The

Clemson A & M College

Class of 1939

Reunion 2006

June 8, 9 and 10, 2006

On their

67th Anniversary of Graduation
Sketch of the Class of 1939 Caboose

Courtesy of President James F. Barker
A Personal Note

In Memoriam

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of a beloved classmate, Frank W. O’Neal, who joined our already departed classmates on Friday the 18th of September in the year 2005.

Frank, or Nellie as he was known to many of us, exemplified the Clemson Spirit to the nth degree. He was a loyal member of the class, active in all its undertakings, and as well a loyal alumnus of the University. Except when his military service prevented, he never missed a class reunion, and in his later years he took on the dual responsibilities of co-chairing the Reunion Committee along with his wife Julie, and contacting classmates and honorary members to spur their interest in coming to the reunions.

He was also a charter member of the Class of 1939 Golden Anniversary Reunion Committee, and its successor organization the Class of 1939 Heritage Gardens Committee. In these successive functions, Nellie worked as a true team member, always responding to requests for his personal participation, and never failing to contribute to the team’s decision-making processes. To the degree that the committees have successfully brought their plans to fruition, Nellie has earned more than his share of the credit.

Nellie was a friend - from our high school years together in Anderson, through our college years, and on into the autumn of our lives. Just as the class will miss his tireless efforts to hold and bring us together, I will miss his unqualified friendship - a treasure that is all too rare in this sometimes lonely trip through life. Though he is gone in a physical sense, he will remain a warm and ever present memory - cheering whatever time I have left. Thanks for being there, Nellie.

Jim [Signature]
Program of Events

REUNION WEEKEND
June 8, 9 & 10, 2006

The Great Class of 1939

THURSDAY:
Registration - Madren Center Lobby - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Hospitality - Room 105, Ramada Inn - 4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY:
Registration - Madren Center Lobby - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Lunch on your own
Plaque unveiling - at the Caboose - 3:00 p.m.
Memorial Service - at the Caboose - 4:00 p.m.
Social Hour - Class of '39 - 5:30 - 7 p.m.
    Poolside, Ramada Inn
Dinner - Ramada Inn Dining Room - 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship - Room 105 - until midnight.

SATURDAY:
Registration - Madren Center Lobby - 8 - 1:30 p.m.
Breakfast at the Madren Center - 8:00 a.m.
    With the Golden Tigers
Class of '39 Business Meeting - 9 a.m.
    Madren Center
Class Picture - Madren Center - 9:00ish
Lunch at the Ramada Inn - 12:30 p.m.
Tiger Casino Night Alumni Social - 6:30 p.m.
    Madren Center Grand Ballroom

Thus ends another great reunion for the Great Class. Y'all come in 2007 for our 68th Anniversary of Graduation, ya hear!
2006

Memorial Service

for

Deceased Members of the Class of '39

Opening Remarks           Tee Senn
Roll of Remembrance       Walter Cox
Meditation of Departure   Elliott Loyless
Recognition of Family     Tee Senn
Prayer for Departure      Champ Jones
Taps                      J.R. Adkins
Guardroom Bell Ringer     Joel Brawley

And let today embrace the past
with remembrance
and the future with longing

The Prophet
I'll want to know each step you take
that I may walk the same
for some day down that lonely road
you’ll hear me call your name.

From a resting bench
Turkey Creek Cemetery, Lee County, SC

Classmates

Thomas O. Lawton, Jr.  December 12, 2003
Henry M. Crouch, Jr.  March 13, 2005
George A. Brodie  March 28, 2005
Frank W. O'Neal  September 18, 2005
Thomas E. Bell, Jr.  September 23, 2005
Ralph W. Bridge  September 26, 2005
Thomas F. Stanfield  September 26, 2005
J. Gordon Smith  October 17, 2005
Blynn E. Scott  October 23, 2005
Henry E. Avent, Sr.  October 30, 2005
Alexander G. Speer  December 11, 2005
Curtis W. Pennington  April 11, 2006
L. James Blakely  May 10, 2006

Wives of Classmates

Ann Gayle Jones  August 2, 2005
Delphene B. Thomson  February 23, 2006
Violet M. Smith  July 11, 2006
THE MEDITATION OF DEPARTURE

From Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar"

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.

A Prayer for the Departed
By William Penn (1644 - 1718)

We give back to You, O God, those whom You gave to us.
You did not lose them when You gave them to us,
and we do not lose them by returning them to You.
Your dear Son has taught us that life is eternal
and love cannot die. So death is only a horizon,
and a horizon is only the limit of our sight.
Open our eyes to see more clearly,
and draw us closer to You that we may know
that we are nearer to our loved ones, who are with You.
You have told us that You are preparing a place for us;
prepare us also for that happy place,
that where You are, we may always be,
O dear Lord of life and death.
OBITUARIES

of

Classmates and Wives

whose deaths have become known to us

since our last reunion

in June 2005
Thomas Oregon Lawton, Jr.
Died December 12, 2003

Col. Thomas Lawton, Jr., 87, died at his home in Indialantic, Florida. Born in the Brighton community of Garnett, SC, he was the son of the late T.O. Lawton and wife Nannine White Lawton. He was married for 50 years to the late Julia Gresham Lawton of Greenwood, SC. Col. Lawton was also preceded in death by his son, Richard Allen Lawton.

Col. Lawton graduated from Clemson College in 1939. At Clemson he was Associate Editor and Business Manager of the Tiger during his senior year. He received a Masters Degree in Advanced Management from the University of Pittsburg in 1951. With a career in the U.S. Air Force that spanned 30 years, Col. Lawton was Director of Research and Development in the USAF Plans, Programs, and Policy Division at the Pentagon from 1948 to 1951. In 1953 he was appointed Director of Procurement and Production at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, and from 1957 to 1961 held the same title and position at Warner Robins AF Base in Georgia. Col. Lawton was selected in 1961 to organize, man, and activate the first Depot level repair facility capable of full support to the Atlas, Titan, and Minuteman Inertial Guidance Systems at Newark Air Force Station, Newark, Ohio, where he was Commander. From 1966 to 1968, he commanded the Air Procurement Region of the Far East during the Vietnam War at the Tachikawa Air Base in Japan.

After his retirement in 1970, Col. Lawton devoted attention to community and environmental issues across the state of Florida. He served on numerous advisory committees including the St. Johns River Water Management District. The state of Florida designated the 6,000 acre lake at the Three Forks March Conservation Area as Lake Lawton.

Col. Lawton is survived by his children Stanley Lawton of Chapel Hill, NC, Ann Lawton Hardy of Melbourne Beach, FL, and James Lawton and his wife Yvonne of South Dartmouth, MA; granddaughters, Jenny Rebecca Lawton and Katie Brooks Knotts both of Melbourne Beach, FL.

Friends were received December 13th from 5-7 p.m. at Brownlie-Maxwell Funeral Home. Funeral Services were held December 14th at 5 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Internment was at Lawtonville Cemetery, Estill, SC on December 16th at 11 a.m. Memorials may be made to the charity of choice.
Henry Matthew Crouch, Jr.
Died March 13, 2005

Born July 15, 1917 in Saluda, S.C., Mr. Crouch was the son of the late Henry Matthew Crouch Sr. and Jessie Hughes Crouch. Mr. Crouch attended Saluda High School and graduated in 1939 from Clemson College, where he majored in Agronomy. He served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant during World War II, seeing duty in the South Pacific. He retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in 1976 with more than 35 years of service in Barnwell, Bamberg, and Abbeville Counties. An active member of Barnwell Presbyterian Church for many years, he served as a deacon, elder and treasurer. He also served on the Building Committee for the current sanctuary. He was a charter member of the Lions Club of Barnwell.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Ruth King; a son, Henry King Crouch; a brother, Roger Crouch, Sr.; and a sister, Katie Sedell.

He is survived by his wife, Vertie S. Crouch; daughters and sons-in-law, Cynthia (John) Yost of Denver, Colo., Gayle (Joel) Goodrich of Gastonia, N.C., Sandra (Robert) Michelsen of Columbia, and Faye (Jack) Cowan of Charleston; sisters, Aline Sample and Elma Goddard of Columbia, Rachel Kauffmann of West Columbia, and Christine Shealy of Saluda; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family received friends at Barnwell Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, March 16 at 1 p.m., and a memorial service was held afterwards at the church at 2 p.m. with the Rev David Turner officiating. Internment followed at Barnwell County Memory Gardens. Mole Funeral Home of Barnwell was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorials maybe made to Barnwell Presbyterian Church.
George Albert Brodie
Died March 28, 2005

George Brodie passed away from cancer. He was born on July 24, 1918 in Wagener, SC, to Bessie Lybrand and Dr. John Holman Brodie. George attended Clemson University where he was a star baseball player and captain of the team in 1939. He graduated in 1939 and went to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Allendale, SC, until his retirement 40 years later from the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

He married Grace Winifred Blakney in 1941 and they lived in Allendale for the next 56 years. They were faithful members of Swallow Savannah United Methodist Church and active members of the community.

George was an outstanding amateur golfer, playing out of Fairdale Country Club, and a consistent winner on the SCGA tournament circuit.

In 1956, George and Grace built a second home on St. Helena Island near Beaufort, SC. It was there he learned his love for salt water fishing which is carried on by his children and grandchildren and great grandsons. He spent his last seven years at the house in St. Helena.

He is survived by his children, Susan and Don Brant (St. Helena), Jane and Rick Jones (Hartsville, SC), and Hall and Brenda Brodie (Atlanta, GA); his grandchildren, Lauren Brant, Colleen and Josh Brant, Anna Jones, Chris Jones, Layne Brodie and Kyle Brodie, and his two great grandsons, Zeke and Brodie Brant.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Thursday morning at the home of Don and Susan Brant, 155 Bay Point Road, Lands End with graveside services at 4 p.m. Thursday afternoon in Wagener Cemetery. He was buried in the Brodie plot next to his beloved Grace in Wagener Cemetery. Visitation was held prior to the memorial service at 10 a.m. Smith-Rhoden Funeral Home of Allendale was in charge of arrangements.

George requested that memorials be sent to Swallow Savannah United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 532, Allendale, SC 29810
Frank Watkins O'Neal
Died September 18, 2005

Lt. Col. Frank O'Neal of 2839 Fountainbleau S.W. Atlanta, GA 30331 died at the age of 88. He was born in Anderson, SC, the son of the late John Patrick O'Neal and the late Beulah McClure O'Neal Starbucks. After graduating from Boys High in Anderson, SC he attended Clemson College and majored in Horticulture, graduating in 1939. He was first married to the late Dela Land O'Neal, and was preceded in death by a sister, Mary O'Neal Polkinhon and a brother, John Patrick O'Neal, Jr. On March 3, 1982 he married Julie Montgomery.

From 1942 to 1965 Nelly was in the Transportation Corps of the US Army, traveling in the US, Europe, and the Far East. He retired as the Assistant Transportation Officer of the 3rd US Army.

Frank later served 20 years as Transportation Officer for Fort McPherson, GA, and did graduate study at Georgia State University, where he was PMS & T.

Frank's awards include the Medal for Human Action from the West German Government, the Chung Ju Medal with the Silver Star (DSM) from the Republic of Korea, and the Meritorious Service Award for Civilian Service from the Department of Defense.

Frank was president of the Protestant Men of the Chapel at Orleans, France and at Fort McPherson, GA.

At Clemson Frank served faithfully as Class Vice President and as chairman of the Class of '39 Reunion Committee.

Surviving are his wife Julie O'Neal of the home, three sons Don O'Neal and wife Moya of Silva, NC, Mike O'Neal and his wife Deane of Port St. Joe Beach, FL, Frank W. O'Neal, Jr. and his wife Valerie of Atlanta, GA; six grandchildren, Patrick, Sinead, Jim, Dela, Connor, and Ian; one sister Martha O'Neal McGee of Anderson, SC; one brother, Rudolph O'Neal of Anderson.

Family memorial services were held in Atlanta, GA on Wednesday Sept. 21, 2005. Burial was later in the National Cemetery of Marietta, GA.
Thomas Ernest Bell, Jr.
Died September 23, 2005

Thomas Bell, Jr. 88, of 4425 Columbia Road, Orangeburg, SC died at the Regional Medical Center. A native of Lydia, SC in Darlington County, Mr. Bell was the son of the late Thomas Ernest Bell, Sr. and Annie Sue Arnold Bell. Thomas graduated from Clemson College in 1939 with a major in Animal Husbandry and he lettered in baseball for the Tigers. In 1988 he received Clemson University's Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Agricultural Sciences.

After serving as a school teacher and coach, Mr. Bell served in the US Army's 32nd Infantry Division during WWII. He served for 39 months in the South Pacific Theater, participating in the New Guinea and Philippines Campaign. He received many awards and commendations, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star (Valor) and three Purple Hearts.

Mr. Bell became a farmer and livestock buyer for Hygrade Food Corporation and the Ralston-Purina Companies, and he was a resident of Orangeburg for 60 years.

Thomas Bell was a devoted member of the First Baptist Church of Orangeburg, SC and served in many capacities including Deacon, Trustee, and Sunday School Teacher. He was also active in many community and civic organizations including Lions International.

He was preceded in death by sisters Marion Bell of North Myrtle Beach, and Jean Bell of Lydia.

A memorial Service was held September 26, at the 1st Baptist Church of Orangeburg and was officiated by a friend and former pastor Leslie P. Branham of Lake City, SC and the current pastor, the Rev. Dr. Terry Peele.

Mr. Bell is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Cotton Bell of Orangeburg, two sons (1) Thomas Ernest Bell III and wife Kymberle of Stafford, VA; with grandchildren Colter, Jacob, and Amanda, (2) Robert Lawrence (Larry) Bell with wife Debbie of Atlanta GA with grandchildren Bonnie, Katie, Matt, and Thomas; a daughter, Barbara Bell Gibbons with husband Julian of Columbia, SC with grandchildren Andrew and Elizabeth; a brother Kenneth Bell of Clemson; and a sister Miriam Bell Forsythe of Montgomery, AL.

Visitation was held from 6-10 pm Sept. 25 at Dukes-Harley Funeral Home of Orangeburg.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, 1240 Russell St. Orangeburg, SC 29115.
Ralph Wendell Bridge  
Died September 23, 2005

Mr. Ralph Bridge, 87, of 1841 Highway 15 South, St. George died in Colleton Medical Center in Walterboro, SC. Funeral services were held September 28, 2005 at Grover United Methodist Church with the Rev. Michael Ritter officiating. Burial followed at St. George Cemetery. Pallbearers were Tracy Keller, Jarrod Keller, Carl Phillips, Clay Phillips, Gary McCraw, Mike Sitsch, Tom Gordon, Collins McCraw and Shuler Sitsch.

Mr. Bridge was born at Round 0 in Colleton County, SC, a son of the late Owen Guildford Bridge and Jamie Charlotte Garris Bridge. He was a graduate of Walterboro High School in 1935 and Clemson College 1939, where he received the Trustee Medal for Public Speaking. He retired after 29 years as Administrative Officer with the Soil Conservation Service in Dorchester County. A member of Grover United Methodist church, he was a former chairman of the Administrative Board, Sunday School teacher, Lay Speaker, and delegate to the Annual Conference. He was a member of the Harmony Lodge #61 AFM, where he served as Master in 1951, and of Scottish Rites Omar Shrine Temple, and Eastern Star Chapter #161, where he was past Worthy Patron. He was also a member of St. George Lions Club.

The most significant part of Mr. Bridges life was his marriage to the former Alva Mullally Shuler. A secret Christmas Eve elopement in 1937 began a love story that lasted almost 65 years. Mr. Bridge's wife, whom he endearingly called "Lally," preceded him in death Oct. 21, 2002.


Visitation was on September 27 at Bryant Funeral Home in St. George, SC.

Memorials may be made to Grover United Methodist Church, Grover SC 29447.
Dr. Thomas Stanfield, 87, of 2514 Jackson Square in Anderson, SC, died at his residence. Born January 23, 1918 in Waynesboro, TN, he was the son of the late Thomas Peyton and Leila Ann Hodge Stanfield. He was a Pre-Med student at Clemson College and graduated in 1939. He was Historian of the freshman class at Clemson. Later he was a graduate of the Medical University of SC.

Dr. Stanfield was US Army Veteran of WWII, serving as a Medic in the South Pacific.

Dr. Stanfield was in general practice in Abbeville, SC from 1947-1950. He then attended the state university of Iowa to specialize in ophthalmology. He moved to Anderson, SC in 1953 and worked with Gaines, Warder, and Stanfield. He was founding partner of Medicus.

Dr. Stanfield was member and past Exalted Ruler of Anderson Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. No. 1206, and was state president. He was a Shriner. He was a member of several civic organizations in Anderson SC and he was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Naples, Florida.

Surviving are widow Ethel Stanfield of Augusta, GA; daughters Marilyn Cato of Beaufort, SC and Susan and Mary Stanfield, both of Anderson, and Patricia Wilson of Pinellas Park, FL; son Thomas L. Stanfield of Centralia, IL; 16 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Erna W. Stanfield and two brothers Joseph and Lloyd Stanfield.

Services were at 11 am Sept. 29 at Sullivan-King Mortuary, Northeast Chapel, by the Rev. Jack Hardarvay; burial was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.
Joseph Gordon "Smitty" Smith
Died October 17, 2005

Gordon Smith, 91, of 529 Hedrick Drive, Statesville, NC, died at Iredale Memorial Hospital. Mr. Smith was born in Aiken, SC and was the son of the late James Jacob and Sarah Elizabeth Payne Smith. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Violet Miller Smith, on July 11, 2005. He was also preceded in death by his two brothers Harry and Herman Smith, and three sisters, Irma Kearse, Theo Scarborough, and Ruth Lavin.

In 1939 he graduated from Clemson Agricultural College with a BS degree in Textile Engineering. He served in the US Army from 1940 to 1945 and attained the rank of Captain. He saw service with the 24th Tank Battalion, 13th Armored Division in France and Germany.

He spent the majority of his career in the textile industry in management with United Merchants & Manufacturers.

Mr. Smith was a member of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, where was a member of the Young Men’s Sunday School Class. He was a Master Mason, Statesville Lodge 26 AF & AM, and a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a former member of the Statesville Kiwanis Club and a member and past-president of the Statesville Golden Age Kiwanis Club.

Gordon was an avid saltwater fisherman and an accomplished gardener. He propagated many azaleas from cuttings. Clemson football was one of his passions, and he was a long time member of IPTAY.

Mr. Smith is survived by two sons, Joseph G. “Chip” Smith, Jr. and wife Linda of Durham, and Jeffrey James Smith and wife Bea of Lenoir; two daughters, Penny S. Conine and husband Walter of Statesville, and Elizabeth S. Sleet of Houston, TX; eight grandchildren, Alice Dillard, Michelle Fields, W. Shelly Conine, David Conine, Dylan Young Smith, Shelley Young Smith, Ian Sleet, and Wesley Sleet; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church with the Rev. Thomas Corbell officiating. Burial followed in Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 740 Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677.
Blynn Edgar Scott
Died October 23, 2005

Blynn Scott, 88, of 400 Webber Road, Apartment D-3-4 at White Oak Estates in Spartanburg, SC died at his home on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2005. Born April 18, 1917, in Pasadena, CA, he was the son of the late Blynn and Harriett Baker Scott.

Mr. Scott was a 1939 graduate of Clemson College, where he majored in Agricultural Engineering. He worked for many years with Deering Milliken Company in Spartanburg where he retired in 1982.

Blynn was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg where he was a Deacon, Elder, Elder Emeritus, and a member of the Men's Bible Class. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and a retired Lt. Col. with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Survivors include his wife Sara Boyd Scott of the home; two sons, Blynn Boyd Scott and his wife Nancy of West Columbia, SC, and Richard Baxter Scott and his wife Margaret of Austin Texas; his sister Janet Heinbohel of Lancaster, PA; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister Sarah Thompson.

The family received friends at the home on Webber Road. Funeral Services were held at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, 2005, in the Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, conducted by the Rev. Larry Bates and the Rev. Julie Thompson. Burial was in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, 393 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29302, or to the charity of one's choice.
Henry E. Avent, Sr.
Died October 30, 2005

Services for Lt. Col. Henry Avent, 88, were held at 2 p.m. November 2 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, with burial in Sunset Memorial Park. Memorials may be made to St. Paul's Church, P.O. Box 587, Bennettsville, SC 29512; Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center, P.O. Box 250, Hendersonville, NC 28793-0250; or Clemson University Alumni Association, Class of 1939 Scholarship Endowment, Clemson University Foundation, P.O. Box 1889 Clemson, SC 29633.

Born in Jonesboro, NC, Mr. Avent was the son of the late John Joseph, Sr. and Eva Kirkham Avent. He was a 1939 graduate of Clemson with a B.S. degree in architecture and received his master's degree from Clemson in 1940. He practiced architecture in Winchester, KY and Columbia SC and was a certified architect in South Carolina. He served in the US Army Air Corps and the US Air Force during WWII, serving in Southeast Asia, in the China Burma India theater where he was assigned to the OSS (now CIA). He was a former military flight instructor in San Antonio, Houston, and Austin, Texas. The retired Lieutenant Colonel was reactivated in 1951, and was stationed in Cape Canaveral until 1953.

Henry moved to Bennettsville in 1953 and purchased the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company. He was past chairman of the board of Carolina Canners, Inc. and was past chairman of the Stingray Boat Company. He was an 84 year member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and was Vestry Emeritus. He was a member of the Board of Directors and Board of Visitors at the Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center. He was a member of the Rotary Club and was Paul Harris Fellow, was a past president of the Bennettsville Chamber of Commerce and a past board member of the SC Chamber of Commerce, a past board member of the SC National Bank, a Shriner and a Kentucky Colonel. He was a past chairman of the Marlboro County Airport Commission, of which the H.E. Avent Marlboro County Jetport bears his name. He was a member of the Clemson University Board of Visitors and was a former volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, and was active in the Air Force Reserve. He was a life member of the Flying Tigers, 14th Air Force Association and an active member of the 66th Fighter Wing Association. He participated in various philanthropic causes throughout his life.

He was first married to the late Nancy Slade Avent, formerly of Lexington, KY.

Surviving are his wife Mrs. Louise Krawietz Avent of Bennettsville, sons, Rev. Henry E. Avent, Jr. (Gloria) of Charleston, Mark S. Avent Sr. (Jimmy Carol), and Barry G. Avent (Julie), both of Bennettsville; stepdaughters, Lisa and Starly and Melinda Stone; and eight grandchildren.
Alexander Gibert Speer
Died December 11, 2005

Alex G. Speer, 87, formerly of Asheboro, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005, at High Point Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at Pugh Funeral Home, Asheboro, with the Rev. W. Russell Ward Jr. officiating. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery in Asheboro.

He was a native of Anderson and a 1939 graduate of Clemson University. He married Annie Hughes in 1939 in Charleston, who predeceased him. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, serving in Germany with an army tank division, reaching the grade of Captain. Following the war he worked for Burlington Industries for 27 years, retiring as a manager of that company. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Asheboro.

Surviving are sons, Alex G. Speer Jr. of Charlotte, J. David Speer of Fort Worth, Texas; brothers, John Speer of Huntington, W.Va., William Speer of Long Island, N.Y.; and two grandchildren, Leslie and Alexandra, both of whom live in Texas..

The family received friends at the funeral home 1-2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16.

Memorials may be made to Presbyterian Home of High Point Foundation, 201 Greensboro Road, #500, High Point, N.C. 27263.
Curtis William "Penny" Pennington
Died April 11, 2006

Mr. Pennington, 91, of Starr, SC, husband of the late Anna Dean Jones Pennington, died at Willow Creek Nursing Home in Iva, SC. He grew up on a farm in Wrens, GA, the third son of Reesey W. and Annie Mae Evans Pennington. He was predeceased by brothers Ralph and Paul and is survived by brother George.

A standout athlete, he received a football scholarship to Clemson College in 1935, and played under Coach Jess Nealey. He graduated from Clemson in 1939 with a degree in Agricultural Education and became an "Ag" teacher at Starr High School. At Starr, he met and in 1940 married local girl Anna Dean Jones, a graduate of Lander College. After four years of teaching at Iva, he changed schools and taught at Anderson Boys High School for 17 years. In summers he ran the county cannery.

Curtis became principal of Starr Elementary School in 1963, and four years later was named Superintendent of Anderson School District 3, a position he held until retiring in 1982. He earlier had earned a Masters degree from Clemson, and served on the South Carolina Board of Education and on the state's first Agricultural Committee. He believed that education was essential for a better life, but he never forgot his farming background. In recognition of his service to the state, he was presented the Order of the Palmetto in 1994. He was a member of the Starr United Methodist Church.

Survivors include three children Curtis, Jr., Deanna Pennington, and Elizabeth Pennington Newall (Editor of Clemson World); and three grandchildren Ellie Newall Powell, Trey Pennington, and Will Newall.

The funeral service was held Thursday, April 13 at 3 p.m. in the chapel of McDougal Funeral Home, officiated by Rev. Jeff Roper. Interment followed in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Anderson.
James Blakely, 88, of 321 Couch Lane in Easley, died at Palmetto Health Baptist of Easley. Born in Edgefield, Mr. Blakely graduated from Clemson Agricultural College in 1939 with a major in Vocational Agricultural Education. He taught school at Easley High School and Hickory Grove, SC and later at the B.J. Skelton Career Center.

A member of Easley Presbyterian Church, he was a former deacon, elder, and Sunday School teacher. He was a US Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific theater and attaining the rank of Major.

Surviving are his wife, Frances McMahan Blakely; two sons, James Blakely, and David Blakely and his wife Barbara, all of Atlanta; a daughter and son-in-law Susan and Scott Whitlock of Atlanta; a sister Carolyn Blakely; and seven grandchildren, Daniel and Linda Blakely, Blake and Lacy Whitlock, and Elizabeth, Emily and William Blakely. Mr. Blakely was predeceased by a son, Robert William Blakely, and a daughter-in-law Jane Blakely.

Funeral services were held in the Chapel of Reflection Mausoleum at Robinson Memorial Gardens, 1425 Powdersviolle Road, Easley, with the Reverand Dr. Bill Seel officiating.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one’s choice. The family is at the home.
Ann Gayle Jones  
Died August 2, 2005

Ann Gayle Plummer Jones, 86, widow of Ulysses Simpson Jones who was an Honorary Member of the Clemson Class of 1939, died at her home on August 3, 2005. They settled in Clemson 45 years ago. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, she was the daughter of Leaven Bristor Plummer and Josephine Wright. She attended Fairmount College in Washington, D.C., where she excelled in the arts of drama and poetry.

She was a life-long Episcopalian and served on the Altar Guild at Holy Trinity Parish for many of her early years in Clemson. She was a former member of the Clemson University Woman's Club and a member of the Browsers Book Club, the Military Wives' Club and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. She enthusiastically accompanied her husband on various international lectureships.

She is survived by a daughter, Josephine Jones Allen, and her husband, John, of Clemson; two granddaughters, Ann Allen Hollinger and her husband, Scott, of Grapevine, Texas, and Emery Allen DeWitt and her husband, David, of Darlington; and four great grandsons, John and Joseph Hollinger and Allen and Kemp DeWitt.

A Memorial service was held on August 9th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton. The family received friends after the service. At a later date she will be interred beside her husband at Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for the preservation of St. Paul's in Pendleton or to the charity of one's choice.
Delphene Broome Thomson
Died February 23, 2006

Delphene Thomson, 89, of 1208 Roe Ford Road, Greenville, and formerly of Landrum, SC, died at Brighton Gardens in Greenville, SC. A native of Landrum, she was the daughter of the late Edward Lee and Myrtle Bridges Broome, and the widow of the late Barham F. Thomson, Jr., a graduate of the Clemson Class of 1939.

Mrs. Thomson was a 1938 graduate of Lander College, and a retired teacher, and was a member of the Landrum United Methodist Church. She is survived by a son, Barham F. Thomson, III of Jacksonville, FL; two daughters, Linda Williams of Landrum, SC and Susan Shi of Greenville, SC; a sister, Cleo Bradley of Hickory, NC; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 26 at the Landrum United Methodist Church, conducted by Rev. Jane Jenkins and Rev. Homer Bradley. The family received friends before the service at the church. Burial in Evergreen Memorial Gardens was conducted by the Petty Funeral Home of Landrum.

Memorials may be made to the Employee Fund at Brighton Gardens Skilled Nursing Center, 1306 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615.
Violet Miller Smith

Died July 11, 2005

Mrs. Violet "Vi" Elizabeth Miller Smith, 89 of 529 Hedrick Dr., died Monday, July 11, 2005 at Iredell Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Smith was born on Aug. 13, 1915 in Green Bay, Wis., and was the daughter of the late Frank and Lillian Miller. She was survived by her husband of 64 years, Joseph Gordon Smith, by only a few months.

She was a registered nurse and a graduate of Bellin Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Green Bay, Wis. She was commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Corps and served in the American Red Cross Nursing Service.

She was a former member of the Statesville Woman's Club and was an avid gardener. She was also a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Smith is survived by two sons, Joseph Gordon Smith, Jr. and wife Linda of Durham and Jeffrey James Smith and wife, Bea, of Lenoir; two daughters, Elizabeth "Liz" Sleet of Houston, Texas and Penny S. Conine and husband Walter, of Statesville; eight grandchildren, Alice Dillard, Michelle Fields, W. Ashley Conine, David Conine, Dylan Young Smith, Ian Sleet and Wesley Sleet; five great-grandchildren; and one sister, Hazel Miller of San Mateo, Calif.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, July 14 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church with the Rev. Thomas Corbell officiating. A private burial followed in Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, 740 N. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677.

Nicholson Funeral Home served the family of Mrs. Smith.
The Great Class

Of

Nineteen Hundred

and

Thirty Nine
ROSTER OF THE

★ Edward P. Abrams
★ John A. Adden Jr.
★ Luther R. Ambrose Jr.
★ Joseph F. Anderson Sr.
★ Robert F. Anderson
★ William D. Anderson Jr.
★ Thomas B. Ard
★ Charles M. Aull Sr.
★ Thomas J. Austin
★ Henry E. Avent Sr.
★ Harry C. Avinger
★ L. Charles Bailes
★ J. Robert Bailey
★ Thomas R. Bainbridge
★ Marion C.L. Baldwin
★ Virgil A. Ballard
★ Charles D. Ballenger
★ Carroll F. Ballentine
★ Robert A. Banister
★ Timothy W. Barrineau Sr.
★ John S. Baskin
★ Thomas P. Baskin Jr.
★ Harris L. Beach Sr.
★ William A. Beasley
★ Thomas E. Bell Jr.
★ F. Dewitt Benson
★ Carl V. Black
★ Joseph W. Black
★ Guy E. Blackwell
★ Irvin C. Blake
★ J. Roger Blakely
★ L. James Blakely Jr.
★ R. Harper Blakley
★ Furman G. Bobo
★ Hoyt U. Bookhart Jr.
★ Harold W. Boozer
★ Theodore J. Boselli
★ Ernest O. Botts Jr.
★ Stanley J. Boyd
★ William B. Boyle
★ F. Lee Boylston
★ Ralph W. Boys
★ Fred H. Bozard
★ James H. Bracey
★ William E. Brackett Jr.
★ John F. Brailsford Sr.
★ Rhett M. Bratton
★ Thomas W. Brice Jr.
★ Ralph W. Bridge
★ George A. Brodie
★ Eugene R. Brown
★ William C. Bryan Jr.
★ Frank J. Bryce
★ David E. Burrell Jr.
★ Richard H. Burton
★ James H. Byington Jr.
★ William T. Cain
★ William B. Caldwell
★ Fred H.H. Calhoun Jr.
★ Benjamin O. Cantey
★ William B. Capell
★ William A. Carlisle
★ Paavo Carlson
★ B. Frank Carruth
★ Robert G. Carson Jr.
★ Willis S. Cason
★ John W. Cathcart II
★ T. Max Champion
★ James R. Chandler
★ John F. Chandler
★ A. Hugh Chapman Jr.
★ A. Dewitte Chapman
★ Philip B. Chovan
★ Louis A. Citron
★ Edwin E. Clayton
★ Charles S. Clyburn Sr.
★ William O. Cofer
★ G. Ray Coker Sr.
★ James M. Cole
★ Alan J. Coleman
★ Robert W. Coleman Jr.
★ W. Desportes Coleman Jr.
★ William J. Coleman
★ William S. Coleman Sr.
★ J. Clinton Cook Jr.
★ Henry M. Cooper
★ James F. Copeland Jr.
★ Otis L. Copeland Jr.
★ Harry H. Cosgrove Jr.
★ Henry M. Covington
★ James C. Covington Jr.
★ Walter T. Cox Jr.
★ Newell D. Crawford Sr.
★ Martin Crook Jr.
★ David D. Crosby
★ Henry M. Crouch Jr.
★ Fred E. Culvern Jr.
★ George L. Cunningham
★ Joseph R. Cunningham
★ N. Rhett Davis Jr.
★ W. Cantey Davis Jr.
★ Patrick Dennis
★ Charles A. Dewey Jr.
★ Theron W. Dillard
★ Joseph E. Dixon
★ Roy M. Dobson
★ Jules T. Doux
★ Philip N. Drew
★ Guignard R. Dubose
★ Oscar S. Dukes
★ Frederick A. Dunlap Jr.
★ Frampston W. Durban
★ John E. Duvall
★ Ryan H. Edwards
★ J. Paul Emerson
★ Andrew M. Evans
★ Joseph W. Everett
★ Harry Feinstein
★ James H. Ferguson Jr.
★ Roy J. Ferree
★ Robert B. Pickling
★ John W. Finney Jr.
★ Frank M. Fleming
★ John W. Flowers
★ Paul G. Ford
★ John W. Fortner
★ Richard F. Jackson Jr.
★ Wister O. Jackson Jr.
<table>
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<th>Years</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Secretary/Treasurer</th>
<th>Historian</th>
<th>Necrologist</th>
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<td>1966-1969</td>
<td>P.A. Gantt</td>
<td>T.L. Senn</td>
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<td>1969-1971</td>
<td>W.R. Wise</td>
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<td>1975-1977</td>
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<td>1979-1981</td>
<td>W.B. Zeigler</td>
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HONORARY MEMBERS

of the

Class of '39

James R. Adkins - 2005
Mark S. Avent - 2001
Larry L. Bauer - ♥ 1998
Ashby B. Bodine - ♥ 1993
Joel V. Brawley - ♥ 1990
Chalmers M. Butler - ♥ 1997
Frank J. Cox - 2001
Clifton S.M. Egan - ♥ 2000
Mark R. Eisengrein - 1989
Beth C. Farmer - 1994
Dixie G. Goswami - ♥ 1989
Cecil O. Huey - ♥ 1994
John L. Idol - ♥ 1991
Jeannie Kelly - 1997
Adrienne Labranche - 2000
Robert L. LaForge - ♥ 1996
Francis A. McGuire - ♥ 1995
Judith M. Melton - ♥ 1999
William N. Miller - 1996
Carolyn Robinson - 2000
David L. Senn - 1996
Virginia G. Senn - 1996
Benjamin L. Sill - ♥ 2005
Elton W. Shepherd Jr. - 1989
Cathy T. Sturkie - 1998
D. Kinly Sturkie - ♥ 2003
Lolly Tai - 1995
Raymond C. Turner - ♥ 1992
Jerry A. Waldvogel - ♥ 2001
Byron K. Webb - 2001
Alfred P. (Hap) Wheeler - ♥ 2002
Arthur P. Young - ♥ 2004

plus

All widows of deceased classmates

Note: ♥ = Faculty Award for Excellence
★ = Deceased

27
The purpose of the Reunion Committee is to plan, organize and conduct class meetings, especially including the annual reunion in June.
HERITAGE GARDEN COMMITTEE

A Standing Committee
of the Class of '39

★ Bobby Avent
Mark Avent '80
★ Bill Carlisle
Frank Cox '68
Walter Cox
Don Hutchinson
Elliott Loyless
★ Frank O'Neal
David Senn '75
Chief Shepherd, Rutgers '67
★ Tommy Thomson
Bud Webb '55
★ Russ Wolfe
Bill Zeigler
Jim Sweeny, Chairman
Tee Senn (Ex Officio)

Shep Shepherd (Emeritus)
★ George Williams (Honorary)

The function of the Heritage Gardens Committee is to oversee the design, construction, and long-term maintenance, in coordination with appropriate University administrative operations, of the Clemson University Heritage Gardens.

★ = Deceased
A Trend Reverses

In the morning of April 26, 2006, our class numbered 96 living members. By nightfall that same day, we numbered 97. These pages tell how that happy event came about.

The family of Herbert D. Tibbs, Clemson University and Clemson University Foundation cordially invite you to a luncheon to be held at the Madren Center in Clemson, South Carolina on April 26, 2006 at 12 o'clock. A graduation ceremony entering Mr. Tibbs into the Class of 1939 will follow at 2 o'clock in the Office of the President, 201 Sikes Hall, on the University campus.

RSVP (864)656-0237 or lockaby@clemson.edu

An invitation to your class officers

Herbert Tibbs (center) with new classmates and friends
President Barker, with Trustee McKissick, presents to Herbert his diploma, welcoming him into the fraternity of Clemson alumni.

Class President Tee Senn presents to Herbert our class history, welcoming him into the fraternity of the Class of 1939.
Now meet our new classmate

John Herbert Tibbs '39

Herbert hails from Great Falls, SC. In 1932 he entered Clemson College, where he majored in Mechanical Engineering. When graduation time came four years later, he lacked one lab class credit necessary for a diploma, so he took his education and convinced Duke Power Company that it was enough. It proved to be, for during the next forty plus years he had a very successful career with Duke, during which he married Frances, and had a family of two boys (John and Harry '70) and one girl (Olivia Tibbs Wilkie). Along the way he took a summer course at Auburn, credit for which got into a wrong file at Clemson. So still no diploma. He retired in 1969 after having been manager of Duke's hydro plant in Great Falls for the previous ten years.

Last year his family decided that Herbert needed that missing diploma, so they contacted the Alumni Association for help. A search of the records determined that by 1939 Herbert had acquired enough extra credits to entitle him to a diploma. The case was presented to the administration, approved by both the ME Department and the Board of Trustees, and the decision made that Herbert would become a member of the Class of 1939.

So on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, the family and Alumni Association hosted a luncheon for all participants, and at 2 p.m. that afternoon President Barker presented Herbert with his diploma, granting him a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. And so he also then became one of us. Thanks to his loving family, Herbert now owns a Clemson ring showing the year 1939.

We welcome Herbert to the class, look forward to getting to know him, and hope that he will take an active interest in our class activities.
The Heritage Gardens
A Class of '39 Initiative
Progress Report

In 2005 a major element of the Heritage Gardens was essentially completed, and a dedication ceremony was held in September.

Heritage Garden Amphitheater

given by a member of the Class of 1939 in honor
of his class to Clemson University
and the South Carolina Botanical Garden

Friday, September 15, 2005

Dr. John W. Kelly
Vice President for Public Service & Agriculture
Director, South Carolina Botanical Garden

Mr. James O. Sweeney
Heritage Gardens Committee, Class of 1939
Late in 2005 a new project was begun, sponsored by the Class of 1989. The first new table of the Picnic Garden was unveiled in January before a dedicated group of '39ers. This project is scheduled for completion in 2009.

The Picnic Garden Committee of Clemson's Centennial Class of 1989 and The Heritage Gardens Committee of Clemson's Golden Anniversary Class of 1939 cordially invite you to attend the unveiling of the first of several new picnic tables in the refurbishing of the picnic grounds in the Botanical Garden by the Class of 1989.

Friday, January 6th, at 3:30 p.m.
We welcome the Faculty Selection for the Class of 1939 Award for Excellence For the year 2005
Dr. Benjamin L. Sill
Award for Excellence - 2005

Benjamin L. Sill
Alumni Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering, Clemson University

1967 - BS. (Aerospace Engineering) - N.C. State University Raleigh, NC
1968 - M.S. (Aerospace Engineering) - N.C. State University Raleigh, NC
1973 - Ph.D. (Aerospace & Ocean Engg.) - VPI Blacksburg, VA

Research Engineer Naval Ordinance Station, MD 1968 - 1971
Staff Environmental Engineer Duke Power Company 1973 - 1976
Professor of Civil Engg.and Engg. Mechanics Clemson University 1983 - Date
Director, General Engineering Program Clemson University 1999 - Date

In the Civil Engineering Department, Ben specializes in fluid flow, wind storm effects, turbulent jet mixing and evaporation from open water bodies. He was one of the founders of Clemson's Wind Load Test Facility, among the top three such facilities in the U.S. When he became Director of the General Engineering Program (home for first-year engineering students at Clemson) in 1999, it had 2000 square feet of floor space, no research funding, and no publications. Under his leadership its floor space has grown to over 9000 square feet, it has received over $2,000,000 in research funds, and produces an average of over 10 publications each year. General Engineering has established Clemson's first Living Learning Community and its first innovative SCALE UP classroom. Its new Project Lab completes over 500 engineering team projects each year.

Ben's personal work product includes over 80 technical papers, service as principle or co-principle investigator for over $7,500,000 in research funding, and over 25 masters and Ph.D graduates. He has received the Civil Engineering Outstanding Teacher Award (twice), the McQueen Quattlebaum Faculty Achievement Award, and the University's Alumni Research Award, the Prince Award for innovation in Teaching, and the Trustees' Faculty Excellence Award.

If anyone can be called a whole person, it is surely Ben. He is an Elder in his church, teaches Senior High Sunday School, and lectures on a variety of subjects including ancient coins, wild flowers, bromeliads, snakes and birds, hurricanes, and even funny highway signs. He has authored three humorous books on birds and co-authored technical articles on snakes, frogs, fish, and volleyball. Somehow he finds time to collect coins and stamps and other miscellany, hybridize bromeliads, remove snakes on call, and even write poetry. Spare time?
Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at the Bell Tower

Connie Lee eulogizes the Sill family

While Tee blesses all

Jim Sweeny gives Ben Sill the bell replica, and Champ gives him the class history. Then Ben acknowledges the award, thanking both the Faculty Senate and the class.

Ben's bevy of beautiful bell(e)s

'39ers and honoraries proudly join Ben at the bell.
A Very Special Event

The Faculty Senate invites you and your guest to join in a celebration to honor the Clemson University Great Class of '39 on Monday, January 9, 2006 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The Madren Center

Dress: Coat and Tie Cocktail

Music will be provided
It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all. The Faculty Senate outdid itself again! Those hors d'oeuvres were really heavy-and delicious, as Whirl and Molly will soon know. And the string quartet made the evening magical. Fellowship prevailed. Here Tee chats with Faculty Senate President Connie Lee and Jim Sweeney, Jr., while Walter entertains Ray and Fran Turner. Finally, everyone took their seats (except one inveterate table hopper); the formalities began as Connie introduced Ben Sill, 2005 Award for Excellence winner. Ben talked of his many interests, read a poem (see next page), and showed us why students flock to his classes. This wonderful evening ended with a book signing by the authors, Jerry Waldvogel and Mary Haque, their book a gift to the class by the faculty.
Here's to the graduates of nineteen thirty-nine!
You represent Clemson with class.
A brotherhood that is ever so fine.
To you we all raise our glass.

With honor you've served both your school and your nation
Here's to you! All the best! Here today!
Indeed you are the "Great Generation,"
A beacon - you've shown us the way.

You've always come through again and again.
You never have said, "It's no use!"
You've worked arm in arm, as cars on a train
From the engine back to the caboose.

So here's to your sweat and ideas every one
You've made such a difference right here
God speed to you and to those who have gone
Your legacy rings true and clear.
Looking back to

The Great Reunion of 2005

Attendees

Front row:
Frank O’Neal
Bill Zeigler
Champ Jones
J.C. “Cubby” Covington
Tee Senn

Center Row:
Walter Cox
Tom Baskin
Jim Sweeny
Phil McCorkle

Back row:
Elliott Loyless
Ralph Boys
RESOLUTION CONFERRING TO

THE GREAT CLASS OF '39

STATUS AS HONORARY FACULTY SENATORS

FS00-9-1 P

Whereas, Members of the Great Class of '39 respect and believe in the importance of Faculty and its impact on students and the future of Clemson University; and

Whereas, The Faculty Senate has in the recent past formally honored and celebrated the Great Class of ’39 for its trust and confidence in and recognition of the Faculty of Clemson University; and

Whereas, The Great Class of ’39 has continued to value and espouse the philosophy of the Faculty Senate, the representative assembly of the Faculty, and has often shared these views with others;

Resolved, That the 2000-2001 Clemson University Faculty Senate proudly confers the distinction of Honorary Faculty Senator to all members and spouses of the Great Class of ’39.

Passed by the Faculty Senate on September 12, 2000
Medal of the

*Class of '39 Award for Excellence*