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HULLEY TOWER MEMORIALIZES STETSON LEADER

By HAMPTON DUNN

DELAND --- Minutes of the 1905 Florida Baptist Convention paint a portrait of the man, Dr. Lincoln Hulley:

"...We feel that we have in him not only a man possessed with breadth of culture and scholarship, the charm and eloquence of the orator, the tact and ability of the executive, but one to whom belongs the high and noble mindedness and deep spirituality of the Christian gentleman..."

The former Bucknell University professor took over as president of Stetson University here in 1904 at the age of 39, and served for the next 30 years. He found dissension, soon got John B. Stetson reinstated as chairman of the trustees, who in return paid off the large debts of the school. Other highlights of his administration: The student body grew to 500, the school was accredited, the College of Law was recognized by the American Bar Association, the first summer school was held and the Stover Theatre began pioneering in dramatics.

Dr. Hulley became interested in politics, was elected State Senator in 1918, served two terms. He ran for Governor of Florida in 1920, but lost to Cary A. Hardee and Van C. Swearingen.

The distinguished leader used to pack 1,000 persons into Sunday afternoon Vesper services he led. He quit holding them because local ministers complained he cut into their Sunday night crowds. Collections at the Vespers grew into a fund from which came the "Eloise Chimes," for Mrs. Hulley. They were mounted in Elizabeth Hall, but set up vibrations too great for the structure. Dr. Hulley then built Hulley Tower, where the chimes are now housed. The tower is a square red brick campanile 80 feet high, rising from a dressed limestone base. The bodies of the great Stetson president, who died in 1934, and his wife are in crypts on the first floor of the tower.