Columbia College Begins To Rebuild
Necessary Adjustments Are Announced

Loss And Recovery

Total losses included 1½ million dollars worth of property.

The amount of insurance coverage will not be known until inventories have been made and insurance adjustors have completed their work.

Dr. Spears said, "It is our hope that 2/3 will be restored. We had a good insurance program which covered the value of the buildings but the replacement value is a much higher figure."

Students whose families had certain homeowners policies were covered up to one thousand dollars per student but there were families who had no insurance which covered their losses.

"People have been very generous — sending gifts of clothing and money to assist those students in greatest need. These gifts will be distributed as wisely as possible by a committee in the college," Dr. Spears said.

Fund Raising Plans

Within a few days a major campaign will be launched in the greater Columbia area and among Columbia alumni and friends near and far to obtain funds to construct several buildings. A campaign for April and May had been planned to secure funds for a new library and gymnasium. These plans will be accelerated to include all needs for new buildings.

Where Students Are

All rooms on campus that are large enough will house three girls. Double-decker or roll away beds have been moved into all these rooms.

The remainder of students are living in areas near the campus. They occupy college-owned houses, rooms in faculty and staff homes and rooms in the homes of Columbia students.

Most Columbia students who were residents of the college funds were integrated to live at home for the remainder of the year and some have taken other girls to live with them.

All transportation problems involved in housing away from the campus.

Main Buildings Departments

Are Relocated And Established

All departments except those which were housed in the main building will continue to meet classes in their regular classrooms.

A schedule of the changes in class meeting places has been issued to all students from the office of the academic dean.

The business department has been set up in the basement of Cottingham Theater.

English classes will meet in rooms in the educational building of College Place Church.

Library science classes are meeting on the second floor of the student center.

Music classes and lessons will be given in College Place Methodist Church, on the second floor of the student center, in the pre-college music studios and in the homes of music professors.

Art classes are located in the ceramics studio, the science building and in an art house behind the campus.

The psychology experimental lab will also be housed in the art house.

There will be no bells for changing classes this week. Students and professors are urged to take care to meet and dismiss classes at the scheduled times.

What Students Can Do

"The greatest thing that students can do now is to continue their wonderful and cooperative spirit in this time of readjustment — a continuation of the spirit of dignity and composure so obvious the night of the fire," Dr. Spears said.

Music classes and lessons will be given in College Place Methodist Church, on the second floor of the student center. "With the fall commencement of the students in the fall," Dr. Spears said, "we will get our students back to the college and we will have a wonderful time."
EDITORIAL

It has been difficult in the days just past to find words to express our feelings for the kindness shown by the friends of Columbia College. However, it is even more difficult to express our feelings to our Columbia College faculty, administration and maintenance staff for the spirit they have shown in a time of distress for all.

Columbia College students have always known how fortunate we were in being able to associate with the kind of people who make up our faculty, administration and staff. Their actions in the last few days have only shown us more than ever the blessings which are ours.

When professors can don work cloths and work tirelessly along with a maintenance crew who has not stopped for rest, we know then that the spirit of Columbia College reaches beyond the student body to include all who serve to make her great.

To the administration, faculty, maintenance and dining-room staffs we say with hearts filled with sincere gratefulness THANK YOU.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
February 16

In A Time Of Trial

The following is a reprint of “Bob Talbert At Large” from THE STATE, February 13.

It was a church service unlike any you will ever see. The girls in the pews wore hair curlers and tears. The men in the pulpit is a Methodist minister, but Wednesday morning shortly before dawn he was much more.

Dr. R. Wright Spears, president of Columbia College, met with his students in an hour of trial where hearts seemingly were breaking in two. Where the world of a 19-year-old was going up in smoke.

Three hundred yards away from the College Place Methodist Church Columbia firemen were desperately bringing a fire under control that had eaten the insides of Main Building and East Dormitory and sent the brick hulls of the ravaged old building crashing to the frozen earth.

All heads were bowed inside the church as Dr. Spears’ voice rose clear and firm in prayer. “Our hearts,” he began, “... are not bowed in humility, but in thanksgiving. In the time of tragedy we are thankful there is no loss of life. Help us find the strength that comes from Thee...”

Part Of The Heart

Dr. Spears continued. So did the soft sobbing of young ladies trying mightily to hold back the tears. Those in the pews who had lived in East Dorm, owned the precious little they wore — pajamas, night gowns, thin robes, heavy coats and raincoats. The rest they had left behind shortly after 2 a.m., when the fire alarm had sounded.

The seniors in the pews felt as if part of the heart they had to come to have in four years was out on the campus, smouldering and charred. Memories do not burn away easily.

“... Our minds and spirits will go surging forward,” Dr. Spears continued, “... as we rebuild our Columbia College...”

The sound of the crying grew louder.

“... Thank you for the wonderful spirit of co-operation...”

The girls — 600 — had evacuated the dorms orderly and quickly. There had been no panic, no hysteria. The fire drills of Miss Lucille Godbold’s direction had paid off.

Voices Of Pride And Hope

“... Nothing has happened this night that can’t be rebuilt...” Dr. Spears said and concluded the prayer. The girls looked up, cheeks wet, but hope and determination written on their faces.

Dr. Spears and Anne Clements, dean of students, went over announcements of when classes would be resumed, where girls were to check out, etc. It was hurriedly, but effectively organized.

And then they rose and sang the alma mater — brave, young voices filling with pride and hope. No alma mater ever sung will ever mean as much:

“We sing the praise of her we love,
We lift on high her name in song,
White as the gleaming stars above,
Columbia, mother, great and strong.
She who has been shall ever be,
Wise, good and true eternally;
the stain shall touch the purity
Of our Columbia College.”

And somehow you know that the stain of the charred timber and bricks, the blackened burned-out buildings, the tears from the hearts that seem to be breaking, will not touch the pure promise that Columbia College will rise again, greater than ever before.

FROM OTHER COLLEGES

From Other Colleges

Messages have come from many other colleges including practically every college in South Carolina and many from out of state. They have offered any facilities or equipment that they have for our use.

One college in Texas which has burned out four nights before Columbia College wrote a special letter to our student body. Mary Hardin-Baylor College students extended their prayers and love.

From College Place Church Bulletin

DOWN IN CHARLESTON many years ago someone tried to express sympathy to a Negro woman for the death of a street corner, flower-selling companion.

"I know you are sad over the passing of your friend. I saw you laughing together many times and have always felt that you must have been happy together."

Thoughtfully the woman answered, "Yes, I miss her very much. We did laugh a lot together, and we enjoyed each other's company, but I wouldn’t exactly say that we were friends though. You see, we never cried together."

Perhaps today College Place Church and Columbia College are closer friends than we’ve ever been, for this week we have wept together.

But also now, thankfully, we take our tiny part, as friends are wont to do, in joining her as she walks back into life. Beginning Monday morning some of our church school rooms will become hers, too, and our organ will accept other skilled and learning hands.

O come, our friends. You are welcome!

Our Appreciation

Special thanks to Sara DuBose and Scottie Shanklin for their typing and to all those people who gave us information to convey to the student body.

And to the Rev. A. McKay Brabham and the staff of the Methodist Advocate for their gracious assistance and use of their facilities in making possible this issue of Post-Script on such a short deadline. The photos are the Advocate’s.