

VICTOR SILAS BRYANT

Victor Silas Bryant of Durham is a distinguished attorney, concerned public servant, agile summer deckhand on sailing boats off Maine, and one of the staunchest supporters of the University of North Carolina since he enrolled as a freshman in Chapel Hill sixty-five years ago. As a student, he displayed the versatility that has characterized his illustrious career: he was first baseman on the baseball team, and he was selected to the Orders of the Golden Fleece and Gimghoul. Following Army service in World War I, he attended the Law School here.

In 1923 and during the depression years of 1935-41 Mr. Bryant served in the North Carolina General Assembly. During those difficult times when money--or the lack of it--was a major legislative preoccupation, he emerged as one of the principal architects of the state's fiscal policy as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, of the House Finance Committee, and as a member of the Advisory Budget Commission. At all times, he was instrumental in maintaining education as the lodestar of this state.

Mr. Bryant's reputation as a friend and promoter of education led to his appointment as Chairman of the Governor's Committee to Study Higher Education, 1954-55, and to membership on the Governor's Study Committee on the Structure and Organization of Higher Education in North Carolina, 1971. He chaired the committees that recommended the election of two Presidents of the University, Gordon Gray and William C. Friday. Even more significant was his faithful and productive service for thirty-six years on the UNC Board of Trustees, most of that time as a member of the Executive Committee, followed by seven years on the present Board of Governors. His affection for this campus has been constant, his labors on its behalf unceasing and fruitful. This University presented its loyal son a Doctor of Laws degree in 1956, and now, with a sense of appreciation and gratitude, presents him this additional honor.

JACOB BERKE FREEDLAND

Jacob Berke Freedland is a Charlotte dentist whose many achievements in his profession and in the public service have enriched the quality of life for many thousands of persons in many places. A native of Wilmington, he attended this University and Emory University. In Charlotte he chose to limit his successful private practice so that he could participate widely in community affairs, play a leadership role in the development of his profession, and for a number of years, to teach at this Institution on a regular basis as a Clinical Professor.

Dr. Freedland's greatest professional contribution has been in the area of Endodontics. With a talent for organization, professional skill, boundless enthusiasm, and compassion for human suffering, he has worked to establish this important specialty of dental care. He was President of the American Association of Endodontists in 1964, served several years as Director of the American Board of Endodontics, and recently has chaired the Advisory Committee on Advanced Education in Endodontics of the Commission on Accreditation

Many honors and awards have come to this energetic alumnus, including the Distinguished Service Award of the Dental Foundation of North Carolina, the Pierre Fauchard Award, and earlier this year, the Distinguished Service Award of the North Carolina Chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry. He is an honorary member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon and a fellow of the American College of Dentists and of the International College of Dentists. Perhaps most important, the Jacob Berke Freedland Chair in Endodontics has been established at the School of Dentistry here by his colleagues here and abroad. Dr. Freedland's service to this University is symbolized in the fine pieces of African art which he and Mrs. Freedland presented to the Ackland Museum. The University now recognizes the man Dean Raymond P. White once referred to as "an amazing guy" with this Award.

MAY BELLE PENN JONES

May Belle Penn Jones is a talented alumna whose many contributions to society have come on several levels. She has served as an effective teacher, a top business executive, and an ardent farmer. She received her Bachelor's degree here, Phi Beta Kappa, and a Master's degree as well. As President of the Women's Student Government Association, she helped to persuade the General Assembly to build Spencer Dormitory. She taught for two years and then, for a decade, devoted herself to her family.

When May Belle Penn Jones entered the field of business she did so equipped with superior ability, optimism, and a capacity for ceaseless hard work. Without benefit of executive training programs but on her own initiative, she rose through positions in Macy's in New York and Meyer's Department Store in Greensboro to become the efficient head of two important organizations: she was Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Mark Cross, Inc., and President and Chief Executive Officer of Drake America Corporation, both in New York. During these years she also managed a farm near Greensboro--often, herself, helping to save a newborn calf or cleaning out a stall--and she taught for several years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Mrs. Jones has also found time to work with important public service organizations and to lecture on such subjects as women in business. A few years ago she helped to found the Center for the Study of Human Values, an organization which is presently being incorporated into the program in the Humanities for the Study of Human Values here at Chapel Hill. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of that Center for several years. In 1973 she received the Public Service Award of Chi Omega Sorority. The University, with this Award, acclaims the brilliant life and career of this gifted alumna.

FRANK HAWKINS KENAN

Frank Hawkins Kenan is a devoted public servant, a highly successful businessman, and an alumnus extraordinarily supportive of this University. Born in Atlanta to a North Carolina family, he received his Bachelor of Science in Commerce here, where his accomplishments gave promise of the future and brought him membership in the Orders of the Grail and Gimghoul. With a small amount of capital he formed the Kenan Oil Company and, as he once said, "Everything grew from that." The complex properties that he now owns and supervises extend from Virginia to Florida and require sagacious insight to control. Granville Towers, which he constructed and operates, functions as an essential part of this campus.

Mr. Kenan is always active in the public interest; he served several terms as Durham County Commissioner and in a crucial period was on the Board of Trustees of the Durham County Hospital Corporation; he is a Trustee of Durham Academy, of the Duke Endowment, of the William Rand Kenan, Jr., Charitable Trust, and of the Research Triangle Institute.

The support given to this University by Mr. Kenan and others of his family has been vital to its well-being and has bolstered its national reputation. He has served as a member of the Order of the Tar Heel One Hundred and on the Boards of the Medical Foundation, the Business Foundation, the Arts and Sciences Foundation, and the Institutional Development Foundation. He was first President of the Sarah Graham Kenan Foundation. Mr. Kenan once said that the qualities he has sought in employees are loyalty and enthusiasm. These are precisely the characteristics that have made him so invaluable to this Institution as an alumnus. In 1976 he was given the Distinguished Service Award of the School of Medicine and last year the Distinguished Service Medal of the General Alumni Association. The University delights to honor, once again, this illustrious son.

JOSEPH MARYON SAUNDERS

Joseph Maryon (Spike) Saunders did not design the Old Well, lay the first bricks for Old East, or write "Hark the Sound." But to thousands of alumni, his name calls up images of those enduring symbols of this campus. He was born in Elon College and grew up in Durham. As a student here in Chapel Hill, with verve and enthusiasm he sampled all facets of life on the campus; he was named to the Orders of the Grail, the Golden Fleece, Gimghoul, and Amphoterotheren. In his senior year, he was editor of The Daily Tar Heel. Following graduation he taught history at Georgia Tech for a year before coming home to stay.

As Secretary of the Alumni Association for forty-three years, he presided over the growth of its rolls from less than 1,000 to about 13,000 members. He served as Vice President and as President of the American Alumni Council. In 1936 the Council declared his editorial page of The Alumni Review to be the best of any alumni magazine in the United States, and subsequently he twice received official Commendations of Excellence from the Council. He helped bind closer the ties of gown to town by taking an active civic role, serving as president of the local Kiwanis Club and as District Governor of Kiwanis International.

Spike Saunders was an Alumni Secretary par excellence. He was a quiet, selfless dynamo. As the chief link between alumni and their Alma Mater, he transmitted to them his deep belief in the vital importance of this institution to the state, region and nation. He effectively rallied support for the University in times of trial, when academic freedom seemed imperiled or financial aid was imperative. In the years since his "retirement," he has continued to work in the development program and in Alumni Annual Giving. Last year Spike was given the Distinguished Service Medal of the General Alumni Association. A grateful University now presents him this further accolade.