

EDITORIAL : OUR LIBRARY TODAY

"The heart of every college is the library," says Miss Virginia Buchanan, head librarian at Montreat-Anderson College. The library at Montreat is gradually growing to a larger and better one, but it needs more space and room for the number of new books, periodicals, college catalogues, etc. that are being acquired. Miss Buchanan says that, at the present time, the shelves in the library are very crowded.

There is a total of 1,051 square feet of shelving space (including estimated shelving space in the Reading Room). The library standards estimate that fifteen books are shelved per square foot of space. Our library houses 23,000 books in a space that should house 15,765 books. As one can see, this is a big problem which is getting bigger instead of smaller.

A library should accommodate one fourth of the student body of the college. For Montreat College, which had at the beginning of the year 340 students, the library should accommodate 85 students, but our library is not able to do this comfortably. By library space standards it should seat 60 readers. Each reader should be given a space of 25 square feet, and as the above figures show, we don't even have enough room to seat the readers, much less giving each one 25 square feet.

Many times at night the library is very crowded. The library staff has often thought that if those students who have off hours during the day would go during their free time, there would be more room at night. Miss Buchanan states that there are still many hours during the day when there seem to be very few people in the library.

At the present time the library is open sixty-four hours a week. Many students think it would be much more convenient if the library would be open longer hours such as from 8:00 in the morning to 11:00 at night. They feel that they could do much more work if the library did not close at 5:00. It would certainly be a great advantage if the library stayed open until 5:00 on Saturdays.

Many of the facilities in the library are not as good as they should be. It needs air conditioning, especially in the summer. In the winter, a student has to be bothered by the noisy fans, which are necessary because they heat the library. The sound conditioning is terrible. The floors are marble with no floor covering and the walls are of stone. It seems as if the next most needed building at Montreat-Anderson College is a new library.

The citizens of Montreat, Black Mountain, Old Fort and Swannanoa use the library to a limited degree. High school students are welcome and use the library to a limited degree also. In the summer the library is opened ten weeks for residents and guests who come to Montreat.

The library is under the supervision of two professional librarians, Miss Virginia Buchanan, head librarian, and Mrs. Seth Gilkerson, assistant librarian. There are 84 hours of student help, three sophomores and six freshmen. Mr. Waters works six nights a month.

It is interesting to note what our library really does contain. The collections of books is very outstanding. Each year an average of between 800 and 900 new books are being added through gifts, purchases, and bindings. The library at the present time, contains 22,594 books, between 1,500 and 2,000 bound periodicals, 132 recordings, 416 filmstrips, 498 slides, 11 tapes, 458 college catalogues, and an estimated 150 maps.

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God must have loved the plain people: He made so many of them. -Lincoln