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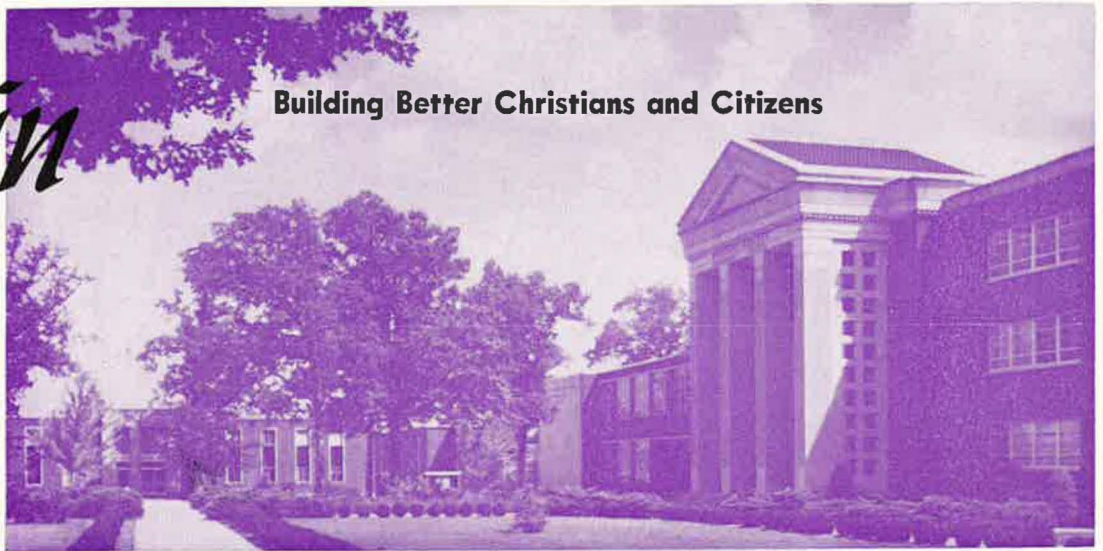
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Bulletin

HARDING COLLEGE

Building Better Christians and Citizens



VOLUME XXXVI

JUNE 1961

NUMBER 18

Dixon Tells 145 Graduates Why America Is Great

Pat Boone, in Baccalaureate Address Stresses Importance of Little Decisions

At graduation exercises on June 1, H. A. Dixon, president of Freed-Hardeman College, told 145 degree candidates and 1000 others that, in spite of what some are saying, America is a first-rate nation.

He said, "We are in a race to get ahead today, and it seems that the race to space is every aspect of human endeavor. Space seems to be the answer to the control of the world."

Even though some have said America is second-rate in some scientific fields, we have first-rate advantages that other nations do not enjoy, Dixon explained. Among the advantages he listed were better education, greater life expectancy, higher literacy rate, moral leadership,

and above all, respect for the Creator of the world.

Reasons for Advantages

"We have these advantages for three reasons," he said. First he noted the Declaration of Independence that points up the worth of the individual, then the Constitution which certifies the right of the individual.

"But the first two are dependent on the third reason," he said, "which is the Bible. We trace all our advantages to God. In fact, every system of ethics, every form of law borrows from God's revelation."

Continuing with a series of self-answering questions he queried "Will we continue ahead in these areas? Any system that fails to teach basic right and fails to warn against evil will not last. We must not lose sight of humanity in the science race.

"If the world came into existence and made progress based on love and service to the Lord, doesn't it follow that it can't continue to leave the Lord out of the plan?"

Receives Honorary Degree

Besides conferring Bachelor of Arts degrees to 109, Bachelor of Science to 31 and Master of Arts in teaching to five, the college honored Dixon with an LL.D. degree for his years of service as a minister and educator.

The Alumni Association recognized Dr. R. T. Clark of Norman, Okla., as the Distinguished Alumnus of the year for achievements in the field of science and youth guidance.

Linda Graff of North Little Rock and Jon Farris of West Lafayette, Ind., received the Ganus awards for the best grades of the year, and David Hobby of Northern Rhodesia won the Utley Award for greatest achievement during the year.

Boone Stresses Decisions

On May 28, in addition to thrilling 5000 persons by twice singing with the Harding Chorus, Pat Boone's first baccalaureate address stressed the importance of "little" decisions

"Your destiny is shaped not by the big decisions," stated magnetic Pat, "but by the little decisions you make from day to day." This, in a nut shell, was Pat's message, which he said

"could be the shortest baccalaureate on record," but going on, he cited the three types of decisions as he sees them.

"We make three kinds of decisions in our lives," said Pat. Then he mentioned in addition to the little decisions the bigger decisions or plans and third, the habits resulting from the little decisions."

After reading at length from the closing verses of Romans 8, Pat concluded with a prayerful wish, "That we all graduate from this earthly life into an eternal one."

Impressed by the singing of the Harding Chorus, Pat offered to join them in a professional day." This, in a nut shell, was recording for Dot Records. His offer was quickly accepted.

Lewell Smith, blind since high school, was one of 145 graduates.



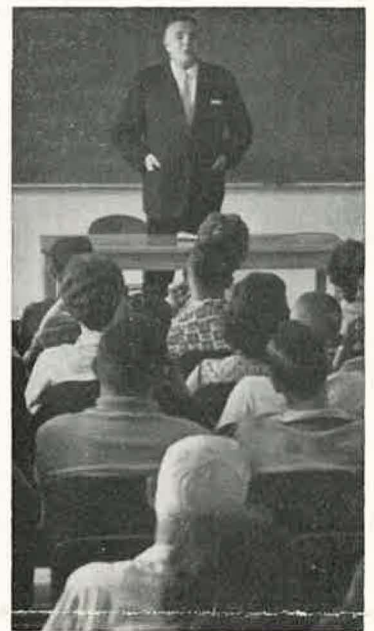
Dr. H. A. Dixon



A Great Day with PAT BOONE

May 28 was a big day to students, parents and faculty due to the visit of Pat Boone to the Harding campus. In concert with the Harding Chorus (1), and also as soloist (2), smiling Pat (3), thrilled an estimated 5000 who assembled to see and hear him. At a reception lasting until nearly midnight Pat greeted both faculty and graduates (4). In the afternoon, for camera men, he duplicated his initial handshake with Dr. Benson (5). At the same time he was most cooperative with newsmen in a press conference (6), following which he was besieged by autograph hunters (7) who shut off all possible building exits.





Visiting Students Study the American Way

High school students in Harding's annual Seminar in Americanism proved they learned their lessons well when confronted by a red-tainted agitator at the last class of the session, June 12-16.

Typically, they reacted with violent emotion at the intruder, but many presented detailed defenses of America. After one boy hurried from the room flushed with anger and others were nearly incoherent in their outrage, Dr. Clifton Ganus introduced the stranger as Lt. David LeMaster of the SAC Base at Jacksonville.

The group's reaction enforced the thesis of the week: Americans must learn to know not only themselves, but they also must understand the facts of the enemy.

Dr. Ganus, Dr. George S. Benson and Dr. Nicholas Nyaradi lectured to the students. Dr. Nyaradi, a former Minister of Finance of Hungary, told the young people, "Your personal future is at stake."

Fruitful Vacation

For high school students to take time from vacation is unusual, but interest in America's critical world position is increasing. A record 110 students enrolled this session, and counselors predict over 200 next year.

Many are sponsored by Civitan International. From Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Missouri and Arkansas, the students won local essay and oratorical contests to attend the seminar.



Summer school registration reached a total of 223 for the first session—by far the highest summer enrollment since the graduate department of Bible was moved to Memphis, figures for which are not included. A total of 176 enrolled for undergraduate work, with 47 doing graduate work in teaching. This includes 26 teachers in special American Studies.

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