

NEWSETTES

The Alumnae Secretary's Column

The mail is always interesting but especially so just before special occasions, such as Founders' Day. But before letting you in on some mail recently received, I want to tell you about a visitor.

The other day an alumna, graduate of 1934, came to the alumnae office highly elated because on the way she had bumped into some people who knew her here in her college days. She said, "I met four of my professors, each of whom called me by name! Think of their remembering me! Wasn't that wonderful!" Yes, the professors do remember you and are glad to see you, so don't stay away thinking you'll know no one because you don't know everyone.

Now the mail—a "special" came the day before Founders' Day containing a check for \$80 and this note: "I can think of no better way to greet my Alma Mater on her birthday than by paying in full my pledge of \$100.00 on the Expansion Program and pledging \$100.00 again to be paid by next Founders' Day." An excellent greeting—I should say!

Another piece of mail which came just before Founders' Day contained an enclosure with this explanation: "Here's another small bond that I'm turning in for Meredith. Credit it to 1907 if credits are given to classes." You agree with me that the message was quite acceptable, don't you?

Note from Dora E. Cox of Winterville reads: "—here goes my check for Life Membership in our Alumnae Association. I dare say this will mean more to my Alma Mater on her forthcoming birthday than any greeting that I could possibly pen. Rest assured, however, that next Friday I shall depart from my usual beaten path sufficiently long to follow the trail of memory to Meredith days." Thus may both of us be blessed! You agree that "special-occasion" mail is interesting, don't you?

Emily Boyd Garrison of Florida believes in "say it with flowers." Here's an excerpt from her letter: "Tomorrow I am hoping to find enough gladioli which are just right to cut now for mailing. I will send these to you to bear my Alma Mater greetings on her birthday." The flowers came in good time and our college community was very delighted to receive them.

Many alumnae have written me that they enjoy "The President Speaks," which appears in each Supplement. Recently an alumna of Asheville wrote to Mrs. Wilkins: "Please allow me to congratulate you upon the fine article you have in the January 21 Twig. . . . The things you say need to be said over and over and acted upon by more and more people. The matter is urgent and vital. . . . You expressed my own thoughts so much better than I ever could. . . . I'm going to ask the newspaper here to publish your article." Aren't we proud of President Marguerite Mason Wilkins, though!

Likewise many alumnae have written me that they read with interest "Fund Chairman Reports" in each Supplement. Several weeks ago Jennie Yancey Fleming Severance sent directly to our Fund Chairman a check for a Life Membership along with a letter in which she said she was much interested in Mrs. Martin's picture—that she hadn't seen her since she was a baby but could still recognize the favor! Remarkable, and aren't we proud of Fund Chairman Margaret Craig Martin, though!

Those of you who type can well understand the terror that seized the alumna who found that a misspelled word had escaped her correction before mail-

ing her typed Founders' Day message (she must have had a carbon copy). Let me tell you what the word is—*escalator*. Anyhow she sent posthaste a message asking that the word be corrected before consigning it to the special Founders' Day "Alumnae Greeting" bulletin board. How well we know that typists have a much harder time concealing misspelled words than "long-handers," for an "i" can't be mistaken for an "e," an "a" for an "o," and so on.

The "Baby Alumnae" class has, so far, the highest percentage of "active" members of any class numbering as many as fifty or more—to date, 37 per cent (85 in class).

The Early Days of the Astro and Phi Societies

By MARY LYNCH JOHNSON

Three names, two locations, and numerous smaller changes have marked the forty-seven years of Meredith's life. Degrees and courses have been added and dropped since the first year. The Missionary Society of 1899 gave way to the Y.W.C.A., and then to the B.S.U. The Athletic Association was not dreamed of that first year; neither was Student Government. For two years there was not even a Lady Principal; the President of the University gave all the permissions.

Between that past and this present the literary societies, the Philaretian and the Astrotekton, form the strongest link. Both were organized the first month of school, with the same mottoes and colors which they now have. An older alumna, by the way, told me that the colors were chosen because the college colors were first purple and gold, rather than maroon. The alumnae of the early years feel quite at home in the one or the other of the long lines that march down the aisles in friendly rivalry on Society night, even though those who graduated before 1917 had to learn a new society song, since the Astros had used the tune of *The Watch on the Rhine*, matching the Phi's use of the *Marsellaise*. The earlier graduates know the societies as they are now; so perhaps they will pardon this reminiscence for the sake of more recent alumnae, who may possibly like a glimpse of the societies as they used to be.

The two organizations took themselves quite seriously in those first years, and the school recognized their importance. The written permission of the president, to be obtained three weeks after the opening of the session, was necessary before one joined either society. The lack of a graduation class at the first two commencements did not at all disconcert the authorities, for a commencement lasted from Sunday night till Wednesday night. The important day was Tuesday, when the "Literary Address" was made to the two societies, which in turn gave an entertainment and a reception in the evening.

For years the societies met every Saturday night, an incredible time for anything in a college to meet now, but in those dim, distant days college had not yet become "a spring board for week-ends." With the Monday holiday as the only day on which students either went to town or received callers, with Tuesday's lessons still a comfortable distance away on Saturday night, attendance at Society meetings was no problem at all.

All the programs were reported in detail in the news section of the *Acorn*, "Glimpses from Within," and these accounts antedate and supplement my memory. The programs were well balanced, and evidently well carried out. For several

ALUMNAE LUNCHEON

The annual Meredith Alumnae Luncheon will be held in High Point, on March 13, at 1 o'clock, at the Wesley Memorial Church. Alumnae and friends are cordially invited to attend. Please send in reservation by March 9 to Mrs. D. A. Rawley (Sarah Cook), 1209 Johnson St., High Point.

TO MEREDITH

(Tune: "Memories")

By Marguerite Mason Wilkins
Memories, memories,
Dreams of love so true.
On the sea of memories
I'm drifting back to you,
Meredith days, Meredith ways.
Love and laughter, too.
We left you long ago,
But still you're our own
In our beautiful memories.

LETTER TO ALUMNAE

New Chairman of Friends of the Library Committee



Louise MacMillan

*Dear Friends of the Meredith Library:

Alma Stone Skaggs (Mrs. Marvin) of Greensboro and Jean Simpson of Thomasville met with me informally on Sunday afternoon, January 20, to talk about the broad objectives of the Friends of the Library movement and the best means of achieving those objectives. Like similar groups elsewhere, the Friends of the Meredith Library is a voluntary association whose purpose it is to focus attention on the needs of the library and to improve its resources by all possible means.

The committee believes that many people both within and without the Alumnae Association would be glad to help if they knew what was needed. Proof of this fact is seen in the growing number of gifts to the library by college classes and alumnae chapters since the inauguration of the Friends of the Library movement in 1941. We therefore recommend that information regarding the continuing needs of the library be brought regularly to the attention of the alumnae and other friends through the alumnae Supplement to the Twig or through a library news letter, should the interest seem great enough to warrant such a service.

We further recommend that gifts by classes, alumnae chapters, and other groups be encouraged and gratefully acknowledged.

We believe that memorials in the form of funds for books or other library purposes offer a striking opportunity to carry on the life interest of an individual or a group, and we therefore recommend that every encouragement be given to the establishment of such memorials.

While soliciting gifts to the library by chapters and other groups, we recommend that individual, active membership in the Friends of the Library group be based on an annual cash donation to the library of not less than one dollar. On that basis the invitation is now open to all persons who are interested in the Meredith library and who want to have a part in its continuing growth.

The committee submits these recommendations, not as a complete program, but merely as preliminary suggestions for putting the Friends of the Library association on a functioning basis.

Remember that the library is not an independent institution; it is merely one of the tools, a highly essential tool, with which the college seeks to realize its objective.

Sincerely yours,
LOUISE MACMILLAN,
Chairman, Friends of the Library Committee.

BOOKS ON THE ALUMNAE SHELF

- White Echoes*, by Annie Dove Denmark.
- Mrs. Maynard's House*, by Foy Johnson Farmer.
- Publishing Glad Tidings*, by Foy Johnson Farmer.
- History of Rice Production in Louisiana to 1896*, by Annie Mildred Kelly Ginn.
- Folk Plays of Eastern Carolina*, by Bernice Kelly Harris.
- Portulaca*, by Bernice Kelly Harris.
- Purslane*, by Bernice Kelly Harris.
- Sage Quarter*, by Bernice Kelly Harris.
- Sweet Beulah Land*, by Bernice Kelly Harris.
- Shakespeare and the Troy Story*, by French Haynes.
- Part-time Farming in the Southeast*, by Harriet Laura Herring and others.
- Southern Industry and Regional Development*, by Harriet Laura Herring.
- Welfare Work in Mill Villages: the Story of Extra Mill Activities in N. C.*, by Harriet Laura Herring.
- Collection of Plays*, by Mary Sullivan Kelley.
- Teaching Mouth Health in North Carolina*, by Carolyn Mercer.
- Guide for Students in the Use of Books and Libraries*, by Mildred Oliver and others.
- History of Taxation in North Carolina During the Colonial Period*, by Coralie Parker.
- Self-directing Notebook for English History, Based on Cheyney's A Short History of the English People*, by Esther Frances Royster.
- Serials Currently Received in Southern Libraries; A Union List*, edited by Alma Stone Skaggs.
- Plays and Masques at Court During the Reigns of Elizabeth, James and Charles*, by Mary Susan Steele.
- Driftwood Fires*, by Irene Wilde.
- Red Turban*, by Irene Wilde.
- Collection of Plays*, by Beulah Bailey Woolard.