

Family Editor

Arbor ardor: let there be trees on the Hood College campus

It has been almost 70 years since the first trees were planted on the Hood College campus, a "labor of love" by Gertrude Harner Apple, wife of Hood's first president, Joseph Henry Apple.

Today, as one might expect, many of Hood's original trees have fallen victim to old age, disease, storm damage and building construction. But never, in the college's 92-year-old history, were so many trees affected as on the evening of July 17, 1984, when a brief, violent wind and rainstorm hit the campus, destroying 22 trees and damaging 84 others.

Hood President Dr. Martha E. Church alerted alumnae and friends to the seriousness of the situation in her summer newsletter, with the result that more than \$9,000 in contributions has been received to date for a replacement "tree fund." Joseph Pastore, vice president for administration and finance, surveyed the campus and researched the records, discovering that since 1965 approximately 92 trees had been lost and only 10 had been planted.

Thus in early December, with the first snowfall of the season beginning to dust the campus, a long, flatbed truck swung through the Thomas Gateway carrying 40 trees, including oaks, flowering trees, gingkos, evergreens, maples and one copper beech. Some were individual gifts, but most were given through the combined contributions of many donors.

Following the example set by Mrs. Apple, Deldee Truxall of Frederick, wife of Hood's third president, continued the campus beautification program while living in the President's House.

"I liked the idea that Mrs. Apple had

planted trees ... it was a lovely tradition that I wanted to carry on," she explained during a recent visit to the campus to view the new trees. Some of the trees she planted, the Chinese red maple near the library and the star magnolia at the President's House, are still standing and in good health.

Another contributor to the "tree fund" was Emily Apple Payne of Frederick, a daughter of Hood's first president.

"Knowing mother's interest in the campus, I want to continue the tradition of giving in her name," she said. Another daughter, Elizabeth Apple McCain of Frederick, added, "The trees were mother's hobby and she often wrote friends and asked them for money for trees, much to father's dismay because he also wanted to ask them for money for a different cause!"

People contributed for different reasons, noted O. Edward Pollock, vice president for development and external affairs. To date there have been 53 gifts, 25 of which are memorials.

One contributor gave a small amount in the hope that the money would go toward "adopting the limb of a tree," while 11 classmates from the class of 1925 joined forces to send in a larger gift.

Even romance was a factor, as one alumna explained. "Because my husband and I met at Hood and enjoyed some hours of delight sitting under the trees of Hood, I am enclosing a contribution to purchase twin, tall, lively young trees of strength and purpose that will one day shelter from sun and give visual liveliness to future Hood students."

Shirley M. Hufstедler of Flintridge, Calif., who received an honorary degree

from the college in 1981, wrote, "I remember the beautiful trees with special pleasure ..." and sent funds to "begin a new grove for the college."

Sally Golden McDonald of Annville, Pa., '47, gave money in memory of her father, Thomas H. Golden, for "my father was a forester and always loved the Hood campus."

Nancy F. Patterson of Winston-Salem, N.C., '53, sent a gift for a tree to be planted in memory of her parents, Madeline and Ray Freeman, requesting only to know "what type of tree is planted and its general location."

Not all gifts were memorials. Anne and Ralph Knoll of West Chester, Pa., asked that a tree be planted in honor of her parents, Pauline and Ross V. Smith Sr. of Thurmont. Mrs. Knoll is a member of the college's board of associates, while her father is a former member.

And from Chip Brown of New York, former director of admissions, "Your appeal on behalf of the trees on campus touched me ... the copper beech behind Strawn Cottage has always been one of my favorites ... I hope it's still there." (It is!)

According to Pastore, the tree planting program will continue next year. A visual reminder for him and for visitors to his office is a large campus map, bright with orange and green stickers showing the placement of the trees given and the areas where trees are still needed.

"We are looking ahead," admits Dr. Church, who continued the president's tradition by also giving a tree to Hood. "In just eight short years Hood will be celebrating its centennial and we want the campus to look its best!"

Family

The Frederick

Linda Gregory,



Taking root

Hood College president Dr. Martha E. Church (far right) recently welcomed members of the families of two former Hood College presidents to the campus to witness the planting of new trees. From left are Joseph Pastore, vice president for administration and finance; James Haines, director of physical plant; Deldee Truxal, Frederick, wife of Hood's third president, who planted numerous trees on campus while living in the President's House; and Elizabeth Apple McCain and Emily Apple Payne, both of Frederick, the daughters of Hood's first president, who remember their mother planting some of the first trees on the campus. A number of trees on the central campus were lost or damaged during a severe storm this summer, as shown by the unobstructed view across campus to Coblentz Hall. (Hood College photo)

...with all due respect to the original version by Clement Moore.

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a titmouse.

...wreathers were hung by the bedpost with

