

Annual Dedicated To Dr. Matthews

Coker College biologist Velma D. Matthews is honored in the 1956 Milestone, Coker yearbook.

The annual is dedicated by the graduating class to Dr. Matthews, head of the college biology department since 1934. A large photographic portrait accompanies the appreciative dedication.

Dr. Matthews has played a major role in making the Coker campus a show place featuring camellias and azaleas by the hundreds. She also played a major role in planning and supervising the construction of Coker's quarter of a million dollar science building completed several years ago.

The science building is named for the late Dr. William Chambers Coker, with whom Dr. Matthews studied as a graduate student. A son of Coker College founder Major James Lide Coker, Dr. Coker long headed the botany department at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Matthews is a native Tarheel, born in Burlington and brought up in High Point. She received the A. B. degree from Woman's College in Greensboro and the M. A. and Ph. D. from the University in Chapel Hill.

She has published volumes of botanical research, one in collaboration with Dr. W. C. Coker. She has contributed many articles on botanical subjects to scientific journals. She was the first woman president of the South Carolina Academy of Science. She has also been a leader in community planning and improvement projects which have won Hartsville repeated national honors.

The yearbook is dedicated to Dr. Matthews "for her ingenuity, planning and supervision that gave us a handsome and well-equipped Science Building; for the way she has used her love for all growing things (on) this beautiful campus; for her vivaciousness, charm, intelligence and interest, not only in our school and in us as individuals, but also in the community of Hartsville; and for the inspiration she has been to us as students."