

GEORGE WATTS HILL '22 was the fourth generation of his family to attend the first state university, and has lived to see his grandson become the sixth generation in this line.

"He is a tall man when measured by the yardstick of the spirit," was the description which University President William C. Friday gave him at ceremonies for one of his many benefactions. Such benefactions come to him naturally, for he comes from two prominent families whose traditions of benevolence are well known in North Carolina.

After receiving his B.S. degree in commerce from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1922, Mr. Hill stayed on to study law and to practice that profession for a brief while, gave it up to turn to his first love, banking. Since 1949, he has served as chairman of the board of Central Carolina Bank, and he has led its phenomenal growth, while also shepherding other major enterprises in real estate and insurance.

His service to the University began quite early, as the volunteer Treasurer of the General Alumni Association, a post he held continuously from 1925 to 1960.

Among the many other significant endeavors of the University which he has aided are the teaching hospital and the School of Medicine. Watts Hill was one of three persons who in 1946 set up the North Carolina Good Health Association, which successfully campaigned for creation of the expanded Division of Health Affairs at the University. He also helped to organize the University Medical Foundation, which has provided substantial salary supplements for medical faculty members.

The Quail Roost Conference Center in northern Durham County is a gift to the University of an earlier Watts Hill homeplace. As a supporter and director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, he has provided gifts in several forms.

Indirectly, he has made a substantial contribution to the University through his continuing work with the Research Triangle Foundation and Institute. He was elected chairman of the Institute's Board of Governors at its first meeting in 1959, and has served in that capacity continuously since. When the George Watts Hill Building was dedicated as the home of the Institute, President Friday remarked: "This building we dedicate is only one of the symbols of his generosity. Most of them have been shrouded in anonymity. But as generous as he has been with his material resources, he has been even more liberal in giving of himself."

Perhaps the best example of this for his Alma Mater is the fact that he served as a Trustee from 1955 to 1972; and, when the University system was expanded that year to include 16 campuses, he was elected a member of its Board of Governors and has served continuously since that time.

In recognition of his many contributions, the University in 1968 awarded him an honorary doctorate. In recognition of his continuing service, the General Alumni Association proudly presents to him its Distinguished Service Medal.