

News

Interest

Hobbs receives award for mill work

Justin Cohen
Special to The Guilfordian

Lois Ann Hobbs and her late husband, former Guilford College President Grimsley Hobbs, were recently recognized by a prominent statewide preservation agency for their longstanding restoration of a historic mill located just outside of Pittsboro, NC.

The Historic Preservation Foundation, Inc., commonly known as Preservation/North Carolina, honored the couple with the Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit for returning 200-year-old Baldwins Mill to working order. The task spanned five decades and was considered a labor of love.

Lois Ann Hobbs accepted the award on behalf of both herself and her late husband at the nonprofit organization's 53rd annual meeting, which was held Sept. 26 in Asheville. During the awards presentation, slides were shown of the mill grinding grain and sowing corn.

Grimsley Hobbs died of a heart attack suffered while commuting to Guilford College on Nov. 19, 1990, only three days prior to the mill's return to full operation. Hobbs, a Guilford graduate, served as the college's president from 1965 to 1980, and taught in the philosophy department for ten

years thereafter.

In his book *Exploring The Old Mills of North Carolina*, which was written in the early 1980's at the invitation of the Chapel Hill printing company Provincial Press, Hobbs discussed the condition of the mill when the structure was purchased in 1941 by his father, former UNC-CH professor R.J.M. Hobbs.

"The shingle roof had bad leaks which permitted water to soak the interior floors and joists, causing considerable rot," Hobbs chronicled. "The lowest sill at the back of the mill had lost its support, and the only thing holding the backside of the mill up was the sagging weatherboard."

Hobbs credited the structural integrity of the mill, which was originally surrounded by a cluster of other buildings, for enduring decades of disregard.

"Everything considered, the feature which caused this building to survive under the circumstances of severe neglect was the excessive size and quality of the heart pine timbers and the careful and strong techniques of construction," noted Hobbs in the book, which is part of the Quaker Collection in the Guilford College Hege Library.

Hobbs hoped the restoration of Baldwins Mill would serve as an example and an inspiration for fel-

low mill lovers to salvage other historic mills throughout the state.

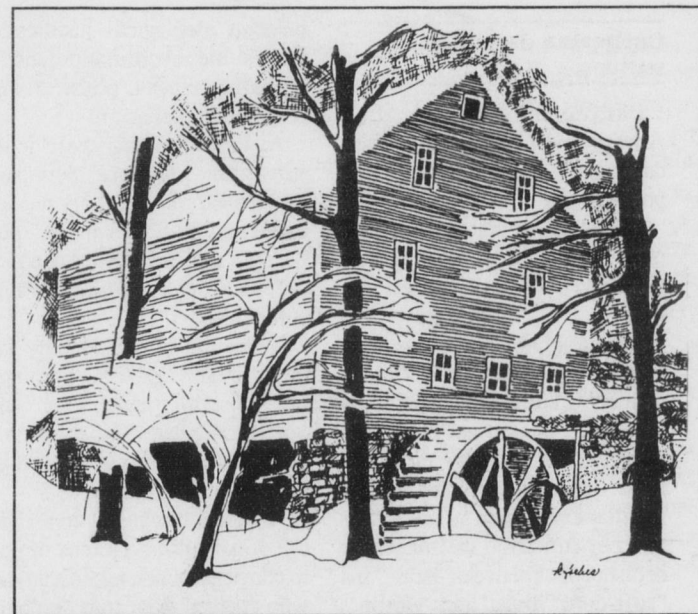
"We have many decrepit-looking old mill buildings dotted around the North Carolina countryside which have the same sorts of strength and tenacity going for them," Hobbs wrote. "Baldwins Mill stands as an object lesson of what may still be done with them."

Hobbs himself had previously restored another historic mill in Indiana during his tenure as a philosophy professor at Earlham College. Interest in mills has been a hobby passed down through several generations of Hobbs families. During Thanksgiving weekend, generations of Hobbs traditionally flock to Baldwins mill.

On Thanksgiving Thursday, a huge feast is served. The next day is a "work day," during which family members labor collectively on mill operations. The retreat concludes Saturday, when a family meeting is held and the grain is ground.

"It's really a great rallying point for our family," commented Lois Ann Hobbs in a Guilfordian phone interview.

Lois Ann Hobbs has also taken several measures to maintain the mill as a family heirloom and protect its longevity, including listing it on the National Historic Registry as a safeguard from local devel-



A sketch of Baldwins mill from Hobbs' book

opment, and incorporating the mill so that posterity won't be able to divide the property.

An active supporter of local preservation efforts, Lois Ann Hobbs has served in an executive capacity within the Haw River Assembly, the organization which initially nominated her and her late husband for the Preservation/North Carolina's Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit.

The prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals and

groups who show an extraordinary commitment to promoting historic preservation. Its namesake was a famed New Bern preservationist, historian and one of the founding members of Preservation/North Carolina.

Among its various other preservation efforts, the nonprofit organization locates endangered historic sites statewide to buy and resell them to individuals who are committed to protecting the sites' historic integrity.

Senator

Continued from page 2
tee (ECC), mentioned that Forevergreen is selling reusable cups for \$2.75.

With the purchase of the cup comes a coupon worth 3 free fill-ups of the cup in the Underground and 10 cents off every time a drink is bought in the Underground and the cup is used to drink it. She also reported that ECC meets at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Gallery.

Lou Willis, the Student Residence Council chair, reported that SRC is in the process of interviewing candidates for Res. Hall Board. Lou also stated that SRC meets at 4:00 on Mondays in Milner basement.

Student Services Committee Chair Caroline Biber reported that the SSC met with Charlie White over the failures of the computer in the Underground used to handle munchie money.

SSC is also working on the possibility of a third meal plan of between 6 to 9 meals per week to go along with the current 12 and 18 meal plans.

Academic Affairs Committee Chair Erika Lemay reported that AAC will meet on Mondays at 9:30 in Dana Lounge.

Devah Waterman, the chair of the Special Projects Committee, announced that SPC is doing some reworking of the Senate Constitution and by-laws to clear up some discrepancies.

R.J. Nickels, tentatively one of the co-chairs of the newly formed Community Relations Committee, reported that CRC has been talking with groups around campus about some community awareness programs, and a statement of purpose for inclusion in the Senate by-laws.

In old business introduced last week, Senate approved Michael Pruden as minority senator, Lessia Kovelenco as international senator and Mike Sick as one of the academic senators.

The decision on the approval of Mike Kopcsak as the other academic senator was deferred because he was absent from the meeting.

The decisions on the approval of Laura Greene as co-treasurer with Keith Valbuena and the approval

of Bridget VandeWalle and R.J. Nickels as co-chairs of the Community Relations Committee were deferred because the by-laws have not yet been changed to allow for a co-treasurer and to explain the CRC's duties.

In new business, Jen passed out surveys regarding students' opinions of the current keg policy and the use of alcohol at Guilford.

These surveys will be passed on to constituents to be filled out and then brought back. The survey results will be used to judge student opinion in preparation for possible renewed discussion of the keg policy.

The last piece of new business was a short discussion of whether the meeting scheduled for Oct. 7 should be cancelled because Wednesday was Yom Kippur, a important Jewish holiday.

After those Senators who celebrate the holiday said they would have no problem with the meeting being held, provided their absences be excused for that day, it was decided a meeting would be held.

The Guilfordian News Section is searching for inquisitive minds and the bodies that carry them to serve as reporters and writers. We are confident that the integration of these parts into our system will yield surprising satisfaction for the system and the parts both. Don't hold back or be shy. Try it, you'll like it.

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Contact Matthew Levy at 852-8373
or Joan Malloch at 316-2306

CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CURRENTLY MEETING IN THE MOON
ROOM IN DANA AUDITORIUM, 10:30 a.m.
SUNDAY

AN UPBEAT WORSHIP THAT STIMULATES THE
INTELLECT AND CONTAINS INSIGHTS FOR
LIVING

CASUAL DRESS IS FINE