1-1-1929

Wofford College Bulletin, January 1929

Wofford College

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The Seventy-fifth Anniversary

In THE 2nd day of December, 1850, the Reverend Benjamin Wofford died in the City of Spartanburg, leaving $100,000 "for the purpose of establishing and endowing a college for literary, classical, and scientific education." It was chartered by the legislature of South Carolina, December 6, 1851. On November 24, 1853, a president, Dr. W. M. Wightman, and four professors, Dr. A. M. Shipp, English Literature; David Duncan, Latin and Greek Languages; Warren DuPre, Natural Science; James H. Carlisle, Mathematics; and H. Baer, Principal of Preparatory Department, were elected. With the completion of its buildings—a main building, a president's home, and four professors' homes—it opened its doors for students August 1, 1854. Thirty-four students entered the new college.

The first day of August, 1929, will, therefore, mark the seventy-fifth year of the history of Wofford College. In all these years it has never closed its doors. Even during the War between the States, 1861-1865, and the lean years of the Reconstruction Period, 1866-1876, it offered to the youth of the State what educational opportunities it had, though its endowment had vanished and its equipment and resources reduced apparently quite beyond restoration.

Slowly, however, through years of struggle and sacrifice on the part of those who loved it, appreciated its service and had faith in its future, its endowment has been increased and its resources and equipment gradually built up. Today the physical plant is valued at $701,703.71 and its endowment is $739,526.36—making a total worth of $1,441,230.07.

The significant thing about this accumulation of values during the nearly seventy-five years of the history of Wofford is the fact that with the exception of the original $100,000 from Mr. Wofford, $200,000 from the General Education Board and $100,000 from Mr. B. N. Duke, what are called large gifts are not a part of it. By the comparatively small contributions of many people have the resources and endowment of Wofford been built up. No great "windfalls" in the form of legacies or gifts have come to increase suddenly its wealth for the quick expansion and enlargement of its educational service. In a true sense, Wofford is an institution that has simply grown, and that gradually, though hardly in keeping with its needs and the requirements of the size of its student body.

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

There are few institutions, in spite of its always limited resources, that have rendered a larger service to South Carolina and the South than has Wofford. It has been properly said that Wofford is a small college with a great history—great chiefly because it has kept faith with the fundamental things of scholarship and character. Holding to high intellectual ideals, it has been loyal also to those spiritual ideals that mean so much to manhood.

The celebration of three-quarters of a century of history in 1929, the Diamond Jubilee, of an institution with a record of such a rich and beneficent service should be made a significant occasion. And the occasion should be made significant not only by recounting the story of a past singularly fruitful in educational achievement, but also by considering means and methods of rendering this achievement even more fruitful in the future. There is only one way to do this, and that is to increase its equipment and endowment that it will be better prepared for the task it is called to perform.

This is a matter not of past accomplishments, however important these may be, but of more and better buildings and of a larger endowment. The measure that is placed upon the worth of the past is found in the contributions that are made to add to this worth in the future. The real, the constructive celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Wofford, therefore, ought to be expressed in terms of a cooperative movement on the part of all who appreciate good work and service to increase its resources and equipment. Such a movement might consider the following needs:

1. IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT PLANT—

   This will involve the following items:
   (a) Repairs on all buildings.
   (b) Renovation and replacement of furniture and equipment.
(c) Reconstruction of dormitories for the better accommodation of more students.
(d) Improvement of the Campus.

2. A Central Dining-Room and Kitchen—
In the interest of service and economy, the two dining-halls now conducted ought to be consolidated into one, in which all students should meet together at meal time. Besides, the space now used for dining-room in the two dormitories could be converted into dormitory space.

3. A Central Heating Plant—
The satisfactory and economical heating of all the Wofford buildings can only be effected by one central heating plant.

4. Another Dormitory—
It will not be long before Wofford will need at least one more dormitory to take care of its student body. An increase of no more than seventy-five students will make this necessary.

5. Administrative Building—
Class-room facilities and office accommodations have already reached their limit. A building especially adapted to these purposes will have to be provided in the near future.

6. Athletic Grounds—
Ample playing fields for all sorts of outdoor sports are vital to the life and progress of a modern college. Certainly the facilities at Wofford are far from being adequate, and there is need of considerable development in this direction if Wofford would keep step with other institutions of like rank and give to its students the opportunities they ought to have for all-round physical training.

7. Endowment—
An endowment of $1,000,000 is the very least amount upon which a college the size of Wofford can be expected to operate efficiently if it would meet satisfactorily its strictly educational obligations in the matter of an adequate teaching force—adequate both in their number and in the quality of their training. The endowment at present amounts to approximately $700,000, and $300,000 will thus be needed to bring it to the required $1,000,000.

The dates agreed upon for the special celebration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary are October 18, 19 and 20, 1929. The plans under consideration look to making the occasion significant not only as a commemoration of the service of Wofford, but also a genuine contribution to educational thought and experience. Distinguished speakers from all sections of the country will be invited to discuss important phases of the mission and worth in particular of the Liberal Arts College, of which Wofford is an outstanding type.

THE ALUMNI AND THE ANNIVERSARY
But nothing will be more significant in the anniversary occasion than the presence of the Alumni of the College. The effort will be made to have on the Campus during the days of the celebration every man who has ever been a student at Wofford, both those who graduated and those who did not. The gathering of the Alumni will be the chief exhibit of the service of Wofford and the largest tribute to its worth.
To help in making this gathering of Alumni the largest group of the kind ever brought together in this section, the State has been divided into districts, and from each district have been appointed special committees whose duties it will be to hold preliminary meetings to complete the rolls from each of the counties in the district and to enlist the interest and cooperation of all in the coming together of everybody in October, 1929.
The following are the districts with the committees that have been appointed from each:

District No. 1—Greenville and Pickens—
W. A. Merritt, Greenville.
Carl Morgan, Greenville.
George Brunson, Greenville.
W. L. Bozeman, Greenville.
J. J. McFall, Pickens.

District No. 2—Anderson and Oconee—
T. Frank Watkins, Anderson.
Sam Prince, Anderson.
District No. 3—Abbeville-McCormick-Greenwood—
J. C. Smith, Greenwood.
A. E. Taylor, Greenwood.
J. C. Harper, Greenwood.
G. C. Hodges, Greenwood.
S. C. Hodges, Greenwood.

District No. 4—Lexington-Saluda-Aiken-Edgefield—
B. W. Crouch, Saluda.
J. C. Watson, Ridge Spring.
T. B. Greneker, Edgefield.
W. P. Rushton, Johnston.
S. A. George, Lexington.
W. J. McGarity, Aiken.
W. W. Steadman, Ridge Spring.
H. G. Eidson, Johnston.

District No. 5—Laurens and Newberry—
Rice Nickles, Laurens.
B. H. Boyd, Clinton.
R. T. Wilston, Laurens.
P. H. Huff, Laurens.
H. B. Kinard, Ninety-Six.

District No. 6—Chester-York-Lancaster—
J. H. Glenn, Chester.
Robt. Gage, Chester.
J. D. Grist, York.
J. C. Hardin, Rock Hill.
George Beach, Rock Hill.
Lyles Glenn, Chester.

District No. 7—Marlboro—
Frank Tatum, McColl.
Eustis Miller, Bennettsville.
J. C. Covington, Clio.
A. B. Rivers, Chesterfield.
THE PRESENT SESSION

The 1928-29 session, in spite of floods and the resulting financial disaster to parts of the State, opened satisfactorily with an enrollment of 415, and this number, with the 38 special M. A. students, makes a total enrollment of 453.

ATHLETICS

Several worth while matters mark the present session. Naturally, everybody is thinking of the rather extraordinary development of football at Wofford within the last two years. Within this comparatively short period from being the State's "door mat", Wofford has mounted to the top—playing ten games and winning seven, losing two and tying one. The climax of the season was the Home-Coming game with the Citadel. More than three thousand people saw this game, the largest crowd ever assembled on the Wofford grounds. Among them were many Alumni from all over South Carolina and neighboring States, and from every standpoint the day was a happy one—perfect weather, fine fellowship, a good barbecue, a picturesque and exciting game that furnished every kind of thrill a lover of football might desire. It was a happy ending to a reasonably successful season.

THE NEW ANDREWS FIELD HOUSE

Mr. Isaac Andrews of Spartanburg has pledged $20,000 toward an adequate and appropriate building for indoor sports of all kinds. Such a building has been long needed at Wofford, and plans have been drawn, and work begun on it. It will be ready for use in the early spring. It will be 138 by 109 feet, will have a playing field large enough for and adapted to all indoor sports, a plentiful supply of lockers and showers, and a seating capacity for 1,800 people. This building will be an important addition to the educational service of the College.
LITERARY SOCIETIES

With all colleges, Wofford has shared in the general slump in interest in literary societies. Nowhere do these organizations, once so active in college life, seem to appeal in a vital way to the interests of students. After careful consideration of the whole matter for a period of years, the Faculty, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, passed the following new regulations:

"It is the conviction of the Literary Society Committee that the societies have reached a point of such low efficiency that some change must be made in the administration of their organization.

"The Committee recommends that, as an experiment, membership be compulsory for Freshmen only, but one year of membership shall be necessary for graduation for students entering advanced classes; that a report showing the number of meetings of each society, number of absences against each first-year member, and the number of times he has satisfactorily performed duty, shall be submitted by each society secretary to the Committee on Literary Societies before the first examination at the close of every term; that society diplomas shall be issued to those who have elected to remain members for two years beyond the one required; that no student may represent the College in any Debate, Declamation or Oratorical Contest who is not a member of one of the societies; and only members of societies shall be eligible to courses in Debate and Public Speaking offered in the Department of English."

Under these regulations the societies are now working, but it is too early yet to make even an estimate of the practical results.

WOFFORD AND THE PROFESSIONS

Though fundamentally a Liberal Arts College, there are courses at Wofford organized to give the preliminary training needed for a study of the professions—Law, Medicine, Preaching, Teaching and Engineering. For Engineering, for example, there are courses in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Drawing, Surveying and Electricity, with adequate laboratories, that furnish an appropriate preparation. A similar organization of courses can be made as a preparation for the other professions mentioned. Wofford takes the position, along with the best educational thought of the day, that the great human pursuits are not merely trades by which men make a living, but are really professions through which they make a living, live a life, and serve the public. In this sense, they need the broadening influence of what is called a Liberal Education while at the same time they may have the opportunity of exploring the meaning of their profession. Of course, if Engineering is just wiring buildings, mixing concrete, carrying rods, grading highways, not even a college degree is needed. If, however, the engineer is to share in the mastery of the forces of nature for the purposes of serving efficiently an industrial civilization, his pursuit is transformed into one of the learned professions, and to meet its obligations he, too, must prepare himself with a liberal education just as the lawyer, the doctor, the preacher, and the teacher does.

THE TRUSTEES OF WOFFORD COLLEGE

Under the requirements of its Charter, the Trustees of Wofford are elected by the South Carolina Conferences every two years. At their recent sessions the following were re-elected: Judge B. Hart Moss, Orangeburg; Dr. James W. Kilgo, Darlington; Mr. Thomas W. Carroll, Charleston; Mr. H. B. Carlisle, Spartanburg; Reverend Peter Stokes, Sumter; Mr. W. F. Stackhouse, Marion; Dr. D. M. McLeod, Charleston; Dr. W. C. Kirkland, Beaufort; Reverend J. R. T. Major, Laurens; Mr. A. M. Chreitzberg, Spartanburg; Reverend George C. Leonard, Union; Mr. J. B. Humbert, Seneca; and Mr. John A. Law, Spartanburg. Judge Moss is Chairman of the Board and Dr. J. W. Kilgo is its Secretary.

This is the group of men who for many years have been steadily working for the advancement of Wofford. They have given to this service a high degree of patient, loyal, and intelligent labor.