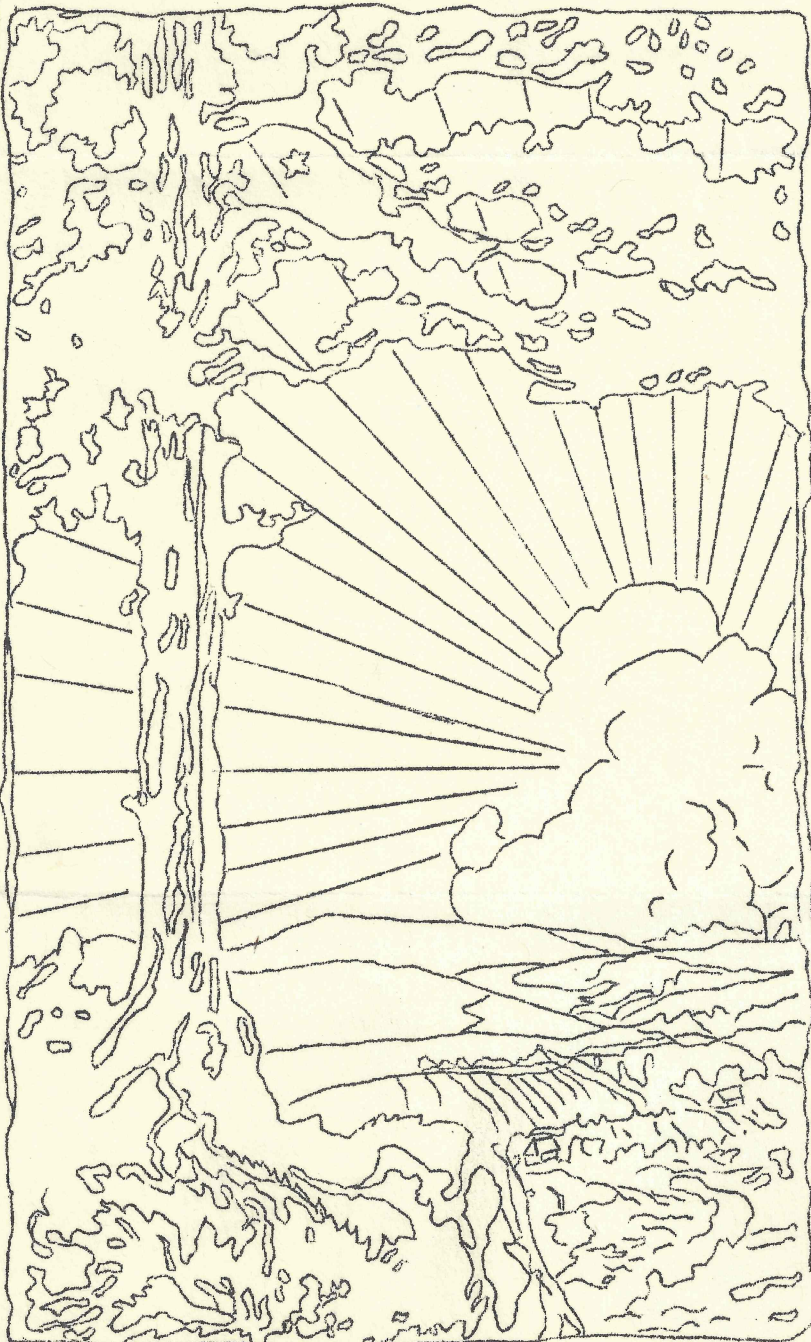


FLETCHER NEWS LETTER

ASHEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AND MOUNTAIN SANITARIUM
Fletcher, North Carolina

Vol. XVI, No. 2

July 1949



BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER
YOU ARE

If you can't be a pine
on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the
valley, but be—
The best little scrub by
the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't
be a tree.

If you can't be a bush
be a bit of the grass,
And some highway
happier make;
If you can't be a muskie,
then just be a bass,
But the liveliest bass
in the lake!

We can't all be captains,
we've got to be crew,
There's something for
all of us here;
There's big work to do,
and there's lesser to do,
And the task we must do
is the near.

If you can't be a high-
way then just be a trail.
If you can't be the sun,
be a star;
It isn't by size that
you win or you fail,
Be the best of whatever
you are.

—Malloch

HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

"The sun rolls down the distant west,
Soft twilight steals abroad
To welcome in the day of rest,
The Sabbath of the Lord."

The lines of this hymn came to me as the hours of the Sabbath of our commencement week end drew on. Everything was in readiness, and our beautiful campus never looked more lovely as the bell called us to our chapel for a Senior Consecration service.

Elder Everett L. Marley, pastor of our church in Greenville, South Carolina, brought to the class a message of inspiration. Using as the basis for his discourse the "whatsoever" text, Philippians 4:8, he showed us how we might attain success in our spiritual lives. He climaxed his talk by stressing that there is no limit to the usefulness of one who will give himself unreservedly to God's service and strive to do his best. Mr. Fred C. Oliver, father of one of the class members, offered the consecration prayer. Following the prayer it was a beautiful and inspiring sight to see and hear our young people give their testimony of what God may expect of them in the future.

"Gentle Saviour, Walk Beside Me" was the title of the solo sung by Mrs. Boggs which expressed the hope and prayer of each faculty member that God will walk beside those young people as they go from our school.

The benediction was pronounced by Mr. Clayton Hodges of our school staff, and thus ended the service.

SABBATH SCHOOL

Sabbath morning dawned cool and clear, a perfect day for the special programs planned for its hours. Again the bell called us to the chapel, this time for Sabbath school. It was a pleasure to have so many alumni members present to take part. Charles Arnold, class of '43, offered the prayer. Hope Hardy, '48, gave the mission reading, and in the nurses' trio were two other alumni members, Marie Veltman, '46 and Lois Lowder, class of '47. Next year, if it is possible to work out, it would be nice to turn Sabbath school over to the alumni entirely.

BACCALAUREATE

The dignified strains of Gounod's "Marche Pontifical" brought our blue-robed seniors marching down the aisle to their seats at the front.

Attentively they listened to Elder D. A. Delafield of the Review and Herald Publishing Association as he spoke to them. Skillfully weaving into his thoughts the words of the class motto, "Be the best of whatever you are," he showed us how great is the need of our world for a revelation of the kindness of God. "In fact," he said, "the world needs kindness first, and then our doctrines. The world will be more impressed by what you do, than what you say. The world needs a revelation and demonstration of the character of God as you live it in your lives." His closing lesson was the parable of the Good Samaritan which most aptly summarized this excellent sermon on the kindness of God as we may reveal it to the world today. "God has called you," he said, "to be a neighbor to every man."

Sydney King's solo, "Calvary" by Rodney, was beautifully rendered and a fitting close to the service. Mr. King is the brother of one of our senior girls and has been a student at our college in Keene, Texas.

CLASS NIGHT

Piano Solo: "Russian Concerto".....Rachmaninoff
John Oliver
Introduction of Class.....Mrs. Arthur A. Jasperson
Class Song: "Be the Best of Whatever You Are".....Wells
DevotionalLynelle King
President's Address.....William Straight
Mixed Quartette: "Song of the Mountains".....Cadman
Soprano: Lynelle King Tenor: William Straight
Alto: Wanda Haviland Bass: Edwin Hansen

I Have Learned In Our School--
To Use a Typewriter.....Joyce Draper
To Love Books.....Wanda Haviland
To Set a Patient's Tray.....Betty Harris
To Set a Table.....Thelma Akers
To Be a Christian.....Gloria Knight
De parler francais..Betty Dempsey and Joan Everett
To Play the Piano.....Lynelle King
To splint a Broken Arm.....Jo Ellen Watkins
To Love the Mountains.....Joan Everett
To Work Scientific Experiments.....Edwin Hansen
Eugene Rouse
To Love the Farm.....John Oliver
Presentation of Class Gift.....Joan Everett
School Song.....Congregation

All paths led to the chapel after sundown and this time there was a bustle and somewhat of a hustle among the class members as they prepared for the program that is all their own. Without question we all enjoyed the part listed on the program as "I Have Learned In Our School" for there passed before our eyes constantly changing scenes of various activities in which our students had participated during their stay at the school. And they all did well so we were pleased with them.

Joan Everett, vice president of the class, graciously presented the class gift to the school. The sundial which will rest on a base of native rock is to stand in a new landscape project not too far to the east of the bell tower and yet far enough so it will maintain its own identity. It will stand surrounded by flowers and in such a pleasant setting, perhaps one will not feel so keenly the sting of passing hours.

COMMENCEMENT

Once more the organ played a stately march and this time the Junior class marched in to form an honor court at the front of the chapel through which our blue-gowned seniors passed as they took their places on the platform.

Soloist for the occasion was Mr. Edwin Bisalski of Madison College, Tennessee, who sang first Malotte's "Twenty-third Psalm." Later in the program he sang "The Builder" by Cadman. Everyone enjoyed Mr. Bisalski's beautiful singing.

It was our high privilege to have as commencement speaker, Elder D. E. Rebok, president of our Theological Seminary at Washington, D. C. To introduce his remarks

he spoke first of Daniel and the success he achieved. Then he gave us three secrets of success which will help us chart our lives successfully:--be a real Seventh-day Adventist Christian;--be a real gentleman or a real lady;--be yourself at your best at all times. Under this last point Elder Rebok gave us several factors, all within our reach, which contribute to an attractive personality. The most important was cheerfulness. Next followed friendliness, cleanliness, readiness to be helpful, unselfishness, thoughtfulness, sense of humor, meekness, and poise. Against these he contrasted selfishness, untidiness, and conceit. Every word Elder Rebok spoke was worth while and gave us a clearer concept of what it takes to be the best of what ever we are.

After the formal presentation of the diplomas by Mrs. Jasperson, followed the lovely ceremony of presenting the class flower to the class mothers. As Mrs. Jasperson called the name of the student, the junior class officers ushered this student's mother to the platform where the graduate pinned on her dress the talisman rose, a symbol of his love and appreciation. Some, who had never before witnessed this ceremony, spoke of it as the high light of the evening, so we hope never to lose this lovely part of our commencement program.

And now our class of '49 has gone forth from our school, carrying with them not only our diplomas, but our love and best wishes for a long and useful life while our prayer is that they will be the best of whatever they are.

-- D. V. B.

ALUMNI ECHOES

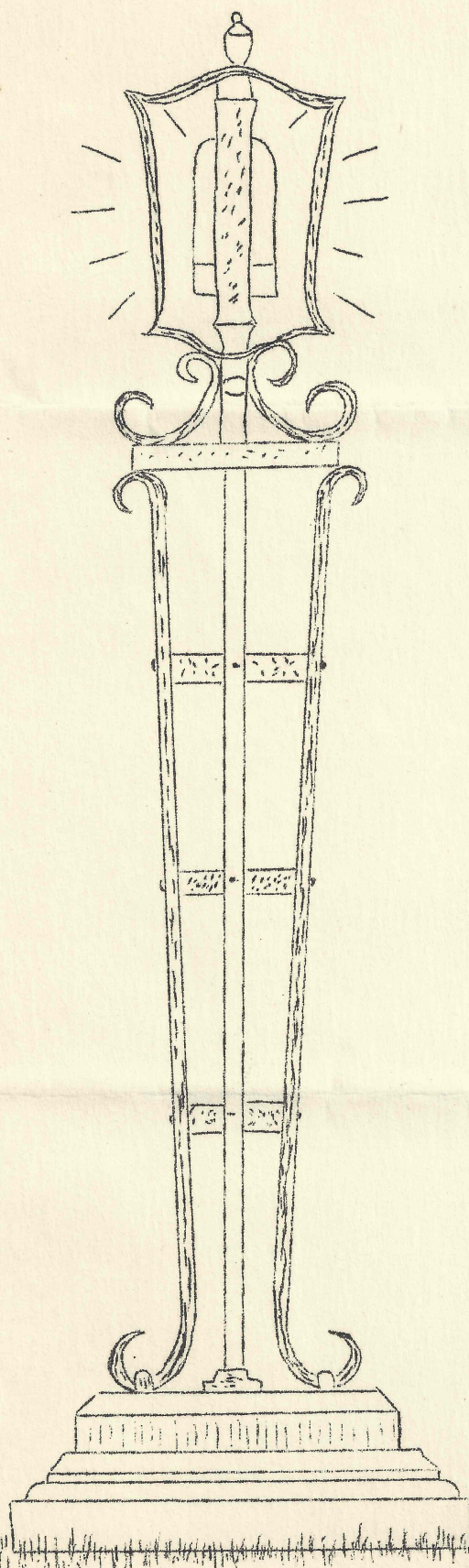
Over at Mills River, our usual place of rendezvous, approximately thirty of our graduates gathered on Sunday morning to clasp one another's hands in friendship, talk over "old times", and enjoy once more the beauties of this place of many memories. For years we have gone to Mills River for a good time. Sometimes during the war when more of our members were represented by a star on the Service Flag than were present in the flesh, our merriment was considerably forced. This time it was even deeper than that when Robert Marquis, childhood playmate and lifelong friend of our deceased president, opened the meeting in David's stead.

Dr. Forrest Port, secretary, called the roll of classes to which members of the classes of 1930, '35, '37, '41, '42, '43, '45, '46, '47, '48, responded. From our own place nine graduates of the school, now workers in the institution were present. Ella Pendarvis, Inez Beck, Dorothy Boggs, Clayton Hodges, Robert Marquis, Vernon Lewis, Hazel Hensley, Forrest Port and Gladys Lowder. The new class of fourteen members was presented and received by unanimous vote. A telegram from Marthine Bliss, '42, now in school at Washington Missionary College, greeted all and welcomed the new members.

Among the group from away, we saw the following: from Emmanuel Missionary College in Michigan came Joe Brown, Charles Arnold and wife, Genella Lowder-Hunt and husband, Lois Boggs, Alfred Jorgenson and L. C. Trevor, Jr.

It was good to see Hope Hardy from Jacksonville, and Marshall Johnston from Hickory, John and Margaret Gilbert from Greenville, South Carolina, as well as Charles Bishop and Edwin Everett from Florence, Mississippi. Charles Cecil and Marjorie Pettigrove were here from Madison College. Mary Medford, Class of '37, was present for the first time in several years. She is now employed at the Hinsdale Sanitarium, Illinois. Ralph Walters, '39, was here from Takoma Hospital, Greenville, Tennessee, with his wife and two children.

Mr. and Mrs. Fricks were up from Birmingham bringing Betty Ann Jasperson and little Vicky. We were sorry that Bob and Gwendolyn Jasperson and little Johnny who were down from Washington had to return before the meeting. Bob seemed to be carrying a heavy load of responsibility with his own graduation only a week away.



IN MEMORY OF
DAVID LEE JASPERSON
Who fought a good fight.
1923 - 1948
A L U M N I

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Gilman has sketched for us the memorial light which was erected this spring by the Asheville Agricultural School Alumni in memory of David Jasperson. The inscription accompanying the sketch will appear on the metal plaque soon to be placed on the light. It is located in the bend of the walk to the left of the steps leading into the chapel. We are sure that each of the alumni members who helped to make this possible would be pleased with the location and the dignified simplicity of this light which blends so well with the rugged beauty which surrounds it.

Those of you who were not privileged to be here the morning of May 29 may be interested in the simple ceremony which constituted the dedication of this memorial. We gathered in front of the chapel this beautiful morning. Dr. Forest Port, secretary of the alumni, in a few well chosen words expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Jasperson, Mrs. Betty Fricks-Jasperson, Vicky, and others of the family who were present, the sentiments of our hearts which prompted the planning of this memorial, and made the presentation in the name of the Alumni Association. Dr. John Gilbert of Greenville, South Carolina, offered a short fitting prayer; at its conclusion Mr. Jasperson carried little Vicky to the light switch and at a touch from her, the memorial light flashed on, always a reminder to us of a gallant spirit.

THE SENIOR TRIP

Gay crepe paper streamers (handiwork of the Juniors) fluttered in the early morning breeze as four cars sped down the highway carrying fourteen light-hearted Seniors on their class trip April 24th.

Noon found us at a park in Chattanooga enjoying a delicious lunch after which we went up the incline to Lookout Mountain, one of the South's rare historical points.

At Southern Missionary College we were given a hearty welcome by the student body in the program that night. The next day we toured the different industries on the campus and joined in a game of soft ball in the afternoon. That night's student-talent program ranging from the sublime to the humorous was excellent entertainment. We left Collegedale the next morning knowing that we had received real Southern hospitality there.

Towering mountains, a shaded nook with a stream flowing nearby, all added to our pleasure as we ate our lunch along the way in the Great Smoky Mountains. The class as a whole seemed to believe that the trip would not be complete without a horseback ride, so ride we did when we got to Gatlinburg, much to our discomfort the next day. After the beautiful drive to Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome, we reluctantly turned homeward.

A huge sign stretched across the road silently declared "Welcome Home" as we arrived back on the campus, but the silence was soon dispelled by the orchestra of clashing and clamoring pots, pans, tin cans, scrub boards, and every imaginable kind of noise-maker under the direction of those "Jolly Juniors."

Our trip had ended all too soon, and now we realize that it was one of our most cherished memories of our days at Fletcher.

-- Lynelle King

THE JUNIOR -- SENIOR PICNIC

At one o'clock the afternoon of May 15 the Juniors and Seniors boarded a special bus. Yes, we were off to the Junior-Senior picnic. Although the skies were a little cloudy none of us got wet. We were headed for Mount Pisgah. The ride in the bus was non-eventful except for a casual joke cracked by some bright Junior.

We arrived in mid-afternoon and parked about a mile and a half from the summit. It seemed more like five miles while I was hiking the distance. One could get a very good view from the top of the mountain. The grandeur and beauty of the mountains around us impressed me the most of anything that I saw on the trip.

After the descent we boarded the bus again and rode down the mountain to a beautiful picnic ground. The ride seemed ever so long, for I was very hungry by then. At the grounds we started the fun off by a few games of horseshoe. Then came the best part of the trip, the dinner. The Juniors had provided all kinds of good things to eat, for they knew how hungry we would be. I ate until I was almost ashamed of myself but when I looked beside me, Bill Straight had just received his fourth helping of food! By this time Mrs. Jasperson was very worried about the health of our president. In fact, she was so worried that she snatched part of his food so he would not over-eat!

After the dinner we tried to play games again, but the fact remains that we just couldn't! Soon we all boarded the bus and rode home to good old Fletcher with gay hearts and full stomachs. Thanks Juniors! You entertained us very well.

-- John Oliver, Class Treasurer

THE JUNIOR PICNIC

At four o'clock Thursday afternoon, the 19th of May, fourteen happy Juniors and three chaperons climbed into a truck and headed for Mills River. Though it looked like rain, all were smiling bravely.

When we reached our destination, the first thing everyone thought of was food. Soon the two ladies, Mrs. Hodges, and Mrs. Darnell, and the girls started the preparations. What a job to "brown" the vegemeat steaks over the campfire! Finally everything was ready and eighteen of us crowded around the table while Mr. Hodges offered the blessing. Then, with plates loaded to the brim, everyone sat down and ate his fill. To top it off were lemonade with cherries in it and strawberry ice cream made by Mr. and Mrs. Hodges, the class sponsors.

After supper, everyone made a dash to the field for a ball game. One by one the tired young people dropped out. After strolling around or wading the creek for a while, it was time to start home.

The breeze was cool but it was a pleasant evening when fourteen tired Juniors arrived home singing the school song. There was no doubt in anyone's mind about it! We all had a good time!

-- Mary Willmott

FIELD DAY IN AGRICULTURE AND MECHANICAL ARTS

At 7:30 o'clock the evening of May 1st, four Fletcher students accompanied by Mr. Clayton Hodges, marched into the chapel at Madison College for the opening exercises of the first Agricultural Youth Congress.

Starting the next morning at 7:30 we had a full day visiting the different vocational departments and taking part in several contests. We were proud of three of our boys when the prizes were awarded. Marshall Johnston won first prize in the seed identification contest. Clarence Twombly took first prize in the rafter cutting contest, and Vester Elrod won second prize in cattle judging. After the busy day we were tired but not too tired to look forward to the next congress.

-- Vester Elrod

OUR ANNUAL PIANO RECITAL - May 5, 1949

"Mr. Piano, you seem to be sad today," said Miss Organ as they stood facing each other in the quiet chapel the morning after the recital.

"No, Miss Organ. I am not sad. I am just lonely. As a matter of fact I am a very proud piano, for I feel that each of my masters gave a very excellent performance Thursday night. But how I miss them, running in and out before breakfast, between classes, and late at night to play over their recital pieces! Now that the big night is over, don't you think, Miss Organ, that they really did well?"

Yes, students, you really put on a wonderful performance- all thirty-one of you! Doesn't it make you feel good to know it is all over and that it was so well done, too? Hats off to you as individuals and as a group! We are certainly anticipating another "concert" (as one of our patients called it) next year.

-- Betty Jo Abbott

SWEET MUSIC FROM THE OAKWOOD COLLEGE SINGERS

On May 2nd we were favored with a musical treat by the Oakwood College Male Chorus from Huntsville, Alabama, under the direction of Elder C. B. Mosley and accompanied by Miss Rose Marie Vaughan.

The chorus gave us an evening of excellent entertainment consisting of religious and secular music. The program opened with the singing of their theme song, "The City of Light". Miss Vaughan played a piano solo, "Impromptu" by Brahms. A reading, "Walk by Faith and not by Sight" was graphically given by one of the bass singers. Miss Betty Bradley was featured as a soloist and sang Malotte's, "The Lord's Prayer." A group of spirituals brought the evening to a close, their final number being "Swing Los, Sweet Chariot." A warm welcome always awaits these talented young people.

-- Ailene Tipton

WEDDING BELLS

HICKS-PICHLER Ruby Virginia Hicks and Floyd Lester Pichler, M.D., Class of '41, were united in marriage Thursday evening, June 30th, in the Seventh-day Adventist church in Jacksonville, Florida. Immediately following the ceremony a reception was held at the Woman's Club. We wish Dr. and Mrs. Pichler much happiness as they begin their journey through life together.

WALLACE-O'FILL A lovely garden wedding took place in Angwin, California, the late afternoon of May 29th at which time Lyle Marie Wallace, Class of '43, became the bride of Mr. John Charles Stockdale-O'fill. Lyle Marie had as one of her attendants her little sister Lou Ann. Mr. and Mrs. O'fill are locating in Covington, Kentucky this fall to connect with our junior academy there. Our sincerest best wishes go with this young couple also.

NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sego left our campus this spring to locate at Madison, Tenn. Mr. Sego now is in charge of the men's treatment room and Mrs. Sego is nursing.

Soon after the close of our school, Mr. and Mrs. Jaspersen left for Washington to attend the graduation of their son Bob from Washington Missionary College. Another alumna of our school, Miss Eloise Wynn, was also in the graduating class.

At the more northern campus of Emmanuel Missionary College, Jack Carey, another former student, participated in the commencement exercises. Congratulations to all these young people upon the completion of their college work!

Our Miss Patterson has been happy to have with her this summer, her niece, Mrs. Nina Godsey, and daughter Dorothy, from Springfield, Missouri.

Many who have heard of little Billy Lewis's recent siege with rheumatic fever will be happy to know that he is much improved and is able to enjoy a limited amount of activity. Billy is the younger son of Vernon Lewis, assistant farm manager.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hodges with daughter Karen and son, Mikey, have just returned from vacationing in Canada where they visited Mrs. Hodge's relatives.

Two members of the high school faculty availed themselves of summer school study at the George Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, Tennessee. Mrs. Jaspersen took work in the field of Education while Mrs. Boggs took further work in her chosen field of Music.

Of special interest to many on our campus was the week-long visit of Miss Mary Lamson, who, with her niece, Mrs. John M. Janson and family came to see the wonders of our "Land of the Sky". Their visit is pleasantly remembered and it is hoped they will come again.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hansen, Edwin and Bobby, went on rather an extended vacation trip visiting relatives in Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Edwin is now settled at Emmanuel Missionary College where he plans to attend school next year.

Mrs. Allan Dickson of Elk Mound, Wisconsin, flew down from Richmond, Virginia, to be the guest of her sister, Mrs. Jasperson, for a week.

We have been happy to welcome to our institutional family several new workers. From Forsythe, Missouri came Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Love and son David. On Mr. Love's shoulders has fallen the mantle Mr. Sego wore as baker for the campus. Mrs. Love now supervises the Sanitarium kitchen, and little David helps in the bakery and store. Miss Ruth I. Behner, formerly of Miami, Florida, is now connected with the laboratory as technician. Pinch-hitting as operating room technician for Mrs. Etta Parish who is enjoying a leave of absence for a time, is Miss Esther Lindberg, from Springfield, Massachusetts. Our latest additions are Mr. and Mrs. John Black and little daughter Nena. Mr. Black who was graduated from our school in 1941 has taken up his work in the business office of the institution.

HISTORY IS BEING MADE!

In the area behind the Big House a crew of men and boys have wrecked the ancient buildings that have been used for laundry and sewing room, and are clearing the ground for the new dining room and kitchen which will rise on the spot. Incidentally, Rumbough Hall is proud of its shining coat of white paint. So are we all.

SYMPATHY

Edward Winfield Watkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Watkins of our community, was born September 24, 1927, and met his death by drowning, July 2, 1949. We have known "Buddy" (as he was called) as a neighbor all his life, and as a student in both grade and high schools many of those years. The funeral was held in the school chapel.

To the immediate family and many relatives who mourn, we extend our deep and sincere sympathy.

NEW ARRIVALS

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Witt of Southern Missionary College announce the arrival of Anna Paulotte, February 17, 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Graves of Washington Missionary College announce the arrival of another son, but we have mislaid the card and can't tell you when!

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Neece are the proud parents of a daughter, Carolyn Frances, born June 11, 1949. Mrs. Neece will be remembered as Lalah Ray, Class of '37.

GUEST LIST

Commencement time brought many visitors to our campus as usual, among whom we saw the following:

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Oliver from Rockwell, North Carolina; Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Reed and daughter Belva from Knoxville, Tennessee; Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Rouse and baby daughter from Columbus, Georgia; Mrs. H. J. Harris from Columbus, Georgia; Mrs. E. J. Dempsey and son Buddy from Waterbury, Connecticut; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Haviland Jr. and triplet daughters from Brinklow, Maryland; Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Draper and five children from Galion, Ohio; Mr. Sydney King of Keene, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Tipton and daughter Doris from Johnson City, Tennessee; Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Haviland and children from Brookville, Maryland, and Mrs. J. V. Everett and daughter, Mrs. M. E. Waggoner from Florence, Mississippi.

It had been a long time since many of us had seen McKinley Cheshire who is now located in California giving his entire time to commercial flying.

Earlier this summer we had as guests, Mrs. Smith's daughter, Cordie Lee and her husband, Mr. Robert W. Montgomery of Washington, D. C. With them came Florence Hudson now located at Hartford, Connecticut.