

WPCC founders honored

By SUSAN USHER
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Western Piedmont Community College buildings were named in honor of two of the school's most prominent founding fathers in a ceremony Tuesday.

Before about 75 people in the WPCC administration building lobby, W. Stanley Moore and Frank Caldwell Patton were praised for their roles in establishing the college. A reception followed the 4 p.m. dedication.

Retired U.S. Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., speaker for the ceremony, lauded Patton and Moore for their "intellectual integrity."

It also was Ervin who spoke 13 years ago on Nov. 15, 1966, when he, Patton, Moore and WPCC Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. E.W. Phifer Jr. took the podium to celebrate the groundbreaking for the two buildings dedicated Tuesday.

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, "A" Building officially became the W. Stanley Moore Administration

Building in honor of the college board of trustees' charter vice chairman.

As a civic leader and editor of The News Herald, Moore was credited with creating a climate supportive of the founding of a community college in Burke County. A member of the board since the college's inception, he served as chairman from 1968 to 1976.

Also dedicated was the Frank Caldwell Patton Science Building, formerly known as "B" Building. Patton, a member of the executive committee of the charter board of trustees, is credited with garnering much of the countywide support for a bond issue to support the college, and with securing the college's present site on Highway 64 near Interstate 40.

In lieu of the bronze plaque soon to appear on each building, WPCC President Wilmon H. Droze presented Moore and Patton certificates, expressing his "gratification and excitement" in doing so.

As the crowd clustered around Ervin, he described the movement to found WPCC as one of the top three historical events in the county. He ranked it only beneath the county's contributions to the Battle of King's Mountain in the American Revolution and to the Confederate Army.

"Of all the events which have occurred in Burke County of which I am proud," Ervin told the group of college and community representatives, "I'm prouder of this than anything else — the approximately 17-to-1 vote in which the people of Burke County approved the bond issue which made Western Piedmont Community College a possibility."

As long as the buildings stand, he added later, they will give the youths and adults of Burke County the "opportunity to make of themselves everything their industry, ambition, talents and creator make it possible for them to become."

Praising Patton and Moore for their stature and

★ Please turn to page 10A

College names buildings for Moore, Patton

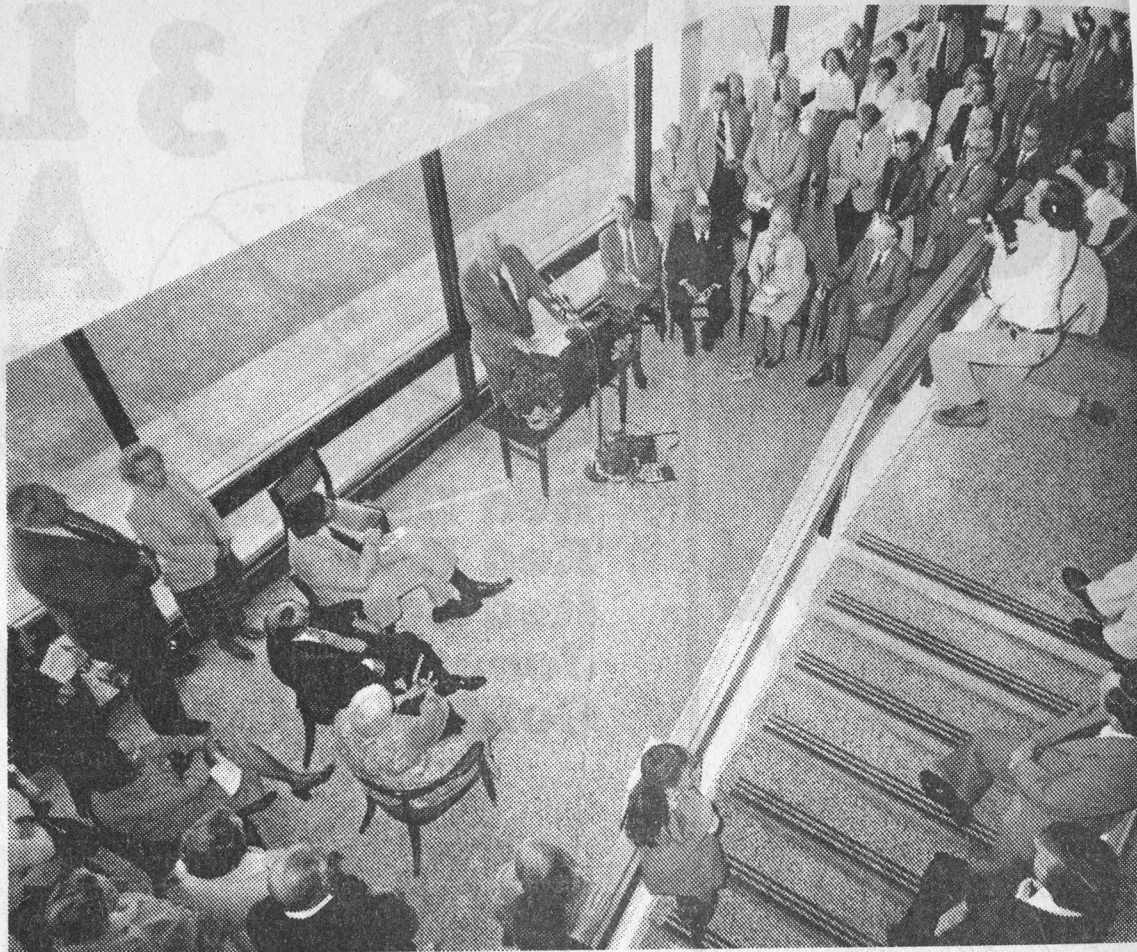
★ From page one

contributions in their respective careers as trial lawyer and editor, Ervin then compared the two leaders.

"Both have inquiring minds, think their own thoughts and have the courage to stand up for the things they believe in," he said. Equally important, they have the "priceless ingredient of character, their intellectual integrity," the retired senator added.

Of his two longtime friends, Ervin said, "I have long admired them for the quality of their heads and loved them for the quality of their hearts."

Also participating in the ceremony were Dr. E.W. Phifer Jr., chairman of the WPCC Board of Trustees at its founding and presently serving in the role again, and the Rev. W. T. Guerry, First Baptist Church of Morganton.



Ervin speaks at dedication of WPCC building.

Photo by Chuck Liddy



Frank C. Patton



W. Stanley Moore