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College Shocked at Tragic Death of Mrs. Stapleton



Mrs. E. R. Stapleton

Ira North to Open First Bible Seminar

The Harding College Bible Department will again present four outstanding speakers for the four Bible Seminars which are scheduled each year for Bible and Biblical language majors. Those lecturing this year are Ira North, O. C. Lambert, Jim Bill McInteer and A. R. Holton.

North, minister of the Church of Christ in Madison, Tenn. and well-known lecturer on personal evangelism, will begin the series Nov. 4-6 when he will speak on "Building a Dynamic Working Local Congregation." He has written two books, "You Can March For the Master" and "At Work For The Master."

"Reaching the Catholic Population In the World — For Christ" will be discussed Dec. 2-4 by O. C. Lambert, minister of the Winfield, Ala. Church of Christ and author of several books including "Catholicism Against Itself."

The third seminar, Feb. 10-12, will present Jim Bill McInteer, minister of the West End Church of Christ in Nashville, Tenn. and business manager of the Twentieth Century Christian magazine. He is also a member of the Board of Harding College.

The fourth seminar each year is devoted to mission emphasis. This year the seminar, scheduled for April 6-8, will bring A. R. Holton of Abilene, Tex. to speak on "World Missions — Today, Yesterday, and Tomorrow." Holton made a world tour in 1957 and 1959 to hold meetings and survey the mission fields.

A stunned silence covered the Harding auditorium Saturday night, October 19, as Dr. George S. Benson announced that the body of Mrs. E. R. Stapleton, associate professor of English, had been found in a dry creek bed near Beebe late Saturday afternoon. The finding of her body ended an 11-day search for the Harding teacher who disappeared from a Searcy washateria Tuesday night, October 8. Harding students were watching the movie, "Imitation of Life."

Mrs. Stapleton's body was discovered by a 21-year old boy who was squirrel hunting. Autopsy reports gave definite identification.

There has been speculation that

Mrs. Stapleton was kidnaped by burglars who broke into two stores a block away from the washateria at which she was last seen. The burglaries were discovered in the search for her. The police discount this theory.

The night of her disappearance, Mrs. Stapleton left the home of her son, Glen Dewey, about 9 p.m. to go to the washateria located on U. S. Highway 67 just south of Searcy. This is about 15 miles from where the body was found.

Students Help In Search

FBI agents, sheriff's deputies, police officers, students, and Harding faculty members searched the Searcy area for her for two

days after she vanished. Harding College offered a \$1,000 reward for information that would lead to her whereabouts, and to successful prosecution of those responsible.

Strangulation Cause of Death

The autopsy revealed that Mrs. Stapleton was strangled. Dr. Benson stated, "The murder is extremely shocking and she was evidently killed immediately after being taken from the washateria. The body was probably deposited where it was found the same night. It is hoped that the reward money will lead to the discovery of those responsible for her death."

1926 Harding Graduate

Mrs. Stapleton, the former Ruby Lowery, was the only graduate of Harding College in 1926. After receiving her master's in English at the University of Oklahoma in 1931 she was employed by Harding in 1932. At Harding as a student she was best all around in 1925 and 1926 and edited the 1926 *Petit Jean*. As a faculty member she supervised the moving of Harding College furniture from Morrilton to Searcy in 1934 and has sponsored both the *Petit Jean* and the *Bison* in past years. She was a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, a charter member of South Central Modern Language Association and was past secretary of the Arkansas Teachers of College English and has served as president and secretary of the Searcy chapter of the American Association of University Women.

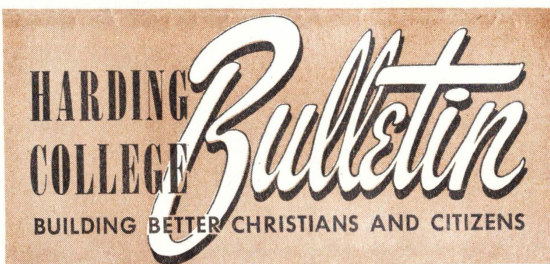
Mrs. Stapleton was responsible for the founding of the Harding College Press by donating its first pieces of equipment.

One of 'Best Loved'

She was well known on the Harding campus because of her friendly smile and helpful attitude. Dean Emeritus L. C. Sears said, "I feel that Mrs. Stapleton was one of the most loyal and dedicated teachers that was ever on the Harding campus and was one of the best loved. No one kept up with the students after they left Harding as well as she."

Funeral services were in the Harding College Auditorium on Wednesday, October 23.

Other than her son, Mrs. Stapleton is survived by her husband Dr. Ray Stapleton, who has been teaching in Superior, Wisconsin and her daughter, Mary Claire, a senior at Harding College.



Vol. 39

Searcy, Ark., October 1963

No. 7

Petit Jean Wins All-American Rating; Takes Four Top Places In ACPA Contest

The Harding College yearbook, the *Petit Jean*, received the first place award in the general excellence division for the fourth consecutive year in competition among members of the Arkansas College Publications Association at their fall meeting in Searcy, October 14.

The 1963 annual, edited by Anna Belle Climer of Rogersville, Mo. also took the All-American rating for the fourth consecutive year. The *Petit Jean* was the only Arkansas book to receive the top national rating offered by the American Collegiate Press at the University of Minnesota this year. Travis Stewart of Regan Wells, Tex. was last year's business manager.

The Ouachita Baptist College *Ouachitonian*, was second and the Little Rock University *Trojan* came in third.

The *Petit Jean* also won three of the other four divisions, placing first in editorial content, in typography and layout and in photography. The Henderson

State Teachers College *Star* received first place in editorial planning, with the *Petit Jean* second and the *Ouachitonian* and the Arkansas State Teachers College *Scroll* tied for third.

David B. Burks, a junior from Truth or Consequences, N. M. was photographer for the 1963 *Petit Jean*. He has worked with photography for the book for the last two years and is also photographer for the 1964 *Petit Jean*.

The *Ouachitonian* was second and the Arkansas A and M *Boll Weevil* third in editorial content. The *Trojan* was second and the *Ouachitonian* third in typography and layout and the *Trojan* placed second and the Arkansas Polytechnic College *Agricola* third in photography.

The all-day meeting included a luncheon address by Perrin Jones, editor and publisher of the *Searcy Citizen*. Jones spoke on his recent trip to Russia, which he called a "Journey to Understanding."

This Is Harding Academy of Searcy -- A School With Many Advantages -- An Asset To Harding College

By Judy Evans

Harding College has a high school on its campus. Many people are aware of Harding Academy as such, but really know little about it.

What are some of the accomplishments, the merits of this school? Approximately 90 per cent of the graduates of Harding Academy attend college. Most of these go on to college at the Searcy campus. They make outstanding records. During the fall semester of 1962, thirteen of these students had above a 3.00 average at Harding College. Perfect 4.00 scores were kept by two of them. In the spring, seven out of 119 Dean's List students were Academy graduates. One had a 4.00. Several belong to the A Cappella Chorus, Chorale and Belles and Beaux.

Established 1924

Harding Academy, established in 1924, is superintended by Perry S. Mason. It offers 32 different courses with subjects in the fields of Bible, English, business, mathematics, science, history, music, speech, art, home economics and languages. Seven of the teachers hold master's degrees while all of the others have at least a B.A. or B.S. degree with some work toward the master's. J. E. Berryhill is the principal. This year's enrollment is 116.

Fully Accredited

The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools recognizes the Academy, and the state of Arkansas gives it a Class A rating which takes into consideration academic merit, teacher qualification, facilities, etc. A

library, art department, science lab and home economics department, supplement the teaching program.

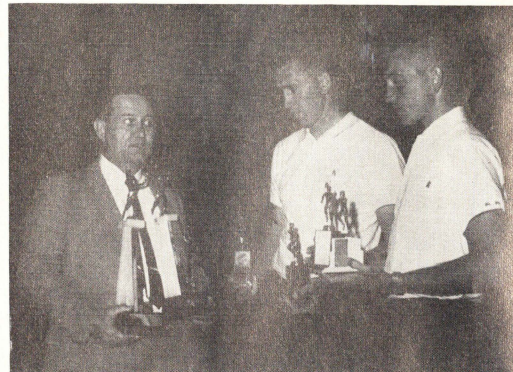
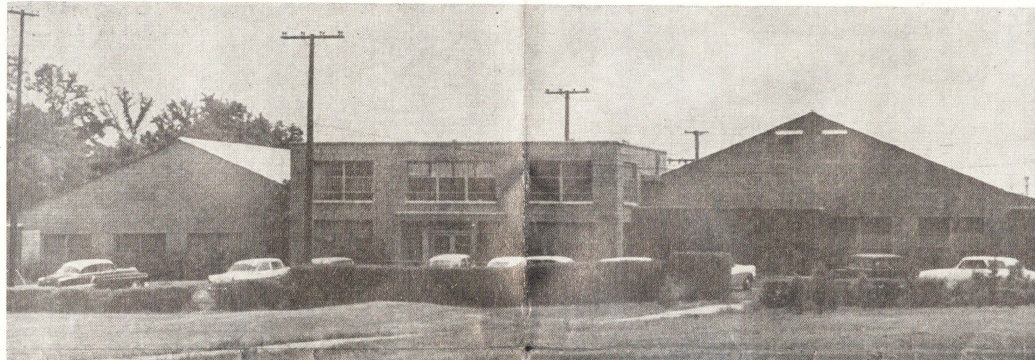
The Academy has the oldest chapter of the National Beta Club west of the Mississippi River. Future Homemakers of America, Thespians and Key Club have chapters at the Academy. Local organizations include a Citizenship Club, Large Chorus, Pep Club, Cheerleaders, Science Club, Debate Club and four social clubs. Everyone can belong to these clubs. A student newspaper, the **Wildcat**, is published and Academy students have a section in the college annual, the **Petit Jean**.

Chorus Rates High

The Harding Academy Chorus, under the direction of G. E. Baggett last year, was honored with a top rating at the Arkansas High School Choral Festival at Hot Springs, in which they competed against high schools of a size A classification. The sextet received a superior rating, while the men's quartet took an excellent mark.

This year's chorus will be under the direction of Larry Bills, a 1955 Harding College graduate. He has just announced the selection of the 1963-64 sextet and quartet. Those listed in the sextet are Jan Atteberry, Anne Clark, Sue Bixler, Mary Alice Smith, Barbara Beles and Suesanne Brady. All are from Searcy except Miss Smith who is from Richardson, Tex. Quartet members are Dick Berryhill, Dale Ely, Larry Lawson and David Pace — all from Searcy.

Although 50 per cent of the Academy students live in Searcy,



Superintendent Mason and Coaches Lloyd and Higginbotham display some trophies.



Mrs. Andy Ritchie gives some individual attention.

16 states are represented among the students, as well as two foreign countries: Guatemala and Cambodia.

Outstanding In Sports

In the last ten years, the Academy Wildcats have captured 93 trophies in football, basketball and track. In 1953, 1958 and 1960 they have taken the district football championship. For the first time, in 1961, the Wildcats won the county basketball trophy and were district runners-up. Last year they won the county basketball sportsmanship award. Since 1961 the Wildcats have won 42 trophies in track. Fifteen were won last year. In the district meet, where both junior and senior teams won championships, all ten of the first places were taken by Harding boys. New records were set in seven of these events. Coaches Ted Lloyd and Ed Higginbotham, graduates of Harding College, work with the boys to establish and maintain these fine records. After seven games of the 1963 football season have been played, the Wildcats remain undefeated. They have been rated by the Arkansas Gazette poll as number one in State Class B football.

Qualified Faculty

Other qualified teachers in the Academy this year, include Miss Frances Mayer, physical education; Mrs. Andy T. Ritchie, mathematics; Bill Diles, business; Dale Gould, physics; Mrs. Ted Maple, home economics; Mrs. Inez Pickens, English; Mrs. Irma Welsh, library and speech; Don Robinson, art; Miss Ruth Brown, English; Mrs. Larry Bills,

junior high instructor; Larry Bills, chorus and music; and Hugh Groover, part-time history.

Harding is now on a six-six basis. The Harding Elementary School, under the supervision of Mrs. Maude Montgomery, takes in grades one through six. Harding Academy has the top six grades. Nursery school and kindergarten facilities are also included.

Those teaching in the first six grades are Mrs. Mildred Bixler, first grade; Mrs. Marybelle Helsten, fifth grade; Mrs. Lois L. Lawson, third grade; Mrs. Florence Powell, fourth grade; Mrs. Myrtle Rowe, sixth grade; and Mrs. Mattie Sue Sears, second grade.

Boarding students are capably supervised by Rosten Head, a student at Harding College, who lives in West Dorm with his wife and children and by Mrs. Inez Pickens, Dean of Women. Academy students eat in the college cafeteria and get to participate in many college activities.

Many Advantages

Advantages of Harding Academy are many, but among the most outstanding are daily Bible classes and chapel services. Classes are small — a definite advantage. One student, transferring to Harding this year from a large high school was overheard commenting, "I just love the Academy. It's small enough that I can really be a part of things."

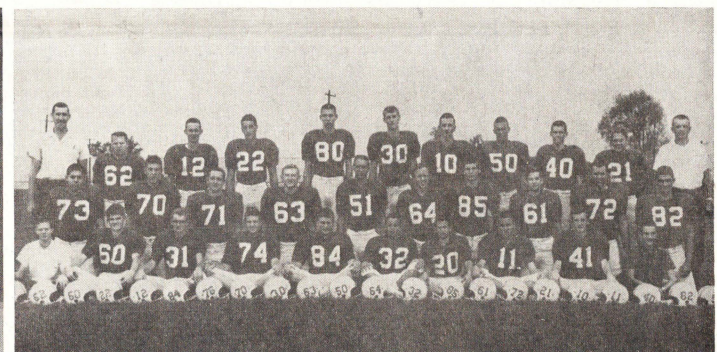
That is the real Harding Academy — an asset to Harding College.



Friends and parents gather to send the chorus on one of its annual tours.



Last Year's Junior Beta Club.



Academy's 1963-64 undefeated football team.

Evans, Waters New PJ Heads

Named recently as editor and business manager of the 1964-65 **Petit Jean** were Judy Evans and Mike Waters, both juniors.

A business education major from Morrilton, Miss Evans is reporter for the A Cappella Chorus, Student Association Elections Chairman a member of Zeta Rho women's social club and works part-time in the Publicity and Publications office. She has worked on the **Petit Jean** staff since her freshman year. She is a graduate of Harding Academy.

Part of her job this year will be planning next year's book which she hopes will be rated All-American as have four previous Harding annuals.

Miss Evans father, Everett W. Evans, was business manager for the 1930 **Petit Jean**. Three other relatives have also worked on the book as business manager or editor.

Waters is an accounting major from Alachua, Fla., and is also carrying on a family tradition as **Petit Jean** business manager. He succeeds his brother, Leighton who is this year's business manager. He is president of the Mohican social club, secretary of the Accounting Club and a member of the American studies group. He has participated in intramural sports and in Harding's speech arts tournament.

The two applicants were approved by the Student Affairs Committee and voted on by the junior class. Each position carries a \$500 scholarship.



Harding College's cross country championship team, from left, front row: Assistant Coach, Goran Agnevik, Coach Robert T. Clark Jr, Cliff Clark, and Phil Merrell. Back row: George Hobby, Lanny Casey, Richard Rheinbolt, Robert T. Clark, III, Gerald Clark and Jimmy Lawson. Jerry Baker is not pictured.

Cross County Team Wins AIC Championship

The Harding College cross country team, in its first year of competition, turned the trick by swamping three AIC schools and taking the 1963 cross country championship on October 11. They are coached by Dr. R. T. Clark Jr., vice president in charge of research.

The scores stood Harding, 21; Arkansas State Teachers College, 40; Hendrix College, 81; and Arkansas A and M didn't finish. Cliff Clark led the pack, placing first with a time of 20:10.5. Phil Merrell came in eight seconds off the pace. R. T. Clark, III, Jerry Baker and Lanny Casey were the other top finishers for the Bisons.

In addition to the conference

trophy, Harding copped first and second place trophies and five individual trophies.

The event was run on a 3½ mile course laid out over the Searcy golf course. J. A. Bridgman, ASTC, finished third in 20:49. Last year's winner Bobby Richardson of ASTC, finished fourth.

Speech Department Presents 'Harvey'

"Harvey," a three act comedy by Mary Chase begins this year's season of plays by the Speech Department of Harding College.

The Pulitzer Prize winning play and veteran of a four year stand on Broadway will be presented Thursday night, October 31 and Friday night, November 1 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Directed by Ben Holland, assistant professor of speech, the play concerns the appearance of a six foot tall white rabbit and the effect it has on the characters in the story.

Dalton Eddleman will play the lead.

The Department's next production will be Feb. 20-22.

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SEARCY, ARKANSAS. PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY HARDING COLLEGE IN DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY; TWICE MONTHLY IN ALL REMAINING MONTHS.



Anna Belle Climer, editor of the fourth consecutive All-American **Petit Jean**, duplicated this smile October 14 when officials revealed that she was the prize-winning editor.