The year 1940, which marked the passing of President J. D. Sandefer, also saw Franklin D. Roosevelt elected as President of the United States for a third term. Sir Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Britain and by his wise decisions established himself as one of the world's great leaders beginning with the Battle of Britain. The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, brought America into the war. By the next year the Holocaust had begun. "V.E. Day" on May 8, 1945, marked the end of the war in Europe, but the frightful atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9. Japan was forced to surrender, and World War II finally ended on August 14, 1945.

The following year one of many peace-keeping attempts was made when John D. Rockefeller, Jr., donated $8.5 million to the United Nations for the site of the permanent headquarters in New York City. The country of India gained independence from Britain in 1947. In 1948, Queen Wilhelmina abdicated the throne to allow her daughter, Juliana, to be crowned Queen of the Netherlands. The first World Health Assembly met in Geneva, and the State of Israel was born that year and admitted to the United Nations in 1949.

For the first time penicillin was being used successfully to treat chronic disease, thirty million families owned radios in the United States, and more than one million war veterans enrolled in colleges across the country under the "GI Bill of Rights."
During the decade of the fifties, the fear of Communism spread across America like the worst of wildfires. Senator Joseph McCarthy increased this fear by telling President Truman that the State Department was riddled with Communists and their sympathizers, and for a few years many Americans of high profile lost their jobs and reputations. Before the world had had time to regain stability, the Korean War began in 1950 and some of America's young men were drafted to fight again. On the positive side, illiteracy in America was at an all-time low of 3.2 percent, streptomycin and other antibiotics were being produced and made available to the public, and the Nobel Peace Prize was won in 1952 by the renowned philanthropist, Albert Schweitzer. The Korean armistice was signed in 1953 and Americans again aimed toward peace and prosperity.¹

Encircled by these events of worldwide proportion were the events which shaped West Texas and Abilene. W. P. "Dub" Wright, president of the local Chamber of Commerce in 1940, along with his excellent committee, continued with the same zeal as their predecessors to convince officials in Washington that Abilene would make a good site for a military camp, an obvious economic benefit to the city and surrounding area.

William Parker Wright was born in 1905 and moved from Houston to Abilene in 1935. While studying at Baylor University as a young man, Wright married Lillian Bruyere and the couple had three children, W. P. (Bill) Jr., Gayle W. (Gray), and Linda W. (Abel). After working for the Gulf Oil Refinery Company for twenty-six years, he joined Conoco Incorporated. W. P. Wright, Jr., upon graduation from the University of Texas, joined the company and together in 1955, he and his father formed Western Marketing, Incorporated. Not only were W. P. and Bill the only father and son to hold the position of President of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, but they were the first father and son to receive the award of Outstanding Citizen of Abilene.

In 1941, "Dub" Wright joined the Board of Trustees of Citizens Bank where he remained a board member for thirty-five years. In 1945, he became Chairman of the Board of Trustees of HSU. Although Wright never attended HSU as a student, he served the school longer than anyone else as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The U. S. Air Force awarded their highest civilian award to Wright in 1963 after twenty-three years of service; he had been instrumental in the establishment and development of three major military installations in the central West Texas region including Abilene's Dyess Air Force Base, and in maintaining harmonious relations between the bases and their communities. Voted as one of the "Movers and Shakers of Abilene," W.P. Wright made an essential difference to the life of the city and of HSU.²
On November 16, 1940, the Chamber announced that the city had taken an option on 2,000 acres of land about ten miles southwest of Abilene. Two weeks later, the local headlines announced that Congress would locate a military base on the acreage if Abilenians could raise $125,000 over the next seven days to buy the land. The whole town rallied around the project. Every time a sizeable amount was donated that week, a city fire engine clanged down the street towards a huge wooden thermometer posted on a downtown street corner. Firemen climbed up ladders with a bucket of red paint to draw a new red line each day, and in one week the donations had more than topped the thermometer to the cheers of the city fathers and most citizens. On December 7, 1940, the next announcement was that the 45th Infantry, a National Guard Division, would train on the property the city had purchased. Men, women, and boys went to work to prepare the camp for the troops to arrive in three months. The soldiers lived in tents until barracks were built in 1941. "Camp Barkeley, built to house 20,000 soldiers, had as many as 60,000 in training at one time or other during World War II." The impact on Abilene was felt by everyone. Rents doubled and tripled; new buildings and businesses thrived; theaters, restaurants, and dance halls prospered. By the time the war ended, many of the men who trained at Camp Barkeley married Abilene girls and returned to the city to live, making the town's investment worthwhile.

When HSU's President Sandefer died in the spring of 1940, the trustees of the school urged Dean L. Q. Campbell to serve as interim president. Campbell was a highly trusted Christian gentleman and convincing orator, as well as a fine professor and a respected dean who had been at the school for many years.

**LUCIEN QUITMAN CAMPBELL: ACTING PRESIDENT, 1940.**

An alumnus of Tulane University, L. Q. Campbell had received the Master's degree at the University of Texas and came to teach English at Simmons College in 1917. He was an important addition to those interested in speech and debate because he had served as Acting Head of the Department of Public Speaking at the University of Oklahoma and as Director of the State High School Debating League of Oklahoma. In 1920, he married a native of Cheneyville, Louisiana, who was a graduate of Louisiana State Normal (now Northwestern State College) at Natchitoches, Louisiana. His wife, Mary, joined him at Simmons and taught freshman history for several months. Lucien's sister, Irma Campbell, taught English for many years at Hardin-Simmons;
therefore, many students in this era benefited from this one family. In 1926, the couple moved from Abilene for Professor Campbell to become Dean of Mississippi Women’s College for ten years. They returned to Abilene in 1936, and Campbell was appointed Dean of Liberal Arts. The couple had one child, Maryanna, a member of the 1940 graduating class. Maryanna (Mark) taught for many years at Abilene High School and continues to reside in Abilene.

Dean Campbell was often called on to speak both at Chapel assemblies and in the community because of his ability to communicate succinctly and to inspire his listeners. He believed in Christian education as an ideal and defended it at every opportunity. Many former students still remember his admonishing them during the last Chapel assembly before every Christmas to integrate their Christian principles with their lifestyle by behaving like adults when they went home. They were to help their parents with chores, resist the temptation to sleep late, and show appreciation for and consideration to other family members.

When Dr. J. D. Sandefer became more and more confined to his home through illness, the trustees spoke to Rupert N. Richardson, Professor of History at HSU, about becoming the next president. When he declined, they had approached W. R. White, a pastor in Oklahoma City. After Sandefer’s death, White vacillated for some months between his pastoral concerns and the prospective challenge of academic administration. Dean Campbell agreed to the post as acting president, after receiving assurances that a committee would continue to search for the best successor for the position. In accepting the short-term responsibility he responded:

Needing to say, I am conscious of the heavy responsibilities that devolve on the acting president. My major objectives will be to make as light as possible the burdens of the president who is to be elected, and to maintain the high level of Christian education which is the heritage of our institution. I urge every member of the Board of Trustees, every member of the faculty, and all alumni and exes to work with me for these objectives.

Campbell served in this interim position only slightly over two months before W. R. White came as president but continued for years after as Dean of Liberal Arts. The late Nena Kate (Ramsey) Lewis of Abilene, was a student in Campbell’s class and admired him so much in her student days that she took nine courses under his tutelage. The funeral eulogy for Campbell when he died in 1945 included these comments:

In his classes he provoked thought. He spent no time in vain argument, and ventilated no doubts as to his faith in God. He expounded great
universals. He propounded fundamentals. We remember him for his precision in discharging matters of business; his brisk walk; his extreme courtesy; his keen eyes; his firm convictions and his living faith in a Risen Lord. For him each minute was filled with sixty seconds worth of distance run. His life was as eloquent as a poem and a song.\(^7\)

His wife, Mary, joined the HSU library staff in a full-time capacity shortly after her husband's death. She served as serials and circulation librarian for almost twenty-two years and eventually became the bride of retired HSU Dean Robert A. Collins. Tragically, she suffered a heart attack during their honeymoon and died in the home of her new husband's daughter.\(^8\) The University staff and students felt keenly the loss of the contributions of Lucien and Mary Campbell.

WILLIAM RICHARDSON WHITE:
SEVENTH PRESIDENT, 1940-43

W. R. "Billy" White was a completely different personality from Campbell—so informal that he identified with his new life and friends by wearing a freshman student beanie to all Chapel times for the first few weeks since he was "a freshman president," he said. White was appreciated for accepting the administrative reins despite his knowing that University Board members differed in their opinions as to who should have assumed the important post. He was gracious in coming in August of 1940. The trustees, led by J. D. Sandefer, Jr., then supported him unanimously. Enrollment was decreasing and continued to fall dramatically when the country was brought into war in 1941. White accepted the academic program presently in place when he arrived. He held the school together despite the depressing atmosphere in the country, the numbers of male students and faculty leaving for war, and the resulting vacancies in the classrooms. The football team lost many good players, the dwindling Cowboy Band reluctantly included female instrumentalists, and the mostly female student population complained that "campus life was dull without the boys."

White's father, Gipson White, was born in Texas. He was a member of a small active Baptist church and married a woman of French and Indian ancestry who was also a strong Christian. Their son, Billy, was born in 1892 near Brownsboro, Texas in a little community called Leagueville.\(^9\) Gipson White died at the age of twenty-four, shortly after the birth of his son, and his wife died when Billy was only eight. When White was prodded about his early foundation, he remembered,
My first deep religious impression was made by my mother a few months before she died. She was sewing and making clothes and I came and sat on the floor and started a conversation with her . . . about God . . . so, she stopped her machine and talked to me . . .. I was profoundly impressed by it. I can remember it very distinctly, even now.\textsuperscript{10}

At age nine, Billy was converted on the way home from a revival service at the Frankston church, and was baptized at age eleven (1903) in Caddo Creek, near Frankston.\textsuperscript{11}

White attended public school in Leagueville, and then attended a two-room school at Frankston. He gave credit for his love of learning to his early teachers. Miss Emma Reeves, who taught at both schools, took a great interest in him.\textsuperscript{12} Another teacher, Miss Vera Rutherford, took him aside, he recounts, and told him that he was capable of doing much better than he was doing: ‘Your grandma’s rearing you and you’re fortunate to have her, but she’s poor and what she does for you while she lives is all she can leave you. You need to get ready to take care of yourself and to make something out of yourself and if you’ll get down to study, I’ll recommend your promotion faster than you’re being promoted at the present time . . ..’ I took it seriously and it seemed to spark me. I admired her greatly.\textsuperscript{13}

In an interview many years later, White gave tribute to his grandmother to whom he felt a tremendous debt.\textsuperscript{14} Miss Mary Brown, another of White’s teachers, followed her pupil’s progress for many years, and when White became president of Baylor University, she came to Waco to attend his inauguration.

After grade nine, White transferred to the Academy in Rusk, Texas, for tenth grade.\textsuperscript{15} Billy was very devout, a quality which caused him trouble with the other boys since the girls would compare the behaviors of their dates to White’s manner of living and then remonstrate the other boys. While attending the academy, Billy suffered severe bronchial trouble. He was out of school six weeks, and the illness caused him to lose weight, which he could ill afford to do. He moved to the home of the principal of the academy where Principal Thompson and his wife cared for Billy so well that he gained fifteen pounds.

When he regained his health, he began to preach in various churches and was ordained in 1910 in the Frankston Baptist Church on his eighteenth birthday. After completing the requirements of the academy, he enrolled at Baylor University, but in a few months he transferred to Howard Payne University since his health was poor again. He lived with Archie Taylor, a
cousin, in Brownwood for very little money so he would not have to expend his limited energies on extracurricular jobs to be able to afford to go to school. He was elected president of the student body at Howard Payne in his sophomore year and was on the debate team of the Erisophian Debating Society there. He won the coveted honor of being chosen as San Jacinto Day orator. On June 17, 1916, he married his cousin’s stepdaughter, Edna V. Woods. She was a beautiful young woman who, at age sixteen, had seen much of Europe while studying piano. Edna had also earned a B.A. degree in Arts and Music at Mary Hardin-Baylor University in Belton. Despite all that had gone on in his life, White graduated in 1917 within the customary four years.

World War I was going on when he graduated, so he enlisted and served as a chaplain.

In September, 1919, the Whites moved to Fort Worth where he earned a Master’s degree in Theology at SWBTS, and eventually earned a Doctor of Theology degree (Th.D). In 1924, he became Head of the Missions Department. The Whites had no children but blessed the lives of many young people through pastoral and academic positions which brought them into close contact with literally hundreds of young adults. White made himself a wide reputation after he took the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Lubbock. His twenty minute “rapid fire” sermons drew crowds, and the congregation quickly outgrew the church. In 1929, he became executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and over the next few months he travelled over 90,000 miles. He pastored four years at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth beginning in 1931. His next pastorate was at First Church in Oklahoma City for five years.

W. R. White was not particularly enthusiastic about considering a more settled existence when the Board of Trustees of HSU extended their invitation to him. He was very pragmatic when he recalled the circumstances of his appointment. “So Hardin-Simmons was without a president and they had a younger group and an older group on the board. They could unite on me, but they’d get divided on anybody else, and Dr. J. D. Sandefer’s two sons . . . were very interested in the ongoing of Hardin-Simmons and they were interested in me.”

The Whites enjoyed people and were content in the ministry. While Lucien Campbell graciously accepted an interim appointment to the top administrative responsibilities, “Billy” White struggled with the idea of going into administrative academic life. Dr. and Mrs. White moved to Abilene in the late summer of 1940, but even after he took on the responsibilities of president, he kept returning to Oklahoma City to preach until they called
another pastor. Those months from August to December were exhausting for all concerned.

Over a number of years the Board and the late President Sandefer had discussed the significant idea of affiliating the school with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In 1940, the Board initiated discussions with the Sweetwater Association and the BGCT regarding a broadened association. The mission of the University was expanding beyond its immediate environment and developing beyond its regional nature. The Sweetwater Association developed a resolution in response to the Board’s action that the Convention take over the election of trustees while the Sweetwater Association reserved the process of nominating trustees to be considered. The University would maintain ownership and control of the school. On November 9, 1940, at the annual meeting of the BGCT, Dr. George Truett recommended that the BGCT approve a resolution that the affiliation with HSU be accepted with these conditions. The University officially joined the BGCT in 1941.

After the periodic visitation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1974, the committee included in its report a declaration of the organization and administration of the University.

The institution initiated a basic change in its charter in 1941 as it petitioned the Baptist General Convention of Texas to assume a parental relationship and to elect the members of its board of trustees. It is through the process of election of board members that the church exercises its control of the university. The university is a private nonprofit corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Texas and is held as a legal entity by its board. The relationship between the university and the Baptist convention seems well-defined and appropriate. It is clear that the university is controlled by its board and not, technically, by the convention. The trustees, while elected by the convention, have been free from undue pressure from it. The only instance in recent years that had the appearance of undue influence was related to the convention nominating committee which sought to broaden the influence of ordained pastors on the board. This incident was passed without major issue as the membership of the board was increased from 36 to 42. In 1973-74, the clergy made up only one-sixth of the membership of the board.

To be a member of the HSU Board of Trustees presently, one must be a member of a church cooperating with the BGCT. Previous to this ruling, members represented several denominations, although all were professed Christians. All members must live in Texas. There are positive and negative
aspects to these regulations. The financial aid to the school which comes via
the BGCT each year is beneficial, and bears strong testimony to the importance
which has always been placed on Christian education by the Southern Baptist
community of believers.  

There is very little record of White’s short tenure. After three years, White
resigned as president of the University and accepted a position as Editorial
Secretary to the Baptist National Sunday School Board. In his written notice
of resignation, he commented on the opportunities for travel and writing in
this new position. After only two years, however, he returned to Texas to
pastor First Church, Austin and in 1948, he became the president of Baylor
University where his tenure lasted until 1961.

During the course of his life, White married three times; his first two
wives passed away. They were outstanding women who contributed much
to his ministry. He continued to write and preach until his death in 1977
at the age of eighty-four. He is survived by his third wife, Odera, who resides
in Dallas, as well as his two half-brothers.

The HSU Research Center holds one drawer of dozens and dozens of
sermons White preached up until 1943, bearing vivid testimony to the spiritual
energy of our seventh president. In a speech given at HSU, he used the
scriptural metaphor “The salt of education is the Christian spirit, motive, and
dynamic . . . . It takes Christian education to make all education safe for the
world. Let us give ourselves unstintingly to the campaign of Christian edu-
cation before us. Let us teach it, stress it, and preach it.”

RUPERT NORVAL RICHARDSON: EIGHTH PRESIDENT, 1943-53

A leave of absence from Hardin-Simmons had provided Professor Rupert
N. Richardson with the opportunity to teach at the University of Texas and
to resume the research he loved. Richardson returned to Abilene in the autumn
of 1941 and to his teaching duties in the Department of History. In 1942,
he refused a dean’s position offered at Baylor University. In 1943, when
President White resigned, however, the Board pressed Richardson, even
though he had refused the presidency in 1940, to put aside his dislike for
administrative responsibilities and to accept the presidency of Hardin-Simmons
for what he thought would be a temporary position. He was a highly respected
academician with a wide community and church reputation.

The biography of Rupert Richardson’s life almost parallels the history
of the life of his alma mater. He was born on April 28, 1891, approximately
two months after Simmons College was founded. His parents, W. B. and
Nannie, moved to Stephens County in West Central Texas in 1879 in covered wagons. Rupert was born in a log cabin, one of six children. He came from a rural background to Simmons College at a tender age and "grew up" with the school. By the time he had reached retirement age, he was being called "Mr. Hardin-Simmons," and he maintained the closest of associations with HSU for almost a century.

Rupert's mother had studied for two years at Henderson College under Drs. Cooper and Olsen. By the time her son was old enough to pursue studies at high school level, she had sent him to various elementary schools and intended him to go to Simmons College to study under President O. H. Cooper's supervision. His father must have enjoyed a sound relationship with Rupert also, for farm and ranch work was Richardson's hobby until he was in his eighties and no longer physically able to look after his cattle and his small tract of ranch land. In early years he had learned a great deal about beekeeping, and his famous "Bee Speech" became such a tradition that it was put on tape and in print, and many alumni have a copy.

The young man of sixteen quickly endeared himself to everyone after he enrolled at the academy level of Simmons College in 1907. He enjoyed extracurricular activities including football—"I made the substitute list," but he was not outstanding; and in track and field activity, "I threw the hammer and discus indifferently." Referring to music and drama, he commented in mock seriousness: "As a bandsman, my reputation was not even as high as it was as a singer," and mentioned his stage career: "As Orlando I was no sensation, but I probably did a better job than I did playing Shylock." From the time Richardson's mother taught him to read, he had practiced remembering facts, researching new facts carefully, and polishing his writing skills. Later, he could afford that bit of self-deprecation as he looked back on his youth, since he had made for himself a reputation which was "larger than life" as one of the last great West Texas pioneers and as a renowned Texas historian.

From all accounts Richardson enjoyed every minute of his years on the "Forty Acres," despite the nervousness he felt for a while at first at having so much academic material to catch up on before he could begin his college work. After two years of academy work, he pursued a B.A. degree and graduated from the college in 1912. After one year as principal of the elementary school at Ivan, six miles from his Stephens County home, Richardson headed north to the University of Chicago. He completed a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in March of 1914. He began graduate work there before returning to Texas in the fall of 1914 to teach a year at Caddo, followed by a year as high school
principal at Cisco. He had met Pauline Mayes of Hamlin when they were both attending Simmons. Pauline had received a B.A. in Modern Languages from Simmons and had earned a Diploma in Piano. They married in 1915 and had one son, Rupert Norval Richardson, Jr. While teaching at Sweetwater, the following year, he was offered a position at Simmons College by President J. D. Sandefer. Pauline finished his teaching contract so that he could begin at Simmons in March, 1917. He began as a professor of history, government, sociology, and economics.

Almost immediately World War I impinged on academic life. Students and younger faculty became involved one way or another in the war effort, and Richardson left for Fort Sheridan, Illinois, to receive training from the Student Army Training Corps (SATC). He then returned to serve as an instructor.

In 1921, the Richardsons left Simmons College for Austin where Rupert completed a master's degree in 1922. From the time he was a boy he had been interested in the Comanche Indians. "Years later I was to learn that there was an Indian side to the story of their contest with the Caucasians," he remarked, and he chose to do his doctoral dissertation on "The Comanche Indians, 1830-1860." Having attended the University of Texas in the summers and for one long term, he completed a Ph.D. there by 1928.

In 1926, Richardson was appointed Dean of Students at Simmons and two years later he was made Vice-President, an administrative post he held for ten years. Richardson felt it was the duty of each faculty member to "lead . . . not weed." The strength of a small school should be in a stronger teacher-student relationship, and Richardson was adamant that it was a teacher's responsibility to encourage individual students to handle college level work rather than to "weed them out" as being incapable. Meanwhile, his wife, Pauline, taught French to hundreds of students over a long term of service at her beloved alma mater. As President J.D. Sandefer was ill most of the time beginning in 1938, he had been wise enough to make Richardson Executive Vice-President so that he could shoulder most of the administrative responsibilities in place of the ailing president. (He had been invited to lead the Department of Government and History at Oklahoma A&M College, now Oklahoma State University, but had chosen to remain at Simmons.) Richardson accepted the heavy tasks although he knew he would have little time for his own scholarly writing.

After Sandefer's death, Richardson left to teach history at the University of Texas, but returned in the autumn of 1941 to teach at HSU. He was awarded an honorary L.L.D. degree in 1942 from Hardin-Simmons. He agreed to
become acting president in 1943 and then “just stayed on since the Board made no effort to replace me.”

The presidency was filled with challenges. Both male and female students were withdrawing from the University to join the war effort, and a number of faculty members were drafted or had volunteered to serve. During the war Richardson had to shift the remaining faculty and the curricula to fulfill the course requirements. Wartime shortages of foods and building materials, emotional traumas of students and faculty which resulted from the casualties and deaths of family members and friends, curtailment of many campus extracurricular activities due to the absence of so many male students—all of these factors made these first few years very difficult.

All over the United States university administrators began to realize that when the war was over, campuses would need to be ready to receive a huge influx of students. Many would pursue a college education paid for by the U.S. Government in the form of the G.I. Bill. Some of the men who had trained at Camp Barkeley had married Abilene girls and had returned to the city to live. Richardson, plus a committee he had appointed to study the problem, welcomed the hundreds of GIs and young women who returned, beginning in 1946. Temporary housing off campus was arranged in the form of surplus army camp buildings. New buildings were erected on campus, but still the classrooms and dormitories overflowed.

Rupert Richardson led the school through other challenges. The fire which burned Abilene Hall and the tripling of enrollment resulted in a critical shortage of classrooms, the heyday of football was in the forties with accompanying laurels but with mounting financial complications, and the oldest, most sophisticated and travelled group of students ever to enroll in the history of the school required a flexible and different sort of administration. His ability to rise to these challenges was recognized when Richardson was awarded the school's prestigious Keeter Alumni Award in 1950, in the midst of his presidential term.

A year-long study by a committee which included President Richardson printed a booklet titled "Looking Ahead." The study was considered a major accomplishment since many of the ideas and recommendations are still referred to when committees suggest changes for the future. The college was debt-free from 1945 through 1950. From 1951 until the end of his presidency, the only debts were due to annual operating costs. Under Richardson's leadership, the college improved in several other areas so that the standards of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges could continue to be met.
In a letter to W. P. Wright, dated January 7, 1953, Richardson stated that he wished to resign the presidency by July 1, 1953 and to return to teaching. Wright reluctantly appointed a committee to find a new president before the news was released, and the Board moved that R. N. Richardson be elected President Emeritus after July 1 and remain with the University as Professor of History.

Over a long lifetime Richardson received many honors. He was a member for many years and served one term as president of the Philosophical Society of Texas. The Texas State Historical Association is the oldest learned society in Texas; Richardson became a member of this group in the 1920s and was president in 1969-70. He helped found the West Texas Historical Association in 1924 on the proposal of R. C. Crane, lawyer-historian of Sweetwater, who became the first president of the Association. Richardson and Dr. Carl Coke Rister, another history professor at Simmons, co-edited a yearbook for the Association until Rister left to join the University of Oklahoma; Richardson continued to edit the journal for many years afterward.

His first published book came out in 1933, titled *The Comanche Barrier to South Plains Settlement*, one of the first complete histories of an Indian tribe ever written. The next year he joined Rister to collaborate on *The Greater Southwest*. In 1943, the first of five editions of his *Texas: The Lone Star State* was published and became a standard college textbook for many years; the fifth edition was published with additions by other authors in 1988.

In the 1950s an eighteen member panel which included Richardson was named by Governor Allen Shivers to a State Commission to study the preservation of Texas history. One decision of the panel was to identify places of historical interest and to erect historical markers at appropriate sites: public buildings, pioneer residences, scenes of tragedy and high human achievement, and some of the unmarked graves of veterans of the Texas revolution. A sub-committee helped select sites, write the narrative for the markers, and procure the money, most of which was raised by interested local citizens. Richardson wrote the copy for many of the markers, particularly of those in West Texas. Tom Guimarin, an Abilenian who held several positions at the University, told of the time he was chauffeuring the aging professor across the state and was astonished to hear Richardson rhyme off the words on the historical markers as they drove by. Guimarin remarked, “Dr. Richardson, how can you read those so fast?” to which he replied, “Read ‘em?” I wrote ‘em.” In recognition, the Texas Historical Commission presented Richardson the Ruth Lester award for meritorious service in 1972.

In 1951, while he was serving as president of the school, Richardson
published one book, *Adventuring With a Purpose: Life of Arthur L. Wasson*. He also served as the Texas representative on the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1952 to 1955. His *Frontier of Northwest Texas* was published in 1963, and *Famous Are Thy Halls*, his memories of Hardin-Simmons University, was published the following year.

His wife and son assisted him on a huge project entitled *Colonel House: The Texas Years*, published in 1964. Students and faculty of HSU were dismayed when their friend, Pauline Richardson, became ill that year. She remained ill a long time and passed away on April 28, 1965. Perhaps nostalgia drove him to write a biography of his family’s community in *Caddo, Texas* a year after his wife’s death.

“Dr. Rupe” was well received in all kinds of company. He was tolerant, unassuming, witty, and as concerned about other people’s projects as he was his own. One example of his popularity was when he was presented cowboy boots by the faculty during a University Chapel session in 1947. Professor H. R. Arrant of the Chemistry Department represented the faculty, saying that “Richardson now became a member in good standing of the Faculty Association of Curbstone Cattlemen.” The West Texas Chamber of Commerce named him to an honorary life membership in the Texas Cowboy Reunion “Old Timers” Association. In 1962, he was named Elder Statesman by Texas Baptists. He was a two-time winner of the American Association for State and Local History’s Award of Merit. He received an award of achievement from the Texas Library Association, and an Austin College’s Founders medal. He was named as one of the ten Texas “Piper Professors” for 1963. Richardson prized this award more highly than others because it recognized his excellence in teaching despite the interruption of administrative responsibilities.

A lifetime friend of Richardson’s, the late Mrs. Percy Jones, explained, “Teacher never seems to strain. I’ve never heard a strident note in his conversation. Loud yes, but never strident. He just does what he thinks has to be done. He runs roughshod over no one . . . and he’s absolutely without pretention.”

Others who were close to him agreed. In 1966, the Abilene Lions Club honored him with the “Leader of Men Award.” He was a Lions Club member for over fifty years as well as a longstanding member of the Masonic Lodge. He received a fifty-year service pin at the 1967 HSU Faculty/Staff appreciation dinner, and the University’s Distinguished Alumni Award three years later.

For his eightieth birthday, he was invited to speak before a joint session of the Texas Legislature on San Jacinto Day, April 21, one week before his
birthday, and on his big day over six hundred people honored him with a birthday celebration in the Abilene Civic Center. By that time Richardson was considered to be the foremost living authority on Texas history and had received nearly every major award relating to that field.

On his eighty-fifth birthday, Frank Junell, a prominent banker in San Angelo and alumnus of HSU, acted as master of ceremonies at a party in Rose Field House. Junell claimed that as far as Hardin-Simmons was concerned, Richardson was the “man of the century.” It was appropriate that the party moved across the street later in the evening to tour the new library building which was in the final stages of construction: the Rupert N. and Pauline Richardson Memorial Library. The official birthday tribute was given by Joe B. Frantz, Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, one of the state’s most reputed historians, and a former student of “Dr. Rupe’s.” As part of the school’s centennial celebrations in 1990, the library published Frantz’ speech and an essay on the importance of rural life written by a very young Rupert Richardson to attain his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1912.

Until he was over ninety years old, the stately professor came to his office in the University library for at least a few hours each day. He felt the same responsibility each Sunday to attend First Baptist Church, where he had been a deacon for over sixty years. On his ninety-fourth birthday the school announced the creation of the Rupert Richardson Chair of History in his honor. One of a long string of anecdotes about his abilities concerns a woman, anxious over a relative who was desperately ill who pleaded, “Will you please ask Dr. Richardson to say a prayer? I feel that God might listen to him more carefully than to me.”

Dr. Richardson’s appearance on every important occasion at college became as much of a tradition as the traditions he had begun, or the ones he cherished, such as the hourly carillon chimes which reminded him of happy days marked by the bells at the University of Chicago. When he finally became so ill that hospitalization was required, people on campus were confronted with the sad fact that R. N. Richardson was mortal. Most had felt he might find some quiet way of going on as long as the school went on.

When he died at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, 1988, he was only two weeks away from his ninety-seventh birthday. Funeral services were led by Jesse C. Fletcher, President of HSU; Elwin Skiles, President Emeritus; and Bill Bruster, pastor of the First Baptist Church. All who knew this man would “second” the birthday tribute of Joe Frantz, He is that sort of servant of the Lord who takes his obligation seriously; he must surely feel that he was put here to do good, and the fact that
he receives enthusiastic applause seems to strike him with wonder . . . Even if there were no life after death, Dr. Richardson has achieved a sort of earthly immortality. So long as there is a Hardin-Simmons, so long as there are church-related colleges and universities . . . and so long as men study history, Dr. Richardson will live on.57

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC LIFE

Regular course work was greatly affected by the war. A short school term was added to the summer school term during the war so that students could complete degree requirements in three calendar years.58 By 1943, eight hundred to twelve hundred students, staff, faculty, and ex-students were serving in the war, and by the end of the war, over fourteen hundred had served.59

The number of courses exploded after World War II. In most fields, there were more than twice the number of courses as those which were offered in 1990. The student population was the highest in the school's one hundred year history for those few years when the veterans returned to college.

It was sufficiently challenging just to keep the school running during the war, so it was not until 1946 that several significant changes in the curriculum were made. A program of studies was arranged to prepare students to become medical doctors. This pre-med program, although small in numbers, has continued with a high degree of success in placing its graduates in medical schools. In 1947, a new Bachelor's degree replaced the B.S. degree for students majoring in Business Administration. A Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Music was initiated in 1949. The Department of Education grew rapidly in the late forties and early fifties due to the returning veterans and the changing regulations governing the preparation of public school teachers. There was also an increase in graduate enrollment. In the 1950-51 catalogue, preparation for medical technology was first mentioned.

By 1950, almost one-third of all those enrolled in summer school were graduate students. Of the 590 degrees granted that year, 149 were for the Master's degree, largely because of the action brought about by the Gilmer-Aiken Bill passed by the Texas Legislature the year before to encourage teachers to pursue graduate studies by offering considerable salary increases. By 1953, a cooperative Engineering program with Texas Technological College, now Texas Tech, had begun, whereby a student could take three years in a course of study at HSU and then transfer to Texas Tech for two years for an engineering degree in one of seven major fields.60 He or she would then receive a B.Sc. in Engineering from Texas Tech and a B.A. from HSU.
"Before World War II, the highest number [of degrees] ever granted in one year had been 152 in 1941. In 1950 the number reached the peak of 592. . . . Before the war, the highest number of master's degrees granted in any one year was 19; in 1952 it was 179."

The post-war enrollment of approximately 2,000 students plus extension students required an increase of faculty of approximately forty percent. The University attempted to increase faculty to about 160 members to satisfy that need.

As rapidly as finances permit and such personnel is available, the faculty should be strengthened by the employment of better trained teachers, with less use of relatively inexperienced teachers, and of those with only the bachelor's degree. Two specific recommendations may be made, subject to the limitations mentioned: (1) only those with the doctor's degree should head major departments and schools; (2) the number of student assistants having teaching duties should be reduced.

Each academic discipline experienced change after the war. The burgeoning years of Bible studies and Religious Education began in 1946. Professors E. B. Atwood, N. A. Moore, and W. T. Walton continued to teach in that department. New professors included Fred Fisher, Th.M. and Th.D. from SWBTS. The Chairman of the Department was N. A. Moore. Fisher replaced him about 1948 and stayed until 1952 when he assumed the post of Professor of New Testament at the new Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, California. Dr. Arthur Travis taught from 1947 to 1950.

Clyde Hurst came in 1950 with a Th.D. from SWBTS. Hurst was a valuable addition and taught Bible, Theology, and an occasional course in Philosophy as well as publishing some good work. He was made acting Head of the Department for the academic year of 1952-53. He retired in 1976, but has remained an interested supporter of the University.

In Religious Education were several fine professors who taught for relatively short periods including Frank Royal, who later became pastor of South Side Baptist Church in Abilene; and Leon Marsh, who taught for five years before joining the faculty of SWBTS. Before President Richardson resigned, he hired Lindell O. Harris to head the department, and Harris remained for many years.

The School of Music continued strongly. Seminars were held in the summers for choral directors of the area, and often had as many as fifty to sixty directors in attendance. There had been no organ instruction for many years until the school acquired an electro-mechanical instrument in 1938 or 1939—a Hammond Model E.
From 1940 through 1943, the school orchestra grew to about sixty players. Harry Hayes formed the Cowgirl Band to include young women who played band instruments, partly because the Cowboy Band was missing so many members to the war. The group continued until post-war years when young men were added, and it became a symphonic band directed by Professor H. M. Preston.

Talmage W. “Jack” Dean became part of the Music Faculty from 1941-43, the beginning of a lifelong association with the school. Dean received B.A. and B.M. degrees from HSU in 1940, the M.M. degree from Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York in 1941, and, in 1960, a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California with studies at Princeton and Stanford University. “Jack” Dean married Frances Sibley, class of 1940, in 1938 while both were students. Born to the couple between 1942-52 were Thomas Dean, Linda, Diana, and Katrina. T. W. Dean left for military service in the Navy from 1944-46. He had taught at the University of Texas in 1943-44 in the aviation cadet program in aeronautical engineering, and during World War II worked as head of the National Weather Bureau in Korea.

He returned to HSU to teach Music Theory and Organ, and became Administrative Dean from 1946-52. He served as the Minister of Music at University Baptist Church while carrying on full duties as professor until 1952. The couple moved to Fort Worth, where Dean served as Chairman of Graduate Studies in Music at SWBTS. In the late 1950s and early sixties, Dean also arranged music for weekly Baptist radio and televised programs.

In 1967, he returned to Hardin-Simmons to head the School of Music. During his long career, he received such awards as a special award in composition by Broadman Press for “Behold the Glory and the Lamb,” and second prize from the Texas Federation of Music Club for the composition “Pax Vobis,” a cantata written intentionally in Latin. His compositions include several cantatas, two oratorios, more than fifty anthems, orchestral music, magazine articles, and a book of course readings in church music history. Dean was elected president of the Texas Musicological Society, the Southern Baptist Convention Church Music Conference, and the Association of Southern Baptist Schools of Music, and he served as director of the Texas Association of Schools of Music. Dr. Dean and his wife, Frances, completed a book together entitled A Survey of Twentieth Century Protestant Church Music in America in 1988. Throughout his career, he taught more than 5,000 music majors including Francis McBeth, a composer whose compositions for band are probably the most played of any contemporary band music and are performed in many countries around the world. In 1987, Dean donated
all copies of his published and unpublished manuscript works to the music library and assigned all rights to these works to HSU.\textsuperscript{70}

All HSU gatherings which included music were influenced by T. W. Dean for a quarter of a century. The School of Music has continued its reputation as one of the strongest areas of the curriculum in great part due to him and the superior teachers of music who remained in the music school under his direction and long after.

Professors in other departments gave many years of service, also. William Carnace Ribble, who became Dean of the School of Business, graduated magna cum laude from Simmons University in 1927, earned an M.A. degree from the University of Texas in 1931, and did post-graduate work there. "Prof" Ribble involved himself in the Abilene community and consistently recruited many new students for the school. His work in the University Baptist Church and the Southern Baptist Convention, his twenty-five years of service to Hardin-Simmons University, and his work in development for the school in the state of New Mexico was recognized by HSU when he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities in 1975.\textsuperscript{71} He died in 1988.

Eva Rudd, Associate Professor of English, received her A.B. degree from Simmons College and her M.A. degree from the University of California. She began teaching at the high school level and moved to Simmons University in 1928. Returning alumni continue to mention the excellent teaching received under this English professor although by 1990 she had been retired over twenty years.\textsuperscript{72}

Maude Emma King finished an A.B. degree from Simmons College in 1923. Her first teaching post was at View Elementary School where she earned $55 for five months teaching and gave her father $40 of her salary for feed for his horses, since there had been such a drought that summer. She laughingly remembers having paid $35 for an Easter hat the next year when she made only $75 for teaching the whole year at Fort Phantom Hill. She received an M.A. degree from the University of Texas in 1929 and taught English at Mississippi Woman's College, went to Syracuse, New York, on a scholarship to study "Deaning," after which she was employed at John B. Stetson University in Florida as Dean of Women. She returned home to Abilene and began to teach at HSU in 1941, later becoming Dean of Women as well as an English professor.

Miss King worked hard with the American Association of University Women to convince the national executive to allow a chapter in Abilene; this came to fruition in 1932 under the direction of Mrs. Dallas Scarborough, a prominent citizen of Abilene. The chapter was called the Oscar A. Cooper
branch. As one of the chief supporters of the Abilene Branch, Miss King wrote its history. She retired after many years of good service to HSU and resides in Abilene.

The Theatre Department was an integral part of both the academic and the extra-curricular offerings. Scrapbooks of clippings dating back to the forties are housed in the Theater department. An early record states: “The University Theater’s function in the liberal arts program is to provide a repertoire of dramatic literature in productions which reflect the thinking of man in all periods of history. Plays are selected from every language and every era so that in a student generation, the University Theater will have afforded a broad perspective of man’s heritage.” Two of the school presidents, Rupert N. Richardson and Elwin L. Skiles, were active in the theater program as students. Some plays such as “Everyman,” “The Glass Menagerie,” and the more popular Shakespearean plays have been performed several times during the century.

Students had the opportunity to participate in live dramatic performances from the time the school opened and often took their plays to auditoriums in towns around Abilene. Performances were held in downtown Abilene before there was a stage or platform and curtains appropriate to performance on campus.

An anonymous donor established an Artists of Dionysus Award for students majoring or minoring in theater. For some years, two one hundred dollar awards were given. Presently a student is still recognized with this honor but without the monetary award.

The criteria for choosing appropriate material to be performed at a Baptist college has long caused debate and remains unresolved to the present, since artistic accuracy and high standards of morality often do not coincide. People also debate whether a good academic education should always include samples of theater, music, and literature that are illustrative of recognized creative genius but whose subjects may be inappropriate, or, whether there is a sufficient range of choice to offer a good educational experience without including the “dark” side of human nature illustrated in the more extreme pieces.

Two plays done in 1941 were “Our Town” and “Green Grow the Lilacs,” which starred Martha Pender. In 1945, during Thanksgiving season, two religious plays were done called “Mrs. Noah Gives the Sign” and “The Traveling Man.” During this time, Dr. Katherine Boyd, head of the Speech Department, coached a group of Hardin-Simmons University players in portrayals of past presidents of HSU during a Founder’s Day Program.

In 1950, the Religious Drama group under the direction of Dr. “Bill”
Beazley toured Fort Worth-area churches in a four-day successive presentation of the Christian legend “And Myrrh.” The University theater intended to train students for church drama and wanted to instill within the churches a desire to incorporate church drama into their programs.\textsuperscript{76}

Dr. Katherine Boyd had joined the faculty in 1937. When she took a study leave of absence in 1942, Nena Kate Ramsey, M.A. from the University of London and Ph.D. work in New York City, headed the department. (When Nena Kate and her brother were students at Simmons, they came together in the family car to school. One morning Nena Kate came in to Professor Campbell’s class with the steering wheel in her hand so that she could guarantee the car would still be parked after class. Her action was to no avail, as her brother drove off after his class, guiding the car with pliers!) Boyd returned in 1945 as instructor in Speech and Director of Play Production after receiving an M.A. degree from Columbia University. Within another three years she had earned her Ph.D. In 1951, Boyd directed the play “Alive in Wonderland” and apparently invited local children from the area schools to attend. She was Chairman of the Department for 1953-54.\textsuperscript{78}

Dr. Ella P. Levett came to HSU as a professor in 1943 after study in Columbia, South Carolina. She left after a year to teach at Hunter College in New York City but returned in 1945 to teach Spanish and Latin. By 1950, Dr. Levett was responsible for the Foreign Language Department and was a demanding language professor. After teaching twenty-one years at HSU, she resigned to teach at Baptist College in Charleston. She received considerable recognition by professional associations and her colleagues, and brought to her classrooms the personal enrichment gained from extensive travel in Spain and other parts of Europe.\textsuperscript{79}

The most sensitive change in curriculum offerings may have been in Mathematics. Now retired, Professor Euna Rudd recalled in 1990: “In 1946 I introduced a course on the history of mathematics and one on basic transactions in banking because I felt the boys returning from the war had been through so much that they shouldn’t be required to do difficult math problems.”\textsuperscript{80} How the students must have applauded those changes even though they would not have pleased faculty members who held more rigorous standards. Miss Rudd, B.A. from Simmons College in 1921, taught Mathematics for forty-one years. Her retirement in 1962 ended the longest career of any woman on either the faculty or staff of HSU.\textsuperscript{81} The Rudd sisters continue to reside in Abilene.

A new Chemistry laboratory was equipped and instruments added to the Physics laboratory. The city benefited by the findings and regular check-
ups of the Chemistry Department, and the students received practical field study.

One graduate, representative of many who went forward to make significant contributions in Science, is Dr. Willis Whitfield. He received a B.S. degree in physics from HSU in 1952, did graduate work at the University of New Mexico and Georgetown University, and became known internationally for developing a laminar flow system to produce an ultra-clean environment for manufacturing and assembly operations. The system circulates air through a bank of filters and removes any contamination which may be there; electronic equipment, heart pacemakers, components for spacecraft, and drugs are among those items produced in laminar flow environments.82

Geology had been first taught by Professor Julius Olsen at the freshman level as early as 1902 as a course in the Science Department. From 1923 to 1926, Professor Otto Watts also offered freshman and sophomore classes in Geology. In the 1935-36 catalogue, the subject was described as a year's course in General Geology which would be given in alternate years. Geology was not mentioned as being taught from 1939-1948 but began to be offered again in 1949-50. In 1951, Kenneth Patterson joined the school to teach a full load of Geology courses, and the first B.A. degree in Geology was started. There were several instructors in the department for short periods.

Albert Lunday, Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, was a popular professor who headed the Department of Sociology for over twenty years. Twenty-two courses were offered under the heading of Sociology, including Penology (study in the origin of punishment, past and present theories on incarceration of the criminal) and Criminology.83 Courses which are now considered Social Work were taught under the heading of Sociology in the forties.

In 1912, the Texas State Department of Education had recognized Simmons College as a worthy teacher training institution. State teachers' certificates changed again in 1943, and that year's catalogue lists seven categories by which certificates could be issued. Depending on the amount of course work, some teachers could teach at secondary school level for only one year without further training, some could teach for a few years, and others attained permanent certificates.

Perhaps the most unusual course was listed in the department of Physical Education in the year 1942-43. The department offered "Elementary Clogging: Fundamentals of clogging, simple tap clogging, character and soft shoe routines."84

The University has fortunately retained Billie.(Shirley) Martin, Associate
Professor of Physical Education, who began teaching at HSU in 1952. She earned a B.A. degree at HSU in 1948, and taught in Lamesa for the next four years. When she returned to teach at HSU, she worked on a Master's degree which she earned in 1954 (M.S.). After teaching for eleven years, she taught for a year at the American School in Tokyo. She has seen women's athletics progress from the years in which she paid all expenses other than gasoline to take women's teams to compete all over the state, to the year 1974 when the first official budget was finally approved for Women's Athletics, to the success of the late eighties when the Women's Soccer Team was rated second in the nation. Martin has done graduate work in several states, and at the University of Oslo, and has studied in China and Greece. She led a summer group of students to Russia in 1987.

She has coached volleyball, tennis, directed intramural sports, taught physical education methods, recreation methods, and a variety of activity courses. In 1977, she received an honor award from the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, and Dance, an association in which she has held many offices. Professor Billie Martin is married to Dr. J. G. Martin, a longstanding faculty member who directs the Music Education and Church Music Department.

The Department of Extension conducted evening classes in neighboring communities beginning around 1930, and a few evening classes were held on the campus. By the forties, Continuing Education was expanded:

The service and scope of the university were greatly enlarged by this year through the Federal Government's opening of Engineering, Science, Management, and Defense Training Courses. These were offered free to the citizens of Abilene and the surrounding territory. They were taught by the regular members of the university faculty, and the salaries and teaching expenses were paid by the government.85

In 1949 for the first time, extension instruction in Bible and related subjects was offered in Albuquerque and Las Cruces, at the request of the Baptist General Convention of New Mexico, who bore all expenses.86

The graduate programs were organized in 1950 into a Division of Graduate Studies. The title given to the chief administrative officer, Otto O. Watts, was Chairman of the Graduate Council. The title for this position was changed to Dean of the Division of Graduate Studies in 1961.

A Master of Music degree was begun in 1948 meeting requirements set down by the National Association of Schools of Music, and the first degree was awarded in 1950. Non-thesis M.Ed. degrees were offered, beginning in the fifties, since some faculty felt that practicing teachers could profit more
HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

Logsdon Chapel
by twelve additional hours of subject matter than by fulfilling a thesis requirement. It was replaced by a Master of Science degree, but this degree was dropped in 1955 in accordance with the Southern Association of Colleges requirements, and the Master of Education degree was resumed. In other disciplines, a thesis degree required a minimum of twenty-four class hours plus six hours for thesis guidance. The non-thesis degree involved a minimum of thirty-six hours each, normally taking two years to complete.

There were too many courses in these post-war years to be economically feasible, and the burden of extension courses taught in surrounding areas, the financial costs, and the need for qualified faculty presented problems which took the next three administrations to overcome. Many students, of course, benefited greatly from the wide choice of subject matter. Gradually, as the second half of the century began, the requirements for college degrees, both undergraduate and graduate, were being strengthened—not only at HSU but all over the state. Academic standards were beginning to resemble those which would still be in place fifty years later. Increased formal education was required for most people to live successfully in an increasingly urban society. Technological advances, in fact, forced formal study on both urban and rural populations alike, and the universities were expected to provide leadership. This was a role HSU took seriously and responded to productively.