

Alumni News

ROBERT M. HITCH

Honorable Robert M. Hitch, Mercer alumnus of the class of 1892, was inaugurated as mayor of Savannah Monday. Dr. Spright Dowell and Kyle T. Alfried attended a dinner given Tuesday evening at the Hotel Savannah in honor of the new mayor.

The Hon. Mr. Hitch is a member of the President's council of Mercer, and was a trustee for the university until his term expired last year. Other members of the council are W. T. Anderson, Macon; O. P. Gilbert, Atlanta; R. C. Gresham, Moultrie; Mrs. Frank Jones, Gray; W. G. Lee, Macon; and H. M. Willet, Atlanta.

In his inaugural address in Savannah Monday, Mayor Hitch stated, "The Mayor and the members of the Board of Aldermen recognize their duty, as the servants and trustees of the people, to give the best government possible at the least expense. In striving to approach that ideal we shall hope to receive the confidence and patient support of our citizens." He has made several alumni addresses at Mercer.

EDWARD JARMAN

Dr. Dowell and Mr. Kyle Alfried attended the funeral services of Edward Jarman, Mercer trustee, in Baxley Monday. Prominent in Georgia Baptist affairs, Mr. Jarman had been a trustee for the university for a number of years and his latest term would have expired in 1939.

He was a member of the executive committee of the Georgia Baptist convention and a former president of the Georgia-Florida Hardware association. He was also a Mason, and a member of the Jarman and Sons Hardware company.

CHARLES K. HENDERSON

Dr. Charles Kennon Henderson, said to have been the oldest living alumnus of Mercer, died Wednesday at his home in Atlanta.

He finished Mercer in 1868 when the institution was located at Penfield, Ga., and was a schoolmate of Judge Frank Loftin, who died recently in West Georgia.

Dr. B. D. Bagsdale, Mercer and Georgia Baptist historian, has recalled that Dr. Henderson's death left only one living graduate of Mercer when the college was located at Penfield. Judge A. C. Felton, of Macon county, now holds that distinction.

Serving for a time as president of Bowdon college, Bowdon, Ga., Dr. Henderson has held pastorates in Perry, Gasden, Ala., Princeton, Ky., Hurtabro, Ala., Birmingham, Ala. and Cedartown, Ga. He entered Mercer after having served in the Third Georgia regiment during the War between the States.

Around Washington

(This is the third in a series of articles written by Marvin Cox exclusively for the Cluster and the Associated Collegiate Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—College students who endure the dreary winter, thinking "What's the use," may find some hope in the percentage of United States Representatives and Senators who attended college. Despite the fact that Henry Ford and Abraham Lincoln and many other notable Americans scaled the heights of success without benefit of college training, the cold fact is that of the 441 national legislators who record their educational privileges in the Congressional Directory, 353 attended college. Slightly more than 81 per cent of the members thus recorded went to college.

Without going haywire on statistics, it would seem from the recorded facts that one's chances of election to Congress are improved four to one, if the aspirant is a college man or woman.

The total number of members of the House and Senate is 531—435 Representatives and 96 Senators. Of these, 90 failed to indicate in their official biographies whether or not they went to college. Many of them doubtless did and others, of course, did not. However, the percentage of these unrecorded Congressmen is probably not very different from the vast preponderance of those who reveal their educational background. Congressmen refer just as proudly to "educated in public schools," "educated privately," or "self-educated," as they do to "B. A. Harvard, '96." Thus, in omitting these unknown from our calculations, we are not stacking the cards either way.

But if one wants to consider each of the 90 unrecorded legislators on college men, the figure in favor of the college man is still high. Figuring it this way, Representatives and Senators with college background make up 69 per cent of the personnel of the 75th Congress.

Included in the list of non-collegians are numerous men who attended business colleges, took correspondence work, one who went to an Osteopathic College, and one Representative who took a course at the Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union at Indianapolis, Indiana.

One Congressman whom your correspondent did not include in the reckoning of "college men," deserves more credit for his training than many of those who earned honors at universities. He is Matthew A. Dunn of Pittsburgh. Mr. Dunn lost the sight of one eye in an accident when he was 12 years old and, in another mishap at the age of 20, lost the sight of his remaining eye. Mr. Dunn did not allow these misfortunes to down him. He became a student at the Pittsburgh and Oeverbrook schools for the blind and graduated from the latter, located at Philadelphia, three years later.

He "kept coming" and was elected to the 73rd Congress in 1932 when he was 36 years old.

The "co-eds" in Congress, who list their education, if not always their ages, are all highly trained. They are evenly divided, three to three, on the matter of divulging the facts of their education. Mrs. Edith Nurse Rogers of Massachusetts, graduated from Rogers Hall School at Lowell, and then attended Madame Julien's School at Paris, France. Caroline O'Day, representative-at-large from New York, states in her biography that she graduated from Lucy Cobb Institute, Athens, Georgia; and Mrs. Nan Wood Honeyman, Oregon, finished at St. Helen's Hall, attended the Finch School in New York, and studied music with the famous Edward McDowell for several years.

Mrs. Carraway, the Senator from Arkansas; Mrs. Norton, Congressman from New Jersey; and Mr. Jenches of Indiana fail to record the extent of their education in their official biographies.

Whatever else their faults may be, the members of the 75th Congress cannot be charged with lack of college training. The vast majority of them went to college.

"WHO'S THERE?"

Opportunity is a trite word. It is a word usually avoided by editorial writers because of its very triteness; they are thinking of that ever-present criterion, "reader-interest." Ofttimes however, situations arise, an unfortunate situation of enough importance to use an objectionable word in trying to remedy it. Such a situation has been in existence on our campus for some time, with every indication of its continuation.

It is clear to all concerned that the few professors who use the ability to think are usually bound down by tradition and silly obsolete rules and theories of powers behind the throne. As a result students are inclined to develop the same habit and we have a picture of a talking machine leaning over the desk or rostrum blaring forth to crows, parrots, and note-taking secretaries, who return the notes when examination day rolls around.

One can hardly blame those few professors when dismissal stares the rebel in the face, and the process of change through the students is a slow one. But when the fact that the parents of the students support the university is considered, a faint light is perceived. There is the opening for progressive hopefuls. If the home is the important institution that we have been made to believe it is, the solution lies in convincing Dad that the world has changed considerably since he went to college.

This change, if it could be brought about, would mean the fulfillment of the quest for knowledge, because thinking professors are just as eager to teach as the thinking students are to learn.

GRADING SYSTEMS

Before we take our place at the plate let it be understood by one and all that this is not an advocacy of higher grades in all departments of the university, but a striking example to show the reason some students are graded "excellent" and some, with equal or in some cases more intelligence, "poor." There is one department, with the majority of students "none too versed in the ways of the world," that is entirely too generous with A's.

But to get back to the original issue, let us cite an actual conversation overheard: "So you think you deserve an A? I have given all the A's my curve system will allow." And another professor in this same department gave this consolation to an aspiring student: "Sorry, I can't give you an A. You have been in my class only one quarter."

An examination is an odd thing, anyway—a few pet questions of the instructor or a catch quiz to have a laugh at blunders. So few of them really know how to ascertain the student's knowledge or understanding. A small percentage look into the students' mind and appreciate a true value. The others "look but see nothing."

THE MICROFILM

What one observer describes as "the most important discovery since Gutenberg" as a means of recording, storing and distributing the written words, is the microfilm. By this device a book, a newspaper, a manuscript or a valued document is photographed on a bit of film so that the area of the original is reduced a hundred, a thousand or many thousandfold. Thus a great library could be brought within the space now required for its card index and still be readable by means of a magnifying mechanism. The current number of the Industrial Bulletin, published at Cambridge, Massachusetts, reports that scientific papers now may be published on film for distribution too limited for the usual journals and that business documents likewise may be copied for record and filing. "An American company has cameras in Europe's leading libraries and will deliver copies of single pages or complete books from their shelves; the Bodleian, the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Vatican collections become available to individuals the world over." Neither the photographic material nor the reading mechanism is yet economically perfected, but progress in both is such that the microfilm is considered one of the promising services of our time.

—Atlanta Journal.

THE MERCER CLUSTER

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By Harry Dismukes

Temple university, according to the Brown and White, is considering a pre-examination rest period to catch up on both study and rest. It is being considered for the three days immediately preceding final examinations.

Professor A. L. Aycock declared in the Old Gold and White that munition makers and war-minded diplomats cannot bring about a war with out the cooperation of men who consent to become potential cannon fodder. In this connection he said that the world-wide youth movements are helping to prevent war.

News is very expensive. According to Frank Little in the Henderson Oracle, there are nearly 100,000 persons employed in editorial and reportorial work alone in the U. S., and the importance of the newspapers as a factor in the industrial and commercial life of the nation is indicated by the fact that they expend annually nearly \$90,000,000 for news; about \$1000,000,000 for salaries and wages and \$40,000,000 for white paper, and receive for subscriptions and advertisements respectively \$200,000,000 a year. It costs today \$1,500,000 to establish a new daily paper of first rank.

Some teachers on the campus are loved; others keep their classes after the bell for dismissal has rung.—Florida Flambeau.

No. 1—Can anything be worse than being old and bent?

No. 2—Yes, being young and broke.

—Virginia Intermount Cauldron.

Little Audrey—"Do you like Kipling?"

Second Little Audrey—"Don't know—cant' kipple."

—Virginia Intermount Cauldron

KUDOS

By Ledford Carter

In 1927 the Ciceronian society decided by a debate that Trans-Atlantic flights should be abolished by the government.

The Beta Sigma Alpha Boy Scout fraternity of Mercer university was granted a national chapter last week and national officers were elected at a recent meeting of the members of the fraternity. The scout fraternity was the only one of its kind in the world. The desire to maintain the ideals of scouting and to develop leadership for scout troops prompted the students to organize the frat.

Dr. Sprigh Dowell graduated from Wake Forest college at the age of eighteen. Then he attended Columbia and has done special graduate work at the University of Tennessee. He began his educational career as superintendent of schools at Shelby, Ala. Later he went to Columbia, East Lake and Birmingham, Ala. In 1913 he was elected to a place on the Alabama state system of public instruction. In 1917 Governor Charles Henderson appointed Dr. Dowell state superintendent of education for Alabama and in 1919 he was re-elected to that position. He resigned as state superintendent in 1920 to accept the presidency of the Alabama Polytechnic institute, and in the same year the University of Alabama conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon him.

The dramatic group at Mercer in 1927 was judged to be among 11 best college dramatic clubs, which included those of Yale, Harvard, North Carolina, and California.

Smile, Darn You, Smile

By R. C. SOUDER

"If at first you don't succeed, give up."

Small boy: What are those men doing in a huddle with their heads together? Is it a football game?

Mother: No, my dear, just a bunch of Scotchmen lighting a cigarette.

Man in cafe: Say, how long is it going to take to fix that half duck I ordered an hour ago?

Waitress: Aw, tuck your shirt in. You'll hafta wait until somebody orders the other half, you don't expect us to kill half a duck.

A widow is lucky. She knows all about the men, and all the men who know everything about her are dead.

Some people are so narrow-minded they can look through a key-hole with both eyes.

Flap: Did Harry hesitate before he kissed you?

Flapper: Only to take a deep breath.

Co-ed: I see the boy friend of mine for about five minutes every night.

Edco: There isn't any fun in that is there?

Co-ed: No, but I can't expect him to turn out the lights any quicker.

First nut: Here is a picture of me when I had sideburns twenty years ago.

Second nut: Did they leave scars?

President: Do big noses run in your family?

Vice-President: Only in cold weather.

"By the time a medical student gets to be a junior, he's had everything but a baby."

Found: Roll of Five Dollar bills. Will the owner form a line at the north entrance of the school.

He who laughs last, laughs best, but he soon gets the reputation of being dumb.

My lover him have gone away

My lover him have gone to stay

Him won't come to I

Me won't go to he

It can never was

Oh don't it swell

Way back from the dark ages we bring

"In the parlor there were three

He, the parlor lamp, and she

Three's crowd there is no doubt

So the parlor lamp went out.

You kissed and told

But that's all right

The guy you told

Called up last night.