

Communications Center dedicated

Chowan College dedicated its new \$750,000 graphic communications center in honor of a distinguished veteran North Carolina newspaperman, William Edwin Horner, Sr., and cited him for his financial support and long-time service to the college's printing technology program on Saturday, May 19.

Horner, publisher of The Sanford Herald, was praised by featured speaker William C. Lassiter of Raleigh, general counsel of the North Carolina Press Association. Lassiter said Horner's benefaction "made possible the construction of the Horner Graphic Communications Center."

A Durham County native, Horner attended Duke University and received a B.S. degree in commerce from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1922. While a student at the university, he served as editor of the Carolina Magazine.

Wide Experience

Horner worked with the New York Evening Post and Durham Morning Herald before purchasing the weekly Sanford journal with a colleague. Within a few years, Horner became sole owner of the paper, changed its name to The Sanford Herald, and increased publication to twice a week.

By 1937 the paper was being published three times each week. Transition to daily publication occurred in 1952. Today, The Sanford Herald boasts a circulation in excess of 12,000.

Horner served as president of the North Carolina Press Association, 1939-40. He also found time to devote to various church, civic,

and public enterprises within the community and beyond.

A Methodist, he has served on the Official Board of his church and as superintendent of its Sunday school. He has been an active participant in both the Sanford Kiwanis Club and the Sanford Chamber of Commerce and has served as presiding officer over both of these organizations.

He was elected to three terms as a representative from Lee County to the North Carolina General Assembly, serving 1937-38, 1941-44.

In introducing Lassiter, President Bruce E. Whitaker said that Lassiter was inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame in the state this year.

"Although this magnificent structure that we dedicate today has already been occupied and placed into service by the faculty and students of the School of Graphic Communications, the formal and official dedication today of the Horner Graphic Communications Center marks another significant and important milestone in the life and progress of the Chowan College School of Graphic Communications," Lassiter said.

The school, according to Lassiter's remarks, has experienced extraordinary growth and progress, bringing national recognition to the School of Graphic Communications and Chowan College. "The school is one of the best equipped in the United States and its graduates are widely sought upon graduation."

"A Mighty Oak"

In tracing the history and suc-

cess of the School of Graphic Communications at Chowan, Lassiter said, "We can accurately make rhetorical reverence to acorns and oaks to describe its phenomenal growth and expansion. From the tiny acorn planted in 1952 by Dr. F. Orion Mixon, then president of the college, truly the School of Graphic communications has become a mighty oak." Announcement of the proposed department was made in 1952. The first gift the school received was a small hand-operated printing press and the late John McSweeney, then employed by Parker Brothers, Inc. in Ahsokie, was the first instructor. He soon persuaded Frank Daniels, Sr. of the Raleigh News and Observer to donate an old Linotype machine, which is a major museum piece in the new structure.

Lassiter pointed out that the school has kept pace with the sophisticated equipment being devised by research engineers. "This has been done with the cooperation and assistance of the North Carolina Press Association, Eastern Carolina Press Association and many newspaper publishers of this state," he stated.

Foundation Support

The Chowan Graphic Arts Foundation, Inc. was created in 1967. Lassiter explained, to (among other things) sponsor, promote, encourage, support and assist, financially and otherwise, the advancement of education in the field of graphic arts. "The Foundation has actively supported the Chowan College School

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Top Photo—

William E. Horner, Sr., gave a brief response to recognize others who have helped make the new center a reality.



Left Photo—

Mr. Horner, second from left, is assisted in unveiling the dedicatory plaque in the lobby of the new building by Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, left; his daughter, Mrs. Louise Bowles; and son, William E. Horner, Jr.