

FROM ATLANTA OFFICE

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**Harris Accepts Mercer
University Presidency**

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Rufus C. Harris, president of Tulane University at New Orleans for 22 years, accepted today the presidency of Mercer University, his alma mater.

Harris planned to leave New Orleans for Augusta, Ga., where he was to be presented Thursday morning to the Georgia Baptist Convention in its annual session. The Convention established Mercer in 1833.

Leaving one of the nation's larger universities for a much smaller one, Harris said simply: "I have a great sentimental attachment for Mercer and I have a great obligation to Mercer." He added that "I'm wanted and I am led to believe I can be useful."

The 62-year-old educator, a native of Monroe, Ga., leaves a student body of 6,714 at Tulane for 1,238 at Mercer. Tulane has \$23 million in buildings and equipment; Mercer has \$5½ million. Tulane's budget last year was \$12 million compared with less than \$1 million at Mercer. Tulane has \$50 million in endowment and is in a 10-year campaign for \$96 million more; Mercer has \$5 million.

Harris said no decision had been reached as to when he would move to Macon. Harris succeeds George B. Connell who died April 21 of a heart attack after serving as president for six years.

Graduating from Mercer in 1917, Harris went on to Yale University where he received the bachelor of laws degree and then the doctor of jurisprudence degree. He returned to Mercer as a professor in its law school, served two years as dean of the school and then went to Tulane in 1927 as dean of its law school. He was elected president of Tulane in 1937.

Honorary degrees have been conferred by the University of Alabama, William Jewell College, University of Maine, University of Chattanooga, Northwestern University, Birmingham-Southern College, University of Miami, and the University of Hawaii.

Harris was for 17 years a director of the U. S. Federal Reserve Bank, Atlanta, and was chairman when he retired in 1955. He is the immediate past president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and has served on numerous educational commissions and White House committees.

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Editors: Hold until Thursday, November 12. (above story)

**"Superior Performance"
Awarded VA Chaplain**

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Lowell C. Todd of Shreveport, La., has become the first Southern Baptist chaplain to receive the Superior Performance Award from the Veterans Administration.

Todd, chaplain at the Veterans Administration Center in Shreveport, was cited as developing a "superior program...of intangible benefit to the patients, their relatives, and the hospital as a whole."

(more)

In recommending Todd for the performance award, Dr. Manuel Slavin, Director of Professional Services of the VA Center, said, "His performance during this period has not been due to directing or supervising but to his own initiative, wholehearted interest in the patients, and his loyalty and devotion to the mission of this Center."

A graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Todd served in the Air Force Medical Corps during World War II. He was pastor at Cedar Hill, Texas, before entering the chaplaincy.

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C.C. Warren Improves

ATLANTA, Ga.---(BP)---C. C. Warren of Charlotte, N. C., and director of Southern Baptists' 30,000 Movement, is improving from his recent heart attack, according to Mrs. Warren who contacted Home Mission Board leaders this week.

Doctors have allowed Warren to spend part of his day sitting up in bed, but visitors are still restricted.

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Southern Baptists Urged To Send Jewish Greetings

ATLANTA,---(BP)---Southern Baptists are urged to send greetings to their Jewish friends on Jewish holidays. Their forthcoming holiday, Hanukkah, Dec. 26, received more attention in homes and religious schools than many a holiday traditionally deemed more sacred, according to William B. Mitchell, Atlanta, superintendent of Jewish evangelism of the Home Mission Board.

Hanukkah or Chanukah means dedication or rededication. Gifts are exchanged by the Jewish people during Hanukkah which is an eight-day holiday.

Mitchell said, "Our suggestion is that you send your Jewish friends and neighbors Chanukah greeting cards, inviting them to all the Christmas and New Year celebrations in your church and home."

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Kill story headed "Visual Aids For Home Mission Studies Produced," November 6, 1959; filmstrip to be released later than indicated; story will come then.