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The Hilltop

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Volume XXXX

MARS HILL, N. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1965

Number 6

Dr. Bentley Named New President

Pam Culler 'Miss Laurel'

Pam Culler, a sparkling-eyed blonde from High Point, claimed her second beauty title in two weeks Monday night when judges named her "Miss Laurel of 1966."

A freshman with plans to become an elementary teacher, Pam was just beginning to get accustomed to the title "Miss High Point" when three carefully observant judges picked her as the campus beauty queen in the colorful and exciting pageant in Moore Auditorium.

Confidently wearing her identification as Contestant No. 13, the golden-haired beauty captivated the judges as she paraded across the boardwalk in a striking aqua evening gown and displayed promising talent as she sang the theme from the movie "Exodus."

Evidently she had projected poise and personality Sunday afternoon, when the 18 contestants faced personal interviews with the judges: Mrs. Robert Riddle of Asheville, state senator Clyde Norton of Old Fort and veteran pageant judge Bill Glenn of Asheville.

Runner-up in the two and a half hour pageant was Penny Crayton, a lovely senior from Asheville.

The other three finalists were Fran Walker, Ann Johnson and Ann Cantrell.

Newly-crowned "Miss Laurel of 1966," Pam Culler, beams from her throne as fellow contestants join the audience in applauding her at the climax of the pageant in Moore Auditorium. Others shown are (l. to r.) Gail Motley, Cammy McDonald, Judy Elaine Henson and Ann Peebles.



Portraits of the winner and the four other finalists will be featured in an opening section of the 1966 Laurel, which will be distributed next May.

A change in policy by staff members of the yearbook, which sponsors the contest, resulted in the announcement of the winner at the pageant rather than keeping it a secret until the distribution of the book, as had been done in previous years.

The change cut short the reign of "Miss Laurel of 1965," sophomore Jean Miller of Waynesville; but she received a standing ovation from the audience Monday night and summed up a full heart in a moving farewell.

As the final duties of her reign she gave fashion comments as the contestants paraded in evening gowns and then crowned and caped her successor.

Designed and directed by Jim Alexander around the song "My Favorite Things," the pageant was the fourth such annual production to display campus beauty and talent and pick a campus beauty queen.

Master of Ceremonies Jim Thomas, the stage band directed by Wayne Pressley and a smoothly-functioning crew of on-stage and behind-the-curtain personnel carried out the program with precision.

Dr. Fred Blake Bentley, a 30-year old assistant dean and assistant professor at the University of Louisville, will succeed Dr. Hoyt Blackwell as president of Mars Hill College next July 1.

That news was announced Tuesday when the board of trustees unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of a special trustee committee appointed in May 1964 to find a new president.

The youthful administrator was present for the occasion, accompanied by his wife, and promptly accepted.

It was the young couple's second visit to the campus recently. They were here briefly just before the Thanksgiving holidays. His letter of acceptance was dated Nov. 24.



DR. BENTLEY

Dr. Blackwell, president since 1938, will officially retire; and Dr. Bentley will officially assume the presidency on July 1. He, thus, will become only the third president the college has had since 1897.

A native of Roanoke, Va., Dr. Bentley did his undergraduate work at Baylor University from 1954-58. He attended the Waco, Texas, school on an athletic scholarship as a high jumper on the track team. His plans at the time were for a career as a combination church music director and director of Christian education. In 1958 he received a Bachelor of Music degree in theory and conducting.

During the last two years of his work at Baylor he was minister of music and youth activities at a church in Calvert, Texas.

From 1958 until 1960 he studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., earning a Master of Religious Education degree. During those years he was minister of recreation and youth activities at Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

He also served one summer (1960) as assistant minister of the Waverly Place Baptist Church in Roanoke.

It was during his seminary work that he became interested in administration in higher education and decided to pursue a doctorate in the field.

Enrolling in a newly-organized department of higher education at the University of Indiana, he earned, in 1962, the Doctor of Education degree in higher education and educational philosophy.

His doctoral dissertation, "An Analysis of French Higher Education," is based on first-hand research at the Institute Pedagog-

ique National and the Ministry of Higher Education in Paris.

Following receipt of the doctorate he served two years (1962-64) on the faculty in the department of government at the University of Indiana and, at the same time, served as educational advisor to the university's international contract programs.

In 1964 he went to the University of Louisville in his present positions as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and assistant professor of education.

In addition to fulfilling his duties in these two positions he has performed several other important functions at the 9,000-student university. He directed his college's self-study for accreditation and was a member of the executive and steering committees for self-study of the entire university. He has directed academic counseling and orientation and registration programs within his college; and he has served as director of transitional studies programs such as the accelerated master's degree program and director of the honors program.

His experience in self-study projects should be especially helpful since Mars Hill is currently engaged in such a self-study, aiming toward accreditation as a senior college.

Mrs. Bentley is the former Doris Phillips of Roanoke, Va., a Mars Hill alumna from the Class of 1956. They were married in June after she finished here. They have three children: Stephen Blake, 8; Philip Alan, who will be 4 in January; and Rhonda Lynn, 2½.

Tall (6-4) and trim, the new president keeps in good physical condition playing handball several times a week. He said Tuesday he was pleased when he

(Continued on Page 3)

Choirs Present Yuletide Music

The College Chorus and the Touring Choir, under the direction of Joel Stegall, will present a special program of music for the Christmas season at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Moore Auditorium.

The music will include "Gloria" by Vivaldi and "Laud to the Nativity" by Respighi. Accompanists will include Mrs. Donna Nagay, organ and harpsichord; Sharon Roberts, piano; Norman Selby, organ; and Dale Roberts, oboe.

Soloists will include Mary Ann Smith, Betty Slaton, Janet Snead and Mrs. Kathy Young, sopranos; Frances Walker, mezzo soprano; and Terry Childers, tenor.