

*Tales of Clemson, 1936-1940*



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# Tales of Clemson

## 1936-1940

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Arthur V. Williams, M.D.

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## *Foreword*

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**L**ike the rest of the country, Clemson College in the late 1930s was in the grip of one national crisis and on the fingertips of another. The Great Depression was squeezing the coffers of the college and the wallets of its cadets. Meanwhile, World War II was about to reach across the oceans to drag those same cadets into its painful embrace.

It's no wonder, then, that Clemson students in the late '30s were serious, career-minded young men. They knew the value of a dollar, perhaps because not many of them knew the feel of one. They knew the sacrifices their parents were making to send them to college. And without knowing exactly when, where or how, they could sense the sacrifices they themselves would soon be called upon to make to help save the world from the evil raging abroad.

Despite the turmoil of the times—or maybe as a result of it—the Clemson that I remember from my student days was “on the rise.” Academically, militarily and athletically, we were moving forward with growing momentum. Faculty members such as Ben Goodale and John Lane challenged, encouraged and mentored some of the finest and most successful students ever to roam these ruddy hills—men such as Harry Ashmore '37, Ben Skardon '38 and Earl Mazo '40. The ROTC program was at its zenith. Though we cadets complained about its rigidity, we found comfort in the military way of life and the camaraderie it fostered. Athletically, coaches such as Jess Neely and Bob Jones brought enthusiasm, excitement and success to Tiger teams in sports ranging from football to boxing. We were increasingly competitive and frequently victorious, but no matter what the final score in any given contest, we were always proud to be Clemson Tigers.

The tales that Dr. Williams has included in this wonderful collection of Clemson stories bring back many fond memories for me. Every page is like an old friend greeting me at a class reunion. But there is more to this book than memories. It is also a remarkable record of what life was like at Clemson 60-plus years ago. In this day and age of “reality TV,” here we have a delightful volume of “reality text.” And as one of the “survivors” (to borrow a current TV term), I can tell you it is almost as much fun reading this text as it was living it!

**–Walter T. Cox '39  
President Emeritus  
Clemson University**



*Clemson Scenes*

