

# ERIC P. STAPLES MEMORIAL BUILDING



Formerly the old Perry School, this building is dedicated to the memory of Eric Pierce Staples. Born 1905 in Roopville and educated in west Georgia, Staples arrived in Perry in 1933 from a teaching and coaching position at Tallapoosa to become Principal and head basketball coach at Perry High School. Subsequently, in 1937, he was named the Superintendent of Perry Consolidated Schools. A believer in higher education, Staples studied law at Mercer University, was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 1936 and earned a Master of Arts degree from Mercer in 1939. In 1969, his retirement capped 36 years of achieving educational prominence and 32 years of building the greatest basketball dynasty in Georgia history. Known as "Fessor" by his students, he was a friend to all, constantly inspiring classroom excellence and distinguishing the Perry school system through strong academic programs, first place literary teams, athletic championships and preparation of students for life's journey.

He served as Director of the Georgia Education Association and was President of the Georgia Secondary School Principal's Association. In athletics, he set the standard for superb coaching and was commonly regarded by sportswriters as "Georgia's Mr. Basketball." Mr. Staples was a recognized leader in service to the Perry community, being named Kiwanis Man of the Year twice and Civitan Citizen of the Year, presented with Scouting's Silver Beaver Award and the DAR Award of Merit. Ever faithful in his Christian beliefs, he taught the Men's Bible Class at Perry Methodist Church for 38 years. In 1984, he was laid to rest beside his beloved wife, Chloe Traylor Staples, in Perry's Woodlawn Cemetery. "Fessor" touched the hearts and molded the character of countless young people who continue to remember him and the glory days of old Perry High School.



## COACHING RECORD OF ERIC P. STAPLES : 1927 - 1965

- Most Successful High School Basketball Coach in America
- 924 wins and 198 losses - a record 82.4 winning percentage
- 8 State Basketball Championships: 1947-'49-'53-'56-'59-'62-'63-'64
- 25 District/Region Basketball Championships
- Georgia High School Basketball Coach of the Year - 1956 & 1962
- 9 State Golf Championships: 1955-'56-'57-'59-'60-'61-'62-'63-'65
- Inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame - 1957
- Presented Atlanta Tip-off Club "Steve Schmidt Award" - 1993
- Inducted into Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame - 2002

Perry High School alumni and Perry citizens appreciate the naming of this building for Mr. Staples by the Houston County Board of Education and are grateful for the support of Danny Carpenter, Superintendent of Schools, and to board members Pamela Greenway-Chairperson, Griff Clements-Vice Chairperson, Jim Boswell, Skip Dawkins, Dr. Charles Hill, Tom Walmer and Fred Wilson for their unanimous vote of approval on October 11, 2005.