

No. 1 and No. 2 Men of the Consolidated University of North Carolina



GOVERNOR LUTHER HODGES AND WILLIAM C. FRIDAY

## Bill Friday Selected for President of University

William C. Friday was selected Thursday for the presidency of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. Announcement of Mr. Friday's selection was made about 12:30 p. m. by Archie Allen, secretary of the Board of Trustees Executive committee. A call was issued to the full board of trustees to meet in Raleigh October 26 to vote on the recommendation.

Thus Mr. Friday at the age of 36 will be the youngest man ever to serve as head of the Consolidated University. Younger men have served as chief of the Chapel Hill part, but Mr. Friday (if elected by the full board of trustees—and it is most certain that he will) will be the youngest ever to head the three-fold institution at Raleigh, Greensboro and here.

For the University his immediate aims are the ones he espoused every time he has a chance to talk about it: a good faculty for the three-fold University; maintaining an atmosphere where the quality of teaching is high; continuing the tradition of superior teaching and distinguished research, further attention to the University's extension program. Mr. Friday has repeated that

the University needs funds for maintaining faculty, funds for strengthening the libraries, and funds for attracting competent new staff people.

Mr. Friday, in his casual conversation and in his easy discussion of solid administrative topics affecting academic life, is quick to perceive diverse aspects of a situation and to compare and contrast desirable and less desirable courses of action. He is both humanist and scientist, and as one commentator put it he is the kind of man who can "humanize the scientist and simonize the humanists."

People who have known Bill Friday—faculty, legislators, trustees, students, colleagues in the administration of the University—invariably mention fundamental qualities of his personality.

He's modest, without being shy or timid. He's quiet-spoken, but highly articulate, friendly and firm in what he says. He is a man of decision, as demonstrated by the several crucial questions that have faced the University and have been resolved since he became Acting President last March 1st.

### Mr. Friday Seems to Please All

Victor S. Bryant, chairman of the committee which selected Mr. Friday: "Mr. Friday has courageously met and solved many complex and perplexing problems."

William D. Carmichael, vice-president of the Consolidated University: "The Good Lord always provides for North Carolina. Once again the University has risen above adversity, diversity, and perversity. We rejoice in the selection of William Friday as president. He is a man of faith, dedication, courage, vision and diplomacy."

Chancellor R. E. House: "The best qualified man for the job."

Robert M. Lester, executive director of the Southern Fellowship Fund: "The selection of Mr. Friday is a happy choice. He is professionally trained, administratively experienced, and educationally competent. His friendliness, quiet dignity, and ability to listen and to decide give him a great advantage in facing the complicated problems of modern higher education. His knowledge of the State of North Carolina will stand him in good stead locally, and as he moves out into association with leaders of other prominent universities he will meet with skill and confidence all the requirements of the presidency of the University of North Carolina."

State Senator-nominate Edwin S. Lanier: "This selection pleases me very much."

Rep. John W. Umstead: "I have been for Bill Friday ever since he was named acting president of the University. His accomplishments as acting president are such that they fully justify the trustees in naming him to the post of permanent president."

J. Maryon Saunders, secretary of the University Alumni Association: "Bill Friday as president will give the University (Continued on page 12)



MR. AND MRS. FRIDAY, MARY HOWELL AND FRANCES

## To University President in 36 Years

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Latham Friday, William C. Friday was born at Rapine, Va., on July 13, 1920.

In his early years, the family moved to Dallas, N. C., so that his father could pursue his career in textiles. It was in Dallas that Bill, as he is popularly and affectionately known, was reared, and it was from the Gastonia High School that he was graduated in 1937.

In high school Mr. Friday was a member of the basketball team and a debater as well as active in other scholastic affairs. He was also a catcher on the first American Legion baseball team fielded by Cherryville.

Mr. Friday chose to attend Wake Forest College in 1937-38 because of his Baptist ties, but

then decided to change to the N. C. State College textile school because of his father's long career in the textile business.

At N. C. State Mr. Friday was active in extra-curricular functions which probably had a great deal of bearing upon his gradual yet speedy ascendancy to the presidency of the Consolidated University.

At State College, Mr. Friday was president of the senior class and later was named its permanent president. He was also president of the North Carolina Federation of Student Governments and a member of the Golden Chain.

Then he was graduated in 1941 with a bachelor of science degree and began waiting a call into the Navy for service in World War II.

He wasn't idle while waiting. To fill in with something to do, Mr. Friday took a job in the office of the dean of students at N. C. State. There, too, he became acquainted with administrative matters.

Finally called into service, Mr. Friday was an ordnance officer with the rank of full lieutenant from May 1942 through April

1946 at the Naval Ammunition Depot at Portsmouth, Va.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Mr. Friday entered the law school at the University here and was graduated in 1948. During his tenure here, he was elected president of the Law School Association and to membership in the Golden Fleece, the campus' highest-ranking honor organization.

Upon graduation from the Law School, Mr. Friday was named immediately as assistant to the dean of students.

His quiet, tactful, and efficient conduct of the duties entrusted to him were observed by President Gordon Gray, who chose him for his personal assistant in 1951 and later as Secretary to the Consolidated University.

With Mr. Gray, observers noted that Mr. Friday performed "with smooth efficiency and without any fanfare."

When Mr. Gray relinquished the post of president, and was succeeded by J. Harris Purks, Mr. Purks retained Mr. Friday. And when Mr. Purks was named chairman of the State Board of Higher Education, Mr. Friday succeeded him as acting president of the University.

That is the job he is now holding and one of the many important ones of his brief but full life in which he has performed ably. So ably that the presidential selection committee chose him from more than 150 persons suggested for what many people consider the No. 1 higher educational post in the state.

### Confidence Vote

When Bill Friday stepped down as assistant dean of students to become assistant to the president of the Consolidated University in 1951, the student body here paid tribute to him in formal resolution and gave him a vote of confidence. It was one of the few times in the history of the University that such a vote has been given an official.

### Everyone Claims Bill

Bill Friday, the man who will be the next President of the University, is an alumnus of three North Carolina institutions of higher learning. Wake Forest alumni are pleased to say that the University of North Carolina is being led by a Wake Forest Baptist; that is where Bill Friday was an undergraduate. State College people refer to Friday as one of its most distinguished graduates in textile engineering. He also made a distinguished record at Chapel Hill, receiving his law degree in 1948.

### Friday's a Family Man

Bill Friday is a family man. His home and two daughters, Frances, age four, and Mary Howell, eight weeks, are his hobbies. He plays a bit of golf sometimes and he tries to keep the grass growing in his yard. For reading he favors history and biography.

### WE APPROVE

For the first time in the history of the Chapel Hill Weekly the entire front page is devoted to one subject. We feel that there is nothing more important to the well being of this community than great leadership at the University. In Bill Friday the University will have available the vision needed for the perplexing problems in the years ahead. The Weekly joins thousands of other North Carolinians in offering congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. William Friday.

—The Editors

### 'We've Had It'

This spring Governor Hodges said of Mr. Friday: "There comes a point of crisis in University affairs when somebody's got to do something and do it now... This has been an outstanding job, with courage and action and decisiveness that we've needed. And we've had it from President Friday."

### Dangerous Assignment

The best example of Bill Friday's quiet courage occurred December 31, 1951 when he was acting dean of students here. Someone telephoned him that a student had gone berserk and was terrorizing Battle-Vance-Pettigrew Dormitory and an entire block of Franklin Street. The student had a gun, and he was shooting it. Three shots had been fired from the revolver. While people were scattered about, taking cover from danger, Bill Friday walked deliberately up to the boy. The student did not fire. Four feet from the student, Friday stopped, spoke to the boy. Then the student again seemed to be about to lose control of himself. He doubled his fist. But at that moment a policeman grabbed the student and held him.

### Victor Bryant Was Chairman of Group

The selection committee of the Board of Trustees entrusted to recommend a president of the Consolidated University was composed of the following: Victor S. Bryant of Durham, chairman; Kemp D. Battle, Rocky Mount; Horton Doughton, Statesville; Dr. Henry Mann, Englehard; Rudolph Mintz, Wilmington; Mrs. Albert H. Latrop, Asheville; Dr. Shahane Taylor, Greensboro; W. Frank Taylor, Goldsboro; and Mrs. Charles W. Tillett, Charlotte.

### Society President

In 1955 W. C. Friday served as president of the North Carolina Cancer Society. When he gave up the presidency, the society presented him with a desk set in token of his distinguished work.

### 'Stout Arm'

During the presidency of Gordon Gray, he referred to Bill Friday, then his assistant and secretary to the Consolidated University as: "My stout right arm."

### Roots for Woman's College

An alumnus of both N. C. State College and the University here, Mr. Friday was asked recently whether he's impartial when Carolina plays State in football. He replied: "When State plays Carolina, I root for the Woman's College."

## Mrs. Friday Is a Home Builder

By Helene Ivey

Although she is interested in community and international problems, Mrs. William C. Friday is essentially a wife and mother and home builder.

Even her career fitted her for this important role in life. Mrs. Friday was a home economics major at Meredith College and after graduation she was the home economist for the Carolina Power and Light Company in Raleigh. Later she took graduate work in Public Health at UNC and for three years taught in the Public Health Department here. Well balanced, beautifully served meals, and physical and emotional health, are all taken for granted in the Friday home.

But all the expert knowledge of food, care of children, and artistic accomplishment only supplement the loving care Mrs. Friday gives her family. Quietly the baby, Mary Howell Friday, slept in her arms. Later with genuine pleasure she welcomed her elder daughter, Frances Howell Friday, home from kindergarten. Then this young mother let her child use her own pace in showing what had been accomplished in school that day.

Mrs. Friday's attitude toward her own accomplishments was well demonstrated when she was asked about her art work. "Oh, I'm just trying to learn about it." Later she admitted that she'd printed the design on her draperies "because I couldn't find any that were printed only around the edges." Silk screening cloth and Christmas cards, sculpturing and flower arranging are among her "studies." Her modesty is endearing to say the least. Yet her results are beautiful. Once in a while she and her husband play golf and more often they work in their yard.

Mrs. Friday has the student's viewpoint when confronted by problems, yet she seems to have an innate sense of standards that enables her to make effective decisions. Thus she radiates a positive, gracious personality.

Mrs. Friday is the former Miss Ida Willis Howell of Lumberton.

### Chapel Hill Chaff

By Louis Graves

Not till last Saturday, when Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Lowrance of Fort Bragg dropped in on us after the football game, did I learn that he and I were together at Lady Astor's home in London one night in June of 1919.

During the Armistice the Americans who had been in France in the First World War were scattered all over Europe on leaves of absence—this was because of a scarcity of ships to take them home—and London was swarming with them. Carlos, on a four-months leave, was attending London University. I was there in June to serve as cannon fodder in the early rounds of the tennis tournament at Wimbledon; or, you might say, as a guinea pig. Dean Mathey, my companion on leave, who had ranked high on the national list since leaving Princeton, was a serious contender.

Lady Astor was giving a series of weekly receptions for the soldiers. (The word soldiers in this piece means both enlisted men and officers.) At each of these gatherings there would be about a couple of hundred men and she would have two or three

### Active In Youth Activities

One of the first volunteers for service in Little League Baseball in Chapel Hill was W. C. Friday. He was the local league's first treasurer, and surrendered the job in the second year only because of pressing duties as Acting President of the University.

celebrities for them to meet and talk with. On the night Dean Mathey and (as I now know) Carlos Lowrance and I were there the distinguished guests were General Pershing, Lord Reading (the British equivalent of our Chief Justice of the Supreme Court), and Rudyard Kipling. They were in genial, jolly humor as they chatted with the soldiers clustered around them.

Carlos and I were evidently together in the cluster around Kipling, for, when we exchanged reminiscences last Saturday, we had the



W. D. CARMICHAEL JR. AND MR. FRIDAY

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