

Walter Horace Carter **Doctor of Laws**

Horace Carter, Class of 1943, is owner, editor, and publisher of the *Tabor City Tribune*, a weekly newspaper that serves the Tabor City area of Columbus County in southeastern North Carolina. A native of Stanly County, Carter entered Carolina in 1939 from a high school graduating class of 12. He worked his way through school, was elected editor of the *Daily Tar Heel*, and was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece. Inspired by Frank Porter Graham's social consciousness, Carter used his newspaper in the early 1950s to take on the Ku Klux Klan. He attended KKK meetings while keeping his identity secret. His critical editorials and stories exposed him and his family to daily harassment and threats, but the dangerous work succeeded handsomely. Nearly 300 Klansmen were convicted, and 62 received fines and prison terms. This work won for the paper the Pulitzer Prize Meritorious Public Service Award, the most prestigious of the Pulitzer awards. At that time, his was the first weekly newspaper to have been accorded that high honor. True to his character, Horace Carter donated the Pulitzer medal to the School of Journalism where it can be seen today in a setting made possible by his generosity. The *Raleigh News and Observer* recently included Horace Carter in its list of the 100 most influential North Carolinians of the 20th century.

Today, The University honors this distinguished and courageous alumnus with the degree of Doctor of Laws.