

Mercer Cluster FEATURES • SPORTS • SOCIETY • THE ARTS

'Doctor' (G.R.E.) Lee Battle, Mercer Institution For 40 Years

Mercer's first Negro alumnus, an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, Lee Battle was the "servant, friend, and counsellor" of Mercer students for forty years. Coming to Mercer at the turn of the century, his work in the post of Sherwood Hall janitor made him one of the University's institutions.

Born in 1865, his full name was General Robert E. Lee Battle; but at Mercer he was usually known as "Doctor Battle". At his death, his body lay in state at the University, an honor usually accorded only to presidents and other high-ranking Mercer officials. He is buried, according to his request, beside his mother, in Forsyth.

Back in the days when Mercer had a football team, Lee Battle's famous "Bear Growl" at intermission was as inevitable as the kick-off and never failed to draw applause from Mercer fans. Equally inevitable was his prediction that Mercer would whip whatever team they happened to be playing. He could never be forced to name his favorite player on Mercer's teams, "cause they's all so good."

Voted an honorary Mercer alumnus, and later given an honorary degree (Doctor of Philosophy), Lee exhibited his devotion to Mercer by

declining the opportunity to retire with continued salary, at the age of 70. Battle continued with his duties until death came, in December, 1939.

"Doctor" Battle lived during the administrations of six Mercer presidents: Dr. Pollock, Dr. Jameson, Dr. Pickard, Dr. Weaver, and Dr. Dowell. Students and alumni said that Lee Battle was never known to forget the name and face of anyone who attended Mercer after 1900.

Lee's borrowing money "fo' my insurance" was quite familiar to faculty members. He generally used the money to help out some student who needed extra funds on short notice. It was found, at his death, that the famous insurance policy amounted to only \$36.

A commission to purchase the "Lee Battle Memorial Chimes" for the chapel was headed by Dr. Louie D. Newton, shortly after "Doctor"



LEE BATTLE

Battle's death. The monument to Lee Battle, now standing in front of Sherwood Hall, was erected by Blue Key in 1940, and was moved to its present site in 1955 after a Cluster crusade protesting misuse of the monument.

In his History of Mercer, Dr. Spright Dowell said that Lee Battle "was a Christian gentleman with a radiant outlook on life and he was a true friend who was happy to be of help to all . . . He was a humble Christian who gave his full life in service to Mercer University and the Mercer family."

Woodruff And Bond At Sociology Meet

Dr. Marguerite Woodruff and Dr. A. M. Bond of the Mercer sociology department will be attending a meeting of the Georgia Sociological Association at Emory University in Atlanta on Nov. 20.

The GSA is a new organization which will provide for an interchange of information, research and problems among sociologists and anthropologists in the state of Georgia.

Jones Construction Co. Contracted For Erection of New Law Building

Mercer University has awarded a \$213,684 contract to the J. S. Jones Construction Co. of Macon for construction of a building as an addition to the Walter F. George School of Law.

Construction will begin immediately and is scheduled for completion in June, according to William T. Haywood, business manager.

The two-story structure will provide 10,000 square feet of floor

space, and will house the law library, additional faculty offices, seminar rooms for consultations and small classes, and lounge facilities for students.

The building is being constructed near the present building housing the Walter F. George School of Law. Connecting walkways will link the two buildings and Roberts Hall, which will be used as a residence hall for male law students.



By SARA JUNE McRAE

During the past week the sororities have as usual been very active and accumulated a commendable number of awards. They have taken top honors in Cardinal Key, cheerleading, and ROTC sponsors. The fraternities however, have apparently done nothing they are proud to report other than football scores. At present it appears that women rule the campus. Are the boys really not doing anything, or are they just too bashful to tell about it? I hope that there will be some fraternity news to include in future columns too.

All of the eleven girls tapped for Cardinal Key were members of Mercer Social Organizations. Three were Chi Omegas—Amelia Woodruff, Liz Potter, and Lyn Wheeler. Alpha Gam also had three—Julie Murphy, Anne Bracewell, and Diane Eyre. Two Phi Mu's, Mary Sue Thompson, and alumna Frances Nutt, and ADPI's Willisia Holbrook, and Linda Sue Sisco were tapped. Also tapped was MICA Carol Ann Holcomb.

Mercer's new cheerleaders are all

sorority girls too. Phi Mu's Jean Harrison, Lou Roberts, and Kathy Wiseman are regulars, and Elizabeth Chandler Suzi Stone, Jo Sikes, and Louise Fitzpatrick are alternates. ADPI's Mary Teel and Beth Brown, and Chi O's Bev Sonen are also regulars.

The five girls chosen as ROTC sponsors are Glynn Goulding, ADPI; Linda Pitts, Phi Mu; and Linda McElreath, Ann Harris, and Mary Eaton, Chi O's.

Four Phi Mu's who were not included in last week's list of new KDE members are Marilyn Maag, Patsy Giesler, Marilyn Donahoo, and Janet Shirley. Janet is also vice president of SNEA, and Patsy is program chairman.

Individual congratulations are due to two newly initiated ADPI sisters, Jenelle Rollins and Shirley Cox who received their diamond pins on Nov. 11. The Phi Mu pledges also to be congratulated on their win over the sisters in the annual football game held at their pledge retreat on Nov 14.

REVIEW BY BILL DAYTON

'Liliom,' Well Done

The Mercer Players provided the university and Macon with a well done bit of theatrical fare in their production of Ferenc Molnar's "Liliom".

Rob Jones in the leading role stands out with a well developed interpretation of Liliom, deftly combining the character's gentleness with his paradoxical harshness, while maintaining Liliom's vulgar station, and his 'carnival folk' character along with the more aesthetic aspects of the man's nature.

Equally good is Nellie Diaks' presentation of the carousel-owner. Mme. Muscat's plebian haughtiness and vamp-like aspects are captured extremely well by Miss Diaks; her performance would have made the production worthwhile even without the rest of the cast's excellent work.

Satu Lundstedt's Julie seems the perfect ingenue at first, then blossoms into a most complex character without losing the innocent background. Her interpretation of the death scene is perhaps the production's most moving moment.

Beverly Williams managed her role in an outstanding manner. The scene where she describes her 'passionate' love affair is thoroughly delightful.

Fiscus, played by Mike Day, is another well-handled part. All of the roles were done quite well.

We thought that the Heavenly Magistrate's voice was a bit more high-pitched and excitable than one would normally expect from a Heavenly Magistrate; More solemnity in a lower octave would have been a bit better. More light, particularly in the opening scenes, would also have been an improvement.

The music deserves the highest of compliments; it fit the mood of the play remarkably well and was most thoroughly enjoyed.

As for the play itself, we were much impressed and pleased by Molnar's work, though it seemed to us that he fell down a bit toward the end. Some things were not developed quite enough, we thought; the stolen star (along with Liliom's return to the Heavenly Magistrate's court) could bear a bit more explanation and development.

Miss Shuler's first production as Mercer drama coach speaks quite well of her abilities and talent. We shall look forward to her next play.



Julie (Satu Lundstedt) discovers Liliom (Rob Jones) in the arms of Madame Muscat (Nellie Diaks); in the Mercer Players' production of Ferenc Molnar's "Liliom." (Photo by Broadnax)

SNEA Selects Slate Of New Officers

A new slate of officers was elected at the Nov. 2 meeting of SNEA: President, Linda Sue Sisco; Vice President, Janet Shirley; Everett Coke, Secretary — Faye Tyson; Treasurer, Carole Tapley; Project Chairman—Margaret Brice; Program Chairman, Pat Geisler; Social Chairman—Beth Brown, Publicity Chairman—Nina Bean. These officers will be installed at the Jan. 11 meeting.

At the November meeting Gary Osborne, a worker from Timmy Turtle Nursery, spoke on the mentally retarded child. The speaker at the Dec. 7 meeting will be Mrs. Carlton, Professional Services Associate. Refreshments will be served.

Every man has the right to utter what he thinks Truth, and every other man has the right to knock him down for it.

Samuel Johnson



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