

At WPCC Commencement

Dr. Wey Tells Graduates Vast Changes Are Ahead

By DOROTHY CABLE

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Dignity, beauty, pageantry . . . the deliberate notes of the processional . . .

Western Piedmont Community College faculty took their places and then the seniors came marching onto the plaza.

Clear rain washed air, the solemn music, and then the formal words of invocation by Rev. P. O. James . . . "We thank thee, oh, Lord, for the many blessings — for this occasion."

There came the clear sweetness of the voice of Mrs. Faye Conley, soloist, and then the resonant tones of the College Choir. Directing the music was

Mrs. Robert Wilkins.

Dr. Gordon C. Blank, WPCC president, spoke brief words of welcome and read a telegram from President Richard M. Nixon to the 1970 graduating class of WPCC. Here it is?

"You graduate at a time when established institutions are being questioned as they have never been questioned before in our history. Much of this questioning is being done by the members of your generation, and it is your generation which ultimately will have to provide most of the answers to those questions.

"I hope that as you look for those answers, you will remember the obligation of every educated man and woman to draw careful distinctions between those ideas which must be readjusted and those which should be preserved.

"The fact that many accepted ways of thinking seem artificial and unjust does not warrant the rejection of all established standards. Nor should our proper respect for the past and our legitimate desire for stability lead us to defend thoughtlessly that which is outmoded and obsolete.

"Your challenge will be that of reconciling continuity and change, of giving new applications and fresh expressions to our traditional values — especially our concern for the dignity and integrity of every individual. By meeting that challenge you can make this time of rapid change a time of substantial growth and fulfillment — for yourselves, for your community and for your nation.

As I extend to you my personal congratulations and best wishes, I look to the future with greater confidence because I know of the exceptional qualifications you bring to the exceptional demands of our time."

Dr. Herbert W. Wey, Appalachian State University president and commencement speaker, was introduced by

Eugene M. White, WPCC board member.

White spoke of Dr. Wey as one of America's outstanding educators, one of the most exciting men to appear on the educational scene in the last decade. Dr. Wey received both his bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana State Teachers College, his Ph.D from the University of Indiana, and then came to Boone where he served as principal of the Appalachian demonstration school and was in charge of the teachers education program. After this he was on the faculty of the University of Miami in Florida until his return to ASU.

Dr. Wey has four daughters, the youngest a college sophomore, has written some 40 articles for professional journals, and is the author of a handbook for principals published by McGraw Hill.

White noted that being president of a college these days is no easy task. He finished his introduction with the story of a man who struggled to get his degree, became a teacher, spent 44 months in the Navy during World War II, was a prisoner of war, then a high school prin-

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cipal, earned his doctorate, became a college teacher, and in 1960 was president of a leading college. "In 1969 he died and went to hell but the change was so gradual he didn't know the difference . . . I'm sure that Appalachian has the right Wey," said White.

Dr. Wey rose chuckling. "Thank you, I assume I'm the man who has just returned from hell."

Then he spoke of how much he had heard of WPCC "and its rapid development, both in numbers of students and the quality of the programs offered."

"I would like to repeat here what I have said many times throughout these United States, and that is the community college and junior college movement is the most promising development in higher education. Certainly, this fine institution and this fine group of graduates are evidence of the important role that the community colleges are playing in our state."

"We at Appalachian State University feel so strongly about the future of the community college movement that we are planning to hold our freshman and sophomore classes at their present sizes and thus keep spaces for the students who transfer from community colleges," said Dr. Wey.

He noted that ASU had closed enrollments in January for other entering students but that community college transfer students will be accepted right up to the opening dates of school. Then he welcomed those WPCC graduates who will be entering ASU next fall.

He said he thought of several things to talk about after accepting the invitation to speak at the WPCC commencement, but decided they might not be significant to the WPCC graduates. Finally he decided to make a few remarks on "The Future Is Bright — And You Are Our Hope."

Continued Dr. Wey:

"True, the future holds for you many complex and difficult problems which have been handed to you by my generation. But at the same time we are handing over to you some very exciting new discoveries, both scientific and sociological. Man is on the threshold of a new age and may indeed, be posed as some think for the next major step in an evolutionary sense."

"Personally, it is my humble opinion that you and young men and women like you throughout these United States have in your hands the future of this little planet of ours."

Dr. Wey went on to discuss some of the problems of pollution and the very short period of time that some think may be left to mankind to do something about it.

He spoke of rapid growth in population and estimates that in the United States by year 2000 there will be a third more people than there are today.

"We are beginning to run low on water; and not only are we polluting our rivers and streams, but we are beginning to pollute the oceans, which have the potential of being our greatest food basket."

"Scientists are now saying that we are beginning to use up the oxygen in the air faster than the plants can make it for us."

Dr. Wey recalled that there are two groups of scientists at the University of Miami now concerned with these problems. One group, he said, believes it is too late to maintain life on this planet and are planning for colonization of space. The other group thinks it is not too late to correct problems of man on earth.

Dr. Wey referred briefly to other problems such as war, atomic bomb, urban social problems, rural poverty, and the thought, that this country is already involved in another revolution with its beginning the student protests and big city riots.

"We have the knowledge and

the technical know how to solve all of these problems, and I personally believe we will. We are on the threshold of a new age," he said.

Dr. Wey went on to predict permanent manned stations on the moon and even on some of the planets, new ventures of man including journeys beyond the solar system, colonization of the seas (perhaps even creation of gill men with lungs altered to permit breathing under water), systems to control weather, and control of aging by control of the amino acids in the body bringing average life expectancy to 100 years.

This wasn't all.

He also predicted control of population by foolproof contraception, more common replacement of worn out organs and even the growing of new ones to replace old ones, general and permanent immunization against most diseases, physical and chemical treatment for psychological and psychic states, gene manipulation and substitution, surgical and biochemical intervention in embryonic and prenatal phases to prevent the annual tragedy of 200,000 American babies being born with deformed bodies and impaired minds, rejuvenation of aging brain by injections of DNA, and the technique perfected for transferring learning.

As Dr. Wey talked the audience was suddenly aware of sunset — the sun a red gold ball.

"The future is bright and you're our last hope. As you continue your education you should develop more awareness. . . take part in community and political activities. I predict that our last hope for the future is in good hands — your hands," concluded Dr. Wey.

Miss Terri Whisnant, student, presented the Student Government Association plaque to Joseph Franklin Woodell III, president, who was graduating.

Dr. Gordon C. Blank, WPCC president, then conferred degrees and diplomas which were presented by Miss C. Louise Davis, Registrar.

The first two diplomas were presented out of sequence so as not to make a young couple late to the rehearsal for their wedding. Miss Sharon Diane Walker, who was receiving her associate in science degree, and Gregory Philip Smith, getting the associate in applied science in accounting, were being married Saturday.

They were dismissed with best wishes of the college and then other graduates received their diplomas.

Afterwards sounded the music of "The Battle Hymn" sung by the college choir with Richard Franklin as soloist.

Rev. C. Eugene Lawing, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church pronounced the benediction . . . of especial significance for him as his wife, Betty Seagle Lawing, was among the graduates. She received the associate in arts degree with high honors.

Mrs. John D. Smith played "Psalm 19" as the recessional. And as the graduates marched away, several of the young men . . . and women were sober of face with tears in their eyes.

Here is the roll of graduates:

Associate in arts degree — Chloe Graham Acuff, Morganton; Denzil Adams, Nebo; Deborah Lynn Atwater, Lenoir; Riley Barnett, Spruce Pine; Kenneth Coy Barrett, Whitnel; William Blanton, Morganton; Ray Allan Boyles, Hickory; Toni Lynn Brown, Morganton; John Thomas Calder, Asheville; Jean Elaine Correll, Lenoir; Thomas Ray Dobbins, Hickory.

Richard John Franklin, Morganton; Eric Michael Frye, Hickory, with high honors; Quinn Hutchins Greene, Glen Alpine; Geoffrey Lynn Hevel, Morganton, in absentia; Kenneth Carlton Howie, Hickory, with honors; Forrest Ronnie Hudson, Morganton; Reuben James Hudson, Morganton, with honors; Carroll Webster Huffman, Hickory; Larry Edward Snipes, Morganton, with high honors; Ruth Huffman Snipes, Morganton, with honors; John Wayne Throneburg, Morganton; Thomas Lee Trinks, Marion, with honors; Donald Ray Walker, Morganton; and Sharon Diane Walker, Morganton.

Associate in applied science, accounting — Phillip Eugene Church, Marion; Samuel Cornelius Dula Jr., Lenoir; Jack Robert Garland, Spruce Pine, also completed requirements for business administration; Everette Herman Hawkins Jr., Glenwood, with honors; Brenda Lee Hudson, Morganton, with high honors, also completed requirements for secretarial science; Albert Grayson Kaylor Jr., Marion; Gregory Philip Smith, Morganton.

Business administration — David Jimison Crough, Marion; James Christopher Deal, Valdese; Murphy Gene Frye, Morganton; Jimmy LeVon Johnson, Morganton; Gary Wade Watson, Morganton.

Executive secretary — Marjorie Lucille Ervin, Morganton; Vivian Gail Lambert, Valdese.

Legal secretary — Sandra Rhea Greer, Lenoir.

Medical secretary — Michelle Ann Kane, Marion.

Medical office assistant — Charlotte Grindstaff Berry, Morganton, with high honors; Elizabeth Ann Bridges, Morganton; Freddie Diana Kincaid, Morganton, with high honors; Elizabeth Sue Moore, Morganton; Wayburn Pauline Moretz, Hickory.

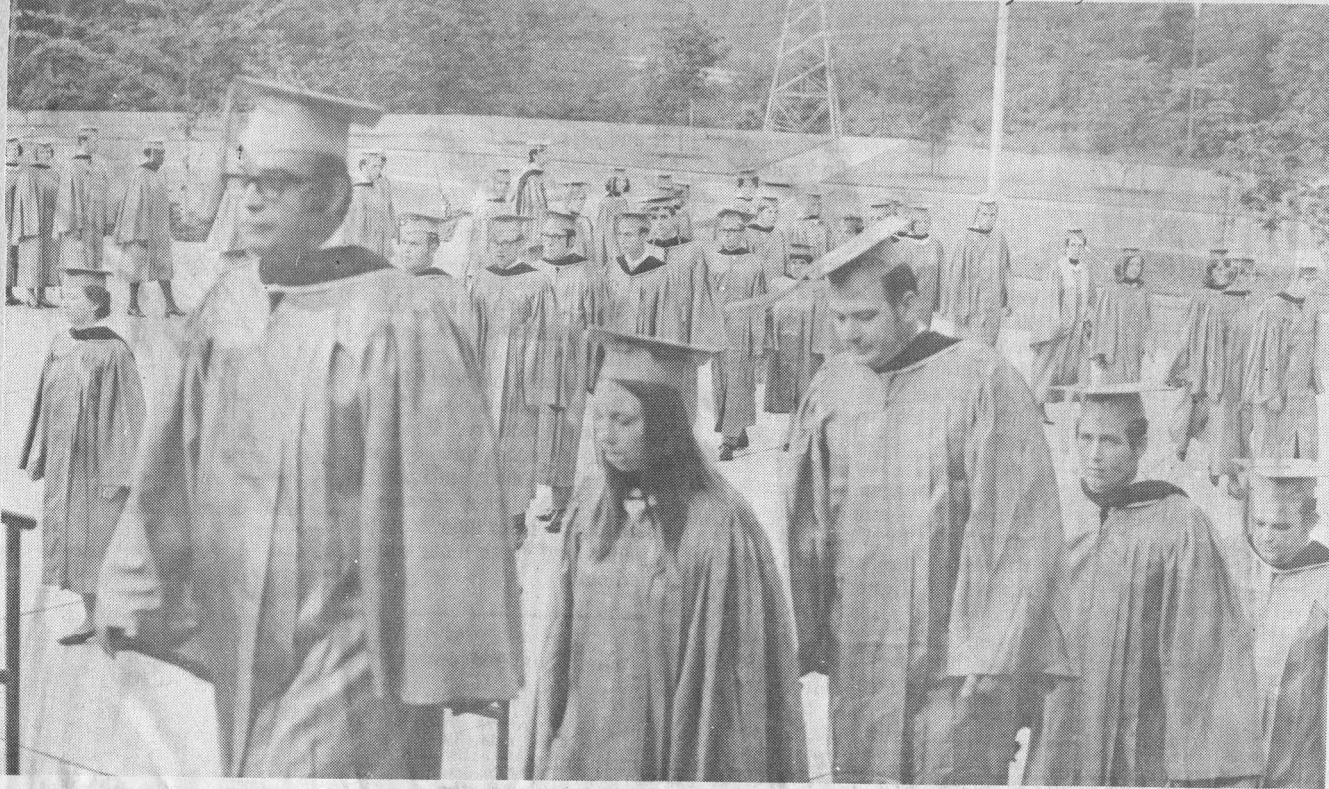
Industrial engineering technology — William Larry Snypes, Connelly Springs.

Nursing — Randy Samuel Arrowood, Morganton; Gwendolyn Conner Austin, Marion; Shirley Whisnant Franklin, Morganton, with honors; Barbara Gwyn Hackney, Valdese; Virginia Carolyn Harris, Morganton; Allene Worthley Harrison, Morganton; Lovie Esta Honeycutt, Burnsville; Jan Huntley Pennell, Lenoir, with high honors; Nell Cuthbertson Rhyne, Morganton; Sharon Ennis Sebastian, Hickory.

Diplomas:

Auto mechanics — Carol Wayne Walters, Morganton.

Medical laboratory assistant — Anna Belle Kincaid, Morganton, with honors; Chris Franklin McGalliard, Glen Alpine; Mary Evelyn Sipes, Hudson, with honors.



Western Piedmont Seniors Come Marching In

Can't you hear the music . . . the stately notes of the processional . . . as seniors of Western Piedmont Community College form two lines to march to their places? Graduating seniors, parents, friends, faculty members, other students jammed the plaza at

WPCC for commencement Friday night. They heard an address by Dr. Herbert W. Wey, new president of Appalachian State University. (Staff photo by Andy Corpening)