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News Clipping - Carillon to be built on GWU campus

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The Shelby Star

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CARILLON

HOLLIFIELD, WYNDOLYN



Associated Press

GWU officials participate in the bell tower groundbreaking, from left, Dan Moore, Max Hamrick, Dr. Chris White, Bob Verdin, Scoot Dixon, Wyndolyn Hollifield, Tommy Hardin, and Gene Washburn.

Carillon to be built on GWU campus

By Shawn Reeves

Star Staff Writer

BOILING SPRINGS — Bells soon will ring on the campus of Gardner-Webb University, thanks to the Hollifield family.

A groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday morning marked the start of construction, which will result in a new bell tower overlooking the campus lake.

The tower, which will be dedicated in November, is to stand on a lighted brick plaza and house 48 bells — one of the largest carillons in this region, according to Dr. Chris White, GWU president.

The structure is a gift from Wyndolyn Hollifield and her late husband Hughy Hollifield, a GWU alumnus.

"We are here due to the love and generosity of the Hollifields," White said. "(They) caught the vision of what this land could be and have given of themselves to ensure its beauty."

A gift given by the Hollifields several years ago enabled GWU to construct the lake, which is

named in the family's honor.

The tower will be built by the Bob Verdin Co. of Cincinnati. Bob Verdin, president and CEO of the company, made the trip to Boiling Springs for the groundbreaking and to pledge his commitment to the project.

"We'll do all in our power to make this one of the greatest carillons in the United States," he said.

Shelby architect Fred Blackley has designed the tower's plaza.

The tower will unify three periods of the university's history — past, present and future — and represent the vision GWU and its community have embraced, according to White.

Architecturally, the top of the monument has been modeled after the Huggins-Curtis Building (one of the school's first three buildings), marking GWU's origins; the bottom will resemble the arched-shaped glass in GWU's Noel Hall, and plans for the center, representing the school's future, are yet to be revealed.

The bells will be rung both manually and electronically (from a remote location).