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Meredith celebrates Founders' Day

Dr. Cecil Sherman to speak at convocation

by Shirene Hritzko
Dr. Cecil E. Sherman, chairman of the Church Growth Commission and a native Texan, will be guest

speaker for convocation on Founder's Day, Friday, February 27.

After two years in the United States Military, Dr.

Sherman graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. degree in English and history. He then obtained a B.D. degree at Southwestern

Seminary and continued his education at Princeton Theological Seminary with a Th.M. in preaching. Proceeding that, he attended Southwestern Seminary to obtain a Th.D. in preaching.

Sherman has served various pastorates in North Carolina and Georgia. He has also held numerous voluntary positions including being a trustee at Meredith College, a member of The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Human Relations Council of Asheville, YMCA Board of

Directors for Asheville, and Chairman for the North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

Dr. Sherman has written *Modern Myths*, a book of sermons preached at First Baptist Church of Asheville, lessons for Adult Sunday School materials, and studied for Church Training. He has also written articles for *The Baptist Student*, *The Church Musician*, *Church Administration*, and *Outreach*, all of which have been published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

O.L. Stringfield: A tribute

by Ann Stringfield
In 1851, Thomas Meredith, for whom Meredith College is named, died. That same year, on a plantation near Wilmington, a man was born who would later play an important role in the history of Meredith College. His name - Oliver Larkin Stringfield.

Stringfield believed in education. In 1874, at the age of twenty-three, he felt the call to preach. With two dollars in his pocket and a small bundle of clothes packed by his two sides, he set out for Wake Forest College, eighty miles away. Seven years later after much financial struggle, Stringfield graduated.

After graduation he married Ellie Beckwith. Soon afterward he and his wife took charge of a new school at

Wakefield. They ran this school for eleven years with much success.

It was this success which prompted the trustees of the then non-existent Baptist Female University to hire Stringfield as a financial agent. For the next five years, Stringfield traveled from community to community, speaking in the local churches about the importance of female education. B. W. Spilman, in his "Snapshots of O. L. Stringfield," describes those years:

"Stringfield toiled day and night, in season and out of season. He visited rich and poor. He had passes on the railways. He sat up on the trains all night and worked all day. He often had one banana for a meal. But he

kept going. September 27, 1899 the Baptist Female University opened its doors, five years after he went into the field."

The work that Stringfield began in 1894 still continues today at Meredith. It is as Stringfield said in an article in the Recorder in 1894:

"If this work be of God, it will succeed. We verily believe that God has men with enough money to erect suitable buildings and endow the school so that we can, under God, do a work for the Baptist girls of the State that will live forever."

The Baptist girls and all girls.

(Ann Stringfield is the great-granddaughter of Oliver Larkin Stringfield.)

Founders' Days past

by Linda Sellers

Meredith's nintieth Founder's Day to be celebrated this year on February 27 is not the first celebration of this kind at Meredith. Founder's Day has been celebrated by students and faculty in a number of ways since the college's first celebration in 1908.

Most of the Founders' Days of the past consisted of a morning convocation, afternoon tea, and SGA-sponsored reception at night. The reception was a highlight of the girls' social calendars when they pulled out their formal gowns, invited their favorite beau, and danced to music usually provided by a local orchestra.

The February 2, 1928 issue of *The TWIG* commented on the reception "... As a result of last night's experiences many a girl today is secretly grieving over the fact that her name was mispronounced, that she failed to introduce properly her escort to Dr. Brewer, or that in her

excitement she forgot his name entirely."

Founder's Day of 1940 was a more solemn occasion because of the death of Miss Ida Poteat, head of the Department of Fine Arts at Meredith. The reception that night was cancelled and an alumnae association radio broadcast that was traditionally held was also cancelled because of her death.

Groundbreaking or dedication ceremonies dominated several Founders' Days. In 1959, Hunter Hall was dedicated as the new science building. In 1971, ground was broken for Cate Center, the student and recreation center, and the Massey House, the president's home. Groundbreaking ceremonies for Heilman Dorm were held in 1970.

Recently, Founder's Day has been celebrated by a morning convocation, alumnae meetings and a trustees' meeting.

Arts and culture calendar

February 27 at 8:00 p.m. - Cheryl Lewis in Graduation Recital in Carswell

February 28 at 4:00 p.m. - Ruth Lucille Evans and Shirley Overbeek in Graduation and Junior Piano Recital, Carswell

February 28 at 8:00 p.m. - Donna Lemmons and Brenda Southard in Graduation Piano Recital, Carswell

March 1 at 4:00 p.m. - Lauren Starboard and Wendy

Stanley in Sophomore Piano and Voice Recital, Carswell

March 1 at 8:00 p.m. - Jeanine Faircloth in Sophomore Piano Recital, Carswell

March 2 at 5:00 p.m. - Master Class with Ellen Williams and Sandra McClain, Carswell

March 3 at 8:00 p.m. - Ellen Williams and Sandra in Guest Voice Lecture-Recital, Carswell

Theatre In the Park proudly announces it's 1981 Mini-Season. The four productions will be:

FORTUNE IN MEN'S EYES - March 12-15

THE GLASS MENAGERIE - March 19-22

KENNEDY'S CHILDREN - March 26-29

LYSISTRATA - April 2-5

Advanced reservations are advised and can be made by calling 755-6936.

Powell appears at coffeehouse

Rocky Powell will be the featured performer at the Coffeehouse on Friday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. in the Cate Center Auditorium. He is

a singer, songwriter, guitarist, and he performs his own original material.

Rocky, a graduate of North Carolina State

University, has been playing the guitar for approximately ten years. He has toured California, performing in various coffeehouses.

experience?

A. Well, for instance, when I see a sunset, it makes me realize how fortunate we all are to be able to experience something as beautiful and natural as that. Those kinds of experiences are often hard to put down in a song, but meeting the challenge of trying to relate one's own creativity makes it all worthwhile. Another aspect of life that really fascinates me is the relationship between two people, but here again that kind of experience is often difficult to relate in song.

Q. How do you feel about playing before a predominately female audience?

A. Well, I think I relate better to female audiences because I feel they understand the sensitivity and meaning

that is an integral part of my music.

The Coffeehouse is being sponsored by CCA. Come, relax, and enjoy an evening of good music.

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Rocky Powell