

REGISTER OF THE THORNHILL PAPERS, 1876-1933

T. Wilbur Thornhill, 1892-1978

Mss 47, 4 boxes, 2 cu. ft.

INTRODUCTION

T. Wilbur "Buddy" Thornhill was a South Carolinian, a Clemson graduate, a Captain in World War I, a businessman, and public servant. He was always interested in educational, agricultural, and industrial development for South Carolina. These interests and his activities qualified him for his position on Clemson's Board of Trustees.

These papers were brought by one of his sons to the President's office and were then transferred to Special Collections, August 27, 1980. They cover the period 1947-1960 and 1967-1969.

Register prepared by Berniece Holt in 1984.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

T. Wilbur Thornhill was born in Summerville, S. C., September 12, 1892, son of J. T. E. and Lula Wilbur Thornhill. Mr. Thornhill began working at the Charleston Oil Company before he entered Clemson College in 1910. He majored in electrical engineering and received his B. S. degree in 1914. On November 8, 1916, he and Anna Van Noy Smith were married. They had two sons, Van Noy and Thomas Edwin. In 1917 he volunteered and entered World War I as a private in the Corps of Engineering. He saw service in the Panama Canal Zone and France before being discharged as a Captain in 1919. He returned to employment with the Charleston Oil Company where he rose to the presidency. He was also president of Seaboard Gas Company, 1946-53. Mr. Thornhill was a tireless promoter of agriculture, especially soil conservation and served as a member of South Carolina Soil Conservation Committee and National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In Charleston he supported Porter Military Academy, served as a Public Service Commissioner, was president of the Chamber of Commerce, a Director of First Federal Savings and Loan Association, was a member of the Country Club, Carolina Yacht Club, Hibernian Society, Grace Episcopal Church, the Y. M. C. A., Masons, Elks, Knights of Pythias, and Rotary. For the state he served on the Highway Commission and the State Hospital Regents. He also served on the National Advisory Committee, Office of Price Administration during World War II.

During 1929-30 Mr. Thornhill was president of Clemson's Alumni Association. In 1947 he was chosen by the South Carolina Legislature to fill out the unexpired Clemson Board of Trustees term of J. P. Mozingo III. He was reelected for four year terms until he retired

in 1960. In 1966 Clemson awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. He was active in promoting all interests of Clemson College during this period. T. Wilbur "Buddy" Thornhill died January 4, 1978.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

These papers deal mainly with the period Thornhill served on Clemson's Board of Trustees, 1947-1960. There are also two folders of miscellaneous Clemson papers for 1967-1969.

Mr. Thornhill was an activist Trustee. The papers reflect his great interest in developing faculty and student housing on Clemson's campus following World War II. During his tenure on the board, a number of major issues came before it. These included athletics, the Hartwell Dam controversy, the Winthrop-Extension Service question, the Clemson House-Faculty Housing project, major campus construction, the Cresap, McCormick and Paget Management Consultants' reorganization plan, President Robert F. Poole's death and Robert C. Edward's appointment as president.

The papers are arranged chronologically. Four color photographs have been removed to Mss Negatives and photographs files.

Mss 47 Thornhill Papers

CONTAINER LIST

FOLDER	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
	1947
1	April
2	May 1-May 5
3	May 6-May 26
4	June 2-December
	1948
5	January 10-April 23
6	May 7-December
	1949
7	January-December
	1950
8	January-December
9	July 19, 1950
	1951
10	January-September. Includes 1948 enclosure (minutes)
11	October-December
	1952
12	January-July
13	August-December
	1953
14	January-July
15	August-December
	1954
16	January-March 16
17	March 17-June 30
18	July-October
19	November-December
	1955
20	January-March
21	April-May
22	June-October
23	November-December
	1956
24	January-March
25	April-May
26	June
27	July
28	August-September
29	October-December
	1957
30	January-April
31	May-July
32	August-October
33	November-December
	1958
34	January-March
35	April-October
36	November-December

CONTAINER LIST

FOLDER	BOARD OF TRUSTEES
	1959
37	January-March
38	April-June
39	July-December
	1960
40	January-December
	1966
41	June 14
	1967
42	Clemson University General
	1968-1969
43	Clemson University General

SEPARATION LIST

1. Photographs (color):

1966. 2 polaroids of an oil painting by Alicia Hart of Thornhill

Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, 3½"x4¼"

Robert Cook Edwards presenting Honorary Doctor of Laws degree to T. Wilbur Thornhill, May 14, 1966, 8"x10"

May 14. Honorary degree to Dr. Edward Teller, Frank McGee, Henry Dukes, John Kelley Cauthen, and T. Wilbur Thornhill