

The Robert Marks Hall

(Now Under Construction)

Mrs. Texie Camp Marks, of Boykins, Virginia, has agreed to make a gift to Chowan College that represents the largest in the history of the 115-year-old institution, according to an announcement made at a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees by Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker.

The gift by Mrs. Marks, which may exceed \$200,000, was made in memory of her late husband, Robert Franklin Marks, for whom the new modern classroom building now under construction will be named.

"During his lifetime Mr. Marks was a strong supporter of Chowan", Dr. Whitaker stated. "It is most appropriate that Mrs. Marks, a member of Boykins Baptist Church, and her three children, Mr. Paul Camp Marks, Mrs. Felix Arnold and Mr. Robert F. Marks, Jr. have decided to honor Mr. Marks in this way. The new classroom building will be one of the most stately and handsome buildings on the campus and I am happy, personally, that it will carry the name of my late good friend, Mr. Robert Marks", he said. Paul Camp and Robert F. Marks, Jr. are active Methodist laymen. Mrs. Arnold is the wife of Rev. Felix Arnold, a second term member of the Board of Trustees of Chowan and pastor of the Enfield Baptist Church at Enfield. Mr. Marks was a lifelong Methodist.

Mrs. Marks, in commenting on the gift and concerning the action of the Board naming the classroom building "Robert Marks Hall", said, "We have, for a long time, been interested in the growth of Chowan College which serves many Virginia and North Carolina students. I am happy that we have had the opportunity to be involved to the extent that this new building is to be named in memory of my late husband." She added, "I hope, also, that this gift will encourage other potential donors to help meet the needs of this growing institution of Christian Higher Education."

The Board of Trustees has a policy whereby donors, who provide at least 51% of the contract price of a given building, may designate the name. The classroom building, scheduled to be completed in February, will cost more than \$405,000.00 according to college authorities.

Mr. Robert F. Marks died on October 30 of 1962. A lifelong resident of Southampton County, Virginia, he was a son of Edward Lewis and Mrs. Fannie Fox Marks. He graduated from Randolph Macon Academy and served as cashier, vice president and president of Meherrin Valley Bank from February 1, 1919, until his resignation in 1961. He was a member of Boykins Methodist Church, a veteran of World War I and member of Camp P. D. Hunt Club at Como. Mr. Marks was always faithful to his church and many friends. He confronted both in his wheelchair which served as a church pew as well as a chair of service. A plain man, with simple tastes, he shared his love and generosity with his church, family and friends and had an untiring interest in Chowan College. He counted it a privilege to aid a number of young people in going to college.

A dedication service is tentatively being planned. It will be expedited upon the completion of the building and will probably take place in March or April.