

Dr. H. F. Marco's Inaugural Address



DR. MARCO shown at the podium gives his Inaugural Address.

"Mr. Rochelle, Dr. Jolly, Members of the Board of Trustees, Honored Guests, Faculty, Students, and Friends—This is a memorable occasion for me, and I pray for wisdom, knowledge, and strength to carry out my duties as President of the Guilford Technical Institute—to reflect the confidence of the people of this community—and to serve my God, my Country, and my fellowman.

Years ago a student left home to go away to college. Today I would like to speak to you about the college that comes home to the student. You, also, have heard many people say "I wish I had had the opportunity to have gone to college, but I did not have the money, and I had to stay home." This statement is no longer true—this is your col-

The education and training of these auxiliary personnel and semi-professional people is the primary objective of the Guilford Technical Institute and its sister institutions—but, we must not, and cannot, neglect the general education so necessary to the mental growth of all individuals. Certainly mental growth, better understanding, is equally as important as technical competence. There is no age limit to mental growth. And, do not forget, many famous surgeons, scientists, and government leaders got their start in community colleges such as GTI.

The Guilford Technical Institute offers an opportunity for men and women to obtain an education—to learn a skill—an opportunity they would not otherwise have—an op-

ing in age from 18 to 60, were enrolled in the many, varied courses.

Here are some of the courses we offer today: business management; executive and medical secretary; furniture technology; electronics; machinist; mechanical technology; drafting; commercial art and advertising; upholstery; cutting and sewing; licensed practical nursing; public service administration, dental hygiene; auto mechanics; welding; sheet metal; oil painting; sculpturing; basic education; supervisory development and training; pharmacology; the list goes on—and last, but not least—guitar playing.

We had our problems then—and we still have, and will continue to have problems. We ran out of classrooms—

of the United States, presents six scholarships in nine Southeastern States which constitute one district. Of the six scholarships which are awarded to this area, our students took three. Obviously, our welding program is unequalled in this district.

Later on, when you take a pleasant evening ride, stop here and visit our furniture department. You will be surprised and proud of the products that our upholstery students turn out.

Last, but not least, the Guilford Technical Institute was first in this state, if not in the Nation, to sponsor and to actively participate in an "I Am An American Day." You have seen parts of this program on television, and we hope in the future to put more of this program on television for you to see. This program was so impressive that Congressman Kornegay is putting it in the Congressional Record and sending it to the attention of the President of the United States. We believe in Americanism—We believe in our way of life—and, we support it. Consequently, all candidates for a diploma or degree from this institute must take a course in American Government and Citizenship before he can graduate. There is no room on this campus for communists, draft dodgers, draft-card burners, the idolent, the trouble maker, or for anyone who does not believe in our way of life and in our Constitution. Let me make the record clear—this is an American Institution, supported by, and for, the people of North Carolina and this community.

We have three objectives for the Guilford Technical Institute. They are as follows:

1. To raise the general level of education and quality of its students, for it is through knowledge that a Nation becomes great, a community becomes prosperous, and that the people learn to sponsor good government.

2. Our second objective is to develop useful graduates! Useful in the community, the government, and in indus-

lege—this is your opportunity. You, your children, do not have to leave home to gain a college education. It is right here—and cost is so little.

Never before—has there been such a great demand for an education—a skill—as there is today.

Never before—has an education played such an important role in the strength of a Nation, of a State, of a Community.

Never before—have there been such a great demand for an education—a skill—as there is today.

Never before—have there been so many young men and women seeking an education beyond the high school.

And, never before has there been such a great effort made by a Nation, by a State, by a Community, to educate its people.

There has been a knowledge explosion. We have learned more about science, more about health, more about industrial production in the last 20 years than in the past 20 centuries. Over 90 per cent of the greatest scientists, engineers, and production geniuses are alive today. Never before has knowledge moved so rapidly; it has created aircraft which move at the speed of sound. In the same day, you can—breakfast in Los Angeles, lunch in Washington, and go to the theatre that night in San Francisco. This knowledge, moving at a speed of over 17,000 miles per hour, has made possible space walks and voyages to the moon— It has designed and made artificial hearts, kidneys, and prolonged life.

Knowledge — knowledge — the knowledge gained today prepares, stimulates, and advances the world of tomorrow.

We have found that for every professional, there must be a host of technicians, semi-professionals, auxiliaries, and a whole array of skilled workers. The doctor needs nurses; the dentist, his hygienist; the engineer, technicians and draftsmen; the industrialist, the machinist; the top executive, his secretary; and the list goes on.

portunity to achieve, to realize all their potential, right here at home. The door is open—the welcome sign is out—for all who really and truly want an education. Nothing of value is gained without effort. A person who seeks an education must make sacrifices.

He must want it . . .

He must work for it . . .

And, he must be patient and diligent. For education—although it may be practically free—means hard work and long, diligent hours of study—it means individual soul-searching—it means sacrifices of pleasures—and a cooperative spirit. There is no easy way to gain an education. College is what you learn—not where you learn it—and the college truly has come to the student in this community for his or her advancement.

The two-year technical institute or college is not a new idea. It has been in existence since the turn of the century, and it is truly an American invention—no other country has it. To give you some of the expanse of this system, I might point out that there are over 700 in the United States with over 2,000,000 students. We are a fully accredited and fully accepted member of the American Association of Junior Colleges. A certificate to this membership hangs proudly in the lobby of the Administration Building. And, finally, Guilford Technical Institute is an active, progressive member of the North Carolina Community College System.

Let me, at this time, give you a short progress report covering the past year.

On August 19 of last year, Governor Dan Moore dedicated the Guilford Technical Institute. At that time we had planned on a student body of approximately 400. The week after Labor Day we opened our doors to students. When the rush was over and as we counted noses, we found we did not have 400 students. No, not 400! but 1260 students—and 600 cars. These men and women, rang-

we ran out of laboratory space—our library was too small—as a matter of fact, we even went into the shift system — we started classes early in the morning, 7:00 and earlier, and ran straight through until 11:00 at night. And, in addition to all this, we are training over 100 machinists and metal workers for industry. This summer will continue to increase in other areas as additional industries come into the Guilford community.

All of our graduates have been offered jobs. They have jobs and are useful citizens. Although we are proud of all our programs, we are not entirely satisfied with all of them—and, we shall strive to upgrade the quality of our courses, our teaching, and the product that we turn out. It is said of a baby that he must first learn to crawl before he can walk, and he must walk before he can run. But—we are a product of the jet age—and we have blasted off, and are in full operational orbit.

I think the community should know that we have a distinct honor here at the Guilford Technical Institute. We worked long and diligent hours with the Guilford County dentists, the State Dentists, and the Employment Security people to obtain the very first, federally sponsored, dental hygiene program in the United States. You can be rightfully proud of this program, for we have an outstanding director, top quality hygienist, and the best group of candidates that this State has ever known or seen. They will make a record for which we can all be very proud.

We have established other records as well. We have one of the finest Licensed Practical Nursing Programs, not only in this State, but in the entire Nation. We may not be the first in this area, but we are surely giving and setting a rough pace for the leader. In fact, we are among the top leaders in the Nation.

Still another record — the Lincoln Institute for Welding, which gives scholarships to students in the various areas

try. A useful citizen is a busy one. He works and supports his family—he uses his time profitably—and a useful citizen is not a parasite on his fellowman.

3. Our third objective is to inculcate citizenship in all of our students. Love of Country is important. It is absolutely necessary if we are to maintain our way of life. What good will we gain if we train people in the sciences and skills only to have them turn against us—to destroy our freedoms—to destroy our homes—our families—and our Country. Citizenship is just as important as, or even more important than, a technical skill.

The Guilford Technical Institute is an American institution, and, it can be truly said that you—the people of this community— brought a college to your students. The County Commissioners, the Board of Trustees, the faculty, the students, and I are justly proud of this institution, and that we are here among you—our neighbors. In the days to come, we will grow in stature, in number, in quality, and in graduates. The investment that you have made here at home will be returned to you and your children many times over.

I thank you.