

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – May 2016



From: **CREEK PEBBLES**, SEPTEMBER 27, 1934
Outdoor Theatre to be Dedicated Saturday, Oct. 13
Elaborate Program Being Arranged

The formal dedication of Campbell's outdoor theatre completed just before commencement in May will be observed the evening of October 13 with the presentation of Paul Green's "The Man Who Died at Twelve O'Clock" by the Shaw University Players from Raleigh. It is hoped that Lamar Stringfield's Symphony Orchestra will be secured for a concert. Mr. Green expects to be present as well as Frederick H. Koch, director of Playmakers in Chapel Hill. Appropriate music, vocal and instruments – probably old time fiddling and folk dances – will be an additional feature. Special floodlights will be installed to provide ample lighting for the night program.

More than anyone else, perhaps Paul Green is responsible for Campbell's new theatre. His interest sponsored it and his money and manual labor helped to build it. "I don't think that I have every enjoyed doing anything more," he told his sister, Mrs. Alton Johnson.

Creek Pebbles was the student newspaper from the 1920s to the 1980s. Buies Creek Academy, established in 1887, was the name of the school when Paul Green graduated in 1914. In 1926 it became Campbell Junior College; 1991, Campbell College; and in 1979 Campbell University.

"During the school sessions beginning in 1933, Paul Green, distinguished alumnus, began developing the site for an outdoor theatre. He was given the expert advice of his friend and botanist Dr. H.R. Totten of the University of North Carolina. I have always cherished the memory of being allowed to see Paul Green, Pulitzer Prize winner, Guggenheim Fellowship participant, playwright, poet, novelist, short-story writer, and academically oriented Dr. Totten in overalls and muddy shoes with blistered hands, using shovels, rakes, and hoes as they supervised and led in the manual labor required for the construction of the beautiful little theatre! In size, location, and beauty it was, according to informed critics, unsurpassed anywhere in the state." – J. Winston Pearce (*historian, author and Baptist preacher*)



*Shelby Stephenson
added this memory –*

"Mary Johnson came out to see me one day when I was teaching at Campbell – must have been about 1975. And she told me her brother came with a mule and scoop and helped or dug out – *himself* – that amphitheatre! Later they built Taylor, the religion building, over the top of the Paul Green Theatre."

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