Alderman remained the president of the University of Virginia until his death in 1931.

The Cover: The paddlewheels of the Breaux Bridge Queen churn the quiet waters of scenic Bayou Teche as the family and friends of her builder, Al Grace, relax aboard.

The novel craft, powered by a five-horsepower gasoline motor, has become a mobile diving platform for Grace’s five children and a host of other Breaux Bridge youngsters.

Writer-photographer James Bourdier tells the story of the Queen on page 45.

Picture out of Our Past

THE NAME of the man seated in the swivel chair is Edwin Anderson Alderman. He is dictating a letter to his secretary, R. K. Bruff. The time is the turn of the century, and the scene is the office of the president, Gibson Hall, Tulane University.

Edwin Anderson Alderman became president of Tulane in 1900 at the age of 39, following the death of his predecessor, Col. William Preston Johnston. (Among those also considered for the post was a Professor Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University.)

Alderman had been president of the University of North Carolina for four years and came to Tulane with a reputation as an outstanding educator, administrator and orator.

In his inaugural address at Tulane he stated: “I believe in the dignity and in the conquering power of knowledge. I believe in the high destiny of my country and of this, its southern gateway.”

Alderman was a crusader for universal education, and during his four years at Tulane he fought for higher enrolments—despite the fears of older faculty members that such action would mean a lowering of scholastic standards.

Under his leadership, the university, at the celebration of its annual Founders’ Day in 1902, made its first public appeal for funds to support needed expansion; his tenure saw the beginning of that expansion in the form of a new library, four dormitories and a refectory.

Scholastically, believing the greatest needs of the South were scientific and industrial, Alderman placed emphasis on utilitarian rather than cultural development and especially stressed the area of social studies.

Exceptionally close to the student body, he lent himself with great vigor to extracurricular activities. Although no athlete himself, he is said to have greatly influenced Tulane’s coaching and cheering. An idea of the informal rapport that existed between him and the students is given by the chorus of a song published in a campus paper. Chaffing him for his speech-making penchant, it went:

"Tis Eddy Andy,
Tis Eddy Andy,
For he can tell the head off any man
So diplomatic
And pneumatic,
Mister Eddy Andy Alderman."

In 1904, despite a torrent of protest from state and city officials, civic leaders, faculty, alumni and student body, Alderman left Tulane. He accepted the presidency of the University of Virginia because he believed that there he would be able “to do the largest service to education in this nation in my time of activity.”

The high point of his oratorical career was reached on Dec. 15, 1924. Standing before a joint session of Congress he delivered a Woodrow Wilson memorial address that won national acclaim.

Alderman remained the president of the University of Virginia until his death in 1931.
Sidewheeler of the Teche

The Breaux Bridge Queen, novel sidewheeler built by Al Grace, leaves a broad wake of silvery ripples as she sets out on a fun-filled outing on the waters of Bayou Teche.

One member of Grace family who's always ready for afternoon on Queen is Tommy, 3

Craft has become base of swimming activities for Grace children, other Breaux Bridge youngsters.
SHE'S A DIVING PLATFORM equipped with paddle wheels and the delight of Breaux Bridge youngsters, especially 3-year-old Tommy Grace, youngest son of the man who built her.

The 12-by-25-foot sidewheeler, named the Breaux Bridge Queen, can be seen almost any afternoon paddling up and down Bayou Teche with a load of swimsuit-clad children.

Tommy's dad, Al Grace, built the Queen at his home, 207 Guilbeau, Breaux Bridge, with the help of Aubrey Heuman, Hugh Ambeau, Pat Marchand and John Hebert. He powered her with a five-horsepower, air-cooled gasoline motor that drives the paddle wheels through two separate sets of belts.

Each wheel thus operates independently of the other, making it easy to turn the oblong boat "on a dime." The inside wheel is stopped, the outside one speeded up.

The Queen is exceptionally safe, resting as she does on two 18-inch-deep steel pontoons that render her practically unsinkable. As now powered, she travels just a few miles per hour.

Among the things Tommy likes best about the boat are the two big ice boxes, which are always stocked with soft drinks, and the barbecue pit (steel) which turns out some mighty tasty dishes.

But the big moment of each afternoon comes when, fitted with a life jacket, he jumps from the Queen with the rest of the youngsters into the cool waters of the Teche.

As his son Albert mans the wheel, Al Grace handles the gearshift levers, puts both of craft's paddle wheels in action.