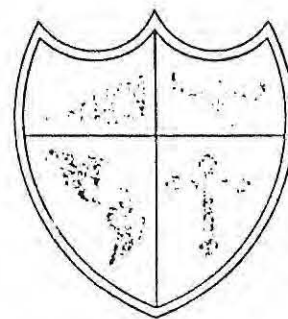




Riding & Roping

THE MEMOIRS OF
J. WILL HARRIS

Edited by C. Virginia Matters



Inter American University
of Puerto Rico

APPENDICES

on the north side of Javilla Street a concrete one room school, reinforced with barbed wires, which was used on Sundays for Sunday School and Church services. Miss Eva Espada was added to the teaching staff and the school gradually grew in numbers of enrollment and finally to the sixth grade as the lower grades found admission to the public schools and were discontinued. Doña Pepita Nazario, wife of Rev. José A. Martínez, was our Bible reader who visited the children's mothers in their homes regularly for prayer and Bible instruction.

We started out with no financial backing, depending on the Lord's leading and on small weekly fees of 5, 10 and 15 cents, or nothing from those who could not pay. The fees increased with the years. The Presbyterian Woman's Board heard of us through our dear friend, Mrs. Adah Brokaw McAfee, wife of J. E. McAfee, Secretary of the Home Mission Board in New York, and sent us monthly the \$25 salary¹ of Guillermina Nazario. I advanced the money for the concrete building which was repaid to me by the Woman's Missionary Board in the way of rent by the month.

This concrete building could not hold comfortably over 100 and it was necessary to run a double header—one section in the A.M. and another section in the P.M.—hard on the dedicated teachers but never a complaint for they taught to serve and to advance the children, not merely for their monthly \$25 check.

I then bought an acre of land adjoining the property of the Presbyterian Church in San Germán from José M. Acosta, on which I proposed to begin to provide for imminent demands for higher education. San Germán offered the [old Spanish] barracks² for my proposed expansion into more advanced schooling.

When that failed Juan Cancio Ortiz offered me his IAAO de Lajas which had bloomed and died. That too failed. Then came the 100 acres from Francisco Lagarde on the Santa Marta Hills, which had been reserved for four centuries by the Lord for the coming of what is now³ wrongly named the Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico. The objective from the first was to secure students from the best though poor families, to advance new standards within the needs and demands of the development of youth in Puerto Rico for a way of life to be lived for man and God and *centering around the Christian home as the greatest institution in the world*.⁴ I always had both sexes enrolled.

Don Juan Cancio Ortiz, with all sincerity and frankness, said at the time he gave me the paper of transfer of buildings from IAAO de Lajas to me for my school in San Germán, that he would never give any financial aid in my school's development. He never did give a dime to the Polytechnic up to the time I left, March 2, 1937.

Appendix C

*Twenty-eighth Anniversary Address
by Dr. John William Harris, March 2, 1940*

Honorable President of the Board of Trustees, Gov. Beverley, and fellow trustees;

President Morris, Faculty and Student Body;

President of the Alumni Association, Dr. Rodriguez, and Alumni and Friends:

It is an unexpected joy for Mrs. Harris and me to be here today, on the Twenty-eighth Anniversary of our college. We have been so royally received by you all. The reception of the city of San Germán and all the students of the public schools of San Germán, led by its band and escorted by the Boy Scouts and some 5,000 friends of San Germán on the day of our arrival, was most kind and touching. Had we known how much the people of our adopted town cared for our college and for us, we might never have left the Polytechnic. We knew we loved the people of our town and Island but did not know they really cared much for us till we returned the other day and saw the great crowd at the station and learned since of their increased support of and interest in our college. The warm, filial love of the alumni under the leadership of their president, Dr. José M. Rodríguez Quiñones, expressed first by their making it possible for us to be with you on this occasion and secondly by your many kind attentions and thought of our comfort since we arrived here as your guests have made us most happy. The welcome you have given us into your beautiful and well-kept homes, from one end of the Island to the other, convinces us that co-education in this college has been a success, for most of the homes are fathered and mothered by graduates of Polytechnic Institute. Our dreams for you, our spiritual children, in finding you happy and working hard in your service for God and man in Puerto Rico, have been realized. The paternal and increasing love of overflowing hearts go out to you all: alumni, faculty, students, to the town of San Germán and to the people of Puerto Rico. We thank you.

This school was conceived in prayer and communion with God. The Lord commissioned me to the presidency of this school before there was a school. I never forgot that commission. It ennobled me to stand up under trials and to endure hardships. The thought of that commission to serve here as founder of this school made me overcome the pent-up feelings of resentment, when misrepresentations



I DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO

Alumni, ex-Students, Faculties, Presidents, Trustees, Friends and People of Puerto Rico, for whose advancement Mrs. Harris and I founded our college, now your college.

We commit to you, one and all, the ideals in the Articles of Incorporation—the united, normal developments of the head, of the heart, of the hand.

Thus Students can achieve well-rounded characters and attractive personalities, which are resourceful, independent and of a sturdy Christian faith, expressed in service and love to God and man.

IN MEMORY OF POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
SAN GERMAN, PUERTO RICO

J. Harris

Dr. Harris in his Texas hat, the way thousands of Polytechnic students always remember him.