

# The Mercer Cluster

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## Student Banquet To Honor Dowell

### President To Receive Tribute For Finishing Building Program

By GORDON ELDRIDGE

Friends and students of Mercer will join together Friday night in paying tribute to Dr. Spright Dowell, president of the university for the past 12 years.

Occasion for the banquet is his outstanding work in virtually completing the school's five-year building program. Co-sponsors of the banquet are Cardinal Key and Blue Key, national honor societies.

## Kappa Phi Kappa Selects Five

### Alexander Heads Group Next Year

The Alpha Mu chapter of Kappa Phi Kappa, national education fraternity, initiated five new members, elected officers for next year, and entertained its sister sorority, Kappa Delta Epsilon, at a banquet last Tuesday, in a triple-lecker program.

Frank Alexander was named president of the fraternity, with Nathan Nolan vice president, Alex Tannas, secretary, and Roy Smith, treasurer.

The five new members who were initiated into the local chapter were Alex Tannas, Howard Bridges, Joe Cook, Jack Beck and Bob Sparks.

Kappa Phi Kappa is an honorary fraternity selected from members of the education department. Requirements for membership include at least a "B" average in all courses, creditable character references and a unanimous vote of all members.

Following the initiation of members and the election of officers, a joint banquet was held in the Mercer tea-room with the recently established Kappa Delta Epsilon sorority, which was known on the Mercer campus as Sigma Epsilon. Sigma Epsilon was recently admitted into the national sorority for women intending to specialize in the field of education.

## Flashes!

Blue Key, national honor fraternity, will tap six Mercer students Monday at the chapel hour, Billy Geeslin, president of the local chapter, announced.

Tapping services for Cardinal Key, girls' society, will be held next Wednesday, according to President Marie Horton.

A petition asking that seniors be given spring exams one week earlier than scheduled was turned down Monday afternoon by the Executive Council. Acting Registrar J. D. Blair, spokesman for the administration, had no comment to make as to the reason for refusal. The petition was presented by Clyde Calhoun.

The Co-ed club will meet in the university chapel next Thursday morning at 11 o'clock to elect officers for the coming year. All women students are urged to attend, according to President Boss Warren Bell.

An election of officers for next year's International Relations club is scheduled for next Tuesday night, officers said yesterday.

T. Baldwin Martin, prominent Macon attorney and president of the General Alumni association, is toastmaster for the evening. Judge John B. Guerry of the Georgia Court of Appeals is the principal speaker. A toast from the alumni will be given by Dr. Josiah Crudup.

Roy Neal, columnist for The Macon Telegraph, will give a humorous five-minute talk on This Guy Dowell. Other entertainments for the affair include a novelty skit by several Macon business men and a special Glee club quartet number. The quartet is composed of Glenn Morris, Tucker Callaway, J. B. Burch and Garland Corley.

Planning to attend the banquet are James H. Porter, Columbus Roberts, and officers of the General Alumni association, members of the President's council, principal donors to the building fund, members of the General Alumni group, Mercer undergraduates and friends of the institution.

Physical improvements on the campus since the building program was instigated have cost more than half a million dollars. The only project visualized by the administration which has not been realized is the erection of a girls' dormitory. James H. Porter's gift of \$150,000 which was announced last March 31 brought the completion of the program within sight. The women's dormitory is expected to be ready for occupancy next fall.

Mr. Porter has been the largest single contributor to the program. The Macon philanthropist erected Porter hall, Mercer's modern gymnasium in 1937 previous to his latest benevolence.

Columbus Roberts, state Commissioner of Agriculture, has been a generous contributor, giving Mercer a new \$50,000 men's dormitory bearing his name and has made possible other physical additions.

Numerous other improvements in line with the aims set forth in the five-year plan have taken form. The original Carnegie library was enlarged and equipped as a modern, fire-proof structure in 1936-37. Members of the Willett family and friends erected the new Joseph E. Willett science hall for use by the biology department. Approximately \$25,000 was invested in new equipment for the biology department by the General Education board. New equipment costing \$15,000 was installed in the physics and chemistry departments. Improvements have also been made on the Wiggs Science hall and Sherwood hall, men's dormitory.

Also during Dr. Dowell's regime, Penfield hall was changed from a cafeteria to a gymnasium and later, after Porter hall was built, to a student activities center.

## COMPLETES BUILDING PROGRAM

—Photo by L. A. Cumbie

## SIXTEEN FLYERS ARE LICENSED PRIVATE PILOTS

### Ten Students Pass Ground Exams And Await Flight Test

Twenty-five aviation students passed the Civil Aeronautics Authority ground school examination last Tuesday night, it was announced by Dr. Josiah Crudup, ground school director.

Fifteen of these 25 have already successfully completed their required number of flying hours and have been examined on flight knowledge, making them eligible for private pilot licenses.

Louise "Sockey" Grimmett made the highest score on the ground school quiz, marking up a grade of 92. W. A. "Bub" McAfee placed second with 91, and Lee Wood came third with 90.

Only two students failed to pass the exam. They will be given re-exams before the term is over, Dr. Crudup said.

The students who have completed the entire course include: Frank Lee, Rodney Blalock, Harry Lee Smith, Roscoe Cline, Bob Alley, Earl Dupree, Bob Darby, Embury Puges, John Arnett, Rufus Sams, Frank Winn, Louise Grimmett, "Bub" McAfee, Edwin Odum and Ruby Gillon.

Wallace Armstrong completed both tests approximately a month ago. In all, 16 flyers have graduated from the Mercer air school.

## Phi Eta Sigma To Award Cup Next Friday

### Debate Team Members To Get Certificates

Mercer's ninth annual Honors day chapel program will be held next Friday, Dean John B. Clark announced this week.

The Honors day program gives special recognition to scholastic achievement. Members of the Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Mu scholastic fraternities and those students making the dean's list during the year will sit on the stage during the exercise. Dean Clark will preside.

The Phi Eta Sigma cup for the outstanding freshman will be presented and certificates will be awarded freshman and varsity debaters of the year.

## GCPA CONVENES HERE NEXT WEEK

### Chairman Geeslin In Charge Of Meet

Mercer will play host to the Georgia Collegiate Press association at its annual meeting on next Friday and Saturday. Delegates will register at one o'clock next Friday afternoon and pay a fee of \$1.

The first meeting will open at two o'clock.

The annual GCPA banquet will be held Friday evening with Tom Ham, managing editor of the Macon Evening News, as the principal guest speaker. Following the banquet the visiting delegates will attend a formal dance given by the Junior Cotillion club.

Billy Geeslin is the present vice president of the association and chairman of the committee on programs and arrangements.

## Guests Bored At Senior Dinner; Faculty Wolfs Food

### Reporter Tells 'Truth' About Class Of '40's First Party

By WARD PRITCHETT

Members of the senior class endured an unusually dull two hours and a half last evening at a banquet given for them by the alumni at the Baconfield clubhouse.

The intended highlight of the evening, an address by Morgan Blake, turned out to be an uninteresting harangue shot through with platitudes and abortive attempts at humor. During this speech there was much squirming in the chairs, unbuttoning of vests and casting about vainly for means of escape.

A speech by Judge Eugene Cook, obviously for the purpose of luring unsuspecting seniors into the alumni association, fared no better. After a disgustingly flowery and manifestly insincere introduction by T. Baldwin Martin, Judge Cook launched into his speech with a show of bravado but was soon overtaken by stage

fright. He stumbled and stammered through the rest of it until he was interrupted by Sam Lowe, who was eager to make his acceptance speech before the rest of the rapidly dwindling crowd went home.

Just why Lowe's speech was called an acceptance speech is not clear. Judge Cook had not offered anything worth accepting, and by this time the seniors felt that they would rather forego their degrees than to become members of such an organization.

Pathetically unfunny was an attempted humorous dramatization

See DINNER, page 4.

## PHI ETA SIGMA INITIATES

Three freshmen were formally initiated, Monday night, into the local chapter of Phi Eta Sigma, national honorary freshman fraternity.

Of the four who were Dean's list honorees the first quarter, thereby qualifying for admission into the society, Tom James, Gainer Bryan and Marvin Davis were initiated. The fourth, Ernest Saloom, was unable to be present because he is on his honeymoon.