

# The Hilltop

Plain Living and High Thinking

Published by the Students of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, North Carolina.

Entered as second-class matter February 20, 1926, at the Post-office at Mars Hill, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Issued semi-monthly during the college year.

Subscription Rate ..... Year \$1.00

MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

**STAFF**

Editor-in-Chief ..... Caroline Homan  
 Associate Editor ..... Charles Baird  
 Managing Editor ..... Jack Bennett  
 Sports Editor (Boys) ..... Jerry Marion  
 Sports Editor (Girls) ..... Dorothy Stephenson  
 Feature Editor ..... Merle Stevens  
 Business Manager ..... Ann Clarke  
 Advertising Manager ..... Jean McCurry  
 Circulation Manager ..... Peggy Nichols

**REPORTERS**

Douglas Reed . Sybil Ramos . Blanche Willis . Cornelia Vann . Blanche DuPree . Allan Brown . Max Cain . Perry Penland  
 Carolyn Bennett . Ramon DeShazo

Advisor ..... Number 5.

Volume XXI. November 23, 1946.

## The Origin Of The Societies

There has hardly been a time since the organization of the college in 1856 that there was not a literary society in connection with the college. Up to 1891 the organization was known as the Mars Hill Literary Society. Men would walk into the village from miles around to engage in debates held by this society. Such men as Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, John Robert Sams, W. D. Jarvis, Zeb Hunter and Jim Frank Tilson composed a group that met weekly to solve all problems of their day. The society of the old days was not confined to college attendants.

It was not until late October, 1891, that the old Mars Hill Literary Society was divided. The division was brought about in the following manner:

Judson J. Ammons, who was president of the old society by its unanimous vote appointed Tom Blankenship, of Flag Pond, Tenn., and L. A. Bryan, of Mars Hill, to divide the old society. Blankenship's group was named Philomathia and Bryan's Euthalia. Blankenship got first choice and chose Douglas Tweed, of Marshall, N. C., as the Phi's first president. Bryan chose A. F. Sams as his first choice and he became the Euthalians' first president. John E. White sponsored the Phi Society and T. M. Hufham sponsored the Eus. This division was made in the upstairs of the original building. The Euthalians went to the book store room of the present music building, which was just being completed.

From the very first these organizations functioned well. The first inter-society contest was on the subject: "Resolved, that the United States shall perish from the earth as the nations of antiquity have done." The people of the village were as wrought-up over the decision as were the members of the societies.

Another interesting episode happened in those early days. Each society had a chandelier that had four oil burner lamps. The whole countryside was solicited for funds to the amount of \$5.00 each for the purchase of these decorative pieces of furniture. Another piece of furniture was a cheap oblong pine table, the ownership of which was in dispute between the two societies. By this time the Phi Society had been given the room just over the book store for its meeting place, and the disputed table was well fortified in their new home. The Euthalians were soon notified. Then the pot of anger began to boil. The Philomathian officers notified their friends from across the way that if they wanted the table they should come and get it. Plans for the capture were made. On the next society night the Euthalians, headed by such generals as S. L. Carter, O. L. Fitzgerald, I. E. Burnette and L. A. Bryan, marched across "no man's land" and into the fortified fort of the Philomathians. The Phi hall was in a glow from the light of its new chandelier and all was going well when they heard the oncoming army climbing the stairs. They notified the door-keeper of their business and were met at the door by General Lewis J. Bailey, A. B. Bryan, his brothers Steve and Walter, and in fact the whole society. They attacked by seizing the table while the Phi's contended as vigorously to hold their possession. When the smoke of battle had rolled away there wasn't a drop of blood to be seen, but the table was splintered into toothpicks. It happened that the Phi Bryan brothers were divided in their allegiance, and when they got home that night they refused to sleep in the same bed with each other.

Those were vigorous times in the life of the societies, and all are glad that the same contending spirit is present today. In the fall of 1895 the Clio Society was organized for the girls; and the following year, at the suggestion of President A. E. Booth, this society was divided in the Clio and Nonpareil societies. All four of the societies have kept in working form since the day of their organization and have helped to produce the Mars Hill spirit.



## Introducing 'Marty' and 'Harper'

Martha Jean Pope, better known as "Marty," is the president of the Clio Literary Society. "Marty" came to Mars Hill two years ago as a gift from the town of Hickory, North Carolina. Since that time she has proved a capable leader, serving as vice-president of the Clios, assistant Sunday School superintendent and as president of her Sunday School class. She has also shown merit in the scholastic field, being elected to the Scriblerus Club, an honor organization. "Marty's" favorite sports are basketball and football. She has a weakness for midnight snacks and southern fried chicken. In the musical field she prefers semi-classical selections, and as a pastime she enjoys "chatting" with people.

An outstanding point about "Marty" is to get things done, if she has to do them herself. Her ever-friendly spirit is admired. Carpentering runs in the family, she says, and it is one of her pastimes. Coffee and hamburgers seem especially nice to her in cold weather. "Marty" is partial to the Naval Air Corps as she sports the symbolic wings. She enjoys football games, whether she understands what is going on or not. Basketball, especially when played by Clios or Phi's, is another one of her likes. Bus trips away from Mars Hill are not in the least disliked. Unfaithfulness is a "purple passion" with the Clio president. A favorite saying of "Marty's" to the Clios is "If you need it, get it."

### Poetry . . .

"Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow . . ."  
 The Future lendeth itself an open space  
 Where the mortal lives of men rush in,  
 And with their petty souls,  
 Attempt to fill that vast abyss  
 That will always forge on past any life  
 That mortal man can ever hope to live.

Our life is but a drop in the ocean  
 That is the stage upon which  
 Millions of human parade their lives  
 Before an untrusting world.  
 —Jerry Marion.

In the deepening hush of twilight  
 As cooling dusk descends  
 And the harbingers of midnight  
 Trill sweetly "summer ends."

When the rosy tint of sunset  
 Fades into mists of gray  
 And old Bailey's deep blue silhouette  
 Looms leagues and leagues away,  
 When the trees around the girls hall  
 Are towering tall and still  
 And the twinkling lights entrance all  
 Who glance up to the hill,

To the mystic sad sublimeness  
 The speaker lends his power  
 And with musings on divineness  
 Has sanctified this hour.  
 —Merle Stevens.

Quentin Roosevelt Harper, a native of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, fills the responsible position of Anniversary President of the Philomathian Literary Society. "Harper," as he is known to his school mates, attended Mars Hill during the term of 1939-40. When the national emergency arose, he joined the navy, where he served as an Aviation Machinist in the Asiatic-Pacific theater of the war. He returned to Mars Hill this year to complete his pre-medical course. Quentin's favorite sport is basketball, and he enjoys hard fought games between the two literary societies. "Harper's" musical interests are centered in the semi-classical and modern composition. A double-decker chocolate cream cone is Quentin's favorite snack, and as a pastime he likes nothing better than to converse with fellow students—especially the girls.

Harper has a constant, never-failing companion, Umbrigo. At a joint meeting between Clio-Phi's complete without this friend. "That's the way I like to hear you say it" and "that's the spirit" are Quentin's choice of sayings. A flaming red cap easily identifies him in a crowd. Also his Navy jumper is a dead giveaway. Half-heartedness and shoddy are Quentin's pet peeves. However, he is ready to listen to sympathetic ears and is always understanding. "Paw" Harper seldom sits down to a peaceful meal in the dining hall. He has a weakness for plates, but usually scrapes up a little food from all the tables. He finally gets there to hold his own at the next meal.

**Nonpareil and Euthalia**  
 Extend Congratulations to  
**Clio and Philomathia**  
 in this  
**Anniversary-Reception Period**