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Students Launch \$100,000 Campaign

by Linda Baldwin

Ever heard the joke about a group of college kids trying to raise \$100,000? It's no joke.

In the new student-oriented, student-managed program, named "\$100,000 Emphasis," students are asked to join forces in a monumental campaign to raise \$100,000. The money from this drive, which will be formally announced at the Alumni Banquet on May 15, will be turned over to a student board of directors appointed by SGA. The board will appropriate monies from this fund to student-directed programs.

This fund will be self-perpetuating due to the fact that the principle will be deposited in a trust fund and expenditures will be made on the interest collected.

Danny Ray, graduating senior and President of SGA for the 1970-71 academic year, has been appointed chairman of the campaign.

The classes of '71, '72, '73, and '74 as well as those of '69 and '70 will be called upon to raise the \$100,000. Sometime early in the summer, a member from each of the aforementioned classes will be appointed chairman of the campaign for his class.

The means of procuring the projected \$100,000 will be left up to interested students. It is hoped that students will campaign in person and will contact acquaintances and friends who have some interest in the development of the college.

When asked for a statement illustrating the purpose of the program, Danny referred to a comment by Mr. John McLeod in his history of the college, **From These Stones:** "To be permanent a college cannot be built. It has to grow. To thrive it must be indigenous to the area in which it is planted. To be strong it must send its roots far into the soil and withstand the winds, floods, and droughts. To serve fully it must identify itself with its constituents, sharing their aspirations, their struggles, their successes."

gles, their successes."

"\$100,000 Emphasis" is not only a fund-raising drive but is also a

means of creating interest among and involving off-campus persons in the growth of the college.

Honorary Doctorate Awarded To J. R. Wren of Gastonia

by Linda Baldwin

Mars Hill College will bestow its first honorary doctorate during commencement exercises May 16 to Mr. J. Robert Wren of Gastonia. President Fred Bentley will preside at the investiture of Mr. Wren, outstanding civic leader and two-term trustee of the college, as honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

At the time its charter was approved by state legislature in 1859, Mars Hill College was awarded "the power of bestowing all degrees and other marks of literary distinction generally accorded to institutions of higher learning." No honorary degree has been awarded until this year.

Mr. Wren, who has served on several committees of the board of trustees and served as its chairman for the 1969-1970 term, is a long-time resident of Gastonia where he serves as Secretary and Treasurer of Akers Motor Lines, Inc., one of the largest motor carriers in the nation. According to Mr. John M. Akers, President of Akers Motor Lines, Inc., Mr. Wren has been with the company for 33 years, during which time the organization has grown from one with assets of less than \$100,000 to one today with assets exceeding \$20,000,000.

The recipient of the Gastonia Civitan "Citizenship Award" for 1971, Mr. Wren has made innumerable contributions of time and work to charitable and civic enterprises. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Gaston County Chapter of the American Red Cross and as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

This man has been active in the work of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce and served as its president in 1957.

He played a significant role in establishing the Gaston County YMCA in his community, has served on its board of directors since its beginning in 1959, gave freely of his time soliciting funds for their building fund. He served as president of the YMCA in 1961-62.

Mars Hill College's first recipient of an honorary doctorate has served several terms on the Gastonia Industrial Diversification Commission, which has been successful in bringing new and diversified industry into Gaston County.

He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital for several years, the latter part of which was spent as chairman of the executive committee of the trustees.

He is a past member of the Development Council of Wake Forest University.

He has been on the Board of Directors of the Gaston County Wildlife Club. He is a member of the Elks Club, the Holland Memorial Masonic Lodge 668, a member of the Shrine's Oasis Temple, and Gaston Post No. 23 of the American Legion. The Advisory Committee of the Gaston County Industrial Management Club has carried his name as a member for many years and he now holds honorary life membership in this organization.

The North Carolina State Legislature approved the creation of the Gaston County Civil Service Commission in 1957. This Commission is responsible for the operation of the Gaston County Rural Police. Judge P. C. Froneberger appointed Mr. Wren as a member of the first three-man commission. Mr. Wren became chairman of the first commission.
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What does a pergola have to do with an amphitheatre? See story below.

Amph Gas or Pergola?

by Ed Sams

An unidentified college freshman walking groggy-eyed to breakfast one morning last week when he stopped in his path, struck, by the sight of an entrance of brick and girders between the McConnell Building and Administration Building. "Where does this come from?" he asked. "Was this erected as a monument to some Greek fraternal organization?" A blight sent from some sorcerer?"

you screaming for your dictionary, the explanation of this mysterious pergola is stated below.

The pergola will be a tunnel-like entrance to the new Anderson Amphitheatre which is being sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wallace of Houston, Texas as a memorial to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Anderson of Mars Hill. This redwood and brick structure of eight columns with adjoining patio areas will lead to the amphitheatre which will be renovated with lighted spray fountains, rock garden, and dressing rooms for outdoor dramatic productions.

The official dedication of the new amphitheatre is planned for Saturday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m., with a concert presented by the Mars Hill College Choir under the direction of Dr. Rich which will consummate the achievement of the combined efforts of the administration, the MHC construction crew, and the Wallaces of Houston.

Keepskins To Be Awarded In May 16 Ceremony - - What A Flock!

by John Ulmer

Mars Hill College is awaiting the arrival of May 16 when some 240 graduates will walk across Moore Auditorium stage to receive their much-anticipated Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degrees. The traditional ceremony, scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m., will last approximately one hour. One of the special features of the ceremony will be the investiture of Mr. J. Robert Wren as the first recipient of an honorary degree from Mars Hill College.

will be an art exhibit in the gallery of Fine Arts Building at 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Saturday the board of trustees will meet at 10:00 a.m. and luncheon at noon with the board of advisors. The Alumni Association will hold its annual business meeting at 3:30 p.m. in Moore Auditorium. The meeting should be over in time for the alumni to join their class reunions at 4:00 p.m. Classes which are holding reunions this year are: 1906, 1911, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966.

The alumni banquet will be held at 5:30 p.m. Alumni and members of the senior class and their families and guests will attend. There is no

charge but those who plan to attend are asked to make reservations through the Alumni Office in the Montague Building as soon as possible. It will be during this banquet that graduating seniors will be welcomed into the ranks of Alumni by the President of the Alumni Association, Mr. Chris Pappas of Charlotte, SGA President of 1966. The alumna and alumnus of the year will be presented at this banquet.

Alumna of the Year Award will be presented to Miss Irene Willis who, for the past 40 years, has been a local nurse. In the early part of her career she was somewhat like a country doctor. Miss Willis, member of the class of 1927, is retiring this month from the Mars Hill Community Medical Center.

Alumnus of the Year Award will be presented to Dr. W. R. Wagoner, head of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, a post he has filled since 1958. He is past president of North Carolina Child Care Association and is currently connected with the Southern Baptist Child Care Executives Association and the Southern Baptist Social Service Association. The Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina has branches in Kinston, Thomasville, Pembroke, Chapel Hill, and Waynesville. Dr. Wagoner is a member of the class of 1938.

To round out the day the official dedication of the Anderson Amphitheatre will begin at 7:00 p.m. The

college choir, under the direction of Robert C. Rich, will perform at the dedication.

The actual commencement day ceremonies will begin with the Baccalaureate Service at 11:00 a.m. in Moore Auditorium. Dr. Cecil Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Asheville, will speak. Dr. Sherman received his B.D. from Southwestern Seminary, his Th. M. from Princeton, Theological Seminary, and his Th. D. from Southwestern Seminary. He has pastored churches in College Station, Texas, Princeton, N. J., and Chamblee, Ga.

At 2:30 p.m. there will be an organ recital in Moore Auditorium. Following the recital, graduation exercises will be observed.