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ROLLINS RECORD

VOL. VIII. Rollins, the oldest College in Florida, No. 1
yet with its future all before it.

NOVEMBER, 1934

MEMOS

ROLLINS began this, its semicentennial year, with a 50% increase in the enrollment of its entering class.



President Hamilton Holt spent most of the summer in Europe, and brought back more than 50 stones from the homes or birthplaces of great men and women. These stones, when properly marked, will find a place in Rollins already famous "Walk of Fame" which contains some 350 stones.



The Symphony Orchestra of Central Florida at Winter Park, founded nine years ago by Dr. Mary Leonard and conducted by Mr. Harve Clemens, Director of the Rollins Conservatory of Music, will present this year a series of ten concerts, playing more than 70 instruments.



Miss Annie Russell, Director of the Annie Russell Theater, has announced a series of six Artist performances which includes a return engagement of Josef Hofmann, and two dramatic productions, including "The Rivals" with Miss Russell cast as Mrs. Malaprop,

FIFTY YEARS AGO Rollins College was only a dream. Florida, the second largest state East of the Mississippi river, had at that time less than 300,000 inhabitants. Northern people were beginning, however, to discover its life-giving sunshine and its great agricultural possibilities. Orlando was a little hamlet of less than 2500 people. Scattered over the state were a group of thirteen Congregational churches, most of which were struggling missionary enterprises.

At their first annual Conference held on March 18, 1884 in Winter Park, Miss Lucy A. Cross, who conducted a private school in Daytona Beach, appealed through her pastor for the establishment of a College for "the education of the South in the South".

On January 27-28, 1885, the pastors and delegates from these scattered churches met in Orange City for their second annual Conference. One of those present was Dr. Edward Payson Hooker, then pastor of the Congregational church in Winter Park. Dr. Hooker's contribution was a "powerful" address on the value of Christian education in the upbuilding of a state, and the utter lack of any such opportunity in Florida. Before the meeting adjourned the Conference voted that immediate steps be taken to establish a Christian college, unsectarian in its purpose. A committee of five was appointed to send out an open letter inviting proposals from communities interested in securing the location of the College.

April 14 following, the Committee met in Mt. Dora to receive its proposals. April 15 the Committee met in Winter Park to inspect its proposed location for the College, and on April 16 the Committee met at Orange City where the several proposals were considered. When Winter Park's bid was read it carried the startling news that this tiny hamlet which was then only five years old, offered in cash and property \$114,000. Of this amount \$50,000 was given by Alonzo W. Rollins of Chicago.

The vote of the Committee taken on April 17, 1885, to accept Winter Park's offer, was unanimous. A self-perpetuating Board of Trustees consisting of 18 men was at once chosen. Late in the afternoon of April 17, 1885, the good news arrived in Winter Park and was announced by the ringing of the bell in the tower of the recently completed Congregational Church.

The entire village joined in the celebration. Altar fires built on boards covered with sand resting on the tops of barrels were lit at intervals along the main street of the town. Speeches were made, and refreshments served.

Thus was born the first institution for higher learning within the state of Florida! It had no buildings but it had a group of loyal friends with both vision and courage. Its first administration, and recitation building was the two story frame building now occupied as a billiard parlor at the corner of Park and Welbourne Avenues. Its first boys dormitory was the two story frame building on the South side of Morse Boulevard, just west of the railroad station. Its first girls dormitory was a story-and-a-half cottage on Osceola Avenue, now occupied by the Rho Lambda Nu fraternity. Its College library consisted of a Bible and a second-hand Dictionary. In place of Mark Hopkins, Rollins College had as its first president the wise and kindly Dr. Hooker who conducted morning chapel in what is now the frame Building in the rear of the Congregational church.

The College opened November 4, 1885, with an attendance of 66 students. The first student to enroll and Rollins oldest living graduate is Miss Clara Guild, who still resides in Winter Park. The first Knowles Chapel and Pinehurst dormitory were begun in the fall of 1885. The Knowles Chapel was ready for dedication by March 9, 1886, but Pinehurst dormitory was still unfurnished. At the close of the exercises for the dedication of the Knowles Chapel, President Hooker read a letter from Mr. Knowles stating that if funds were at once raised for furnishing Pinehurst dormitory he would build a dining hall and kitchen for the College. Within fifteen minutes the necessary amount was raised on the basis of \$60. for furnishing each room in the dormitory.

With the coming of President Hamilton Holt in 1926 Rollins "came of age", and was able to stand on its own feet as an independent Christian college dedicated to the high ideals which had characterized it from its heroic beginning.

TODAY ROLLINS COLLEGE is a daring dream in the process of fulfillment. It has not "arrived"—and we hope it never will. The dream of those early pioneers quickly became a progressive reality. They dreamed and builded better than they knew. The Rollins of today that stands confidently on the threshold of its second half century is already more than a fulfillment of its founders fondest hopes. But as we approach our ideals they continually recede, leading us on and on. So Rollins today is still dreaming, is still seeking new ways to serve the youth, not only of Florida but of the entire United States.

Building upon the foundation laid by those who labored and sacrificed for Rollins, President Hamilton Holt has during the past nine years added a new and glorious chapter to the history of Rollins College. He came to Rollins from a long service as editor of *The Independent*, with a fresh outlook on academic education combined with courage and a deep devotion to the welfare of the youth of America.

Remembering the inadequacy of his own experience at Yale and Columbia, under the lecture and quiz system, he devised what is known as the "Rollins Conference Plan" in an attempt to break down the barriers between the teacher and the student and *humanize College education*. This Plan has now been in use for nine years and has proved a real contribution to higher education.

The second innovation at Rollins was what is called its "New Curriculum Plan" which divides the student body into an Upper and Lower Division instead of the usual four classes. Under this plan the students are promoted not on the basis of credits or time spent, but on their actual achievement, which makes it pos-

sible for the good student to complete his course in a shorter time than the slow or indifferent student. This "New Curriculum Plan" *individualizes the curriculum* and restores something of the spirit of adventure to higher education.

The third change is economic rather than academic. Two years ago the trustees, on President Holt's recommendation, introduced the "Unit-Cost Plan", under which all students who can afford to do so are asked to pay the actual cost of a years education at Rollins. In round numbers, this is \$1350, which includes room, board, tuition and all fees except the \$10.00 registration fee. This all-inclusive fee permits any student to take courses in the Conservatory of Music, the Art School, or the Department of Drama without further charge.

The "New Rollins," when completed, will be limited to 500 students but because of lack of accommodations the present limit is 400. The campus of 45 acres has been charted to provide exactly the buildings and equipment for a student body of this size. Five buildings of the New Rollins are already completed in the colorful Mediterranean architecture which will be used throughout. These include Rollins dormitory for men, Pugsley and Mayflower dormitories for women, the beautiful Annie Russell Theater, presented by Mrs. Edward W. Bok in honor of Miss Russell, and the Knowles Memorial Chapel, presented to the College by Frances Knowles Warren whose father built the first Knowles Chapel fifty years ago and Knowles Hall in 1910. The present Chapel was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, the famous ecclesiastical architect, in Spanish Gothic, and is considered one of the three most beautiful structures in Florida. Mrs. Homer Gage, another daughter of Francis B. Knowles, has been a generous benefactor of the Chapel, having donated the majestic Skinner Organ, and the beautiful bronze grill work of the Chancel.

In addition to these five beautiful buildings, President Holt has added, during the recent years of depression, more than one million dollars to the general endowment of the College, and both the faculty and student body have been more than doubled. Rollins present student body is drawn from 32 states and three foreign countries.

Thus under the leadership of President Hamilton Holt the Rollins of today is helping to fulfill the hopes and dreams of those who fifty years ago foresaw the need for an independent Christian college in Florida.

ROLLINS UNIT-COST PLAN

THE ROLLINS UNIT-COST PLAN, which was inaugurated in the fall of 1933 divides the estimated budget by the estimated enrollment, establishing the resulting figures as the one unit cost. This is set up as the Unit-Cost fee, \$1350, which Rollins expects students who can afford it to pay. Those students whom Rollins wants but who cannot pay the full rate are aided by income from the general endowment.

Rollins College does not claim to be the pioneer among institutions which have adopted this new method of financing the budget by charging students the full cost. Most of the fundamental features of the Rollins Plan were conceived, we understand, by Mr. Trevor Arnett and publicized by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., at Brown University several years ago.

Rollins, however, is the first College to *change its former practice* by adopting and operating the inclusive unit cost fee.

Bennington College, for example, and Rollins College have much in common in the methods of financing their budgets.

Bennington estimates tuition on the basis of budget expenditures, re-awarding what it calls reduced tuition, the same as scholarship aid to students who cannot meet the full fees. The money for this reduced tuition comes from an endowment specifically given for scholarship purposes, in addition to money from the income on the investment of original funds for the establishment of the college.

ROLLINS SEMICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

THE PLANS for the celebration of Rollins Semicentennial are as yet incomplete, but the following events are tentatively arranged.

January 29—Ceremonies in Orange City marking the 50th anniversary of the decision to found a Christian college in Florida. Dr. W. S. Beard, Chairman.

Speaker: Dr. Jay T. Stocking, pastor of the Pilgrim Church of St. Louis, Missouri, and Moderator of the General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches of the U. S.

February 22—Founders Week. Dean W. S. Anderson, Chairman.
Concert by Symphony Orchestra of 72 instruments.

February 24—Publication of Vol. IX, No. 1, of the "Rollins Animated Magazine". President Hamilton Holt, Editor.

February 25—Founders Day. Fiftieth Annual Convocation and granting of honorary degrees.

February 26—Historical Ceremonies. Speaker, Hon. W. R. O'Neal.

March 2—Thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Florida Audobon Society under the auspices of Rollins College. Mrs. W. F. Blackman, Chairman.

April 17—Ceremonies in commemoration of the vote on April 17, 1885, to establish in Winter Park the first institution for higher learning in Florida.

April 23—Charter Day, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the granting of the Charter to Rollins College.

November 4—Matriculation Day. Fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Rollins College.