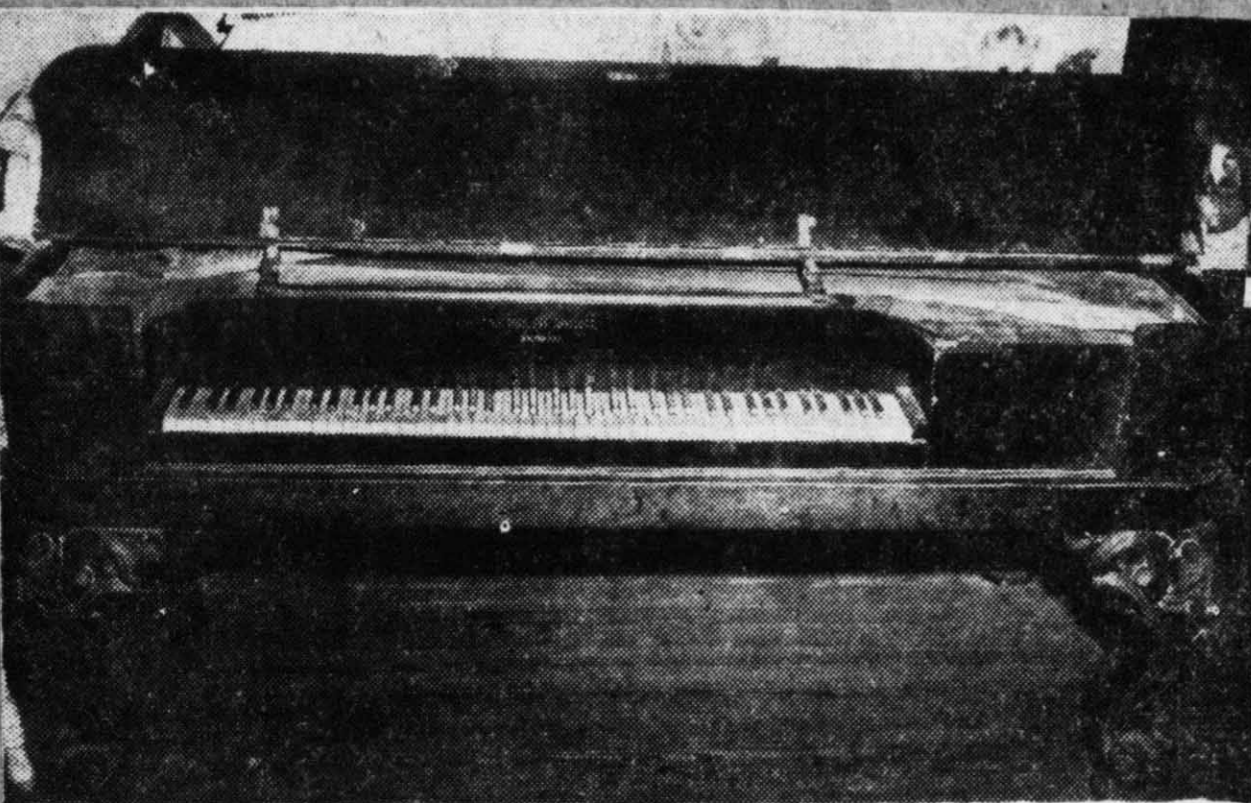


Scenes at Groundbreaking for Furman's Commōdious New Campus



ORIGIN UNKNOWN—Residents of the old Furman building at Winnsboro can give no historical account of this piano which

is among the relics to be found here. Was it used by students of those early days? (Observer Staff Photo by Hancock)



Furman Starts New Campus, Oct. 11-1953 Milestone in Its History

By ERWIN L. McDONALD

GREENVILLE, Oct. 10—"A Greater Furman University for a Greater Tomorrow" was the underlying theme here this week as ground was broken to symbolize the beginning of a \$9,000,000 new campus for Furman.

The ceremony marked a milestone in the history of the university and in the life of its president, Dr. John L. Plyler, under whose administration Furman has come to be fully accredited and to be widely recognized as one of the leading liberal arts colleges of the Southeast.

The university's board of trustees, in their annual fall meeting immediately preceding the groundbreaking, took cognizance of Doctor Plyler's leadership as they voted to confer upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. Conferring of the degree will be a feature of Furman University Founders Day exercises in January.

A co-educational liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1,308, the Furman University of today is a far cry from the Furman Doctor Plyler knew as a freshman student in 1909. Then Furman was a men's college with a total enrollment of less than 225, and Greenville Woman's College, now a part of the university, was a separate institution.

Since Doctor Plyler became president of the university in 1939 there have been many milestones of progress. Finding the school heavily in debt, he led in liquidating the indebtedness and setting the college on a firm financial basis. He has seen the assets increased several millions of dollars and the support of the South Carolina Baptist State Convention, owner and operator of the college, increase from less than \$10,000 the first year of his presidency to several hundred thousands a year at the present.

Feeling that a university is no stronger than its faculty, Doctor Plyler has led in building a faculty adequate in number, Christian in

purpose and academically well equipped. The Furman faculty of 85 averages one teacher for every 15 students, making it possible for students to have close supervision and direction from their professors.

Approximately 30 of the faculty members have the doctor's degree or equivalent, and liberal provision has been made to allow professors leaves for further study. Several from the faculty have received full scholarships from Ford, Carnegie, and other foundations for graduate and post-graduate study.

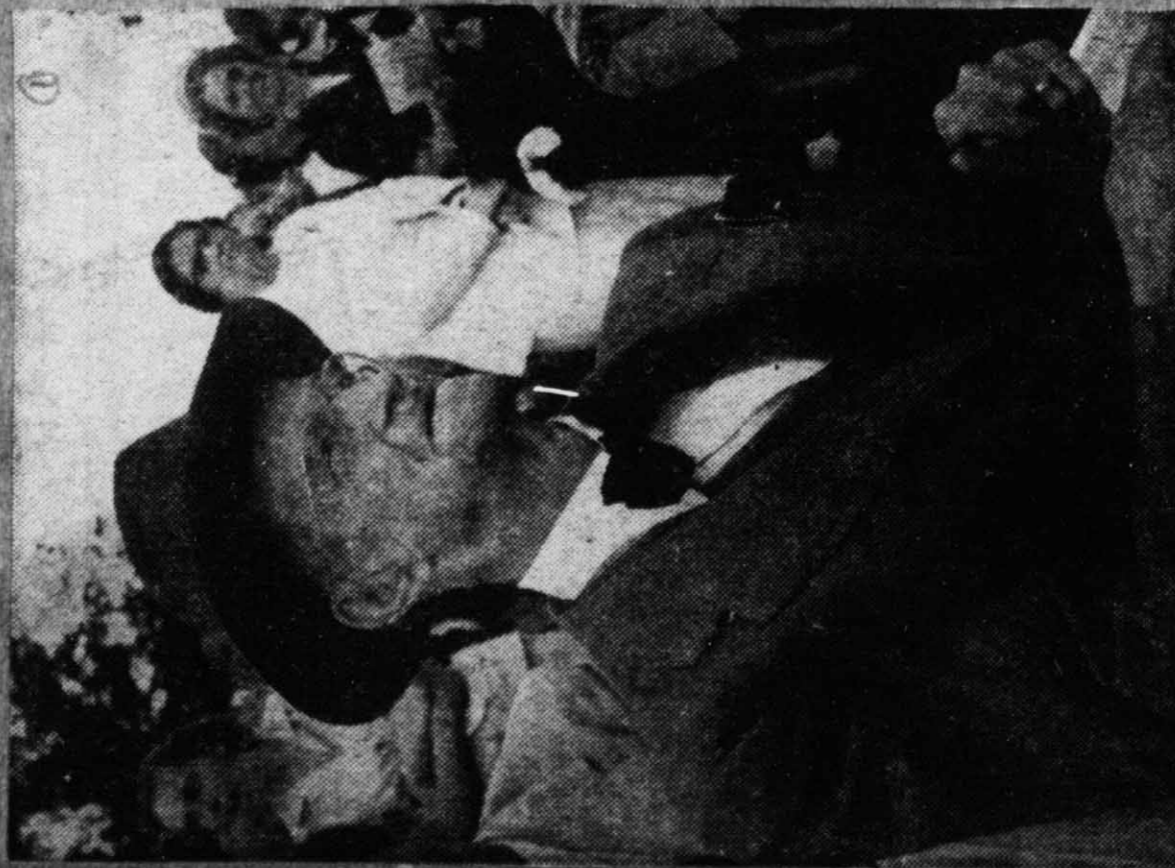
Furman has been admitted to the Southern University Conference, the Association of American Colleges and is on the approved list of the Association of American Universities and the American Association of University Women.

The one realm in which there has been no progress at Furman in many years is that of buildings and physical equipment, and the new building program is designed to correct this. Building plans call for a campus second to none in beauty and utility, designed initially to accommodate a student body of 2,000 and with room for almost unlimited future expansion.

The campus is being planned and the buildings designed by Perry Shaw and Hepburn, Kehoe and Dean, the Boston architects noted for their restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Va. The architecture will be a modified Georgian Colonial. Major buildings will include an auditorium, a fine arts building, a chapel, a library, a dining hall, an infirmary, administration and classroom buildings, science hall, student center, dormitories and gymnasiums.

Several buildings are scheduled to be started within the next year and the university hopes to move to the new campus by September 1956.

Furman's Olde Main, the historic bell tower of which has been the symbol of the institution for more than a century, will be preserved and maintained by the university, possibly as a center for community college classes or a Baptist museum. Disposition of other property on the present campus has not yet been determined, but will probably be leased on long-term contracts to business interests.



Scenes at Groundbreaking



Furman University last week broke ground for a new home, thus symbolizing the beginning of a \$9,000,000 new campus for the college. At top left, Greenville "Grand Old Man," Dr. David M. Ramsey, 96, a former president of Greenville Woman's College, now a part of Furman, was an active participant in the ground-breaking ceremonies. At top right, Paris Mountain looms in the background as the crowd gathered for the historic

ground-breaking on the 1,100-acre new campus site. At bottom left, Dr. J. Dean Crain, vice chairman of the Furman board of trustees, who is credited with being the first to propose a new campus, prays for God's continued blessing upon the South's old Baptist college. At bottom right are the ground-breakers (left to right): Dr. R. C. Blackwell, chairman of Furman faculty; Jo Ann Perkins, Nashville, Ga., president, women's student body at Furman; John Roy Folsom, Greenville, president, Furman Alumni Association; Dr. L. K. Simpson, McCormick, president of South Carolina Baptist State Convention; Dr. Alester G. Furman, great-grandson of Dr. Richard Furman, founder of Furman, and Dr. John L. Plyler, president of Furman University.

New Furman Library Pays Duke Honor

GREENVILLE, April 30 — The \$1,200,000 library which is under construction on Furman University's new campus near Greenville has been officially named the James Buchanan Duke Library. The name, which was approved by the University's board of trustees at a meeting earlier this week, will commemorate the man who founded the Duke Endowment, multi-million dollar fund set up a generation ago to aid colleges, hospitals, orphanages and churches in the two Carolinas. Furman University has been one of the major beneficiaries from the Endowment during the past 28 years.

The trustees also announced the naming of the library's two wings. A Bradshaw wing will honor the late Dr. Sidney E. Bradshaw, Furman professor and administrator for more than 30 years and a Pitts wing will commemorate the late Dr. John Douglas Pitts, Newberry native, Furman alumnus and Baptist minister in Laurens for many years. Both Dr. Bradshaw and the family of Dr. Pitts made large gifts toward construction of the library.

Special ceremonies for laying the cornerstone to the new library were held April 24. More than 1,000 friends and alumni of the University attended the program.