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Gift For Chapel At Gardner-Webb

BOILING SPRINGS — Dr. E. Eugene Poston today announced a gift from the family of the late John R. Dover, Jr. to be applied to the construction of a Religious Activities Chapel on the Gardner-Webb College campus.

The religious activities chapel, part of the proposed religious activities center for the college will be built in memory of John R. Dover, Jr., who served many years on the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees and in other capacities of assistance.

As it is now proposed, the chapel will be the center for the religious activities of the campus. Dr. Poston said, "This is a big step toward the building of a visible symbol of the Extra Dimension. We at Gardner-Webb have no center for the religious activities at the present time. The undamental necessity for offering a

strong education program has held priority and some of the gracious aspects of the college have had to be postponed. The time has come, however, to erect a visible symbol of the 'Extra Dimension' and the Religious Activities Chapel will be just that.

John R. Dover, III, acting on behalf of himself, his sister, Mrs. G. J. Vincent and his mother, presented the gift to the college through Dr. Poston. He remarked that his father had often told him of the many contributions Gardner-Webb College has made to the community and to his own life.

The Dover's interest in the college is evident by the presence of the Dover Memorial Library built in memory of John R. Dover, Sr. and the Charles I. Dover Campus Center now under construction.

CHARITY and CHILDREN

7-15-65

Dovers Contribute to Religious Activities Chapel on G-W Campus

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College Chapel
To Honor Dover

7-17-65

DOVER CHAPEL

The Dover name stands solidly in bricks and mortar on the Gardner-Webb College campus, visible testimony to this Cleveland County family's support over many years.

Not so visible as the Dover buildings, but as essential to the college's growth, are other evidences of Dover assistance—well-stocked shelves in the library, endowment funds, the "Dover Scholarships" on campus.

Even the college's president Dr. E. Eugene Poston, counts Dover financial help as the key to his own education as a young student. Hundreds of others can say the same.

Both the Dover Textile Group and Gardner-Webb College began in 1907, and their history has been a unique saga of two institutions interwoven in growth and community impact. Help has gone out to the college over half a century from the Dover plants, Dover Foundation and the Dover family personally.

A legacy of interest in education from John R. Dover, Sr., founder of Dover Textile Group, became a tradition for his sons, Charles I. Dover and the late John R. Dover, Jr., and other family members.

As Dr. Poston put it: "The college's history shows that when Gardner-Webb has had a real need, the Dover family and the Foundation have come forth to help."

That assistance came at critical times in the college's earlier struggle for existence—such as the 1940's when E.B. Hamrick Building had to be completed, an endowment had to be raised for entry into the Baptist state family of colleges, and a library had to be erected.

The latest gift, of \$75,000, comes at another historical time in the life of the college—growth toward excellence as a senior institution. Giving service as well as financial help, the young Dover Brothers devoted endless personal attention to the college's financial

affairs in the 40's and 50's. Both served on the Board of Trustees and both also served terms as chairman of the board.

The present college library named in honor of John R. Dover, Sr., has been a special

beneficiary of the Foundation. It was instrumental in its construction and in 1968 provided a \$25,000 challenge gift for additional books.

The trustees were challenged to match the \$25,000 gift for books which gave the library enough books to attain accreditation as a senior college, before the school entered the four-year field.

"This was one of the biggest factors in the progress that was made in the library which stimulated the growth enough for us to acquire enough books to reach standards required for accreditation," said Dr. Poston. "This challenge gift was a vital and welcomed gift."

Many more volumes have been added over the years through the Charles I. and John R. Dover, Jr. "bookshelves", utilizing other contributions. By longstanding tradition, Dover plant supervisors give "Mr.

Charles" donations for library books as his Christmas gift. He matches their gifts for books to be placed in the Gardner-Webb library. The family of John R. Dover, Jr. matches similar gifts in his memory for the library. These two sources have pushed the total number of books in the library to more than 50,000, enough to be an accredited senior college library.

Another building, the Charles I. Dover Campus Center erected a few years ago, is the heart of campus social life and houses cafeteria, bookstore, offices and student activity rooms.

Soon to rise at the college entrance is a new campus chapel to be named in honor of John

R. Dover Jr., and made possible by members of the family. As the campus center is the heart of G-W's social life, the chapel will stand as its spiritual center.

Taken together, the buildings the scholarships, the library books, the endowment funds given by the Dovers represent thousands of dollars given to Gardner-Webb.

"Mr. Charles" once called it "an investment in the future."

For Gardner-Webb and the Dover Textile Group, born in the same year in the same area, it's an investment that seems destined for dividends.

BIBLICAL RECORDER

CLEVELAND TIMES 2-25-71