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Shelby Daily Star

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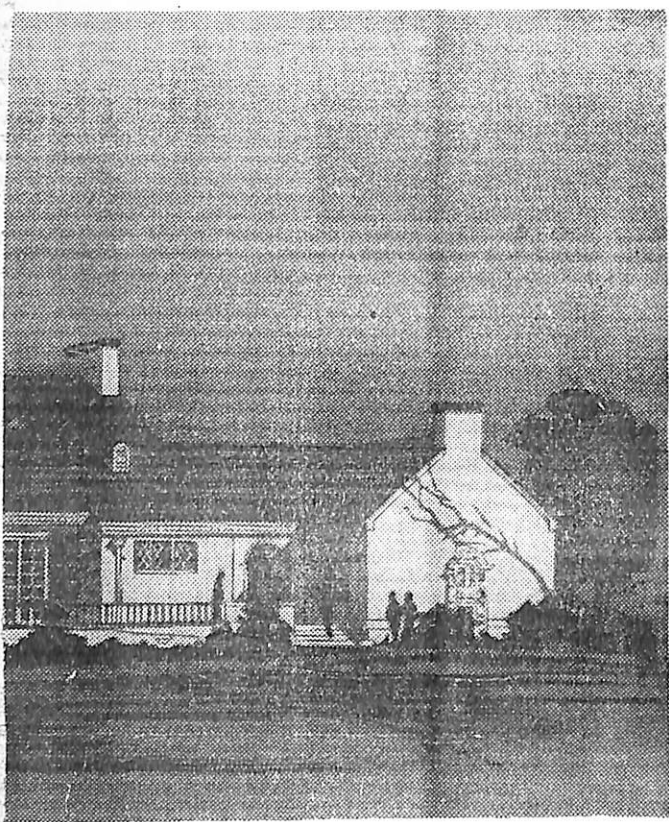
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# Shelby Daily Star

December 10, 1948

## ...ring Its Broadening Area Well



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...h year. The Huggins-Curtis Springs and Zion Baptist churches. ...tration, which took over in ... of 1914 and lasted until ... of 1928, experienced an ... years of a national depression. Yet,

torlan abilities. To be exact, the income from the skeleton-like endowment was administered in the following manner, which reads like the story from some far away and perhaps cursed land: 10% of the income was set aside for liquidating the college's debt; anywhere from 70 to 90% of the income was used in buying food, paying for athletic equipment, meeting the light, water, and fuel bills, and handling the general necessary upkeep; and "what was left" was prorated among the faculty and administrative personnel in the form of salaries.

It was not a completely barren picture during these hungry years, however, for the Boiling Springs Junior College football team won the state championship twice under the Jenkins administration, and the debate squad took honors in various parts of the state around the same time. According to those who were at the wheel of what some branded a hopeless endeavor at this time, the little Cleveland County village institution assumed the form of a ship in storm and the faculty and students the form of a loyal crew huddled together.

It may have been a ship in storm; it may have been a huddled crew; but, according to those who were on the ship and among the crew, the people involved went about their task of keeping afloat with the spirit of genuine happiness and the loyalty of determined effort.

A. C. Lovelace succeeded Jenkins as president from 1935 until 1936,

essarily adopted to pay off the laborers who were venering the gymnasium. The college president went to individual sources, week by week, to solicit enough funds to pay the laborers each Saturday. **MATURITY COMES**

The maturity of the institution came, however, through stimulation of a new name and the tangible material boost of a liberal leader and an awakened community interest in 1942. There was a successful campaign to raise \$150,000, during which the campus was extended from five to thirty-five acres; the Washburn Memorial Library was erected; the world war memorial building was refinished and refurnished, along with the two dormitories of that time; and the official change in the college's name from Boiling Springs Junior College to Gardner-Webb College was enacted in June, 1942.

The late O. Max Gardner gave his name to the college after demonstrating his interest in the school through the provision of fifty scholarships for deserving high school graduates in this section. According to the late international statesman, this experience increased Gardner's conviction of the definite mission of the junior college.

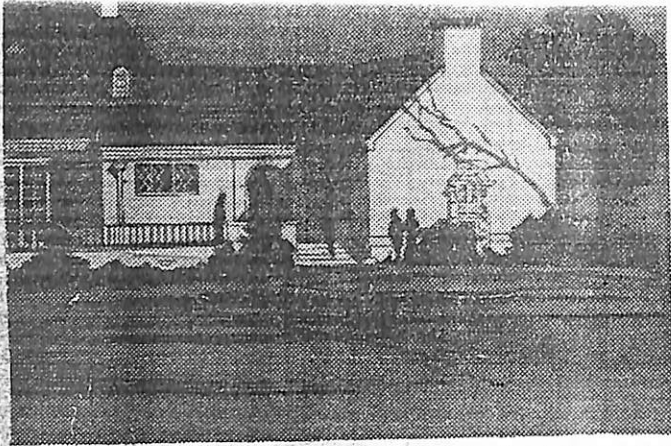
It was not unusual to see Max Gardner often become wrapped up in conversation about the Boiling Springs institution and the possibilities within its future. The former governor became interested in the junior college while working on the consolidation move

The story of Gardner-Webb's president, Philip L. Elliott, serve as a wholesome impetus to the determinations and ambitions that are typical of the boys and girls whom the college seeks to serve. Elliott, who went on to graduate from Wake Forest College, received his master's degree from the University of North Carolina and later extended his graduate studies at Johns Hopkins and Duke. Listed in *Who's Who in America*, President Elliott has molded his five year administration into a system of determined vision that is answering every need of a recent mature institution.

The birth and growth of the college, briefly covered here, can possibly be most adequately interpreted through a brief study of the maturity and vision of what is now the new Gardner-Webb College.

After changing the name in 1942 and inaugurating a new president in 1943, the trustees and administration of the Boiling Springs institution launched a campaign to raise \$500,000 as a memorial building fund which has been successful, and immediately set up an expansion policy which has reached into every field of collegiate development, such as, a ... and improvement program, like in scholastic standards, the assembly of a competent faculty, the induction of an outstanding guidance program and the accumulated plans of a NEW five year expansion program.

The first five years of the present administration have seen ov



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n year. The Huggins-Curtis administration, which took over in 1914 and lasted until 1928, experienced an enrollment of 252 students the years. the completion of a successful fund-raising campaign in the Boiling Springs High was converted to a junior college in 1928, carrying the same name and inaugurating J. Davis as the first president and D. Huggins as dean.

**INDUOUS STRUGGLE**

story of the college from the early 1940's is that of a death struggle. Dr. Zeno succeeded J. B. Davis as president in 1930. Wall, serving as president of the Shelby First Baptist at the time, shared the two duties by leaving most of the administrative and work in the hands of the business manager and dean. Wall was succeeded by Rev. L. Jenkins who took over the presidency in 1932. Mr. Jenkins, an active pastor, accepted in addition to his positions with the Boiling

Springs and Zion Baptist churches. President Jenkins' administration faced a large debt in the lean years of a national depression. Yet, the three years between 1932 and 1935 saw the college produce a creditable enrollment for the times based on a yearly average of 125 students.

Frustrations and setbacks of the early and middle thirties still linger vividly in the hearts of many veteran supporters of the Boiling Springs institution. The hopes of that day weren't based on making ends meet; in fact, the officials rejoiced when they could make the ends come anywhere within sight of each other.

**GOING WAS TOUGH**

The struggle of the students and the faculty through those tedious years is a story within a story in this young epic. Teachers lived on \$30.00 and less a month, or on food sent in from the surrounding farms. Students were solicited under the most urgent circumstances, even unto the offer of meager scholarships for everything from football talent to valedic-

It was not a completely barren picture during these hungry years, however, for the Boiling Springs Junior College football team won the state championship twice under the Jenkins administration, and the debate squad took honors in various parts of the state around the same time. According to those who were at the wheel of what some branded a hopeless endeavor at this time, the little Cleveland County village institution assumed the form of a ship in storm and the faculty and students the form of a loyal crew huddled together.

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A. C. Lovelace succeeded Jenkins as president from 1935 until 1936, at which time George J. Burnette took over the presidency. The Burnette administration, which lasted until 1939, experienced additions in both faculty and curriculum. During this time, the original E. B. Hamrick building, a memorial to the Cleveland area World War I dead, burned. This administration also stimulated the college choir work through the direction of Mrs. Burnette, and choir broadcasts and tours to the regional churches were made.

J. R. Cantrell became college president in 1939 and remained until beginning of the present administration in 1943. There was little change in the physical plant until 1939, at which time the buildings were partially renovated and beautified. Native stone was used to veneer the gymnasium, and by 1940 the E. B. Hamrick building was being reconstructed. An interesting sidelight in the building efforts of this time is revealed through the means that were nec-

memorial building was refurnished and refurbished, along with the two dormitories of that time; and the official change in the college's name from Boiling Springs Junior College to Gardner-Webb College was enacted in June, 1942.

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It was not unusual to see Max Gardner often become wrapped up in conversation about the Boiling Springs institution and the possibilities within its future. The former governor became interested in the junior college while working on the consolidation move that created the Greater University of North Carolina. As a firm supporter of universal education, Gardner offered the practical opinion that a regular college education is not within reach of everyone and that a high standard two-year college program is better suited to many individual cases.

In extending his support, Governor Gardner suggested that the title of the institution be divided between his own family name and that of his wife's family, the Webbs.

#### ELLIOT COMES IN

The climax of this epic has not been realized; it has only been envisioned through the induction of a new administration one year after Max Gardner gave his name and material support to the school—an administration headed by a man who walked 20 miles across North Carolina mountains to seek an education in a Graham county mission school after he was grown.

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The first five years of the present administration have seen over a million dollars collected and spent on buildings and improvements, or put in trust as endowment; a building program which included the construction of seventeen new buildings; the grading of a seven-acre athletic and physical education field, and the grading and landscaping of the entire campus; the building of tennis courts; the opening up, landscaping, and partially developing of a twenty-acre teacher residential section.

#### 17 NEW BUILDINGS

Out of the seventeen new buildings constructed during this time, four are brick residential duplexes; six are prefabricated student apartment buildings, including 37 housing units; one is a temporary library; one is a day student study hall; three are dormitory units; one is a quonset hut used as a supply room and superintendents building; and the O. Max Gardner

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