



# The Belles of St. Mary's



VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 3

RALEIGH, N.C.

FEBRUARY, 1976

## St. Mary's Part in the Bicentennial

Nineteen hundred and seventy-six is a great year for Americans. It recognizes the fact that for two hundred years, we have been a free nation. America is ecstatic with celebration. The Bicentennial means different things to different people and thus people will react to it differently.

St. Mary's itself takes a part in the celebration, for St. Mary's is approaching its 200th year. On May 12, 1976, St. Mary's will have been in existence for 134 years.

In 1835, East and West Rock were built for "The Episcopal School" for boys by the Diocese. It fell because of debt. In 1842, St. Mary's, as now, began as a private school for young ladies providing the best education by the Reverend Albert Smedes. There were thirteen girls total in attendance and cost was \$100 per session.

Since then, St. Mary's has come a long and great way. It has existed through wars, misfortunes, and hardships as all of America has. Yet the two have stood alike and endured the strain of the years.

Today St. Mary's is a school of pride, tradition, and everlasting education--academic, emotional, and social as well.

Ray Evans wrote in *These Historical Minutes*, "To believe in destiny is to have destiny--and America has always believed firmly in its historical mission. First, it was the simple desire to establish freedom of worship; then it came to mean the founding of the first great republic in Western history. Later, it transformed into a crusade to make the world safe for democracy. And today, it is symbolized by scientific evangelism which will bring universal peace and prosperity."

Like America, St. Mary's has a destiny--to go forward

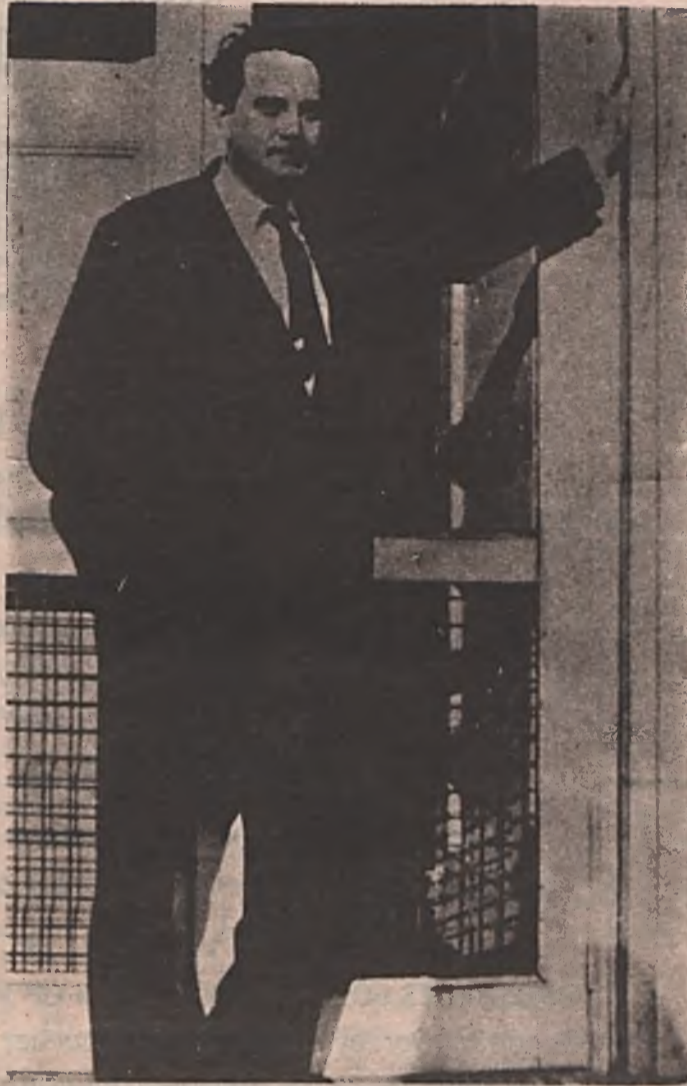
and to continue in pride, strength, and quality.

St. Mary's participation in America's celebration (as well as our own) includes many activities for a Bicentennial program. A committee was formed, and is headed by Dr. Morrison. Already, there has been a tribute on January 12. This was the flag ceremony. The Official State ROTC Rifleman and Color Guard were present and carried out the ceremony, along with St. Mary's chorale singing "The Star Spangled Banner". Later, there was a grand musical production by William Masselos in honor of Mrs. Cate, with a reception following.

Other ways that St. Mary's will take part in the celebration of our country's freedom are scheduled for the coming months. February brings the planting of Japanese trees under the supervision of Mr. Conrad. This will not only represent the Bicentennial to us, but beautify the campus as well. In March, there will be a Bicentennial ceremony created by our own religion department: "The American Religious Experience." Also, throughout the semester there will be a fund-raising program carried out by the students, for the students. Once again, St. Mary's puts forth efforts through essentials so that it will be able to exist as it always has.

Most important of all, this year will be an awakening for many--they can see that there are goals worth reaching--and they will be able to look back on accomplishments of the past. Hopefully, an awakening means new ideas and better ways. Therefore, this year of glorious achievement should not end with the last month of 1976, but should continue for many years to come.

Margaret Smith



## THOMAS WOLFE

by Lisa Albert

Dr. J. O. Fulenwider, Jr., talked to our librarian, Mrs. Brown, about beginning a Thomas Wolfe collection here at St. Mary's. He then granted his own personal collection of several first editions of Mr. Wolfe's books. He has continued to donate funds generously to the extension in the accumulation of Mr. Wolfe's works to our library. The library is hoping to develop not only a book collection but any Wolfe criticism, too, so that material will be available to all students and faculty for research. Other Wolfe collections are found at UNC, Pack Memorial Library, and Harvard University.

Thomas Clayton Wolfe is an internationally recognized American writer from Asheville, N.C. He has

achieved critical acclaim for his unabashed romanticism and visionary faith in the historical greatness of America. Born October 3, 1900, his mother was a schoolteacher and father was a stonecutter. At age 15, Mr. Wolfe was admitted to UNC where he was active in various publication and theater groups. It was at this time when he wrote *The Return of Buck Gavin* and *The Third Night*. From Chapel Hill he transferred to Harvard University to earn a master of arts degree. He wrote *Welcome To Our City and Mannerhouse*, concerning the disintegration of a southern family.

*Look Homeward Angel* was begun in 1926, finally appeared in print in 1929, published by Scribners. The book explored and explained "the strange and bitter magic

of life". It is an autobiographical record of the author's early years in the person of Eugene Grant. It contains vigorous prose and sequences of unquestionable power, such as a conversation between Eugene and the ghost of his brother Ben and the graphic description of his fathers struggle against cancer. It is said to be Wolfe's major contribution to American Literature. Wolfe only earned hostility though of friends and family who recognized themselves in *Look Homeward Angel*.

Mr. Wolfe died at a youthful age in 1938 in Baltimore. His work was influenced by the poetry of Walt Whitmans and Hart Crane and the fictional techniques of James Joyce and Sinclair Lewis. Many of his works were published after his death by Harper and Brothers.

On Wednesday, February 11, *Look Homeward Angel* will be brought to the stage at Raleigh's Little Theater. It is to benefit the recently established Library Endowment, headed by the library committee. Preceding the performance, Dr. Pisani will introduce the special guests of the evening, Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Fulenwider and Dr. and Mrs. H. Holman. Dr. Holman is a national authority on Thomas Wolfe from UNC at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Fred Wolfe, the brother of Thomas Wolfe and the only surviving member of the direct Wolfe family, will be another very special guest on hand for the evening. Mr. Wolfe is 83 years old and lives in Spartanburg, S.C. The performance will hold a certain sentimental effect on him as he played Luke in *Look Homeward Angel* years ago. He also has been asked to speak informally to SMC students on Thursday, February 12 in the library about his brother Thomas.

Mrs. Catherine G. Barnhart established a Thomas Wolfe essay award of \$50 for the St. Mary's student who writes the best essay on "The Legacy of *Look Homeward Angel*". Professor Richard Walser of the English Department at NCSU and a nationally-known expert on Wolfe, will judge the papers. The winning essay will be announced by Mrs. Barnhart preceding the performance at the Little Theater.

