

# The Mercer Cluster

VOL. XXXVI

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GA., SEPTEMBER 28, 1955-56

No. 1

## Fire Sweeps ADPi Suite

### New Frosh Reach High Total of 425

By Tina Moore

Mercer University was stormed last week by approximately 425 new students, an overwhelming crowd, exceeding even the high number anticipated.

A six-day program of orientation, starting Friday, September 16, and running through Wednesday, September 21, kept the new students on their toes during their first week at Mercer.

The first day of orientation began with a general meeting, later meetings being held for men and women students separately. The day was climaxed by an evening "Treasure Hunt".

The high point of Saturday's activities was the President's reception for new students.

Sunday began appropriately with church services. Later the Baptist Student Union entertained the Freshmen and transfers with a tea and informal receptions were held at the churches.

Monday gave the new Mercer Frosh their first taste of the confusing process of registration. The last two days were spent in group meetings.

The large amount of new Mercurians is felt particularly in regard to housing. Bartlett and Findlay Houses and a third house, the Dowell House, have been opened to provide rooms for the overflow from Porter Hall and many boys have been forced by shortage of space to find off-campus quarters.

Though the Sophomores have not made definite plans for Rat Week yet, they expect to get together soon to decide upon an appropriate fate for the "Rats". Activities during "Ratting" will feature, among other events, the traditional Freshman beauty contest and cake race.

#### FROSH COME FIRST

### Yates Announces Annual Class Picture Schedule

Bill Meriwether, 1956 Cauldron photographer, will begin shooting individual class pictures for this year's annual next Wednesday.

Mr. Meriwether will set up his studio—as usual—in the Co-op.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week freshmen will have their pictures made.

The announcement came this week from Nancy Yates, editor of the 1956 Cauldron. She emphasized that students must appear in the co-op during the days designated. Mr. Meriwether will not make return trips for make-up shots this year.

Deadline for class pictures is earlier this year than in years past, she said. This necessitates a more rigid schedule.

Sophomore and junior class pictures will be made October 3-5.

### Join Church Day Set This Sunday

August 25 has been designated as the annual "Join the Church Sunday" by the Mercer Baptist Student Union. The observance of this Sunday is part of an endeavor by the B.S.U. to urge all students to move their church memberships to the churches of Macon.

#### AT CONVOCATION

### GSCW Dean Is Speaker

Dr. Donald Hutensins MacMahon, dean of instruction and professor of English at Georgia State College for Women, will be principal speaker at Mercer's 123rd convocation to be held in Willingham Chapel Wednesday, September 28. This event, held annually, officially opens chapel activities for the year.

Dean MacMahon graduated from the University of Michigan and holds degrees from Harvard and Cornell Universities. His professional experience includes positions at the University of Michigan, Temple University, University of Wichita, Carleton College, and State College of Washington. He has been at G.S.C.W. since 1946.

A singspiration has been planned for the first student chapel program on September 27. According to Tolly Williamson, vice-president of S.G.A., this is the first program of this type to be presented at Mercer in the past three years.

### Elections Set For October 11

Buddy Moore, freshman adviser, has announced that freshman elections have been set for October 11. At this time a president, vice-president, and secretary will be chosen. Nominations will be made two weeks prior to the election on September 27. In case of the need for a run-off, it will take place on October 18.

A general student election to fill the necessary offices vacated by students not returning will take place at the same time, according to S.G.A. President, Sid Johnson.

#### From The Editors

## Students Praised On Fire Conduct

During all the excitement and fear of the fire that ramshacked the Alpha Delta Pi suite, the conduct of the students was beyond reproach. All the boys and girls stayed on the Administration Building side of College Street and did not mill around the fire trucks, hoses and other equipment that are essential to putting out a fire.

Had pandemonium broken out while the fire fighters were battling the blaze, the damage would have certainly been much more. But this was not the case.

Also to be commended was the rescue of the girls on the third floor by junior Gerald Palmer. Palmer raced to the third floor through flames and smoke and guided six upset co-eds to safety. And after the fire was under control, the girls that had been rescued, as well as all other girls involved, were taking the happenings as calmly as could be expected.

The Cluster insists that if any organization on campus has any valuable property, the group should insure it against any possible fire, as well as theft. It has been reported unofficially that some of the damage was covered, and certainly everyone hopes that all of the property was insured. But, everyone else take heed. If not insured, do it today.

### Gerald Palmer Rescues 6 Girls in Phi Mu Suite

By Elliott Brack and Zelma Yarbrough

Fire from an undetermined source swept through the second floor of the main building of Mary Erin Porter Hall yesterday afternoon at 2 p.m. and did considerable damage to the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority suite. No one could be reached to give an official estimate of the extent of the damage.

Besides the ADPi suite proper, rooms 209, 210, 212, and 213 were severely damaged by fire, smoke and water. Other rooms in the suite were gutted with smoke, but the fire did not touch them. The Phi Mu suite, located on the third floor, was riddled by smoke, but the fire was confined to the second floor and did not reach this level.

Six girls were trapped on the third floor and a courageous Mercurian led them to safety. Gerald Palmer, junior from Habersham, Georgia, rescued Frances Wiatt, Jan Harvey, Paula Smith, Nancy Bruner, Barbara Fisher and Shirley Whelchel. The exploring junior had to get past the flaming second floor before he coolly and calmly evacuated the hysterical girls.

Ann Kinnett, president of the Women's Student Government, was in the building when the fire started and summoned the Macon Fire Department. As soon as the fire trucks arrived, students from most, if not all, of the classrooms on the campus, flocked to College Street to watch the blaze.

Mercer President George B. Connell was unable to be reached but unofficial reports were that all the furniture in the building was covered by insurance.

Especially upset by the fire the members were of Alpha Delta Pi. The girls had only recently completed the renovation of their suite. Upon inspection of the suite, most of the furniture was either destroyed or charred beyond repair. Also ruined were the walls and

rugs. The ceiling of the suite's lobby was charred and jagged by the belching flames. On-lookers spotted flames leaping from the second floor only once. After that, the fire department subdued the blaze swiftly and calmly.

Water was running in the main lobby of MEP and dripping down from both the second and third floors after the blaze. The hallway on the second floor was a maze of broken glass, water-logged plaster and more water. It seemed impossible that anything from the severely damaged rooms could have been saved. They were all in complete disorder by the catastrophe. However, other rooms on the floor had very little damage done to them, and that was only the water that stood on the floor. None of the remaining rooms had any fire losses.

But through all the disorder during and after the fire, one thing stood out to this reporter. Firemen hacked their way through the suite windows of ADPi, but after the fire, one could clearly see the immaculate Alpha Delta Pi sign, which symbolized the spirit of girls that already have started plans to repair the damage.

### Hasty, Murphy Head Law Day

Earl Murphy and Fred Hasty have been named as co-chairmen in charge of Law Day preparations. The naming of these two is in keeping with the tradition of giving students the responsibility of planning and carrying out the activities for the day.

This year the group will have Senator Walter F. George as their honor guest. Speakers will include



SENATOR GEORGE

Allen Dulles, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, and brother of John Foster Dulles, and E. Smythe Gambrell, president of the American Bar Association, and prominent Atlanta lawyer.

Co-chairman Hasty stated that Law Day will be October 28 this year. Among the activities for hundreds of returning alumni and visitors are a barbecue and a dance. He stated also that committee chairmen will be named later.