

ROBERT C. EDWARDS, 1914 -

A Register of His Papers, 1942 – 1979

Overview of Collection

Creator: Edwards, Robert C. (Robert Cook), 1914 -
Collection Number: Mss 285
Title: Robert C. Edwards Papers, 1942 – 1979, undated

Abstract: Robert C. Edwards had a distinguished career in the textile industry from 1933-1942 and 1946-1956. In 1956, he returned to his alma mater, Clemson College as Vice President for Development. Upon the sudden death of President Robert F. Poole in 1958, Edwards was chosen as Acting President and elected the eighth President the following year. During his twenty-one year administration, Clemson College changed dramatically: University status was acquired, African Americans and women were admitted, and six colleges were established. The collection consists of material related to Edwards' participation in a number of corporate boards, particularly Dan River Inc. and Duke Power as well as material related to the Clemson Area Retirement Center. The bulk of the correspondence concerns letters of congratulation upon his election to the Clemson presidency and his retirement.

Quantity: 3.3 cubic feet consisting of 12 document boxes and one oversize folder

Scope and Content Note

The collection is arranged alphabetically. Folder titles reflect the titles used by Edwards with correspondence arranged chronologically. There is substantial material related to his membership on the boards of directors of the textile manufacturer, Dan River, Inc. and the private electric power utility, Duke Power. These include audit reports, correspondence and minutes; of particular note is material about opposition to nuclear power. There are several folders of material from his membership on the Federal Reserve Board as well as about the Clemson Area Retirement Center. The bulk of the correspondence concerns letters of congratulation upon his election to the Clemson presidency and his retirement in 1979. There are a few folders related to various aspects of his personal life such as investments, gifts, family, and other organizations of which he was a member. There are three folders with employee and student records are restricted in compliance with state and federal law. Two folders of photographs have been separated and added to Clemson University Archives Series 100, Clemson University Photographs, Individual, Edwards, Robert C.

Additional Collection Information

Cite as: [description of item such as "Letter from John Smith, Clemson, SC to Michael Jones, Columbia, SC"], box number, folder number, Mss 285, Robert C. Edwards Papers, Special Collections, Clemson University Libraries, Clemson, SC.

Biographical Note:

Robert Cook Edwards was born 25 March 1914 in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, the son of John T. and Effie Cook Edwards. Edwards entered Clemson College as a freshman at age 15 and graduated in 1933 with a Bachelor of Science degree in textile engineering. His career in textile management began as supervisor of the quality control laboratory of the Dunean Mill, a division of J. P. Stevens and Company, in Greenville, South Carolina. Later he worked as plant manager for the Charles B. Thoms Company, Red Springs, North Carolina, and as plant superintendent at Aberfoyle, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia. Although Edwards interrupted his career in textiles to enter active service in the United States Army in 1942 (Edwards rose to the rank of major), he resumed his work in textiles in 1946, first as treasurer and then as general manager of the Abbeville Group of Deering-Milliken Mills.

In 1956 Edwards returned to Clemson College as Vice-President for Development. At once, he became an active participant in the legal struggle with the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the inundation of Clemson College lands brought on by the construction of Hartwell Dam. The outcome of the litigation resulted in the recovery of several hundred acres of Clemson land. In 1958, on the death of President Poole, the Board of Trustees named Edwards Acting President, and in April 1959 the Board elected him President. Under Edwards' twenty-one year administration, Clemson College changed dramatically: University status was acquired, Negroes and women were admitted, and six colleges were established. Approximately \$78 million was spent on permanent improvements.

Edwards, who retired in 1979, has served on the boards of directors of several corporations such as Duke Power and Dan River, and in leadership capacities in numerous educational organizations. He and his wife, Louise Odum Edwards, had two children, Nancy Louise and Robert C. Edwards, Jr.

Restrictions

One box of material is restricted because it contains student and employee records.

Related Material

University Archives Series 11 Office of the President Records, 1959 – 1965

University Archives Series 12 Office of the President Records, 1966 – 1970

University Archives Series 13 Office of the President Records, 1971 – 1975

University Archives Series 14 Office of the President Records, Speeches, 1956 – 1979

Subjects

Clemson Area Retirement Center

Clemson University—Administration

Clemson University—Board of Trustees

Clemson University—Presidents

Edwards, Robert C. (Robert Cook), 1914

Electric utilities—Southern States

Textile industry—Southern States

United States. Federal Reserve Board

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Correspondents

Dan River, Inc.
Duke Power Company
Federal Reserve Banks

Document Types

Maps
Minutes
Photographs

Administrative Information

Acquired from:

Robert C. Edwards as accession 02-30.

Processing Information

Michael Kohl in 2006 with help from student assistant Emily Estes.

SEPARATION LIST

Oversize Folder

- 1 14"x17" plat map of Bladensburgh District with Clemson property identified. From *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington including the County of Prince George's Maryland*. G. M. Hopkins, 1878.
- 1 14" x 17" drawing of Pendleton SC street layout, no date.

SEPARATION LIST

Oversize Folder

8.5"x14" title to real estate from A.E. Schilletter to Robert C. and Louise Edwards, August 28, 1951.

21.25"x17.25" map of Clemson Area Retirement Center, Inc. Nov. 1, 1977.

22.75"x16.75" map of Clemson Area Retirement Center, Inc. Dec. 20, 1977.

29.5"x11" topographic map of Clemson near Highway 123 and Berkeley Drive, undated

26"x18" photostatic map of part of Clemson, Nov. 14, 1951.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
1	1	Audit Committee - IRS 11 Questions, Aug-Sept 1976
	2	Audit Committee - IRS 11 Questions, October 1976
	3	Audit Committee - IRS 11 Questions, Nov.-Dec. 1976, 1977, undated
	4	AUSA Member of Board, 1965-1976
	5	Bankers Trust, 1971-1975
	6	Bankers Trust, 1976-1977
2	7	Bankers Trust, 1978-1979
	8	Bankers Trust of South Carolina, 1962-1975
	9	Biography and Photographs, 1977
	10	Board, 1967-1979
	11	Carolina Motor Club, 1968-1974
	12	Civilian Aide Conferences, 1971-1972
	13	Clemson Area Retirement Center, 1959-1977
	14	Clemson Area Retirement Center, Jan-May 1978
	15	Clemson Area Retirement Center, July 1978-1979, undated
	16	Correspondence, 1956, March-April 10 1959
	17	Correspondence, April 11-13 1959
3	18	Correspondence, April 14-16 1959
	19	Correspondence, April 17-30 1959
	20	Correspondence, May-June 1959
	21	Correspondence, 1964-1969
	22	Correspondence, 1971-1975
	23	Correspondence, 1976
	24	Correspondence, Jan-June 1977
4	25	Correspondence, July-Dec. 1977
	26	Correspondence, 1978
	27	Correspondence, Jan-March 1979
	28	Correspondence, April 1979
	29	Correspondence, May 1-15 1979
5	30	Correspondence, May 16-31 1979
	31	Correspondence, June 1979
	32	Correspondence, July 1979
	33	Correspondence, undated
	34	Dan River Audit Committee, 1978-1979
	35	Dan River Board of Directors, 1978-1979
6	36	Dan River Inc., 1977
	37	Dan River Inc., 1978
	38	Dan River Inc., 1979
	39	Dan River Inc. Audit Committee Chairman, 1973-1976
	40	Dan River Inc. Audit Committee Chairman, 1977, undated
	41	Dan River Inc. Binder, 1965-1968
7	42	Dan River Inc. Board of Directors, 1970-1974
	43	Dan River Inc. Board of Directors, 1975
	44	Dan River Inc. Board of Directors, 1976, undated
	45	Dan River Inc. Confidential, 1979

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
7	46	Dan River Inc. Presentation, September 8, 1976
	47	Dan River Inc...A Profile, undated
	48	Duke Power, 1966-1974
	49	Duke Power, 1975- July 1976
8	50	Duke Power, Aug-Dec 1976
	51	Duke Power, Jan- Feb 1977
	52	Duke Power, March-April 1977
	53	Duke Power, June-Dec 1977, undated
	54	Duke Power, January 1978
	9	55
56		Duke Power, May-July 1978
57		Duke Power, Aug-Dec 1978
58		Duke Power, Jan-Feb 1979
59		Duke Power, March-April 1979
60		Duke Power, May-Aug 1979, undated
61		Duke Power, <i>Anderson Independent</i> eight article series, May 14-21, 1978
10		62
	63	Edwards, Louise O., 1967-1979, undated
	64	Edwards, Robert C. - Residence Accounts, 1977-1980, undated
	65	Edwards Family, 1947-1977, undated
	66	Expense Report, 1976-1979, undated
	67	Federal Reserve Board, 1968-1975
	11	68
69		Federal Reserve Board, June-Dec 1977
70		Federal Reserve Board, Jan-May 1978
71		Federal Reserve Board, June-October 1978
72		Federal Reserve Board, Nov-Dec 1978
73		Federal Reserve Board, 1979
74		Federal Reserve Board - Economic Statements 1977-1978
75		Gifts, 1977-1979
76		<i>The Greenville News</i> - Confidential File, 1976-1979
12		77
	78	Investments, Trusts, and Taxes, 1967-1979, undated
	79	Methodist Church, 1965-1979
	80	Military Service, 1942-1976, undated
	81	Miscellaneous Clubs and organizations, 1967-1973, undated
	82	NCAA Theodore Roosevelt Awards Jury, 1969 -1973
	83	Newspapers, 1973-1979, undated
	84	Newspaper Clippings, 1978-1979
	85	Nuclear Protests, 1979, undated
	86	Photographs, undated
	87	Politics, 1974-1979, undated

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>
13	88	Robert C. Edwards Junior High School, 1970-1979
	89	Scrapbook Photographs, undated
	90	Summit Club, 1977-1978, undated
	91	Textile Museum Project - Scope of the Project Committee, 1977-1979
	92	Textile Research Institute Board of Trustees, 1968-1971
	93	United Student Aid Funds, 1966-1971
	94	USAF, Inc. Trustee, 1968-1971 (Nov.)
	95	Vacation, 1975-1978, undated
	96	Woodside Mills Foundation, 1973-1976
Restricted		
14	97	Correspondence, 1974-1977
	98	Edwards, R.C. Retirement, 1946, 1963-1979, undated
	99	McHaney, Rosa Lee, 1967-1977, undated