

REGISTER OF THE  
CLEMSON CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER RECORDS, 1953-1980

**Clemson Continuing Education Center Records, 1953-1980**  
**Mss. 164**

Extent: 1.66 cubic feet

3 document boxes, 1 box of 9 oversize items, 35 photographs

## **Introduction**

Special Collections acquired the Clemson Continuing Education Center Records from Myra P. Bregger, who served as director of the center. The scrapbooks were received from R.M. Cooper Library in 1985; and, the dissolution papers were donated by Mrs. Myra Bregger in 1986. The collection was processed and the register prepared by Linda Ferry in 1995. There are no restrictions on use of the collection.

## **Corporate History**

The idea of a citizens education center at Clemson originated with local residents. As early as 1950, the Clemson Branch of the American Association of University Women laid the groundwork for a Clemson Citizens Education Center. In the fall of 1951, this group invited various clubs, organizations and churches to send representatives to a meeting on campus at which Marguerite Tolbert, Director of Adult Education of the State Department of Education, told of the value of adult education to the community. Later in the year the Parent Teacher Organization of the Calhoun-Clemson School held an open meeting to consider the topic further. The AAUW continued this project by having an open meeting at the Clemson House in early 1953 at which two teachers from the Greenville Citizens Education Center told what their program had accomplished. This was followed by a PTC-AAUW community meeting in the spring of 1953 with Miss Tolbert again presenting Adult Education Centers.

In July of 1953, Dr. R. F. Poole, President of Clemson College, was approached about the possibility of Clemson College giving support to a Clemson Area Citizens Education Center. He recognized the merit of such a project and suggested a meeting of interested citizens with W. H. Washington, Dean of the School of Education, and his staff. As an

outgrowth of this meeting on July 13, 1953, a steering committee was named as follows: Dr. James F. Miles, Chairman, Mrs. R. G. Carson, Jr., L. R. Booker, J. L. Brock, Miss Frances Holleman, H. G. McGraw and Mrs. John T. Bregger.

The Steering Committee secured the approval of President Poole to allow Clemson College to co-sponsor the center along with the State Department of Education. Classes ran for five nights, one night a week, two classes per night. There were no entrance requirements, no examinations, and no course credits. Information sheets were distributed to interested citizens at the first general meeting (September 25, 1953) to help the steering committee determine preference of courses, locations and times. Following this meeting, publicity on proposed classes was distributed through various agencies, civic clubs and public school. Adults came from the counties of Pickens, Oconee, Greenville, Anderson, Laurens, Greenwood, Abbeville, and the northern part of Georgia.

Teachers were provided for any class maintaining an average of ten people. In addition to hiring Clemson faculty members, the steering committee contacted many out-of-town and out-of-state instructors in order to provide the center with leading teachers in their respective fields of study.

The Adult Division of the State Department of Education, which had already co-sponsored at least fifteen citizens education centers, agreed to help defray the cost of the Clemson center partly by providing \$2.00 per fifty-minute period as token remuneration to the teaching staff. By having Clemson College classrooms, heat, lights, water, janitor service, and the College faculty to draw upon for teachers, a citizens education center became a reality.

In 1957 the steering committee changed the name "The Clemson Area Adult Education Center" to "The Clemson Continuing Education Center." During its first ten years, the center had an average enrollment of over 1,000 persons a year. In 1979, however, enrollment dropped to 739 and in 1980 it dropped again to 488. The director Myra Bregger attributed the drastic drop in enrollment to higher gas prices and an increased number of adult education classes in the area. The registration fee for one or two courses in 1954 was \$1.00; in 1979, \$12.00. The first session offered eighteen classes and by 1980 the center offered forty-three classes. Courses covered a wide range of topics -- from art, history, science, business and public affairs to various crafts and hobbies. When

enrollment dropped, so did the source of money, and the Center discontinued its annual spring session in 1981 after twenty-seven years of serving the Piedmont area.

## **Scope and Content**

The materials in these files span from 1953-1980. The files were kept by Myra P. Bregger who served as director during these years. The arrangement is divided topically: articles of association, correspondence, minutes, publications, and registration records. Also included are annual summary reports, membership lists, faculty listings, news releases, enrollment figures, financial statements, addresses, newspaper clippings, and the schedule of classes 1954-1980. There is a small amount of correspondence primarily from Myra Bregger to instructors regarding courses and to various agencies in the community regarding publicity. There are three scrapbooks compiled by W.H. Washington, Clemson College, 1954-1958. These contain class schedules, forms, form letters, news articles, photos, area attendance map, and instruction to personnel.

### **Separation List:**

The following items have been separated for purposes of preservation:

#### **I. Oversize**

##### **A. Scrapbooks compiled by W. H. Washington**

v.1 1953-1954

v.2 1955-1956

v.3 1957-1958

##### **B. Poster of 1965 Registration**

##### **C. Schedule of Classes 1959-1963**

#### **II. Photographs**

##### **A. Individuals**

Bregger, Myra P., 1965, 8x10, b&w

Marchant, Peggy, 1980, 5x7, b&w

##### **B. Courses**

Beekeeping, 1980, 5x7, b&w

Cake decorating, 1977 (3), 5x7, b&w

Cake decorating, 1979 (6), 3 1/2 x 5, color

- Communism, 1963, 4x8, b&w
- Creative Canvas, 1980, 5x7, b&w
- Golf, n. d., 5x7, b&w
- Interior Decorating, 1980, 5 1/2x8, b&w
- Knitting, 1963, 8x10, b&w
- Millinery: Hat Making, 1963, 8x10, b&w
- Needlework, 1980, 5x7, b&w
- Obedience Training for Dogs, n. d., 5x7, b&w
- Painting, 1968, 5x7, b&w
- Quilting, 1979 (5), 3 1/2 x 5, color
- Stained Glass, 1980, 5x7, b&w
- Tennis, n. d., 5x7, b&w
- Unknown, 1968 5x7, b&w
- C. Registration, 1963, 4x8, b&w
- D. Committee members, 1956, 8x10, b&w

### Container List

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Articles of Association
		Correspondence
	2	1953, 1954
	3	1955, 1956
	4	1957,1958
	5	1959
	6	1960
	7	1961
	8	1962
	9	1963
	10	1964
	11	1965
	12	1966
	13	1967
	14	1968
	15	1969
	16	1970
	17	1971

2	1	1972
	2	1973
	3	1974
	4	1975
	5	1976
	6	1977
	7	1978
	8	1979
	9	1980
	10	1980, Dissolution papers
		<b>Minutes</b>
3	1	1955-1963
	2	1963-1967
	3	1967 Aug. - 1975
	4	1976-1978
	5	1979-1980
		<b>Publications</b>
	6	Course Descriptions, 1954-1963
	7	Course Descriptions, 1964-1980
	8	Summary Report, 1955
	9	1958
	10	Student Paper, 1977
	11	Registration Records, 1961-1980