

Big Week

By now all of the candidates for the Toby and Tot contest have been turned in. The stands have been placed in the coop building and you may begin voting for your favorite candidate for Toby or Tot. Jars will be placed in the coop to put money in, each penny constituting one vote. This will all go to a very worthy cause for, although the Macon drive is now over, all proceeds will go to the March of Dimes. In this way you may elect your candidate and donate to the March of Dimes at one time.

The winners of this contest will be announced at the homecoming game against Howard. Bear Day and Homecoming will be Saturday, February 20.

This will be a very full week on the Mercer campus. The week previous to Bear Day will be filled with the enlightening activities of Religious Focus Week. We all know the enjoyment gained by this event in the past years and are looking forward to the same thing this year. On Friday night, Feb. 19, the Interfraternity Council will hold its annual winter dance, and this even will be closed to the fraternities. On Saturday we will have the Bear Day parade, directed by the Student Council with each organization entering a

You may all see that we have a very big trophy. The weekend will reach its climax with our Homecoming Game and the awarding of prizes.

You may all see that we have a very big week to look forward to in February.

Cluster

The Cluster staff, with much assistance from the Alumni Office, and photographers Dick Post and Lamar Cason, has attempted to bring to you a very short and unelaborate picture story of the Inauguration Exercises on our campus last week-end.

This issue has been delayed by a few days from the time we expected to go to press, because engravers had so much work as result of these festivities and others that it was impossible.

The staff hopes you will enjoy the issue. Should you be interested in helping with this student publication, please let it be known through campus mail.

Fires

The news is no longer new that the SAE lodge burned on Sunday two weeks ago. But, just as plans were being made for rebuilding, the lodge burned again Thursday night and Friday night of last week. This total of three fires within two weeks brought about investigations as to the cause of the fires.

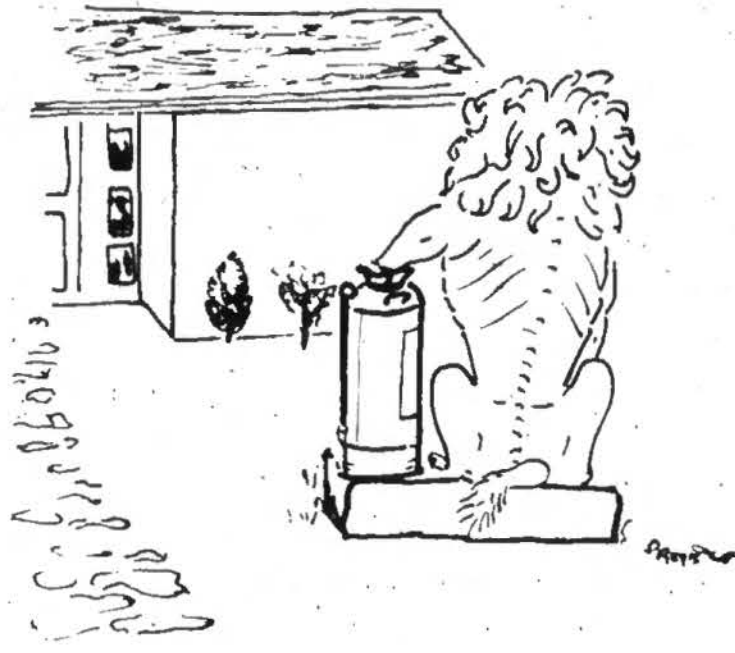
The fires seem to have been started by some amateur arsonist who either has some grudge against this particular lodge or is intent on seeing a fire. The latter seems to be a bit far-fetched. With this investigation going on, rebuilding processes are about to begin and they plan to have it completed in the near future.

The Mercer Cluster

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Leo Motto . . . "Be Prepared"

NANCY YATES

'The Tumult and Shouting Dies'

As I write these words, it is with a combined feeling of relief and anticipation—relief that the long weekend of ceremonies and banquets is over and anticipation of the years ahead under our new President, George Boyce Connell.

I daresay these are the same feelings of the new president, although held by him in a larger sense.

After the pomp and dignity of the weekend convocations, I am reminded of Rudyard Kipling's "Recessionist", written for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. One stanza is a striking parallel to Mercer's recent inauguration:

"The tumult and shouting dies,
 The captains and the kings depart;
 Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
 An humble and a contrite heart."

In a small degree there was "tumult and shouting." The great care taken by Mercer and Wesleyan officials in planning for the joint inauguration ceremonies was shown in their fulfillment. Plans have been underway for months; newspapers and radio have been full of news of this unique affair. Educators all over the country have been interested in the inauguration; and Southern Baptists of course, were doubly aware of the change-over from Dr. Dowell to Mr. Connell. Delicious banquets held at Mary Em Porter hall on the Mercer campus and at Wesleyan College were planned to each minute detail and included as guests famous and learned men in the field of education.

Now these men are gone—back to their respective colleges and universities, the men from the Teachers' College of Columbia University and each individual college respectively. The distinguished guests have taken off their colorful and scholarly robes and returned to their duties.

And now we look to George Connell, divested of the pompous surroundings, the glory and acclaim of the past occasion. As we see him and know him for what he is and for his past experience, we realize we have no need to fear, as Kipling did for Victoria and England, that he will lose his humility. It is an integral part of his personality — along with his deep sincerity and genuineness.

A man of such calm and assured bearings—one who could, before mounting the stage of Widdingham Chapel at his inauguration, nod and speak to a student standing near—is not in danger of becoming proud. As he begins his term of service as president of our alma mater, we can declare with Kipling, "Still stands thine ancient sacrifice . . ." as exhibited in George Boyce Connell.

To him, we wish success in all his plans for the betterment of our school and pledge him our whole-hearted support.

A STUDENT LAWYER SEES . . .

Recent Cases

In this momentous century in which we live, there are those of us who fail to recognize the fact that the United States is the only remaining bulwark to the freedom of men's minds. We Americans are marked men at this mid-century point. We have been tapped by fate—for which we should ever be thankful.

What a glorious opportunity we have in the years that lie ahead to promulgate the ideas of freedom, the liberty of conscience, and the pathways to democracy to the people of this war-torn world of ours! Who would want America less strong or less responsible for the future?

Because this fate has been forced upon us, we must be persevering, patient, and wise as well as powerful. In order to accomplish this goal, we must live, intensely live, the faith which has made us free and invincible. "Despotism may govern without faith, but liberty cannot."

In order for America to survive, we should not become confused about the difference between what our government should do if possible and what it must never do. Never must government take the gigantic stride of stepping across the well-defined line which separates the promotion of justice and prosperity from the interference with ideas, with conscience,

with the sacred private life of the mind. A Biblical expression which we remember is, "Render unto God the things that are God's, and unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." It is paramount that we never forget the fact that the mind is the expression of the soul, which belongs to God; and which, therefore, must never be interfered with by the government.

But things which promote the welfare of society—farm prices, minimum wages, old-age pensions, etc. are within Caesar's domain, and the government should take charge of these with industry and foresight.

Therefore, let us be proud of our strength, proud of the task that it imposes. While we are true to ourselves, we can never be defeated; while we accept the noble burden of leadership, we can never be divided. Thus can we find the means and determination which is needed to save ourselves and our world.

AVON BUICE

Looking at Inauguration

I am truly glad I didn't go home last weekend during Inauguration exercises. To me some of the speeches heard during these services were the best that have been presented in the nine quarters I have been a student at Mercer.

Especially outstanding to me were the two speeches Thursday evening at the first convocation held in the city auditorium. Dr. H. Claude Case, president of Boston University and Dr. McNeil Poteat gave the friends of Mercer and Wesleyan two discourses that will long be remembered. Our newly inaugurated President George B. Connell made the better speech of Friday's services in my estimation.

People have their own opinion, but for my money Dr. Claude Case with a very fluent use of language, a pleasant voice, and thinking almost to a point where the audience could see him think, gave one of the greater speeches.

"Adults made today's problems for young people . . . we have the finest young people in the history of our nation," said Dr. Case as he evaluated modern living in today's world and what it could mean to the cause of education. He said . . . "If modern conveniences have made us soft physically, spiritually, and educationally, they are not worth it."

"The Meaning of Freedom and Its Implications", subject of Dr. Poteat's sounds rather involved within itself. Which is exactly what it got to be. This was a speech designed definitely for the more learned audience, which was exactly what seemed to be present as witnessed by the more than one-hundred dignitaries representing colleges and universities from many parts of the map.

"Man is the only creature not content to be what he is" observed the learned and well-read man about midway of his speech as he sought to delve into the mysteries of man and to get at a definition of man. He said "It is crucial that man know what he is in freedom."

President Connell gave a message to his people that was truly outstanding. It was a discourse of a well-educated, practical and sincere man. It was a convincing speech in that he knew his goals but did not care to boast or make rash promises. It was an appeal for assistance as he tried to show his followers he was truly honored to be a leader at such a time as this. He summed this up when he stated, "I feel it a high privilege to have a position of leadership in the company of those whose loyalties are committed to the challenging tasks which lie ahead."

There were many great men on this campus this past weekend and many of them made outstanding remarks which should be in some way recorded, but we know that is impossible. Many were off record remarks. Some in the hotel lobby, some while standing in the processional line and other remarks made jestingly to students helping with the services, but meaningful when you stop to analyze them.

We believe that those two days did more for Mercer than anything that has happened in several years. It should awaken someone other than ourselves to the dire needs which are essential to look a profitable future in the face.

HOMER LASSITER

We Need the Center

Our president has now been inaugurated. It seems that the majority of the students took advantage of the prolonged weekend and went home or to other various places for rest. Aside from the many ceremonies that were conducted here during the inauguration, those who were not here also missed another novelty on the Mercer campus.

As you may or may not know, the boys and girls dined together at noon Saturday. This has not been done since we have been here and it caused various comments from the boys during the meal. I would like to add that all of the comments were favorable.

It seems that in this school where we are together, we should also be eating together. In this case, it seems that the school would be able to function on a smaller budget and still possibly have an increase in dining service. This could come about due to the fact that the operation of one dining hall would obviously cost less than the operation of two dining halls. We have the facilities with which to do this and, serving on a rotation schedule as the boys are now doing, we would also have adequate space.

Besides decreasing the budget of the school cafeteria, this proposed plan may also have another twofold purpose. As we found, a non-segregated cafeteria adds some much-needed refinement to the boys meals and at the same time it gives the girls more freedom during theirs. We are inclined to believe that they would enjoy this added freedom too.

There seems to be no reason why we should eat separately and we have discussed the advantages of this plan. Why can't this change come about along with President Connell's proposed expansion plan?