Johnson Hall Steps, Frame Classroom Buildings Are a Part of Meredith's Architectural Past

By ANN RIVERS

Students sang there on Commence- to Ridgewood.

A surprising number of changes ment Day. have taken place on the Meredith campus since it moved to its present the steps and sang her class song. location. Some of the most interestcampus.

On Class Day each class stood on

The seniors, who stood on the ing of these changes have occurred top rows, moved down the steps for in the physical appearance of the each successive class to move up, symbolizing the rise of each year's Undoubtedly, the most familiar class. At the end of Class Day, the building at Meredith is Johnson daisy chain, forming the numerals Hall, which is usually first to be of the graduating class, was left on seen as students come up the drive the steps. Stepsinging also took from Hillsboro Street. This sight, place in the afternoon before Stunt the facade of Johnson Hall, is quite Night and after Palio, which was a different now from its earlier ap-|day of out door games and merrypearance, for it was first constructed making. The old Johnson Hall steps, with outside steps leading up to the once an integral part of Meredith second floor. These steps were the tradition, are presently located bescene of several traditional events. hind the college, just off the road

The interior of Johnson Hall has also undergone a transformation. Previously it had a rotunda, or enclosed area, in the center, with a recessed floor. This enclosed place was sometimes known as the "fish bowl" or "dry swimming pool" and was used for vespers, meetings, and senior dating.

Before Joyner Hall, the present liberal arts building, was constructed, a long one-story building with classrooms on each side of a single hall was used. This structure was apparently never very satisfactory because the walls were so thin that lessons going on in neighboring rooms could be overheard, and buckets had to be placed in the from a leaking roof.

Some people may not be aware of the fact that Meredith has a natural amphitheater located in the grove, which is no longer used. In addition to a natural stage, rustic benches were used. Vespers, May Day and Commencement services were held at this site, and on Class Day, the sophomores carried their daisy chain there. Near this area, two rustic, pagoda-style summer houses used to stand — one on each side of the drive. An uproar must have been created one year when a crook was found hiding under one of these.

Hunter Hall, one of the newer additions to the campus, replaces a long, one - story science building, which was removed during the late 1950's.

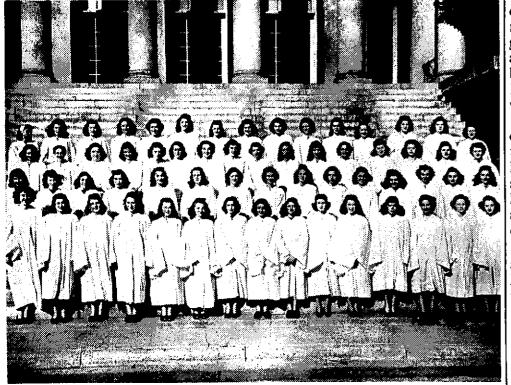
The old auditorium and music building was abandoned with the construction of Jones Auditorium in 1949. The old auditorium was a large frame building with bare rafters and wooden seats which are still used for outdoor programs. The low rear part of this structure, which had contained music theory classrooms, was allowed to remain and became a part of the presentday Bee Hive. The first student supply store had been located in a small room in one of the dormitories (then known as A, B, C, and D), and was later moved to a farm worker's house which had been on the farm land bought for the site of Meredith College.



rooms during rain to catch water Dr. Mary Yarbrough and Frances Rogers, a former chemistry major, move from old science building.



Former Meredith students enjoy refreshments from the old supply store.



Former graduates of Meredith pose on steps in front of Johnson Hall.



Mary Lou Davis, Jane Lawrence, and Anne Pope investigate steps taken from the front of Johnson Hall during remodeling.



Students make daisy chain in summer house before it was removed.

Interior of Meredith chapel before it was replaced.