



# The Belles of St. Mary's College

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## Smedes Receives Energy Efficient Renovations

by Nan Wilkinson

After about two years of laboring, the renovation of Smedes was completed for the most part on August 15, 1980. The project was the first major renovation of the building in 71 years. The total cost of the renovation came to a massive total of \$1.14 million. Renovations to the building will enable the College to save a considerable sum annually on energy and maintenance costs as well as making the dormitory more livable.

A major task that began in 1979 was to replace the electrical wires, which were 50 years old, on the upper three floors of the building. Also, new lighting was installed along with more plugs for each room to reduce the need of extension cords. Because of the upgrading of electrical service in Smedes, students may now have small refrigerators in their rooms. Some work is currently being done to repair the wires on the lower floor. The total cost of electrical renovation on all floors will amount to about \$170,000.

Most of the renovation took place in the summer of 1980. The biggest job was replacing the roof covering. It took more than 15 men working overtime a full three months to complete the job. However, the new roof, if properly maintained, should last at least until the year 2080. Another big project was the installation of an elevator. A deep pit had to be dug and

an enclosed shaft erected the height of the building between Center and East Smedes. Also a 41-foot shaft had to be sunk below ground. At times over 60 men could be found working on various projects in heat that reached 127 degrees at one point.

Along with replacing wires, the old heating system of radiators has been replaced with forced air heat and the addition of an air-conditioning system which utilizes the same duct work. The system cost about \$122,000, but the students say that it was money well spent. The installation of storm windows throughout the building should reduce the heating and cool air loss.

Replacing the antique tubs, which had been in place since the turn of the century, were two new bathrooms for the third floor. In other parts of Smedes, the bathrooms were waterproofed to prevent moisture damage to the building.

Several things were done to help the appearance of Smedes also. Room floors were sanded, then new carpeting was put down in all hallways. Some of the hallway ceilings were lowered and the walls painted, which gave the place a bright new appearance.

In addition to the visual renovation, there were many costly reconstructions that are not visual. There are massive air handling units,



SMEDES RENOVATION

part of the \$122,000 heating and air-conditioning package, which are tucked away in mechanical rooms throughout the building. Not many people would notice the work done to replace mortar between the bricks on the exterior. This had to be done to prevent future damage to the interior as a result of moisture seeping through the walls.

There were many personal donations given for the renovation of Smedes. St. Pauls Church of Winston-Salem gave a \$10,000 gift and

has offered the College an additional \$20,000 provided it is matched with an equal amount in gifts from other parishes in the Diocese of North Carolina. There were other donations also from various other organizations.

In reference to the renovation, President Rice said, "We are well pleased with the results of this project. Not only does it improve the livability of Smedes for its residents but, more importantly, it provides them an upgraded level of safety. I

think we now have a building to which we can point with pride as the College's most recognizable landmark."

"We have tried throughout to protect and enhance the esthetic values of the building in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Archives and History. Smedes was built to last a long time and we have approached its renovation in the same manner. I hope that its residents will do all possible to assist us in keeping it in first-class shape."

## PLANS FINALIZED FOR '80 WOLFE FEST

by Sarah Rice

The 1980 Thomas Wolfe Fest is celebrating its sixth year of activity and offers a wonderful weekend of events. The theme for this up and coming celebration is "Thomas Wolfe and the Discovery of America," and the fest will be held over the weekend of October 18 and 19.

This year St. Mary's received a prestigious grant from the North Carolina Humanities Committee, a foundation set to assist public events in the humanities. The Committee plans to co-sponsor the festival in conjunction with St. Mary's. In addition, the Thomas Wolfe Society, a national organization based in Ohio, will hold its annual meeting at the Fest. The society, of which Head Librarian Mrs. Andrea P. Brown is a member, boasts an international membership

of 250 and should add a great deal of enthusiasm to the celebration.

On October 15 Professor Emeritus Richard Walsler, a noted Wolfe scholar, will speak at a required assembly to introduce Thomas Wolfe to the St. Mary's students. St. Mary's holds one of the largest collections of Thomas Wolfe materials in the world. The Fest this year is geared toward the general reader, one who doesn't know much about Wolfe. Says Mrs. Brown, "The '80 Fest is not just for the Wolfe scholar, but for those eager to learn more about this fine North Carolina author." Brown stresses in particular the fact that the students are not only welcome, but encouraged to attend. The Fest includes such activities as lectures by scholars such as Louis D. Rubin, Jr., Sue Fields Ross, Wilma Dykeman, and Carole

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Klein among others. There will be panel discussions, receptions, a special theatre performance of one of Wolfe's works, and the annual banquet, which SMC hopes to offer at a special price to students and faculty.

The 1980 Thomas Wolfe Fest will be an interesting weekend of activities, and a learning experience about Wolfe. St. Mary's plans to make it a huge success this year, and hopes all her students will participate.

## DAY STUDENT HOUSE GETS "NEW LOOK"

by Margaret Norris

This summer while maintenance men were busily fixing up Smedes, the Wake County Alumni Association headed up another renovation project: the Day Student house. This house, which had become rather dilapidated in the last few years, took on a new look as alumnae, mothers, students, and maintenance workers joined efforts to complete the project. We owe our appreciation to the many people who made it possible.

Maintenance gave it an entirely new paint job, inside and out. The Alumni Association, with the aid of Mrs. Hamm, found and financed the new carpet, as well as helped the day students pay for the sofa. Mr. and Mrs. Scott gave the draperies, while Mrs. Steele

donated curtain rods and brackets. Mrs. Hardin painted these rods and with the help of Mrs. Scott, hung the curtains. Mrs. Iredale gave three new lamps and four new lampshades while Mrs. Koonce supplied two tables and Mrs. Johnson, who helped head the program, donated the curtains for the back room. Also, Louise Johnson and Mary Grady Koonce helped with the planning and gave the project a student voice.

Cries of "I can't believe it!" and "It doesn't even LOOK the same!" could be heard as returning students walked into their newly-restored second home.

Everyone agrees that it is a definite improvement—and one to be proud of. The house now carries a brighter, more cheerful look—as well as a more presentable one.