

## Clemson Bids Farewell To Dr. Enoch W. Sikes

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Clemson, May 11—(AP)—Dr. Enoch Walter Sikes, "Old Plowboy" to thousands of Clemson college cadets during the last 15 years, soon will close one of the most successful careers as an educator-executive in Carolinas history.

The successive presidencies of two institutions of higher learning, both of which showed growth and high standards of scholastic attainment under his administrations, have brought him honor and fame.

Doctor Sikes, born in Union county, N. C., May 19, 1868, the son of a farmer, will retire as president of South Carolina's agricultural and mechanical college June 30.

Doctor Sikes' successor will be Dr. Robert F. Poole, who comes to Clemson from North Carolina State college at Raleigh, just a few miles from Wake Forest college, where Doctor Sikes received a master of arts degree in 1891 and of which he later became dean of administration. He received the degree of doctor of philosophy in history and economics from Johns Hopkins university in 1897.

In 1916 Doctor Sikes was elected president of Coker college at Hartsville, where his able administration won him wide attention. He succeeded the late Dr. Walter M. Riggs as president of Clemson in 1925.

At Clemson Doctor Sikes can look around him at a school that has increased its enrolment by more than 1,000 students since he arrived on the campus and added new buildings and equipment valued at more than \$2,000,000. Old buildings also have been remodeled to the extent of approximately \$100,000.

But students and residents of Clemson feel that the greatest thing built here during the Sikes regime is the remarkable spirit of good fellowship and close relations promoted between students and faculty and the outstanding degree of student leadership developed.

Doctor Sikes has been a constant advocate of closer friendship between the Clemson student body and the faculty and throughout his 15-year term he has stressed the development of student leaders. Every student organization has found him an eager friend and helper and always he has sought to bring students and professors together outside the classroom.

The building, rebuilding and remodeling program started immediately after Doctor Sikes' first official visit to the campus. The night after he departed following a "get acquainted" visit in the spring of 1925 the agricultural building was destroyed by fire. The end of his first year in office, as he states it, was "celebrated" by the loss of the engineering building by fire.

Both of these structures have been rebuilt, the agricultural building—since converted into the college library building—at a cost of \$125,000 and Riggs engineering hall and the shop building valued at \$300,000.

Another blaze destroyed the dairy barns several years ago and these were replaced at a cost of \$42,000.

New buildings added since Doctor Sikes took office are: \$300,000 W. W. Long agricultural hall, \$460,000 school of textile building, five new barracks costing \$495,000, a \$23,000 chemistry

laboratory and a \$112,000 field house unit.

In the same period the South Carolina experiment station, located here, established new branches at Sand Hill (Columbia), the truck station (Charleston) and the Edisto station (Blackville).

Doctor Sikes called his frequent appearances before the state legislature on which he appealed for improvements at Clemson "hurdle jumping." After such trips he would smilingly relate to the cadet corps in chapel: "Well, boys, I have been down to Columbia and jumped another hurdle."

Clemson student cal him a "a regular fellow" and Doctor Sikes in turn says, "My boys are the greatest fellows in the world."

A Baptist, Doctor Sikes has been active in the work of the denomination, has served as moderator of the Saluda Baptist association and not infrequently delivered a sermon.

In 1900 Doctor Sikes married Miss Ruth Wingate, daughter of the late Dr. W. W. Wingate, president of Wake Forest college. They have two children, Ruth Janet and Walker Wingate.

Several colleges and universities have conferred honorary degrees on Doctor Sikes.

## They Won't Allow Dr. Sikes To Retire

*Charlotte Observer - 11-30-39* *11-30-39*

Maintaining the succinct but highly complimentary title "A regular fellow" through 14 years as president of an institution of some 2,000 young men is a record of which any man could well be proud.

That is the record of Dr. Walter Sikes, president of Clemson College, the agricultural and mechanical college of South Carolina.

The Clemson college board of Trustees recently irrevocably expressed its faith in Dr. Sikes by asking him to serve as Clemson's president until "we can find a fit successor for the presidency of Clemson College." After 14 years in the president's chair, Dr. Sikes was slated for retirement this year.

Dr. Sikes accepted the invitation of the Board in true Sikes fashion:

"I had fully intended to retire this year, he said, "and had my desk cleared of all personal property. However, as long as it is possible for me to render service to Clemson college and to the state and people of South Carolina, you will find me at your call."

Dr. Sikes was born on a farm in Union county, North Carolina, the 19th of May, 1868. Elementary schools prepared him for Wake Forest college and he received his master's degree from that institution in 1891. Graduate study at John Hopkins university enabled him to receive his Ph. D. degree in 1897 before returning to Wake Forest as professor of history and political economy a position he held for 19 years.

In 1916 Coker college, a woman's college in Hartsville, S. C., looked around for a president, and the directors of the institution centered their attention on Dr. Sikes. He accepted the position at Coker col-

lege and remained in Hartsville until 1925.

His years of service at Coker were concluded when Clemson college trustees decided that Dr. Sikes was the man they wanted to head the South Carolina state college. He assumed his duties at Clemson on July 1, 1925, and was in the same chair in the same office when Clemson college cadets reported for the 1939-40 college session in Mid - September.

Clemson has marched ahead with steady strides under the Sikes regime. He has seen the building of Clemson's new Engineering Building and \$425,000 Long Agricultural hall that was completed two years ago. Finished last fall was the \$465,000 school of textiles building, one of the most modern structures of its kind in America today. The Library building, formerly the Agricultural building, has been rebuilt since Sikes came to Clemson; the Clemson College field house was started in 1929, and the two huge gymnasiums have long been in use. The Alumni building to be placed in front of the gymnasiums has not yet been completed.

With the continuous growth of Clemson's student body—an enrollment increase that has seen the Clemson Corps of Cadets double its members from 1,000 in 1925 to 2,000 in 1938—Dr. Sikes has fought for and obtained six new barracks buildings. A unit of four buildings was finished two years ago. The fifth structure of the unit was ready for occupancy this fall.

You will never see the Clemson president excited or distressed. His smile is something his students never forget.