

Dowell's History

(Continued from page 3)

Mercer Institute were announced on February 5, 1833.

'All by-laws for the government of the school and regulations of labor are entrusted to the teachers.

'No student is to leave the institution at any time without permission.

'Boys or young men over 16 years of age who cannot be governed or do not conform to regulations, may expect prompt attention by the Trustees and certain expulsion without reformation.

'No young man or student in the Institute shall purchase any article or create any debt without permission of the teacher.

'A book shall be kept by the teacher of all defaulters in recitation or labor and be laid before the Trustees.'

By April, 1835, these rules had taken the following form:

'Bad recitations as well as idleness, or any other impropriety in study hours, shall subject the aggressor to confinement in the schoolroom—which confinement shall not be remitted, but upon a certificate of each of the teachers to whom the student recites of his good recitations and other good conduct continued in for a good length of time satisfactory to the teachers. Each room shall at all times be accessible to the teachers during study hours without their having to knock at the door. No student shall be allowed to visit another's room in study hours without permission from one of the teachers. All doors shall be kept closed in study hours and no student shall disturb his roommate during study hours. No washing will be done in windows nor on floors within nor outside wall by throwing out water, nor yard littered by litter from windows. All students must account for lost tools, any broken doors, and all appearances of rooms. All students shall be classed as the general interest of the school and convenience of teachers shall require.'

Dowell Writes To The Cluster

The celebration of forty years of colorful and creative service to Mercer University by **The Mercer Cluster** merits a hearty expression of appreciation and gratitude from all those who have enjoyed the privilege of membership in our beloved Mercer family for ten college generations. The opportunity for self expression, for freedom of speech, for revealing and reflecting student opinion, for practicing the art of writing, and for fashioning student aims and ideals, deserves a very definite place in a program of liberal education that is comprehensive and creative. In behalf of this mother institution with its impressive record of 126 years of faithful and forthright service, I am happy to salute **The Mercer Cluster** for its rich and radiant past and to wish for it a progressive and remarkably rewarding future.

Spright Dowell
Interim President



DR. SPRIGHT DOWELL

Mercer Institute became Mercer University in 1839. The campus was moved to its present location in Macon in 1871.

Editor of Mercer Cluster
Mercer University
Macon, Georgia
Dear Sir:

Perhaps the fortieth anniversary issue will focus attention on the tradition in which the **Mercer Cluster** expresses itself. To a significant extent, it has reflected life at Mercer from a vantage point independent of pressure from administration, faculty, and students. This is not the least significant of reasons why, in addition to reporting and interpreting Mercer life, it has functioned as a catalyst of student opinion. This places the Cluster in alignment with those principles which have made the newspaper a great American institution.

We therefore salute the Cluster on its fortieth anniversary.

Cordially,

Joseph M. Hendricks
Director of Religious Activities



Dr. R. E. Anthony
Former Professor of Latin and Greek



Maj. J. D. Blair
Former Freshman Football Coach



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Office of the Executive Secretary
127 Ninth Avenue, North
NASHVILLE 3, TENNESSEE
October 20, 1959

Mr. Haywood L. Ellis
The Mercer Cluster
Box E, Mercer University
Macon, Georgia

Dear Haywood:

Imagine the old **Cluster** having a fortieth birthday! This means that the sheet got under way back around 1919 and the great wonder is that it survived the early twenties, what with editors like myself banging it around in an uncertain fashion. My years at the helm must have been '22-'23, or could it have been '23-'24? Anyway, just before leaving Mercer I turned over a complete file of the **Cluster** under my editorship to Librarian Stone. Perhaps some historian in the dim future will look with some interest at those yellowed pages.

Let me congratulate you on being editor in this anniversary year. You have started out "with a bang," still crusading for this and that. A little of this is all right if done in a nice way and with no rancor. We used to think that we had to "beat the drums" for something and indeed the columns had to be filled, as Buddy Hurt would say.

I have been "guilty" of banging out an entire issue of the **Cluster** on some Sunday afternoon and evening with the remainder of the staff gone the way of all students. The old typewriter had some missing letters and you can imagine the results after the linotype man finished his part.

No doubt student editors need encouragement. I remember once when the late George Sparks, then faculty supervisor, complimented me on some little editorial bit I had written. This was the good word and stimulation I needed and always appreciated. You will get plenty of "dis-cussin'" but very few flowers.

You are aware, I am sure, of the origin of the name "**Cluster**". First, "**The Mercer Cluster**" was a collection of hymns. Then President Weaver applied it to the fourteen schools and colleges operated by Georgia Baptists. He dreamed of it being the publication for all of these schools, or a "small cluster" of schools. Quite an idea, but an outsider would never guess.

The **Cluster** has meant much to many Mercerians through the years. Keep up the good work and try to be reasonably mild so as to keep out of the hair of the administration and the faculty, and not misleading the general public too much.

Congratulations to the **Cluster**, and you as its fortieth anniversary editor.

Cordially,
Rabun L. Brantley
Cluster Editor, '22-'23

RLB:je

Ed Note: Dr. Brantley resigned, during the past summer, from the position of Vice President of Mercer, to accept the post as Executive Secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.)

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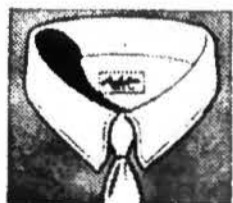
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