

JOSEPH MARYON SAUNDERS '25, for many years known to all in the Carolina family simply as "Spike," is to our good fortune a legend in his own time. One of the noble spirits of the Oldest State University in the epochs of Frank Graham and Bob House, he has served alma mater for more than half century of valuable and dedicated duty.

This is in addition to four years he first spent as a student—a period in which his leadership was readily recognized. The Yackety Yack said of him at his 1925 graduation that he was simply "an all-round fellow, unspoiled and full of fun, and did well the many things he undertook."

Following a year as a history teacher at Georgia Tech, he was called back to Chapel Hill to become Alumni Secretary in 1927. At that beginning of his 43-year career in this capacity the University had 25,000 living alumni and the Alumni Association less than 1,000 members. As he continues today in his eighth year of post-retirement labors for Alumni Annual Giving, the University has more than 130,000 living alumni and 25,000 members of its Alumni Association.

University President Dr. Frank Graham, his teacher in a freshman history class, later called "Spike" "one of my most vital co-workers," and, during many troubled times in the life of the University, "a quietly conciliatory influence." As steward of the Alumni Association, "Spike" Saunders rallied alumni partisans for the all-important creation of the consolidated University, the preservation of this University during the financial crisis of the great depression, the statewide campaign for the medical center at Chapel Hill, and in opposition to the Speaker Ban Law. At the same time his quiet and invaluable work became evident in the benefactions of William Whitaker, John Motley Morehead, John Sprunt Hill, William Kenan Rand, Jr., and Joseph Pogue, to mention only a few of the philanthropists whose generosity to the University he nurtured.

In his own profession his talents were recognized and acclaimed as his associates twice elected him President of the American Alumni Council. In his community he was this spring cited for his 50 years charter membership in the Kiwanis Club, through which he came to be a district governor of Kiwanis. In his church he has been for many years a ruling elder and rendered lay service from his local congregation up to the Presbyterian General Assembly.

At his retirement in 1970 a friend told him "your young-at-heart attitude and outward appearance has contributed to the fact that you are among the most loved and respected of all in the University family." Another declared that "Spike" has made more brick for Carolina with less straw than any man I know."

The principle of a Distinguished Service Medal from the General Alumni Association fairly commands that "Spike" Saunders be among the first recipients of this Award.