

Palmetto

Variety



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BENET AUDITORIUM - HORGER LIBRARY
Dedicated January 29, 1956
COLUMBIA DIVISION

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DEDICATION OF THE BENET AUDITORIUM AND THE HORGER LIBRARY

Dedication ceremonies for the new Benet Auditorium-Horger Library at the Columbia Division of the South Carolina State Hospital were held at 3:00 o'clock, Sunday, January 29, 1956, with former Governor James F. Byrnes delivering the dedicatory address.

Ceremonies included the dedication of the Benet Auditorium, with its recreational and occupational therapy facilities, and the Horger Library to the expanding services of the South Carolina State Hospital.

The spacious Benet Auditorium, which will also be used as a chapel pending the construction of a place devoted to religious activities, is a tribute to Hon. Christie Benet, who was born in Abbeville county, South Carolina, December 26, 1879, and passed away in Columbia on March 30, 1951.

Hon. Benet was appointed a member of the Board of Regents (now the S. C. Mental Health Commission) by Governor Richard I. Manning on April 14, 1915 to succeed his friend, Dr. C. Fred Williams who became superintendent of the South Carolina State Hospital on May 1, 1915. With the exception of two short periods, Hon. Benet served on the Board of Regents until his resignation January 9, 1948. Much of this time he was chairman. A nationally prominent attorney and former United States Senator from South Carolina, he had the ability, opportunities and interest to be of great service to others. His com-

munity and State benefited by his sympathetic, wise leadership and capable judgment, and none claimed a greater part of his time, interest and devotion than his efforts for the mentally ill of South Carolina. In the Benet Auditorium of the new building will be continued accomplishments for the welfare and happiness of those for whom he worked so long.

It is appropriate that the Horger Library should honor Dr. Eugene Leroy Horger, a member of the medical staff from July 17, 1915 until September 1, 1923 when he became clinical director of the hospital, occupying this position until his sudden passing away on October 22, 1943.

This beloved clinical director of the South Carolina State Hospital was born in Orangeburg county, near Jamison, April 16, 1889. His life was spent in service for the mentally ill. A pioneer in the South in the promotion of hospital care for the mentally ill, he was keenly interested in every phase of medicine and psychiatry. For years he was an associate professor of clinical psychiatry at the Medical College of South Carolina, Charleston, and many articles and editorials referable to mental disorders were published in State and National journals. He was active in medical psychiatric, civic and church organizations. Dr. Horger was an earnest student, an eminent neuropsychiatrist, a kindly man interested in the individual patient. It is suitable that this beautiful, much needed library bear his name.

Hon. George A. Buchanan, Jr., chairman, S. C. Mental Health Commission, presided during the ceremonies.

The welcome was extended by Dr. William S. Hall, superintendent of the hospital who especially recognized Mrs. Christie Benet, widow of Hon. Benet, and their daughters, Mrs. Porcher P. Hopkins, Dr. George Benet, brother of Hon. Benet and chief surgeon of the hospital for more than 30 years; Mrs. Eugene Leroy Horger, widow of Dr. Horger, all of Columbia. Also Dr. Eugene Leroy Horger of New York City, only son of Dr. and Mrs. Horger.

Others welcomed were Mrs. James F. Byrnes; Hon. Buchanan; Dr. John M. Fewell of Greenville, member, S. C. Mental Health Commission; Dr. W. P. Beckman, State Director of Mental Health; Dr. Sol. B. McLendon, clinical director, State Park Division; Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, clinical director, Columbia Division.

Also Robert S. Lafaye, representing the firm of Lafaye, Fair, Lafaye & Associates, Columbia, architects of the building; and Guy M. Tarrant, Jr., representing the Atlantic Building Corporation, general contractors of the building.

Dr. Lawson H. Bowling, clinical director, Columbia Division, explained the purposes and uses of the new facilities.

The imposing Benet Auditorium-Horger Library Building of brick, stone and large picture windows is a realization of hopes and dreams of long years. Each section incorporates the beautiful and practical with the each affords opportunities for

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DEDICATION OF THE BENET
AUDITORIUM AND THE HORGER
LIBRARY Cont. fr. P. 2

of activities and ser-
vice for numerous patients.
The Benet Auditorium, with a
capacity of 502 persons,
occupies the old auditorium on
the second floor of the Adminis-
tration Building. The one story
addition, with ramps for the
conveniently handicapped, the ac-
cessibility from every section of
the hospital, and above all, the
elimination of fire hazards,
makes this dedication another
step forward at the South Caro-
lina State Hospital.
The new, spacious, well equip-
ped auditorium will permit the ex-
pansion of the many activities
essential in modern mental health
therapy, such as church services,
recreational and occupational
therapy, movies, gatherings for
the purposes of patients as
well as employees, etc.
Adequate space and facilities
are provided for the steadily en-
gaging recreational program;
the "Palmetto Variety"
room.
There is ample space for the
expansion of the many phases of
occupational therapy.
The use of the auditorium for
religious services will enhance
the functioning of the chaplaincy
program.
The auditorium is very attrac-
tive with hardwood tile floors
and a high white ceiling. For
every five feet the walls are fac-
ed with cream tile, with the re-
maining of the walls painted a
pale green. Dark green drapes
cover the windows. There is a pro-
jection room with 16 mm movie
projectors which screen a 35 mm
film, hence the same film can
be viewed throughout the wards.
The auditorium has amplifying

equipment, a piano, organ,
comfortable, easily handled
metal chairs, and pulpit fur-
niture. There are dressing
rooms which can be used for
choir rehearsals; and an ad-
joining serving area.

The beautiful library has
practically the same color
scheme, except the floors
have light tile, and the drapes
are cream and tan. The fur-
niture is modern in design and
most of it is light colored with
green plastic upholstery. The
book cases are an attractive
medium oak shade. The libra-
ry is designed in such a way as
to take advantage of outside
lighting, but recessed fluores-
cent lights provide ample light-
ing when needed. There is a
club room for patients, and a
medical library. Between the
Benet Auditorium and the Hor-
ger Library is an attractive
court which can be utilized as
a reading court.

The center section of the
building between the auditorium
and the library contains the
offices for the personnel loca-
ted in the building.

In dedicating the "twin build-
ing," Governor Byrnes ex-
pressed pride in the progress
made at the South Carolina
State Hospital, a feeling of
deep satisfaction that he was
able to awaken the interest of
the people of the State to the
importance and need of ade-
quately caring for the mentally
ill. He was gratified at being
able to secure the cooperation
of the General Assembly mem-
bers who accompanied him on
a visit to the hospital to famil-
iarize themselves with existing
conditions, and then at once
took definite action to relieve
the situation.

The Governor further stress-

ed that in a hospital efficiency
and effectiveness do not depend
entirely upon well equipped
buildings, which are of course
very important. These depend
in a great part upon a trained
staff and the devotion of the
personnel. He stated that work-
ing conditions for the employees
have been improved, and today
the South Carolina State Hospi-
tal is truly a hospital where
well trained physicians and
other personnel are treating
and caring for the mentally
ill patients, with many of
them returning to society.

The Governor paid tribute to
Hon. George A. Buchanan,
Jr., who has given untiringly
of his time and talents in be-
half of the hospital.

Hon. Buchanan paid tribute
to Hon. Benet and Dr. Horger,
whom he knew personally, for
their earnest, hard work for
the hospital, and for the great
success each attained in his
own sphere.

In the Benet Auditorium-Hor-
ger Library and in the adjacent
Williams Building, honoring
Dr. C. Fred Williams, super-
intendent of the S. C. State
Hospital from May 1, 1915 un-
til May 1, 1945, will be con-
tinued the efforts in behalf
of the mentally ill of these
three close personal friends
and co-workers in the realm
of psychiatry.

Mrs. Inez N. Fripp

DEDICATION PROGRAM
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PHOTOGRAPHING & FINGER-
PRINTING OF PATIENTS

During the month of February
1956, there was initiated at
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THE LIBRARY CLUB
IS BEING REVIVED!

An enthusiastic meeting of the Library Committee was held on January 6 at 3 P.M. in the Library Club Room. Plans were made for future meetings of the Library Club, which will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Sarah E., Secretary

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NEW LIBRARY BUILDING
OPENS!

At the beginning of this year, the new library was opened and its spaciousness and location make it a very enjoyable place to read books or look at magazines. The reading room is attractively furnished with new bookshelves and tables, chairs, and a wide selection of reading material is available. If you are interested in reading and don't mind walking, I'm sure that the new library will be interesting to you.

Blair Turner

The reading room was opened January 16th. Many have enjoyed the opportunity of selecting their own reading material from the library rather than a small selection taken to the wards as in the past.

Latest issues of magazines are attractively placed around

on tables so that anyone who cares to, may avail themselves of this opportunity.

Still others enjoy browsing among the bookshelves, magazines, and newspapers. An atmosphere of quiet prevails; so that no one is ever disturbed from reading and many have come to spend a good while reading.

Different wards have hours in which they receive special attention, and are free to come to the library and check out either books or magazines.

Josephine Allen

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READERS' CHOICE

** GONE WITH THE WIND -
by Margaret Mitchell.

A note on why I like the book, GONE WITH THE WIND.

It sure is a thrilling story and I enjoyed reading it so much. Maybe you would like to read it. It is a very nice story.

Mrs. Mary Harding

** FLAME IN THE SKY - by
Jean Bothwell.

"This story is taken from the biblical story of the life of Elijah, the ancient prophet of Isreal. Elijah was the prophet of God in the time of Ahab, King of Isreal, who went about preaching and teaching the word of God. The story revolves around the life of Jotham, a young lad who was chosen by King Ahab to become a member of his court."

Katherine Guerry

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** THE PLEASURE IS MINE
by Mircea Vasiliu, Third Secretary of the Romanian Legation in Washington, D.C., tells of the joys and sorrows of an attaché and his fellow legates in the Embassy at Washington, D.C.

Trained from infancy in his own country for the diplomat service, he is surrounded by attachés, not so well trained for their appointed tasks.

Their domain is supervised by Piere, imported from France by a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. Such an excellent majordomo, he educates the entire legation in protocol.

Receiving special supervision from Piere, Mircea Vasiliu was always well-groomed and well-informed.

The humorous vein, the author writes in, covers up all serious circumstances. But I can see the strain of living in a new country, not too well acquainted with its customs, nor its language, nor with his actual duties of office was not so funny for him to experience.

I was entertained to read of the excellent modes of living among the government leaders and their delegates throughout Washington. This book is informative and keenly interesting.

Dorothy C.

** FIND A NEW HEAVEN -
by J. D. Broughton.
Olivia, Countess Beau-
regard, has every desire of
life to make herself happy.

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