

Three Generations of Alumnae

Faculty Notes Changes in Students, Campus

By MARION NOLAN

With Founders' Day still on the minds of the Meredith community, the interest remains in the past. Interviewing alumnae faculty members Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, Dr. Norma Rose, and Mrs. Dorothy Preston offered personal insight into three past college generations at Meredith.

Beginning with the reminiscences of Dr. Johnson, who was the first of the three to arrive at Meredith, this article attempts to offer glimpses of Meredith as it used to be. When asked about the most significant difference between Meredith then (1917) and Meredith now, Dr. Johnson emphasized the lack of mobility among students when she attended Meredith. She pointed out that since automobiles had just come out, girls did not have access to transportation and consequently, most activities were centered on the campus. Dr. Johnson related that societies, holding their meetings every Saturday night, sponsored such activities as concerts, debates and lectures. Interestingly, Dr. Johnson explained that classes were conducted on Saturdays until 5:00 p.m.; then Sunday and Monday were days off. On Mondays, many of the girls would go downtown shopping or to a movie; this was for the most part the only time when girls went off the campus. Another interesting custom of Dr. Johnson's generation was sophomore night off. This was a night when the sophomore class relaxed and literally took a night off. The lack of mobility which Dr. Johnson stressed did center life more on the campus; however, the girls did not seem to mind as they were not used to going as we do today.

Dr. Rose Recalls

Moving on to another generation some twenty years later, we see Meredith as Dr. Norma Rose did. Although the mobility of the age was far greater than in Dr. Johnson's time, the students still did not spend as much time away from the campus as they do today. Some of the favorite activities which students participated in was finding the shepherd's crook. It seems that seniors would hide the crook a few days before the opening of school in the fall. Later, when juniors returned, they would begin to look for the coveted crook. Dr. Rose explained that it could be hidden under a dorm, in the grove, in the rye field or any place on the campus. Girls refereed the 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. hours for the searching.

She recalls that late one night, the Dean of Women roused her from bed to get word to three juniors who were on the roof of one of the dorms looking for the crook that they must come in. On another occasion, upon hearing that the juniors were in the rye field looking for the crook, members of the Senior Class got up and left their banquet to go to the field. Although the seniors did not succeed in retaining the shepherd's crook they did manage to ruin their dresses, the banquet, and the rye field. Another cherished activity was stunt. Although we still have stunt today, Dr. Rose pointed out that during her college days, stunt was much more elaborate than today. Props such as live cows, real cars and others were introduced on the stage. Dr. Rose then added that it was during her college generation that restrictions to curb the extravagance of Stunt were first introduced.

From another college generation twenty years later, Mrs. Preston suggests that certainly they were more mobile than either Dr. Johnson, or Dr. Rose; nevertheless, she related that more activities were centered on the campus then than now.

Organization Different

Societies, for example, were arch rivals, and not only rush week but throughout the year they sponsored activities for the girls. It was also interesting to note that the church-related organizations, according to Mrs. Preston, were much more active in her college days than today. The B.T.U., for example, incorporated around two hundred of the girls then as compared to our considerably smaller group now. Also, girls wore hats almost everywhere they went then. Church required hats then, and most of the girls wore them when they went downtown. Dating customs were different in that students were required to double-date until they were juniors. The same sign-out method that we use today was used in Mrs. Preston's time; however, the sign-out area was considerably smaller and located at the foot of the stairs in each dorm. As for clothes, cashmere sweaters were the rage then, along with flared skirts. The tradition of singing in the cafeteria to a newly engaged girl was also a custom of Mrs. Preston's college generation. She related that after receiving her diamond on a Sunday after church, both she and her fiance came back to Meredith to have lunch together in the cafeteria. As was the custom, both were sung to

and obliged to stand during the serenading. Mrs. Preston says that her husband has yet to forget that experience. Most popular class activities included Pallo, which was a parade of the classes in costume; Corn-huskin', a significant event; and Stunt, the most exciting of all. Meredith has certainly been a part of the changing time, and as this article suggests activities both on and off the campus, dating customs, and clothing have all seen changes in this march of time. Yet, no matter how great the change, we always like to look into the past and view life on the campus in earlier days.

GEOGRAPHER MEINIG SPEAKS ON CAMPUS

Dr. Donald W. Meinig, Professor of Geography at Syracuse University, spoke at Meredith on March 9, under the auspices of the Visiting Geographical Scientists Program. His topics were "The Geographical Morphology of Culture" and "The Mormon Region." Dr. Meinig taught at the University of Utah for nine years before going to Syracuse in 1959.

The Visiting Geographical Scientist Program is sponsored by the Association of American Geographers under a grant from the National Science Foundation. The program seeks to benefit three types of institutions: those which offer degrees in geography but do not have the full range of specialization in its various subfields; those which have limited course offerings in geography; and those which do not offer geography. It encourages stu-

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of knowledge in relation to one's life after graduation from college. She emphasized the mistake of many students in confusing the ends of learning with the means, thereby thinking that knowledge of various facts and concepts compose a true education. Speaking of her own experiences, she also said that civic and scholastic honors can not constitute happiness and contentment. True and lasting satisfaction come to those, as Milton wrote, "who were born to study, and love learning for itself, not for lucre, or any other end, but the service of God and of Truth."

After Anne Pepper Poole's address, the society tapped four new members. These included Delinda Barrier Rodgers, TWIG editor from Concord; Marian Bunch, chairman of Legislative Board from Edenton; Janet Brown, Nonresident Student President from Raleigh; and Anne Sparger, chairman of Student Activities Board from Wadesboro.

The purpose of the Silver Shield, according to the handbook, "is to foster a good spirit on the campus and to recognize outstanding students who have contributed to life at Meredith." The members are selected by the society and the faculty on the basis of Christian character, constructive leadership, service to the school, and scholarship. The sponsors are Dr. Ione Knight and Mr. Dan McGee and the members include the following: Judy Hamrick Leonard, president; Anita Hauser, vice-president; Bonnie Eicher, secretary-treasurer; Sandra Flynt; Martha Mills; and associate members, Lynn Grumbles and Kay Cockerham.

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