7. Hardin-Simmons University

Only the man of faith can be courageous. Confident that he fights on the side of Jehovah, he doubts not the success of his cause.—William Jennings Bryan

Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hardin, whose name the university now bears, came into the life of the university in the early part of the year 1934.

Several years before, President Sandefer had made two visits to Burkburnett, Texas, the town in which Mr. and Mrs. Hardin resided. He was anxious to know Mr. and Mrs. Hardin and to present to them the past achievements of Simmons University and to show them the possibilities for its future, but he was advised by their closest friends that this would be unwise. He made his first visit to the little oil city in 1923. At that time these good people had not become as interested in giving to institutions, such as orphans' homes, schools, and churches, as they became several years later.

In after years, when Mr. and Mrs. Hardin began to think, in terms of service, of eleemosynary institutions, it was Buckner Orphans' Home that appealed to them most. President Sandefer says, "When their first gift was announced to Buckner Orphans' Home, I did not ever feel that it was ethical to try to contact them for money for a school cause. I never thought of approach-
ing them until the announcement was made that they
were going to give Baylor University a very generous
contribution. After this announcement was made I felt
it would be perfectly ethical to present the cause of
Simmons University."

A few days after President Sandefer heard of their
contributions to Baylor University, he went to Wichita
Falls, Texas, and after business hours, he and Solon R.
Featherston, alumnus of Simmons University and one
of the most promising young business men of that city,
drove over to Burkburnett to see Mr. and Mrs. Hardin.

Sometime later, President Sandefer and Mr. Feather-
ston again visited Mr. and Mrs. Hardin in their home.
When they arrived for the visit, Mr. and Mrs. Hardin
were just finishing their evening meal. They insisted
that their visitors share the meal with them. This
they did. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin were very hospitable,
however very little was said about the school. Mr.
Hardin did say that he had been through Abilene and
had driven around the campus and that he thought
Simmons University had a very nice plant.

On June the ninth, 1932, President Sandefer dic-
tated the following letter to his Burkburnett friends:

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hardin
Burkburnett, Texas

My dear Brother and Sister Hardin,

I want to thank you again from the deep of my heart
for the opportunity you afforded me along with Mr. Feather-
ston when we spent the delightful hour or so with you one
evening this week. I want to congratulate you on what
you have already done for our denominational causes. I
feel that you have that view of service to a lost world down
the years that God wants all of His public servants to have.
I want you to include Simmons in your daily prayers that
God may guide you, if it is His will, in giving this great western
Christian institution a share in your munificence.
I want you to hold in mind, as I know you will, a few facts that I gave you hurriedly the other night. Simmons is beginning the fortieth year of her eventful history. She was founded primarily by pioneer stockmen, in that early history that tested, as you know, the souls of men. You were there when the institution was born here. The history of Simmons University reads like a romance. I am sending you, under separate cover, some information that I want you to read carefully to the end that you catch the spirit and background of the institution.

Simmons has sent out more than a thousand ministers and missionaries during her eventful history. They can be found on almost every mission field around the earth. Thousands of young men and women have gone out from her walls to develop and enrich the lives of those now living and future generations, especially in this great potential western empire. God alone can reveal what has been accomplished here in His name.

I know that you endorse our method of employing our faculty, our standards on the campus, the personal habit standards of our faculty and of our students. I know that you appreciate the sacrificial economy that has been employed here to carry on and save the institution for service. I know that you appreciate the individual contributions of friends, such as my Philadelphia Presbyterian friend, who made possible the carrying on of our program. I know that you appreciate those who have put the institution in their wills and those who are doing so now that when they have gone hence a part of their earthly holdings may be invested here in Christian men and women until He comes again.

I thank you for your invitation to visit you again, and how I do covet that you will let Mr. Featherston bring you for a visit to Simmons, and you be our guests for a day in the near future as you see and study the institution at first-hand. I pray that your constructive Christian virtues may be continued in that great section and this for many, many years yet. Grateful again for the part that you have had in our great causes, and for the opportunity you accorded me of meeting you personally, and coveting the privilege of another visit at such time as you may see fit to accord me, I am

Yours in Him,

J. D. Sandefer
From time to time, Mr. and Mrs. Hardin were visited by Mr. C. M. Caldwell, chairman of the Board, and by several other trustees; also by President D. M. Wiggins, at that time Dean of Students of Simmons University, now president of the School of Mines, El Paso, Texas.

The objective of all the visits was simply to put the merits of their school into the hearts of these good people. President Sandefer gave a brief sketch of the institution's life and set out its objectives and tried to show them that Simmons University was needed in the West to serve that group of people who lived here and would settle here in the future. Finally Mr. Hardin gave them permission to talk to his representatives, Mr. I. E. Harwell and Mr. Jack Chatham. They made these contacts and found these two men very sympathetic, and on April the twenty-eighth, 1934, an announcement was made to the effect that Mr. and Mrs. Hardin had given the university's permanent endowment fund two hundred fifty thousand dollars.

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce sent the donors the following telegram:

Mr. John G. Hardin and Mrs. Mary C. Hardin
Burkburnett, Texas

Your substantial annuity gift to Simmons University announced this morning. All Abilene is rejoicing because of this magnanimous expression of your interest in Simmons. Your benefaction plus gifts from others in past years assures the university an opportunity for service that will bless young men and young women during the recurring years. We again wish for both of you length of years, good health, and increasing happiness. We will expect you to come to Abilene again soon.

ABILENE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JAMES P. WHITE, President
T. N. CARSWELL, Secretary
Later, President Sandefer and a committee from the university board had a meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Hardin, Mr. Harwell, and Mr. Chatham. Mr. and Mrs. Hardin agreed to give the university another gift of one hundred sixty-six thousand dollars. These gifts were in the form of stocks and bonds and were placed in the bank in Wichita Falls, Texas.

On May the tenth, 1934, the name of the school was changed to Hardin-Simmons University and the following explanation was carried in the local and other papers:

First: Abilene Baptist College (1891).
Next: Simmons College (1891-1925).
Then: Simmons University (1925-1934).
Now: Hardin-Simmons University.

Thus, the evolution of a name over a period of forty-three years! Henceforth, corporate title of the institution occupying the million-dollar plant on the northern edge of Abilene will be Hardin-Simmons University, by action of the Board of Trustees taken a few days ago.

Official explanation of the trustees' action was made Saturday by J. D. Sandefer, president, and C. M. Caldwell, board chairman. They said:

"In the first place, a great and good couple, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hardin of Burkburnett, came to our rescue at a timely moment with a gift of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (announced April the twenty-ninth), to be added to the university's permanent endowment fund.

"In the second place, Mr. and Mrs. Hardin are now completing the setting up of a very large trust fund in which we will share with a group of other institutions and which we hope ultimately will mean a million dollars or more to our institution.

"For these reasons, and to fittingly show the university's appreciation to John G. Hardin and Mary C. Hardin while they are living, the Board of Trustees, on its own initiative and without the knowledge of Mr. and Mrs. Hardin, unanimously voted to change the name of Simmons University to Hardin-Simmons University."
Mr. John G. Hardin and President J. D. Sandefer
on the Hardin-Simmons University Campus
1934
Judge Caldwell made public the following telegram, sent by the board to the Hardins, Thursday, at conclusion of the trustees' final session of the week at which the action was taken:

"Abilene, Texas, May the tenth, 1934.
Mr. John G. and Mrs. Mary C. Hardin.

Friends:

We are glad to say to you that the Board of Trustees and faculty and other friends of our university had two meetings this morning and discussed prayerfully and religiously the question of changing the university's name. These groups, after due and cautious deliberation, unanimously and with a feeling of deepest appreciation, voted to name our school Hardin-Simmons University. We are grateful to both of you for lending us your name. We sincerely believe that Hardin-Simmons University will continue to bless the youth of our State and section and further the cause of Christianity throughout the world.

Signed: J. D. Sandefer, President;
C. M. Caldwell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees."

A year or so following, Mr. Hardin gave the school thirty thousand dollars to supplement the eighty thousand dollar property gift made by Mr. H. C. Coleman, of Philadelphia. Several months later President and Mrs. Sandefer visited the Hardins in their home in Burkburnett and while Mrs. Hardin and Mrs. Sandefer chatted in the parlor, President Sandefer and Mr. Hardin went out on the porch and Mr. Hardin asked him if it was difficult to secure money for Christian institutions. President Sandefer told him that to secure endowment for schools was the most difficult task he had ever undertaken. He told him that only people of farsighted vision could see the importance of building and endowing schools of this type. He set out to him the importance of properly training missionaries and preachers and showed him how helpless men would be on a foreign field without this training. Mr. Hardin told the president that he and Mrs. Hardin had set up a trust fund
that would total nearly a million dollars. He took out a pencil and paper and wrote in fractions the amount each institution would receive from the fund, according to their will. He wrote three-eighths for Hardin-Simmons University.

Mrs. Hardin passed away on September the nineteenth, 1935, in Burkburnett, and Mr. Hardin passed away December the sixteenth, 1937, in Baylor Hospital, Dallas, Texas. The estate is in process of liquidation at this time, but Judge C. M. Caldwell who is representing Hardin-Simmons University's interests has announced that Hardin-Simmons University's total will be approximately nine hundred and forty thousand dollars.

June, 1934, was the month for Hardin-Simmons University's forty-second commencement and it marked President and Mrs. Sandefer's twenty-fifth year with the school. For several weeks the little city of Abilene had been agog with preparations for a big celebration, honoring the school and trustees, but honoring especially the president and his beloved wife.

On Sunday, before commencement, one whole page of the Abilene Reporter News was given over to praise for the president, paid for by the owners of forty local enterprises. Some of the tributes are listed below:

For half a century you have pursued with zeal a course of idealism—in education, in government, in the relations of one individual to another, in every sphere of life, not only in West Texas but in all of Texas.

For a quarter of a century you have enacted a noble role in the building of Abilene, exerting the full measure of your influence and efforts in making it a greater city, a better city in which to live.

Throughout Texas to-day there are men and women approaching the prime of their lives who, through the influence of your early efforts in inculcating in them a love of
ideals, are going on to better and greater things, are rendering a priceless service to society.

No greater monument can any man have to his memory than that of appreciation and devotion enshrined in the hearts of men and women whom he has molded into individuals of courage, righteousness and consecration to a worthy purpose.

No more fitting monument of mortar and stone could be erected in your honor than the monument of brick and mortar you have built by your own initiative, your determination in the face of adversity, your tireless efforts in the cause of Christian education and the youth of this land, your unceasing zeal in pushing forward to higher, better and nobler things—Hardin-Simmons University.

It will ever stand as the handiwork of Jefferson Davis Sandefer.

You have builded well in those twenty-five years, President Sandefer. For years on end those labors will bear fruit; a great educational institution will move on to greater things as a result of the impetus you gave it; the character you have molded in the young men and young women who have come in contact with you will affect the lives of unborn generations of West Texans.

We appreciate all you have done for Abilene, West Texas, and for mankind generally, Jefferson Davis Sandefer.

On Friday, June the first, 1934, preceding commencement, friends and students gathered at the university chapel to pay tribute to their beloved president, whom all knew affectionately as “Prexy.” In point of service, he is the oldest college president in the State of Texas. One of the South’s foremost ministers and orators, Dr. George W. Truett, delivered an eloquent tribute to President Sandefer’s service for Christian education.

Asserting that “The crowning standard of greatness in human life is humanity lifting, God honoring the unselfish service,” Dr. Truett lauded the university president as the personification of such service.
Dr. Truett’s address, inspirational in nature, was concluded with the call for friends of the school and of Christian education to renew their efforts in its behalf. He said:

This university is at an auspicious hour, and the hour calls for us to rededicate our lives for the building of a Christian school whose influence will be felt the world over."

President Sandefer has so invested his life that he will live on and on beyond human computation. He long ago caught the vision of a noble life and linked his with ideals and causes that inspire people to travel the upward way.

The chief asset in this world is the human life, and on the grounds of highest patriotism, President Sandefer has dedicated himself to the serving of youth and human life; and in doing that he has done an incomparably bigger thing than to amass power and wealth.

I am grateful that we may lay a wreath of appreciation upon President Sandefer’s head while this man is still at the zenith of usefulness and power.

Another eulogy was brought by Dr. Julius Olsen, Hardin-Simmons University dean. His tribute, for the school’s faculty, was to President Sandefer as an example to his fellow workers. Quote:

Dr. Sandefer’s favorite text is “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches,” and his life here at this school has been an example of that teaching. No man could take his place, were he to retire, and do the job as he can do it. We pay tribute to his sincerity and deep Christianity.

Representing the university’s Board of Trustees, Mr. C. M. Caldwell, chairman, said,

I honor him as a man, as a minister, and as an educator.

The speakers also had words of honor for Mrs. Sandefer who dedicated her life, with that of her husband, in building this great school. A permanent loan
fund, museum, beautification of the campus and green-house are among the major projects she has fostered.

From the June the seventh, 1934, issue of the West Texas Baptist comes the following:

Expressions of felicitations to Dr. Sandefer on his anniversary came from scores of Texas colleges and universities, and several had representatives at the program to pay him honor. They included President James F. Cox of Abilene Christian College; Price Campbell, for A. and M. College; Reverend A. C. Miller, for Baylor College; G. C. Boswell, for East Texas State Teachers College; T. R. Havins, for Howard Payne College; President C. Q. Smith of McMurry College; President C. E. Evans of Southwest Teachers College; J. Roy Wells, for Sam Houston State Teachers College; Dr. C. C. Rister, for the University of Oklahoma; Dr. Frederick Eby, for the University of Texas; M. M. Ballard, for Baylor University; President J. A. Hill of the West Texas Teachers College.

On Friday evening hundreds of guests from far-flung West Texas points joined with Abilenians in a reception to honor President and Mrs. Sandefer on their silver anniversary of leadership at Hardin-Simmons University.

The spacious grounds and the handsome home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Caldwell were the setting for the entertainment, for which the Board of Trustees and faculty members and their wives were hosts.

The university "green-house," where flowers are grown for the school and patrons of the school, was built by the university "Round Table" of which Mrs. Sandefer is president. It was built from donations, largely from women, without any responsibility on the part of the president or trustees. It cost approximately six thousand dollars and the rental from it goes into the current fund. The president succeeded in getting the green-house, cafeteria, and book store accepted by the Southern Association, tentatively, as so much endowment. About the time this was done, the profit from the three was approximately thirty-six hundred dollars a year. These three assets have since been counted as equivalent to sixty thousand dollars permanent endowment.
A Wedgewood silver service was presented Mrs. Sandefer, and five hundred silver dollars heaped in a silver tray were presented the president.

Dr. W. Marshall Craig, of Dallas, delivered the baccaulaureate address on Sunday, June the third, and Congressman George H. Mahon, (discussed in chapter nine) alumnus of Hardin-Simmons University, made the commencement address on Thursday, June the seventh.

A week or so later President Sandefer's mother, Lucretia Leverton Sandefer, passed away in Oregon, and the pastor of the Hinson Baptist Church of that city paid her, as she merited, a marvelous tribute. He based his remarks largely upon the last letter her son, Jefferson Davis, had written her before her "homegoing.”

Some few weeks previously President Sandefer had made an address before the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at the First Baptist Church of Abilene. During the address he recited the story of his youth concerning the pledge that he had signed for the Methodist "Circuit Rider,” to the effect that he would never touch intoxicating drink. He related to them, that even though he was nearing seventy years of age, he had kept his pledge.

At the close of the address, the president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Mrs. Vande Watts, stepped to the platform and asked President Sandefer to let her pin a white ribbon on the lapel of his coat and requested him to write his mother and convey their love and greetings, with congratulations for her son; and tell her what he had meant to the cause of temperance in Texas and in the nation.

He wrote the letter and recalled to his mother's mind the story. She was too feeble to read the letter,
but she had her daughter read it and when it was finished she shouted for joy.

In the summer of 1934, President Sandefer saw in the press that Reverend T. Wilkinson Riddle, pastor of the George Street Baptist Church of Plymouth, England, was to visit the United States and deliver a series of lectures in New York City and possibly in the South. The president wrote him a letter and told him something of the school and its traditions and asked him if he would deliver the baccalaureate address for the June graduating class on the following June. He followed the letter up with a copy of the 1934 Bronco, the Hardin-Simmons University Brand, and various other bulletins, that gave an insight into the life of the institution. Reverend Riddle answered the president's letter in a short time and told him that he had literally feasted on the material that he had sent him concerning Hardin-Simmons University and that he would be delighted to pay him a visit and deliver the address. Reverend Riddle was thoroughly charmed with the prospect of his visit to a school so different in every detail from anything he had ever seen. He and the president became quite friendly and their correspondence grew during the subsequent months before they met in person.

The following excerpt is taken from a very interesting letter written on July the twenty-sixth, 1934, several months prior to Reverend Riddle's first visit to the university campus.

Dear Dr. Sandefer,

I have great pleasure in sending you for the Library, under separate cover, a new volume just issued by the Royal Society of Literature. It is entitled A Leech Book or Collection of Medical Recipes of the Fifteenth Century. I think your science students will find it of considerable interest.
I have been greatly charmed to receive a copy of the 1934 *Bronco*, every page of which I am reading with the deepest pleasure. It helps me to visualize your great institution, and thus prepare for my visit next year, which I am anticipating with increasing happiness.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my warmest congratulations on your twenty-fifth anniversary, and at the same time express the hope that, in God’s mercy, you may be spared for many years to preside over the university which you have done so much to make eminent.

Believe me with high regard,

Yours most sincerely,

T. W. RIDDLE.

In August, Reverend Riddle sent President Sandefer, for the library of the university, a first edition, in library binding, of *All The Year Round*, by Charles Dickens. On October the twenty-fifth, he sent President Sandefer *The Life and Letters of Sir Henry Jones* and wrote, “I think you will find interest and pleasure in the story of this remarkable man, who did so much for the University of Wales.” The next day he sent the library three volumes of exceptional interest from the literary and historical point of view, according to Reverend Riddle: *The Eighteen Sixties, The Eighteen Seventies, and The Eighteen Eighties*. They consist of a series of essays written by the most eminent fellows of The Royal Society of Literature and were published by the Cambridge University Press.

President Sandefer became so charmed with this English brother across the water that he invited Reverend Riddle to deliver both the baccalaureate and commencement addresses, and says, “His addresses reached a high mark in thought, scholarship and delivery; and his visit meant more, perhaps, to the institution, than that of any other commencement speaker.”
Later these messages were published in book form under the name of *The Gospel of the Resurrection*. The book was dedicated to President Sandefer as follows:

TO

JEFFERSON DAVIS SANDEFER, LL. D.,

President of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
Christian Statesman and University Leader
Whose Friendship is a Privilege

This friend has urged President and Mrs. Sandefer to visit Plymouth and be his guests in a suite of rooms looking out over Plymouth Bay, for any length of time they will consent to sojourn with him; and this carries also the proffer of letting them have his car and English chauffeur to tour any part of England in which they are interested.

President Sandefer says: "We hope to have the privilege and the honor of accepting this invitation, that in my judgment comes from the heart of one of the greatest personalities whose life I ever touched."

The latter part of January, 1935, found President Sandefer in Baylor Hospital, Dallas, for another major surgical operation. His suffering was very acute and his detention long. He returned fully recuperated, however, and was at work for Hardin-Simmons as zealously as he had been twenty years earlier.

Hardin-Simmons University had inaugurated some few years earlier an annual "Senior Day." On a certain day each year, all high-school seniors from this section of the West are guests of the institution. In the morning a program is given on the athletic field, and at noon they are served a "barbecue luncheon" on the campus near the university cafeteria. In the afternoon they are usually entertained with an intrasquad football game.
In 1935, "Senior Day" came in April, and even though the president was just up from a major operation, he delivered the main address for the assembly, which consisted of several hundred senior boys and girls.

In September, news came to the university campus that Edgar L. Marston of New York, long-time friend of President Sandefer and benefactor of the university, had passed away and that the funeral rites would be in St. Louis, Missouri. In speaking of him, President Sandefer said: "Mr. Marston was one of the best business men and finest gentlemen I ever knew. He was a friend of West Texas, where he invested millions for himself and friends, and I greatly mourn his passing." President Sandefer attended his funeral.

Later, Edgar J. Marston, the second son of Mr. Marston, became president of the Texas Pacific Oil and Coal Company with headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. President Sandefer recommended that he be made a member of the Board of Trustees of the university; he is nominally a member of the board now. He has given the university, at different times, some six or seven thousand dollars in cash. Two of his gifts were in checks of twenty-five hundred dollars each. He also donated to the university some business lots and many residential lots in Merkel, Texas. (The lots originally cost approximately eight thousand dollars.)

At that time, there lived in Big Springs, Texas, a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Hart Phillips, pioneer ranch people of that section of West Texas. They had lived in the vicinity more than forty years and had been devoted friends and ardent admirers of the university during most of its life. Their larger religious interests usually found expression in Baptist foreign mission enterprises. However, they began to realize several years ago that the Christian school must be the basis for
all training of missionaries, and must provide the spirit
that makes missionary endeavor effective and worth
while.

President Sandefer eventually sold them on the
idea of endowing one or more Bible chairs of the univer-
sity for the purpose of training missionaries and
ministers, equipped and imbued with the spirit of sac-
rificial missionary endeavor. This good couple, known
to their friends as “Uncle Hart” and “Aunt Mollie,”
donated at that time approximately fifteen thousand
dollars as a beginning for endowment for the Bible
department.

“Uncle Hart” was confined to his bed when he made
this gift to the university, and sometime later passed
away after signing a check covering the interest on the
gift for three years.

After his death, “Aunt Mollie” deeded the univer-
sity an oil lease, which she valued at thirty thousand
dollars; of course, the value of the lease can be deter-
mined only by the ultimate income received by the
institution. Her estimated value was determined by a
similar lease, for which she received thirty-two thousand
dollars.

Recently she made another contribution of nearly
five thousand dollars in the form of Texas Electric Bonds,
which was added to this Bible endowment fund. The
fund is known as the Mr. and Mrs. Hart Phillips’ Per-
manent Bible Endowment Fund.

A few months ago Mrs. Phillips made a will in which
she deeded to the university one-third of her oil income
and other mineral properties. This is a very substantial
contribution, and the president is of the opinion that the
income from this production will eventually make the Bible Department endowment total approximately one hundred thousand dollars.

On Christmas Day, 1938, Mrs. Phillips ("Aunt Mol-lie") visited the president in his home and presented him with a deed to three hundred twenty acres of royalty in Taylor County, which has much financial promise for the future as oil properties are now receiving considerable interest in Taylor County and in sections not far removed.

The institution has been the beneficiary of tens of thousands of dollars that would not be denominated outstanding. They have come from every conceivable source and in every conceivable way. No list has been kept of all these gifts. It never occurred to anyone to do other than accept the gifts and send a receipt to the donors. Where mass gifts were made, the president had a receipt sent to the pastor and asked him either to read or to exhibit the receipt to his congregation, thus taking every precaution to prevent anyone's raising the question as to the money ever reaching the objective of the donor.

In addition to the gifts mentioned thus far by Judge and Mrs. C. M. Caldwell, the president recalls many smaller gifts of thousands of dollars made as supplements to their earlier gifts. They have educated all three of their children in Hardin-Simmons University, and the children have been very loyal and as generous in helping the school as it has been possible. The largest senior class gift ever presented the school was presented by Guy Caldwell's graduating class. The class presented the colonnade of lights that shed their beams so gloriously and beautifully about the campus at this writing.
Hardin-Simmons University, mainly through the widespread popularity of the famous Cowboy Band, was visited by the examiners of the National Association of the School of Music to be examined for admission to that organization. Upon investigation, the committee found that Hardin-Simmons University was qualified in more than one phase of music. They found the piano, voice, violin, and theory departments, as well as the band department commensurate with the national qualifications; all five departments were given recognition and accepted by that national association. This means that credits, made by students, in any of these departments are accepted anywhere in the nation; and it happens that Hardin-Simmons University is one of the few schools in the entire South that has such a high rating.

This added recognition for the Cowboy Band helped to give it national recognition. The Cowboy Band has done more to popularize and lead in building an atmosphere for band music in the Southwest than any other organization.

Many years ago President Sandefer was invited to fill the pulpit in the First Baptist Church of Odessa, Texas, at the Sunday morning service. Judge and Mrs. T. G. Hendrick were in the audience and the president met them, with many others, at the close of the service. Judge and Mrs. Hendrick invited him to visit them in their home. He did, and spent sometime as their guest and enjoyed the evening meal with them. On the following Monday morning, before the train left for Abilene, Judge Hendrick came to the hotel where he was staying and handed him a check for five hundred dollars.

During the years following, when President Sandefer was in Odessa, it was always a pleasure for him to visit with Judge Hendrick in his office. He expressed the
hope more than once to Judge and Mrs. Hendrick that they might become citizens of Abilene.

A few years later they became citizens of this city and with their contributions to the Hendrick Memorial Home for Children, the Hendrick Memorial Hospital, and Hardin-Simmons University, they have become, by far, the largest benefactors to causes in Abilene of any friends local or foreign.

For several years they gave President Sandefer some scholarships for the school, in addition to the gift mentioned. In the latter part of the year 1925, President Sandefer wrote Judge Hendrick a personal letter and set out a few of the most vital needs of the institution, and assured him that he had no desire to consume his time or worry him touching anything he might do for the institution and requested that he consign the brief note to the waste basket, if it had no appeal.

The letter was delivered in the afternoon mail and shortly after receiving it, Judge Hendrick called President Sandefer’s office and asked him if he could meet him at the president’s home.

In a few minutes, he had honored the president with his presence and they talked for an hour or two, and he asked President Sandefer, in detail, about the institution’s financial condition. President Sandefer detailed to him the sacrifices the faculty had made in an effort to get the institution through the depression without increasing the indebtedness. Judge Hendrick manifested genuine interest in the university and talked at length about the indebtedness on the school and the interest that they were having to pay.

Two or three days later, Judge Caldwell, who resides across the street from the Hendrick home, visited him
and went over with him some of the things that President Sandefer had discussed; as a result of these contacts, Judge Hendrick handed Judge Caldwell a check for one hundred thousand dollars. This money was to be applied on the institution’s indebtedness, which was slightly over that amount. President Sandefer says, “It is not necessary for me to say that this contribution was one appreciated beyond adequate words of expression; it came at a time when it proved as constructive for the institution as any gift ever made to it.”

In January, 1936, a portrait of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hardin was presented to the university by the Ex-students, Association. The portrait was presented at the chapel hour on the first of the month, by Solon R. Featherston, president of the association. Mr. Hardin was present for the presentation.

Mr. Hardin was guest of the institution, the president, Judge Caldwell, and other friends several times that year and came as often as possible until his confinement to his room in Baylor Hospital, preceding his death. It was his seemingly happy pleasure to make the opening “kick-off” for some of the university’s outstanding football games.

During that summer, President Sandefer visited in Oregon with his sisters and missed acutely that sainted mother who had gone to wait for him in that celestial city of indescribable beauty.

While en route home from Oregon, his beloved friend of Philadelphia, Mr. H. C. Coleman passed away. President Sandefer did not hear of his passing for several days and it was too late to attend his funeral services.

The Texas Centennial at Dallas was in progress at this time, and the Cowboy Band had been designated as
the "Model Band" for the Centennial. They played a series of engagements there during the summer. President Sandefer had been appointed by the Senate as a member of the commission planning the Texas Centennial, and he was also a guest of the Centennial along with the famous university band.

The activities of the band and the fact that the institution had announced itself out of debt, something few denominational schools could do, stimulated interest in the school and the fall semester opened with a big increase over the past five years. This was quite pleasing to the president, because those severe depression years had cut down on enrolment, and those that came almost unanimously asked for aid and a number of them did receive help.

As has been stated, this school has never looked to the denomination proper for help. It is true that it has looked to the Sweetwater Association, which organized it, and particularly to the First Baptist Church of Abilene, its mother church, but sometimes the aid that could be given was small. In fact, the contributions of the First Baptist Church to the university during and after the depression were cut to twenty-five dollars a month, and it would be difficult for an individual to subsist on that, much less a university. Hardin-Simmons University was forced to fall back on her own resources to tide her over. The faculty cut their salaries to the very lowest minimum. All the money the school had to live on was the money that came in from students' fees, interest on endowment funds invested at a low rate of interest, and the few gifts that the president could secure and people donated, of their own accord, from time to time.

One must hold in mind that an institution cannot use its endowment money for running expenses. Mr.
Hardin had made substantial gifts, but those were for endowment. Judge Hendrick's gift, at this time, was to pay off indebtedness. Other big gifts that had come in through the years had been for buildings, or endowment; the school had no running capital other than that mentioned.

Mr. H. C. Coleman is one of the few large contributors to the school who ever gave the president money to use for salaries and current expenses. The majority of people, not educated to the needs of denominational schools, feel that the school should make concessions for their children. Often these people are able to care for those needs themselves. With the limited budget that a denominational school has, it is always difficult to meet current needs. Hardin-Simmons University has had friends in the past who have helped her; she has friends now to help her; she has had a president to enlist eminent personalities and get funds to promote her growth, but this man, who probably has no parallel in his particular field, will some day see the end of service for his Master and he will be called to join that heavenly throng. Then, as never before, Hardin-Simmons University must have friends.

In the summer, following that fine year's enrollment, President Sandefer toured the Republic of Old Mexico with the Cowboy Band. He spent two weeks in Mexico City, the capital of the Republic, and during that time he spent as much time as possible meeting officials, especially university leaders, in this indescribably interesting Republic to the South.

Returning to Texas, he accompanied the Cowboy Band to Colorado Springs, where they played for the dedicatory services of the Will Rogers Memorial Shrine of the Sun. The band boys were the guests of Mr. Spencer Penrose, owner of the Broadmoor Hotel, and
stayed in the magnificent structure during their sojourn in the city. It was the president's happy privilege to stay there also.

While the president was vacationing, numerous things were being done on the university campus in preparation for the opening of the fall semester. Mary-Frances Hall was completely reconditioned and refurnished. President Sandefer had secured funds for this enterprise before he left for his vacation trip. Mr. Sid Richardson, of Fort Worth, former student at Hardin-Simmons University, who had matriculated during the early years of President Sandefer's administration, gave most of the money. This gift was supplemented by Mr. Dilworth Parramore and Miss Eunice Parramore, children of Colonel and Mrs. J. H. Parramore (deceased).

Again there was a big enrolment at the opening of the fall semester. The dormitories were full, and the university was filled almost to capacity. Graduate students were more conspicuous in attendance than ever before, and a number of Masters' Degrees were conferred at the completion of the year's work.

On March the thirteenth, President Sandefer reached his seventieth birthday, and as on his twenty-fifth anniversary of service with Hardin-Simmons University, a big celebration was planned in his honor, and the day was designated by the Mayor, W. W. Hair, as "Prexy Sandefer Day."

On Saturday, the twelfth, a student convocation service was held in the University Auditorium. The following statements were carried in the Abilene Reporter:

"We honor Prexy Sandefer for his achievements, his ideals, his common sense, his vision," said Mayor Hair. "Prexy Sandefer's loyalties to his family, friends, church, school, city, state, and nation, his human qualities, his
J. D. Sandefer, James V. Allred, Members and Friends of the Cowboy Band, American Embassy, Mexico City August, 1937
broad mind, kind heart, and courageousness, have endeared him to us all. He is one of West Texas' outstanding figures," concluded Mayor Hair.

J. F. Cox, president of Abilene Christian College, expressed an appreciation "for the colleges, not only of Abilene, but of the State of Texas.

"We are happy to bring you assurances, Dr. Sandefer, that the church related college is gaining ground as never before. We are glad to join hands with you, and wish you many happy returns of the day," said Dr. Cox, whose friendship with the Hardin-Simmons University head dates back to their mutual association in educational fields at Stephenville "at the turn of the century."

Reverend J. H. Hamblen, Methodist minister, and president of the Abilene Ministerial Alliance, paid tribute to Dr. Sandefer as one "claimed by the entire city and its churches. He is larger than any church or any institution, for the greater principles of life he upholds, and for things he opposes."

Mr. W. J. Behrens, president of the Hardin-Simmons University Board of Trustees, urged the Hardin-Simmons University head "to strive and pray to live to be ninety years old, so I can congratulate you again."

Mr. John Alvis, Abilene attorney speaking for the Hardin-Simmons alumni and former students, almost twenty thousand strong, said: "Hardin-Simmons alumni think of Jefferson Davis Sandefer, and cherish him, as 'Prexy.' We think of him as a man who loves his fellow men and appreciate his humor, fun, honesty, sincerity, and are glad to bring him congratulations on his seventieth birthday, and to wish for him many more years of active service."

Tributes from many of the outstanding citizens of the city appeared in the local paper. When Dr. Julius Olsen was asked his thoughts, the following reply was given:

When you think of Hardin-Simmons University, you involuntarily also think of J. D. Sandefer. Sandefer has been so closely connected with the university that the thought of the one includes the other.
He is deeply and sincerely religious and definitely orthodox. He is always for the underdog, for the one who has a hard time getting along. He makes friends readily and makes them believe in him. He has gotten hundreds of thousands of dollars as gifts to the university. Men of money do not give it away in large sums unless they have confidence in the man and the ideals for which he stands and the institution he represents. Since Dr. Sandefer became president, the enrollment has increased more than three hundred per cent, and the number of graduates has increased more than three thousand per cent. When he came, we had one graduate for each eighty students enrolled; now we have one graduate for each seven students enrolled. This is to me a very good sign. We hear about the man who has finished something, but we hear very little about the quitter except that he quits. With added equipment, recognition of our work by standardizing agencies, and added instructors, we have induced students to stay on until they graduate.

Property value and endowment have increased in the last twenty-nine years approximately one thousand per cent. Since President Sandefer became head of Simmons College, the following accrediting agencies have recognized Hardin-Simmons University: State Department of Education, Texas Association of Colleges and Universities, and the American Association of Colleges.

As the university has grown under Sandefer’s guidance, so has the man grown. The world is alive and it takes live men to lead it. "Prexy" has seen this and has grown with the changing conditions of the times. The political bee has often buzzed about his hat, but he has been able to withstand the entreaties and urgings of his friends to remain with his school. I believe he has been of more value to the world where he stayed than in any political position. Sandefer has been wise enough not to build around himself but has built around an idea. Men come and go, but ideas live forever.

Sandefer is a polished and effective public speaker. His favorite subjects are Christian Education and Prohibition. His favorite scripture is, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

Prexy is versatile, but there is one thing that he admits that he knows very little about, that is music. He recognizes only two tunes when he is in the South—one is Dixie.
South he recognizes Dixie by the applause, but in the North where they do not applaud when Dixie is played or sung, he is utterly confused.

Sandefer has built well both for Hardin-Simmons University and for West Texas and has endeared himself to thousands. He is a confirmed optimist and his optimism is contagious. He is jovial and can tell and enjoy a good story. Congratulations are due him on this his seventieth birthday and all who know him wish for him long life and continued happiness.

Dr. Rupert N. Richardson said: "It is difficult to express my esteem and even veneration for President Sandefer. As a student in Simmons College many years ago, 'Prexy's' radiant smile, mellow personality, and fine idealism made an impression upon me that has endured through the years. During my twenty-one years of service as a teacher in Hardin-Simmons, his wise counsel and guidance have sustained and directed me. His service to the school and to West Texas is great beyond measure."

A celebration, in the form of a reception, was held on Sunday, the thirteenth, in the home of two of the president's dearest friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hanks. It was set for three o'clock in the afternoon, and hundreds of friends and students called to pay their love and respect to the man many of them had known for over a quarter of a century. Mr. W. J. Behrens presented President Sandefer a check for five hundred dollars as a token of the appreciation and love of his friends for his years of continuous and rich service.

Editorials on the president appeared in many of the newspapers of the state. The following is copied from the San Angelo Times:

HIS EFFORTS WILL LIVE

Many West Texas business men, students of years gone by in what is now Hardin-Simmons University, will be pleased to know that Dr. J. D. Sandefer, president of the institution, is to receive deserved recognition on his seventieth birthday which occurs on the thirteenth of March.
The Abilene institution, known for years as Simmons College, has been instrumental in educating thousands of West Texas boys and girls who otherwise might not have received benefit of college training. Closeness to home was a contributing factor.

A university has been built at Abilene for the benefit of West Texans. Much of it has been the result of Dr. Sandefer's personal efforts. This being realized and appreciated, it is laudable that ex-students join with those attending the university today to let Dr. Sandefer know they appreciate the things he has done to educate the youth of the land.

A distinction of which not only the university but all West Texas might well be proud is that Dr. Sandefer, in years of continuous service, is the dean of Texas educators.

While Dr. Sandefer has done a good job—a remarkably good job—the need for such institutions he has developed is seen all the more clearly by his efforts. One university cannot supply the needs of the entire region and San Angelo looks forward to the time when its Junior College will be a larger, greater, more serviceable institution to assist West Texas boys and girls.

Soon after his seventieth birthday President Sandefer asked the Board of Trustees to make Dr. Rupert N. Richardson, Doctor of Philosophy graduate from the

Personnel of the present Board of Trustees of Hardin-Simmons University: W. J. Behrens, president, Abilene; C. M. Caldwell, vice-president, Abilene; J. T. Haney, secretary, Abilene; Ben Allen, Clovis, N. M., W. J. Largent, Merkel; John H. Alvis, Abilene; George S. Anderson, Abilene; O. T. Anderson, Olney; T. C. Campbell, Abilene; T. N. Carswell, Abilene; T. W. Cotton, Amarillo; C. C. Cowden, Abilene; O. D. Dillingham, Abilene; John Edwards, Seymour; Solon R. Featherston, Wichita Falls; W. P. Ferguson, Wichita Falls; Raymond W. Foy, Dallas; M. B. Banks, Abilene; T. T. Harris, Abilene; J. C. Hunter, Abilene; Arthur C. Hoover, Ozona; Rev. M. A. Jenkins, Abilene; Rupert H. Johnson, New York City; John J. Keeter, Throckmorton; Edgar J. Marston, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Rev. P. D. O'Brien, Stamford; Rev. T. A. Patterson, Ft. Worth; Henry Record, Monument, New Mexico; C. R. Simmons, Sweetwater; R. W. Smith, Odessa; James P. Stinson, Abilene; Lester Stone, Amarillo; Clarence Scharbauer, Midland; J. D. Sandefer, Jr., Breckenridge.
University of Texas, executive vice-president; he saw that if Dr. Richardson would accept the appointment this able executive would relieve him of those trying executive duties, and would make his responsibilities much lighter. Dr. Richardson had been vice-president of Hardin-Simmons University for several years, and co-helper with the president on all executive duties. He is regarded as one of the ablest historians in the South and is the author of two books and many historic periodicals. These latter duties are his first loves. In accordance with the president’s wishes, this honor was conferred on Dr. Richardson. Dr. Richardson felt that his duties were already more than he could bear and he knew that this new honor would add much to his responsibilities. It is due Dr. Richardson to say that he accepted this position only after much insistence on the part of the president, the Board of Trustees, and other friends. Had it not been for the great love and friendship existing between Dr. Richardson and President Sandefer, Dr. Richardson would never have accepted the position.

On June the twenty-third, 1938, President Sandefer’s picture appeared on the front page of the Watchman-Examiner. This national Baptist paper is published in New York. Dr. Curtis Lee Laws, who received his Doctor of Laws degree from Baylor University at the same time President Sandefer received his, is president of the corporation that publishes this paper. On the occasion of one of the president’s early visits to New York, Dr. Laws gave him several hundred books for the university library. These books were, in the main, theological, and were a much needed supplement to the Bible department.

The brief biographical sketch relative to the cover picture read:

Dr. J. D. Sandefer is dean of senior college and university presidents of Texas. He is beginning his thirtieth year as
president of Hardin-Simmons University, a pioneer Baptist institution located at Abilene.

Dr. Sandefer was born in Sharp County, Arkansas. He was educated at Parker Institute, Whitt, Texas, and became a teacher when in his late teens. Later studies were taken at the University of Chicago and the University of Texas. Baylor University conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on him in 1917.

Dr. Sandefer became president of Strawn College in 1894. He was superintendent of schools at Granbury, Texas, 1900 to 1901. In 1902, he was named professor of Latin and history at John Tarleton College, of which institution he became the president in 1908. The following year Dr. Sandefer was elected to the presidency of what was then Simmons College. This institution was renamed Simmons University in 1925. In 1934, on receipt of almost one million dollars for its endowment from Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hardin of Burkburnett, Texas, the name was changed to Hardin-Simmons University.

During the three decades of Dr. Sandefer's presidency the college enrollment has increased from three hundred and thirty to over twelve hundred; and the fourteen modern buildings are valued at over one million dollars. Today the institution has more than twenty thousand alumni and former students.

Dr. Sandefer is one of Texas' best known figures. He has spoken from border to border of that great state. In beginning his thirtieth year as president of Hardin-Simmons he declared: "It has been my ambition to lead in a small way in building an institution of higher learning for the great west, founded on the verities of the Holy Scriptures."

The Baptist Standard of Texas carried the following notation concerning the picture:

We were delighted to see a good picture of Dr. Jeff Davis Sandefer adorn the front page of the Watchman-Examiner of New York, issue of June the twenty-third. He is entirely worthy and it made that great paper show off well.
August the tenth, 1938, President Sandefer dictated the following letter to his old friends Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Higginbotham, of Dallas, Texas. It reads:

Dear Friends:

I have not seen you for several years. I have thought of you daily and have constantly remembered you in my devotions during my nearly thirty years here. I have had to undergo another major operation and have been convalescing now for several weeks. During this time I have been dictating some of my reminiscences to my secretary. I have been too busy to write much during the time since first you knew me. If I had not had this operation, I doubt if I would ever have taken the time to put in printed form things that might be worth something to the institution in the future.

In one article that I dictated I started with the first gift that I received, after becoming president here nearly thirty years ago. That of one thousand dollars was from you. You may remember that I was invited the first fall after I took up my work here to return to Dublin and speak in your church at the morning and evening hours. You very graciously entertained me in your home. On Monday morning following my addresses and after the breakfast meal, I talked over this institution and my dreams for its future. It was here that you gave me the check. I recall that I was invited to take luncheon on Monday with Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Utterbeck. At the close of the luncheon meal, they gave me a check for five hundred dollars. These gifts went into Smith Hall that was named for Dr. and Mrs. G. W. Smith.

A great deal of water has gone under the mill since then. It seems almost like a dream and certainly there has been something rather romantic about it. Only the Lord will ever know the sacrifices that Mrs. Sandefer and I have made here to the end that the Baptists might have an institution of higher learning located out here near the foot of the Plains to serve young men and women until Christ comes again—an institution founded upon the verities of God's Word and by which truths we have tried to steer it during these thirty years.

I am still maintaining the same standards that I set out here. I employ no one except consecrated Christians, practically all Baptist and those who are committed to our Bap-
tist programs from the local church to our worldwide objectives. I have employed only men and women of first-class scholarship. I have employed no one who would not commit himself or herself to our religious programs on the campus and to Sunday school and church on Sunday. I have employed no one who would touch liquor or beer in any form and I have employed no one who would not agree not to use tobacco in any form while he was on my staff. I have been charged occasionally with being a little bit too circumspect in the selection of those whom I choose to help me carry on this work. My feeling has been that an institution calling itself Christian not standing for these great principles does not merit the name of Christian in the highest sense. Education can be had in state and privately endowed institutions contending for most of the things set out here.

I find it with changing conditions today more difficult to maintain these standards than in my earlier years here. I will say that I am not compromising any fundamental and I contend that faculty members chosen from these angles can assist the president in creating a Christian cultural atmosphere that cannot obtain on the campus of any other type of institution. I believe you agree with me. If we surrender this type of educational standards, I do not see how a church can be saved and certainly, if it is saved, it would not have Christian business men to carry on the economic, social, and political structures that go to make up our social order in the large.

I have found many friends who like you have rallied to the support of the institution. I have found friends of all denominations. I mention one friend of another denomination in Philadelphia who heard of our standards here and has given the institution one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. A friend of another denomination for the same reason has given it more than one hundred thousand dollars in cash and the institution is remembered in his will for an additional one hundred thousand dollars. I could mention hundreds of lesser gifts.

To lead in building an institution of any kind, where its support comes from gifts rather than taxes, is a problem and a responsibility that no one can know save those who are in the lead and who have had to bear concretely the burdens. I have said the above to the end that you may get a little
glimpse of what has been accomplished here since your gift. You may bear me testimony that I have not worried you about later gifts. I have during the years had a feeling that since the Higginbotham interests began largely in the West—and these interests still obtain—that nothing would be more beautiful and apropos than for their interests to continue in an institution that has pioneered for nearly a half century in laying the foundation for a Christian institution to produce Christian leaders to invest their lives in developing an empire rich in resources and with possibilities coexistent with the training and genuineness of those entrusted with its unfoldment.

At this time, when I am not able to get out, I am writing a few friends to send me a donation large or small to assist me in overhauling some buildings and refinishing some to the end that we not suffer too much by invidious comparison with the modern state higher institutions as they get their millions from taxes and are then being subsidized by the Federal Government. If after nearly thirty years you are still interested in the president and this far-flung western institution and this suggestion appeals to you, you will respond in that way in keeping with your big and generous souls as you have always done. If it does not appeal to you, take a few minutes and write me a letter to the end that I may have the pleasure of a letter from two friends who encouraged me when I was young and whose gift enabled me to begin a program of denominational and educational service that I trust will never die until the Author of Christian education comes again. I want you to pray for this institution daily and pray to the end that its leadership ever be humble and its primary objective be that of leading young men and young women to Christ, and then teaching them Christ, and then training them for service for Him in whatsoever fields they invest their talents.

I am enclosing a post card that shows our thirteen buildings. Part of two walls from these buildings were salvaged. Other than these the entire plant has been built and paid for since your one thousand dollar gift. Fifty thousand dollars has been raised for a loan fund for worthy boys and girls and nearly a million and one half have been added to the endowment. These are very negligible compared with the demands that are made on the institution today that were not made on the institution in the early history of our country.
I trust you will not feel other than charitable toward me in prolonging this letter. I did not mean to make it this long. My heart simply went out in these directions and I have found it difficult to desist in writing thus fully. Coveting a visit from you and praying for your health, and spiritual and material blessing, and assuring you of the love of both Mrs. Sandefer and myself and our abiding interest in you, I am

Gratefully your friend,

DR. J. D. SANDEFER

August the twenty-fourth, the following letter was received in answer. It reads:

Dear Dr. Sandefer:

Mr. Joe and I appreciated, so much, your letter and I would have answered it at once but we have been busy with heart and hand, welcoming our newest grandchild, the sixteenth, "How tempus does fugit." Mr. Joe is quite puffed up over the honors heaped upon him this summer in that he was grand-father twice and great-great uncle three times within six weeks.

Someone has said: "How cruelly sweet are the echoes that start, when memory plays an old tune on the heart."

This certainly has not proven true of the echoes which happy memories started ringing in your heart and which never berated in ours—the sound was sweet—not cruel—and awakened in our souls many tender recollections of those dear yester-years. We think it is wonderful that out of the days long past you can call to mind so many things that happened and remember things we had forgotten.

Those were happy years, fraught with precious memories, which all the money in the world could not buy; when our little family, then an unbroken circle, gathered under one roof and the cares and anxieties of life were not so many as now.

And how we did enjoy the fellowship of the strong, Christian men whose coming was always such a blessing and a benediction to our home and whose words and lives, I have always felt, were an inspiration to our children. Eternity alone will reveal the result of the presence in our home of such
men as Dr. Gambrell, Dr. Carroll, who used to help me unhitch the horse from the buggy, put her in the stall, then take one of the babies in his arms as we went to the house, Dr. Gaddy, Dr. Scarborough, Dr. Sandefer, and hosts of others.

We miss so much today the personal touch with the leaders in our churches and school which we need to link us on closer to kingdom work. Many of those who occupied our "Preachers' Room" have gone now to our other Home but for those who are yet here there always awaits a warm welcome in our hearts and home.

How unspeakably the lengthening of memories in common endears our old friends! We are grateful that God put it into our hearts to give the thousand dollars that he has multiplied into blessing the lives of many young men and young women, and I know dear Mr. and Mrs. Utterbeck are glad that they gave while they could because these later years have not brought prosperity to them. Mr. Joe and I have treasured through the years your friendship and we have been all along interested in the work into which you put the years of your vigorous young manhood and which is so dear to your heart. We pray that you will soon be completely restored to your accustomed health and strength. We are hoping to see you and Mrs. Sandefer during the convention here in November.

I am enclosing a small check to buy some nails and screws "to keep the fence together," but with it is the love and best wishes of two of your good friends.

JOE AND ETHEL HIGGINBOTHAM

September the fourteenth, 1938, Hardin-Simmons University had its forty-seventh opening at the university chapel with all the students, faculty, and many friends present. President Sandefer was present and gave a brief welcome to the students and was most enthusiastically cheered by the student body. Since Dr. Richardson has taken over the administrative duties of the university, the president has not attended chapel regularly, however he has been an attendant on several special occasions and at a later date gave a brief address.
Soon after the fall semester was under way an old friend of President Sandefer called him at his residence and asked if he might come out and visit for a few minutes. The request was granted and Mr. ———, the friend, was soon at the door.

They reviewed their early acquaintanceship when Mr. ——— was in the hotel business in several western towns and the president was his guest on the occasion of trips for speeches. Some fourteen years ago, he and his wife had given President Sandefer a note for five thousand dollars bearing six per cent interest, while they were residing in Lubbock, Texas. Their early appreciation of the president was based on the fact that he was sympathetic and considerate on one or more occasions when Mr. ——— was under the influence of intoxicants. Mrs. ——— never scolded her husband nor permitted anyone else to scold him while he was under the influence of liquor.

Mr. ——— said that his wife passed away a little more than a year ago and that he was nearly seventy and that he wanted to deed the university all the properties he possessed, provided the university would allow him a monthly annuity that would take care of his keep during his remaining years.

President Sandefer took the matter up with the university finance committee and after a few weeks all details were worked out and now the university is possessor of his properties, which are worth, at this time, approximately thirty thousand dollars, and in five or ten years should become more valuable. Some five hundred acres of land in one body are but a little more than two miles from an oil field in which there are now more than sixty producing wells. Other property consists of busi-
ness and residence lots in Lubbock, Texas; one hundred and sixty acres of land near Clovis, New Mexico; one hundred and sixty acres of royalty contiguous to an oil field in the territory of Portales, New Mexico. It also embraces other royalties in several counties in the West that he had acquired and was holding for development.

There is to be a "plaque" in some one of the buildings that will bear his and his wife's name or the mention of them as benefactors will appear in a memorial paragraph in the University Catalogue following his demise.

On December the fourteenth, President and Mrs. Sandefer accompanied the Cowboy Band to Little Rock, Arkansas, and remained there a day or so during the time the band was playing for the Little Rock Fair and Livestock Show.

While there they returned to the place of the president's birth—Peckerwood Creek on Nubbin Ridge, near Evening Shade in Sharp County, Arkansas. He found the old farm where he played as a boy and the old log house, just as it was years before, except for a few small changes.

A few days later the president journeyed to Los Angeles, California, with the Cowboy Football Team and another unit of the Cowboy Band for an engagement with the football team of Loyola University. The trip was a most enjoyable one as the Hardin-Simmons University football boys were victorious by a substantial score and the president had the pleasure of meeting one of his distant cousins, a relative of the cousin referred to in chapter one from Indiana.

On December the twentieth, President Sandefer's Christmas greeting was read to the students and faculty at chapel. It reads.
TO MY FACULTY AND STUDENTS

I regret more than you can know my inability to be with you for at least one more chapel period before the holidays. This is simply a word to tell you how much I appreciate and love you. I am wishing for each of you the choicest Christmas and the happiest New Year in your entire lives. I beg each student to convey to his parents my love and deep appreciation of their confidence in this school.

I express the further hope and offer the prayer that you may, as I feel you will, relate yourselves to the Christian spirit in that way that will prove the most constructive to you both now and in the years to come. We celebrate the birthday of Him who is the Author of Christian education. As teachers and as students, we should so relate ourselves to the institution as that our every thought and act will be on the high level acceptable to Him whose Saviorship we claim.

My prayer is that you may have a safe journey home, that your parents and friends may be pleased with your progress here, and that you may return after the holidays with renewed enthusiasm for those things for which this school contends.

Tenderly and gratefully,

PRESIDENT SANDEFER

Christmas was spent at home around the family tree with all the children and grandchildren present, with the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Walker and their two children, James and Joan, of Great Neck, Long Island.

On Sunday morning, January the first, 1939, the president issued a New Year’s greeting through the Abilene Reporter to the citizens of Abilene.

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY PREXY URGES EMPHASIS ON SPIRITUAL VALUES FOR YOUTH IN NEW YEAR GREETING

A prayer, "That all of us may realize worthwhileness of spiritual values for our youth, and the youth of the future," was expressed last night by Dr. J. D. Sandefer, president of Hardin-Simmons University, as the dean of Texas Educators looked optimistically toward 1939.
Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President J. D. Sandefer and Diana Destine Sandefer, President's Home
March, 1939
Today, we leave him visioning the future. His dream, formulated some thirty years ago, is not complete.

During the thirty years of his very capable administration, he has brought to Hardin-Simmons University an average of seventy thousand dollars a year. He has led most of his projects with an impressive personal donation. His latest contributions have been to the campus pavement and to the university organ.

Hardin-Simmons University has one of the loveliest plants in the state, but more buildings are needed very badly. The greatest need is a new library; the present one is not adequate to care for the students and their needs. Hardin-Simmons University needs a field house, a new dormitory for women, a new administration building and a larger auditorium, which might be built in connection with a band hall. Will President Sandefer's vision for Hardin-Simmons University be completed? It will take loyal friends and tireless workers to bring in big sums for these new buildings and for more endowment. Hardin-Simmons University, under the leadership of Jefferson Davis Sandefer and his loyal helpers, has had a great past—it should have a more glorious future.