



The Army's Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Col. Joseph H. Jones, r., commanding officer of the Mercer University ROTC. The presentation was made by Col. Jerry M. Sage, master parachutist and former Green Beret commander whose exploits in World War II were the basis for the motion picture, "The Great Escape", starring Steve McQueen. Col. Jones was cited for service while assigned to the ROTC Headquarters, Third U. S. Army, Fort McPherson from September, 1967, to July, 1969.

Fraternity News

(Continued from Page 7)

2nd Vice President: Dovey Hatcher, Corresponding Secretary: Debbie Rogers, Recreation Secretary: Karen McCartney, Treasurer: Dianah Broussard, House Chairman: Carol Jackson, Rush Chairman: Lynda Osterman, Activities Chairman: Pat Barnwell
At a candlelighting, recently, it was announced that Sheila Miller was pinned to Phi Delt, David Whatley.

Pi Kappa Phi

Alpha Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi will formally dedicate the new lodge on Sunday, February 15, 1970. Alumni and members from throughout the Georgia area are expected to attend the event. The lodge will be dedicated to Walter "Wally" Butts, former head coach at the University of Georgia and Robert Bennett, both alumni of Alpha Alpha who have aided in the building of the lodge. Also included in the dedication will be C. G. McGeehee, a notable benefactor who also aided in the construction.

The dedication of the lodge culminates almost two years of hard work by the brotherhood to reach this goal since the rechartering of the chapter in 1968. With the construction of the lodge completed.

The Raiders of Alpha look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

Sigma Nu

Sigma Nu has elected its slate of officers for the Winter-Spring term. These officers are:

Mike Osterhout - Commander, Henry Vann - Lt. Commander, John Barry - Recorder, Jack Pritchard - Treasurer, Henry and Larry Jackson - Scholarship Chairmen, Tom Bennett - Social Chairman, Phil Ricaurte - Historian, Steve New - Rush Chairman, Mike Moorhead - Pledge Marshall, Biff Tillis - Reporter, Ken Bajley - Sentinel, Charlie Runion - Alumni Contact, Bob Stanton - Chorister, Vernon Greene - Chaplain
Congratulations are in order for several Sigma Nus. Mr. Joe Prickhardt, from New Smyrna Beach is the newest pledge of Eta Chapter. Steve Cotter is cavaliered to Cindy Smith (Chi Omega). Jack Pritchard is engaged to Miss Jean Dowie of Columbus.

The Snakes extend best wishes for a happy and prosperous future to newly weds Mr. and Mrs. Joe Adams. Mrs. Adams is the former Miss Evelyn Hemlin and is Sigma Nu Sweetheart.

Cluster profile

Cluster Files Prove Interesting

The Mercer Cluster, "somewhat of an innovation in college and school life," was first published at Mercer as an organ for the 14 schools in the Mercer system. The system, according to Dr. Spright Dowell's *History of Mercer University*, was abandoned after four or five years, but the *Cluster* has remained and is still flourishing.

The *Cluster*, in its first year of publication, was one of the few college papers publishing its news in a regular seven column format. It was edited by George M. Sparks, a practicing journalist and an alumnus of Mercer.

Taking its name from Jesse Mercer's *Cluster*, a hymnbook, the *Cluster* was at first a collection of notes from the different colleges and schools in the system. For instance, under the heading "Shorter News" was this item: "There are rumors throughout the college that the Mercer Glee Club will visit Shorter soon. We are wondering if this is true. A cordial welcome awaits them." This was before the days of co-education at Mercer, of course.

First Issue

The big story for the first issue was headed, "Bessie Tift Girls Greet Each Other in Foreign Lands," and was, for the most part, the reproduction of a letter from Miss Alvada Gunn to the 'Bessie Tift Girls.' From such stories, the *Cluster* progressed to stories of Mercer men who were prisoners of the Germans during World War I.

Another story of interest to present Mercer freshmen, who still learn of the traditions around Mercer by word of mouth from the upperclassmen, is the story of the campus mound. This was "a vine-covered mound to the right of the steps of the main building." Freshmen in 1920 "were told that Jesse Mercer, was buried there and that his last request was that his remains be buried on the campus. The *Cluster*, however, sets minds at ease by getting the facts.

"The mound was placed there merely to beautify the campus. There was another on the opposite side of the steps." (Volume I, No. 15)

Ten Years Later

Ten years made a lot of difference to the *Cluster*. During its first decade of publication, it had shrunk to six columns and was some six inches shorter than its predecessors.

Movies had come to Mercer for the first time. The Jan. 10, 1930, issue relates that "Mercer's first moving pictures will be presented today when C. B. Wray, dean of the school of commerce, and his assistants will run the 'Island of Sugar' and 'The Queen of the Waves'."

In this issue the *Cluster*, in its editorials, bewailed the fact that the clubs on campus could poll a quorum only three times in the school year. Once was at election time, when everybody hoped to be elected to office; once was when the pictures were taken for the annual; and once was when a party was given.

The *Cluster* then challenged the various clubs to do something worthy of four paragraphs in the news.

Also in the editorials was a humorous comment about a *Macon Telegraph* editorial protesting the cutting of a musical number from a "recent Rialto attraction." The number was cut, according to the editorial, because "some few ladies objected to the show of legs in 'Turn on the Heat.'"

Extended Holidays

"Registration was delayed because a large number of students voluntarily extended their holidays for a day or so," the business manager, S. J. T. Price, noted.

Advertising, which is of vital importance to any paper, did not appear to be a problem for the *Cluster*. Its pages were well filled with ads from local businesses, such as Jos. N. Neel and J. C. Penny, as well as national advertising, a sample of which is the Old Gold ad in the Feb. 7, 1930 issue.

Showing a picture of an all-American type strangling a villain, complete with black mustache, silk hat, and patent leather boots, the ad reads: All-American: "Curse you, you have the resistance of an army. Marvin Murgatroyd, you fiend, I have promised myself the rare pleasure of doing you in with my bare hands, and yet..." Top-hatted villain: "Choke away, Horace Gillingwater! Any throat protected by the constant use of Old Golds, the smoother and better queen-leaf cigarette, is beyond the power of your feeble strength! There's not a cough in a carload!"

Football Active

Football, very much alive at this period, went into spring practice with over thirty men attending.

The *Cluster*, in these days before co-education, regularly featured a letter from the students at Wesleyan. A box on the front page of the March 28, 1930, issue asked the Mercer men: "How Do you Stand on Prohibition?" The results, announced in the next issue were that the Mercerians were almost 3 to 1 in favor of it.

In its editorials, the *Cluster* was asking "Why not a week for spring holidays?" and the Mercer Players made their debut by presenting three one act plays at Bessie Tift and Wesleyan.

Another decade passed and the *Cluster*, of Sept. 22, 1939, announced that the University would present flight courses for students. Taking note of the war activities, the *Cluster* also noted that its last year's sports editor, Charlie Hodges, had joined the Marines.

The *Cluster* had shrunk again and had reached its present tabloid size. Its masthead carried the slogan: "Mirror of Student Thought and Action." The paper had gained a photographer and was carrying pictures of current campus activities.

Lee Battle was in the news because of a recent illness. Lee, who had been suffering from high blood pressure and other ailments, told the *Cluster* that he planned to use a megaphone during the coming football season when he gave his famous bear growl.

During this year, the *Cluster* carried more and more notices of Mercer students and alumni who volunteered or were drafted into the armed services.

Willing to Fight

A straw vote asking the students if they would be willing to fight if the United States proper were attacked brought the result that "Mercerians Favor Peace But Are Willing To Fight." (Volume 20, No. 3)

The Nov. 3, 1939, issue relates that the "Determined Bruins Invade Athens Today." The story continues: "Mercer's crippled Bruins will meet their traditional rival, the University of Georgia Bulldogs, on the field of battle at Sanford Stadium in Athens today. The Bears, although weakened by the injury of several key players in their tilt with the mighty Tennessee Vols last Saturday, will be breathing fire in their attempt to wrest a victory from the

Red and Black for the first time in Mercer football history." Unfortunately history repeated itself and the Bears lost.

Students Newspaper

Just ten years ago, the *Cluster* carried the notice to students: "The *Cluster* is your newspaper. Therefore, any student or faculty member who wishes to make suggestions, comments, or criticisms, is requested to do so, either openly through the publication or directly to the editor." This would seem to be the attitude of all *Cluster* editors throughout its history. The *Cluster* was first of all a student publication and is still student owned and student operated.

The Messiah was performed with accompaniment by Mrs. Arthur Rich at the controls of the new \$25,000 organ in Willingham chapel.

Mercer was observing its 117th anniversary and had 973 students enrolled. Plans were announced for the establishment of a school of education and for the expansion of University facilities for women students.

The Lambda Chi's were officially installed as the Zeta Omega Chapter. They had been founded about two years before this ceremony.

Boone Hall, addition to Mary Erin Porter Hall, was begun.

The Mercer ROTC began its annual Field Day exercises in 1950 with the first one having the 14th Air Force Command Band in attendance.

There are only a few of the multitudinous articles that have appeared in the *Cluster* during its forty-year history. Any student who has the time or inclination will find a goldmine of information plus a lot of unintended humor as he reads the old issues of the *Cluster*.

THE ULTIMATE - THE OPTION
EYE
The Clashes for Male & Female
Posters & Etc.
742-2261 745-3717

HAVE YOU VISITED WILD STRAWBERRY ON VINEVILLE?

The unusual and fascinating shop of imports found amidst the aroma of potpourri and incense, blossoming flowers and hanging lanterns. Mods and traditionals in accessories and gadgets to please oneself.

WILD STRAWBERRY, Inc.

2470 Vineville Avenue
MACON, GEORGIA
Phone 743-6959

Mark's Cellar and Saratoga HOMECOMING SPECIAL

Upon the presentation of this coupon, two people may enjoy:

- 2 Filets Mignon cooked to your specification.
- 2 salads d'chef
- 2 Tea or coffee
- 2 Desserts of your choice

And all our good service only for \$6.50. This coupon good only for Wednesday and Friday of Homecoming Week.

THE CAVE PRESENTS
"The Swedish Blue Angel and Her Imaginary Lover"

MERCER STUDENTS WELCOME - PLEASE JUST HAVE I.D. FOR 21 yrs. old

Chi Omega
says,
The Rebels Will Be "Ruined" by the Bruins

Sigma Nu
says---
Go Bears
Snake Columbus

Alpha Tau Omega
says,
Get the Mercer Bears "Bruining"
Defeat the Rebels