



Dr. George B. Connell was the immediate predecessor of President Harris. Dr. Connell was inaugurated in January, 1954, following Dr. Spright Dowell's resignation the year before. Connell was president until his death in April, 1959.

## Committees Help With Inauguration

The inauguration committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Harold McManus appointed a number of other committees to carry out the plans for the inauguration.

Mrs. Martha Maddox, university toastess, was chairman of the decorations committee. Serving with her were Dean Louise Brown, Marshall Daugherty, Miss May McMillan, James D. Orr Jr. and Graydon Ware.

Dean of Students Richard C. Burts was hospitality chairman. Working with him were Joe Hendricks, Dr. Spencer King, Dr. Phil Smith and Registrar Arthur Walton.

Business manager William T. Haywood was in charge of the inaugural luncheon and was assisted by Miss Connie Byrd, James Clegg, Mrs. Helen Plymale and Mrs. Ethel T. Reeves.

Dr. Arthur Rich was music chairman and worked with Clyde Hiss, Mrs. Rich and Dr. Marguerite Woodruff. Thomas J. Holmes headed the publicity committee with Dr. Kenneth Cauthen, Frances Floyd, Dr. Ben Griffith and Al Powers as committee members.

Zeb Vance worked with transportation as chairman. Working with him were Miss Leone Bates, Ray Brewster, Lt. Col. Robert L. Pitts and Riley Plymale.

Gerald Stone was chairman of the ushering and seating committee. Ushers were Kenneth Walker, John Black, Gerald Harris, Hunt Sanders, Edge Farley, Walter Scott and Ralph Bass.

the chief executive of the university in 1914, serving until the year of the end of World War I. Rufus Washington Weaver became president in 1918, serving until 1927.

In the interim between Weaver's presidency and the appointment of Dr. Dowell, Andrew Phillip Montague acted as president.

Dr. Spright Dowell was appointed president of the school in 1928 and served until 1953 when he was followed in office by George B. Connell who had previously been vice-president. Following Connell's death in April, 1959, Dr. Dowell became acting president, the only person in the history of the institution to serve as both president and acting president.

## Fifteen Presidents Preceded Harris

Fifteen other presidents preceded Dr. Harris as president of Mercer. Since 1833 Mercer has also had six acting presidents, the last being Dr. Spright Dowell who also served as president.

Billington M. Sanders was the first president of Mercer, serving the seven years from 1833 until 1840. He was followed by Otis Smith who was president for four years. John L. Dagg served the 10 years between 1844 and 1854.

Nathaniel Macon Crawford served for two years after Dagg, then Shelton Palmer Sanford acted as president between 1856 and 1858 when Crawford again assumed the presidential responsibilities, serving until a year after the War Between the States.

ever, in the years 1903-1905 William Heard Kilpatrick served as acting president. Kilpatrick, who also served as vice-president of Mercer, later became a professor at Columbia University. He and Dr. Dowell are the only survivors of the 21 persons who have either been president or acted in that capacity.

Charles Lee Smith served between 1905-06 as president and Samuel Young Jamerson served seven years after him until 1913 when James Freeman Sellers acted as president until the next year.

William Lyons Pickard became

## Dagg - Blind and Cripple, But Made Good President

One Mercer president walked with a crutch, had poor sight and could not speak without great pain.

John L. Dagg, whose picture now hangs in the president's office, suffered an accident when he was 25 that made it necessary for him to use a crutch the rest of his life.

When he was 30 he almost lost his eyesight. It was necessary that he be aided in his studying and reading by his wife or a daughter or a secretary. Later, when he could not see to write he devised a board which would enable him to write legibly.

When he was 35 or 40 he suffered an affliction that destroyed his voice. From then until his death talking caused him a great deal of pain.

One contemporary Mercerian said of him, "He can neither read nor write, he can neither walk nor talk, but he is a very good president."

Dagg was born in a Virginia log cabin. Even though he had only five or six years of formal education, he began teaching when he was 14.

The Virginian came in 1843 as a professor of theology at the Penfield institution and the next year became its president. He served as president for about 12 years.

In his later years Dagg wrote several volumes, including his autobiography, *A Manual of Theology and Treatises on Church Order*.



Dr. Spright Dowell

Henry Holcombe Tucker (1866-1871) was the last of the five presidents who served at Penfield.

Archibald John Battle (1872-1889) saw the first years of Mercer in Macon. Battle was succeeded by Gustavus Alonzo Nunnally (1889-93) and he by James Bruton Gambrell (1893-96). Joseph Edgerton Willet served as acting president in 1893.

Pinckney Daniel Pollock came to the president's chair in 1896 and held the office for nine years; how-

# LETTER FROM GERMANY

BY FRED MONR

March 14, 1961  
Munster/Westfalen  
Turnstrasse 2  
Germany

Dear American Friends:

Information that I have got about your country during the last weeks has been disturbing me very much, because I have been told that an anti-German sentiment is spreading in the United States. Our papers here in Germany are full of this news and we are anxious to find out whether this information is telling the truth or not.

Starting from the presupposition that the papers have been well informing me, I feel that it is necessary to tell you my standpoint because I trust that you will try to listen to both sides.

Let us be honest: An anti-German sentiment always finds easy arguments because of the two wars that you have been forced to fight against us. Particularly the last war and the Hitler regime make it understandable that many people in the United States do not care for friendly relations with Germany.

They are of the opinion that the Nazi government has been a movement of the whole Germany nation and that the whole nation is guilty of the crimes that the Hitler party committed. This is the standpoint of the collective guilt of the German nation.

You came to know me personally—have you ever thought me guilty of the murder of 6 million Jews? Have you thought me guilty of the death of the millions of soldiers that were killed in the war?

I am nothing better than an average German who was nine years of age when the war was over. If you think THE Germans are guilty of the crimes that have been committed in this country, you must reach the conclusion that I am as guilty as any other German.

But I do not feel guilty. I was irresponsible when those things happened. And with me are millions of people in this country, whether they were a member of the Nazi party or not.

There is no question that crimes have been committed in this country which do not find a parallel in any country or any period of the world's history. And the war which was started by Hitler was a crime itself. But have you ever thought that most of the men who participated actively in the cruelties have been punished and are still being punished. Germany as a whole is paying a high price by being divided into three parts.

It is now 16 years since the war. You and your government have agreed with us that we should join the free nations of the world. You have made us your ally. And we are grateful for that and we in West Germany, who have the privilege of living in freedom, want to be your ally and friend.

But I feel that if you make us your ally you must also trust us. You should not ask us to participate in the defense of the western world and at the same time make us feel that you do not like us.

One of the things that make a man a great one is that he can get himself to forgive his former opponent. The same is true for a nation. I trust in the greatness of the American nation.

Most cordially yours,  
Fred.

## YWA Elects New Officers

Vonceil Smith has been elected president of Young Women's Association on the Mercer campus. YWA is a unit organization of the local BSU.

Elected to serve with Vonceil were Carol Williams, vice-president; Virginia Price, secretary; Marjorie Jackson, treasurer; Ellen Dillard, community missions chairman; Betty Goble, chorister; Sharon Kickliter, pianist and Susan Otwell, devotional chairman.

Nancy Edwards is mission study chairman; Dodie McLeod, publicity chairman and Lucy Tatum chairman for "Window of YWA." Circle chairmen are Mary Spencer, first floor Dowell; Ellen Dillard, second floor Dowell; Phyllis Garner, third floor Dowell; June Kilpatrick, first Boone; Gail Norris, second Boone; Phyllis Lane, third Boone; Guynelle Bearden, second MEP and Judith Kemp, third MEP.

## Blue Key Plans 'Best of Willard'

The Mercer Blue Key will publish "The Best of Willard Clutchmyer" during April. Bob Steed, author of the series which made its appearance first in the Mercer Cluster, is now editing his columns in preparation for their publication.

The volume is expected to contain approximately 15 or 16 of the Clutchmyer columns.

## Center To Give Med College Tests

The medical college admission test will be given Saturday, May 6, for students applying for admission to medical colleges in the fall of 1961. The tests will be given at the Mercer University Guidance and Testing Center.

Application blanks may be obtained from the guidance center. The completed application and fee should be sent at least two weeks before the examination day to: Medical College Admission Test, The Psychological Corporation, 304 East 45th Street, New York 17, New York. An examination fee of \$15.00 is charged. This includes reports for up to three medical colleges. Each additional report costs \$1.00.

The test is designed to measure general academic ability, understanding of modern society and scientific knowledge. Test scores are reported directly to the medical colleges.

P. E. Maffeo, testing director, advises medical students to apply early, for no applications can be guaranteed after the deadline announced, April 21, 1961.

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