



Former presidents Stallworth, Blank and Droze

...with current president Jim Richardson.

Former WPCC presidents honored at college banquet

By MARIE PARKHURST
News Herald Staff Writer

"I'm back here to share in remembering," Western Piedmont Community College's first president Herbert F. Stallworth told about 100 special guests gathered Friday evening at a banquet to celebrate the college's 20th anniversary.

The dinner was a part of the week-long celebration activities which began April 1 and would have concluded today with an invitational golf tournament at Mimosa Hills Golf Club had it not rained.

The tournament, sponsored by the Western Piedmont Foundation, has been rescheduled

for April 16 at 1 p.m.

Held in honor of current and past trustees and foundation members, county commissioners seated in 1964 when the college was founded, and charter faculty and staff, the dinner followed an afternoon public reception for Drs. Stallworth, Gordon C. Blank, and Wilmon H. Droze, the three former college presidents.

"The reputation of Western Piedmont Community College is known all over the country as an excellent college," Stallworth told the dinner guests. "I'm honored."

"There is no way to express adequately how I feel about the invitation back," he said after

being introduced by a founding trustee, E.P. Dameron. "There are some I would like to have seen who aren't here."

In his introduction, Dameron emphasized Stallworth's "unbounded energy and dedication" in getting the college "off the ground and rooted in the community."

In response, Stallworth, excusing his modesty, said, "After Dr. (Edward W.) Phiifer (Jr.) and (Stanley) Moore, I guess (Robert P.) Bob Carr and myself were the key people in getting the college in operation."

Carr, who attended the banquet was also a member of the founding board of trustees.

When remembering Phiifer, Stallworth said

he thought of a poem about a man who struggled to cross a great chasm then stopped before going on to take time to bridge the gulf.

"In the path I come, there follows a youth to pass this way — I'm, building this bridge for him," Stallworth said the poem read. "That's the spirit in which this institution was built."

"Burke County and Morganton were doing the work of the Constitution when you decided to build this good college and sustain it," he said. "And love of fellowman, the principle of inclusion rather than exclusion, the social moral principle of shared or common interest all constituted the building of this great institution."

"Western Piedmont has been the salvation of many," he said. "The thousands who have been touched by this college will tell you that."

Stallworth was appointed WPCC president in 1964. He is currently on the staff of the coordinating board of the Texas College and University System in Austin, Texas.

After the banquet, the guests moved to Moore Auditorium where Mrs. Edward Phiifer, chairwoman of the current board of trustees, gave each former president a silver plate in appreciation for their contributions to

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the college.

Following the honorary presentations, WPCC Drama 120 presented "Opening the Door," a docu-drama tracing the college's founding history compiled by drama instructor Cheryl Oxford from newspaper articles and public speeches.

Other founding trustees who were banquet guests were Ben. E. Hofmeyer, Thad M. Poteat, Eugent M. White and Genie Bohler.

Chairman of the anniversary activ-

ities steering committee and college trustee, Robert B. Byrd was master of ceremonies.

Other trustees who attended are, vice chairman of the current board of trustees, Charles Digh, and current members, Claude S. Sifton, Allen W. Fullwood, Elsie Childres, Jack L. Drum, Charles T. Henson and Helen McDowell.

Also attending were former trustees, James Cates who is currently county commission chairman, and H.D. Moretz, former WPCC dean and

acting president.

In attendance also were such dignitaries as county commissioners George B. Clark and Ernest Morgan; Western Piedmont Foundation President Jerry T. Norvell; and Bill Parton, the governor's appointee to the state Committee on Community Colleges.

And, charter faculty and staff members, Larry Clark, Gwen Eiler, Jack Huss, Harold Olsen, Ruby Harbison Pharr, Shirley Smith and Lenada Williams.