

TITLE: I GO TO COLLEGE, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME THAT I THOUGHT ABOUT ATTENDING COLLEGE, YET FOR SOME TIME BEFORE I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, THE THOUGHT OF GETTING A COLLEGE EDUCATION MUST HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE SOME HOW AND IN SOME WAY. IN MY FAMILY, NONE OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO WERE OLDER THAN ME WENT AWAY TO A COLLEGE ANY WHERE, BUT BY THE TIME I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGHSCHOOL THIS WAS ALWAYS ON MY MIND. BEING NUMBER SIX IN AS FAMILY OF SEVEN CHILDREN PUT A SIBLING IN A SORT OF TROUGH. BY THIS I MEAN YOU DO NOT DO FOR ONE OF THE CHILDREN THAT THING THAT WAS NOT DONE FOR THE OTHERS. AND BY JUST GROWING UP IN THIS KIND OF ATMOSPHERE, YOU KNEW BETTER THAN TO EXPECT SOMETHING THAT THE OTHERS DID NOT GET OR HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET. I CAN'T SAY THAT I WAS IN AN UNCOMPROMISING POSITION, BUT MY GOING TO COLLEGE LOOKED A BIT BLEAK. FROM TIME TO TIME, I TALKED TO MY MOTHER ABOUT MY WANTING TO GO AND SHE ALWAYS AGREED THAT SHE WISHED THAT I COULD GO. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT FOR HER TO SAY BECAUSE MY DAD RULED OUR FAMILY WITH AN IRON HAND, AND TO US ALL HIS DECISIONS WERE NEVER QUESTIONED. FINALLY, I COULD WAIT NO LONGER IF I WAS GOING TO APPLY AND HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING ACCEPTED AT ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE KNOWN NOW AS AUBURN UNIVERSITY.

DURING THE CHRISTMAS VACATION FROM SCHOOL IN LATE DECEMBER IN THE YEAR, 1937, WHILE RIDING TO WORK WITH MY DAD AT ALLEN LUMBER COMPANY, I SUDDENLY ASKED PAPA IF IT WAS ALRIGHT WITH HIM IF I WENT TO COLLEGE. HE DID NOT SEEM SURPRISED FOR I AM SURE MY MOTHER HAD BEEN TELLING HIM THAT I HAD FOR SOMETIME BEEN TALKING TO HER ABOUT MY GOING TO AUBURN. PAPA WAS A VERY LOGICAL PARENT AND ANSWERED MY QUESTION WITH A QUESTION, "JACK, WOULD YOU WANT ME TO SEND YOU TO COLLEGE WHEN NONE OF



YOUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS HAVE GONE?" HE CONTINUED BEFORE I COULD ANSWER, "I AM ABLE TO SEND YOU, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO THE OTHERS, DO YOU?" AND BEFORE I COULD ANSWER HE ASKED ANOTHER QUESTION, "DO YOU THINK YOU COULD MAKE A CROP AND EARN ENOUGH TO PAY YOUR WAY?" AND BEFORE I COULD ANSWER HE AGAIN QUESTIONED ME, "AND MAKE A CROP WHILE YOU ARE IN SCHOOL?" AT LAST THE TIME HAD COME FOR ME TO ANSWER, "PAPA, I CAN MAKE A CROP AND GO TO SCHOOL IF I CAN GET CAINE TO HELP ME AND IF I CAN GET A CROP FURNISH." PAPA THEN TOLD ME TO CHECK WITH MY BROTHER CAINE AND SEE IF HE WOULD HELP. YOU SEE CAINE WAS FARMING AT THAT TIME AND WE HAD WORKED TOGETHER IN MY DAD'S CROP BEFORE HE GOT MARRIED. LATE THAT AFTERNOON, I HELPED CAINE AND HIS HIRED HAND MILK HIS COWS AND THEN ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD HELP IN MY CROP WHEN I WAS AWAY AT SCHOOL, THAT IS, SUCH THINGS AS EARLY SPRING PLOWING OR MAYBE HELP AT HARVEST TIME IN THE FALL. I KNEW CAINE WOULD HELP, BUT HE LET ME KNOW THAT WHEN HE AND HIS HIRED HAND WORKED ONE DAY IN MY CROP, I WOULD OWE HIM TWO DAYS OF LABOR BACK. WE AGREED THAT THIS WAS FAIR AND LATER THAT NIGHT I TOLD MY DAD THAT I HAD STRUCK A BARGIN WITH MY BROTHER.

PAPA SAID, "ALRIGHT YOU CAN SIGN A CROP NOTE FOR YOUR FURNISH AND I WILL GET WITH YOU AND CAINE AND WORK OUT WITH YOU BOTH AS TO WHO GETS WHAT FIELDS FOR HIS CROP". SINCE I NEEDED COTTON ACREAGE AND CAINE NEEDED CORN AND HAY LAND FOR HIS MILK COWS, WE QUICKLY CAME TO AN AGREEMENT. THIS DONE, I HAD TO GET BUSY WITH MY APPLICATION AND ALL THAT GOES WITH BEING ACCEPTED AT AUBURN. I AM SURE IT WAS NOT NEAR AS COMPLICATED THEN AS IT IS NOW, FOR I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY PROBLEMS OTHER THAN THE NEED OF FUNDS FOR FEES AND FOR ROOM AND BOARD. I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE MONEY PROBLEM WAS SOLVED, FOR THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO FAIL TO MAKE ENOUGH COTTON TO KEEP ME OUT OF AUBURN.

THERE WERE SOME PROBLEMS THAT I DID NOT COUNT ON AND THAT WAS THE



OTHER TENENTS WHO LIVED ON OUR FARM. THEY HAD TO HAVE COTTON LAND, SO PAPA TOLD ME TO CHECK WITH MR. S. T. WRIGHT TO SEE IF I COULD RENT HIS COTTON LAND WHICH WAS A PART OF THE OLD FELIX MCCONNEL PLACE AND IS NOW COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITH THE GALA CAFE AND THE JOURNEYS INN ON PART OF THE PROPERTY. THIS LAND WAS AVAILABLE , BUT THIS MEANT ANOTHER NOTE, A LAND RENTAL NOTE. I WAS NOT ONLY EXPERIENCING MY FIRST CROP BUT HERE I WAS WITH OUT A SEED IN THE GROUND AND TWO NOTES AGAINST MY CROP ALREADY. EVERYTHING WORKED OUT VERY WELL. MY DAD HELPED ME PLAN MY CROP, HE CALLED IT PITCHING THE CROP BUT IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A CROP PLAN AND EVERY FARMER HAS TO HAVE ONE. I HAD A CROP PLAN GIVING ME 23 ACRES OF COTTON, 25 ACRES OF CORN AND BY DOUBLE CROPPING THE CORN LAND WITH OATS FOLLOWED BY LESPEDEZA I HAD ENOUGH FREE TIME TO WORK FOR CAINE TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME OWED TO ME BY CAINE SO THAT BY THE TIME I LEFT FOR SCHOOL IN LATE SEPTEMBER HE SAW TO THE PICKING OF THE REST OF MY COTTON AND THE GATHERING OF MY CORN WHICH HE BOUGHT SO AS TO HAVE ENOUGH TO FEED HIS DAIRY COWS. IN MID OCTOBER, I TALKED MY DEAN INTO LETTING ME COME HOME FOR A WEEK SO THAT I COULD PLANT MY OAT CROP AND SELL MY COTTON. WHEN I HAD SOLD MY COTTON AND COTTON SEED ,PAID FOR THE GINNING,MY OAT SEED,MY TWO NOTES, AND THE FERTILIZER USED FOR THE OAT CROP, I HAD OVER \$400.00 LEFT FOR SCHOOL. PAPA HAD ADVANCED ME THE MONEY TO PAY MY FIRST SEMESTER'S TUITION AND WHEN I PAID HIM BACK HE HAD ME TO PUT THE BALANCE OF THE MONEY IN THE BANK AND INSTRUCTED ME TO WRITE A CHECK FOR EVERYTHING I HAD TO BUY. WHILE I KNEW THAT MY MONEY WAS ENOUGH TO GET ME THROUGH THE FIRST YEAR, I ALSO KNEW THAT I HAD TO BE AS CLOSE AS COULD BE OR I WOULD RUN SHORT.

THE FIRST SEMESTER WAS OVER IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND WHEN I PAID MY FEES FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER AND ROOM AND BOARD FOR THE NEXT MONTH, I KNEW THEN THAT I WOULD HAVE ENOUGH, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.



OVER THE OATS MY LESPEDEZA SEED. SINCE I DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE NITRATE OF SODA, I HAD TO SIGN ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE CROP NOTES FOR ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR NOT ONLY THE NITRATE BUT THE LESPEDEZA SEED TOO. HERE I WAS IN DEBT AND STILL IN SCHOOL. THE END OF THE TERM CAME AND I HURRIED HOME TO DO AS MUCH OF MY WORK AS POSSIBLE SO I WOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY CAINE BACK SO MUCH TIME. WHEN HE HELPED ME, HE BROUGHT HIS HIRED HAND AND I HAD TO PAY HIM TWO DAYS FOR ONE.

SHORTLY AFTER I GOT HOME IN LATE MAY, PAPA BROUGHT OUT ALL MY CANCELED CHECKS AND WE WENT OVER THEM ONE AT A TIME. HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYONE AND HAD A GREAT DEAL TO SAY ABOUT SOME OF MY EXPENDITURES. IT TOOK US THE BETTER PART OF TWO HOURS TO CHECK ALL THE CHECKS FOR BACK THEN YOU COULD WRITE A CHECK FOR AS LITTLE AS FIFTY CENTS. WHEN WE HAD COMPLETED GOING OVER EVERY CHECK, HE THEN LECTURED ME FOR SEVERAL MINUTES ON WASTING MONEY. NOW GET THIS: MY TOTAL EXPENSES FOR FEES, FOOD AND ROOM RENT FOR BOTH SEMESTERS CAME TO THE GRAND TOTAL OF \$378.00 AND OUT OF MY ORIGINAL \$400.00 THERE WAS STILL A SMALL AMOUNT LEFT IN THE ACCOUNT.

THIS IS HOW MY FOUR YEARS OF EDUCATION WAS PAID FOR. REALLY MY DAD PAID FOR MY EDUCATION, HE JUST ARRANGED THINGS SO THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT I WAS DOING IT ALL MYSELF. THERE WERE LESSONS LEARNED FROM MY DAD THAT AUBURN UNIVERSITY OR ANY UNIVERSITY NEVER COULD HAVE TAUGHT ME. LOOKING BACK, I AM PROUD AND HAPPY THAT I HAD TO MAKE THOSE FOUR CROPS, FOR BY THE TIME I WAS A SENIOR I HAD INCREASED MY CROP ACRES EACH YEAR, BOUGHT A TRACTOR, A GRAIN DRILL, A DISC HARROW AND A SMALL COMBINE AND HAD PAID FOR IT ALL. I MET, COURTED, AND MARRIED MAXINE HILL, AND IN JUNE 1942 I LEFT FOR THE ARMY. BEFORE I LEFT I

TRADED WITH MY DAD TO SELL MY OAT CROP, USE MY EQUIPMENT AND IF AND WHEN I RETURNED, WE WOULD WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT AS CONCERNS THE EQUIPMENT AND ITS WORTH AT THAT DATE. IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1946, THE WAR OVER, I RETURNED HOME AND FOUND THINGS JUST EXACTLY AS MY DAD SAID THEY WOULD BE. A LOT HAD HAPPENED, I WAS FOUR YEARS OLDER, A FATHER, AND KNEW THAT I WAS HAVING SOME PROBLEMS ADJUSTING AS A CIVILIAN.

THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE WAS THE FOUR YEARS SPENT AT AUBURN. I CERTAINLY WAS NOT A GOOD STUDENT, BUT I MARRIED A STRAIGHT "A" GIRL WHO WAS NOT JUST A STRAIGHT "A" IN HER STUDIES, BUT IN EVERYTHING ELSE. TODAY, 46 YEARS AND ALMOST TWO MONTHS LATER SHE IS STILL A STRAIGHT "A" LADY AND I LOVE HER DEARLY.

*J.B. Dr.*  
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