



Against the Old, A Monument to Enterprise

Dream, plan, work and fight, yield a little—but then push . . . hard! In 1953 Governor Herman E. Talmadge broke the ground for the new Atlanta Division building. Director George McIntyre Sparks realized that which so many men who dream, plan and work feel when they see their conceptions emerge as actualities. It is a wonderful feeling, reserved for men who pioneer. In 1954, this Fall, students will enter the new Atlanta Division building hurriedly, noisily. Few will give thought to the past, to the present, to the future. They pause only long enough to rest a bit between classes. They have a dream for the future too.



A Serenade for the Builder



# THE ATLANTA DIVISION

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The phenomenal growth of the Georgia Tech Evening School of Commerce, begun in 1913 with 47 students, into the Atlanta Division, University of Georgia, with an enrollment of more than 5,000, is without parallel in the history of education. Gratifying the wish of Atlanta men and women for higher learning has been an ever-increasing task through the 36 years of the school's life, and its scope shows no signs of narrowing.

The idea for an evening school in Atlanta had its embryonic beginning in 1911 when W. M. Fambrough, president of the Alumni Association of Georgia Tech, inquired of the alumni concerning their need for business training, especially during the first few years after graduation. Their replies prompted him to express the desire for a Chair of Business Science at Tech.

In 1912 a campaign was begun to interest juniors and seniors in a series of business lectures given at the school. These lectures were placed on the regular schedule at the end of that term.

In 1913 the Georgia Tech Evening School of Commerce was established, housed in three rooms in the Walton building. Although it was authorized by the Board of Trustees its financing was independent.

The school's first president was the late W. S. Kell, a member of the Georgia Tech faculty. His aims as stated, were:

1. To interest business men in the idea of an evening school in behalf of the youth of Atlanta.
2. To prepare himself for a more thorough business training in order to raise the standards of the school (in quest of this, he became the third C.P.A. in Georgia).
3. Eventually to make the school co-educational.

A peak enrollment of 364 attended classes in the four rooms in the Arcade building from 1917 to 1921. In the latter year the site was moved to a third-floor attic at 18 Auburn avenue, where there were five classrooms. In 1920 the school was made co-educational.



For 1926-27 the school operated at 92½ Forsyth street, and from 1927 to 1931 had six rooms at 106 Forsyth. The enrollment had spurted to 654.

In 1928 Dr. George M. Sparks became director of the school, and increased the number of courses required for a degree from 24 to 30. The next year it was made the standard 40. The year 1931 saw the number of courses offered jump from 22 to 92, and the faculty increase from 17 to 35. By 1933 there were 138 courses taught by 38 professors.

From 1931 to 1938, some 19 rooms at 223 Walton street building housed the school. When the junior college was opened in 1935, enrollment shot from 853 to 1,274, and reached a peak of 1,709 in 1938.

Crowded conditions necessitated another move, and the Georgia Evening College and Georgia Junior College settled at 162 Luckie street, where there were 50 classrooms for more than 2,000 students.

The war years saw a slump in enrollment which was more than compensated for afterward with the influx of thousands of veteran students. Enrollment records continued to be broken, and new quarters were sought again.

They were found at 24 Ivy street, S. E., in the old Ivy Street garage. War surplus materials worth hundreds of thousands of dollars speeded the changeover, and classes opened in the fall of 1945.

In 1947 the school was made the Atlanta Division, University of Georgia. Today it has over 100 classrooms, with almost 160 instructors teaching 300 subjects. The peak enrollment for the year 1948-49 was 5,327.

The Atlanta Division has proved her worth to Atlanta high school graduates as well as to working men and women. Her reputation has been won, not through famous athletic teams or by individual exploits, but through liberal, thorough education bestowed in the best American tradition. She looks always to the future, never to the past, for her best is ever yet to come.



## UP FROM A GREASE PIT

*The University of Georgia (at Athens) has a delightful plant. Its Atlanta branch, in the home town of archrival Georgia Tech, is more or less underground. The building was formerly a seven-story garage and still shows unmistakable signs of its past: car ramps, grease-stand niches, and repair-shop space. But the college has converted the space into hallways, lounges, offices and 88 classrooms for 4,700 students. There are some 30 student organizations on the "campus"—which is what students call nearby city-owned Hurt Park—and the ROTC unit drills on the garage roof.*

*The Atlanta Division acquired the garage in 1945, when its shrewd director, Dr. George M. Sparks, saw a chance to make some money for the university system. He bought the \$900,000 building from some harassed garage men for \$301,000—and returned the money to two state education funds in ten months. Today, the school has a surplus of \$400,000. Sparks has made the three restaurants in the school profitable, and he rents office space to the Board of Regents, the state Merit System, and the*

*Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. He also leases to outside operators two parking lots and two filling stations.*

*Garage Annex: Now, from its own funds, the Atlanta Division is allocating \$600,000 for construction of a new building with 75 classrooms on an acre behind the converted garage (the state is providing the rest of the \$2,200,000 cost). The new edifice will be completed within a year, in time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the institution.*

*The college offers 500 subjects and gives the degrees of bachelor of business and B.S. in nursing. Students, who are of all ages, may take three years toward an A.B. from some other university branch. The division guarantees a job to every student (each studies only part time) and helps them find places to live. For Georgia residents, the tuition is only \$150 a year.*

*Often three generations of the same family take courses at the same time, and frequently the children of the city's wealthiest as well as poorest citizens attend. One woman comes to classes with a chauffeur carrying her books.*

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GEORGE McINTOSH SPARKS





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