A map entitled “Clemson’s Campus Covers Carolina” marks Clemson’s location and the locations of its experiment stations—an important support structure for the state in the era of the Great Depression—showing how in this period, Clemson covered South Carolina. Taken from the 1928 *Clemson University Handbook*, published by the campus YMCA.
CHAPTER X

Gathering Resources

1924–1940

Earle’s Second Watch

While the trustees gathered for Riggs’s funeral in January 1924, they asked Samuel Broadus Earle, who had served as acting president during Riggs’s post-World War I service in Europe, to return to that leadership position. Some board members considered proposing Earle for permanent president, but Earle, who had weathered a tense spring in 1919, was not interested. He served as the director of the college’s Engineering Division, a position he had held since Riggs became the sixth president in 1911. In that capacity, he had responsibility also for water, power, and heat for the entire campus and for the small community of several stores, a few homes, the four churches, and several other establishments, notably on the Greenville-Seneca highway and north of that roadway and west of the main road to Calhoun. The Board of Trustees gave Earle unqualified support during his time as acting president from January 1924 to July 1925.

Accreditation Denied

The most pressing issue that drove the brief Earle administration was accreditation. The Association of Colleges and Schools of the Southern States, now called the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), had been formed in 1895 by a number of public and private liberal arts colleges and universities. It had not been hospitable toward accepting schools that emphasized science and technology. Thus, the University of Georgia, which taught agriculture and also offered classics and the bachelor of arts degree, held membership in SACS, but Georgia Tech, which offered no bachelor of arts degrees, had been refused membership. Apparently SACS was unique in that attitude among the emerging regional academic accrediting associations.

By itself, membership in SACS was of little consequence in the 1900s. However, the federal government had begun to link the opportunity for citizens to stand for civil service entry examinations and opportunities for upgrades to graduates of institutions approved by regional accrediting associations. Auburn was
the first of the traditionally agricultural and mechanical land-grant schools in the South to gain accreditation from SACS. The faculty and trustees had created a strong lower school education preparation program and a bachelor of arts degree in general studies within which a number of curricula could serve as major fields. Virginia Tech followed Auburn in 1923, using the same strategy. Texas A&M and Clemson both applied for membership and accreditation in 1924. Clemson created the general science program but did not strengthen its education program nor add the bachelor of arts degree. Thus, SACS denied the application, prepared by Trustee W. D. Barnett.  

**The Fourth Walkout**

Despite the disappointing decision of the accreditors, Clemson College opened again in September. Then unexpected trouble flared up on Monday, October 13, 1924. A group of seniors who said they spoke for all seniors complained to Earle that the chicken served on the preceding Saturday and the sausages served on Sunday were spoiled. Earle listened to the disgruntled students and then directed the commandant to investigate. The senior committee waited on the commandant.

During his meeting with the senior committee, the commandant said he smelled alcohol on the breath of R. F. “Butch” Holohan, president of the senior class and captain of the football team. The “Big Thursday” game with USC loomed on October 23. The team had a 2–1 record, and the students were already excited. The commandant summoned the disciplinary committee, which noted that Holohan had been excused earlier on a previous alcohol charge because of inconclusive evidence. The disciplinary committee then suspended Holohan for one year on the current charge. Holohan left school and did not return.

Within the hour, the senior class vice president met with Earle and asked permission to hold a meeting in the chapel at 1:00 p.m. Earle agreed to the meeting but set it at 6:30 p.m. so as not to disrupt the midday meal and afternoon classes and laboratories. Defying Earle, the senior class met at 1:00 p.m. on Riggs Field and developed four complaints. The class officers delivered them to Earle. The seniors asked that the mess hall matron be retained, the mess hall direc-
tor be replaced, the food improved, and Holohan reinstated. Earle agreed to look
into food improvement but said “no” to the others. The matron, Mrs. Middleton,
had been a sore spot in the dining services dating back to the walkout of 1920;
no amount of “discussion” convinced her to change. On the other hand, the mess
officer, who had come to Clemson in 1920 to replace Augustus Schilletter, who
resigned in 1919, was James D. Harcombe. He came to Clemson from the Port
of New York Army Hospital, where he had served as chief mess officer feeding the
wounded soldiers returning from European battlefields. The complaints against
him involved hemp allegedly found in apples and a fly in the syrup. The matron’s
behavior had a lengthy pattern, while the charge against Harcombe remained
unproven and represented, if it happened, a single incident.4

The seniors responded that they “were walking,” and some members of lower
classes joined them. About 250 left campus without permission. Earle announced
quickly that seniors who stayed away more than forty-eight hours would be
dismissed and that lower classmen who did not return before forty-eight hours
elapsed would be suspended for the remainder of the academic year. Thus, the
issues reduced themselves to two. What, if anything, was wrong in the mess hall,
and were announced punishments too harsh?5

Earle wired Board of Trustees President Alan Johnstone to inform him of the
crisis. Meanwhile, the grumbles continued. Ham, scrambled eggs, and hominy,
along with biscuits, milk, and coffee, were served for Tuesday’s breakfast. The cadets
still on campus complained that they found the eggs spoiled. At Earle’s directive,
Harcombe immediately sent remaining eggs and ham and the still-to-be-scoured
utensils to R. N. Brackett, professor of chemistry, for analysis. After completing
tests on the food, Brackett wrote Harcombe, with a copy to Earle, “We have care-
fully examined the sample of ham and eggs which had been sent to this laboratory
from the mess hall. We find the specimen attractive in appearance, pleasing in odor
and taste.” He also tested the pots, pans, and utensils. “Furthermore, we have care-
fully examined the vessels used in cooking the eggs and find them in fine condi-
tion, and also find that there is no danger of metallic contamination.”

Alan Johnstone called for the trustees to meet on Monday, October 20. Ap-
parently at Johnstone’s request, Dr. Hayden of the State Board of Health arrived
and began a detailed inspection of the mess hall, its kitchens, and storage. Almost
simultaneously, E. L. Tully, the State Board of Health’s sanitation engineer, who
had completed his routine semiannual inspection the Friday prior to the com-
plaints, delivered a just-completed copy of his report to Earle. He wrote that the
entire facility was thoroughly cleaned three times a day and that the cooks and
food handlers were inspected twice yearly for disease.

At chapel on Wednesday, the fifteenth, a large number of younger alumni
spoke to the remaining cadets, urging them to stay and “stand by the College.”
The students voted 302 to 157 to remain, conduct themselves in an orderly fash-
ion, and await the outcome of the upcoming trustees meeting. At evening mess, the cadets were told “that all classes will be resumed as usual at long roll tonight, October 15, 1924.”6 The next morning after chapel, about 100 cadets threatened not to attend classes. The Rev. Mr. John McSween, pastor of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, who took his charge as pastor to students very seriously, met with the dissident cadets. They listened to him and then went to class.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Hayden reported to Earle, Johnstone, and some of the other arriving trustees that the food was always purchased from reputable sources. He added that although the number of cadets had increased by 11 percent in the two years, meat cooked, served, and consumed increased 16 percent, eggs 16 percent, and grits 52 percent. Two separate examinations found nothing amiss with the food, and an inspection of the facility also revealed close attention to cleanliness. So the problem was not one of quality or quantity. Word spread soon throughout the state of the baselessness of the cadets’ complaints. Parents began bringing their sons back to the college. Earle greeted each family and urged the parents to eat a meal in the mess hall. Many did.

The Board of Trustees met on Monday morning, October 20, and continued meeting through Friday morning, the twenty-fourth. At their request, McSween stayed with them. The board interviewed each senior, whether or not he had “walked.” Lower classmen who had left campus were also interviewed individually. On Friday afternoon, the board met with the cadets and gave them its decisions. Seniors absent more than forty-eight hours were dismissed. Seniors absent less than forty-eight hours also faced suspension through commencement of June 1925. Juniors and sophomores absent longer than forty-eight hours were suspended through commencement June 1925. Juniors and sophomores absent less than forty-eight hours would walk “60 extras” (that required the student to march with his usual equipment a regular path for one hour for each “extra” demerit) and have all privileges (most of which involved barracks room visitations) canceled through commencement in June. However, if all went well through the remainder of the first term, the president and the commandant could restore privileges. Freshmen who returned were permitted to continue, but each would walk “40 extras.” With that, the Board of Trustees adjourned.7

The Fire

But the travails of Earle’s administration had not yet ended. On the night of April 1, 1925, the Agricultural Hall, only twenty years old, caught fire and was gutted. The fire was so intense that one of the eight great limestone columns that stood across the northern front broke and the top third shattered.8 Earle asked H. W. Barre, then head of the Agricultural Research and Service Division, and F. H. H. Calhoun, head of Agricultural Instruction, to meet with him and discuss the
future. They concluded that the building, if reconstructed, would no longer suffice for agriculture. The addition of extension and agricultural education, along with the great expansion that the legislature added to Clemson’s regulatory tasks without commensurate financial support, had rendered the *beaux-arts* building, highly reminiscent of Harvard’s Widener Hall, far too small. Enough insurance money existed, however, to rebuild it for another purpose. So a needed expansion for agriculture was not possible. That was the administrators’ first decision; second involved determining the most important need for the new building.

The SACS report denying Clemson accreditation pointed the way to the answer. Earle recommended a new library to the board, which spent a great deal of time considering the recommendation. By September 23, 1925, they decided to reconstruct the building according to Rudolph E. Lee’s plans, which called for reserving one section for agricultural extension and the remainder for the library. Lee also created a three-story steel stack in the south wing and a large airy reading room that received filtered, indirect light from the east and the west and reflected light from the north, which he and others considered ideal for reading. Six limestone blocks were placed in the north porch wall, which bore the engraved names
of academic subjects, such as “History.” An oval balcony ran three-quarters of the way around and looked down on the reading room, providing handsome space for Mr. Clemson’s collection of European art and memorabilia and antiquities. The balcony rail and the stairway rails were made in the college’s forge and foundry shop and integrated the letters “C. L.” for “Clemson Library.” The creation of the molds and fabrication of the ironwork were the first and second year students’ tasks in the autumn of 1925.

Graduation in 1925 (including winter) saw the awarding of baccalaureate degrees to two former cadets who, after three successful years at Clemson, had gained admission to the Medical College of South Carolina, where they had received the MD degrees, and were now eligible for the Clemson degree. The June commencement illustrated the growing geographic distribution of the student body. The graduates included several North Carolinians, a Floridian, a few Georgians, a New Yorker, and an Oklahoman. Prior to the graduation, the fifteen-person Clemson Concert Orchestra led by Cadet Guy Hutchinson presented a program that began with the “Triumphal March” from Verdi’s Aïda and concluded with Charles Gounod’s reflective overture from Faust.

On July 14, 1925, in the presence of the college’s new president, Enoch W. Sikes, the board thanked Samuel Broadus Earle for his “herculean task performed with a grasp of detail.” Probably with relief, Earle returned to the directorship of the Engineering Division, and Sikes took up the presidential mantel.

“Ploughboy” Sikes

Enoch Walter Sikes was the son of John C. and Jane Austin Sikes, born on May 19, 1868, in Union County, North Carolina. He grew up on his parents’ farm with an older sister and six brothers. Like them, he fed the farm animals, hoed, hauled wood, and plowed the fields. The last task gave him a peculiar gait and would earn him the nickname of “Ploughboy” from the Clemson cadets. His hard-working and thrifty parents, to Sikes’s advantage, believed in giving their children as much education as each could absorb.

Lower school was a one-room log house. From there Sikes entered a boarding school that had one schoolmaster. Later, Sikes judged the master not very broadly educated. Some of his schoolmates were bright, and those became Sikes’s “chums.” They corrected each other’s spoken and written English and systematically enlarged their vocabularies, relying on an abridged dictionary. On Friday afternoons, they read or declaimed their week’s work. After supper, the debating societies met and debated, sharpening their logic and rhetoric. In his later writings, Sikes noted nothing about arithmetic, mathematics, or laboratory sciences.

All of his friends were determined to go to college. Sikes chose Wake Forest College, a Baptist school. He roomed with his childhood friend, Walter Brickett.
Their mothers had been childhood friends, and their fathers had served in the same unit of the N.C. Confederate regiments. Sikes chose his college friends carefully, remarking years later, “One’s life is largely determined by his associates and the kind of people he likes.” While at Wake Forest, he competed at debate and played varsity football.14

After graduation, he stayed as athletic director and chose his friends from among his former teachers. These men recognized Sikes’s strong interest in history and economics and urged him to do advanced study at Johns Hopkins. He studied under Henry Adams and Woodrow Wilson and in 1897 received the PhD in history and economics from Hopkins.

Wake Forest called him back to teach history and economics. In 1900, he married Ruth Wingate, daughter of the college president, and they had one daughter and one son. In his nineteen years as a college professor, Sikes played an active role in Democratic Party politics and served as a senator in the N.C. Legislature from 1910 to 1911. Wake Forest named him dean of the college in 1915.

In 1916, he accepted the presidency of Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina. He was successful there, increasing the enrollment, improving and enlarging the curriculum, and succeeding in getting Coker accredited by SACS, only the second college to receive such in South Carolina.15

The Clemson Faculty

In accepting the Clemson presidency in 1925, Sikes knew the challenge he faced. The teaching faculty included a few women and mostly men, many of whom lacked terminal degrees in their fields, and most had not prepared for lengthy illnesses or for retirement. Almost all rented their homes from the college. A number of the academic buildings needed renovation, reconstruction, or expansion. Clemson required more barracks if it was going to meet the needs of
South Carolina, its citizens, farms, industries, and schools. Intercollegiate and intramural facilities begged for expansion. The military program had to be lightened and improved. Much had to be done.

In 1925–1926, six faculty held the PhD degree and one a doctorate in veterinary medicine (DVM). Sixteen held the master of science degree and eight the master of arts. Two held professional engineering degrees. The highest degree held by thirty faculty was the bachelor of science, ten the bachelor of arts, one the bachelor of chemistry, and one the bachelor of divinity (of a denomination that required an undergraduate degree before entrance into seminary). But a number of faculty held no degree at all.

By the end of 1928–1929, PhD faculty had doubled to thirteen (16 percent), the combined number of master’s degrees declined, and professional engineering degrees dropped to one. The important development was that nondegree faculty dropped to seven. And by the end of 1939–1940, Sikes’s last year as president, the change was even more profound. There were now thirty-one PhD’s and one DVM. Twenty-six faculty held the MS and a like number the MA. Two held the bachelor of architecture, a five-year terminal degree. Seven had professional engineering degrees. The number of bachelor’s degree faculty, however, had grown to fifty, and those without any degree had dropped to two. This phenomenal change resulted to a great extent from Sikes’s study-leave program for continuing faculty and a changed policy he developed and enforced in hiring better-educated faculty.

Medical care for faculty, staff, and their families presented a major problem. Dr. Lee W. Milford directed the college infirmary and medical service. Born in Anderson County in 1892, he was educated at Furman University and, in 1917, graduated from Emory Medical School. Dr. Milford, a founder of the Southern College Health Association, joined the Clemson staff in 1920. At Clemson, he was an active Baptist and a longtime member of the college Athletic Council. He retired as director of student medical services in 1956 and lived on in the community until his death in 1980.

Although the college staff (secretarial, maintenance, and agricultural) had increased since 1893, it by no means grew in proportion to the student body and the faculty and their households. The infirmary handled all student ailments, even minor surgery. Faculty and others received treatment for a modest fee. Most other problems, including childbirth, were treated elsewhere. The Fellowship Club, an all-denominational Christian community men’s club that had been created by the new Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Dr. Sydney J. L. Crouch, sponsored a free clinic for any and all, held weekly at the Fertilizer Building and later at Fort Hill Church. There were some medical services in Seneca, nine miles away, or the patient was taken to Anderson by train or later by bus for planned visits or by
automobile for emergencies. Anderson lay over twenty miles away, with the road to it anything but good.

Retirement posed a greater problem. The state had no pension plan, and even after the creation of Social Security, federal employees were not included, and each state would have to elect for its employees to participate, which South Carolina did not do. The problem was compounded by the fact that only a small, but slowly increasing, number of Clemson faculty and other employees owned their homes off college property. Sikes and Littlejohn investigated a number of retirement possibilities with representatives of large life insurance companies with the hope of establishing group annuities. From 1926 on, a number of companies made proposals, but, in part because of the pay reductions made necessary by the Depression, many faculty never elected to participate.19

Reorganization

College organization also needed rethinking, both to save money and to simplify and clarify internal reporting. Midway through his first year, Sikes asked W. W. Long, director of extension, to chair a committee that included H. W. Barre, director of the experiment station; Commandant Lt. Col. Otis R. Cole; S. W. Evans, secretary to the board and to the fertilizer committee; and J. C. Littlejohn, registrar, to study the structure and organization of the college. Neither the curriculum nor student discipline fell under the committee’s work.20

The committee met almost daily, and, in a little over three months, Barre delivered its recommendations to Sikes. It proposed a dean for the college to whom the resident instruction directors would report, a business manager reporting to the president, and several other administrators reporting to the president: the extension service director, the experiment station director, and a full-time director of athletics and physical education. This reduced the total reporting to the president down to five. At the instructional level, the group proposed to create a poultry department separate from animal husbandry; a Division of Arts and Sciences that would merge into it the nondegree science fields; the upgrading of the faculty qualifications in textiles; and a hiring plan for acquiring new instructional faculty members, each with at least two years of professional education beyond the baccalaureate degree. The total annual additional cost was estimated at $11,700 per annum.21 Sikes made a few minor changes and presented the plan to the trustees. They concurred with all.22 Lamentably, Sikes, having filled all the other positions, never nominated or appointed a dean of the college, so in organization, the total of college officials reporting to the president was eight. The number of those reporting continued to increase for the next thirty years.

Sikes then began announcing a series of changes. He named J. C. Littlejohn business manager, with supervision over all money, including athletic and fertiliz-
er revenue, power, coal, water (relieving Earle of this responsibility), and all building, maintenance, and renovation costs (relieving Rudolph Lee of those chores). Textiles was moved under engineering. Prof. Doggett, the former head, would continue at his same salary, and a year later H. H. Willis was elected head of the Textile Department. Prof. W. H. Washington of the education program replaced Littlejohn as registrar. Without a dean of the college, the registrar, responsible for admissions, answered to the president, raising the total reporting to him back to nine, or nearly double the recommendation of the reorganization committee.23

The Great Depression

The worldwide Depression began in the United States with the October 29, 1929, crash of the Wall Street stock market. South Carolina began to feel the effects seriously during the 1930–1931 fiscal year. Clemson’s administration reduced nonprofessional costs. Of course, some costs such as cattle feed and gasoline could not be cut quickly, and these were worsened by the successive intermittent droughts from 1920 to 1936. The fertilizer tag revenue dropped sharply as more fields were abandoned to encroaching brambles and pine trees. By 1931–1932, on direction from the state treasurer, the entire college budget, including salaries, was reduced by 3 percent. Indeed, these were hard years.24

New Buildings

Academic buildings came next among Sikes’s many concerns. With the conversion of Agricultural Hall to the library nearly finished, Lee asked Sikes, at the Board of Trustees’ direction, to select the words to be incised in the stone plaques on the northern porch. The movement of the books, periodicals, government documents, manuscripts, and paintings allowed Miss Marguerite Doggett and her staff of three to move from the Dewey Decimal classification to the Library of Congress arrangement.25

Miss Doggett had joined the Clemson Library as a faculty professional on September 1, 1923, and Miss Katherine Trescot stayed on for several years as her assistant. Miss Doggett was one of Prof. Doggett’s three daughters. Unlike her sisters, she remained unmarried and had finished college with an AB degree. The professional library science field had begun in 1887 at Columbia University. The founder of the field there was Melvil Dewey, who had pioneered a uniform library item catalog system named for him. Doggett accomplished a number of major tasks at Clemson. Two stood out above the rest. First, she organized and converted the college library from the older Dewey Decimal system to the much more advanced and more easily expandable Library of Congress system. She also directed the cadets in moving books, journals, paintings, and artifacts from the
Main Building to the new library in the former Agricultural Hall. She, her staff, and the cadets had completed both tasks by February 1926.26

Almost fifty years later, J. W. Gordon Gourlay, then library director at Clemson, remembered Doggett’s accomplishments. “I am always very grateful to her for having had the wisdom and foresight to change the book classification of this library from Dewey Decimal to Library of Congress. This was a decision so far in advance of most other libraries in the country that even today [1974] some libraries are but now beginning to make the change.” Miss Doggett resigned from Clemson on August 31, 1931, to return to graduate school at Columbia.27 Miss Cornelia Graham, who had served as assistant librarian, filled her position.28

The building of the new library left the Clemson Agricultural College without an agriculture building. In the late autumn of 1925, appearing before the legislature’s Ways and Means Committee, Sikes declared that Clemson was the only agricultural school he had ever heard of without an agriculture hall, and he requested $123,654.36 to construct a new hall to replace the one that burned. That request was turned down, but Sikes refused to let the issue go. Two years later, the general assembly authorized the Clemson board to borrow $250,000 to construct the sorely needed building. Before the necessary documents were created, however, the Depression intervened.29

Then in the summer of 1926, Life Trustee Richard Manning (1859–1931), S.C. governor from 1915 to 1919, secured a gift of $25,000 (2009 equivalent $306,210) from a donor, who wished to remain anonymous, to build the poultry farms, laboratory, and plant. While this did not begin the poultry industry in South Carolina, the research results from Clemson’s work with poultry nutrition and disease have helped make this a major component of the economy. The donor was the South Carolina-born financial wizard Bernard Baruch.30

**Yet Another Fire**

Earlier, in May 1926, Mechanical Hall and some of its shops were totally destroyed by fire. It was the second major fire in slightly over a year. One of the fire departments that answered the distress call was from the Greenville district, and unfortunately, one of its firemen, J. C. F. Burns, was killed fighting the fire. Sikes asked the trustees at their June meeting to establish a scholarship for Burns’s sons, which they did. Littlejohn reported that the hall had been insured for $75,000 and the equipment for $43,000. This fell $12,332 short of reconstructing and equipping the shops, while Earle estimated the total replacement would cost about $300,000. The state lent the difference, which Clemson repaid. Work began immediately on the shops. The displaced faculty in engineering and architecture were housed in the just-vacated library space in the Main Building.
Classes were taught across the Greenville-Seneca highway in the “old” Methodist church. Lee began the design of the replacement building.\footnote{31}

By June 30, 1927, W. H. Washington, the registrar, reported that through the years of the college’s operation, the institution had enrolled 9,835 cadets and graduated 2,488, a bit under 25 percent. On the same day, Littlejohn noted that, including the experiment stations, the college held 3,224 acres in South Carolina, a fourfold increase since Mr. Clemson’s bequest of his land and money for the school. W. W. Long, director of extension, informed Sikes that the college had seventy-four professional extension agents. Barre added that almost all the professional experiment station researchers held advanced degrees, and nine veterinarians were soon to be housed in the new Sandhill Station.\footnote{32}

**Accreditation Gained**

With these indicators of multiple improvements, Sikes and the division chairs prepared a new application to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The college filed the application with SACS in November 1927. On the question of the holdings of the new library, a total of 30,000 items, including bound volumes, the modest manuscript collections, and journals, were held centrally. The report regarding the number of volumes on campus stated that the separate agricultural holdings, chemistry holdings, and classroom/office holdings added about 5,400 volumes. It did not indicate who owned the latter books. It observed that some 1,100 volumes were lost in the Mechanical Hall fire. All were insured and would be replaced with the newest editions when the new building was complete.

The application to SACS also noted 1,215 undergraduates enrolled at the college, but it reported no graduate activities. Graduate work was done as part of the summer outreach program. The campus instructional faculty numbered ninety-four. Half held advanced degrees, and most of the baccalaureate faculty had done advanced work. The college’s annual income for the preceding year totaled $1,819,058, and expenses were less, leaving no indebtedness. In curricular matters, the addition of a BS degree in general science now allowed cadets to graduate with majors in fields such as botany, zoology, and English. One month later, Clemson received the SACS accreditation.\footnote{33}

**New Construction**

In the spring of 1928, Sikes recommended to the trustees that five new buildings be erected on the campus: an agricultural hall, for which the state had agreed to bonded indebtedness, a textile hall, a physical education building, a hospital, and barracks (no number specified). Even though some of the trustees worried about obtaining the money for that much new construction, they concurred. Lee,
Littlejohn, the agricultural directors, Earle, and R. A. McGinty, who had come from Colorado Agricultural College to replace C. C. Newman as director of campus grounds, began planning.34

The new engineering and architecture building, funded by insurance money and a state loan, was ready for dedication. The trustees named the building for Riggs, although some sentiment existed to name it for Alan Johnstone, the just-deceased president of the board and life trustee. This began the custom at Clemson of naming major classroom buildings for faculty or presidents. The trustees elected J. E. Wannamaker, the last surviving life trustee named in Mr. Clemson’s will, to replace Johnstone as board president. The trustees prepared to dedicate Riggs Hall, the new building with its workshops that turned out magnificently. With the steel-reinforced concrete framing and subflooring, the hall continued the Renaissance style Lee first introduced in the YMCA building. Its tapestry bricks were laid in Flemish bond, and it faced north toward the Main Building but lay farther south than old Mechanical Hall. The main door and window above were framed in Palladian style limestone. Limestone also framed two principal windows and enclosed two identical tympana that depicted the tools of architecture to the left and those of engineering to the right, separated by the “Spirit of Electricity” with lightning bolts radiating from behind the spirit. The latter, of course, was an allusion to Riggs’s own field of study. In a touch of whimsy,
Lee designed protruding grotesques (sometimes mistakenly called “gargoyles”) between the third-story windows. The eaves were supported by brackets, guttered and flashed with copper, and roofed with red clay tiles.

The dedication was held during commencement week in June 1928. All land-grant colleges, most colleges in the Southeast, and most major engineering firms throughout the nation were invited to send representatives to attend the ceremony. Clemson engineering and architecture graduates as well as the editors of major national newspapers and all editors of newspapers in South Carolina received invitations. The editors also received a pamphlet describing the new facility and its equipment and features. Beyond the corps, the Clemson “family,” and the graduates and their families, some 150 special guests attended.

The new Physical Education Building (now called Fike Field House) was also designed by Lee. The new Department of Physical Education was placed under Athletic Director J. C. “Mutt” Gee, Clemson 1917. The college hoped to secure money for the building from alumni donations. This would be the school’s first solicitation of the alumni for financial assistance. In the first months, donations received were meager. Sikes turned to J. H. Woodward, one of his assistants, to lead the campaign. In the first four months, $8,000 was raised from one mail solicitation. Needing to do better, Woodward took to the road, visiting Florence, Marlboro, Marion, and Dillon counties, and also Augusta and Washington, Georgia. He returned home bearing $18,400. By January 1928, the fund held more than $150,000 in cash, land, and pledges. No doubt alumni spirits were much improved because the new head football coach, Josh Cody, had guided the Tigers to a 5–3–1 season, the first winning campaign and the first win over USC since 1923.

That was enough money to begin the building, but to complete Lee’s plan, work continued until 1940. The first section, the “big gym,” was dedicated on January 7, 1930, at the Furman-Clemson basketball game. The administrative and visitors’ housing unit was completed next, and the “little gym” finished in 1940 with most of the cost borne by the Federal Works Progress Administration. The tapestry brick Renaissance style with bracket-supported eaves and the red clay tile roof marked the building as a creation of Rudolph Lee. Over the northern entrance loggia, A. Wolfe “Abe” Davidson, Clemson student and Russian émigré, modeled a bas-relief of a football moment. He based the main figure on one of Clemson’s greatest athletes, “Bonnie” Banks McFadden, Clemson 1940, twice football All-American and once basketball All-American.

The Works Progress Administration, Enoch Sikes, J. C. Littlejohn, and Rudolph Lee teamed up seven times more during the 1930s to add to Clemson’s growing architectural character. One added the theater wing of the YMCA. It terminated on the west with a lower arcade and two roundel plaques with the
The Physical Education Building—today’s Fike Recreation Center—and entrance hall as they appeared shortly after the second phase of completion in 1940. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

The new Agricultural Hall, or Long Hall on today’s campus, completed in 1937. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
watchful heads of two tigers, also molded by Davidson, looking down over Riggs Field. Daniel Construction Company of Greenville did the work.41

Also, Sikes fully intended to increase college enrollment. The biggest obstacle was the lack of student (and faculty and staff) housing. Consequently, he appealed to the federal government for financial help, emphasizing the school’s record of preparation of officers for the army. Pressure from the War Department—led in part by alumnus Frank Johnstone Jervey, the weight of U.S. Senator and Clemson friend James Byrnes, and Life Trustee Frank Lever—encouraged the government to help complete the large barracks (now Norris Hall) and four new barracks on the north side of campus west of the Textile Building. Taking advantage of the roll of the land, four three-story units with full and useful basements were arranged along an alley on the high ground above Riggs Field. They were constructed in Lee’s style, and Daniel Construction Company carried out all of the interior design and building. The exterior ornamentation consisted of heraldic escutcheons above each of the entrance loggias. The escutcheons were quite plain, suggesting the tight finances. These were completed and dedicated together with a full dress parade of cadets, and the principal “lobbyists” in Washington, D.C., were honored guests. Among the first men to move into the new barracks was Walter Thompson Cox Jr., Clemson 1939.42

A new agriculture hall was next. The general assembly had authorized the Board of Trustees to borrow $250,000 to construct a new agriculture hall in 1929.43 Finally, with a generous grant of $800,000 from the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1936, construction began.44 In Lee’s design and style, the words “Agriculture,” “Instruction,” and “Research” were incised over the three main portals. Lee’s design of the central (north) portal, although in the Renaissance idiom, created capitals and cartouches from the major agricultural products, including cotton, grains, and other crops from the state. The eastern protrusion displayed a farmer driving a team of oxen pulling a moldboard plow, while its western mate portrayed a farmer atop a modern gasoline combine. The message was clear: Increased results from the same time invested equaled progress. All the sculpture was in the art deco style. At the May 12, 1937, dedication, Sikes, in the name of the trustees, presented forty-four honorary degrees to major national and state agricultural leaders. The trustees named the building Long Hall, in memory of the recently deceased director of extension.45

The last of the major Lee buildings erected on campus was Textile Hall (now Sirrine Hall). Here the “C” shaped footprint used in Riggs, Fike, and Long halls was turned over, creating an entrance forecourt. As in the other buildings, limestone and tapestry brick were used. The ornamentation on new Textile Hall included the incising of the names of great inventors in the history of textiles: Sir Richard Arkwright (British, 1732–1792), who in 1769 invented the mechanical spinning machinery to create yarn; Eli Whitney (American, 1765–1825), inven-
tor of the cotton (en)gin(e) in 1792; the Rev. Mr. Edmund Cartwright (British, 1743–1823), creator of the power loom in 1794; and Sir William Henry Perkin (British, 1838–1907), the discoverer in 1856 of the first synthetic dye, mauveine, a new deep purple aniline-based color. A series of polychromed tiles beneath the eaves displayed a variety of textile images such as a cotton boll, cotton bale, spinning wheel, distaff, and textile knot. The Lee signature, a copper-flashed red clay tile roof, crowned the building. Although this was the last of the buildings Lee designed and completed, he also designed an office building for agriculture planned for location behind Long Hall. World War II intervened, and the building was scrapped. He also drew a façade of a chemistry building. In sum, the extensive building campaign of the 1930s essentially doubled the college’s student capacity; from 1925–1926 to the 1939–1940 year, enrollment had grown to 2,227.

New Resources

During the 1930s, in proof that progress can be made despite economic hardship, Clemson College took four major steps forward, besides the previously discussed building program. Two involved hard cash, and two involved land.

The first was the creation of the Clemson College Foundation. Although the idea had been discussed for some years, the Alumni Association finally approved establishing the foundation at the association’s annual reunion on June 5, 1933. The initial plan called for alumni to obtain life insurance policies from New York Life Insurance Company and, while paying the annual premiums, thus guaranteeing the final payout, the holder would assign the annual dividends to the foundation.

The foundation would also receive such annual contributions from alumni and others as the corporation elected to deposit. In addition, personal and corporate donations were to be welcomed. The foundation elected Cecil L. Reid, Clemson 1902, as president. Within six months, the foundation received a gift of $10,000 (2009 equivalent $163,947.25) from Lydia and Alexander P. Anderson. Anderson (b. November 22, 1862, in Featherstone, Goodhue County, Minnesota – d. May 7, 1943) received a BS (1894) and MS (1895) from the University of Minnesota and a PhD from the University of Munich (1896). He joined the Clemson faculty in 1897 and re-
signed from Clemson in 1901 to become the curator of the herbarium at Columbia University (NYC). While on the Clemson faculty, he accidently discovered the process that causes grain such as wheat and rice to puff. He received the patent for “expanding starch material in cereal grains” in 1902 and went to work as a researcher for Quaker Oats Company. Anderson’s timely gift remembered his years at Clemson.\footnote{49}

The second fund-raising unit focused on athletics. The concept appears to have begun during the 1932 football season. It was the first season for Coach Jess Neely, a Vanderbilt law graduate. Capt. Jervey remembered sitting in a car with Neely in Florence following Clemson’s 6–0 loss to the Citadel. At that point, Clemson had just suffered its second loss in a season marked by a 0–0 tie with Presbyterian, a win over NC State, and a 42–0 thrashing by Tennessee. Jervey asked Neely how much he estimated it would take per year to build a strong team through athletic grants-in-aid, an idea tried in the Midwest to help alleviate and regulate the practice of alumni of eastern private schools of hiring players. Neely answered that it would cost $10,000 per year (2009 equivalent $155,586). Jervey attempted to generate interest in establishing a $50 (2009 equivalent $778) per year contributor’s club. While the idea produced interest, given the Depression, it did not produce money.

Consequently, Dr. Rupert Fike, Clemson 1908 and a former football manager, had received a solicitation letter and was disappointed in the lack of results. He had brooded on the school’s record since his graduation. Following a conversation with Jack Mitchell, Clemson 1912, and Milton Berry, Clemson 1913, Fike called a meeting of Clemson’s alumni in Atlanta in August. Nine men attended, and from that ensued a secret fund-raising society named IPTAY. Its officers were the Bengal Tiger (president), the Persian Tiger (vice president), and the Sumatra Tiger (secretary). The group abounded in acronyms. IPTAY itself meant “I Pay Ten a Year,” because the group established $10 (2009 equivalent $159) for annual membership dues.\footnote{50}

Still, it was hard raising the money. Alan McCrary Johnstone, grandson of Life Trustee and Board President Alan Johnstone and the founding captain of Clemson’s golf team, received a solicitation from his employer, also a Clemson man.
Johnstone begged off, saying he did not have $10 to spare. The employer “kindly” said he would pay for Johnstone and simply deduct $1 a month from Johnstone’s salary. And so he did. Johnstone kept his membership in IPTAY until he died.51

During the first year, 162 persons contributed $1,623.70 to IPTAY, but by 1939, the membership had grown to 1,131 and the contributions to $13,416.55. Dr. Fike served as president from 1934 until 1954, and Hoke Sloan and R. R. Ritchie (professor of animal husbandry) served as volunteer secretaries.52

The land acquisitions included the creation of the fourth “off-campus” experiment station, the Edisto Station located between Williston and Blackville. The land came from college and state funds, while the federal government, through the PWA, aided in erecting the buildings. The station had two hundred acres, three researchers, a tractor, and six mules. While much of its work involved researching and raising cattle, it was also a site for growing bamboo, tested for use in the reinforcement of concrete.53 This brought the number of experiment stations to four: Coastal (Drainland and Truck); Pee Dee (Florence); Sandhill (Pontiac); and Edisto (Williston-Blackville). Additionally, a relatively small experimental farm existed at Fort Hill.

The Fourth Resource

The federal government’s drought and depression plan after 1933 included purchasing devastated land in many parts of the stricken nation. In South Carolina, much of the ruined land existed in the Piedmont. A Clemson agricultural economics professor, George H. Aull, had taken a leave from Clemson from 1934 to 1936 to serve as a senior administrative officer in the Land Policy Section of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Aull, born in Pomaria on October 16, 1899, served in the U.S. Army in 1918 and graduated from Clemson in 1919. He taught in secondary school from 1919 until 1921 and then joined the Clemson Agricultural Experiment Station as assistant director of research (1921–1933).
During that time, Aull received an MS in economics from Virginia in 1928 (he studied with Clemson alumnus Wilson Gee) and would be awarded his PhD by Wisconsin in 1937.

In his work with the Land Policy program in Washington, D.C., Aull proposed that several thousand acres of ruined land in the Piedmont of South Carolina be placed in the care of Clemson Agricultural College for restoration and redevelopment. His original proposal would have placed about 8,500 acres in the Fant’s Grove Community, most of which lies south of the old campus, in Clemson’s care. But the request was returned in 1934, labeled “too small,” so Aull re-submitted a second proposal for about 35,000 acres. After more negotiations, the final acreage placed in Clemson’s hands amounted to 27,469 acres. At this point, Aull was placed on leave to manage the project, which involved lake and pond building, tree planting, and design and construction of recreation facilities.54

Clemson’s agriculture, civil engineering, and architecture students developed the plans. The Works Progress Administration supplied the labor along with the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Agency. At the pay of $.35 per hour, a number of young male laborers earned enough money to attend Clemson. The first area developed was the Issaqueena Forest in the Lawrence Chapel community. It provided recreation land and is frequently called North Forest, which includes other holdings such as the major site of Keowee Heights, the onetime home of John Ewing Colhoun. Wright Bryan recorded George Aull’s reflections:

We built six one-acre fish ponds, now covered by Lake Hartwell. We built Lake Isaqueena [sic] dam which backed up a substantial lake, and we stocked it with fish. We constructed about a dozen picnic shelters and recreational sites, including one which was a fully equipped boat house with boat landing and docking facilities. We planted approximately 10,000 acres of mostly loblolly pine and we built miles and miles of roads and nature trails.55

Supervision of the project, as described in Clemson’s agreement with the federal government in 1935, rested with the extension service, but both Sikes and Littlejohn were uneasy with the college taking on such a burden, and the Clemson Board of Trustees regularly debated the whole concept of such land reclamation for nearly five years until July 7, 1939, when they finally approved the long-term lease. Aull’s later contribution to the affairs of Clemson Agricultural College, the community, the state, and the nation are all part of the continuing Clemson saga.56

For Them

Sikes and his closest advisors always kept in mind that all these resources had been brought together for two goals, one of which was the general well-being of
the people of South Carolina. However, these teachers knew that the second goal was the broad education of Clemson students, who produced a wide-ranging impact beyond the boundaries of South Carolina. But these students were different from the eager school chums of Sikes’s youth, just as they were different from the young “rebellious” cadets of 1902, 1904, or 1908.

Sikes was well equipped to handle those changing cadets. His experiences as a college dean at Wake Forest and president at Coker College taught him a great deal about students, faculty, accreditors, and alumni, while his legislative experiences made him aware of the need for statewide support. Nothing was clearer than his deft way of working with students.

The cadets of 1925 were older than those of a decade earlier, and their sense of connectedness to the world was broader in scope than were those not yet dazzled by the “lights of Gay Paree!” Theirs was the age of the radio, which erased the...
limits of county, parish, and congregation. Theirs was the rise of the phonograph, bringing with it the splendors of the New York Philharmonic, Puccini, and Caruso nearly on demand, along with the intriguing world of jazz, whether Dixieland, or Chicago, or New York. And this was the age of the automobile, with the new freedom and license that came with it. And youth, in its freedom, rebuked government restrictions such as alcohol prohibitions.57

Everywhere in America, the response of colleges and universities was to broaden their involvement in the non-academic life of students, a holistic approach whose origins may well have been at Miami University (Ohio). The general approach was for the institutional president to be more involved in the day-by-day life of his students, particularly as schools grew in size. The president delegated many administrative tasks to others.58 Of course, Riggs had begun many of these steps and details during his administration. For example, Riggs had appointed D. H. Henry director of student activities and made the commandant responsible for discipline and the barracks behavior, while the president focused more on the larger problems of legislative relations, financial resources, and intercollegiate activities. However, Riggs was not comfortable with total delegation. Sikes seemed more comfortable with a closer but almost avuncular attitude toward the students and was willing to increase their “liberties.”

Almost Sikes’s first action toward his cadets was to reinstitute the practice of taking all four classes to the State Fair for the USC game, a treat suspended in 1917 because of the war and not reinstated afterward for financial reasons. The announcement was met with cheering by the cadets in chapel.59 Sikes saw this as a way to display the manly, well-disciplined cadets, offsetting any lingering unfavorable public thoughts stemming from the 1924 walkout.

And even though the cadets really had only the YMCA canteen to repair to, Sikes abolished the requirement that the cadets dine three meals a day in the mess hall.60 Shortly thereafter, he granted the glee club permission to go on a ten-day performance tour.61 One month later, he convinced the Board of Trustees to do away with guard duty, wherein each student, fully uniformed and armed, marched a segment of the campus at regular, prescribed times.62 It must have seemed to the cadets that this plump, bald, bespectacled, cigar-smoking North Carolinian was a herald of heaven.

The miracles continued after the Christmas break in the spring of 1926. Dr. G. D. Heath, the resident physician, who was an able medical doctor but aloof, resigned and was replaced by Dr. Lee Milford, who related very easily to cadets and to the community. And at almost the same time that he introduced Milford to the cadets, Sikes also announced that the cadet regimental band would take a state tour as had the glee club.63 By his second year, Sikes changed mandatory chapel from five days a week to twice weekly (Tuesday and Thursday) and from early morning to the noon hour.64
The literary societies had shrunk from six to the three founded between 1893 and 1895. And the ratio of literary society members to the entire student body fell by 25 percent, both indications that the influence of the societies was weakening. The societies still combined their forces in the publication of the *Chronicle*, which was underwritten by the three societies from their dues, subscriptions, advertisements, and contributions solicited from alumni. In 1926–1927, the editorial staff included J. E. Youngblood, a senior horticulture major from Elko (Barnwell County) and senior class president, as the editor; Gilbert C. Dupre of Columbia as the business manager; and twelve other cadets. With the sports well covered by the two other publications, the *Chronicle* simply stopped.65

*Taps* appeared annually and, in 1936, began including the individual photographs of all the young men regardless of class. These almost always were taken after the first-year-to-be cadets had taken their placement examinations but before they had matriculated (easily observable by the length and fullness of their hair).66 Because some number of freshmen simply packed up and returned home after receiving the placement results, persons searching for forebears are occasionally misled to believe someone attended classes at Clemson and, thus, was an alumnus when in fact he had chosen not to join the student body (matriculate).67

The weekly newspaper, *The Tiger*, was financed through the student activity fee, advertisements, and subscriptions, mainly from alumni. Even though *Taps* exhibited excellent craftsmanship and became a reliable record of the individual careers of the seniors and a very good, trustworthy account of club, corps, and sports activities, *The Tiger*, under the advisorship of Prof. John D. Lane, achieved real prominence. Born in 1898 in Lamar (Darlington County), Lane received his AB (the BA when awarded with a Latin diploma) from Newberry College in English (1920). After teaching history and mathematics at Newberry (1920–1923), Lane studied for and received the MA from the University of Virginia in June 1924. He joined the English faculty at Clemson in
1924, and, except for 1928–1929 when he was in the advanced program in English and drama at Columbia University (New York City), he remained in the Clemson English faculty until his resignation for reasons of health in June 1961 at age sixty-three. In 1932, Lane married Bessie Mell Poats, daughter of Prof. Thomas G. Poats. They had four children. Lane died on January 8, 1968.

During Sikes's presidency, a number of remarkable student editors, with Lane’s guidance, led The Tiger. W. Wright Bryan, the son of A. B. “Old Baldy” Bryan, served as editor of The Tiger in 1926–1927. Bryan studied civil engineering at Clemson and served as vice president of Clemson’s student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). After graduation and a few weeks on a South Carolina highway road crew, he followed Ben F. Robertson Jr. to the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. After a year there, he joined the staff of the Atlanta journal as a reporter, where he worked from 1927 to 1935. He married Ellen Hillyer Newman on October 12, 1932. Together they had two daughters and one son. Bryan was city editor of the Atlanta Journal from 1935 to 1940 and managing editor from 1940 to 1943. He was the World War II correspondent for the Journal and for National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in Europe, broadcasting the first eyewitness account of the western Allied June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy. Captured by the German army in September 1944, he was released in 1945. After the war, he returned to the Atlanta Journal.

A second of John Lane's men was George Chaplin. Born in Columbia in 1914, Chaplin became a freshman studying textile chemistry in 1930, but in his senior year (1933), he was chosen editor of The Tiger. By graduation, he had changed his life’s work and became a reporter for the Greenville Piedmont. While in Greenville, he married a Charleston girl, and in 1940, Chaplin won a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. When World War II began, Chaplin served as a captain in the U.S. Army. The army sent him to Honolulu as editor of the Pacific edition of the Stars and Stripes.

John Lane’s third journalist jewel was Harry Ashmore of Greenville. Born in 1916, he was the younger of two brothers. Like his brother, he attended Clemson, enrolling in 1933 and graduating in 1937. A member of Kappa Phi Fraternity, he joined The Tiger staff and worked his way up to editor. Upon his graduation, Ashmore joined the Greenville Piedmont but soon moved to the Greenville News. In 1941, he became a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. That pursuit was cut short by the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ashmore immediately reported for duty and was assigned to the Ninety-fifth Infantry Division, which was part of Gen. George Patton’s Third Army. It saw heavy fighting and participated in the capture of Metz.

The fourth of these gems was Earl Mazo. Born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1919, he and his family immigrated to Charleston in 1922. After school there, he en-
tered Clemson in 1936 and served as editor of *The Tiger* in 1939–1940. Mazo became the president of Gamma Alpha Mu, an honor fraternity composed of Clemson's best writers, and he was invited to join Blue Key and Tiger Brotherhood. Mazo was inducted into the U.S. Army air program, where he served as a B-17 bombardier. After military service, he became a war correspondent for the European edition of the *Stars and Stripes*.73

**The Student Body**

President Sikes also sought more student diversity. By his last year, the cadets came from all counties of South Carolina, twenty-seven states, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, and the District of Columbia. But the Asian war had cut off Asian students who had been enrolling primarily in textiles, and the European strife, which had begun in earnest in the Spanish Civil War and which spread with the joint invasion by Germany and Russia of Poland in 1939, reduced the foreign countries represented in the student body down to Cuba and Austria.74

Another avenue of diversity was the issue of gender. The Depression gave Sikes an opening. He convinced the trustees to allow fourteen young women from the area to enroll as day students. All were sophomores or better, so there would be no strain on the more crowded freshman classes. Most of the women were daughters of faculty and others in the community. The move helped the women continue their education during the worst of the Depression, and Clemson’s enrollment remained strong. The young men had few objections, although an editorial in a September 1932 issue of *The Tiger* groused,

> This is all very well and good as a temporary measure and there is nothing we can do about it except submit gracefully….If we have women trailing over the campus after this year, it is up to the Corps to see that their hair is removed in the usual freshman manner, that they wear uniforms, live in the barracks and drill with Springfield Rifles. We love our masculine freedom and superiority.75

Sikes was very pleased with the presence of the women, and he wrote, “For a long time, it was questioned whether a woman could do as well as a man in higher education. It has been put to the test that has clearly demonstrated that she can.”76 Toward the end of the school year, Sikes recommended that the college integrate fully in gender. The trustees turned down the recommendation.77

Another sign of diversity was the occasional nonwhite student in the graduating class. This was a continuation of an earlier sign of diversity. The June 1926 commencement witnessed the trustees awarding one hundred bachelor’s degrees. Besides the large number of graduates from South Carolina, graduates came from Georgia, North Carolina, New York, and China. Textile industrial education student Ko Chia Li of Manchuria had begun his American school-
ing at Lowell Textile School in Massachusetts in 1922, followed by work at NC State before entering Clemson. Called “Whang” by his Clemson friends, he played tennis and ping-pong and was described as “witty” and tremendously “girl shy.” *Taps* wrote, “Here’s to you, Ko Chia, we who have known you shall not like to see you part, but, when we do part, our best wishes for your success go with you.”

By 1929, the June commencement saw 164 seniors receive degrees, which demonstrated that Sikes’s policy of enlarging the college, driven first by Littlejohn and then by Littlejohn and Washington, was taking effect. Twelve had studied architecture, fourteen arts and sciences (the new designation for general science), fifty-nine agriculture, sixty-four engineering, and fifteen textiles. By spring 1931, total enrollment had grown to 1,348. While the large majority came from South Carolina, students also hailed from twenty-two other states, the District of Columbia, and Nicaragua. Over 500 were from farming families, nearly 100 from families in manufacturing (including textiles), about seventy-five from families in transportation, about 300 from mercantile families (most of them from small rural towns), and others from a broad array of occupations.

The growth was such that in the spring of 1940, Sikes’s last year, the registrar reported an enrollment of 2,281, an increase from 2,227 the previous fall and from 1,087 in 1925. Of these, 1,981 were South Carolinians from every county. Other states represented in the student body included Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The District of Columbia, the Canal Zone, and Puerto Rico also sent students. The enrollment included 450 in agriculture, 70 in chemistry, 440 in arts and sciences (still occasionally called general science), 350 in textiles, 360 in vocational education (including agriculture, textiles, and industry), and 800 in engineering. Twenty-six students had enrolled in special and graduate studies.

But the growth was not without its consequences. At its Memphis meeting in 1939, SACS, which had increased its accrediting standards, placed Clemson on the “starred” list, citing the college for deficiencies in faculty preparation, faculty salaries, and library expenditures. The former was the most critical, and SACS had recommendations that Sikes presented to the trustees in June 1939. They unanimously approved three regulations. First, the college generally would employ new faculty with advanced degrees only. Second, Clemson teachers forty-five years of age or under would be required to secure an “advanced degree within the next four years from a well-established graduate school,” and unless done, would “receive no further promotion in title or salary.” Third, salaries improved for most faculty.
Three dance clubs each offered one dance, occasionally with a band, per semester. Although only the two other dance clubs were invited, many other cadets and some non-Clemson youth attended, which produced periodic discipline problems. Prof. D. H. Henry, who still served as director of student affairs, handled the scheduling, but discipline remained the responsibility of the commandant. The Board of Trustees, as an economy move, abolished the student affairs director’s post and moved Henry to the post of secretary to the Fertilizer Control Board. As a chemist, he seemed a logical choice to replace H. M. Stackhouse in 1929. In 1932, the Board of Trustees requested that W. M. James and Associates of Greenville audit the accounts, and they found a $16,262.50 discrepancy between tags sold and revenues reported to the state treasurer. Although no one filed charges in the matter, Henry resigned, and the college replaced him with J. Woodward. Shortly thereafter, in a tragic end to his life, Henry committed suicide.

A concert band, directed by engineering Prof. E. J. Freeman, enrolled forty-eight cadets. A concert orchestra, which included a string section, had twenty-five members, including faculty and spouses. Edwin Jones Freeman Jr. had entered Clemson as a freshman in 1919 after serving in the American Expeditionary Forces (U.S. Army Sixty-first Artillery). Reared in Spartanburg (although born in Lawrenceville, Virginia), he graduated from the local high school and worked for one year before enlisting. His three years as a cadet found him director of the glee club and the orchestra. He was the student chairman of ASME and treasurer of AIEE. The other cadets

Edwin Jones Freeman (1896–1969), professor of mechanical/industrial engineering at Clemson from 1924 to 1961, Clemson band leader and composer, and forerunner of today’s modern football cinematographer on the Clemson campus. Freeman Hall stands today as a monument to his dedicated service. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
called him “Mr. Wizard” because of his proficiency with musical instruments and power tools. He was also a cheerleader and a member of the Block-C Club. After graduation in 1922, he taught one year in a military academy and a second in a public school. He returned to Clemson in 1924, and except for graduate school at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he stayed at Clemson until he retired in 1961. Freeman Hall is named in his memory. In the 1930s, he composed “Tiger, Rah!” a fight song that is still used occasionally. Freeman was also a cinematographer, and beginning with his friendship with Jess Neely, he filmed almost all the football games in the 1930s and 1940s for coaching analyses.86

Cadet Wayland A. Strand led the glee club, consisting of thirty cadets. Also, the Jungaleers, a nine-person student band, played popular music for some of the dances. Between 1934 and 1937, the Jungaleers hired out as a dance orchestra in the summers to entertain voyagers on transatlantic crossings and to play in a few popular nightclubs in London and Paris. Among the leaders of the Jungaleers was Bob “Puff” Banister on the saxophone. Banister would return after World War II to serve in the engineering faculty.87 Music of a different sort was provided by a forty-seven-member regimental band, which played for weekly dress parades and football games at home and on Big Thursday. The regimental band increased in size as the student body did. Following his graduation, the drum major, J. Roy Cooper, joined the staff of the college’s YMCA. Also, a drum and bugle corps had twenty-four cadets.88

In addition to all this activity, during the Sikes years, forty or more county and town clubs in South Carolina, a Georgia state club, and a general out-of-state club provided cadets with other social outlets. A dozen other clubs of various names and purposes, or perhaps with little or no purpose, also existed.89

By May 1927, the government of South Carolina repealed early twentieth century legislation that prohibited Greek-letter groups—scholarly, social, academic, or any other—from operating at the state’s colleges.90 Almost immediately, the Clemson College trustees approved the establishment of local and national, honorary and professional, Greek-letter and otherwise-named fraternities and societies. During the 1927–1928 academic year, Phi Psi, a professional textile arts and sciences fraternity founded at the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Sciences in 1903, established its ninth (Iota) chapter at Clemson. Its appearance on the Clemson campus as the first national Greek-letter fraternity of any type reflected clearly Sikes’s desire to broaden the students’, and for that matter the faculty’s, horizons. R. C. Harrington served as the first Phi Psi president.91 Also in 1928, engineering faculty and students created a local group that became the first chapter of Tau Beta Pi in South Carolina. Named South Carolina Alpha, it was the fifty-first chapter of the national society.92

During the same year, President Sikes and a group of faculty selected nineteen seniors to serve as the first “cubs” of Tiger Brotherhood. Together they drafted a
public code of ethics that pledged “to meet others in every walk of life fairly, to be on one’s honor at all times, to help make a great Clemson, and to be a loyal son of Clemson.” While the effort appears to have grown out of Sikes’s failed attempt to establish a student government, the organization was designed as a local leadership, service, and honorary fraternity. The faculty involved in helping found Tiger Brotherhood included Mark Bradley, Aura M. Carkuff, W. W. Klugh, John Lane, John Logan Marshall, and Augustus M. Shanklin. Marshall, with Bradley’s help, wrote the ritual.93

One year later, James G. “Mutt” Gee, professor of physical education and director of intercollegiate athletics, received a letter from B. C. Riley, founder and national president of Blue Key, a leadership and service honorary society founded at the University of Florida in October 1924, expressing an interest in establishing a chapter at Clemson. Gee sent the letter to Sikes, but nothing happened immediately.94 Several years later, in 1932, a group of twenty students and some honorary members from alumni, faculty, and staff received a charter. The first chapter president was James Edgar Barker, and its student charter members included Olen B. Garrison, later head of the S.C. Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Patrick Noble Calhoun, a descendent of John Francis Calhoun, John C. Calhoun’s great-nephew and Clemson College’s first bursar. Pat Calhoun, later a major North Carolina financier, served as a Clemson life trustee. Seven men connected closely with Clemson were also on the charter roll, including Sikes, mess officer Capt. J. D. Harcombe, Col. Frank J. Jervey (then in the U.S. Army Ordnance Department in Washington, D.C.), Prof. W. W. Klugh, J. C. Littlejohn, commandant Col. Fred L. Munson, and Textile Dean H. H. Willis. Four years later, Blue Key inducted U.S. Senator James F. Byrnes.95

The last of the Sikes era service societies, Alpha Phi Omega, received its charter as the Gamma Lambda Chapter in the spring of 1940. The fraternity originated in 1925 at Lafayette College. Rooted in the Boy Scouts of America, APO is today the largest of the national collegiate service fraternities.96

Two years earlier, in 1938, Phi Kappa Phi, the national scholastic honorary society open to academically qualified students and faculty, was chartered at Clemson. It had no restrictions on area or field of study, nor did it have restrictions on gender, race, or religious persuasion. The Clemson chapter was Phi Kappa Phi’s forty-ninth. The fraternity, founded at the University of Maine in 1897, had the strong support of the Maine University president, who, through the land-grant association, encouraged the presidents of the University of Tennessee and Pennsylvania State College to establish chapters on their campuses. The fraternity generally recruited the chapter officers from among its faculty members.97

Sikes’s loosening of the grip on student organizations allowed for the emergence of five local social fraternities. The earliest noted in _Taps_ in 1928 was named
Sigma Phi. Because one of the oldest existing college social fraternities with chapters on several college campuses bears that same name, some have claimed an affiliation between the two. That does not seem to have been the case. Another local organization, Beta Sigma Chi, which limited its membership to cadets who lived within a fifty-mile radius of Charleston, sometimes presented itself as a regional club. The remaining three were Alpha Chi Psi, Sigma Epsilon, and Kappa Phi. The five groups produced many members who went on to outstanding careers, including one Pulitzer Prize winner, one Medal of Honor winner, two major newspaper editors, and one university president.98

Religious Life

Student religious affiliations were heavily mainline Protestant, but 2.2 percent were Catholic, 1 percent Jewish, and 2 percent claimed no affiliation. Over 90 percent of students attended the four town churches, and Catholic students continued under the care of St. Joseph’s parish in Anderson. With the blessing of Sikes and the commandant, Catholic cadets went to Anderson on Easter Saturday, spent the night with parish families, and attended Mass on Sunday. Following Easter dinner with their hosts, the cadets returned to campus.99 As the number of Catholic students grew, the diocese of South Carolina, acting on a generous anonymous gift, built a chapel in Clemson. Constructed in Gothic style of local granite, the chapel was fitted with very lovely stained glass windows. It served not only the students, but also Catholics in the community.100 The Rev. Dr. Sydney Crouch, the new pastor of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, held Friday Sabbath service usually at the YMCA and the Sabbath meal for Jewish students and loaded those young cadets into his station wagon to drive them to High Holy Day services in Greenville or Anderson.101 In addition, the growth in the student body and the community during the 1930s required the four older churches to expand their facilities.102

Crouch, an Australian who became a Presbyterian after he immigrated to the United States, strengthened the sense of community between the small village and the campus in many ways. One was the founding of two men’s clubs, the Forum (1929), made up primarily of faculty and initially focused on foreign affairs, and the Fellowship (1936), composed of churchmen. Both continue to flourish. Before either club existed, Crouch, in his first year at Clemson, worked with the other three pastors, President Sikes, and Commandant Otis R. Cole (lieutenant colonel, U.S. Army, Infantry), to sponsor the first Clemson Mother’s Day, May 9, 1926. Each cadet personally invited his mother to come to campus for church at one of the churches, while the families of the campus and community opened their homes for overnight guests. The guest mothers attended church wearing flowers provided by the college greenhouse and then sat with their cadet sons for
Sunday dinner in the mess hall. At 3:00 p.m., all gathered in the YMCA auditorium for a program honoring mothers. Cadets and town youth spoke or sang. After the program, the regimental band, positioned on Bowman Field, offered a concert. Mother’s Day commemoration continued at Clemson for over a quarter of a century.103

The Trustees

As Sikes approached the end of his career, the trustees appeared determined that the gains in the college’s reputation made during his presidency would not be lost. Unlike all the presidents before Sikes who had at least two of the three confidants of Thomas Green Clemson—that is, D. K. Norris, R. W. Simpson, and B. R. Tillman—advising and watching their every move and deed, Sikes had none.

Four years after Tillman’s death, the remaining life trustees replaced him with Bennette Eugene Geer, a forty-nine-year-old textile executive born in Anderson County on June 9, 1873. After a local education, he studied at Furman University, receiving his AB and then in 1896 the AM degree. While an undergraduate, he was initiated into Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. After receiving his master’s degree, he attended the University of Wisconsin and then the University of Michigan. He returned to Furman to teach English until 1911, when he resigned to serve as an assistant to his brother, John M. Geer, the chief executive of several textile mills. In 1913, Westervelt (later Judson) Mills first elected B. E. Geer its treasurer and then president. James B. Duke was the major stockholder in the mill, which produced “fine and fancy goods.” Geer had frequent contact with Duke.

On November 3, 1922, the Clemson trustees elected Geer one of their life members. Interestingly, Geer’s mother, Mary Malvenia Holmes (wife of Solomon M. Geer), a granddaughter of Jane Calhoun and William Holmes Jr., made him the second cousin twice removed of Anna Calhoun Clemson. When the James Buchanan Duke Foundation was established in 1925, it named Geer one of its trustees, a position he held until his death. That position led him to resign from the Clemson board on October 26, 1928.104

Prior to Geer’s resignation and shortly after Sikes’s presidency had begun in 1925, Paul Sanders was elected by the Clemson board to fill the trusteeship of M. L. Donaldson, who had died in 1924. Sanders, born in Beach Hill Plantation, Colleton County, on December 1, 1872, had received a private education. Primarily a farmer, he had a diverse business interest also in saw-milling, merchandising, banking, and rural real estate. In government he served on the draft board in World War I, the State Farm Labor Advisory Committee, the State Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and the U.S. Inland Waterways Commission, all of which helped him aid the Clemson board in making effective decisions for the
good of South Carolina. Sanders served on the Clemson board until 1960. He married twice and fathered four sons and a daughter.\textsuperscript{105}

The person chosen to replace Geer, following his resignation, was Joseph Emory Sirrine of Greenville, born on December 9, 1872, to George W. and Sarah Rylander Sirrine in Americus, Georgia. Educated at the Greenville Military Institute and at Furman University, he received a BS degree in 1890 at eighteen years of age. He learned engineering working for Poe Manufacturing Company and then joined Lockwood, Greene and Company in 1909. In 1928 with a partnership of friends, he formed J. E. Sirrine and Company, a general industrial engineering firm that specialized in textile engineering, aluminum, and shipyards, especially in the South and New England.

Throughout Sirrine's board membership, he concentrated on making Clemson's textile program world-renowned. To provide for that, he created the J. E. Sirrine Foundation, which supported textile research and education primarily at Clemson. Professionally very active, J. E. Sirrine held memberships in the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. As the student chapters of those societies formed at Clemson, he supported them financially and with his occasional attendance. An active Mason and Knight Templar, he founded the Sirrine Children's Ward in Greenville General Hospital and supported liberally Greenville Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. His gifts to his alma mater and to the Greenville public school system were also generous. He and his wife, Jane Pinckney Henry, had no children. Sirrine involved himself extensively in the federal World War I and II committees on textiles.\textsuperscript{106}

When Alan Johnstone, president of the board since 1907, died in 1929, J. E. Wannamaker, the last of the will-named life trustees, took over as board president. The full thirteen members elected the president, and any trustee, life or term, was eligible. However, the post of life trustee had to be filled through an election by the six remaining life trustees. For this vacancy, the life trustees’ choice was Christie Benet. The son of William C. and Susan Benet, he received his education in his hometown of Abbeville, then at South Carolina College, the College of Charleston (AB 1900), and the University of Virginia (LLB 1902). There he earned membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He returned to Columbia to practice law, serving also as a volunteer football coach for the South Carolina Gamecocks. Benet married Alice Yeveren Haskell in 1906, and they had two children, Christie Jr., who died in 1928, and Alice Benet, active in the Episcopal church, served on the vestry of Trinity Church, Columbia, and on the board of Kanuga, one of the denomination’s recreational camps. On the state level, he served as secretary to the Democratic Party Executive Committee. Governor Manning appointed him to the U.S. Senate to fill the remainder of Tillman's term. He did not serve long, volunteering instead for the American Expeditionary Forces. He also led war bond
and Red Cross drives. Before he joined the Clemson board, he had served on one of UVA’s boards.107

Two life trustees were selected from existing legislative trustees. The first was Robert Muldrow Cooper. Elected a legislative trustee in 1922, he was in one way a perfect choice (he was a farmer), and in another way an unusual choice (he had graduated from USC in 1909). Nevertheless, his contributions were legendary. Born in Wisacky (Lee County), he was serving in the S.C. House when the general assembly chose him as a legislative trustee. In 1923, he was elected a state senator and served as such until 1934. In those bodies, he displayed his agricultural talents on the two agricultural committees, while at home on his 960-acre farm, he raised cotton, oats, tobacco, flax, cattle, and hogs. “Mr. Bob” also served on senate banking, manufacturing, roads and bridges, and education committees. He once noted that when elected to the Clemson board, some of his college chums asserted that Clemson was but a “pimple on the path of progress.” Despite their efforts at humor, Cooper served as a conscientious, extremely well-informed trustee, and it was to the good for South Carolina when the other life trustees selected him as a life member of the board in 1935.108 He remained a life trustee until his death thirty years later.

The next of the new life trustees was Thomas Benton Young. Born in Florence on June 12, 1882, he received his education in the Florence County schools and at Clemson College, graduating in agriculture in 1903. Young married three times and had three sons and two daughters. The S.C. Cooperative Extension Service published his graduation thesis on tobacco culture as a bulletin for the state’s farmers. He was employed as a research scientist by USDA until 1920. He then joined the extension service, with which he stayed for five years. His successes included the introduction of red pepper as a viable commercial crop. Seeing a need for better marketing of crops, he created such agencies as the Planters Produce and Supply Company (1920), the S.C. Sweet Potato Growers (1922), the S.C. Peach Association (1924), the S.C. Dewberry Association (1926), and the S.C. Cooperatives Consolidated (1927), for which he served as one of the directors. Ill health forced him to retire from active participation in these agencies in 1933. The legislature chose him as a Clemson trustee on February 1, 1932, and on January 24, 1935, he was selected a life trustee to fill the vacancy that resulted from Governor Manning’s death.109

During the administration of President Sikes, the Clemson board added six new legislative trustees. Frank Elmo Cope from Cope (Orangeburg County) served in the S.C. House from 1925 until 1928. While a representative, he was elected to the Clemson board and subsequently reelected until 1946. Cope, a 1905 Clemson graduate, was a farmer and an active Methodist. He and his wife, Irene Louise Rumph, had two daughters.110
In 1930, the general assembly chose Samuel Hodges Sherard from Ninety-Six as a trustee; he served continually until his death on July 5, 1947. Born in 1886 in Laurens, he attended the Ninety-Six schools and Clemson, from which he graduated in agriculture in 1908. His interest in animal husbandry led to active membership in the Canadian Veterinary Science Association of Ontario, from which he received a veterinary science degree. In 1911, he married Louise Lipscomb, and they had three daughters. Prior to his election as a state trustee, he served with the USDA in the Philippines and then as a county agent in Florida and Georgia. He returned to South Carolina in 1918 and served a term in the state house. He also served as a district officer of the Farm Security Administration.

The next legislative trustee selected was state Senator Edgar Allen Brown. Born in 1888 on a farm near Aiken, Brown attended local schools and then Graniteville Academy. At sixteen, he studied shorthand in Augusta, Georgia. After a brief period as a public reporter, he served as a law clerk and then received admission to the bar in 1910. In 1914, the Barnwell County Democratic Party chose Brown, at age twenty-six, as its chairman, a position he held until his death in 1975. Elected to the S.C. House in 1920, he allied himself with the “Progressive” wing of the state and national Democratic Party. He then ran unsuccessfully in 1926 for the U.S. Senate against Ellison D. “Cotton Ed” Smith, the sitting senator since 1908. Brown was elected to the state legislature in 1928, and in 1934 the legislature elected him a Clemson trustee. Married, Brown was a Methodist.

Also William Dickson Barnett served as a legislative trustee. Born in Oconee County on August 12, 1889, he enrolled in Clemson’s preparatory course in 1905 and graduated in textiles in 1910. After teaching in Oconee County for a year, he enrolled in USC in law, receiving his LLB in 1913. He settled in Columbia and married Nellie Aycock Caughman; they had two daughters. Barnett was very active in Columbia public affairs, the Presbyterian church, and the life of Clemson College. The legislature elected him to the board in 1920, and he served through the presidency of Enoch Sikes.

Another Clemson alumnus who served in the general assembly and also on the Clemson board (1934–1938 and again 1947–1957) was Ben Tillman Leppard. Born in Greenville County in 1892, he attended Clemson until May 1918, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army, which sent him to its training camp at Plattsburg, New York. (Leppard was one of the Clemson cadré who, with Allie Corcoran, had to offer school yells because Clemson had no songs.) He received the BS in agriculture from Clemson in 1919 and later attended Furman University’s law school. He was admitted to the bar in 1930 and served in the S.C. House 1933–1934. He served in the senate from 1937 to 1940. Active in the Methodist church, he married Ella Cooley of Greenville in 1928, and they had two sons.
On March 27, 1936, the general assembly elected a highly regarded Anderson County farmer to Clemson’s board. Joseph B. Douthit lived in the Lebanon community and had received a BS in agriculture from Clemson. When he began farming in 1914, he had a Clemson-learned passion for soil conservation and promoted it through his entire career. Early on he moved the family farm from cotton into cattle and diversified crops and earned a reputation for the quality of his corn seed. He was named supervisor of the Upper Savannah Soil Conservation District. He married Mary Broyles, and they had one daughter.115

William Clyde Graham was the last of the legislative trustees elected during the Sikes administration. Born in the Pee Dee in Florence County on December 31, 1897, he graduated from Clemson in 1918. As a commissioned ROTC graduate (his was the first class to complete the advanced ROTC training), he left the college for his final training at Plattsburg, New York. However, he was not called to active service and in 1919 served as the agricultural teacher in Batesburg and then returned to Coward (Florence County). For a brief period (1921–1922), he was involved with his brother in a drug company. In 1923, he returned to teaching in Pamplico, where he also operated a business.116

**Athletics**

Helping to raise the spirit and morale of both Clemson students and alumni, the Sikes era saw a real upswing in the fortunes of intercollegiate sports. For football, Sikes dealt with Coach Bud Saunders. His team of 1924 had a 5–2–1 record, while during Sikes’s first two years (1925 and 1926), Saunders’s Tigers compiled three wins and thirteen losses. Such a performance was not tolerated by the former Wake Forest football letterwinner, and by January 1, 1927, he had appointed Josh Cody the new coach. By the end of the season, the team posted a 5–3–1 record. For the four seasons Cody coached the Tigers, the team won twenty-nine, lost eleven, and had one tie. On September 19, 1928, Clemson abandoned the traditional drab jerseys for orange ones with purple numbers.

There was also a change in the schools that Clemson scheduled and where the games were played. Old in-state rivals such as Presbyterian, Wofford, the Citadel, and USC remained on the schedule. Less competitive teams were dropped. Clemson defeated Auburn all three times the two land-grant schools played. NC State defeated Clemson in 1927, but the Tigers won the next three. And the Tigers swept South Carolina four times in a row. By 1929, Mississippi, Florida, and Kentucky, all of whom later entered the SEC as charter members, were on the schedule. Clemson played not only in Columbia and Charleston, but also in Florence against NC State, whom they later met in Charlotte in 1930. They played Virginia Military Institute in Lynchburg and Norfolk, and Florida once in Gainesville and twice in Jacksonville. While it was the standard for Clemson to
play only three or four games at home a year, the exposure of the college to other southern cities outside the state began to move athletic finances into the black and, at the same time, enhance Clemson’s name recognition.117

But the Depression intervened. The cuts the general assembly made were initially taken at Clemson by working to decrease nonpersonnel costs. First, the school froze salaries, but then as revenues from the fertilizer sales, tuition, and state appropriation all fell across the summer of 1930, Sikes and the administrative leaders, at the direction of the general assembly, had to reduce salaries. Clemson cut all salaries, with no exceptions, reducing Cody’s from $6,500 to $6,000. After discussions with Sikes and others, Cody submitted his resignation on November 26, 1930. The Tiger pleaded to keep him, and he briefly reconsidered. But nothing changed, and, as the new year began, on January 2, 1931, Cody made plans to coach at Vanderbilt, his alma mater.118 His resignation left Clemson without not only its football and basketball coach, but also athletic director, a position Cody had assumed when Gee resigned as basketball coach. Cody led the Clemson basketball players for five years, two of which, 1928–1929 and 1929–1930, were winning seasons.119

Some of Clemson’s greatest football players came from the Cody years. O. K. Pressley, from Chester County, played center and linebacker from 1926 to 1928. In 1928, he earned all-state and all-Southern Conference honors and third team All-American.120 Other standouts included Covington “Goat” McMillan, who later served as an assistant coach at Clemson from 1937 to 1964; Bob “General” Jones, who played both basketball and football from 1927 to 1930 and then served at Clemson as a football, boxing, and golf coach for forty-four years; and Henry Asbill, who played from 1927 to 1929.

Faced with the loss of Cody, Sikes, Barre (who chaired the Athletic Council), and Littlejohn fortunately hired Jess Neely as head coach before the month of January ended. Neely had played for Vanderbilt and after graduation continued there in school for a law degree. He coached at Southwestern Presbyterian College in Clarksville, Tennessee (now Rhodes University in Memphis), and coached at Alabama when he accepted the Clemson offer. He brought with him Frank Howard, an Alabama alumnus, and Joe Davis, who served also as basketball coach from 1931 to 1940.121

Football continued its improvement. The 1934 season ended 5–4, and the next two seasons broke even. Of great importance, the Tigers defeated USC all four years. Tulane, then a southern powerhouse, joined the schedule, and the Tigers traveled to New Orleans each year through 1940. The 1939 Tulane game was Clemson’s only loss of the year 7–6. It was a terrific game; Banks McFadden’s punting record that day remained unbeaten in the Tulane Sugar Bowl Stadium.

Clemson, which won its first Southern Conference title in 1939, received an invitation to play in the 1940 Cotton Bowl. Held in Dallas, Texas, the bowl

“Bonnie” Banks McFadden (1907–2005), letterman in three Clemson sports (football, basketball, and track), the 1939 Associated Press Athlete of the Year, member of the 1940 Brooklyn Dodgers (NFL), World War II veteran, 1959 inductee into the College Football Hall of Fame, Clemson football coach (1941, 1946–1969), head basketball coach (1946–1956), charter member of both the Clemson Athletic and South Carolina Athletic Halls of Fame, charter member of the Clemson Ring of Honor (1994), and director of Clemson’s popular intramural sports program (1969–1984). He remains the only Clemson athlete to have a jersey number retired in two sports and to win an All-American citation in two sports in one year (1939). Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.
matched Clemson against Boston College, which, coached by Frank Leahy, was favored to win. The day before the Clemson team and others departed for Dallas, one of the regional newspapers noted, “Picture a student body of 2,200 that believes in Santa Claus, a football team that wept at the chance to play together once more, and a Southern conference basketball team that joyfully sacrificed its greatest individual star, Banks McFadden. There you have a picture of Clemson College upon acceptance of the Cotton Bowl bid.”

Thirty-one players, the coaches, the eighty-member regimental band, and the senior platoon drill team boarded six chartered buses on December 10, 1939, for the forty-eight-hour trip to Dallas. There they separated. The coaches and players were taken to the Hotel Adolphus, where the fans, who arrived shortly before New Year’s Eve, joined them. Meanwhile, the band and drill team stayed in much less elegant quarters. They had been arranged by Marvin “Slick” Ellison, Clemson 1924, then a prominent member of the Dallas business community, who had urged the Cotton Bowl committee to invite Clemson and its band and drill team, all of which were highly regarded. Ellison had received “orders” from “Uncle Jake” Woodward, the alumni secretary, to keep the cost low. Slick served as the president of the Dallas Clemson Club, and he and his wife, Katharine, played social hosts for Clemson’s band and drill team.

Once the game began, Boston College struck first with an early second quarter field goal. But Clemson’s defense and Banks McFadden’s kicking kept the Golden Eagles well jessed. McFadden kicked nine times, averaging forty-three yards. His longest punt carried sixty-seven yards. Late in the second quarter, the game’s and Clemson’s only touchdown was set up by McFadden’s return of an Eagle punt to Boston’s 33-yard line. Then Charlie Timmons from Abbeville ran the ball into the end zone for the winning score. In the stands of the Cotton Bowl sat S.C. Governor John G. Richards, U.S. Senator and Mrs. James F. Byrnes, President and Mrs. Sikes, and most of the Clemson trustees.

Clemson ended the season nationally ranked twelfth, and McFadden received All-American honors. Earlier, officials at Rice Institute, one of the southern private college football powerhouses in Houston, Texas, had begun negotiating with Neely. They were successful, and Neely left Clemson with Davis. Neely offered to take Assistant Coach Frank Howard also, but Howard elected to stay, whereupon Clemson named him its head football coach. Howard always claimed later that he had seconded the motion to hire himself.

Basketball also improved so that by 1935 it had a 15–3 record. In 1939, Clemson won the Southern Conference and was led by Banks McFadden, who was named a basketball All-American. He remains today the only Clemson athlete named football-basketball All-American in one year.

During Sikes’s last half decade, the other sports also enjoyed a number of successes. Track, coached by Frank Howard, won the state championship every year.
One of the team’s leaders was F. H. H. Calhoun Jr., the son of “Doc Rock” Calhoun, the first Clemson track coach in 1905. Bob Jones coached boxing, and the squad won several state championships, the Southern Conference in 1938–1939, and finished fourth in the 1939 Sugar Bowl match. Thus, the boxers were the first intercollegiate team to represent Clemson in the growing Christmas season bowl world. Baseball was Jess Neely’s assignment, and the team responded with state championships from 1936 to 1938.

In March 1930, Sikes reported to the trustees that a faculty petition for a golf course had been referred by the agricultural committee to three trustees: Cooper, Sanders, and Sirrine. In August, that group reported favorably to the entire board, which adopted the motion unanimously. The new course was to be co-located within the meadow where “sheep did safely graze.” The college’s buildings and grounds unit had the charge to build the course, and $500 was allocated for it. The college business manager had the assigned responsibility for overseeing building and maintenance. Prof. Ed Freeman designed the course and supervised the construction. It was ready for play by the spring of 1931. A student team formed, and by the mid-1930s, Bob Jones coached them to regular break-even seasons. The first team captain was Alan McCrory Johnstone, grandson of deceased Trustee President Alan Johnstone.

Different members of the military faculty coached riflery, and the team garnered regional and national honors. Mr. Holtzy coached swimming, ably assisted by Carl McHugh, Clemson engineering professor and star of the school’s swimming teams in the mid-1930s. The team garnered ten state championships and set records in a variety of individual events. Because the tennis courts, located between Riggs Field and the barracks, were displaced to make room for new bar-
racks, the college had no team in 1936. Teams, coached by alumnus A. Hoke Sloan, resumed play in 1937 and finished the decade with a state second place in the conference in 1938 and an 8–3 record in 1939. F. Kirchner coached intercollegiate soccer. Begun as a varsity sport in 1933, it also had success, with winning seasons all the years and in 1938 posted an undefeated, one tie season. So all the sports finished the 1930s showing great strength.127

Also Clemson men made names for themselves and for Clemson in professional baseball. Third baseman Norm McMillan played at Clemson from 1915 to 1917. He played for the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, and St. Louis Browns before ending his professional career in 1929 with the Chicago Cubs. Flint Rhem pitched for three different teams: the Philadelphia Phillies, Boston Braves, and St. Louis Cardinals.128

On the worldwide arena, Clemson’s first claim to an Olympic medal occurred in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. John W. Wofford, who had attended Clemson for three years before his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy in 1918, rode for the U.S. Show Jumping Team, which won the silver medal.129

Thunderheads Gathering

Throughout the Sikes years, international conflicts were almost continuous and almost worldwide. Conflicts broke out in Asia, Africa, and Europe. With the strengthening of radical elements in Italy, Japan, Spain, Russia, Germany, and others, internal armed conflicts spilled across borders.

Earlier, the introduction of air travel had attracted the attention of young people everywhere. Among the pioneer aviators were two South Carolina brothers with Clemson ties. John Tarbox, who graduated from Clemson in 1904, and Gordon Tarbox, his younger brother who attended Clemson from 1913 to 1915 but graduated from NC State, made aviation history when they flew the first airplane in South Carolina on July 12, 1911, out of Georgetown.130

Then in the late 1920s, James Sams Jr., Clemson 1924, urged Clemson College, whose young alumni from electrical and mechanical engineering had made paths in aeronautic design, to open a program in automotive and aeronautical engineering. When Sikes brought the idea to the board, one trustee quipped that there was a greater need for auto mechanics. Growing out of this youthful fascination with air power, seven young cadets formed the Clemson Aero Club, and Prof. John Logan Marshall agreed to serve as the advisor. In winter and early spring of 1929, the club members built an aircraft, “Little 372.” It flew successfully that April at the Greenville airport.131 One and a half years later, the Clemson Glider Club built and flew its first glider.132

Faced with the growth of worldwide violence and armed conflict, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933–1945) signed legislation to allow the federal
government to finance the teaching of aeronautics in “civil aeronautic pilots” programs at the land-grant colleges. Sikes placed the program under the guidance of John Logan Marshall. But on September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler, the German Fuhrer, and Josef Stalin, the Soviet dictator, coordinated a two-front attack on Poland. Poland’s allies, Great Britain and France, almost immediately declared war on the aggressors, and World War II had begun. In October 1939, the federal government brought civil aeronautic pilot training under the Army ROTC. Clemson Commandant Herbert Pool selected forty cadets to begin the training program.

Coming from this decade of interest in aviation at Clemson were a number of men who made marks in the air frontier. From the “Little 372” adventure, Dallas Sherman graduated in 1929 and began working as an architect. In 1932, he joined the Army Air Corps, received pilot training, and served in the corps until 1937. In 1942, he was called to active duty and served in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. After the war, he joined Pan-American Airways. A second Clemson graduate, Theodore J. Boselli, also entered the Army Air Corps and served as navigator of Roosevelt’s plane that flew the president in 1945 to the Yalta Conference. A number of other Clemson alumni served in both the army and navy air forces.
Sikes's Legacy

Sikes tendered his resignation for June 30, 1939, but the trustees asked him to remain president while they searched for his successor. He agreed somewhat reluctantly. His fifteen years had been an unparalleled success. At the center of the “monument” he had produced, stood the library, which had its own building and was vastly improved. The college had also joined the ranks of schools accredited by SACS. New barracks sat on campus. Riggs Hall, Long Hall, and Sirrine Hall provided new space for engineering, architecture, agriculture, and textiles. A new field house also graced the campus. The land holdings had increased eighteen fold. New experiment stations now existed, leading the state into the soft fruit industry. The extension service had acted as a major force that led South Carolina through four droughts and helped ameliorate suffering and problems arising from the Depression. The student body had doubled and continued to diversify. The Clemson College Foundation and IPTAY had begun. Truly, it was a remarkable record.

Of course, some opportunities remained lost. At least three were curricular. Clemson had seen the need for a forestry curriculum early in the 1920s and again in the 1930s. But the suggestions and requests for it were turned down by the state government. The other two curricular issues involved automotive and aeronautic engineering. These were discussed with the trustees, but nothing else happened. Each would have been quite expensive. Further, the trustees turned down administrative streamlining in the late 1920s as well as Sikes's Depression-based proposal to open the college to female students.

By the time he closed his office door on June 30, 1940, Enoch Walter Sikes had left an indelible stamp on Clemson Agricultural College, South Carolina, and, to a degree, the nation. He died unexpectedly on January 8, 1941, and was interred in Woodland Cemetery next to Riggs. Almost his closing written words were drawn from the Sixteenth Psalm: “The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places” (KJV).135

Notes

1. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 3, 391.
2. Ibid., S 16 f 24.
3. Holohan, in a 1980 noncommittal letter to Robert McPherson “Mac” Burdette, avoided the issue of whether or not he had been imbibing. Mac, a former student (BA; MA History; MCRP Clemson) and a good friend, gave the letter to the Special Collections of the Clemson University Library and a copy to me.
4. CUL.SC.CUA. S 38 f “Harcombe, J. D.”
5. Ibid., S 17 f 297.
7. Ibid., 22, 23, and 29.
8. The Tiger, April 8, 1925.
9. Ibid., September 23, 1925.
10. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 4, 29.
11. Ibid., 50 and 51.
13. CUL.SC.CUA. S 36 v 4, 50 and 51.
14. Ibid., S 2 b 1 f 8.
15. Ibid., S 16 f 35.
18. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Fellowship Club.”
19. Ibid., S 1 b 4 f 5 and 37.
20. CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 3.
21. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 1 f 4.
22. Ibid., f 9; and S 30 v 4, 87.
23. Ibid., S 1 b 2 f 9; b 63 f 22; and S 30 v 4, 87.
24. Ibid., S 30 v 4, 452–454.
25. Ibid., S 16 f 35.
26. Ibid., S 38 f “Doggett.”
27. Ibid., S 74 ss 1 b 62 f 11.
28. Ibid., b 47 f 2.
29. Ibid., S 1 b 1 f 8.
30. Ibid., ff 4, 7 and 9; and b 2 f 11.
31. Ibid., b 1 ff 10 and 13.
32. Ibid., f 9; and b 2 f 13.
33. Ibid., b 4 ff 34 and 35.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid., b 5 f 53.
36. Ibid., f 55.
37. Ibid., b 1 f 4; b 2 f 115; b 3 f 20; and b 4 ff 31 and 40.
40. CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 190.
41. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Y.M.C.A.”
42. Walter T. Cox Jr. to Donald McKale, Class of 1941 Alumni Memorial Professor of History, DVD made under the auspices of the Strom Thurmond Institute (STI).
43. CUL.SC.CUA. S 32 b 107 f 1.
44. Ibid., S 37 f “Long Hall”; and *Charleston News and Courier*, February 12, 1936.
45. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Long Hall.”
47. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Sirrine Hall.”
49. The biographical details on Anderson were developed by P. A. “Alex” Crunkleton, Clemson graduate research assistant, using the Clemson *Record*, 1897–1902, and CUL.SC.CUA. S 38 f “Alexander Pierce Anderson”; *The Tiger*, June 6, 1933, and July 27, 1933; and CUL.SC.MSS 68 f 207.
51. Alan McCravy Johnstone to J. V. Reel, DVD.
52. Arbena, *IPTAY*, 68.
53. CUL.SC.CUA. S 15 f 222; and S 30 v 5, 343.
54. Ibid., S 38 f “Aull.”
56. CUL.SC.MSS 255 b 1 f 9; and S 37 f “Aull.”
57. Hale, “Years of Transition,” 1–2.
60. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 6 f 49.
61. Ibid., b 1 f 1.
63. SCHS 3–9–9.
64. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 2 f 11.
65. The Chronicle, October 1926; and Taps, 1927, 47, 103, and 248–249.
66. For example, see Taps, 1937, 134–144; and Taps, 1940, 174–183.
67. “Alumnus” means “one who is nourished” just as “matriculate” means “to be officially admitted and placed on the membership roll.” This latter Latin term is derived from “mater” [“mother”]. And “alumnus” and “alumna” both derive from “alma,” which means “nourishing.”
68. CUL.SC.CUA. S 28 f “Poats.”
69. CUL.SC.MSS 79 b 2 f 30.
70. CUL.SC.CUA. S 28 f “W. W. Bryan.”
71. CUL.SC.CUA. S 38 f “George Chaplin.”
74. Record, 1939–1940.
75. The Tiger, September 22, 1932.
76. CUL.SC.CUA. S 3 f 1.
77. Reel, Women and Clemson University, 20.
78. Taps, 1926.
80. Record, 1924.
82. CUL.SC.CUA. S 10 f 14. The enrollment numbers, which fluctuated daily (and still do), are rounded up.
83. Ibid., S 2 b 1 f 8.
84. Ibid., S 1 b 2 f 16 and 16; and E. Doss, War Classes: Social and Institutional Change at Clemson and the Citadel, 6–7.
85. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1, b 3 f 28; S 2 b 2 f 21; and S 15 f 140.
86. Taps, 1922, 41; and CUL.SC.CUA. S 28 f “Freeman.” Edwin J. Freeman to J. V. Reel, DVD. The information on “Tiger, Rah!” was provided by Freeman, the son of the composer and also a member of Clemson’s faculty. Dr. Mark Spede reintroduced the song with the Tiger Marching Band in 2003. They also recorded it.
89. Ibid., 265–319.
90. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 2 f 24.
92. Ibid., 651–653.
93. The Tiger, February 29, 1928, and June 5, 1928; and Taps, 1929, 286.
94. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 7 f 74.
95. Ibid., S 37 f “Blue Key.”
96. Ibid., f “Alpha Phi Omega.”
97. Ibid., f “Psi Kappa Phi.”
98. Taps, 1929, 1932, and 1939, all in the sections labeled “Clubs and Organizations.” Taps was not always paginated.
99. CUL.SC.CUA. S 1 b 3 f 20.
100. Ibid., S 37 f “St. Andrews.”
101. Ibid., S 503 b 1 f 1; and S 1 b 3 f 20.
103. CUL.SC.MSS 118 b 2 f 24, b 1 f 11 (Forum Club), and b 1 f 10 (Fellowship Club).
104. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 ss 1 f “Geer.” The relationship of Trustee Geer to Anna Calhoun Clemson was brought to my knowledge by John Geer, a friend and executive of Duke Energy Company. I thank him for his help. Trustee Geer and his wife, Reba McGee Rice, married on December 20, 1900, had six children: Rachel (Mrs. J. C. Jr.) Keys of Greenville; Sarah (Mrs. R. F. Jr.)
Gayle, Richmond, Virginia; John M. Geer, Leakesville, North Carolina; Robert A. Geer, Cedar Mountain, North Carolina; B. E. Geer Jr., Washington D.C.; and S. E. Bradshaw Geer, Marietta, Georgia.

105. Ibid., f “Sanders.”

107. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 ss i f “Benet.”
108. Ibid., f “Cooper.”
109. Ibid., f “Young.”
110. Ibid., f “Cope.”
111. Ibid., f “Sherard.”

113. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 ss i f “Barnett”; Columbia State, December 12, 1940; and personal information supplied by W. D. Barnett’s grandniece, Michelle Barnett, a Clemson alumna and Chi Omega.

115. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 ss 1 f “Douthit.”
116. Ibid., f “Graham.”

118. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 4, 446. The correspondence on the Cody salary issue is scattered in a number of folders. First, the football total revenues for 1930 were 20 percent lower than projections (CUL.SC.CUA. S 103 b 1 f 1). With that damaging report, Sikes recommended no raises (and, in some cases, reductions), noting that the president and the board were contemplating an across-the-board salary cut. The Athletic Council asked for a clarification of its relationship to the Board of Trustees. Bradley answered for the board, reminding all that the Athletic Council was appointed by the president and the president was appointed by the board. Ultimately, Cody was paid for the time and work he did before he left, perhaps because the authority to set his salary was unclear.

120. Bourret, Clemson Football 2009, 58.
122. CUL.SC.CUA. S 37 f “Athletics 1939.”

123. The Ellison correspondence and newspaper clippings were lent to me by Brig. Gen. Chalmers Rankin “Happ” Carr, Clemson 1960 and nephew of the now deceased Katharine Carr Ellison. Gen. Carr has donated these papers to Clemson University.
125. Blackman et al., Clemson, 39.
127. CUL.SC.CUA. S 30 v 4, 347 and 380; and Taps, 1931–1940 Sports and Minor Sports sections.

129. The Tiger, September 22, 1932.
130. The Alumni, NC State University, 1952, 15.
131. The Tiger, April 10, 1929.
132. Ibid., September 17, 1930.
133. Ibid., January 12, 1939.
134. Ibid., October 5, 1939.
135. CUL.SC.CUA. S 3 f 29.