

THE
MEREDITH



TWIG
COLLEGE

A New Beginning

When I asked Dr. Weems if he had a pre-inaugural statement for THE TWIG, he said he only had one major aspect that he wanted to stress, and that this aspect would be the most important reason for having an inauguration. He said he did not want the proceedings to be merely for dignitaries or for publicity for the College itself, but that he did want them to be special. That sense of specialness comes to life in the involvement of the Meredith Community itself, for this inauguration, above all, is a total community effort.

Not only have teachers and administration had a part in the planning of this inauguration, but students have also done their parts, so that, as Dr. Weems stressed, the affair has not become special only to certain guests from outside the Meredith Community. Students as well as the public have been invited to the inaugural activities, and the overall view is now one of togetherness, of a true community working within itself in order to present a total picture of a new beginning.

This new beginning, marked by the inauguration proceedings tomorrow, can offer us a challenge for the future of the Meredith Community. We have succeeded thus far in working for a totality within the inauguration, but we cannot stop here. All of us must continue to grow toward a complete totality for tomorrow, or the future of Meredith will not grow at all but will rather become stale and inactive.

Dr. Weems is looking toward that future when all of Meredith can become a true community. His first step is to actualize that outlook at his own inauguration; ours will be to continue that outlook in this year and those to come so that what is symbolized at this inauguration may be realized throughout the future of Meredith College.

J F S

Dr. Weems

(Continued from page 1)

tive Training Program, while completing his master's degree, Dr. Weems taught at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, N.C. He also served as Director of Admissions and Placement and Director of Student Personnel Services.

In 1959, Dr. Weems became Dean of Admissions and Records at Kentucky Wesleyan College and in 1961 became Dean of Admissions at Middle Tennessee State University, and later Vice-President for Finance and Administration. Other than faculty and student personnel areas, Dr. Weems was responsible for all areas of college administration at Middle Tennessee. The procedures developed in his office there have been adopted as the prototype for installation in each of the state supported institutions of high-

er education in Tennessee.

Having been President of the Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, President-Elect of the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, Dr. Weems comes to Meredith with an admirable background of experience. He is married to the former Frankie Gooch of Chapel Hill, Tennessee. He was the past Chairman of Deacons and former Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and is a Rotarian. The Weems are members of Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh. They have three children: John Mark, 18, a freshman at Wake Forest University; David Van, 13; and Nancy Carol, 11.

RECITAL SET BY LYNCH

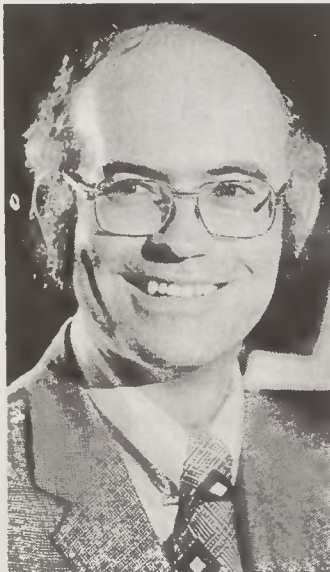
Music will begin the inaugural activities when Dr. W. David Lynch gives an organ recital in honor of Dr. Weems on Thursday, September 21. Held at 8:00 P.M. in Jones Auditorium, the performance will be given for Meredith and the public.

Regardless of their knowledge of organ music, all stu-

dents are welcome at the recital. Dr. Lynch will speak before each selection about what he is to play and the effects accomplished with the organ, as well as about the composer, when he lived, and why he wrote the piece. Included in

Dr. Lynch's program are "Fantasia" on the chorale "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" by Reger, "Prelude" and "Fuge in Dorian Mode" by Kerckhoven, "Recite de Tierce en alle" by Gringny, and "Wondrous Love" by Barber.

Now chairman of the music department, Dr. Lynch came to Meredith in 1969. He received his B.M. degree from Oberlin College and the M.M. and D.M.A. degrees from the Eastman School of Music. He has also studied in Salzburg, Austria; Paris, France; and at Syracuse University.



Dr. David Lynch, Chairman of The Meredith Music Department.

CHAPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

On Wednesday September 27, at 10:00 a.m., a special treat is in store for chapel. From the state of Maryland ...Merl, Happy and Wil... the Shorb Brothers, are

coming to Meredith. The concert will feature current pop material, a smattering of Shorb originals, and some traditional hymns and gospel songs.



Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson with her revised edition of A HISTORY OF MEREDITH COLLEGE.

"WITHOUT OSTENTATION OR FANATICISM"

JOHNSON'S BOOK REVIEWED

BY GLORIA HUNT

Well written history has a way of reassuring the old that there is nothing new under the sun, while encouraging the young that age alone is no criterion for betterment. This second edition of A HISTORY OF MEREDITH COLLEGE, revised and extended, might use some of the Women's Lib slogans for subtitles. The book describes the conflicting opinions about "female education" that North Carolinians held in 1889. (If it were hard to get your own cigarette then, how difficult to get your own college!) There were those who believed that "it hain't a woman's hemisphere to be educated anyhow, it is us men's hemisphere." Fortunately the opposite argument had more eloquent spokesmen such as Leonidas Polk, who wrote in an 1890 PROGRESSIVE FARMER editorial: "That the education of women should have been so long neglected is a reproach which can only be obliterated by giving them now an institution which shall be equal in all respects..."

In 1899, the college opened in Raleigh. The book records glimpses of Raleigh history, of leading personalities in the city who, like Polk, left a lasting impression upon the character of the city. Irrepressible Dr. Thomas Skinner, generous John T. Pullen, Carey J. Hunter and W. N. Jones were early friends of Meredith College and friends of many worthy Raleigh causes. Other leading Baptists in the state played important roles in the success of the college. The charismatic O. L. Stringfield was one who canvassed the state for pennies and nickels to build the college. Later, when Meredith was burdened again by debt, the gentle, scholarly Livingston Johnson, long time editor of the BIBLICAL RECORDER, offered to sell his only property to give money to a school which was to him "a peculiar treasure."

Labor and sacrifice are recorded in this history, but any sentimentality one might feel about those demure young ladies with their high white collars is dispelled by the author's realistic accounts of

the students. The first president of Meredith had to deal with such indiscretions as a distraught father whose daughter eloped from a picnic held by the First Baptist Church Sunday School. Raleigh citizens strolling on Edenton Street were often horrified to see certain items of lingerie or heads of hair being dried in dormitory windows. And basketball games between St. Mary's College and Meredith had to be abandoned because "unladylike language was used on both sides."

Obviously, what the author calls "the chivalrously sugar-coated idea that woman was too delicate a creature to undergo the rigor of a real education" was a fantasy of the male ego! From its earliest conception, Meredith was to be a school of academic excellence. Needlepoint and flower-making were scoffed at by such first faculty members as Dr. Delia Dixon Carroll, a woman of vigorous intellect who taught thirty-four years at the college. She was called by local citizens "the female lady doctress," so feminine a term needed to calm their suspicions about a woman who was a real M.D., an advocate of woman's suffrage, and who had traveled in the Orient... alone!

The book is a lively history because the author, Mary Lynch Johnson, has put her emphasis not upon brick, mortar and dates, but upon the people who shaped the character of Meredith College with their own personalities. Scholarly research is evident in every page, but the rich interest in people and the gentle humor of Miss Johnson make the reading a pleasure. Discovering that one excited young man at the 1897 Baptist

Convention pledged to the school "ten dollars for the girl who wouldn't have me," she gratifies our interest with a footnote telling the reader of the young man's marriage the next year. When one finds a history book in which even the footnotes are a delight, one has found good reading!

"Without ostentation or fanaticism" were words which a recent visiting lecturer used to characterize Meredith College. Having been associated with the college from the time both author and college were ten-year-olds, Miss Johnson might be forgiven a little fanaticism on the subject. But there is none in her book. Though she holds many degrees, is a brilliant linguist, and a master of literature, there is never a trace of ostentation in her writing. Expect to find in the book the same honest enthusiasm, generous giving of self, and devotion to high goals that she has imparted not only to her literature classes at

Meredith, but to her community, that community consisting of anyone within voice range or writing range. William Josiah Bailey, an early advocate of the college wrote in 1896:

Educational institutions are not made of bricks and mortar and money. They are never great until sanctified with sacrifice. Into yonder institution we must pour heart's blood, lives must be lived for it, sacrifices offered for its sake, and the best of some of us must be devoted to it.

Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson is one of that best.

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