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Newsclipping - Gardner-Webb College Dedicates New Memorial Structure Today; Senator Clyde Hoey To Be Main Speaker

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Senator Clyde Hoey To Be Main Speaker

Gardner-Webb College Dedicates New Memorial Structure Today

Student Union Will Stand as Tribute to the Late O. Max Gardner Who Gave School Its First Real Break In Life.

BY SANTFORD MARTIN, JR.

BOILING SPRINGS, April 16. Tomorrow, North Carolina's senior United States senator, Clyde R. Hoey, will deliver a major dedicatory tribute to his friend and compatriot, the man who gave Gardner-Webb college its first real break in life, the late Ambassador O. Max Gardner.

This Easter Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Senator Hoey will address a campus audience gathered to dedicate the new O. Max Gardner Memorial Student Union of Gardner-Webb college and to remember the late Ambassador O. Max Gardner of Washington, D. C., but closer still, Lawyer O. Max of Cleveland county, North Carolina.

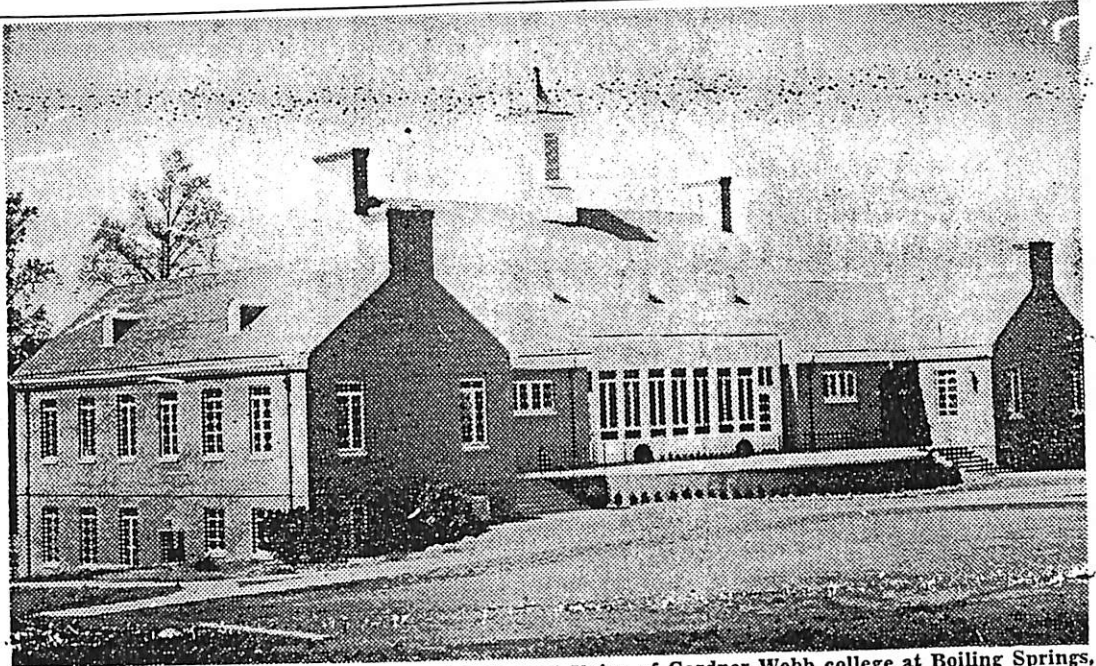
Among the many Gardner friends of Washington, the Honorable Fred M. Vinson, chief justice of the United States, Undersecretary of State James E. Webb, and Georgia's Senator Walter George have expressed to Mrs. O. Max Gardner personal wishes of success for the ceremony honoring the man who initiated the revitalization of a county-known institution into a state-wide, and now South-wide junior college of notable reputation for progress.

OTHER SPEAKERS

Other principal speakers for the dedication are: Mrs. O. Max Gardner, wife of the late ambassador; Holt McPherson, managing editor of the Shelby Daily Star; Dr. W. Wyan Washburn, chairman of the college board of trustees; P. L. Elliott, president of the college; and Ben C. Fisher, executive assistant to the college president.

Washington friends, state and regional leaders, trustees of the college, faculty members, the entire student body, and out-of-state friends of the late Tar Heel governor will participate in the dedication ceremonies.

This day of dedication for the new O. Max Gardner Memorial Student Union of Gardner-Webb college, the latest quality in college student centers, marks the midway point in what the college's president, Phil L. Elliott, likes to call the first Gardner-Webb decade of growth, and above all, it dedicates a major step toward the adequate junior college facilities for which the late international humanitarian gave so much to so many at such a critical time in the educational history of deserving southern youth.



This is the new O. Max Gardner Memorial Student Union of Gardner-Webb college at Boiling Springs, the initial memorial to the man who started the revitalization of the college in 1942. Colonial in design, the building represents the latest in collegiate student centers.



This was the first structure to be built on Gardner-Webb college campus—traditional Huggins-Curtis Memorial hall for men, used both as an academic and housing building while the college was a private high school from 1905 to 1928. This recent photo shows the renovation and upkeep care that has been taken of the structure.

This new women's dormitory at Gardner-Webb was completed in the summer of 1948, offering the latest in fireproof housing facilities as well as a main parlor, parlorettes and kitchenettes for social activities.



GARDNER MEMORIAL STUDENT UNION

GARDNER, Gov. O. MAX

CONDUCTED SURVEY

Seven years ago, an educational advisory committee led by Colonel J. W. Harrelson, chancellor of North Carolina State college, and Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, director of instructional service for the State Department of Public Instruction, was invited by Ambassador Gardner to visit Gardner-Webb and analyze the expansion needs of the college.

A few weeks ago, the Harrelson-Highsmith team returned on the invitation of President Elliott and declared that "Gardner-Webb college has advanced more in the last seven years than most colleges advance in 15 years."

The committee report added: "The faith that the late O. Max Gardner had in his neighbors and friends of the institution has been justified. His dream is coming true. There is a real job for Gardner-Webb to do. The foundation has been laid for a real achievement and a high order of service."

Six years ago when President P. L. Elliott answered the late Max Gardner's call to Boiling Springs as the new president of Gardner-Webb college, he initiated his administration with approximately 12 teachers and 71 students, 25 of whom had been given \$200 scholarships by Ambassador Gardner to attend college and all of whom came from an area 20-miles radius of the campus.

AT THE CROSSROADS.

Included among these meager facilities were 35 acres of campus land, which had just been extended from five acres the year before Elliott arrived, and four buildings in need of refurbishings and renovation. Also, the college was a member of neither an accredited nor an honorary collegiate association, and was not officially recognized out of the two Baptist associations, the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run groups, that had chartered and nourished it through the years. In short, Gardner-Webb, which had been Boiling Springs Junior college for years before Max Gardner extended his support, was at the crossroads in a number of senses, and the late ambassador realized this when he opened his heart to the college in 1942—and not in vain, for what Max Gardner dreamed of in 1942 is coming true in 1949.

Today Gardner-Webb college has a record enrollment of 425 students, showing a 426 per cent increase in the last five years and representing an area covering 40 North Carolina counties, three states, and one Territory of the United States. It's a far cry from an area 20-miles radius of the campus to an area reaching from Martin county in the East to Cherokee in the West and Surry county in the North to Union in the South.

RAPID INCREASE.

Today Gardner-Webb has a faculty of 28 instructors, representing a 100 per cent increase in six years, with those teachers holding advanced degrees increasing over 500 per cent. A notable Department of Guidance, directed by a former

foreign missionary and widely-known psychologist, Dr. Robert A. Dyer, has been added to the regular curriculum.

Today the immediate campus includes 70 acres, with approximately 1,100 additional acres of farm and forest lands available for both income and instructional purposes. Twenty of these acres have also been set aside for development as a faculty residence division, and a seven-acre athletic field, as well as tennis courts, has been added to the campus landscape.

The housing and administrative

buildings on the immediate campus have doubled since Max Gardner and Phil Elliott strolled from one potential building site to another dreaming of the campus that was only a dream in those days. Today there is a new women's dormitory, a new Washburn commercial building, a new men's dormitory under construction for next fall, and the newly-finished Gardner Memorial student union.

In all, over \$950,000 has been raised and spent in the past five years on new buildings and for the landscaping and improvement of the campus. Eighteen buildings have been erected, nine permanent and nine temporary, including faculty duplexes and G. I. apartments, as well as the temporary library and the manual training shop.

CAMPAIGN COMPLETED

An endowment campaign for \$250,000 was completed last fall. This brought the grand total of funds raised and expended during the first half of Gardner-Webb's latest decade of growth to over \$1,200,000, with three-fourths being raised within 20 miles of the campus. These achievements brought Gardner-Webb into official junior college membership of the North Carolina Baptist State convention last fall.

The pinnacle of scholastic honors came last December through membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary schools, putting Gardner-Webb on scholastic par with all accredited colleges of the nation. The college also became a member of the American Association of Junior colleges, as well as the North Carolina College conference. As a part of these honors to the institution, Gardner-Webb's president, Phil L. Elliott, last fall was given a place in the A. N. Marquis "Who's Who in America" directory.

A few months ago Gardner-Webb was extended an invitation to join the American Council on Education by the president of that agency, Dr. George F. Zook, of Washington, D. C. Also, the unusual record of growth by the college was presented in the December issue of the "Junior College Journal," official organ of the American Association of Junior Colleges of Washington, D. C., as well as "The Educator," official monthly of the Southern Baptist Education commission of Waco, Texas.

Perhaps it can be said in the light of this unusual record that the

dedication of the O. Max Gardner Memorial student union this afternoon marks the realization of nearly half the dreams the late North Carolina governor held for the Boiling Springs institution.

A portion of the Gardner dreams are included in the plant addition recommendations suggested in the Harrelson-Highsmith report: The immediate construction of the new men's dormitory, a new central heating plant, the new Dover library, and the new J. W. Gardner Memorial gymnasium. And the remaining Gardner dreams are included in the following plans: an adequate infirmary, or community health center, now being planned on the basis of \$20,000 gift from Dr. Royster of Shelby and a government-approved gift of equipment with which to furnish it; additional housing facilities for the faculty; and a science building.

An estimated \$235,000 worth of building has already been started in this new latter half of the first Gardner-Webb decade of growth, including the new men's dormitory now under construction and the new president's home near completion. So far every goal set has been reached and in notable instances surpassed. Included in the needs of this new expansion phase is an additional endowment of \$250,000, which brings the new program estimates to a total of \$1,080,000.

According to President Elliott, the actual expansion and the future plans here revealed are not dreams when it is recognized that "the college is already putting into the economic blood stream of the South more than \$200,000 a year"—a sum representing a capital investment equal to the interest on \$4 million at 5 per cent.

Accompanying the "faith that the late O. Max Gardner had in his neighbors and friends of the institution" are the eloquently expressed hopes extended to the late ambassador in 1942 by a late friend who envisioned adequately the notable epic of educational opportunity that has been unveiling itself on this Cleveland county foothill since Max Gardner's revitalizing support of what has now become one of the most progressive junior colleges in the South:

"Dear Max, I want to congratulate you on the far-sighted vision which prompted your generous gift of ten thousand dollars to establish scholarships for promising boys and



O. MAX GARDNER.

girls in the Boiling Springs Junior college.

"This is an act of faith in the future which should be an inspiration to friends of education everywhere. I am glad to know, also, that it is your purpose, in establishing this foundation, to encourage the young men and women who are to be its beneficiaries to acquire skill of hand while pursuing the liberal arts. Since the college is located in the center of an industrial-agricultural area, the training which the scholarships will afford should be of real value to the communities from which the students are drawn.

"I hope the undertaking meets with the success which its high purpose merits. Very sincerely yours, Franklin D. Roosevelt."