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Kline, Homer B. - The Spirit of Otterbein From A Personal Perspective

Mrs. William G. Bale

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HOMER B. KLINE 8234 37th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33740

November 23, 1966

Mrs. William G. Bale
Editor, Otterbein Towers
Otterbein College
Westerville, Ohio 43081

Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for your letter of November 3rd and for your comments on my contribution to the "Spirit of Otterbein" collection. If it proves helpful to Dr. Hancock or to you I shall be amply rewarded for its writing. It really was a pleasant task.

The questions in the fourth paragraph are difficult ones. First, let me say however, that I think Dr. Clippinger's administration demands full coverage in any history recording 125 years of the life and growth of Otterbein. His 30 years comprise almost one fourth of that period and certainly laid the foundation we built upon for the Centennial and upon which the subsequent expansion rests. It was progressive, aggressive and constructive, leaving the college far advanced at every point of comparison with the levels at which he found it. While winning the support of influential educational interests outside the church, he kept the college actively identified within the church and built up there an increasing interest and devotion to Christian higher education as well as to Otterbein itself.

The reasons for his resignation are not readily assessed after almost 30 years. Personally, I feel the criticism he received during the final years of his administration was not the chief cause but rather a contributing one. I think it was the failure of more of "his" students - then alumni- to come vigorously to his support when the criticism came that led to his discouragement and ultimate resignation. He read into their attitude a lack of understanding and appreciation of all he and Mrs. Clippinger had done and of the many personal sacrifices they had made for Otterbein.

To a limited extent this interpretation was correct but in many instances, the alumni attitude simply was a reflection of the fact that during their years on campus he had not won the warm-hearted confidence and cooperation of the students whose diplomas he signed. It was not that he did not try. It was merely that his

exceptional executive ability, coupled with a rigid code of ethical and moral conduct, plus a large amount of conservatism made him seem cold and distant to the average student. His sternness as a disciplinarian, although impartial, often won him bitterness from a culprit rather than respect or repentance. The result was the building of a "wall", largely in the imagination of the students, which in reality did not exist and of which he was unaware.

He was zealous in his desire to make Otterbein a truly Christian college. He thus was extremely conscientious in the matter of carrying out the actions of the Board of Trustees and the ideals of the church. By nature he was inclined to interpret these literally rather than liberally. Thus he clashed "head on" with many advocates of the social groups. They read into his attitude an inflexible, ultra conservative, almost arbitrary viewpoint. He, on the other hand, merely felt he was doing ^{his} duty.

As the years advanced he ^{was} loath to delegate authority. He was working - always with great desire and often under great duress - toward a better Otterbein. He knew what the vision was and how it could become reality. But he feared for its accomplishment in the hands of others. This brought additional criticism.

All of these factors, and possibly others unknown to me, finally crystalized in a flood of public dissatisfaction to which he yielded. As stated in my manuscript, I was one of the few students privileged to enjoy a warm, personal relationship with Dr. Clippinger. Even in reprimand, which on an occasion or two he found necessary, I remember him as considerate, helpful, always interested in my best interests. I was extremely sorry when his resignation came although I reluctantly agreed it was the wisest course to follow.

Cordially,

James B. Hine

P.S. Your letter came while we were out of town - hence the delay in answering. Also, please excuse my typing; it is pretty bad.

The Spirit of Otterbein
From A Personal Perspective

Homer B. Kline '15

Both farms happened to lie within the borders of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. However, it was not until Harry Beaver Kline of West Hempfield Township took the job as telegraph operator and ticket agent at a small way station on a nearby branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad that he met the oldest daughter of a neighboring farm in East Hempfield Township. Her name was Myra Witmer Baker and she was the one member of her family who had forsaken the tenets of the River Brethren (Mennonite) faith for the more liberal customs of the United Brethren Church. Perhaps it was the fact that she did not wear "plain" clothing which first attracted the young man whose religious background had been largely acquired from a devout Lutheran mother. At any rate they were married at the bride's home with a United Brethren minister officiating. Prior to the wedding richer opportunity had beckoned from the larger Pennsylvania Railroad and the young couple soon found themselves settled on the outskirts of Pittsburgh.

The choice of a college offered no problem for me. My parents had always insisted that their boys should have a better education than the "little red schoolhouse" had afforded them. From the time when it was necessary to select the pre-college course at Pittsburgh Central High School it had been determined that I should go to college, preferably one church-supported and church-controlled. Enrollment at Otterbein came even more naturally under the influence and example of the parsonage family. Dr. L. F. John and his good wife, the daughter of Bishop E. B. Kephart, served the local United Brethren Church

and their family brought new life and vigor to the young people of the congregation. ↪

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 (Rex K. John '11, and Dwight T. John '12, were students at Otterbein. Along with one or two others from the area they directed the thoughts and the footsteps of prospective students westward to Westerville. Rex, fullback on the championship football team of 1910 under Coach A. A. Exendine, was a particular idol but the wisdom and graciousness of the minister and his wife cannot be discounted when inquiring students sought counsel at the parsonage.

Thus it was that September, 1912, saw me on the campus of Otterbein College (then University). It was a new and, to some extent, a strange world. Yet it was not entirely new or strange. Dwight T. John and Naomi Jameson Struble '09, had seen to that. I had been Dwight's guest on campus the previous winter and Naomi had given me her 1909 Sibyl. Before leaving for Westerville I had poured over its pages until I felt I knew every building, many of the athletes, and even some of the faculty. The friendly caricatures, by E. J. Pace '05, based on popular advertising characters of the day, served as human interest introductions which supplemented their more formal pictures. I was prepared for the benign Dr. F. E. Miller '87, of Freshman "math" and the cherubic smile of Dr. ~~E. A.~~ Weinland '05, in first year chemistry. One member of the faculty, a newcomer not included in the series, also won my heart. He was Dr. E. W. E. Schear '07, who taught me general zoology, sending the class out over the athletic field in search of *Melanoplus femur-rubrum*, the red-legged locust, which was our first laboratory specimen. L.A.

Outside the classroom the literary societies occupied a major portion of campus interest. New students were assiduously cultivated. "Riding" for society was in high gear. Coming from Western Pennsylvania, I was regarded as a "natural" for Philophronea because many Pennsylvanians found places there. However, ultimately I went to the "other end of the hall", to

Philomatheia where the John boys had preceded me and for which they had helped create a most favorable image.

One of the attractions which Philophroneia offered to Freshmen that fall was a new tennis court. It was on the north side of College Avenue where a pair of concrete steps led up to the level of the court. One carried in blue the Greek letters representing the society, Phi Kappa Phi. One day, in passing with R. E. Penick '13, editor of The Otterbein Review, the Philomathean weekly newspaper, I critically remarked, "I thought Otterbein did not permit Greek letter organizations." He knew I was joking but jumped at the idea. "Why don't you write a letter to the editor," he laughed, "raising the same question?" I did and he published it shortly. Whether it caused any consternation among the Philophroneians I do not know but it was the ~~final tie~~ ^{Podestone} that drew me firmly to Philomatheia. Later it helped me win a place on the staff of The Review which finally led to its editorship and, indirectly at least, aided in the choice of the graphic arts as a business career.

Athletics commanded a large share of my time and attention. In the winter there was basketball (I never advanced beyond the scrubs), and with the spring track came with the first snow melt. I felt more at home on the cinder path than anywhere else and was fortunate to win the coveted "O" that first year, running the dashes and high hurdles as well as taking a turn at the pole vault. As a Senior I was chosen Captain of the team.

Cap Toward the end of my Freshman year the idea occurred to me that, with a little extra effort plus two summer sessions, I could be graduated in three years. After a rather strenuous summer, September, 1913, found me a provisional member of the Junior class. It was more notable, however, for my discovery of a blue-eyed girl, my neighbor in first year French. Miss Norma G. McCally of Dayton, Ohio, had such a sparkle in her eye, such abundant but subtle good humor, and so much common sense that we quickly became friends. Evidently she found some reciprocating qualities in me for our mutual and exclusive

attention to each other sometimes drew smiles or an occasional gentle jibe from the teacher, Dr. A. P. Rosselot '05, In spite of his teasing, "Prof." and I were good friends for more than fifty years. Regardless of the innocuous fun at our expense, Miss McCally and I found a great deal in common of interest and inspiration.

As the years moved along various other student responsibilities came to me. As Manager of the Men's Glee Club I was able to schedule the first out-of-state concert tour. The Y. M. C. A. and Athletic Board brought opportunities to develop leadership and do some creative thinking. Sometimes, however, the toll on my study time was detrimental to my academic accomplishments. In after years I was far from proud of the record that stands in the files of the Registrar. In fact I have frequently wished I had "cracked the books" more diligently. Scholarship standards were less rigid than they became as the years advanced and I reasoned mistakenly that the practical knowledge gained through extra-curricular activities more than compensated for their cost in time and energy. Broader experience proved my theory wrong but it took me a good many years to realize the error. 6

One of the dividends my campus activity did produce was a warm personal relationship with President W. G. Clippinger. Many of the students felt him to be distant but I found him just the opposite. In my Junior year, as a member of the staff of The Otterbein Review, I was in his office frequently checking news releases for our weekly issues. These visits led to a regular appointment every Monday morning after Chapel. We would discuss the news stories for the week, project items and events in the making, and plan for their proper coverage. He was alert, knew the value of publicity, and gave me my first insight into the importance of good public relations. If time permitted and there were no interruptions, "Prexy" sometimes would take me into his confidence and "dream" a little about the greater and more useful Otterbein

he visualized. He looked forward especially to the Diamond Jubilee in 1922.

The campaign of 1914 which raised \$100,000.00 for endowment, thus preserving Otterbein's status with the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, was my first taste of educational fund-raising. My function was that of a reporter and my entree to the President's office gave me an inside glimpse into the intense physical energy and sense of urgency which typified his approach to this and later solicitations. g

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 [As the association's dead-line, March 17, drew near, he worked almost around the clock, phoning and telegraphing final appeals to all components of the college constituency. When the goal was reached and surpassed just a few hours before the time limit expired, an impromptu rally developed. The college bell was rung for more than an hour while exuberant students took the President on their shoulders to the Chapel where some faculty members and friends had assembled informally.

The following day The Otterbein Review enclosed its regular edition in a four-page Endowment Special wrap-around and a more formal celebration was held in Chapel. There were short congratulatory greetings from townspeople, trustees, faculty, and students. President Clippinger responded with some highlights of the campaign after which J. R. Schutz '14, with appropriate words of appreciation on behalf of the student body, presented a silver loving cup, suitably engraved, to Dr. Clippinger and a large bouquet of American Beauties to Mrs. Clippinger. Unfortunately I missed the final work on the wrap-around and the excitement of the celebrations. I was suddenly called to Pittsburgh where my younger brother had passed away.

After the summer sessions of 1913 and 1914 I worked for the college calling on prospective students. This was a second dividend from my close association with the President. I do not remember that I signed many students but as I traveled over Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania I added greatly to my promotional experience. I was compelled to orient my thinking about

the college from the viewpoint of a prospect and his parents. I had to marshal my arguments so that they would first listen and then respond. It was slow and hard work. There were few automobiles so travel was by interurban traction between towns and by hired livery rig from farm to farm where many of the best prospects lived. In the towns I walked from one home to another. I found universal welcome and courtesy at local United Brethren parsonages, however, and frequently a visit in the home of one of my fellow students provided a refreshing interlude. I gained valuable experience in personal contact and learned to put myself in the other fellow's place. On the whole I profited far beyond the modest salary I drew from the Treasurer's office.

In October of my Senior year The Otterbein Review began a low-key crusade to provide more opportunities for student activity and contact during the evening hours. The effort was launched with an editorial which began: "Did you ever realize what a forsaken place the college campus is after five o'clock? Walk across the campus some evening and more than likely you will not see a soul." "Somehow," it continued, "the college seems to pull down the blinds, turn out the lights, and hang out the 'no admittance' sign after five o'clock." "Cannot something be done to remedy this matter?" it went on to ask. "There is the library, for instance. It is closed every day at five o'clock. This is an unusual condition." The multiple demands for time which crowd today's campus schedule make it difficult to visualize the situation depicted. But the picture was not overdrawn. On many an evening the campus ^{was} deserted. Outside of specific cultural events and periodic basketball or musical organization practice sessions, little happened after the dinner hour. Thursday and Friday evenings brought brief exceptions for the literary

societies met then. Thus Thursday meant 8:30 permissions for the girls rather ^{until} than the usual 7:30 limits. Weekends brought longer extensions ^{to 10:00 and} ^{o'clock} there was an occasional "late" permit to provide for a social evening of great importance. On ~~almost all~~ days, after dinner, we were strictly on our own. We largely controlled our own evening time and made our own programs - the girls usually within the confines of the dormitory and the supervision of the resident matron, the men on a wider scale and in a less orthodox manner. There was no radio or television to provide information or diversion. So we made our own fun or, if necessary, studied, not at the library or anywhere else at the college, but at our living quarters. Partly as a result of The Review's advocacy and partly, no doubt, because it was in keeping with the tenor of the times, the library shortly was opened during the early hours of a few evenings each week. Soon more and more students began to make use of these evening hours for study and for reference assignments. Thus what now seems like a first step in the trend toward the concentrated use of the library facilities for study purposes was begun.

My undergraduate days also saw the definite beginnings of the decline in the literary societies. Dr. Bartlett in "Education for Humanity - The Story of Otterbein College", quotes from the Otterbein Aegis to portray the antagonism that had existed between societies, citing what the editor in 1898 called, "this detestable society spirit." In the same editorial the editor includes a complaint that equal representation from each society was a necessary prerequisite for the success of a given student activity. Historically the work of the literary societies was excellent and was well publicized but little has been recorded of the bitterness inspired by their excessive rivalry. As reported earlier, competition for Freshman members in 1912 was keen, but, as a newcomer, I detected little, if any, animosity between the men's societies. In the years that followed I made solid friendships in both. Of course we did plenty of hard "selling" on prospective members and sometimes indulged in friendly banter about the relative merits of the two, but there was no real antipathy from which the college suffered as a whole.

There were many factors in the society decline and ultimate demise. Foremost among them was the encouragement and growth of a unified college spirit through the introduction of intercollegiate athletics. A football victory brought glory and happiness to all no matter how the team was divided between the men's societies. Secondly, a change in the character of the student body to include more graduates from urban and consolidated rural high schools rather than from the college-operated academy broadened its outlook and sophistication. An increase in the number of student extracurricular activities was a third factor. All sorts of campus clubs - camera, science, press, and musical, to mention a few - sprang up to ask for time and space to develop their specific interests. All intruded on the societies' prerogatives. A fourth factor was student-inspired and student-executed. It was an altruistic, although secret, organization known as the "Props", short for Propagandas. Begun sometime about the turn of the century, and dedicated to oppose the ruthlessness of society politics, it was self-perpetuating, composed of four men from each of the societies, usually two Seniors and two Juniors, chosen for their capacity for leadership. This group sought by example and by persuasion to direct the course of student decisions away from society influence or domination into the more natural channels of consideration on merit alone. Admittedly undemocratic, and difficult to justify in retrospect, it was a product of the times and of a condition evidently judged in serious need of correction. By the time I was invited to membership in 1914 a great deal of the missionary work had been done and no world-shaking problems confronted us. I can recall only three meetings, *partially* largely social in character, during my two years of active membership. As the need diminished the "Props" diminished and, finally, when the societies passed into limbo so did the self-appointed guardians of their once misguided enthusiasms. However, in connection with the Centennial Commencement in 1947, the "Props" held a last rendezvous, had a grand time and a glorious feed, and made a departing contribution of \$1000.00 to the Memorial Stadium fund.

Concurrent with the decline of the societies came the rise of the so-called social clubs, forerunners of today's fraternities. Beginning about 1908,

they were organized around some congenial group who roomed together or who were in the habit of holding "bull sessions" and midnight feeds, often the result of clandestine visits to nearby vegetable gardens or chicken runs. There were those who said that the clubs were responsible for the society collapse but the fate they suffered in all colleges on a nationwide basis is proof that the theory is incorrect. I was among a group of Philomatheans who, at first, brushed the clubs off rather lightly, preferring to concentrate all available energy on the preservation of society standards. However, after my term as editor of The Otterbein Review ended, I was approached on the matter by E. E. Bailey '15, the man who had preceded me as editor and whom I had served as assistant editor during my Junior year. It was not an easy decision but I finally chose not to buck the wave of the future and accepted an invitation to become a member of Country Club. Along with my good friend, C. L. Richey, '16, I was initiated in the spring of my Senior year.

7 The month ~~passed~~ passed quickly. June 17, 1916, my twenty-first birthday, brought me my diploma and degree. The class procession walked from the college Chapel to the steps of Carnegie Library (now the A. T. Clippinger Administrative Center) where we sang "Oh we're Proud of Our Alma Mater" for the last time as a group and prepared to face the world.

As the climax of my college career approached I began to question the wisdom of condensing four year's work into three. I was about to quit the scene, leaving my campus sweetheart with one year to go it alone. So a week or two before Commencement I hid myself down to the headquarters of the Anti-Saloon League of America on lower State Street, a few copies of The Otterbein Review under my arm. Dr. Ernest E. Cherrington, Publisher, needed young men with editorial experience for a new daily newspaper under consideration. Accordingly on June 18 I became a member of the editorial staff of The National Daily. I was a re-write man, adapting stories from the wire services and other dailies for our needs. Later I wrote a column of short semi-humorous paragraphs on the wet and dry issue called "Chasers". It was a lot of fun and once in a while brought me a word of commendation.

Thus, in a sense, I was able to "eat my cake and have it too." It was a

pleasant year during which my yen for the art of printing and the rumble of the presses grew stronger and my choice of a career more firmly fixed. Socially Miss McCally and I took in most of the college affairs and I was an oftentimes visitor at Country Club, ~~which had initiated me the spring of my senior year.~~ After the Class of 1916 was graduated I decided to pull up stakes and seek more fertile fields. So I said goodbye to my fellows at the office and headed for home in Pittsburgh.

My job-hunting luck continued. In July I went to work in the Department of Publicity, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, as a member of the Sales Promotion Section. This connection lasted for more than four years including two rather prolonged absences occasioned by World War I.

One day prior to my enlistment, while eating lunch in a restaurant across the street from the Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh, Pa., I happened to glance toward the door. There, gazing rather dubiously into the cavernous interior, was Dr. Clippinger. I rushed out and invited him to join me. We had a grand time together. He brought me up-to-date on Otterbein activities and told me of the financial campaign then in progress. It was known as the Quadrennial Campaign and produced \$400,000.00, including the funds for the McFadden Science Hall. That noon I came face to face with the first glimmering recognition of the spirit of Otterbein. I realized with a kind of inner glow that an intangible tie bound the Otterbein family together in a unique way. I did not evaluate it further then but its influence was to grow in my life as an alumnus.

After this unexpected encounter I found myself in possession of the names of a few Pittsburgh alumni for personal contact. I can't recall how many pledges I got, but there is in my library a copy of Garst's "History of Otterbein University", presented by President W. G. Clippinger following the

campaign. From then on I was a "regular". The Diamond Jubilee, which raised \$1,000,000.00 thanks to the incentive gifts of the Carnegie and Rockefeller Foundations, was the next. The highpoint of this effort for Pittsburgh alumni was an Otterbein Dinner held at the University Club under the sponsorship of John A. Shoemaker '94, and his wife, Daisy Custer Shoemaker '95.

In October, 1920, I made my final change in the graphic arts when I joined the sales staff of The Eddy Press Corporation, Pittsburgh. Thus when the campaign for the Alumni Gymnasium came along in 1928 I was in control of my own time to a considerable degree. Along with some direct solicitations, I was able to act as chauffeur for the fund-raising representative of the college over a goodly portion of Western Pennsylvania. We made the "chicken and green pea" circuit together. He did the speaking after the alumni dinners and discussed campaign strategy with local committees while I did the driving from one point to another.

My fiancée, Norma McCally, and I had been married in June, 1919, not too long after my army discharge. We did not return to the college, however, until 1925 (my tenth anniversary), at which time we were accompanied by our daughter, Mary Jane (Mary Jane Van Sickle '42). McFadden Hall was still new and there was some vacant space on the first floor nearest the main campus. It was used as Alumni headquarters and, as I remember, was the scene of the Alumni luncheon that year.

Caps

In September, 1929, I was elected a trustee of the college from the former Allegheny Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. By that time I was an executive with The Eddy Press Corporation. Soon the world-wide depression, which was touched off for the United States by "black ~~Friday~~ ^{Tuesday}", October 29, 1929, on Wall Street, brought us business problems which engaged our full time and attention. We struggled, as did countless others, to keep our heads above water. Regretfully I was unable to attend any Board of Trustee

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meetings and after a six-year period was replaced. The board, however, gave me a second chance. In 1937 I was elected a trustee-at-large. Things were going better then and I began to attend the meetings.

Much to my surprise it appeared that there had been mounting alumni dissatisfaction with President Clippinger during the latter years of his administration. I had not sensed this in Western Pennsylvania. Finally he announced to the board that he planned to tender his resignation at its meeting in June, 1939. This would terminate thirty years of service as President of Otterbein College. He was at the time the oldest president in point of service of any Ohio college and one of the oldest in the nation.

I was named a member of the committee to nominate a successor. After a long and diligent search with quite a few meetings and interviews, the committee nominated Dr. John Ruskin Howe '21, a member of the faculty of Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He was elected unanimously at the June, 1939, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

This was a momentous meeting for me too. It seemed that Mr. E. F. Crites, Chairman of the Board, had asked not to be re-elected. Bishop A. T. Howard '94, of the board's Nominating Committee, sought me out, presented the need and the opportunity. I could not refuse. The result was my election. It was a great privilege to serve as Chairman of the Board for eleven years, until June, 1950.

The new president and the new chairman assumed their positions at once with youthful enthusiasm. Our first task had to do with the rebuilding of the heating plant. Built in 1907 at a cost of approximately \$20,000.00, it was then more than thirty years old and had been pushed to its limit by the addition of McFadden Hall, King Hall, and the Alumni Gymnasium. It was declared impossible to patch it up further and, as the school year of 1940-41 drew near, it was hesitatingly suggested that it might not last out the winter.

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Money was tight. The effects of the depression were still in evidence.

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At length, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees was called to seek a plan of action. Dr. A. B. Cox, trustee from Southeast Ohio Conference, came up with a solution. He suggested that the church would be glad to help meet the emergency and proposed that all the cooperating conferences be asked to assume their proportionate share of the \$30,000.00 estimated cost on a membership basis. The plan was adopted and was subsequently approved by the conferences. Soon a new brick plant, complete with up-to-date boilers and a towering brick chimney, replaced the former building of concrete blocks with its black metal stack. However, the money did not come all at once. Many of the individual churches had financial problems of their own and worked on their conference-assigned quotas over a period of several years.

In the meantime President Howe and I were busy with other matters. Already we were looking to the coming Centennial of the college in 1947, hoping to formulate some ideas for its adequate observance. A Centennial Survey Committee was appointed at the mid-year meeting of the board in December, 1941. As a background for my own participation in the work of this committee, I read carefully both the Garst and the Bartlett histories. Each gave me a clear understanding of the motivations and the sacrifices of Otterbein's leadership throughout the years. I was impressed with the legacy left by the pioneers. Beginning with Dr. Lewis Davis, who made the first financial contribution to the college and later served as its first active president, each succeeding generation had had the capacity to diagnose its problems, the vision to project them, and the courage to meet the challenge they presented. I resolved that we could do no less.

One year later, on December 4, 1942, a comprehensive outline, known as

the Centennial Program, was presented and approved. Long expectantly awaited, it was in reality a five-fold program with a two-fold purpose. It sought not only to celebrate the centennial milestone of Otterbein College appropriately, but also to commemorate one hundred years of Christian higher education in The Church of the United Brethren in Christ. It sought in like manner to anticipate the second century of the college through a re-evaluation of the spiritual and social life on campus, a strengthening of her academic standards, and a rehabilitation of her endowment and physical plant.

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 The accomplishment of these objectives was committed to five special committees composed of alumni, faculty members, loyal churchmen, and friends of the college. Each was charged with a supplementary program covering the areas of spiritual and social life, academic standards, observance, publicity, and finances. These committees, in total, comprised the Centennial Program Committee, which met frequently to stimulate and to guide the development of the entire concept. Its officers were: President J. R. Howe, General Director; Dr. Wade S. Miller, who had come to Otterbein from the presidency of Shenandoah College, Dayton, Virginia, Assistant Director; and Dr. Floyd J. Vance '16, Secretary. At the insistence of the Board of Trustees, I was named General Chairman of the Centennial Committee and of the Centennial Executive Committee, which held interim responsibility.

Momentum gathered slowly. The individual committees had free rein to set their own pace for organization and for the exploration of their assigned tasks. Preliminary interchange of ideas among their members required time and study but each produced a final plan and a procedure which became part of the fabric of the Centennial Program as a whole. About one year was required for this period of preparation.

and of preparation.

The first formal event, opening the Centennial Program under the direction of the Centennial Observance Committee, was the Centennial Inaugural, held January 21, 1944, in the college Chapel. Bishop A. R. Clippinger delivered the opening address. As he concluded a powerful message, the bishop let his gavel fall and declared, "The Centennial campaign for Otterbein College is on." It was a modest but auspicious beginning. From that time the program moved with increasing rapidity.

The resignation of President J. R. Howe in January, 1945, after five and one half years of devoted service, required vigorous and prompt action. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, meeting in called session, elected Dr. R. F. Martin '14, acting President. He guided the administrative affairs of the college over a difficult period with both firmness and tact. Later, by action of the Board of Trustees, he was formally designated the fourteenth president of the college. Dr. Wade S. Miller was elevated to serve as the General Director of the Centennial Program. He assumed complete responsibility at once, directing the entire program toward its ultimate goals while paying particular attention to the Financial Program. At that time its objective was set at \$575,000.00.

A Presidential Nominating Committee was another immediate need. It was appointed promptly and, after a winter and spring of hard work, named Dr. J. Gordon Howard '22, of Dayton, Ohio, Editor of Sunday School Literature for The Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He was elected unanimously at the May, 1945, meeting of the Board of Trustees and formally inaugurated on November 3, 1945, an occasion planned and supervised by the Centennial Observance Committee.

The Centennial Program was planned and developed during a unique period in our history as a nation and as a denomination. The Centennial Survey Committee was authorized on December 5, 1941. Two days later, on December 7, came

Pearl Harbor. Formal declarations of war against Japan and Germany followed. Thus the program was born amidst the uncertainty of preparation for a global conflict and it was carried to completion largely under actual war conditions with their confusion, regimentation, and disruption of civilian activities. I well remember returning from Columbus to Pittsburgh one evening via railroad (my gasoline coupons were a minus quantity) and having to stand until we reached Newcomerstown. And the thrill of the V-E Day announcement, which punctuated the Commencement Exercises of May 7, 1945, and sent the audience into the exultant singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" under the spontaneous leadership of G. G. Graybill '05, at the organ with Professor A. R. Spessard directing, shall remain with me always.

One week after this memorable Commencement, another important event took place on campus, the thirty-fourth General Conference of The Church of the United Brethren in Christ. This conference celebrated a centennial observance of its own. Exactly one hundred years earlier, in May, 1845, meeting in Circleville, Ohio, the ninth General Conference had passed the enabling resolution after long and bitter debate, which resulted directly in the founding of Otterbein College. It was upon this resolution that the leaders of Scioto Conference had, in turn, based their action authorizing the solicitation of funds and the purchase of the property belonging to Blendon Young Men's Seminary in Westerville.

Months before Dr. Howe and I had conceived the idea of a joint celebration of this event which resulted in Otterbein's founding by inviting the thirty-fourth conference to consider the campus as a possible site for its meeting. After consultation with church and civic authorities in Westerville, an invitation was extended and accepted. It took a bit of doing, with considerable readjustment of second semester schedules, but there was excellent cooperation from everyone. For ten days the local United Brethren Church and the college hosted the delegates from all sections of the country and from our mission

conferences. Main sessions were held in the church while committee and board meetings met throughout the college buildings. Use of the college dormitories and dining facilities was also made. Due attention was given by the conference to Christian higher education. Its historical significance was appropriately depicted in a dramatization of the founding of Otterbein and the future was not forgotten, either with respect to legislation or the budget. All told the conference added considerable impact to our own Centennial two years later.

A year of hard work followed. The Board of Trustees took the lead both as individuals and collectively. Acknowledging all that needed to be done, these men and women courageously pledged to themselves and to each other renewed endeavor. Each of the Centennial Committees dug in, seeking to round out its assignment for the total emphasis of the approaching anniversary. The year ended with the First General Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, held in Johnstown, Pa., in November. This conference united the two former denominations and added further importance, indirectly, to our own Centennial. Otterbein College suddenly found herself the oldest of the new denomination's seven institutions of higher learning. This infused our committees with added desire to achieve all we had set out to do. It is impractical to list here their constructive accomplishments. Each did a good job, thorough-going and forward-looking.

The abrupt ending of World War II ~~had~~ brought a sudden spurt in student enrollment creating a number of new problems. President Howard, busy with ~~a~~ ⁹ ~~host of~~ administrative decisions, found time for much valuable effort in the area of the Centennial and worked in full cooperation with the General Director on campus and with the General Chairman as well. The urgency of the situation ^u drew President Howard and ~~me~~ closely together as we sought to interpret the changing needs of the college in terms of the significance of the anniversary and the dawn of a new century. An earlier friendship, which had grown out of mutual interests as students and younger alumni, blossomed into

a fresh relationship, now more solid than ever with the passing years. I came quickly to value the catalytic as well as the direct leadership he brought to the campus. It was reflected in every part of college life, including the work of the Board of Trustees. phase

The Centennial year actually began with the opening of school in September, 1946, preceding the uniting general conference. In fact, the Centennial Homecoming on Saturday, November 9, also antedated it. This affair was a huge success, highlighted by a victorious football game and an oxroast served in the Alumni Gymnasium to two thousand approving alumni and students. Other events pointed up the significance of the year. There was a concert by the Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra featuring the premiere performance of "A Phantasy of Ben Hanby Melodies", in January. February brought Dr. and Mrs. John Finley Williamson '11, and their world-famous Westminster Choir to the campus. In April a Founders' Day Educational Conference of three days duration presented ten outstanding speakers on the theme, "Education for World Citizenship." They were greeted by delegates from 125 colleges and universities and 21 learned societies. Sunday, May 18, the Columbia Broadcasting System, in tribute to ~~the significance of~~ the Centennial, broadcast over its entire network a program of the Church of the Air, using the college church choir and the college minister, the Reverend Dr. M. J. Miller, who spoke on "The Future Is Now." tw

The calendar rolled inexorably forward to the Centennial Commencement. Again it is impractical to review all the events that crowded those happy days. The accent was on reunion and remembrance. There were two unique features, however: a Centennial Queen presided over the events, Sylvia Phillips Vance '47, fourth generation student and great granddaughter of Professor John Haywood, pioneer teacher at Otterbein from 1851 to 1893, with her court of eleven girls, all second or third generation students; and the Centennial Play, "Each in His Time", an historical drama authored by Evelyn Edwards Bale '30, and Dr. Robert Price and produced by Dr. J. F. Smith '10, a nostalgic portrayal of the

beginnings of the spirit of Otterbein and a dramatization of its inculcation in the students of the present.

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The Centennial Program came to a triumphant conclusion simultaneously with the ending of Otterbein's first century. The time was Monday morning, June 9, the place the college church. There, as part of the Commencement exercises, it was my happy privilege to bring a final accounting to the constituency of the college. I recalled briefly some of the circumstances under which the program had been conceived and carried on. I recounted the successes we had achieved including the complete subscription of our twice-increased financial goal of \$640,000.00. I was able to announce also a bequest of more than \$200,000.00 from the estate of Shauck E. Barlow, later used for the building of Barlow Hall, making a total of more than \$850,000.00 added to the assets of the college during the period of the Centennial. These additions brought the net worth of the college slightly above \$2,900,000.00 *and as she entered her second century completely free of debt.*

called on to make the

But above all my purpose that morning was to thank the great Otterbein family, one and all, for making these accomplishments possible. Obviously I could not name names. So I decided that one person should be symbolic of all and I turned to the friend and counsellor of my student days, President Emeritus W. G. Clippinger. I had talked with Dr. Clippinger the day before, urging him to be present, and I was delighted when I took my place on the platform to find him well up toward the front of the church. I recited the foresight, the courage, and the devotion of the leaders of the first century, stating that these qualities were all epitomized in the one leader then present who had served Otterbein as her president for almost one third of her total life. There was tremendous applause as the audience rose en masse paying tribute to the magnificent leadership, not only of Dr. Clippinger, but, through him, to the vast host of leaders, faculty, alumni, churchmen, and friends, who had similarly served her so faithfully and so well. It was a moving moment, one long to be remembered.

My final report to the Commencement audience drew the curtain, formally closing the Centennial for me. It was as if a weight had been lifted and I was, momentarily at least, free to stand with shoulders squared to all the world. The remaining items on the program passed with scant attention while I sat in quiet reverie, reliving the years and their excitement which had gone into its preparation and execution. I did arouse myself, however, when later in the proceedings, I was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws along with a number of more distinguished recipients of various degrees. Conferred upon nomination of the faculty and by authority of the Board of Trustees, I determined to receive the degree with humility and to wear it worthily. The flood of letters and telegrams which the following day or two brought made me feel ~~even~~ more humble.

The successful completion of the Centennial Program brought me many personal satisfactions. One was that my own generation had met its ~~individual~~ *peculiar* challenge in a manner worthy of its predecessors. Another was the unity of spirit which welded the college constituency into a united and vital whole, every segment moving toward the accomplishment of its designated ~~purpose~~ *objective*. A third was the magnificent cooperation received on every hand from The Church of the United Brethren in Christ. Bishops, conference superintendents, pastors, lay people in every walk of life, all worked to the end that its first century of Christian ^aeducation might be appropriately commemorated. *higher*

The opportunity of working with the personnel of the Centennial organization was a further source of inspiration. Heading the list was the General ~~Director~~, Dr. Wade S. Miller. Literally drafted without notice, he quickly formed a wide acquaintance among Otterbein alumni and friends. He worked day and night. He acknowledged no obstacle, for when the path was blocked in one direction he found another, and often a better alternate. We worked together

goal closely and early learned to focus our personal viewpoints on a common ob-
jective. After twenty years it still brings me a warm sense of pleasure to
think of the hard work we did together.

The chairmen of the major Centennial committees also afforded me a lively
feeling of support and mutual understanding. Dr. Eugene R. Turner '17, of the
Spiritual and Social Life Committee; Dean Paul B. Anderson, of the Academic
Committee; Dr. A. P. Rosselot '05, of the Observance Committee; all did out-
standing jobs. While I was named the nominal chairman of the Finance Committee,
the work was largely done by the General Director and an excellent corps of
associate chairmen. Twice increased, the goal was surpassed in the final hours
of the Centennial. Ralph W. Smith '12, Chairman of the Publicity Committee,
was also drafted for his duties. When Dr. J. Gordon Howard, the first chair-
man, was elected the fifteenth president, he was appointed to succeed him
without benefit of much ceremony. In addition to the supervision of all the
details involved in the work of his committee, he promoted two far-reaching
ideas which have added great thrust to the growth and interpretation of the
spirit of Otterbein. One was the collection of biographies of Otterbein per-
sonalities centered around the theme that "the history of Otterbein is the
story of the lives of her leaders." The other was the publication of the
Centennial Alumni Register. In this he was ably assisted by his wife, Helen
Ensor Smith '18, who edited the publication and by Dr. Elmer N. Funkhouser '13,
who underwrote it.

Mr. Smith

years The post-Centennial had been anticipated within the limits of our ability
to project their potentials, but academic planners of pre-war days were unable
to visualize precisely the demands of post-war 1948. V-E Day had brought many
unforeseen problems, such as larger enrollments, spiraling prices, inadequate
facilities, and a scarcity of good teachers. Long before the Centennial goals

had been reached it was evident that we were not going to enter the second century as well prepared to meet its priorities as we had hoped, and President Howard and I had decided that our momentum must be maintained and that an entirely new set of objectives must be staked out and attacked. At the June, 1947, meeting of the Board of Trustees a blue print to meet these problems was adopted. Known as the Ten Year Research and Development Program, it was the forerunner and, to some extent, the father of the current Ten Year Plan which has guided the administration and the board in their efforts to meet the changing conditions of the 1960's.

This blue print included the Development Fund with its governing board, composed of representatives of the alumni, college trustees and administration, the church, and members-at-large. Designed to simplify fund-raising procedures, it was basically a plan to capitalize on the renewed interest of the entire Otterbein family in her financial welfare. All monies received by the college, except student and endowment income, were channeled through this fund regardless of final disposition. The first chairman was Dr. Elmer N. Funkhouser '13, and Dr. Wade S. Miller, now Vice President for Development, was the Executive Secretary.

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Included within the scope of the Development Fund, first known as the Second Century Development Fund, was a campaign of annual giving for alumni. This was the result of an intensive study by Dr. Miller, instigated by the wide spread participation of alumni in the Centennial financial campaign. A majority of the large gifts, practically all of the Centennial Library gifts, and a goodly portion of the church financial support represented alumni generosity and interest in their Alma Mater. It was felt that this interest could be deepened and an even wider basis of participation encouraged, through the use of such an annual giving project. The response has amply justified the conclusion.

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* The activities of the college were, of course, not my only extra-curricular interests. It had always been my conviction that a layman's first loyalty should be to his local church and, for years, I had shared in the work of Christ Evangelical United Brethren Church, Wilkinsburg, Pa., both in the Sunday School and in the official circle. When various calls came to assume this or that place in the larger area of the denomination, I did not regard them as cause for any decrease in my participation in the life and labor of the church where I had grown from boyhood. Some of my time was also expended in occasional civic duties and the graphic arts, the field in which I made my livelihood, took a considerable portion of my "extra" energy.

of these activities
The cumulative effect amounted to something of an overload. This, plus the daily direction of two companies in which I held an executive position, finally caught up with me. Following the Board of Trustees meeting in June, 1949, my doctor strongly advised an immediate cessation of all such expenditures of time and energy and I gradually resigned "outside" activities or relinquished my responsibilities at the first ending of a term of service.

Accordingly at the June, 1950, meeting of the board, I requested the Nominating Committee not to name me as a candidate for the chairmanship. It kindly acceded and, as the meeting closed, I was happy to turn the gavel over Vance E. Cribbs '17, the new Chairman. He had been my Vice-Chairman for a number of years and brought to his new position a high sense of responsible leadership and a fine record of accomplishment. It was not possible for me to attend many board meetings after that. However, the board re-elected me a trustee-at-large in 1952 and then, in 1957, continued me as an honorary trustee. From that date it has been a joy for me to watch Otterbein's continuing progress from the sidelines.

The eleven years during which I was Chairman of the Board of Trustees

stand out as a golden interval among the thirty plus I have served in one trustee classification or another. It was my custom to sit with all committees of the board, whenever possible and if only for a brief period. Thus I got to know my fellows rather intimately and to learn at first hand their attitudes and ideas relative to the operation of the college. I called many of the more than forty members by their given names and ~~came to have~~ ^{formed} a sincere regard for their loyalty and high sense of duty.

Many of them were outstanding individuals who by both precept and example made a profound impression on me. I think I shall ^{always} remember the fluent vocabulary and gentle irony with which Dr. E. L. Weinland '91, our long-time Secretary, would bring a wandering discussion back to the point at issue. The scholarly letters ^{which} Dr. F. O. Clements '96, sent to all members during his years as Chairman of the Board, constituted my introduction to the broader phases of Christian higher education and were, in fact, a source of background information which proved invaluable in later years. Mr. Henry C. Ochs, disciple of conservative finance and forthright debate, taught me the advantages of open discussion and the necessity for compromise as an avenue to progress. Of my own generation, Dr. Homer D. Cassel '17, backed me with his ^{always} unflinching interest and support and Dr. J. P. Hendrix '17, was a pillar of moral strength and spiritual stamina when the going got rough. I shall always be deeply grateful for the rich experience my association with these devoted servants of the college provided.

In a very similar manner my wife and I have enjoyed a special comradeship with Otterbein alumni in every part of the world. Our most lasting friendships have been formed from the ranks of those who have trod the same halls, worked in the same laboratories, played on the same athletic fields, been moved by the same ideals, or have responded to the same beauty of the campus. This mystic bond is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the spirit of Otterbein.

It unites the entire Otterbein family with a magnetic pull that is strong and virile. Generation after generation, through the presence of a daughter and then a granddaughter on campus, it has also provided Mrs. Kline and me with an extra ~~dividend~~ by adding a brighter lustre to the customary loyalties of ^{the} family life and interests.

A personal perspective can provide only a limited view. To recall the lights and shadows of the passing scene after it is gone is difficult at best. It is even more difficult to peer prophetically into the future. However, it is now more than fifty-four years since I first set foot on the campus, almost half the present life span of the college. Algernon Charles Swinburne, speaking of his native England, once wrote, "All our past acclaims our future." Perhaps then we may find a clue to what lies ahead in that which has gone before. Certainly the years I have known have been marked by one predominant trend, so aptly described by Professor John Haywood at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the college in 1897, as "an endless perspective of improvements." Preparation for the second century was basic to the Centennial in 1947, and now, as we approach the 125th Anniversary in 1972, the quest is still the same. Let us hope it shall always be so. In meeting the continuing imperative of a changing world lies one of the chief sources of the spirit of Otterbein.

August 10, 1966