school. Finally, in 1947, at the age of 72, Dr. James E. Shepard died, but his school lived on.

Shepard's successor, Dr. Alfonso Elder, was also a capable leader and administrator. He dedicated his administration to "the pursuit of excellence." Elder pioneered in fostering the idea of individual initiative and self-direction of student affairs. Throughout his career, he exemplified the theme of "excellence without excuse."

### Elder Georgian

Dr. Elder is a native of Sandersville, Georgia. He graduated from the Thomas J. Elder High and Industrial School (his father founded the school). He received his A.B. degree from Atlanta University and in 1921, graduating magna cum laude. He then taught one year at Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. and two years at Elizabeth City State Teachers College before coming to North Carolina College in 1924 as a mathematics teacher. Before he became president of the college, he was dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences for 19 years and served briefly as head of the Graduate Department of Education.

Under Dr. Elder's reign, North Carolina College continued its growth. Buildings completed while he was in office were a women's dormitory and addition to another, an infirmary and health education building, a library, a gymnasium, a men's dormitory, five classroom buildings, faculty apartments, and a central heating plant. At Dr. Elder's retirement, (1963) there were 38 buildings comprising the campus.

### Massie Third Head

Dr. Samuel P. Massie, North Carolina College's third president, continued the tradition of excellence. He is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, where he finished high school at the age of 13. By the time he was 18 he had attended Dunbar Junior College (in Little Rock) and graduated summa cum laude from the Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He received his Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry in 1946 from Iowa State College (now University).

Massie came to North Carolina College in 1963 from Washington, D. C. where he was as-



Three students look admiringly at the statue of Dr. James E. Shepard, founder and first president of North Carolina College, presented in 1957 by the Masonic Order of North Carolina over which Shepard presided as the Grand Master of the Masons for more than 30 years.

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the Mayor of the city of Durham, Robert M. Gantt of the Board of Trustees at North Carolina College, Asa T. Spaulding, representing the North Carolina College alumni, and Robert B. House, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were, to name a few, on the program.

Then, of course, there was the most inspirational inaugural associate program director for undergraduate education of the National Science Foundation since 1960.

### Growth Continues

Once again, under capable leadership, the college grew. A modern nine-story women's dormitory, an annex to the men's dormitory, and a new cafeteria were erected. Plans were also begun for a student union, another women's dormitory, and a classroom building under Dr. Massie's reign. All these buildings are presently under construction.

It has been said that an institution is only as great as its leader. North Carolina College is a living example. Our leaders, beginning with Dr. Shepard, have been great ones and they have made our college great. We feel sure that the fourth North Carolina College president, Dr. Albert N. Whiting, will carry on the tradition as ably as past leaders.

dress of Dr. Alfonso Elder, which was climaxed by our Alma Mater "Dear Old NCC." Such was the inauguration of our second President, Dr. Elder. A quotation from a past article reads, "Dr. Alfonso Elder, second president of North Carolina College at Durham, wore ably and honorably the mantle of his predecessor from that time in 1948 until his retirement in 1963."

### Massie Takes Reins

The same notes from "Le Prophete" by Gracomo Meyerbeu were played for the coronation march of Dr. Samuel P. Massie on April 25, 1964 as in the inauguration of 1949. As the old saying goes, "They get bigger and better every year." The saying applies to this inauguration. Some 325 representatives of colleges and universities, learned societies, foundations, and national, state and local governments and the NCC faculty participated in the inauguration.



Massie

Such distinguished platform guests as Dr. Helen G. Edmonds, presently Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Bascom T. Baynes, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Henry Gilman, Professor of Chemistry from Iowa State; R. Wense Grabarek, Mayor of the city of Durham; Dr. William C. Archie, Director of the State Board of Education; and Terry Sanford, then Governor of North Carolina were some of the platform guests.

### Whiting Becomes Head

Now is the time for another inauguration, that of our fourth president Dr. Albert N. Whiting on April 27, 1968. It is sure to be a most memorable affair. But whether an inauguration is large or small, elaborate or meager, its purpose should not be overshadowed — to keep the flame of education burning bright, brighter than ever, to serve as a guiding light for mankind.

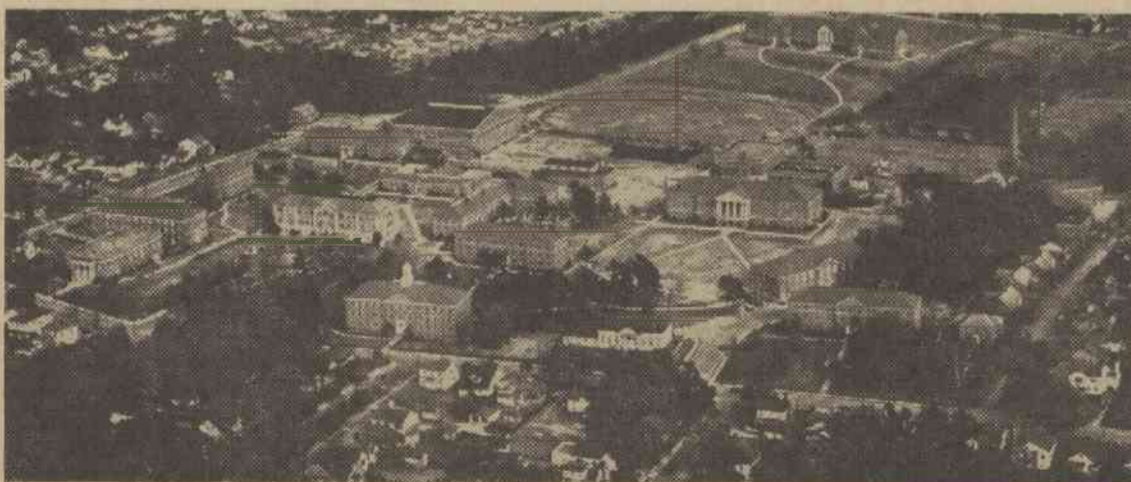
## -Sociologist-

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president; the American Conference of Deans, and Eastern Association of Deans and Advisors to Students; and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Additionally, he is a member of the Evaluation and Design Committee, Project Opportunity and of the Advisory Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

His appointments in the State of Maryland were to the Commission on Criminal Sentencing and the Maryland Commission for New York World's Fair; and in the City of Baltimore, to the Citizens School Advisory Committee on which he was Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Administration and Organization.

His contributions to professional journals include "The Campus Spreads," *Journal of Negro Education*; "Clay Starch and Soot Eating Among Rural Negroes," *Journal of Negro Education*; "An Approach to Negro-White Relations," *Phylon*; "Some Theoretical and Methodological Problems in Community Studies," *Social Forces*; "From Saint to Sinner; An Analysis of Sectarian Types," *The Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*; "The Student Culture and the Educational Enterprise," *Liberal Education*; and "Purpose and Policy in Higher Education," *The Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*.



Reflecting the educational objectives and growing enrollment of the college, a 1960 aerial view of the NCC campus reveals many additions and changes since its founding in 1910.