

John Herr's Remarks

When asked to bring to this gathering some highlights of A. C. Moore's life and the history of this garden, I took the required 42 hours to read again the information I'd collected over the years. Fearing I would leave out something important, I decided to read the entire, unabridged account. Then on reconsideration and to your relief, I'm sure, I extracted a mere fragment of what I could share.

Born in **1866** to Elisabeth and Thomas Moore, Andrew Charles Moore was part of the post Civil War baby boom. One month from today, December 27th, will mark his 135th birthday. He lived his early life at the ancestral home, "Freedonia", in Moore, SC near Spartanburg. Incidentally, his father, Thomas Moore as a young man abandoned his studies at South Carolina college to serve in the confederate army, and later as a state legislator, he authored the bill for placing a monument to the "*Women of the Confederacy*" on the south side of the statehouse grounds.

In **1887** A. C. Moore graduated with highest honors from South Carolina College and presented his valedictory address entitled, *Progress of Thought in the Church*. His remarks defined his character and enunciated for the first time a concept he held for the rest of his life, viz., that (quote) "...there can be no...conflict (between Science and Religion), except in the imaginations of men." For 25 years, he served as ruling elder in the First Presbyterian Church.

For **eleven** years following his graduation, he served as school superintendent in Spartanburg and Camden, and as high school principal in Birmingham, AL.

From **1898** to **1900** he undertook graduate study in Botany at the University of Chicago and, throughout his career, he spent his summers in study at the University of Chicago or at Woods Hole Biological Station.

In **1905**, he was asked to chair the new Department of Biology as South Carolina College finally became the University of South Carolina, a position he held the rest of his life.

A. C. Moore was twice Acting President of the University, **1908-09** and **1913-14**. On that first occasion Thomas Moore completed his studies abandoned during the Civil War, and so President Moore is the only USC president to have conferred a degree upon his own father.

A. C. Moore died suddenly of an acute heart attack while asleep at his home, Number 4, University Campus (Lieber College). On that Monday night, a tropical storm moved into Columbia and uprooted many large trees on campus. One crashed through the wall of his bedroom and spread its branches across his bed. A *State Newspaper* account stated, "The great man and his favorite tree went out together." Eulogies were presented at his memorial service by two very close friends, George Armstrong Wauchope, author of the USC *alma mater*, and Patterson Wardlaw, for whom the College of Education Building is named.

The land for this garden was purchased by the University in **1937** with funds given by the Sesquicentennial Committee, Garden Clubs of Columbia, Alumni, and other interested parties.

In **1938**, the Blossom Street gates along with the plaque were given by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Keenan, Jr., and this day in **1941** the plaque was unveiled and the garden formally dedicated to the memory of Andrew Charles Moore. The cover of the plaque was actually pulled aside by Andrew Charles Moore Keenan.