



JAMES A. TATE

Mr. James A. Tate, a member of the first graduating class and the oldest surviving alumnus of Milligan College, is a resident of Shelbyville, Tennessee. The "Bedford County Times" boasts with a great deal of pride in its citizenship, a characteristic trait of Shelbyville. It enumerates among its distinguished citizens members of the bar, bankers whose names are known far and near, manufacturers, and fair women whose beauty and intelligence are noteworthy even amid the spirited rivalry among Middle Tennessee's famous feminine beauty.

However, Shelbyville is especially proud of one citizen who is distinguished in more than one field of endeavor, and that man is none other than James A. Tate.

James A. Tate is an educator, editor, orator, and a splendid American citizen. Probably the most successful of his achievements is the Tate School. As an educator, Mr. Tate has a long period of years to his credit, but it has been reserved for Shelbyville to be the scene of the best function of his advanced method of training young people. The great daily and national weekly press of the state and nation

(Continued on page 4)

## The James A. Tate System of Education

The James A. Tate system of education was put into practice in the James A. Tate School in Shelbyville, Tennessee. It works on the principle that a student, for instance, hasn't done well in school. His grades have been poor. He has failed and repeated in many of his branches of study. There is, on the part of the student, a hopeless outlook. "Is it the fault of the boy?" asks this distinguished gentleman. "You send him down to this new sort of school, the James A. Tate System. Is the boy punished, or embarrassed, or made to feel cheap by a harsh teacher?" The James A. Tate System says that is not education and so presently here is what happens. "Let us work this thing out together". And he and the student proceed as a partnership. Until that problem or principle is understood thoroughly by the student, and until all others behind that one are understood thoroughly, no advancement is made in covering text book material. "Why leave what they don't know and don't understand or skimp over or load up with other things that they can't know and can't understand? We are not conducting an educational marathon race; we are educating and training boys and girls."

Thus, the Tate System states its aims and strives to educate boys and girls. Thoroughness is the keynote of his system, and it is manifested in everything that is done. It is as conspicuous on the football or baseball field as it is in the classroom. The idea is impressed on all that if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

The Tate boys and girls and young men and women have made good as a result of their thorough education and they are finding life more worth while.

## Congratulations Buffaloes!

We quote below a letter received from Mrs. Peggy Briggeman, proprietor of "Peggy's Cafe", in Lebanon, Tennessee, commending the splendid behavior of the Buffaloes on their recent visit to Cumberland University. We are proud of the victory which our boys achieved over Cumberland University, we are prouder still of the good reports coming to us of their conduct as representatives of the college. They not only reflect honor upon themselves, but upon the institution which sends them out.

Congratulations, Coach Lacey, upon your victory. We are extremely grateful to you and your boys for your splendid conduct. The letter follows:

Lebanon, Tennessee  
September 21, 1940

President of Milligan College,  
Johnson City, Tennessee  
Dear Sir:

I had the pleasure of serving two meals to your athletic team and their coach, Mr. Lacy, Friday and Saturday nights. I thought you might like to know how your boys appear to folk away from home. So I am taking this opportunity to tell you how we feel about them here in "Peggy's Cafe".

In my work in restaurants for the past six years, I have served many teams from various schools and I must say that Mr. Lacy has the best behaved and well mannered group I've ever served. They are a credit to the homes from which they come, to you and your school - and to their very worthy coach, Mr. Lacy.

Each member of our little staff of workers who helped to prepare and serve them food say the same. We hope to have them

(Continued on page 4)

## James A. Tate Has Tribute Paid By Many Friends

### Christian Church Sunday School Presents Gift; Honors Anniversary

James A. Tate of Shelbyville, passed the 80th anniversary of his birth, Monday, February 26, 1940.

Honoring this occasion, the congregation of the First Christian Church designated Sunday as "The James A. Tate Anniversary" and paid living tribute to him both during the study period of the Young Men's Bible Class and in a program in the main auditorium when a gift was presented to him.

W. L. Parker, a former student of the Tate School, during the study period of the Young Men's Bible Class paid tribute to James A. Tate — the teacher, the citizen, and a churchman. Sketching in a brief manner Mr. Tate's professional career, Mr. Parker gave the salient characteristics of the Tate School which made it so remarkable as an educational institution and paid due respects to all the splendid attributes of Mr. Tate, as a teacher, citizen and Christian concluding with the assurance that he was loved, respected and honored for the life he had lived and the influence he had exerted in the lives of others.

Judge E. C. Parker spoke before the assembled Sunday School, recalling his earliest recollections of Mr. Tate and recited the many attributes of character which had made him so deeply loved, respected, and honored by his thousands of friends throughout Bedford County, Tennessee, and the nation. On behalf of the Sunday School of which he has been superintendent for more than 25 years, Mr.

(Continued on page 4)

## The Buffalo Range

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
MILLIGAN COLLEGE

Joe McCormick - President  
J. Goff Long - Secretary-Treas.

## Home Coming

The Home Coming Game was played with the Maryville Scotties in Roosevelt Stadium on October 4, and resulted in a second straight victory over the Maryville Scotties. We were delighted to have a number of the alumni in attendance at the game and I am sure they got the impression that Milligan has one of the strongest teams in its history.

For three years now, we have been striving to make the Home Coming game a colorful affair. While the attendance on the part of the alumni has not been as great as we would like to see, yet, we feel that those attending are well repaid for their visit to their Alma Mater.

The feature attraction at the half-time was the crowning of the Home Coming Queen, Miss Violet May, a senior of 1940-41. Her attendants were Miss Lake Johnson and Miss Reable Griffith. Joe McCormick, President of the Milligan College Alumni Association, crowned the Queen in front of the Milligan section in Roosevelt Stadium. The Kingsport High school band put on a colorful drill during the intermission between halves. The band was composed of 90 pieces under the direction of Mr. S. T. Wyitt, and his performance was received with many favorable comments.

We hope that the annual Home Coming Game will be attended more and more by our faithful and loyal alumni.

We shall endeavor to entertain you to the best of our ability and we extend to you a most cordial welcome. Let us begin now to make the Home Coming Game one of the high points of the school year.

Send your subscription to the Buffalo Range.

To All Graduates And Former Students:

I have recently made a trip north to see some of the splendid people who have been helping to sustain the program of our college. The cordial reception that I received was most encouraging. Before this number of the Buffalo Range reaches you, I shall have made another extended trip. The whole outlook for the new college year is filled with hope.

The spirit of victory that prevails on the campus is well exemplified by the reports that you are hearing about our football team. Elsewhere in this issue, you will read about the kind of impression our boys and our coach are making when they are away from home. The greatest victory we are striving for here in college is the victory over self and circumstance, the victory that overcomes the world, the victory of faith.

In connection with the East Tennessee Educational Association meeting, at Knoxville, it has been arranged to have a breakfast at the S. & W. Cafeteria for graduates and former students of Milligan College. The date is Friday, November 1. The time is 8:00. Room number six has been reserved for us. Self-service will permit you to secure just the kind and amount of food you want. I hope to see many of you at this Milligan College breakfast.

Cordially yours,

C. E. Burns

Acting President

## BIRTHS

We have just received word that a baby girl was born Monday morning, September 30th., to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lacey. Ed graduated in the class of 1936. The baby weighed seven pounds and five ounces, and the family are reported doing nicely.

## Buffs Beat Maryville

The Milligan College "Buffaloes" continued their stampede and increased their winning streak to four straight by defeating the heavy Maryville eleven 20-6, under the lights, Friday at Roosevelt Stadium. Milligan's three tallies came as the results of a blocked punt, a recovered fumble and an intercepted pass.

This game was Milligan's Homecoming and a great many of Milligan alumni were assembled in the stands to cheer their Alma Mater on to victory. The feature attraction at the half-time was the crowning of the queen, Miss Violet May, with proper recognition to her attendants, Lake Johnson and Reable Griffith, Joseph McCormick, president of the Milligan Alumni doing the honors. The music for the occasion was furnished by the Kingsport High School band, under the direction of S. T. Wyitt which put on a colorful drill as its part of the program. The band composed of 90 pieces, 3 drum majors, 4 sponsors, and a flag section of 8 girls, is one of the finest high school bands in this section of the country and received much favorable comment from the spectators.

Milligan's first bit of scoring occurred in the early part of the game when "Shag" Rice pounced on a Maryville fumble on the "Scotties" 25. Yard-gaining plays by Showalter and Burton brought the ball to the five, only to have Showalter fumble and bring the ball back to the 14. He redeemed himself on the next play by passing to D'Agata who snatched it over the goal line.

The middle of the second period, following an exchange of punts, found Milligan on the 20. Showalter, on two plays, drove the ball to the two-yard stripe; on the next play he drove it over. Bireley's kick was good and the half ended with the slate reading Milligan 13; Maryville 0.

In the third stanza Burton intercepted Hughes' pass on his own 20 and the Herd started their 80-yard march down the field. Taking the ball on their

## A Distinguished Visitor

On October 8th, the college was visited by Mr. M. D. Akard of Weatherford, Texas. Mr. Akard attended Milligan College from 1869 to 1871 when the school was under the leadership of Colonel W. G. Barker. The institution was then known as The Buffalo Male and Female Institute. For a man of his age, Mr. Akard is quite active. Mr. Akard still drives his own automobile on occasion. Mr. Akard is a kinsman of the Lyons family who have been prominent in the affairs of Milligan College. A brother of our visitor, Professor B. W. Akard, taught here under Colonel Barker.

## Visitors From Out On The Range

We were pleased to have as visitor on our campus Mr. Robert S. Williams, 8105 S. E. Alder Street, Portland, Oregon. He was very interested in the activities of Milligan College and left a dollar for a year's subscription to the alumni publication.

Other visitors whom we were glad to see were:

Estel Hurley, Anna Martin Lauderdale, Martha Witcher, Bill Pike, Burl Poe, Ed O'Donnell, Dud Roberts, Ben Whinery, Jim Peace, Glen Williams, Lura Bowers, Charles Kyle.

own 20, the determined Buffs reeled off four straight first-downs which placed them in Maryville's territory on the one-yard stripe. Showalter hit the strong Maryville wall for the score. Milligan's kick was good making the score 20-0, and that ended the Buff scoring for the evening.

Milligan's unscored-on record was shattered by the visitors in the closing minutes of play when Hughes passed to Shelfer from the seventh for this lone marker.

The first downs were 12-9 with Milligan getting the nod. Maryville threw 17 aerial bombs and connected with six, while the Herd tossed six and completed two, one for a touchdown.

## James Alexander Tate

By Julian K. Brantley

On February 26, 1860, in the mountains of Scott County, Virginia, a lusty-voiced youngster was born to John M. and Martha Rosanna Maness Tate. This youngster was James Alexander Tate, Shelbyville's most distinguished and beloved citizen. His father was a farmer, stock-trader and country merchant, and James' childhood was similar to many of the children of that section—plenty of work and abundant physical training in the fields and valleys, with small opportunity for early educational training or schooling. Like most youngsters do, this youngster grew into strong manhood and received his early school training in "Happy Valley", where he was a friend of Robert L. Taylor and then at Milligan College, where he paid his expenses with janitor service.

In May, 1882, the first diplomas ever given by Milligan College were awarded to ten splendid students, and the name of James A. Tate was among that group.<sup>1</sup> Then in 1885 he received his Master of Arts degree and joined the faculty of Milligan College where he remained for eight years. While there he was one of the most popular and successful teachers in the college.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Oaks, "Fame Divorced and Fortune Snubbed"

<sup>2</sup> Hopwood, "A Journey Through the Years"

<sup>3</sup> "The Milligan Light", August, 1902

On May 17, 1887 he was married to Laetitia Cornforth the niece of the President of Milligan College, Josephus Hopwood, and she was, until her death a few years ago, his constant helper and companion.

In 1898 we find him at the head of the Fayetteville Collegiate Institute and then a little later as President of West Tennessee College at Dyer. The Milligan College paper wrote the following of him and his wife: "Milligan has cause to be proud of this excellent workman and his excellent helpmate". Then in 1903 he became chancellor of the American University at Harriman, Tennessee and re-

mained in that capacity for the next five years.<sup>3</sup>

During his college days he was very much interested in the cause of prohibition and has been a speaker for this cause since 1884. He was Chairman of the Tennessee State Prohibition Committee from 1892-1905 and Secretary of the National Committee from 1894-1905. In 1928 he was elected Supervisor of the Tennessee Anti-Saloon League and served in this capacity until 1930. He is now a member of the Prohibition Democratic Committee of Tennessee and has been the Director of the United Prohibition Forces of Tennessee since 1933. The greatest part of his time is devoted to the education of the public against the use of alcoholic beverages and he is able to picture the horrors of drink so vividly that everyone that hears him goes away with hate for drink and contempt for its users.

<sup>1</sup> "The Milligan Era", August 18 8

<sup>2</sup> "The Milligan Era", July, 1899

<sup>3</sup> "Who's Who In America", 1936-1937, Vol. 19

<sup>1</sup> Ib'r

Mr. Tate is also Director of the Flying Squadron Foundation of Indianapolis, Indiana. Needless to say he is a great church worker being a member of the First Christian Church of Shelbyville, Tennessee. He teaches a Sunday School class in the church and has taken the place of the minister in his absence. He has also served as the Assistant to the Director of Education for Tennessee.

Mr. Tate had not been in the teaching profession long before a great truth dawned upon him, and that truth was that the average pupil was not getting what his parents thought he was getting, that is, an education. So he set himself to the task of checking up on the defects of the teaching profession. The deeper he dug, the more defects he found. Then he set about to devise a cure for all these defects. He said that he felt as though he would be disgraced, if he ever recommended a fellow who would be a fool. Then he set out to prevent the schools in which he taught from turning out venerated fools. But

everywhere he was discouraged by a board or a higher authority who disagreed with his ideas.

Then he decided to establish a school of his own where he could be the one and only boss. This he did at Shelbyville, Tennessee. The school burned eight or nine years ago but its memory will linger in the minds of its old students and graduates until time immemorial. It has often been called "the school that is different" from other schools in that the only grade was 100% and there were no failures. Work went on on Saturday night just as on the other days while Monday was reserved as a holiday. Then every night a study period was held in the study hall and everyone was required to prepare his lessons for the next day. Mr. Tate was always there with the students and everybody learned; there was no way out of it. One could progress just as rapidly as he desired, depending entirely upon the individual.

Mr. Tate's motto was: "Know what you know and know that you know it. Do what you do and do it well." He has followed this motto all through life and he taught his pupils to do likewise.

During his teaching profession he put in eighteen hours a day at his task. He arose at six o'clock in the morning and worked with his pupils until ten at night. Now, however, his days are more varied and he follows no set schedule but he is still an early riser and does not retire until his last task is finished. He is away from home much of the time now with his work in connection with the Prohibition Forces so he must work and travel whenever he finds it necessary for this cause.

But let us again return to the school. As I have already stated, the school is no longer in existence because of fire, but it is still as real in the minds of hundreds of former students as it was when it was standing, full of the activity of happy, working students.

Several years ago, Mr. Oliver Wayne Stewart visited the school and then wrote an article about it. In speaking of the methods of training and the manner in which they

are accomplished he gave a very good example: "Before all the school, Mr. Tate pointed to a problem on the board and said to a little girl, 'Do you understand that problem and its solution?' There was no hanging of her head, no signs of embarrassment; she looked straight at him and answered, 'Yes, sir.' Whereupon she went to the board and discharged the duty imposed upon her."

<sup>1</sup> Stewart, "James A. Tate—A Modern Columbus", — Christian Standard

He taught his pupils to think, not to guess. When someone would hesitate for a moment before answering he would say to them: "Think." He also resorted to schemes and plans which appealed to the students and aroused interest in their work.

Mr. Stewart also said in his article: "What the world needs is the training of several thousand teachers by James A. Tate. His method is simple and could be put into effect in any country, district, city or private school or in any college. If educators would grasp the possibilities of the Tate plan, it would revolutionize education. There would be an end of complaint about impractical methods and poor results."

In an interesting article by Mr. L. C. Lau, he told how Mr. Tate taught the boys to do away with the using of tobacco. There was no such thing as "you can't smoke"—it was "you should not smoke". Regularly during the year, Mr. Tate would give a little talk about the evil effects of using tobacco and eventually the boy would voluntarily give up its use. It was just another form of the Tate idea, that the intelligence is the outgrowth of the desire to learn. Mr. Tate assumed that all wanted to do right, and that it was a lack of knowledge that made them do wrong.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stewart, "James A. Tate—A Modern Columbus", — Christian Standard

<sup>2</sup> Lau, "Is There Something New in Education?"

Back in the 1920's a great national organization for temperance, knowing the reputation of Mr. Tate as a speaker,

(Continued on page 4)

**JAMES ALEXANDER TATE**

(Continued from page 3)

sought him with an appeal to take the platform for them at a princely salary, which he declined. Misunderstanding his refusal, and thinking he wanted more than the \$10,000 per year which it was whispered about that they had offered him, they told him to name his own salary and re-ort to Chicago at once. He told them: "I am engaged in the training of boys and girls and young men and women, with the sort of education that fits them to cope with life's problems. If by spending my life in this work and, with the assistance of my associates, I can send out to the world each year a group of clean-bodied, right-thinking, well-educated young men and women will be greater than that which I would wield in any other endeavor, and will go on and on, and through generations to come. What is \$10,000 a year compared to this?"

Oaks, "Fame Divorced and Fortune Snubbed"

Educators may have challenged the Tate theories of education, but they could not successfully challenge the results. He has proof of his results in the hundreds of successful students who have taken their place in the world.

In an article in the Bedford County "Times" the following was written of him and his temperance work: "So our hat goes off to James A. Tate as it has so many times in the past, and once more this fighting Dry Democrat, who came from the same soil that gave Tennessee the Taylor governors and other great statesmen, is nominated to Tennessee, for the highest honors that the Volunteer State can give one of its favored sons."

Also the editor of the "Spot Light" says: "We rejoice with Tennessee. We bow in deference and honor to the Sage of Shelbyville, her distinguished veteran of the mighty struggle."

After all is said and done we can sum up James A. Tate as a good father, an excellent speaker and teacher, and an all-round good American. I think that Henry W. Longfellow must have had such a man as Mr. Tate in mind when he wrote the poem "Fame".

The heights by great men  
reached and kept  
Were not obtained by sudden flight,  
But they while their companions slept  
Were toiling upward in the night.

"Bedford County Times",  
Shelbyville, Tennessee, of  
November 26, 1937

"Spotlight", Minneapolis  
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Longfellow, "Fame"

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**JAMES A. TATE HONORED**

(Continued from page 1)

Parker presented Mr. Tate, as a token of this love and esteem, a beautiful floor-lamp.

Mr. Tate's response to these two talks and his acceptance of the gift was couched in heart-throbbing language, for he had been taken by surprise and his accustomed fluency of speech was checked with tears in his eyes and a choke in his voice, but with deep feeling he gave assurance expressively that he sincerely appreciated the love of his friends, which he valued more highly than material wealth.

Born in Virginia, Mr. Tate received his college training at Milligan college. Entering his professional career, he held many responsible teaching positions before coming to Shelbyville in 1908 and establishing Tate School, of which he was headmaster until the school was discontinued about 1932, following the burning of the main building.

The history of Tate School is woven and interwoven with the personality and character of the man, the headmaster of the school. Even to attempt a summarization of the influence of this man and this school upon the lives and the characters of the thousands of students who came within his care during his active teaching career would be a very inadequate statement. Mr. Tate believed in building character along with book knowledge, and his system was most successful. The testimony of men and women now responsible leaders all through the nation, confirm this success, for all say that their careers have been guided by the lessons of obedience, morality, integrity, and inspiration learned at the Tate School.

Bedford County people love, honor and esteem James A. Tate — and, though nature's flowers, more radiant than a rainbow, more fragrant than any perfume produced by an alchemist's art, are beautiful upon the tomb of a departed one, yet how more beautiful, more fitting, more appreciative, are tributes to the living while still they can hear the spoken word, feel the clasp of the friendly hand and see the love-sparkle in the eye.

**James A. Tate**

(Continued from page 1)

have published much in regard to the unique department in education which has been instituted by Mr. Tate and The Tate School, Shelbyville, Tennessee, has been widely advertised in a very effective way as the home-town of the man and the institution.

The aim of Mr. Tate, principally, has been to make his school a marked success. James A. Tate is a platform speaker with a national reputation, especially in the cause of prohibition, which was culminated in the Eighteenth Amendment. From platforms in nearly every state in the union, James A. Tate was a forceful speaker in attacking the cause which he held near and dear to his heart, namely, the abolition of the liquor traffic.

Honorable James A. Tate is a live wire in the city of Shelbyville. He has earned and received the plaudits of his fellow men. For a number of years he guided the activities of the Rotary Club in his home-town. As a token of appreciation of his work as a Rotarian, upon his retirement from the presidency, he was presented a fine gold watch in which was inscribed the reasons for the gift.

Mr. Tate is a member of the Board of Aldermen of his home city and gives much of his time to municipal affairs. The "Bedford County Times" says that Shelbyville is fortunate in having such a citizen.

**Congratulations, Buffs**

(Continued from page 1)

visit us again.

We wish you and all connected with Milligan success in every worthy endeavor. Our regards to Mr. Lacy and the boys.

Sincerely,

Signed: Mrs. Peggy Briggeman  
In care of Peggy's Cafe

Congratulations to Mr. Tate upon his 80th birth anniversary. May he enjoy many more years of companionship among the people whom he has served so long and faithfully.

—Shelbyville Gazette,  
February 29, 1940.

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