Florida Memorial College moves 311 miles in seventy-five years

MIAMI, Fla. — Moving a college from one city to another 300 miles away is an historic occasion anywhere it takes place.

An historic occasion will take place in 1968 in Florida when Florida Memorial College, a 75-year-old liberal arts school, relocates from St. Augustine to Miami.

The movement signifies a pilgrimage since it represents leaving backward area to a more enlightened community, which is considered "progressive," in the realm of race relations, culture, industry and interest in education.

There is evidence to indicate that the "power elite" in South Florida is behind the move and supporting it. They pledged nearly $1,000,000 in 12 weeks of a development fund campaign.

Other criteria are the support of the two major newspapers which are opinion makers in this city; the inclusion of both editors on the college advisory board; and the financial gift from the Miami Herald, one of the most powerful newspapers in the nation.

This good action promised a bright future for an institution that has had a shaky history.

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FLORIDA MEMORIAL College was born out of a change in name in 1951 at which time it was known as Florida Normal and Industrial Institute.

The name was adopted in 1918 when the school relocated from Jacksonville to St. Augustine at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of the latter city.

Founded as the Florida Baptist Academy in 1892 in Jacksonville, the current four-year liberal arts school was little more than akind of junior college when merged with the Florida Baptist Institute and the Florira Baptist Academy.

By 1941 another merger took place with the Live Oak Institute.

In 1950 the school lost its accreditation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges because of financial difficulties and its inability to meet educational demands of the time.

The present administration assumed responsibility in 1951 under Dr. Royal W. Puryear. Since then, the college has set up a curriculum geared toward training teachers for elementary and secondary schools as well as religion.

DR. ROYAL W. PURYEAR

Graduates of the school have through the years distinguished themselves in education and other fields.

The best known graduate is entertainer Billy Daniels who has left his mark in comtemporary music.

Two brothers, J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, (both members of the faculty) composed the words and music to the Negro National Anthem in 1900. It was sung for the first time by the college choir.

The choir today is one of the finest musical groups of its kind in the nation and has won several outstanding awards.

Interest in the college has been given impetus through the grant of $1,000,000, under Title III, by the United States Government.

Also by the addition of Senators Ernest Gruening of Alaska; Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut; Stephen M. Young of Ohio; Spessard L. Holland of Florida; Governors Heydon Burns of Florida and Manuel F. L. Guerrero of Guam; and writer, Phillip Wylie, to the advisory board.

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LIKE MANY other institutions, Florida Memorial College had to live through a crisis in race relations when racial unrest developed in St. Augustine two years ago.

Dr. Martin Luther King made an appearance. So did Mrs. Malcolm Peabody, the 80-year-old mother of former governor of Massachusetts. Both were jailed by the city police.

The racial climate affected the ability of the college to interact with the community and both students and a 60 percent white faculty found themselves in isolation.

This initiated the Board of Trustees' decision to relocate the college to Miami.

The relocation will add a third small college to the skyline of the city. However, more important, it will give an opportunity for youth of all races who cannot afford the high fees of more expensive schools.

VIEWING THE NEW BUILDINGS AND COLLEGE COMPLEX for the Florida Memorial College are, left to right, Dr. Royal W. Puryear, president; Dr. Susie Holly, member of the college board of trustees; Dr. Robert H. Wilson, also a trustee, Dr. Edward T. Graham, chairman of the board of trustees, and Joe Everett, Division of Surplus Properties, Division of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D.C. Florida Memorial College will relocate from St. Augustine, Fla. to Miami in 1968.

Job placement unit at Fisk marks success

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A survey conducted among more than two-thirds of the 872 Fisk graduates of 1956 to 1966, reveals that the university's program of Career Planning and Placement has fulfilled its mission in helping students prepare themselves "for effective membership in society."

The Placement Service has

(Continued on Page 10B)

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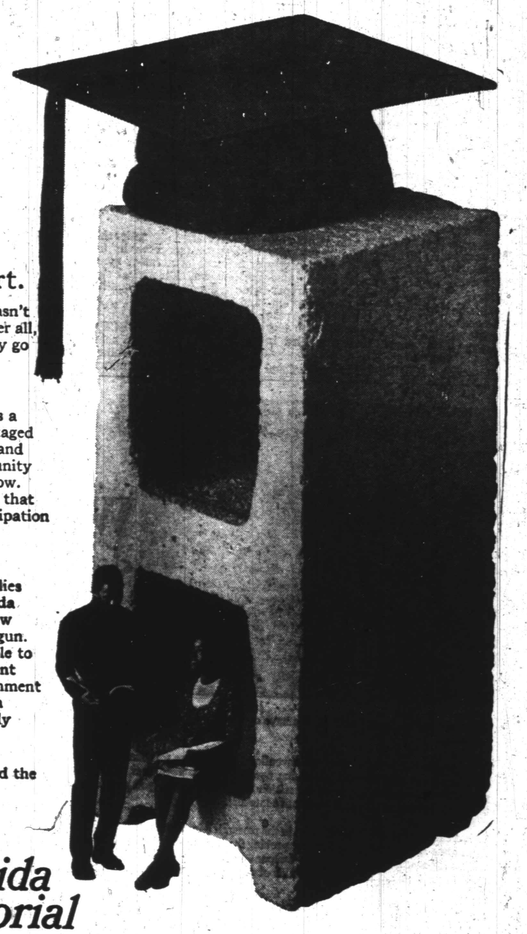

Now we're ready to start.

The road from St. Augustine to Miami wasn't covered with rose petals. Far from it. After all, in the face of broadening integration, why go all-out to re-establish, to re-locate, a predominantly Negro college?

The question was reasonable, and the resolvement was valid. South Florida has a large Negro population, long a disadvantaged population, yet, earnest, proud, capable and determined. People who seek the opportunity of constructively participating in tomorrow. However, there is no mystery to the fact that without academic qualification this participation will be limited. Too limited. The will to advance must be supported by the substance of sound education.

An important source of this substance lies within the concept and structure of Florida Memorial College. By next spring, the new campus will open, a new era will have begun. The security of knowledge will be available to 1300 students, some three times the current student population. A transitional environment will exist to which these young people can relate and from which they can responsibly advance to a broader world.

Florida Memorial College is the bold acknowledgement of an emphatic need and the dedication to serve that need. So you see, we're just like any other college . . . except more so.

It's a dramatic story. We would be pleased to tell you more.
Please write to: Florida Memorial College 111 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132