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Oktibbeha County Area Brochure

Hal Fox, Jr.

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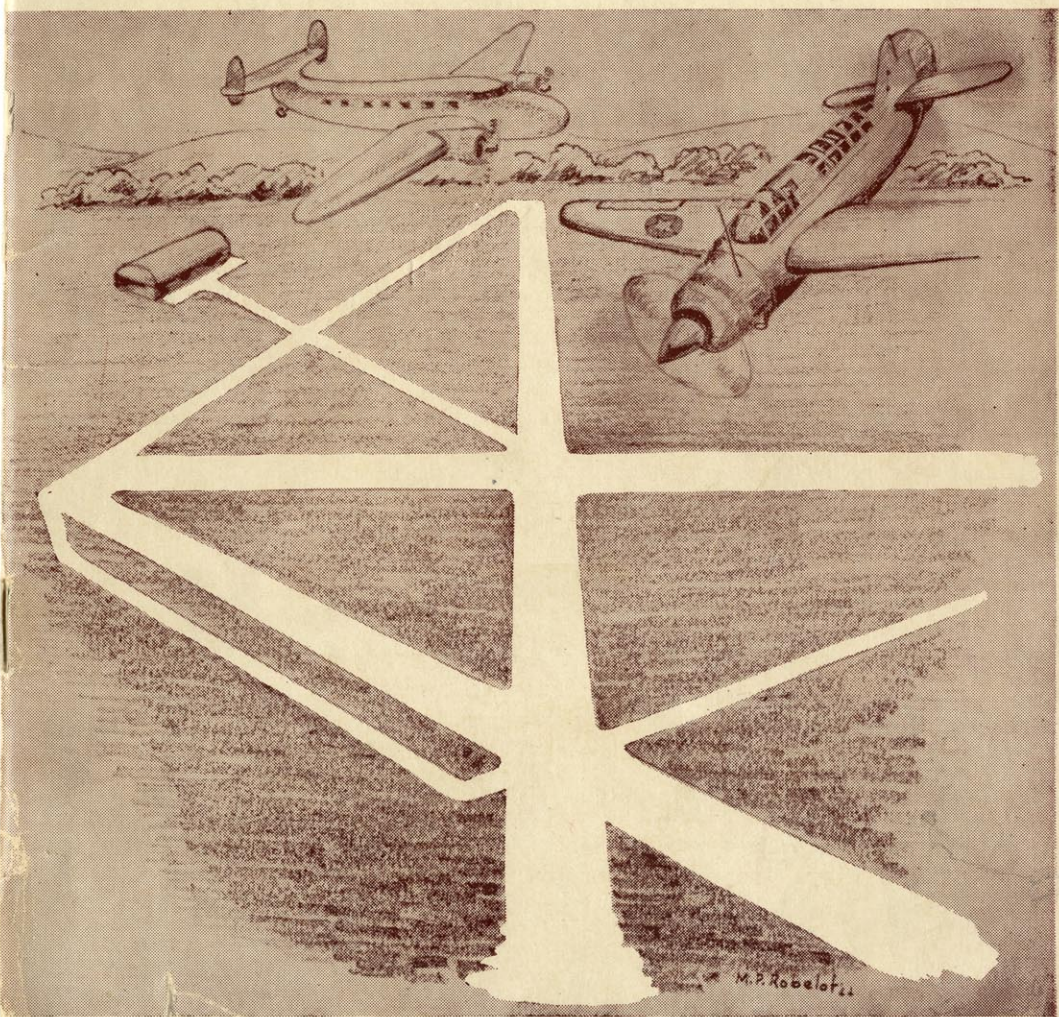
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MSU: History



STARKVILLE MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLEGE COUNTY OF OKTIBBEHA



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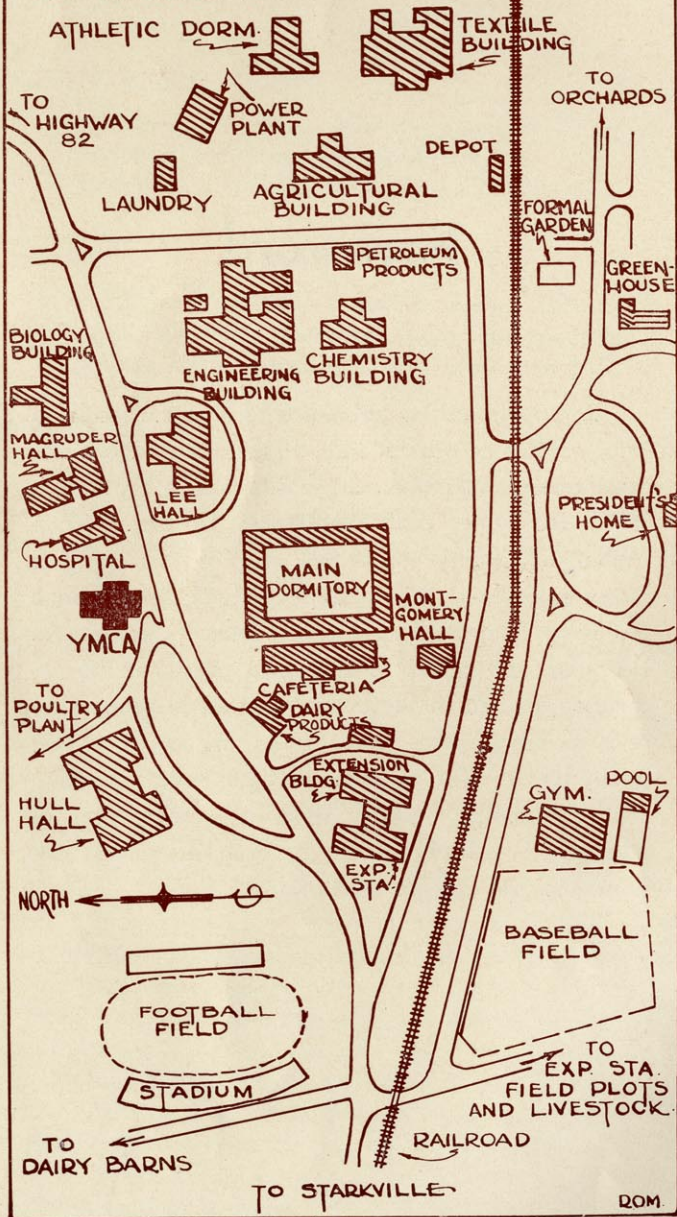
COVER PAGE

An artist's conception of the central points of the \$3,000,000 Starkville Municipal Airport. This field, located only one and one-tenth miles from the city limits, contains 654 acres with three hard-surface runways 5,300 feet in length. Taxi strips almost encircle the field. It is well-lighted, equipped with revolving beacon and runway lights, for night flying. For a decade, airmen and engineers have considered this as one of the South's finest airports. The airport is not a war project but is a result of years of municipal planning. It is expected to play a large part in the activities of this section of Mississippi after the war.

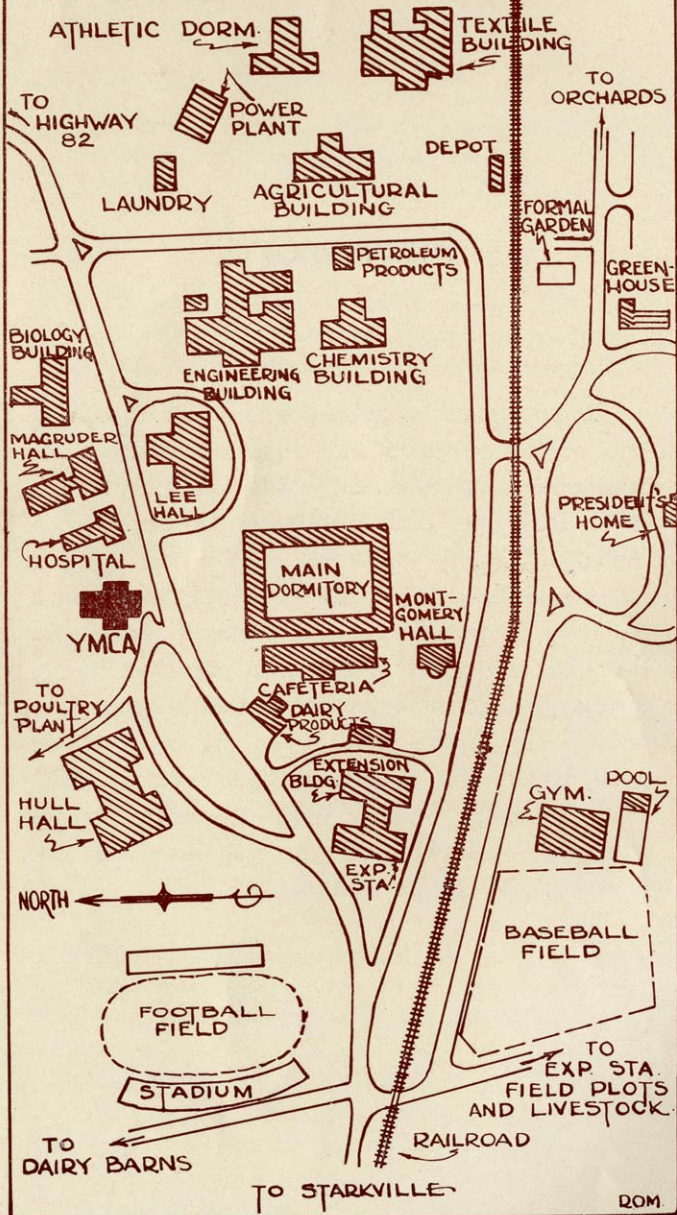
Foreword

The purpose of this booklet is to give the reader a brief survey of educational, industrial and agricultural advantages offered by Mississippi State College, Starkville and Oktibbeha County. While higher education constitutes one of the county's major enterprises, Oktibbeha County is also perhaps the most intensified dairying center in the South. Dairying and allied farming are promoted by industries located in Starkville devoted to processing and manufacturing products produced from fine Jersey herds. The publishers of this booklet believe that Oktibbeha County, with its combination of education, industry and agriculture, offers advantages that are second to none.

MAP SHOWING CENTRAL POINTS OF STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS.



MAP SHOWING CENTRAL POINTS OF STATE COLLEGE CAMPUS.





Lee Hall

Mississippi State College

Mississippi State College is dedicated to serving the people of Mississippi, both those who come to the campus and those who do not.

It is often difficult to render the needed services, but it has been the policy of the present administration of Mississippi State College to try to find a way to finance whatever services our institution should render the people of the State. Where a need for service exists, an economic justification of the service also exists.

The future of Mississippi State College, as well as the future of Mississippi, lies in the development of business, industry, and agriculture. The College is therefore dedicated, in its educational activities, to a program of industrial and agricultural development that will promote the economic welfare of the State and bring about a richer, fuller life for all of its people. G. D. HUMPHREY, President.

A Brief History of Mississippi State College

Mississippi State College was established in 1878 when the State Legislature accepted the provisions of the Morrill Land Grant Act, approved June 2, 1862, which donated to each state by the National Government public land script equal to 30,000 acres for each senator and representative in Congress.

The College (then known as Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College) opened its doors to students in the fall of 1880 with an enrollment of 350, all of whom were obliged to take agricultural courses—the only ones offered at that time.

Expansion of functions started in 1887 when, in order to gather scientific information for instruction in agriculture, a system of experiment stations was inaugurated. Since then branch stations have been established in five major soil-type sections in the state to augment the research program of the central station located at the College.

The curriculum was revised in 1892, separating instruction into agriculture and mechanic arts, these later developing into the Schools of Agriculture and Engineering. The School of Science was decreed in 1911, followed by the School of Business Administration in 1915. In 1935 the Board of Trustees sanctioned the recommendation to add a School of Education.

The Agricultural Extension Service is also a part of the College, being directly under the administration of the President. In addition, the State Chemical Laboratory, the State Plant Board, the State Seed Testing Laboratory, State Petroleum Laboratory, and the Mississippi Business Research Station are located at the College.

The grounds of the College comprise about 4,200 acres including farms, pasture and woodlands of the Experiment Station. The campus proper includes more than 700 acres. It is rolling, well-drained and covered with shade trees. The appraised valuation of the grounds, plant and equipment is approximately \$6,000,000.

Mississippi State College is maintained by State and Federal appropriations and small tuition fees paid by students.

The College is located one and a half miles from the business district of the city of Starkville.



The Biology Building

General Program

The work at Mississippi State College is organized in divisions as follows:

Academic Division: This includes resident instruction in regular collegiate classes, graduate classes, short courses, and other forms

Page Five

General Program (Continued)

of teaching and practical work, provided in classroom and laboratory.

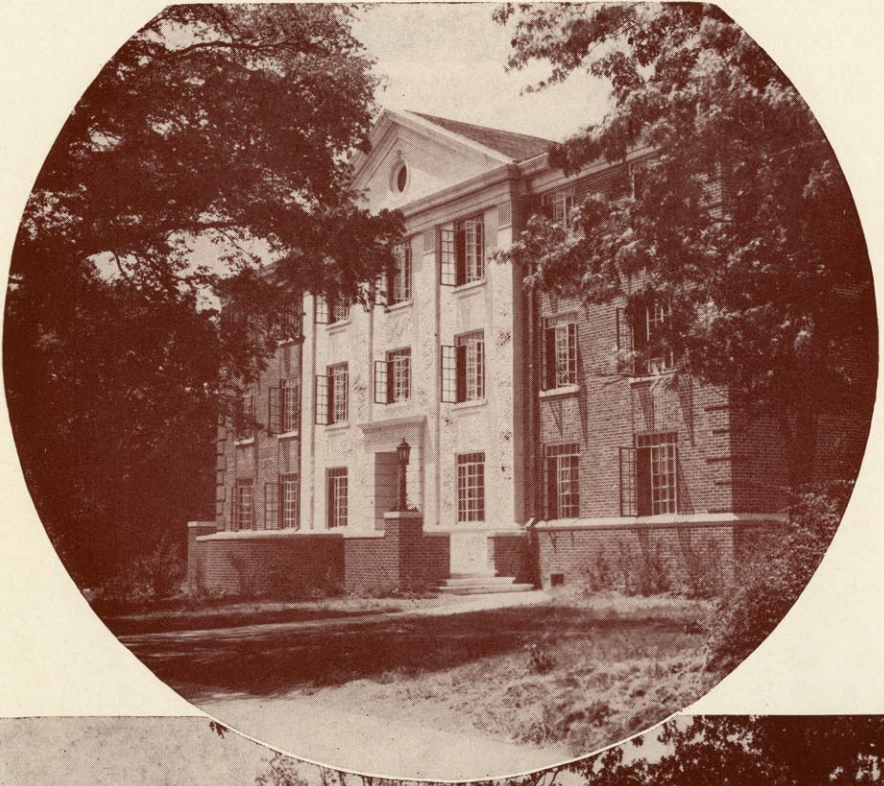
The Bachelor of Science degree is conferred by the Schools of Agriculture, Engineering, Science, Business and Industry, and Education. Graduate work for which a Master's degree in either of the schools may be earned is administered by the Graduate School.

Instruction at the College is designed, while requiring English, history and ideals of institutions of government, (1) to develop the minds and interest of the students in the knowledge of the sciences that underlie agriculture and mechanic arts, (2) to impart accurate and expert knowledge of the subject matter involved in these activities and insofar as possible, to provide practical experience in them, (3) to produce leaders trained for handling the business problems inseparably connected with successful agriculture and industrial work, (4) to offer professional and technical training for the successful teaching of these branches in the secondary schools.

It is the purpose of the College in its entire program of instruction that the work shall be thorough and of a high grade. Its teaching staff consists of well-trained men, who know not only theory but also practice. Many of them are nationally known leaders in their fields. The entrance requirements of 15 Carnegie Units are equal to those of the best colleges and universities throughout the country. As a member of the Southern Association of Colleges, the work done at Mississippi State is accepted by the leading colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Extension Teaching Service: The Extension Teaching Service is one of the means whereby Mississippi State College, an institution financed by popular support and a part of the public education system of the State, makes its resource available not only to those privileged to reside on its campus but also to every citizen interested in learning about the myriad problems of modern life.

This service offers extramural instructional services, both credit and non-credit in nature, carried on by correspondence, at regular extension centers, and through concentrated short courses. Its activities also include maintenance of a loan library service and a forum and lecture service carried on in cooperation with the State Department of Education.



Hull and Magruder Halls

Student Activities

Mississippi State College students have the opportunity to engage in many fields of activity, the largest and most important organization being the Student Association which is formed of the student body. Affairs of the Student Association are guided by student-elected officers who in turn are counselled by faculty members and the president. Its chief duties are to hold meetings for the discussion of matters of interest to the students and to supervise student elections and activities.

The Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association are the officially recognized religious organizations of men and women students. Since the College is a non-sectarian institution, its development of Christian character is fostered by close cooperation of all churches in the city of Starkville, namely, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Church of Christ, and Catholic.

Students interested in music have the opportunity of becoming a member of the Mississippi State College Maroon Band, the Military Band, The Glee Club, or a member of one of the college dance orchestras.

Student publications include *The Reflector*, an eight page weekly newspaper devoted to topics of interest primarily to the students, which is edited and managed by a staff elected by the student body. *The Reveille* is the College annual published by a staff elected by the students and is under the direction of the Student Association. *The Mis-A-Sip* is the monthly humor magazine published monthly during the regular session.

Student activity expresses itself in the Debate Council, Debate Club, Debate Team, Agricultural Club, Block and Bridle (Animal Husbandry), American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, International Relations Club, "M" Club (Athletes), 4-H Club, Colonel Club, Catholic Club, Aero Club, Future Farmers of America, Chemical Engineering Club, Agronomy Club, Dairy Club, Horticultural Club, Varsity Club (Dramatics), The Commerce Club, and The Radio Club.

(Student Activities Continued)

National social fraternities are Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Tau, Phi Kappa Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Pi, and Theta Xi.

National sororities are Chi Omega and Zeta Tau Alpha.

The following national honorary societies are represented on the campus: Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-medical), Alpha Tau Alpha (Agricultural Education), Alpha Zeta (Agriculture), Beta Beta Beta (Biology), Blue Key (Student Activities), Kappa Mu Epsilon (Mathematics), Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership), Phi Eta Sigma (Freshman Scholastic), Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science), Pi Kappa Delta (Forensic), Pi Omega Pi (Commercial), Scabbard and Blade (Military), Tau Beta Pi (Engineering).



The YMCA—Center of Student Activities

Athletics

Mississippi State College is a member of the Southeastern Conference, which includes in its membership twelve of the leading colleges and universities of the South. Regulations regarding participation in athletics are subject to the action of this conference.

Like most Southern colleges, Mississippi State's most outstanding sport is football and many of its teams have attained national recognition, including a number of invitations to various bowls for New Year's Day Classics. Honors for the most successful grid season at Mississippi State probably should go to the 1940 football team which emerged undefeated from its season, later trouncing Georgetown 14 to 7 in the Orange Bowl at Miami.

Although once defeated, the 1941 team emerged from a highly successful season with the championship of the powerful Southeastern Conference.

The 1940 team piled up 247 points to its opponents' 58 as the following Tabulation indicates:

Mississippi State	27	Florida	7
Mississippi State	20	Southwestern Louisiana	0
Mississippi State	7	Auburn	7
Mississippi State	40	Howard	7
Mississippi State	26	North Carolina State	10
Mississippi State	13	Southwestern	0
Mississippi State	22	L. S. U.	7
Mississippi State	46	Millsaps	13
Mississippi State	19	Ole Miss	0
Mississippi State	13	Alabama	0
Mississippi State	14	Georgetown	7

Other intercollegiate sports are basketball, baseball, cross country track, and tennis.

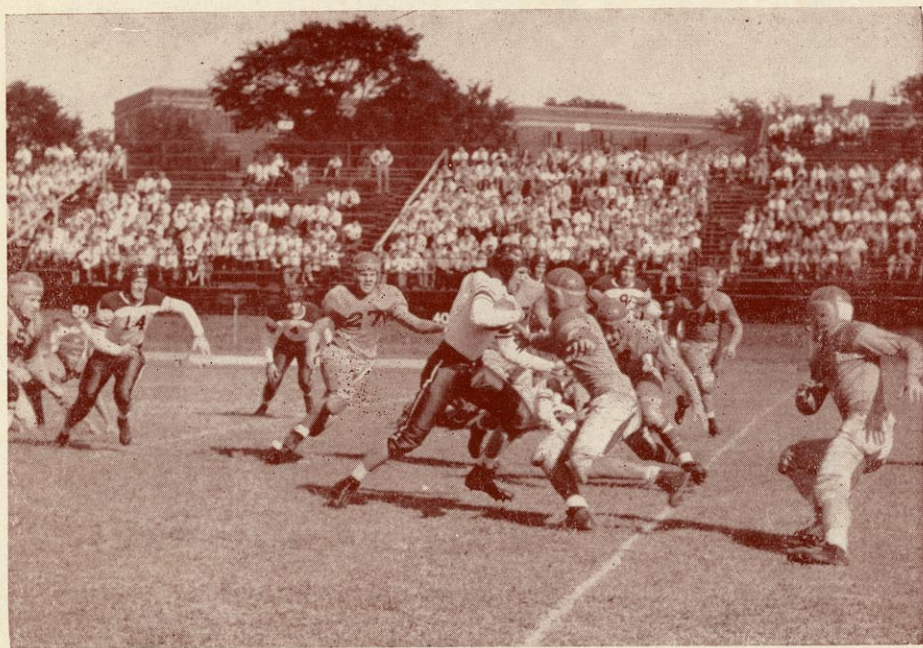
(Athletics Continued)

Physical Education is required of all Freshmen and Sophomores. This offers an opportunity for each student to become acquainted with new physical education activities or to become more highly skilled in those in which he has already participated.

An intra-mural athletic program which will give each student an opportunity to participate in competitive sports includes football, basketball, playground baseball, baseball, volley ball, tennis and track.

Students also have the use of the Mississippi State swimming pool, one of the finest in the nation.

Adding greatly to the color of Mississippi State's gridiron struggles and other sports, the Maroon Band and the cheerleaders are always an inspiration to the followers of State's athletic events.



State Gains Over Florida End

Page Eleven

World War II and Mississippi State College

Mississippi State College went all-out for war when the Japs sneaked up on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. President Humphrey promptly telegraphed President Roosevelt, placing the resources and full cooperation of the institution at the disposal of the commander-in-chief to be used as he thought best in furthering the war effort.

The Transportation Corps Officer Candidate School, the first to specialize in military transportation problems, was located on the campus in 1942, later moving to New Orleans for the study of nautical and ship loading problems.

In March 1943 the Army Air Forces established the 64th College Training Detachment (Pre-flight), later changed to the 2591st AAF Base Unit, and since that time thousands of future Army pilots have received a preliminary five-month phase of their training on the campus, taking 10 hours of flight instruction in light airplanes at Oktibbeha Airport, seven miles east of the College.

The Army also used the College for training of hundreds of engineers in the Army Specialized Training Program. Courses in welding, machine shop, science and management, radio, also form part of the load the College has shouldered for victory.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Mississippi State College has always maintained a strong Department of Military Science and Tactics with officers of the regular army in charge. During the 64 years the College has operated, all of the 50,000 students attending who were physically fit, have been required to take at least two years of military training.

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps is organized as two branch units, namely, Coast Artillery and Infantry. Students in the Schools of Engineering and Science enrolled in Military Science and Tactics are assigned to the Coast Artillery Unit and those enrolled from the Schools of Agriculture, Business and Industry, and Education, to the Infantry Unit. The course of training covers four years and consists of the Basic Course and the Advanced Course.

World War II (Continued)

The Basic Course. The Basic Course consists of the first two years of the four-year course in Military Science and Tactics, usually taken in the freshman and sophomore years. Regulations prohibit the curtailment of this course as a prerequisite for the Advanced Course.

The Advanced Course. The Advanced Course consists of the third and fourth years in the military department, usually the junior and senior years, with a six weeks' summer camp, which is held at the end of the junior year. Entrance to the advanced course is not open to all students completing the basic course. Only those will be selected whose past military and academic record is of such high standing as to warrant the belief that they will become qualified reserve officers of the United States Army.

Students are required to wear the ROTC uniform at drill, however, wearing the uniform at other times is optional. The United States government furnishes the uniforms without cost to the student. Subject annually to the availability of funds and the existence of vacancies, men graduating as "honor students" under the rules prescribed by the War Department become eligible for appointment at their request, as Second Lieutenants in the Regular Army.



The Air Corps—Shipping Out

The Stewards and Stores Department

The Stewards and Stores Department was organized in 1941 under the guidance of Louis Earl Frashuer, and since that time has made a remarkable record of accomplishment and progress. The set-up is not patterned after that of any other college or university, but is completely adapted to the peculiar needs of the College.

The varied activities of the Stewards and Stores Department include operation of the State Fountain in the new Dairy Products Building, the College Store in the "Y," the Book Store in the new annex to the Cafeteria, the Grill and the Banquet Room adjoining it, the Cafeteria and the Warehouse to supply the Cafeteria, a hog farm, and the College Abattoir.

The Department has its own bookkeeping staff and equipment, housed in the new annex built specifically for this purpose.

Some idea of the scope and variety of the activities of this department can be seen from the fact that it supplied 579,730 man days of food for soldiers during the year ending February 29, 1944. The amount of food required for this accomplishment is comparable to that required for feeding the population of a city like Milwaukee for one day. This was possible in addition to feeding a considerable number of civilian students and college employees in the Grill each day.

The Stewards and Stores Department has kept step with the growth of the College, and has been able to make all necessary improvements and to serve the students regardless of number, and still be able to operate on its own resources.

The Stewards and Stores Department has been able to supply the students in the Grill and Cafeteria with good food at low prices because of the many economies effected in the purchase of supplies. And not only by skillful purchasing economies, but also by savings resulting from buying the raw, unprocessed product, and having it processed economically.

For instance, at various intervals the Department has bought



hundreds of steers, feeding them locally, and in this way secures beef for the Cafeteria at a great saving. The Department maintains its own force of repair and service men.

BUILDINGS

The academic buildings are: Lee Hall (administration), Montgomery Hall (agriculture), Engineering Building, Hand Chemical Laboratory, Business-Education Building, Biology Building and Library, Agricultural Engineering Building, Horticultural Building, Poultry Plant, Dairy Judging Pavilion, and Abbatoir and Curing Plant.

The dormitories are The Main Dormitory, The Athletic Dormitory, Hull Hall, and Magruder Hall.

Other buildings are Student Activities Building, Experiment Station and Extension Building, Power Plant, J. Z. George Infirmary, Y.M.C.A., Cafeteria, Laundry, Athletic Field House, Utilities Building, and Petroleum Testing Laboratory.

GENERAL LIBRARY

The General Library is on the third floor of the Biology Building, extending the length of the building. The reading rooms have a seating capacity of 200. The library contains 70,927 volumes. In department libraries on the campus are 24,000 additional volumes.

Starkville . . .

The Dairy Capital of the South

Just inside the Prairie Belt on a knoll that is in the midst of rich, warm lime lands, gently rolling with frequent outcrops of soft erosive limestone, was the location that pioneer families in 1830 picked to settle. Even then its people showed a progressive spirit, for, instead of the usual logs that were commonly used for houses in communities, they constructed their homes of clapboards. Thus the little settlement became known as Boardtown, the name being changed to Starkville in 1835.

Starkville grew fast. Because of its clear, sparkling water, convenient and sanitary location, people who had settled in other communities soon changed their residence to Starkville. It was made the county-seat, churches were built, and banks established.

The climate is that of a desirable section, with adequate rainfall distributed equally throughout the year. Winter months are usually mild with average frost dates between November 6 and March 26. Pastures surrounding Starkville grow many species of grazing grasses and legumes produce large tonnage on the lime soils. The opportunities for growing livestock, especially dairy cattle, were recognized in 1860, when fine Jersey cows were imported. Starkville is now known as the Jersey and dairy center of the South.

Industrial Survey

AIRPORTS—Starkville is served by two airports, the Municipal Airport and Oktibbeha Airport. The Municipal Airport, one of the finest in the State, covers 654 acres, located one and one-tenth miles from the city. It contains three hard surface runways 5,300 feet in length with taxi-strips circling the field. State Highway 12 runs adjacent to it as does the Illinois Central Railroad. The Oktibbeha Airport is located seven miles east of Starkville on Highway 82 and is in use by the Starkville Flying Service at present as a training field. Plans are underway for adjustment to its pre-war activities as soon as the present conflict is over.

HIGHWAYS—U. S. Highway 82, the all-weather east-west route, runs through the city, with U. S. Highway 45 running north and south eight miles east of Starkville. State Highway 12 runs through the city, connecting it with the southern and central sections of the State.

RAILROADS—Two railroads, the Illinois Central line, and the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio line, serve Starkville.

BUS LINES—Tri-State Trailways, Gulf Transport and Ray Bus Lines serve Starkville and surrounding community, giving adequate service to all parts of the State.

PAYROLLS—Total annual payrolls within the city, including only firms with a payroll of \$20,000 or more and State College, are \$1,109,000. The College annual payroll is \$350,000.

POPULATION—(Figures are 1943 estimate) Starkville, 6,000; Starkville and State College, 7,500; within 50 mile radius, 45,000.

ELECTRICITY—The city operates its own electrical department, buying its power from the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is sold to local residents and plants at TVA rates. Unlimited supply available for new industries.

WATER—The water supply is municipally owned, produced from two deep wells with a pumping capacity of 1,000,000 gallons daily.

NATURAL GAS—The city is served with natural gas, distributed by the Mississippi Public Service Company.

TELEPHONE SERVICE—Modern system operated by Southern Bell Telephone Company.

A City of Beautiful Churches



Methodist



Baptist



Presbyterian



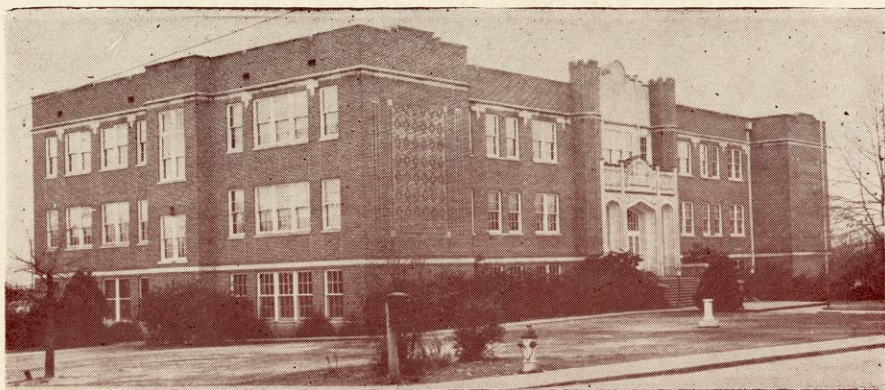
Episcopal



Catholic



Church of Christ



Junior High and High School

Public School System

One of the most important factors in Starkville's progress has been the many improvements and additions provided by the city public school system, both in curriculum and in physical equipment. City school officials have kept up with the latest methods of education and consequently, Starkville Public Schools now rate among the best.

The school system is fully accredited by both the State Accrediting Commission and the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Teachers are well trained and experienced and graduates are admitted to college without examination.

A large, up-to-date school for negroes is also maintained as a part of the city school system.



Primary School



SECURITY STATE BANK

Report of Condition at the Close of Business on April 13th, 1944

ASSETS

Loans and discounts	\$266,013.87
United States Government obligations	628,650.00
Obligations of States	291,750.00
Corporate stocks	800.00
Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balances, and cash items in process of collection	1,201,432.74
Bank premises and other real estate owned	35,177.58
Series E Bonds	28,250.00
Other assets	1,986.74

TOTAL ASSETS \$2,454,060.93

PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK

Report of Condition at the Close of Business on April 13th, 1944

ASSETS

Loans and discounts	\$149,331.16
United States Government obligations	925,000.00
Obligations of States and other bonds	516,492.65
Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balances, and cash items in process of collection	736,667.39
Bank premises and other real estate owned	22,945.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,350,436.32



Peoples Savings Bank



The Sanders Cotton Mill

One of Starkville's leading industries is the J. W. Sanders Cotton Mill, which is engaged in the manufacture of fine chambrays. Founded in 1902 with local capital, the mill was soon bought by Mr. Sanders and since that time has grown into a 15,800 spindle plant which is one of the largest in this section of Mississippi. The mill is now owned and operated by Robert D. Sanders of Jackson, Miss.

Imported First Jerseys

Starkville became recognized as "The Jersey Center of the South" shortly before the Civil War when Col. W. B. Montgomery, termed "Father of Oktibbeha County Dairying," imported the first fine Jersey sires and dams to the South from the Isle of Jersey. Recognizing dairying as a path to lead them from the morass of the reconstruction days, far-sighted Oktibbeha County farmers bought and imported other fine herds. Later with the establishment of markets for the products from fine Jersey cows, dairying became the county's most popular phase of farming. Starkville, as the result, became the capital of the most intensified dairying section in the South.

Oktibbeha..

The County Jerseys Built

Organized in 1833, Oktibbeha (pronounced OK-TIB-BE-HA) County is located in the eastern part of Mississippi, bounded on the north by Clay and Webster Counties; on the west by Choctaw County, on the south by Winston and Noxubee Counties, and on the east by Lowndes and Clay Counties. The total land area is 457 square miles or 292,480 acres.

Starkville, the county seat, is the largest town in the county with the 1943 population estimated at 6,000. Maben, located on the western edge of the county, is the second largest town with a population of 750. Sturgis is the third largest town with a population of 550. Other towns in the county are Sessums, Longview, Osborn and Adaton.

Oktibbeha County is well served with paved highways. U. S. Highway 82 traverses the county east and west through the central portion and State Highway 12 traverses the county from east to southwest. The county has a well-kept secondary or farm-to-market road system. The Illinois Central railroad traverses the county, as well as the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

The total population of the county is 26,000 with about 68 per cent rural farm population. There are 3000 farms with 1200 full owners, 200 part owners, with the remainder of the farms either rented or operated by tenants or sharecroppers.

Agricultural Opportunities in Oktibbeha County

Oktibbeha soil ranges from very fertile to very poor, with most of the land being fairly average and capable of producing crops and livestock in abundance.

About three-eighths of the county is in the lime belt and is naturally adapted to pastures, feed crops and livestock. This section lies largely east of a north and south line running about two miles west of Starkville.

About one-third of the county is in flatwoods, well adapted to growing pine timber and with proper treatment with basic slag or phosphate and lime, produces good pastures and cover crops. The remainder of the county on the western side is very productive of pine timber and also produces row crops well, especially if fertilized.

There are about 125,000 acres of open pasture in Oktibbeha County. The principal grazing crops in these pastures are Dallis grass, lespedeza, yellow hop, white Dutch, with some carpet grass in the west and some other minor grasses throughout the county.

Farmers of the county have found by actual tests that all of these grazing crops do well, particularly if the land is treated with an application of five hundred to fifteen hundred pounds basic slag—or the equivalent in lime and phosphate, per acre every three or four years. These grazing crops also respond well to barnyard manure and to potash.

Most of the valleys are fertile and will produce silage, corn, oats, hay and other feed crops in abundance.

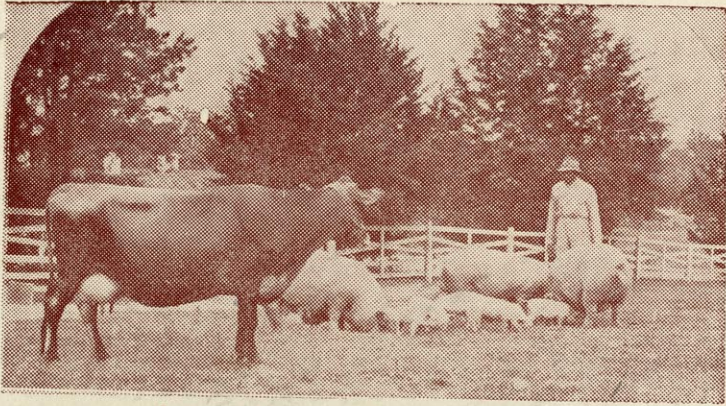
There are only about 60,000 acres in row crops, 10,000 of which are devoted to cotton, about 30,000 to corn and the rest to sweet potatoes, silage, hay, truck, etc.

The pine timber in the western two-thirds of the county is now bringing an annual income in excess of the total cotton crop. By proper management it can be made a perpetual crop equal to cotton at much less expense.

The primary industry of the county is dairying with eighteen to twenty thousand producing milk cows. Hogs and poultry can be made a profitable side line in a small way when prices justify.

There are five rural communities in Oktibbeha County that have set up community organizations known as community Farm Bureaus, which hold monthly meetings; several of them starting off each meeting with a plate supper, followed by a business session relating to community affairs.

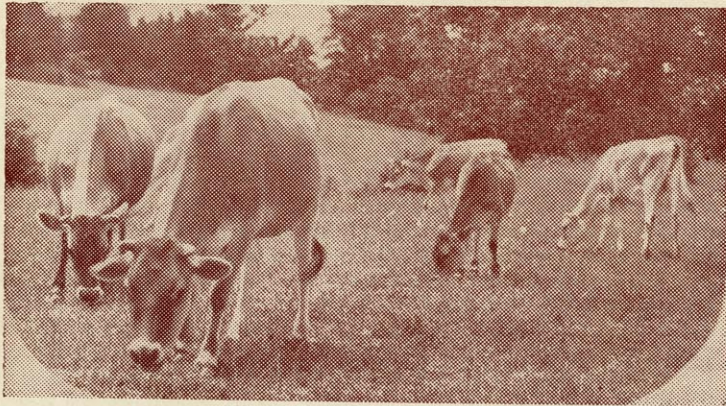
These community meetings have been going on for perhaps eighteen years and make very valuable contributions to the welfare of the following outstanding communities: Craig Springs, Morgantown, Oktoc, Sessums, Trimcane.



Jersey Cow and Improved Hogs



Vick Cheese Company



Cows on Improved Pasture



Cooperative Creamery

The Cooperative Creamery, the dairymen's own organization, was started in 1912 by 19 dairymen who banded together to form an association for the outlet of the products of their Jersey cows. In 32 years the organization, operating on its policy of mutual helpfulness, has expanded into a group of 1,000 dairymen and dairywomen representing ownership of more than 10,000 fine cows.

The position the Cooperative Creamery has gained was by means of a trail blazed by the members of the creamery themselves. It was the first cooperative creamery opened in the South and through manufacture of top grade products, careful administration of its business, the organization has grown from a \$4,000 a year institution to an organization that is paying its members annually more than \$300,000. Total annual sales amount to \$725,000.

In 1941 the Cold Storage Locker Plant was added for the convenience of Starkville, College and County residents. Over 600 lockers are now in use.



The Borden Company

The establishment of the Borden Condensery in Starkville in 1926, the first plant of this type ever located in the South, was an experiment that has become an unqualified success. On the first day of operation milk was supplied by 133 dairies in the morning delivery. During the first year of operation the company received 15,644,000 pounds of milk, paying dairymen \$400,562. Since opening, the company has received nearly one-half billion pounds of milk and has paid out approximately \$9,000,000 to Oktibbeha County dairymen and farmers.

Today more than 1,000 dairies are supplying milk for this industry, and county dairymen are receiving checks amounting to \$1,000,000 annually. Almost 100,000 cans of milk daily can be packed at the condensery.

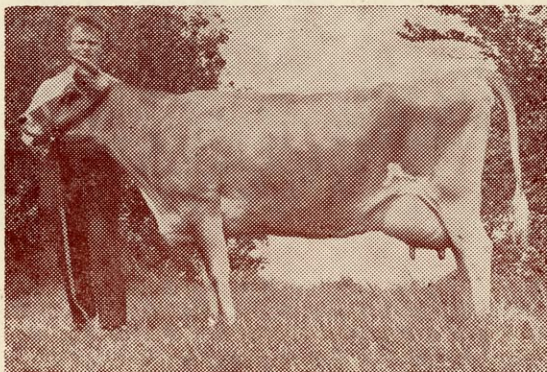
Jersey Cattle Sale

One of Oktibbeha County's annual feature events is the con-
sign-ment sale of the Mississippi Jersey Cattle Club held at Missis-
sippi State College.

The 1944 sale, held in April, smashed all records when 48 fine
Jersey cattle sold for \$12,465 or an average of \$259.70 which was
the highest average price ever received by the Jersey Cattle Club.
The top animal in the 1944 sale brought \$1,060.

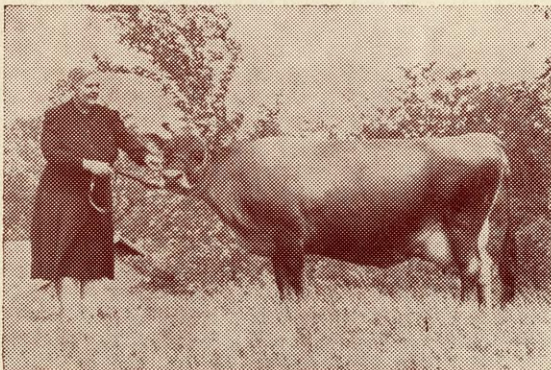
These sales attract buyers from all sections of Mississippi as
well as interested cattle breeders from nearly all Southern States.

A weekly sale, dealing in all types of livestock, has proved
to be one of the farmers' biggest assets. By means of this sale
county residents are able to keep up with the market price of live-
stock at all times.



This 3 - year - old
Jersey cow, Design
Bodicia Goldie, sold
for \$1,060 at the 1944
Mississippi Jersey
Cattle Sale at State
College. She was
classified "Excellent."

Another "Excel-
lent" cow was this
8 - year - old Jersey,
which sold for \$740
at the 1944 Missis-
sippi Jersey Cattle
Sale. Forty - eight
animals were con-
signed to this sale by
Mississippi breeders.



County School System

The Oktibbeha County School System consists of five elementary and three high schools for whites and 52 schools for the colored people. Forty-six white and 103 colored teachers are employed for the 1402 white and 5532 colored children. The county operates 40 modern transportation units in the consolidated areas.

Grades 1-12 are taught in the Maben, Longview, and Sturgis Schools, grades 1-8 in the Craig Springs School, and grades 1-6 in the Self Creek School. The high school students from Craig Springs attend the Sturgis School, while those from Self Creek are transported to Maben. A Negro school is to be found on an average of one for each 10 square miles of territory in the rural area.

The county program is operated on a sound professional and economic basis. Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics are offered in the three high schools. The shops, commercial departments, science laboratories, and libraries are well equipped, housed in modern buildings, and are under the direction of the very best of instructors. The millage for school purposes is kept at a minimum and varies among the districts from 11 to 21 mills. All schools are fully accredited by the Elementary and High School Accrediting Commissions of Mississippi.

The Starkville Separate District maintains two elementary and one high school for whites and an elementary and high school for their colored citizens. The district employs 41 teachers for the 1680 children enrolled. Adaton, Oktoc, and Citizens District send 300 children from the consolidated areas. These children are transported in 10 modern school buses.



Lumber is Maben's Leading Industry

The Town of Maben

Maben, situated in the extreme northwestern edge of Oktibbeha County, has been called Oktibbeha's fastest growing industrial center.

With most of its streets paved, the remainder well graveled, a newly constructed sewage system, a water supply sufficient to care for a city several times as large, splendid schools and churches, Maben offers an ideally healthful place to live.

Lumber constitutes Maben's chief industry, this enterprise being spurred by the Walter M. Shuffield lumber mill, which is one of the largest in North Mississippi. This business alone pays to farmers and landowners in this section \$160,000 annually. The annual payroll of the plant is \$29,000.

Also located in Maben is the Vick Cheese Company serving dairymen in western Oktibbeha County and the eastern part of Webster County. Vick Cheese Company pays patrons over \$100,000 annually for whole milk from which cheese is manufactured.

It is served by two railroads, the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio, and Columbus and Greenville lines. U. S. Highway 82 runs one mile south of town, with State Highway 15 intersecting Maben north and south.

Sturgis

Sturgis, Oktibbeha County's third largest town, is a thriving community on the southwestern edge of the county 18 miles from Starkville on State Highway 12. It is also served by the Illinois Central Railroad.

Sturgis is probably the most diversified community in the county. Noted for its fine grade of sweetpotatoes, the many soil types in this section make it ideal for trucking crops as well as dairying, and offer unlimited opportunities for diversified farming activities. The location of a sweetpotato curing plant has done much to increase interest in this crop.

Sturgis' leading industry is lumber, from which the landowners in this section receive many thousands of dollars annually. However, many dairy farmers are also located in this area, sending milk twice daily to the Borden Plant and the Cooperative Creamery in Starkville.

One of the largest and most modern consolidated schools in the county is located in Sturgis, capable of caring for 450 students. The town is served by Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches.

Longview

Longview is located seven miles southwest of Starkville, just outside the Prairie Belt in the flatwoods section of Oktibbeha County. With the exception of Maben, Longview is the largest lumber center in the county, shipping over 10,000,000 board feet annually. Besides the lumber industry, farmers in this area are also engaged in dairying and other farm activities.

Organizations

Oktibbeha County's leading organization is the Farm Bureau with a membership of 500 merchants and farmers. The Farm Bureau is essentially an educational, recreational and legislative organization devoted to the system of free enterprise. Regular monthly meetings are held, conducting planned programs for betterment of community and county welfare, as well as that of the State and Nation.

Other organizations include the 4-H Clubs for both boys and girls. The first boys' 4-H Pig Club in Mississippi was organized in Oktibbeha County in 1909. Women are well organized over the county with the Home Demonstration Clubs.

Clubs and fraternal organizations in Starkville, consisting of members from Mississippi State College and other sections of the county, are Rotary, Exchange, Masons, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows, Rebecca's, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Parent-Teachers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Sorosis Club and Campus Club (State College), Woman's Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, Neo Cycle Club, Home and Garden Club, Nocturne Music Club, and church organizations.

Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities are adequate for all ages and groups. The most popular resort is in the 90,000 acre game preserve just south of Starkville containing Choctaw and Bluff Lakes. Here one may enjoy swimming, boating, fishing, dancing and hiking. Tourist houses are available at low costs.

Residents also enjoy golf, hunting, motion pictures, collegiate and high school sports such as football, basketball, baseball, and track events. Famous lecturers and entertainers are brought periodically to State College, affording residents opportunities not to be had except in the larger cities.

Starkville is only a few hours' drive from the Mississippi Gulf Coast resorts, where swimming, yachting and deep sea fishing may be enjoyed.



*A Section of Choctaw Lake, Showing the Motor
Boat Pier, Taken From the Administration
Building.*

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