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Sixteen Pages

Sanford Sees Bright Future For WPCC

College Is Dedicated Formally

**Former Governor
And Other Notables
Join In Ceremony**

Moore also spoke briefly of the letters and telegrams of congratulation that had poured in from President Richard Nixon and Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. from Governor Robert W. Scott, Lt. Gov. H. P. Taylor Jr., Congressmen James T. Broyhill, state legislators, and other state officials concerned with education. These will be entered in the college archives.

Greetings were brought from the State Board of Education by John M. Reynolds of Asheville; from the State Board of Higher Education, by J. P. Huskins; from Western Piedmont Foundation, by W. W. Couch, president; from the Department of Community Colleges, by Dr. I. E. Ready; from the N. C. Association of "Colleges and Universities, by Dr. Clyde A. Milner; from the Regional

Dedicated Formally

By DOROTHY CABLE
News-Herald Education Editor
Terry Sanford, the man known for interest in quality education during his years as governor of North Carolina, commended the people of Burke County for their faith, vision, and willingness to pay the price for educational opportunity.

Sanford spoke to more than 500 people yesterday afternoon at the dedication and open house for Western Piedmont Community College. Sunshine mixed with a cool breeze marked the occasion which brought together educators, state officials, trustees, students, and in some cases very young future students.

The program on the college plaza opened with an organ prelude by Mrs. Linda Baker. Then came the processional as dignitaries and faculty members in cap and gown marched to their places.

The invocation was spoken by Rev. L. Clement Hahn, pastor of Mt. Hebron Church and WPCC trustee.

"Western Piedmont can truly be called the people's college," said W. Stanley Moore, chairman of the Board of Trustees, as he welcomed the crowd.

He noted that the college was "by, of, and for the people" as in special election it was approved in a 17 to one vote. All Burke County precincts approved the college.

Dr. Milner spoke of the growing community college movement. He said two years ago he visited 36 countries around the world and found in all of them primary concern with education. Now this college is injected into this world wide concern with education, he said.

Dr. Boozer spoke briefly of the work of the Regional Educational Laboratories. Of 20 such in the United States, this one he represents — serving the two Carolinas and Virginia — is the only one working with higher education. The community college movement is new and he and his staff welcome the opportunity to work with WPCC in the months ahead.

Said Childers: "It is a privilege to welcome all of you to the campus. It is your college. Thanks to each of you for our college . . . no longer a distant dream. Instead it is a beautiful reality."

Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., former chairman of the board of trustees, spoke formally inducting Dr. Gordon C. Blank as president.

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Education Laboratory, Dr. Howard R. Boozer; and from the Western Piedmont Students Association, by Terry R. Childers.

Comments included: "This day is realization of a dream long envisioned," said Couch. He cited the growth of the college since it opened in the fall of 1966, spoke of plans now underway for an additional building, and noted that heights to which the institution can rise are limited only by foresight and support given it.

"It is a thrill to see a dream become concrete," said Dr. Ready, one of those who did initial planning before the idea of community colleges was fully established. He spoke of the response made by the people of the county and of the appreciation due those who worked for passage of the bond issue.

Dr. Phifer noted that, as first chairman of the board, he was well aware "of both the challenges and difficulties involved with this complex institution — an open-door, comprehensive community college which offers a broad range of occupational and academic offerings."

He spoke of the leadership of Dr. Blank which has resulted in rapid and solid progress in implementation of a program of excellence.

"Western Piedmont represents a valued educational opportunity to our community with a unique personal relationship between faculty and student and between college and community. The progress of this institution is witnessed by the campus at which we gather today and is a measure of that dedication.

"Dr. Blank, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I welcome you as our president with confidence in your abilities, your wisdom, and your integrity, and I assure you of our continued support and full cooperation. The finest destiny of this institution can be achieved only through the mutual trust and reciprocal efforts of all members of the college family.

"You are hereby formally invested in the office of president of Western Piedmont Community College," concluded Dr. Phifer.

Dr. Blank said in reflecting on "the challenge and responsibility of the presidency of this institution. I am led to the unalterable conclusion that the future well being and progress of this region is linked with our ability to explore a new dimension in education. This dimension must be forged from the steel of the collective wisdom, vision, and integrity of those who strive to give of themselves that others may learn . . . In concert with my colleagues, I pledge myself to the noble task that lies ahead."

In formal presentation of the building, A. G. Odell Jr., architect, noted that architects, engineers, and craftsmen are proud of this college.

Robert P. Carr, chairman of the trustee buildings and ground committee, formally accepted the buildings.

"These Buildings give us a flexible look to cope with our generation and generations unborn," said Carr.

E. P. Dameron, trustee and Marion attorney, introduced Sanford. He reviewed his background from boyhood in Laurinburg on till he was elected governor in 1960, some of his successful programs, including establishment of the system of community colleges, and activities since leaving public office.

Sanford commented that education may well be the key to solutions of many of the difficulties facing the nation. Most he said stem from the place man is to have in society and the opportunity he is to have in life.

"The heart of the solution to these questions is education. Never has education been so essential. Never has a person without adequate training and education been so totally left out of life and living. There are not any jobs for ignorant hands. There is not any chance for an untrained mind," said Sanford.

He spoke of the tragedy of proposed curtailment of the Job Corps as a continuation of the cycle of poverty. He said he would like to see North Carolina come up with a vigorous program of its own.

He said the state "should not sit around waiting for the federal government to solve our problems and develop our potential. In 1961 I was advised to wait for federal aid to education, counseled in good faith by a number of friends that North Carolina could not afford to pay out any more for education, and that we had to call on the federal government for school support.

"I didn't take that advice and it is a good thing that we did not play a waiting game. There wasn't any new federal aid during the four years of my administration. But North Carolina, by taking the initiative to respond to her own challenges set an example in creative education that captured the attention of the other 49 states.

"We got on with our own hopes for North Carolina education, getting up our own money, making our own investments in our own future," he said.

"This great new institution in Morganton, Western Piedmont Community College, is one of the results of North Carolina's faith in itself. So the lesson is clear. We can do whatever we set out to do," he said.

He spoke of the challenging mission of the community college in the state to teach everything from sophomore French to bricklaying.

The community college system started with Dallas Herring's dream and Gov. Hodges' administration which created industrial education centers. Then the concept expanded to include technical institute training and then to put the first two years of college within commuting distance of every young person in the state.

This means that many are set on the road to a college education who otherwise might never start, he said.

Sanford reviewed progress made in technical training also and emphasized the need to continue trade and basic skills training in the system.

Speaking again of the Job Corps, he noted that it would not do all that is needed in North Carolina. He spoke of an experimental program started six years ago called "Second Chance." This, halted when the Job Corps came on the scene, may need to be picked up and gone on with as a state project,

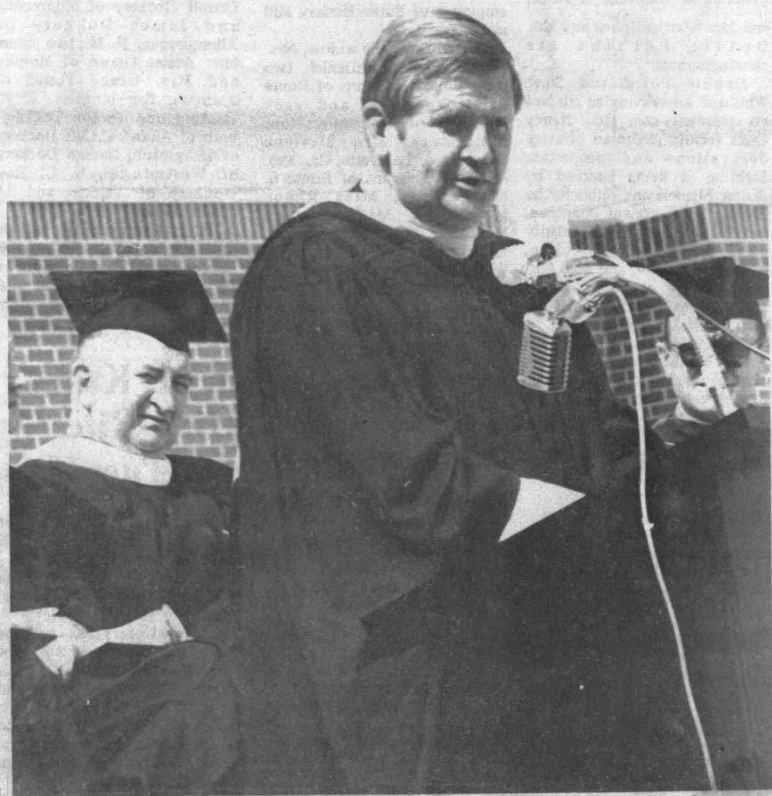
he said. He suggested that college students might help in recruitment of dropouts for this training.

Sanford said he felt that "in six years of concentrated effort we can jump North Carolina at least 10 notches in national per capita income. He said this effort would include new highways, new industry, but mostly be achieved through education.

Moore commented briefly on Sanford's vision in looking ahead and showing that more dreams are there which will lead to a better state.

Rev. John W. Carter, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, pronounced the benediction.

A reception in the college library followed the formal program. Also visitors continued the tour of the buildings started during the open house prior to the dedication.



Terry Sanford Dedicates WPCC

"Western Piedmont Community College is one of the results of North Carolina's faith in itself." Making the comment yesterday at the WPCC dedication is Terry Sanford, former governor whose interest in education is responsible for establishment of the community

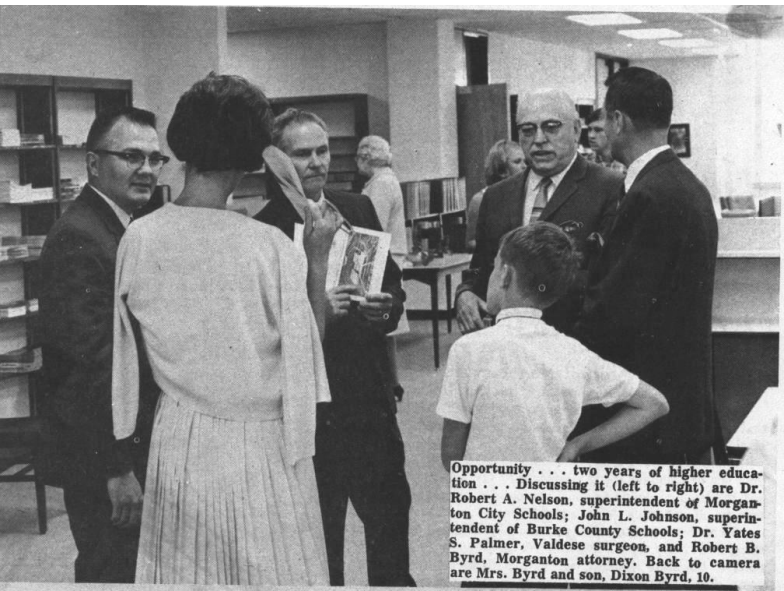
college system. Listening (left) is John M. Reynolds, Asheville, chairman of the Community College Committee of the State Board of Education. (More pictures on page 11 by Benny Orders and Edgar Payne, staff photographers.)

**Dedication Sunday . . . Western
Piedmont Community College**

**"The mission of this community college is people" . . . Terry
Sanford, former governor.**



Handshaking for speaker. E. P. Dameron, trustee of WPCC, congratulates former governor Terry Sanford on his outlook on education's role in state development. Looking on (left to right) are A. G. Odel Jr., architect; Robert P. Carr, chairman of Trustee Buildings and Grounds Committee; and John M. Reynolds, Asheville, of State Board of Education.



Opportunity . . . two years of higher education . . . Discussing it (left to right) are Dr. Robert A. Nelson, superintendent of Morganton City Schools; John L. Johnson, superintendent of Burke County Schools; Dr. Yates S. Palmer, Valdese surgeon, and Robert B. Byrd, Morganton attorney. Back to camera are Mrs. Byrd and son, Dixon Byrd, 10.



Trustees and speakers in dedication . . . They are (left to right) Rev. John W. Carter, benediction; Dr. Clyde A. Milner, N.C. Association of Colleges and Universities; Dr. Howard R. Boozer, Regional Education Laboratory; J. P. Huskins, State Board of Higher Education; Dr. I. E. Ready, Department of Community Colleges; Dr. Gordon C. Blank, WPCC president; Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., former

chairman of Board of Trustees of WPCC; Terry Sanford; W. Stanley Moore, chairman of WPCC Board of Trustees; E. P. Dameron, trustee; A. G. Odell Jr., architect; Robert P. Carr, trustee; John M. Reynolds, State Board of Education; W. W. Couch, Western Piedmont Foundation; Terry R. Childers, WP Student Association; Rev. L. Clement Hahn, trustee