

Virginia Intermont
College



*President Floyd V. Turner (left)
and Mr. Jack Altman, Director of
Development, view architect's
drawing of new Learning Center.*

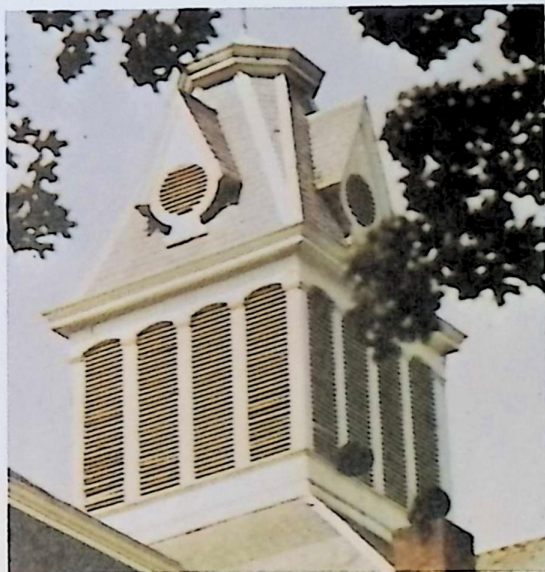
Virginia Intermont College Since 1884

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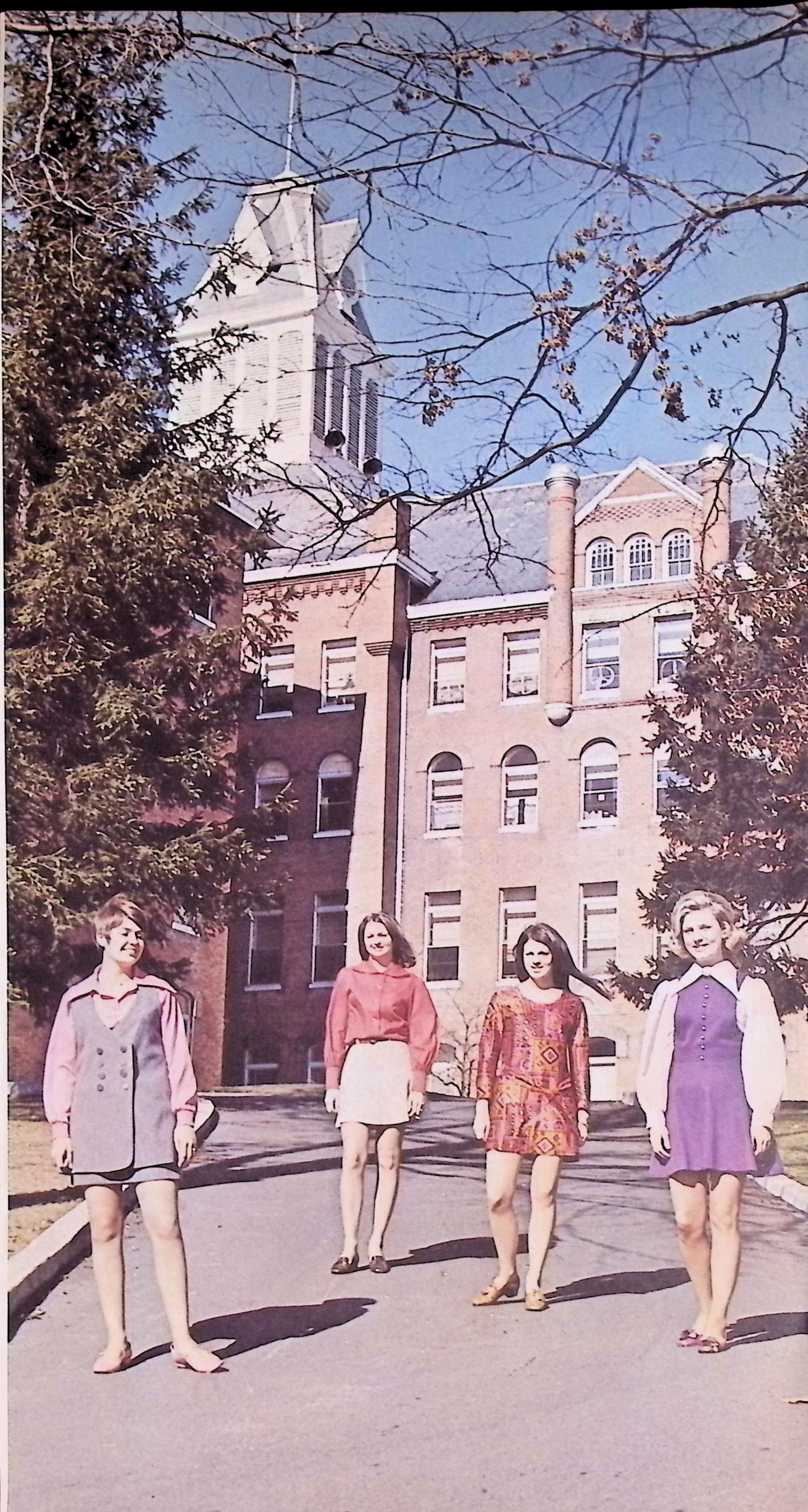
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Virginia Intermont —

A time to find yourself, and
 A time to lose yourself;
 A time to think, and
 A time to act;
 A time to create, and
 A time to re-create;
 A time to live, to love, to learn

*To those who make it possible,
 we dedicate this book.*



A Vision of Participation

The purpose and program of Education at Virginia Intermont College are as rich as man's civilization, as challenging as this morning's news, and as new as the mysterious future.

The past is history, all the best and the worst that man has ever done, dreamed, or dared to hope. All this must be recalled, rebuilt, redone, hardened by experience and softened by compassion, bound by discipline and liberated by knowledge.

The uncertain time we call "Now", with its useless wars and mass starvation, merging with the sound of race riots and the glare of ghetto fires, can be erased by the thrilling beat of transformed hearts urging us not just to sit or stand, but to become positively involved.

Heavier than the knowledge of the past and the challenge of the present, is the impact of the future on the Now: the individual, the home, the school, the church, and the scale of values. Every newspaper and every telecast keeps reminding us of the needs, the sufferings, and the potentialities of the whole world.

Surely it is not too much to expect the education of the future to discover and develop those vast areas of mystery, meaning, and loveliness, which are the modern woman in the modern world.

Let her find a cause worth living for. Let her become a part of something bigger than herself, to which she can give herself, in order to become herself. Give her the hope that sees the dawn break and hears the lark sing.

Help her push out the boundaries of her little world and her little self. Help her to transfigure life with a sense of dedication and gallantry and wonder, and bless life with the gift of peace.



Floyd V. Turner

Floyd V. Turner
President,

The History

By C. Ernest Cooke

This is the story of many needs of many people. It is the story of the heroic achievement of a few people, their vision, their faith, their determination, their dedication and their personal sacrifice. It is the story of a challenging future, as new visions gleam on the heights in the sunrise.

The school now known as Virginia Intermont College was founded as Southwest Virginia Female Institute, in the summer of 1884, and the first session opened on September 17, of that year.

As is usually the case in such matters, the founding awaited the meeting of the vital cause and the dedicated man. The cause was the need for higher education for the young women in the south western part of Virginia. The man was the Rev. J. R. Harrison, on fire with a sense of the need and a determination to meet the need.

At this time the Southwest Virginia area was regarded as missionary territory by the Baptists of Eastern Virginia and the State Mission Board. There were very few self-supporting Baptist churches then, and so generally several small adjoining churches would go together to form a missionary field. At this time the Baptist churches of Glade Spring — Friendship and Greenfield — went together and asked the State Mission Board to take charge of the field and help the people in supporting a pastor.

The pastor chosen was the Rev. J. R. Harrison, who, in the early 1880's went to Glade Spring to become pastor of the field.

Glade Spring was in Washington County, on the Norfolk and Western railroad, twenty-eight miles from the Tennessee line. It was surrounded by mountains in a landscape of great natural wealth and beauty.

The new pastor of the Glade Spring church had come to the area to lead a church; but he was no less interested in the founding of a school for the higher education of young women than he was in his church flock.

The new pastor was not alone in his dream. His friend, Mr. M. M. Morris, shared his vision of a school for young women.

Both the Rev. J. R. Harrison and his friend sensed that the realization of their dream would be difficult. Indeed, the prospect of success, or even of making a beginning, could hardly have looked darker. Two conditions seemed almost insurmountable.

For one thing, the majority of people in the area were at that time opposed to higher education for women. Uninformed as they were on the subject, they felt that such education as the public schools provided for women was enough. Indeed, they felt that more education than that might be positively dangerous. It might even destroy the home, as the highly educated women might go into professional work, at any cost to the home. So the Rev. Mr. Harrison and his friends had first to overcome this prejudice and ignorance.

*The Reverend
J. R. Harrison,
founder*



Another obstacle no less difficult than the prejudice against the higher education of women was the widespread drinking in the area at this time. Glade Spring with its saloons to a total population of only 200 hardly seemed to be an ideal location for a girl's school. At that time there was no law against drinking in the town. But the intrepid pastor and his friends arranged an election that would give the people a chance to vote on the matter. The prohibition ticket won by a small majority. After this, open saloons were abolished.

This prepared the way for making Glade Spring a suitable place for the school; and a definite location soon became available. In 1882, James Jones, who had property just in front of the Baptist church, died, and his property was sold by auction. The Rev. Mr. J. R. Harrison persuaded twelve substantial citizens of the community to join him in underwriting the price of the property, which was \$2715.00.

On the land was the large Jones mansion, perhaps the finest in Glade Spring, at the intersection of the Tri-State Highway and the old Saltville Road, where Kent's Garage is now. It was in this building that the new

school was opened in 1884. An addition to the original building, made in 1888, increased the capacity for boarding students to 150.

The Rev. J. R. Harrison rode his rugged horse, which he called "John the Baptist", up and down the hills and valleys soliciting funds for the school, in order to reimburse the thirteen guarantors.

When the school was started in 1884, these guarantors became the first trustees. They were as follows: J. R. Harrison, R. B. Boatwright, J. F. Maiden, M. M. Morris, Sam D. Jones, A. P. Cole, R. C. Williams, B. D. Hawthorne, Noah C. Davenport, Alexander Whiteaker, J. H. Clark, Joseph M. Thomas, and John W. Edmondson. Mr. M. M. Morris was chosen chairman of the board.

When Southwest Virginia Female Institute opened in 1884, there were three departments: Academic, Primary, and Musical,

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in 1888—then known
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divided into what they called "schools" of Ancient Languages (Greek and Latin), English Language and Literature, History, Modern Languages, Moral and Mental Science, and Natural Science.

There were thirteen boarding students and a few day students, that first session.

THE NAME

The second name the school bore was Southwest Virginia Institute. Until recently one could read above the old chapel steps (on the present campus) the abbreviation "S. W. V. I.", with the Masonic seal. Then for a short while, in 1889, the name was shortened to Virginia Institute.

The present name was given to the school by S. W. Edmondson—a member of the faculty—in 1910. He was travelling for the school and on the way between Big Stone Gap and Appalachia, Va. he came to a little

town called "Intermont". The Latin derivation of the name, meaning "Among the Mountains", appealed to this classical scholar, and so when school opened that fall, the name was suggested and unanimously accepted by the faculty and trustees.

THE MOVE

The next development in the history of the school was one of the most important of all. The move from Glade Spring to Bristol, in the fall of 1891, was a move from a village to a small city.

Bristol was then a prosperous little railroad center, with a population of about 12,000.

The site chosen for the location of the school was a ten-acre tract, on the crest of a hill, with a grove of stately oak trees, and a view of the Allegheny Mountains and of the city of Bristol.



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The land was purchased for \$7500.00, with the provision that at least \$50,000 would be spent on the buildings.

The first unit built on the Bristol site was a four-story brick and stone structure, with a press-brick front, including what is now known as Main Hall, the old Chapel, the Dining Hall and West Wing, and the adjacent Administration Hall and Music Conservatory (since torn down).

The steam heat, hot and cold running water, and gas (and electric) lights in the new buildings marked a great improvement over the more or less primitive conditions at Glade Spring.

When the 1893 session opened with the greatly improved and enlarged facilities, there were 18 officers and teachers, 118 boarding students, and 33 day students.

THE CRISIS

Probably the darkest hour in the history of the school was the crucial period of 1899-1903. During these four years the school had four presidents each of whom was regarded as the man of the hour. These presidents were W. H. Thorpe (1898-1900), the Rev. C. A. Jenkins (1900-), Gen. J. F. Howell (1901-02), and M. W. Hutton (1902-02).

In spite of all the efforts to save the situation, the school was decreed to be sold on May 25, 1903. Five leading citizens of Bristol formed a corporation to buy the school property. The five men who determined to see the school prosper were the Rev. B. Cabell Henning, Dr. J. A. Dickey, S. C. Hodges, Dr. J. F. Hicks, and W. P. Hamilton. They were all members of the First Baptist Church in Bristol, and the Rev. B. C. Henning was its pastor. The sale price was \$2756, and the assumption of the mortgage indebtedness.

AIM AND PHILOSOPHY

The first bulletin issued by the school, in its Glade Spring location in 1884, had stated that the object was "To offer facilities for the thorough education of girls at such a price as shall bring it within the reach of all".

The founders were emphatic in stating that the school was "not for purposes of gain, but as a means of usefulness".

By 1900, the aims were summarized as "Mental development—the power to think; moral development—the power to feel; and physical development—the power to act".

For the time and place and purpose, this philosophy of education was a good one: it was non-materialistic, practical, and challenging.

But every institution, system, and philosophy of education must grow and change with the growing and changing world. And, of course, the real test of any education is the extent to which it prepares those being educated for a richer personal life, and for a greater contribution to society.

Through the years, those in authority at Virginia Intermont have tried to build a sys-

tem that will do most for the student as an individual, and, through her, do most for society.

So the aim has come to be the education of the whole personality, enabling the student to care more, to enjoy more, and to give more. The purpose has been to produce the heightened personality. It has sought to fill up what might otherwise be empty lives with the happiness and satisfaction of those who have escaped from the prison of self and become liberated by coming into contact with all the best that has been thought, done, and dreamed, through the centuries. The hope is that the students' personal resources and potentialities will become the servants of vision, imagination, and compassion.

The holiest saint and the most learned scholar, isolated in her ivory tower, would be of little good to the world, or even to herself.

The Intermont system and emphasis are intended to put the modern student right in the middle of her modern world, conscious of, and involved in, every challenging and absorbing thing, alive to a thousand interests, and eager for a thousand opportunities and responsibilities. From the very beginning of her college years the student at Intermont becomes a participant in, and a contributor to, the free democratic society.

It is not surprising that this larger concept of the education of woman has attracted to the Intermont campus a cosmopolitan group, of approximately 600, from all parts of the country and from various foreign countries. They come here from varied social, economic, and religious backgrounds, and, in the Intermont milieu of freedom, tolerance, and a many-sided culture, they get something they did not have before. This freedom, tolerance, and culture are Intermont.

THE EDUCATIONAL PLANT

After recovery from the dark hours of 1899-1903, a new wave of buildings began on the Intermont campus. It was under the direction of the ninth president, Dr. H. G. Noffsinger that the need for new facilities became a reality. As far as was possible the architectural style of the old buildings was followed. The new structures included the first swimming pool, East Hall, and Hodges Hall.

The pool was built in 1917 and was the largest and most modern in the community at that time.

Hodges Hall was erected in 1928, in memory of Samuel C. Hodges, a member of the Board of Trustees for more than a quarter of a century.

The next group of buildings, those of the decade 1930-40, departed from the architectural style of the buildings already on the campus and exemplified a simpler, more modern style. These included, in the chronological order, the Gymnasium, Senior Hall (recently renamed the Humanities Building), and the Library.

A new "horse barn" was constructed on the campus near the riding ring, in 1938.

In the meantime, the college acquired the Ward Farm of 1,035 acres. At the time it seems to have been anticipated that some of the food required by the college might be produced there. But it turned out that not even so many fertile acres could produce the daily requirements of 40 gallons of milk and 7 cases of eggs, nor the yearly requirements of 700 barrels of flour and 2,000 pounds of butter.

However, the only dude ranch east of the Mississippi did materialize on the farm. The first session drew 50 ranchers—and even more came for later sessions.

No other building on the Intermont campus, and few on any college campus, ever has such sentimental significance as the one known as the "Hut" and no longer in existence. In its earliest form the hut was a Red Cross canteen that once stood at the Bristol railway station, where it served the soldiers of World War One. The first troop train was served here on March 28, 1917. The canteen also served the influenza victims of 1918. It is estimated that during the war this lowly canteen served more than a half million of the khaki-clad boys. After the War, on May 15, 1919, the canteen observed Welcome Home Day and served more than a thousand men in that one day.

That same day, the Intermont Y.W.C.A. bought the canteen in an auction sale for \$300. The building was taken down and moved to the east end of East Hall, where it became known as "The Bungalow." There it served for nine years as a center for religious activities. The Y.W.C.A. cabinet meetings were regularly held here.

INTERMONT PRESIDENTS

The first president of the school which was to become Virginia Intermont College was Alson Hutton, who served for only two years, 1884-86.

The second president, M. M. Hargrove served the following three years.

The third president was Samuel D. Jones, son-in-law of the founder of the school, the Rev. J. R. Harrison. He had a Bachelor of Law Degree from Richmond College. He served until 1898, and in the spring of that year he resigned and moved to Atlanta.

Following were W. H. Thorpe, and the Rev. C. L. Jenkins; Gen. J. F. Howell, the next president, served as president less than a year but later returned to the campus for the celebration of his 102nd birthday, an occasion covered by *Life Magazine* (1948).

The seventh president was M. W. Hatton.

One of the presidents who served longest was John T. Henderson. Before coming to Southwest Va. Institute he had been president of Carson-Newman College, in Jefferson City, Tenn. When a committee went down to interview him about coming to Bristol, he was convalescing from small-pox, and the men had to talk to him from the street.

ship in the Southern Association of Colleges. The school has been accredited by the State Board of Education of Virginia, since 1912.

In 1932, Virginia Intermont was chosen as one of 35 schools for study by the U. S. Office of Education, Department of the Interior. These schools included universities, colleges, and junior colleges.

In 1933, V. I. was accredited by the University of New York, Board of Regents.

In 1954, Intermont was chosen as a pilot school for the education of nurses. That same year, it was admitted to full membership in the National Association of Schools of Music.

In the 87 years of operation, correspondence from the Alumnae Office shows its graduates are creatively contributing throughout the world—as artists, teachers, social workers, musicians, secretaries, fashion models, nurses, dancers, radio and television performers, advertising personnel, and business executives.

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Beginning in 1956, and continuing under the administration of Dr. Floyd Turner, five of the largest and most impressive buildings the school has known have been erected. These have not indicated a mere physical

emphasis either. The brick and stone have come from ideas and ideals and have been productive of other ideals and ideas.

These five newest structures form a group that represents a newer trend in building.

The Student Center, earliest of the four large buildings in the new style, was completed in 1959. The facilities consist of faculty and student lounges, a Snack Bar, Conference Room, Post Office, Book Store, and day student quarters. The most conspicuous part of the building is the tile Swimming Pool, 36 x 60 feet, between the Student Center and the Gymnasium. The construction is of brick masonry and pre-cast concrete trim, with a steel frame.

The second in the series of new buildings was the Fine Arts Center, of three stories, housing the activities of the Art, Music, and Drama Departments. This was finished in 1961.

The Art Department occupies the south end of the building, with the Applied Arts studio on the first floor and the Fine Arts studio directly above it. The Exhibition Gallery, 88 x 15 feet, with 200 linear feet of wall space for hanging exhibitions, is equipped with skylights, fluorescent lights, and adjustable incandescent spots.



Dr. Henderson and his family moved to Bristol in June, 1903, and all that summer the new president travelled over Southwest Virginia getting promises of girls to come to school that fall. He was afraid some of them would not come, but they did come in great numbers.

President Henderson served until 1914. The carillon bells, which sound the hours and sometimes play hymns and the school song, were installed as a memorial to him, in 1946.

The ninth president, Dr. H. G. Noffsinger, served as head of the school for 31 years, the longest administration any Intermont president ever had.

He was a graduate of Richmond College, Richmond, Va., and he came to Intermont from Southside Institute, Franklin, Va., in 1911. First, he served as vice-president under Dr. Henderson, and then he became president in 1914.

With the exception of Dr. Turner, the present head, Dr. Noffsinger was the greatest builder of all the presidents. When he came to Bristol, Main, West, Administration, the Chapel, and the conservatory were the only buildings on the campus. During his

time the following were built: East Hall, Hodges Hall, the first Swimming Pool, the Gymnasium, the Library, the Edwards Infirmary, and the President's Home.

In 1932, Dr. Noffsinger was elected President of the Association of Virginia Colleges. He resigned as president of V. I. in 1945, because of failing health, and he died on July 25, 1955. His widow is a resident of Bristol.

Dr. R. L. Brantley, the tenth President, came to Intermont in 1945.

In 1947 he was elected President of the Southern Association of Junior Colleges, and Vice-President of the Southern Association of Colleges for Women. He resigned as Intermont's President in 1956, and later became Executive Secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

INTERMONT RECOGNITION

After having been a four-year college for a short time (1904-12), Virginia Intermont College soon took leadership in the new Junior College movement.

It was one of the charter members of the American Association of Junior Colleges and was the first junior college to gain member-

ship in the Southern Association of Colleges. The school has been accredited by the State Board of Education of Virginia, since 1912.

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First building, present location, 1903.



The facilities for the Music Department include a recital hall with a three-manual Moller organ. The stage area is panelled in cherry veneers forming a sound shell. In addition to the music studios on the first floor, there are nine practice rooms below. In 1971 a tracker pipe organ, designed by Eugene Maupin of the Intermont faculty, was installed in Harrison-Jones Hall. The organ was built in Holland by the Flentrop Company.

Facilities for the Drama Department include a theatre with a stage 58 x 30 feet and a stage tower 45 feet high equipped for flying scenery. The elaborate and modern lighting equipment is in the balcony at the rear of the theatre. The structure is of steel and brick, with Indiana limestone trim.

The Science Building, a three-story structure, is of brick and pre-cast concrete panels, with a steel frame. This was finished in the Spring of 1963.

The first floor houses the Home Economics Department, with Foods and Textiles Laboratories, and Lecture-Demonstration Hall.

On the second floor are the classrooms and laboratories of the Secretarial Department.

The third floor houses the laboratories of the Chemistry, Biology, and Physics Departments.

The south side of the Science Building has a reflecting pool, 56 x 15 feet, with three cascading fountains.

The new seven-story dormitory, with elevators serving all floors, has built-in furniture, including a lavatory, and a large walk-in closet. Two girls occupy each of the 93 rooms.

The newest building to be completed is Harrison-Jones Memorial Hall, recognized by many, including Robert Shaw, Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony, to be one of the finest auditoriums, acoustically, in the United States. The building houses a suite of offices, a large seminar room and a chapel. The auditorium is used for concerts, lectures and inspirational-type programs. A grand feature of this building is the Flentrop tracker-type organ.

The cultural climate at Virginia Intermont has been nurtured throughout her history by weekly art exhibitions, concert attractions of international reputation, and lecturers such as Lord Harlech, Baroness Maria von Trapp, Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Jose Greco, Dr. Wernher von Braun. Mr. John Ciardi, Mr. Bill Moyers, Madame Pandit, Dr. Harrison Salisbury and Miss Pauline Frederick.

It has been under the present administration that the high school curriculum was dropped and plans for a 4-year college became a reality—the first 4-years class being graduated in 1972.

The central aim of Virginia Intermont is to create an environment for learning in which each student—according to her unique pattern of interests, abilities, ambitions, plans, and talents—may find opportunities for intellectual stimulation, spiritual growth, religious expressions, aesthetic experience, social development, and physical improvement.

“Virginia Intermont College employs the following guidelines in the development and conduct of its educational program:

“1) As an institution of higher learning, Virginia Intermont College strives to provide a stimulating and meaningful academic program.

“2) As a church-related institution, it acknowledges a responsibility to provide an atmosphere in which students can mature spiritually and morally and develop a value system which gives meaning to learning.

“3) As a relatively small institution, it stresses the significance of the individual person and the values of personalizing education through a close relationship between students and faculty and staff.

“4) As an educational institution rather than a training institution, it encourages the development of cultural awareness, social concern, aesthetic sensitivity, and personal responsibility.

“5) As a primarily residential college, it attempts to shape an environment in which the values of group living and sharing are learned.”

The general requirements for the four-year program have been developed by the Academic Policies Committee and approved by the faculty, and it aims to provide each student with (1) the skills of communication and (2) an understanding of concepts and principles underlying the major areas of modern knowledge.

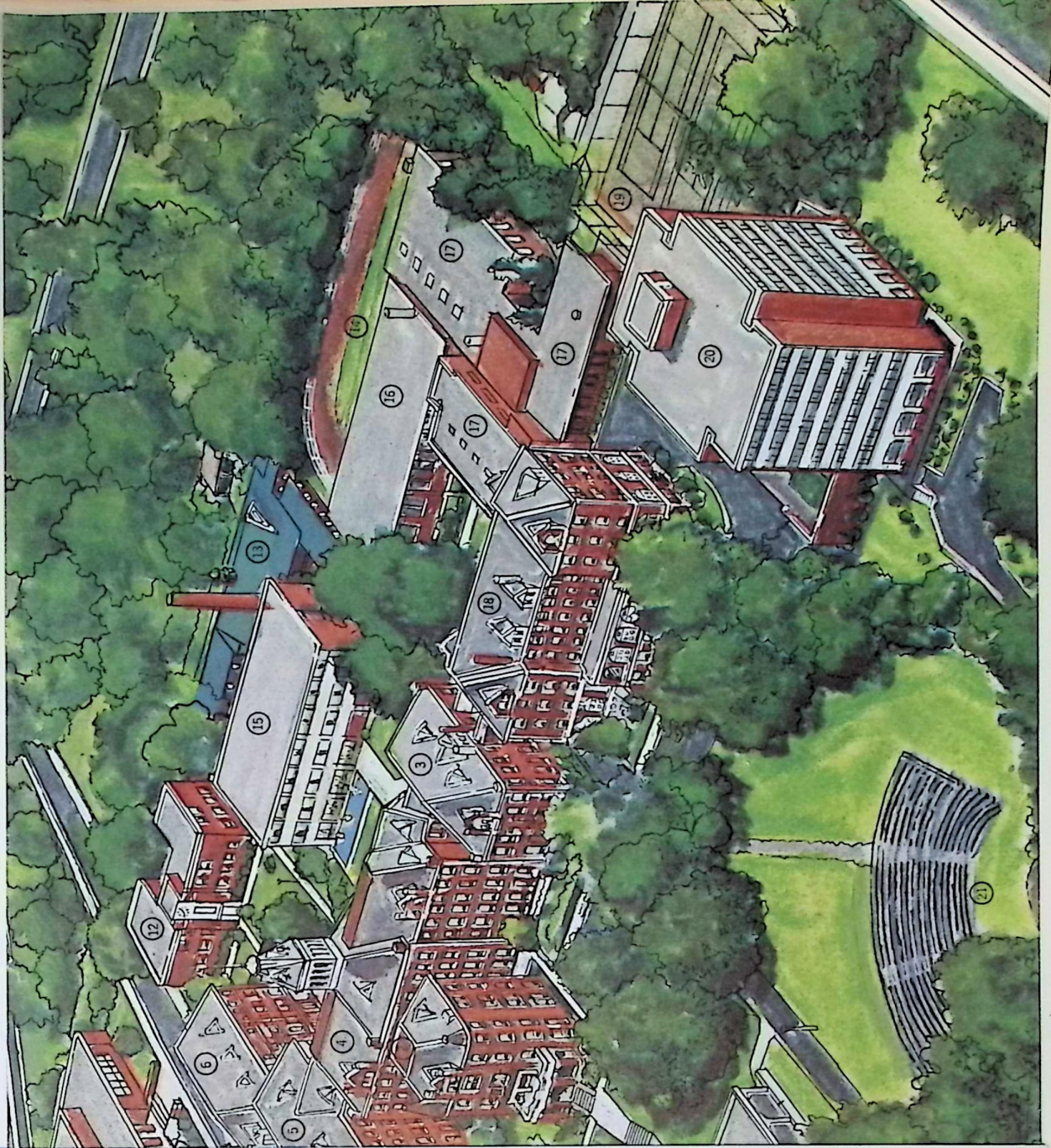
Many new courses have been added. Some of these inaugurate new programs. For example, a course called Field Study and Experience is designed to provide supervised observation and participation in community, educational, or governmental agencies. This course was an out-growth of social concern and personal responsibility expressed by students. Students are assisting in the public schools of Bristol, Va., the Juvenile Court, Janie Hammitt Home, a child development center sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity, the Mental Health Clinic and Bristol Welfare Department.

Another new program is the Dialogue-Forum Program. It is designed to provide for informal one-hour courses built around subjects, ideas, issues, or documents of importance and concern. These are planned for reading, thought, and discussion rather than for imparting specific information. Being offered are: Topics in Science, Contemporary Social Issues from Christian and Sociological Perspectives, and Contemporary Social Issues—Political and Cultural Aspects.

In the 87 years of her history, Virginia Intermont has continued to improve and expand. Today the College brings in to the community of Bristol an annual operational budget of \$1,600,000.00.

Dr. Turner came to Intermont July 1, 1956. Since he came here appreciation for his guardianship of the things of the mind and the spirit have been expressed. Expressions have come from many in the community and from educational leaders throughout the south, as has been indicated by committees he has chaired.

He has been able to dream dreams and see many of these dreams come true: substantial salary increases, improved facilities for living and learning, the development of a meaningful philosophy, and ultimately a curriculum and campus atmosphere that inspires and prepares students for life and living.



Virginia Intermont College

Bristol, Virginia 24201

- 1 — HARRISON-JONES MEMORIAL HALL
— Chapel, Auditorium, Director of Publicity and Cultural Development Program
- 2 — ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
— Residence, Dean of Students
- 3 — OLD CHAPEL-AUDITORIUM
- 4 — MAIN HALL
— Residence, Religious Center, Director of Religious Life
- 5 — WEST HALL
— Residence, Dining Hall
- 6 — HODGES HALL
— Residence
- 7 — MOORE STREET
- 8 — PRESIDENT'S HOME
- 9 — HUMANITIES BUILDING
— Classrooms, Faculty Offices, Director of Guidance
- 10 — ATHLETIC FIELD
- 11 — FINE ARTS CENTER
— Theatre, Recital Hall, Art, Drama, Music
- 12 — HICKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
— Classrooms, Faculty Offices
- 13 — STABLES
- 14 — RIDING RING
- 15 — SCIENCE HALL
— Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Home Economics, Secretarial Studies
- 16 — GYMNASIUM
— Physical Education, Dance Studio
- 17 — STUDENT CENTER—SWIMMING POOL
— Book Shop, Post Office, Snack Shop
- 18 — EAST HALL
— President, Academic Dean, Business Manager, Director of Development, Director of Admissions
- 19 — TENNIS COURTS
- 20 — INTERMONT HALL
— Residence
- 21 — AMPHITHEATER
- 22 — HARMELING STREET
- 23 — CHESTER STREET

