

# 200 Former Students Of Dr. Button Gather Sunday At Auditorium Dedication

"Twas Doctor Button lit the torch, That set this hill aglow," rang the memorial poem by Ira T. Caudill of Pikeville, as the auditorium on the campus of Morehead State College was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Frank C. Button, founder of the Morehead Normal School, Sunday during the reunion of almost 200 members of the old Normal School alumni.

J. H. Powers of Morehead gave the dedicatory address which traced the history of Dr. Button and the school and the values which he had established for education in the Kentucky hills.

Miss Ida H. Button of New York, daughter of the late founder, spoke on memories of her father and stressed the importance of the alumni to Morehead State College and also of the need for centralization of records of the old school.

Cliff Tussey of Lexington was elected president of the group succeeding Leo Oppenheimer of Morehead. Cotton Razor of Salt Lick was elected vice-president and Mrs. Ruby Wood and Miss Anna Carter of Morehead were reelected treasurer and secretary respectively.

Miss Carter was presented a wrist-watch by the group in appreciation of her services as secretary for the past several years.

She also read a letter from President Adron Doran who was unable to attend due to a previous engagement. Dr. Doran urged the group to continue their yearly meetings at the college.

The annual Morehead Normal School scholarship was awarded to Virginia Elam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Elam and a 1954 graduate of Morehead High School.

Powers, a life-long friend and advisor to Dr. Button, admitted "I am visibly touched" and added: "I have been the recipient of many honors in the past. I feel that being selected to deliver this address in memory of Frank C. Button is the greatest honor that has ever been paid me."

Mr. Powers made his speech a chronological portrayal of Dr. Button's life, beginning with his birth in 1863 at Oquawka, Illinois . . . the loss of his father when an infant . . . his mother, who was a highly educated, gracious woman . . . Dr. Button's education at Midway, Transylvania and College of the Bible . . . his decision to locate at Morehead because this section needed spiritual guidance (the Rowan County feud was the most discussed subject in the state at that time) . . . arrival of Dr. Button and his



**DEDICATED**—You may not be able to make it out, but the new marble plate on this building reads: "Button Memorial Auditorium." It was dedicated Sunday by the MNS club, a group that attended the school at Morehead which Dr. Frank C. Button founded. Dr. Button was Morehead State College's first President and his picture hangs in this building.

mother in Morehead . . . his pastorate of the Morehead Christian Church . . . opening of a little school in a private home which later became Morehead Normal . . . securing of much-needed financial assistance from the State Board of the Christian Church who were impressed with this young man's zeal and determination . . . Dr. Button's marriage on December 24, 1889 to Hattie Bishop on the site of what is the present Morehead State College swimming pool . . . death of his beloved mother . . . enlarging and expanding of MNS shortly after the turn of the century . . . his vision in 1917 or 1918 of this being turned over to the state for a great college . . . donation of all MNS property to the state if they would locate a college at Morehead . . . the greatest day of his life when the legislature, spurred by the work of the late Senator Allie W. Young, created Morehead and Murray Colleges . . . selection in 1923 of Dr. Button as Morehead College's first president . . . his retirement as President Emeritus in 1928 . . . and

his death of 1933.

"Frank Button was a man representing the missionary spirit of years past," Mr. Powers said. "Always ready and working for the elevation of living conditions and morals of this community and the mountain people. His life was an example of dedication to betterment of those with whom he came in contact . . . Through his life and efforts opportunity came to many of us present to live."

Over 200 of Dr. Button's former students attended the dedication.

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