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Dr. Paul Cousins, Mercer University's official orator, presents Mrs. Helen Plymale with a statement of recognition and appreciation from the University for her and her husbands many years of service to Baptist higher education.

Plymales Bid Mercer Farewell for Retirement

On June 6th, the day following June commencement exercises, Riley and Helen Plymale will have ended a combined century of service to Georgia education. It is then that they will give up the classroom for the quieter life of retirement, and in their own way find the excitement of new endeavor.

Both are quick, however, to point out that they have taught a combined total of 99 years. But it could have been a full century had not Mrs. Plymale been on leave the year their son, Weston, was born.

Mr. Plymale earned degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts from Mercer University and began his career as a teacher of mathematics in 1913 at the old Cyrene Institute near Bainbridge, Ga. He served for a time in the U. S. Army as a horse-artillery officer in 1914, and the following year joined the faculty of Locust Grove Institute.

Helen Bruner was then a student at Tift College in Forsyth. She received her degree in 1918 and a few months later joined the faculty of Locust Grove Institute as a teacher of English. There she met Riley Plymale, and they both were associated with faculty members who later were to move on to Mercer, including Dr. Paul M. Cousins and Dr. W. T. Smalley.

In the early 20's Riley Plymale and Helen Bruner spent their summers at Columbia University working on graduate degrees. In the fall of 1923 Helen Bruner returned to Tift College, which was her Alma Mater, as a teacher of English. Riley Plymale continued teaching at Locust Grove until 1925 when he joined the faculty at Mercer.

The distance between Macon and Forsyth proved not to be too great, even in those days, and they were married in 1927. It was not until the following year, however, that Mr. Plymale left Mercer to join Mrs. Plymale on the faculty at Tift College. She was a teacher of English and later served as Dean of Women. Mr. Plymale served as chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Dean of the College.

Both continued teaching at Tift College until 1942 when they joined the faculty of Mercer University. During the ensuing 24 years they had many offers to teach elsewhere but chose to remain at Mercer because of their love and devotion to the University, to the students, and to Christian education.

"We were both trained in Baptist colleges, and this seemed the best way to return the gift," Mrs. Plymale said.

And their work has not gone unrewarded for appreciation has been shown in many ways. A colleague of theirs wrote recently, "Their unflinching loyalty to their students, to their colleagues, to their professional standards, and to the University has been a constant inspiration."

In 1959 the senior class dedicated *The Cauldron* to the Plymales as teachers who have graced Mercer lecterns and endeared themselves to the ever-changing student body. And they were described as "truly a part of the Mercer community."

Of Mr. Plymale the dedication read: "Mathematics is Mr. Plymale's academic speciality and his courses are spiced with generous servings of homespun humor. With an unconsciousness that matches his variety of pipes he wears his tie over either a white or plaid shirt. Some students believe that his mood for the day can be judged by the type of pipe—corn-cob denotes an easy day of recitation, knurled bowl will probably be a pop quiz, and metallic stem may get you a free cut."

And of Mrs. Plymale, the dedication read: "Helen Plymale is the paradoxical blend of simple dark dresses, a bun of white hair, and the briar gait of a school girl. She teaches modern literature forms and supplements her knowledge with the latest reviews."

Last months when their retirement was announced at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, one of their former students said of them, "I know they not only taught their courses well, but that they imparted to their students much more than merely the content of their subject matter."

Dr. Rufus C. Harris, president of Mercer, recently wrote them a letter conveying appreciation for their long years of unique service at Mercer.

"At this point in your long and fruitful careers, I feel sure you feel great satisfaction as you look back on many years of influencing and instructing generation after generation of Mercer men and women," Dr. Harris wrote. "You have served Mercer effectively, and you hold the admiration and respect of all who have known you and worked with you."

Riley and Helen Plymale can feel satisfaction. They are both young in heart and spirit, and they have managed to generate enthusiasm from several generations of students.

ONE ACT PLAYS REVIEWED-FAIR

Night of the One Act, a series of five one-act plays directed by the Drama 158 class was presented this year for the first time. The five plays included Tennessee Williams' "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion," "A Marriage Proposal" by Chekov, "Mary, Queen of Scots," by Maxwell Anderson, "Gallows' Humor" by Jack Richardson and "Maeterlinck's, 'The Intruder.'"

The five were fairly well done, especially considering the short two-week rehearsal schedule. From the technical aspect they were excellent; lighting and sets were colorful and original—even to having a neon light flash continuously during one performance.

Certain characters were particularly good. Vicki Graves, winner of this year's "Best Actress" award, did a convincingly aristocratic characterization of Stephanie Stepanovitch in the Chekov play, and John Johnson was also well cast for his character of the neurotic Ivan. Beverly Williams did a masterful job of portraying the grandmother in Maeterlinck's "The Intruder." Of all the plays, this was the most difficult, and the cast carried across much of the impressionism fairly well.

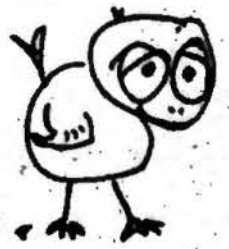
"Gallows' Humor" was a unique experience, to say the least. "Mary, Queen of Scots" and "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion" filled out the night with ample distinction.

Much originality and creativeness was evident in all of these plays and the yearly continuation of these one-acts is definitely hoped for.

PEACE CORPS PLACEMENT TEST

A Peace Corps placement test will be given on June 11 at 9 a.m. The location of the test will be Room 206, New Post Office, 450 College St. Any citizen of the United States over 18 years of age with no dependent under 18 is eligible. Married couples are eligible if both of them can serve as volunteers.

The Peace Corps need volunteers for Ethiopia and for Micronesia. Anyone who wants more information about the Peace Corps placement test can see Dr. A. M. Bond, Room 101 Economics Building.



Dulcimer To Appear In Summer Ed.

Due to several delays and problems, the second edition of *The Plucked Dulcimer*, Mercer Literary Review, will not appear until Summer Quarter, according to magazine editor Bill Dayton.

Graduating Seniors and other students who wish to have copies of the Spring-Summer issue of the *Dulcimer* mailed to their homes are asked to fill out the summer mailing form which will be sent through campus mail.

The coming edition will be larger than past issues and contain a larger poetry section, in addition to having several short stories, essays, reviews and humorous features.

Adios and Farewell to "T. D."

Tommy Day Wilcox has blessed this campus for five consecutive years, during which he has accumulated hosts of friends, and has also established quite a momentous reputation, for what, no one knows, but the Cluster staff feels sure there must be something.

In "T.D.'s" duration as both a student and a Director of Student Activities he has at all times, (with the exception of a certain Faculty Frolics), shown the true Mercer spirit, and has been the epitome of a great asset to the University along the lines of spirit, amity, devotion, (Co-op attendance), and all-around likability.

Yes, (snif), T.D., the Dean of the Co-op, is leaving us. He has a pressing engagement with Uncle Sam, and is off to O.C.S. in September. When asked about his departure, he referred to it as a "leave of absence," due to hopes of returning once he has served his time in the service.

We, the Cluster, feel that T.D.'s loss will be detrimental to the University in some way... per chance... But at least we are assured that he will be missed, so from us, and the student body, take it easy kid, keep your nose clean, and come back... Adios!

WE SUGGEST . . .

With this, the last issue of *The Cluster's* year, we would like to make a few general comments and suggestions for the improvement of Mercer University in the future.

Since the claim (voiced in university brochures and admissions spells) to small classes and intimate teacher-student relationships has become increasingly false over the past few years—it has long been uncommon for lower division classes to have less than thirty or forty students and upper division classes are in almost the same shape—we suggest that a limit of twenty-five students per class be set and adhered to. We have observed that students do more and better work in small classes, and that professors seem better able to teach and evaluate under such conditions, than in the average present-day Mercer classroom.

We think that the university would do well to set a limit on admissions, also. Mercer needs to maintain an intimate, cohesive atmosphere in the student body. A maximum of 1500 (or perhaps Davidson's ceiling of 1000) students would, we feel, help build this atmosphere and also facilitate maintaining small classes here.

We hope that a concerted effort is being made to bring more PhD's to Mercer, particularly in the light of the number of professors leaving this year.

The Cluster suggests that better study habits be encouraged by means more reasonable and practical than deferred rush, closing the freshman dorms to upper classmen, restricting extracurricular activities, etc. Perhaps something like two hours of enforced silence in the dorms each night would be effective.

We hope to see the paint cleaned or sandblasted off the porch to Sherwood Hall—the natural brick color would greatly improve the building's appearance.

We hope to see more buildings like Langdale Hall at Mercer, and less of the questionable beauty and practical aspects of experiments in building style like the Freshman men's dorm.

The Cluster thinks that the student body should participate more in the university's intellectual life, giving more support to such things as the lecture and concert series, the Ciceronian Society, Mercer dramatics and art, student publications and the various campus discussion groups.

We hope that the University will offer a major program in art. With the occupation of the Hardeman Fine Arts Building, the art department will have better facilities than several departments now offering majors at Mercer.

The Cluster also thinks that the University would do well to expand the Journalism Department so that a major program could be offered in this field.