



## Former Virginia Governor Visits Chowan

Dr. Colgate W. Darden, former Governor of Virginia and former President of the University of Virginia, enjoys the presence of President Bruce E. Whitaker during graduation day, May 16, 1971. Dr. Darden, who also served four terms as a U. S. Congressman, spoke at graduation exercises.

## Students Cited As Major Library Asset

The most important person in Whitaker Library at Chowan College is the student. A talk with Head Librarian Benjamin W. Bontemps explains why.

It's not just that the library at the two-year, co-educational college, related to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, contains 40,000 volumes for circulation, a growth of 5,000 volumes in just over a year. Or that an additional 4,000 volumes of periodicals, both bound and on microfilm, are available.

Even the new microfilm reader that produces a copy of the material you want with a press of a button (after depositing a dime that is) doesn't fully explain the claim of the head librarian, a New Jersey native who once served as reference librarian at Virginia Military Academy.

The essence of the saying is contained in the philosophy of the friendly librarian. "Our goal is to make coming to the library an enjoyable experience," com-

mented Bontemps. "Students are often surprised to discover the freedom they have in the library. They are welcome, for example, to discuss their studies or a book or just socialize in the conference and work areas," he explained.

This latter policy sets Chowan's library apart from those which insist on almost absolute silence and where tiptoeing through the shelves is the rule. "We don't cast any icy stares at students who talk. We treat

them like adults and they respond by respecting the rights of other students," he added.

Easy chairs and coffee tables are set up in several areas of the library to facilitate conversation and exchange of ideas. "We look upon the library as an extension of the classroom," stated Bontemps. "We want the library to be useful to the students. They find it a comfortable place to be and like the pleasant surroundings."

Use of the library is encouraged by well-lit, spacious areas, Bontemps reported. "This is a well engineered library, with a great deal of open space. You don't feel crowded even when it's filled," he said. The library was opened in 1968 and is named in honor of Chowan's president since 1957, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker.

In addition to the 40,000 volumes, Bontemps said the library also contains over 10,000 items of government documents and a back file of the New York Times from 1858 to the present with the exception of six or seven years.

Another feature is the Library of Congress catalog of authors comprising another 420 volumes not included in the book count.

The reference collection, according to Chowan's chief librarian, who received his masters in library science at Rutgers University before coming to Chowan in January 1971 is comparable to that of many four-year colleges.

## Former Student With Air Force

U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Ronald G. Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harrison of Rt. 2, Trenton, N.C., is on duty at Udorn Royal Thai AFB, Thailand.

Sergeant Harrison, an aircraft maintenance specialist, is assigned to a unit of the Pacific Air Forces, headquarters for air operations in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific area. Before his arrival in Thailand, he served at Shaw AFB, S.C.



**RESEARCH WORK**—A Chowan College student uses the many volumes of reference books in Whitaker Library to complete a research project for one of

her classes. The modern library is a very busy place every day as students use the facility for study and other activities of research.



**NEW READER-PRINTER**—A Chowan College student uses the new microfilm reader-printer in Whitaker Library. The machine allows the students to view and purchase copies of books and periodicals that has not been possible prior to the installation of the equipment.