

1983

A History of the University of Nebraska at Omaha 1908-1983

Tommy R. Thompson

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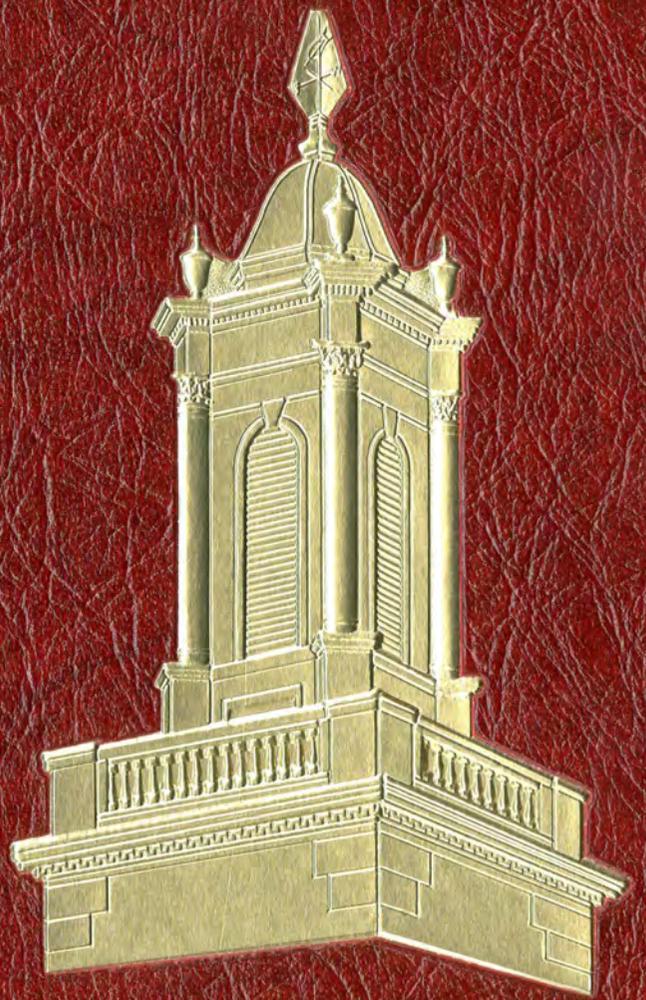
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A History of The University of Nebraska at Omaha 1908-1983



Proud Past — Exciting Future



1908-1983

DIAMOND JUBILEE

The University of Nebraska at Omaha celebrates its Diamond Jubilee during 1983. During its 75-year history the institution has undergone numerous changes. It now has a different name than when founded in 1908. Its campus is in a different location. It has become part of a large state university system, having passed through stages of being a locally and a municipally owned university. But through it all UNO has maintained a position of preparing its students . . . "To earn a living and live a cultured life. Not as two processes but as one."

The author of A History of the University of Nebraska at Omaha 1908-1983, Dr. Tommy R. Thompson, professor of history at UNO, describes milestone events, activities, good times and bad, fortunes and misfortunes, in a readable and lively style. Through the accurate descriptions and nostalgic pictures readers will experience again the growth and development of one of Nebraska's leading educational institutions.

This book is the first published history of the University of Nebraska of Omaha. It is an integral part of UNO's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, tying together the rich history of the university's first 75 years in a colorful manner. It will be as vivid in 2008 when UNO marks its centennial as it is in 1983.



Suggested Retail Price
\$24.50



**A HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
AT OMAHA**

1908-1983

Tommy R. Thompson, Ph.D.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the University of Nebraska Foundation, President Ronald Roskens and Chancellor Del Weber for supporting this project financially. Also, I would like to thank Chancellor Weber for the total independence I had in writing the history of the University and all members of the faculty and staff for their cooperation. While many individuals could be recognized for their assistance, I would like to single out one, Carol Speicher, University Archivist, for her help.

Dr. Mary E. Williamson deserves recognition for reading the manuscript and making helpful suggestions and for providing the brief summaries which appear at the beginning of each chapter. Terrie Juhl of the Public Relations Department provided the skill in typing the final manuscript.

In writing the history of the University I had to make numerous decisions concerning which topics should be covered. Naturally, many areas had to be omitted. Also, in naming individuals, I made every effort to select those I thought most representative of a given topic. I accept full responsibility for these decisions.

Omaha, 1983

Tommy Thompson
Author

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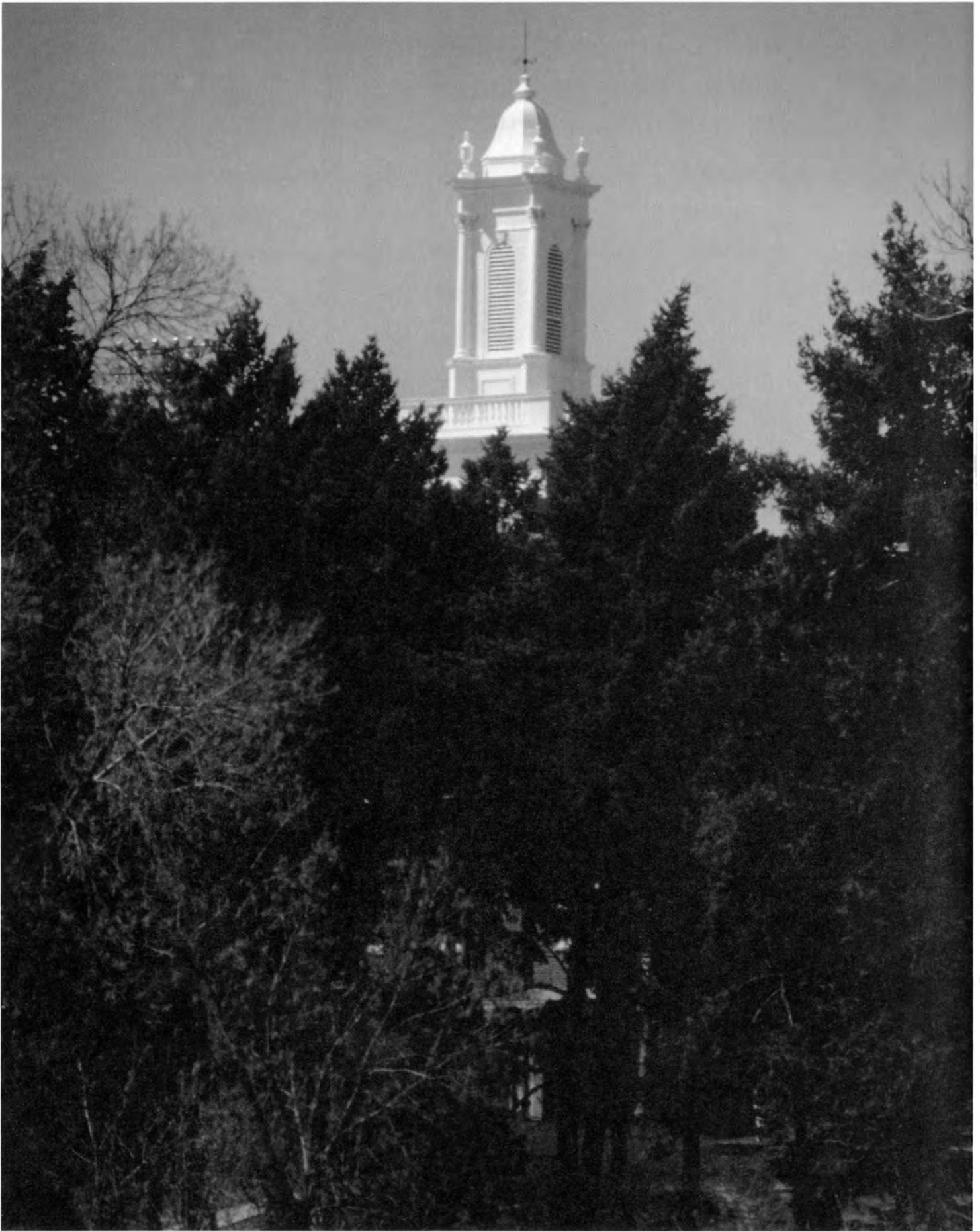
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

It gives me great pleasure as Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha to reflect briefly on the proud past and exciting future of this Institution as it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.

As you read the pages which follow, you will be struck by the changes in the Institution as it grew from the strong foundations of the University of Omaha to the comprehensiveness of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Throughout all those changes one constant has remained - the dedication and commitment of a highly talented faculty and staff.

The growth of the University has not always been smooth or without controversy. There were many occasions within the first seventy-five years when crucial decisions had to be made -- decisions that have directed the growth and even the existence of our institution. However, as with most histories, each crisis and turning point adds to the richness of the history itself.

As you read and view the many photographs of this history of the University Nebraska at Omaha, you will vividly relive many of the high points in our existence. You will share our founding as a non-sectarian university with our original campus at 24th and Pratt Streets. You will note the rapid growth following World War I and throughout the 1920's, and the eventual change from a private institution to a public one in the early 1930's. You will observe a period of controversy during the early 1930's and a second growth period in the late thirties, eventually leading to the development of our present campus. You will experience the many changes in our university following World War II and the excitement of expansion and refinement as Omaha's Municipal University. Finally, you will share in the marriage of the Municipal University with the University of Nebraska System and the move toward the institution as we know it today.

As this history recalls the early dates of the founding of the University of Omaha and traces it to the present, it is interesting to note that many of the challenges of the past remain with us today. Land acquisition to accommodate a highly mobile student body and the need for additional academic space challenge us today, just as in the past. But opportunities also remain to continue the building of an institution on the sound foundations of its past -- one that will continue to provide educational opportunities to the young and old alike and one that will reach out as a part of the city and the state in its research and public service.

The early leaders of this fine Institution moved through trying times with optimism and firm resolution. We can do no less than emulate their leadership as this Institution moves into an exciting future as an urban university.



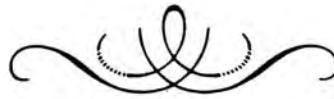
Dr. Del D. Weber

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Del D. Weber". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Chancellor



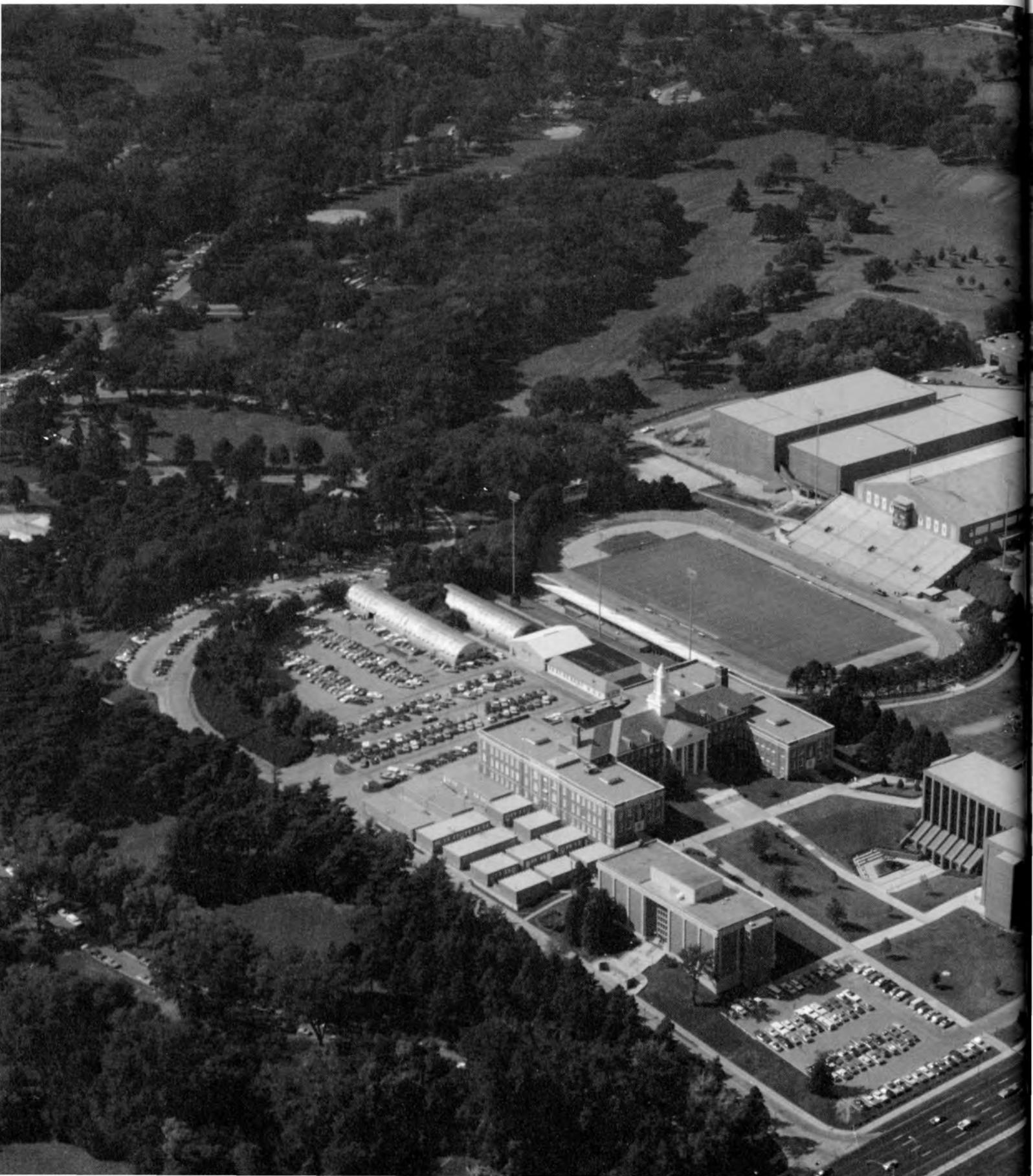
Dedicated
to the
alumni, students and all others
who have been associated with the University



PREFACE

Seventy-five years ago a group of Omahans founded a university to serve their city - the University of Omaha. Since that time the institution has gone through many transitions. In 1931 the school became the Municipal University of Omaha and in 1968 the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The University eventually outgrew its original site, an old family mansion at Twenty-fourth and Pratt, and moved to its present location along Dodge Street, a multi-million dollar campus of ten major buildings. The student body grew from an original twenty-six to over fifteen thousand full and part-time students today. With this growth there have been difficult times. Financial disaster has been on the horizon more than once. Harmony did not and does not always reign within the University, nor between the University and its city. But throughout the years the University has never lost sight of its goal - to serve primarily the people of the city. As the three names of the school demonstrate, it is the "university of Omaha."





THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA 1983





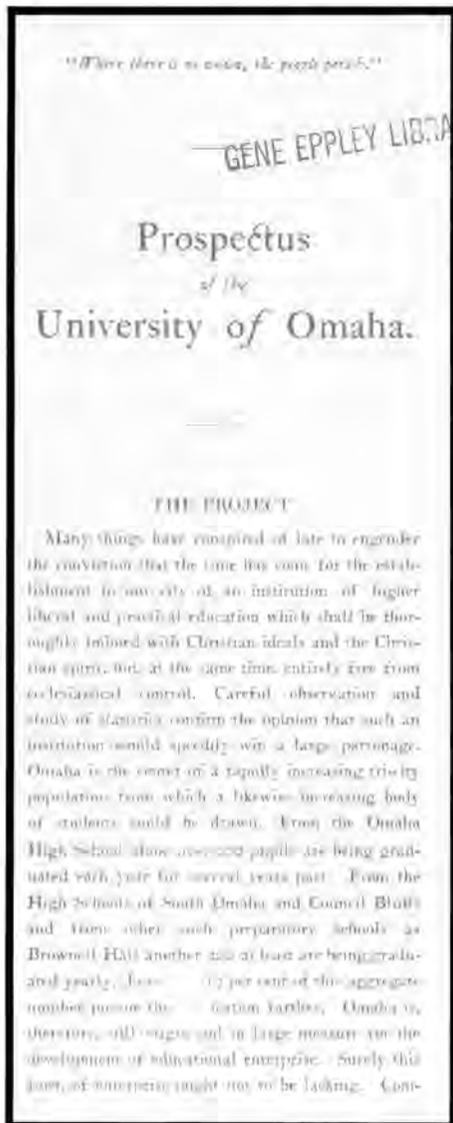
The first home of Omaha University, Redick Mansion, 24th and Pratt; 1908 photo

THE FOUNDING AND EARLY YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA

The citizens of Bellevue and Omaha worked together in the early years of the the twentieth century to create a university from which local high school graduates could receive a college education. The Liberal Arts College of the University of Omaha was the backbone of the newly-established institution. Academic standards were high from the beginning and as early as 1910 the University of Nebraska accepted credits from the University of Omaha as equivalent to its own. Financial solvency presented a continual challenge to the early-day administrators and although colleges were added and campus life flourished, the needed financial support for the institution was not easy to attract.

In the early twentieth century, different and yet related circumstances led to the creation of the University of Omaha. To the south of the city, Bellevue College, founded by the Presbyterian Church in the early 1880s, was experiencing severe financial difficulties and by 1907 this struggling college of approximately one hundred and fifty students had a growing debt. In December of that year the Bellevue College Trustees decided to investigate the feasibility and advisability of moving the college to a site within the Omaha city limits in an effort to attract more students. They made no definite decision at that time, but by the spring of 1908 there was renewed interest in the move when the Trustees concluded that "radical" action was necessary to save the college. At the same time, in May, 1908, members of the Presbyterian Church in the Omaha area called for the creation of something bigger than Bellevue College, "a greater University of Omaha." These Presbyterians, in effect, represented a concern among Omaha protestants for non-sectarian university-level education in the city. Creighton University, controlled by the Jesuit Order

Opening section
University Prospectus



and developing rapidly in the early twentieth century into a significant institution, was the only possibility for a university education if one chose not to leave Omaha. Bellevue College Trustees and Omaha Presbyterians saw an opportunity to create a University of Omaha which would utilize Bellevue College as a basic Arts and Sciences college, whether located in Bellevue or Omaha, and either create professional schools or take local schools already in existence, such as the Omaha School of Law, and adopt them as part of a university system. The Trustees of Bellevue College had tried to carry out this exact plan previously in the 1890s and early 1900s when they changed the name of Bellevue College to the University of Omaha and affiliated the school with three Omaha professional colleges, but that project collapsed within a few years.

Although there was strong support among the Bellevue College Trustees to make Bellevue College part of a University of Omaha in some way, opposition to the merger was stronger. Henry T. Clarke, a Trustee and founder of Bellevue College, feared such a re-organization would eventually result in the removal of Bellevue College to Omaha. He vehemently protested any such action, and other Trustees, students, the Alumni Association and the Bellevue Commercial Club sided with him. In the late summer of 1908 the Clarke forces won out and the Trustees voted that they would support creation of a University of Omaha only if it was separate from an independent Bellevue College, but an institution with which the latter could affiliate in some way if it so desired.

Consequently, the Omaha protestant movement for a non-sectarian university now proceeded alone. The leaders, composed primarily of Presbyterians, with some Baptists and Congregationalists, agreed in September, 1908, to form a corporation to be known as the University of Omaha. They drew up Articles of Incorporation and filed them on October 8, 1908. The Articles stated quite clearly that the purpose of the founding fathers was to establish "a University for the promotion of sound learning and education. . . under such influence as will lead to the highest type of Christian character and citizenship, with the Bible as supreme authority." The Articles also provided for the appointment of the first Board of Trustees. The University of Omaha was on the drawing board.

Before this new University could open it needed a campus, a faculty, students and money. Finding a campus was easy. One of the members of the Board of Trustees, Oak C. Redick, offered to sell the Redick homestead of approximately ten acres and a house lying west of Twenty-fourth and Pratt streets to the new University of Omaha corporation. The asking price was \$72,000, although Redick said he would donate \$10,000 to the University, effectively making the price just over \$62,000. The Trustees also assumed an option on fifteen acres east of the Redick property known as the Kountze estate. These properties combined would have provided more than an adequate campus for the new University, but financial limitations prevented the Trustees from ever buying all the property. Instead, the University was limited to just a fraction of the total acreage, an area approximately one square city block in size. Small as it was, this site at Twenty-fourth and Pratt streets did meet a key requirement for the budding university - accessibility - since the city streetcar ran out Twenty-fourth Street from the downtown area.

Although the Trustees negotiated for a campus in the fall of 1908, they lacked the necessary funds to actually purchase the land, hire a faculty or begin classes. Therefore backers of the University of



Oak C. Redick



Daniel E. Jenkins

Civil and Mechanical Engineering and other technical courses. Although the Trustees declared they could start classes with just two buildings, a Liberal Arts and Administration Building and a Science Hall, they proposed a magnificent campus stretching from Twenty-first Street to Twenty-fifth Avenue and encompassing, in effect, the Redick and Kountze properties. There were to be eight academic buildings, including a Law Building, an Administration Building, Gymnasium, President's Home, Chapel, a Y.W.C.A.-Y.M.C.A. Building, four dormitories and five professors' homes. On the east, the campus would be bounded by Kountze Park. Carter Park and the Twentieth Street Boulevard further enhanced the area. The Trustees truly had a dream of a campus for a great University of Omaha.

Slowly they proceeded toward at least a partial fulfillment of that dream. In July, 1909, they decided to close the purchase on the Redick property and prepare for the opening of classes in September. However, there was still a shortage of funds, and it was doubtful whether there would be enough money to do both. Approximately \$40,000 of the \$200,000 goal had been pledged by Omahans, but that sum was pledged conditionally. If the total was not reached, which seemed likely, all would be returned to the donors. Faced with this dilemma, Oak C. Redick came to the rescue. He told his fellow Trustees he still had faith in the ultimate success of the University and that he would accept a smaller down-payment on the Redick property if the Trustees could secure pledges sufficient to open the doors. Inspired with greater confidence, the Trustees began to hire faculty and accept applications from prospective students. Bellevue College agreed to share some faculty, and by early August twelve students had indicated they would enroll for classes. The University of Omaha was about to become a reality, rather than a dream, and undoubtedly its supporters agreed with delegates attending the Annual Meeting of the Omaha Baptist Association in the city who proclaimed "We rejoice, that in the Providence of God, a Christian Protestant University, 'The University of Omaha,' has been established in this city."

In early September, 1909, the Trustees completed arrangements by appointing Daniel E. Jenkins, Acting-President. Jenkins was a member of the faculty of the Omaha Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a signer of the Articles of Incorporation of the University of Omaha and the prime mover behind creation of the institution. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he attended the Princeton Seminary and received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Washington and Jefferson College and a Doctor of Divinity from the University of Pittsburgh. He was ordained in 1891. After serving as pastor at New London, Pennsylvania, he became president of Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa, in 1896. In 1900 Jenkins moved to Omaha as Professor in Systematic Theology and Apologetics at the Omaha Seminary. When he assumed the position of Acting-President of the University of Omaha in the fall of 1909, he refused to accept a salary. Jenkins fully comprehended the precarious financial base of the new school, a situation he would have to face continually during his eighteen years as chief executive officer of the University of Omaha. But he was not without a livelihood since he did continue to draw a salary as a member of the faculty of the Presbyterian Seminary.

Finally, on September 14, 1909, twenty-six students, nineteen of them graduates of Omaha High School, gathered in the old Redick mansion, renamed Redick Hall, to pursue their collegiate careers. The mansion, surrounded by a beautiful lawn and stately trees,

presented a home-like atmosphere for the students. The parlor had become a chapel; it and the dining room were also used for students' recitations. Banquets and other forms of entertainment were held in the kitchen. On the second floor, bedrooms had been remodeled into a library, a recitation room, a classroom, a room for oratory with furnishings provided by Omaha businessmen, and a resting room for female students. Throughout the house, its old elegance remained in the spacious rooms, hardwood floors and wine cellar, from which, according to legend, the new students dutifully removed all contents. Adjacent to the mansion, the carriage house had become the science laboratory. Although quite primitive in terms of a college campus, many of the early students who attended the University of Omaha would have fond memories throughout their lives of old Redick Hall. For several years it would be the meeting place of students. On cold winter days they would rush to the fireplace on the first floor to warm themselves between classes. Occasionally there were even marshmallows to roast. As one coed later wrote, Redick Hall "seemed to draw and cement friendships as no other place could."

In many respects the first ten years of the University's existence, which began with this first class, were some of the most interesting and important years the school would ever experience. During this era the key division of the University of Omaha was a Liberal Arts College designed to produce a well-rounded and informed student. Foreign language, history, economics, ethics, Sacred History, science and other traditional subjects were standard fare. With a little imagination one can almost still hear those early students reading Livy's *History of the Second Punic War* in "Beginners Latin" or Plato's *Apologia* in "Beginners Greek." However, students could also enroll in courses related to contemporary problems such as "Modern Social Betterment Movements" or "Poverty and Dependence," the latter of which focused on "a general discussion of the causes of

Bulletin
of the
University of Omaha



INFORMATION CONCERNING
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS AND
COURSES OF STUDY

MAY, 1911

Entry requirements, courses of study, 1911



Redick Hall, 24th and Pratt Streets. Circa 1908

poverty and relief." Because of the school's substantial and respected curriculum, the University of Nebraska announced in the spring of 1910 that it would accept all University of Omaha course work as equivalent to its own, a milestone in terms of recognition for the new institution.



Domestic Science Class, 1914

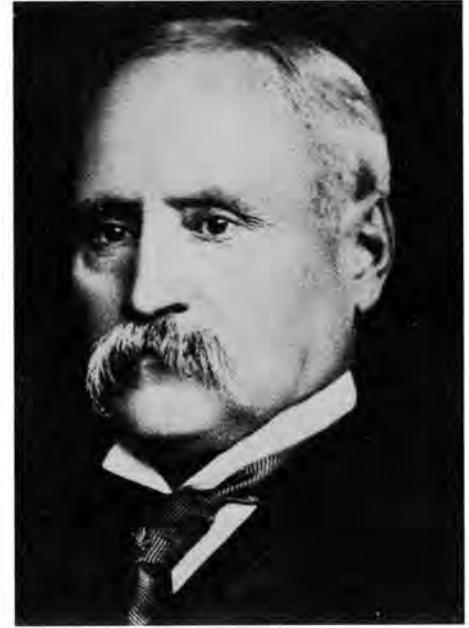
Even in these early days the University was continually expanding and building in an attempt to better serve the community. The school soon offered a preparatory department for those not old enough to enter college. By 1915 this program had blossomed into a four year course of study, although enrollment always remained fairly small. Several important changes also occurred in the undergraduate program. In 1913 the State Department of Education authorized the University to grant a First Grade Teachers Certificate, and six of the first full graduating class of eleven in 1913 became teachers. The University of Nebraska Medical College agreed that the University of Omaha would provide all courses necessary for a two-year, pre-med program. The school soon expanded beyond a nine-month academic year and offered a limited summer session primarily for teachers; in the fall of 1918 the University of Omaha became the first institution of higher learning in the city to provide night classes, known as the Extension Division. These classes were held at both the campus and at the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Public Library, over half a century before the modern University of Nebraska at Omaha provided classes at the downtown Peter Kiewit Center. At the end of the decade the teacher-training program at the University was further defined by the creation of a Kindergarten-Primary Training Department.

Jenkins, who became President in 1910, and the Trustees were also interested in graduate education. They did not want to limit the institution to the basic undergraduate course of study; they wanted a true university, and by the end of its first year of existence, the

Trustees responded to President Jenkins' prodding and established a graduate program. Students who completed a year of post-graduate study would qualify for either an M.A. or M.S. degree, although during the first decade only two individuals received these higher degrees. In 1911 the University created a law department by affiliating with the Omaha School of Law, and in 1915 reorganized it as the College of Law. The College of Law, staffed by Omaha attorneys, offered a Bachelor and Master of Laws. The advantage of the program was that students could pursue the courses necessary for a law degree during the evening hours after a day's work. Many of the city's future attorneys would pass through the doors of the University of Omaha College of Law during its existence over the next decade and a half.

Supporters of the University desired growth and expansion, but additional students, programs and a desire for respectability produced a demand for more classroom space on the campus and for a satisfactory financial base. As classes began in the fall of 1909, a University representative announced that a science building would be constructed before the end of the academic year so that students could abandon "Carriage House Hall." A new friend of the University came forward with a very generous offer to help pay for the building. Omaha resident, George A. Joslyn, president of the Western Newspaper Union, said he would donate \$50,000 toward construction of a new science building if the University could raise \$150,000 by the following June. The Trustees gladly accepted the offer and proceeded to launch a fund-raising campaign. They confidently predicted there would be no difficulty in securing the necessary sum. Unfortunately for the Trustees and the University of Omaha, this campaign resulted in another failure to attract local financial support for the institution. The people of Omaha did not contribute the needed funds to match Mr. Joslyn's gift and the University did not get its much-needed science building.

Despite this setback, in the summer of 1910 the Trustees decided to start construction on a gymnasium as funds became available. The gymnasium was to serve also as an auditorium. Built partially with marble removed from the second Douglas County Courthouse, discarded rails from the streetcar company and brick carried by



George A. Joslyn

Jacob's Gymnasium, constructed 1910-12





Joslyn Hall, 24th and Pratt, March 15, 1920
Bostwick Frohardt collection

faculty members in wheelbarrows from a demolished church nearby, the building was basically completed by the fall of 1912. The structure was named the John G. Jacobs Memorial Gymnasium in memory of the deceased son of Mrs. Lillian Maul, who had given a piece of property to the University.

During the remainder of the decade the Trustees and President Jenkins struggled with the decision as whether to continue expansion at the present campus or to relocate at a new site. Several locations were considered, each of which had to meet the key criterion of accessibility. Any potential campus location had to be "within a five-cent fare and perhaps walking distance for many students." The founders of the University of Omaha had created the school to serve the city's people and remained adamant that it must continue to do so. That meant easy accessibility. One site the Trustees considered seriously was near Forty-second and Center streets, but it was rejected partly because the nearest streetcar line was at least half a mile away and partly because of cost; the price for the property was \$100,000. If the Trustees had purchased this land, there would have been no funds to construct buildings.

Instead of moving, in 1916 the Trustees decided to keep the campus at Twenty-fourth and Pratt and started construction immediately on a new building. Once again, George Joslyn offered financial assistance, \$25,000 this time, if matched by the University. Following a successful fund-raising campaign, Joslyn Hall was completed by early 1917. Just before the Christmas holidays in December, 1916, students held a farewell party in Redick Hall, and as they moved into their new building, workers dismantled the old mansion for shipment to Minnesota where it became a resort hotel. Joslyn Hall, three stories high with a basement, provided thirty new classrooms. For at least the foreseeable future, the University of Omaha would have space for its growing student body.

Other than in adding new buildings, the Trustees and President Jenkins were not very successful in developing a solid financial base for the University. During this decade faculty were lucky if they

received their pay on time, and creditors were knocking at the door with regularity. In the late summer of 1911 the Trustees made a serious effort to correct the situation by hiring a financial expert, Charles A. Alden, to conduct a campaign to raise \$30,000 for operating expenses over the next three years. Once this goal was reached, Alden was to plan a campaign to raise an endowment of \$1,000,000. The \$30,000 drive was successful; the endowment campaign would have a different outcome.



Campus scene 1914

For the latter, the Trustees published a brochure advertising that the University of Omaha was a Christian university where parents could save money, keep a closer eye on their children by sending them to a local school, and benefit the local economy by keeping funds in the city. However, Omahans failed once again to produce the financial support needed by the University. By the fall of 1912, the Trustees had dropped their \$1,000,000 goal to \$200,000 and were considering an appeal to an outside source, the Rockefeller Educational Board, for an additional \$100,000. A few months later, in the spring of 1913, the Trustees lowered their goal a second time, to \$50,000. Then, the tornado of Easter Sunday struck Omaha. Following this natural disaster, the Trustees decided there would be so many demands on funds to cope with the tornado's damage that any attempt by the University to raise money to endow the University would be fruitless. Charles Alden resigned his position with the University of Omaha and left the city.

With the \$30,000 operating fund on hand, the University did not feel severe financial strain for the next five years. However, by the fall of 1916 President Jenkins was again concerned about rising costs. Laboratory supplies and other types of equipment cost more and the faculty wanted raises. These immediate needs were met by increasing tuition in the fall of 1916 from sixty dollars to eighty dollars annually, but the University continued its struggle for long-term financial security. In 1918 the University again applied without success to the Rockefeller Educational Board for assistance in creating an endowment. World War I effectively stopped any attempts by the Trustees to raise money locally.

While President Jenkins and the faculty struggled to bring academic respectability and financial solvency to the University of Omaha, the students of the young school concerned themselves with other aspects of collegiate life. During the early years they created several campus organizations which added to their social and



Faculty Offices, early campus

intellectual life at the University. Chapters of the Young Womens Christian Association and Young Mens Christian Association were among the earliest groups established by the students and the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. lasted off and on throughout this decade. Since the purpose of the Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. was to promote "Christian life" and "Christian fellowship," these organizations complemented the University requirement that all students enroll in "Sacred Literature" and the urging by administrators that all students attend daily convocation, also called chapel, which opened with scripture reading and prayer.

Another early campus organization was the Utopian Literary Society, which was open to female students only. Formed to stimulate the young women intellectually by means of literary and musical presentations and discussion of women's suffrage and other such provocative topics, the group also sponsored social events for the students. The members took hikes to Fontenelle Park for "weinie roasts," and a bobsled party to the "country home" of Gladys Tallmadge, "Echo Hollow," near Irvington during the 1914-1915 school year. The girls warmed themselves with oyster stew after braving the winter weather on this excursion. Eventually, the Utopian Literary Society became a purely social club, a means by which its coed members could get to know other students better, including male students.



Cast of "The Amazons," early Dramatic Club members. Names unknown, 1919

The students also organized groups reflective of their academic interests. The first year they formed a Debating Society and applied for membership in the State Oratorical Association. In April, 1910, the debate team, composed of Denton Salisbury, Gladys Solomon and Harry Jerome, met the Bellevue College team and debated victoriously in favor of the Commission form of city government. Over the next few years the debate team did not fare well, losing many of its debates to such schools as York College and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Soon after that first year the male students took control of the debate

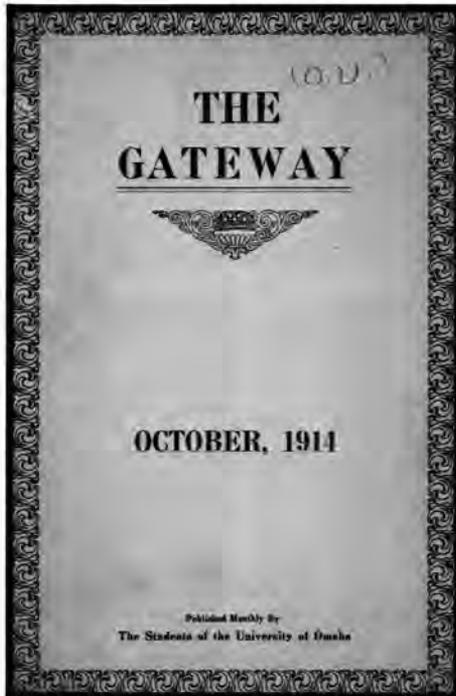


Orchestra members, 1919

team and excluded women. A Dramatic Club, which survived through these first years, tried to present at least one play a year. Those early dramatic productions had their hazards. During a performance of "Hiawatha's Wooing" in the fall of 1911, one of the actors, Paul Selby, had to smoke the "Pipe of Peace" during the play. The incident left him ill the next day, something his fellow students did not let him forget. Other early student organizations included the Gateway Club (a booster club), the Pre-Med Club, the German Club, the French Society, glee clubs (occasionally men only) and an orchestra, all of which survived for varying periods of time.

Besides the student organizations, there were many other types of activities begun during the University's first decade. In the fall of 1910 the first student newspaper, *The Boomerang*, appeared, although it lasted only one issue. The following year students produced *The Yellow Sheet*, a one-page typed newspaper which would continue for the next decade. Every day this publication, which was unsanctioned for several months, appeared mysteriously on the school bulletin board containing news of campus activities. According to the editors, who revealed their identity in early 1912, they called their paper *The Yellow Sheet* because it was yellow and because the editors were "yelling" for football. The newspaper first appeared when the University had just lost to Creighton University 55-0 and was ready to play Peru Normal. In that first edition the editors urged their fellow classmates to attend the Peru game and carry red and black (the school colors) pennants, which they could purchase at Woolworth's Ten Cent Emporium on Sixteenth Street for ten cents each.

The Yellow Sheet remained the major student publication for two years, although three competitors appeared in the fall of 1912: *The White Hope* (started by a dissatisfied worker of *The Yellow Sheet*), *The Prep Star* (run by preparatory students) and *The Censor*. None of these ever achieved the significance of *The Yellow Sheet*, however. In the fall of 1913 students started a more formal publication, *The Metropolitan*, a monthly, pamphlet-style newspaper. Only two issues of *The Metropolitan* appeared as a newspaper, and then, in the



Student newspaper, The Gateway, 1914, published monthly.



The Metropolitan, 1913, also a student newspaper published monthly.

fall of 1914, it reappeared under a new and permanent name - *The Gateway*.

Simultaneously, the students decided to publish a yearbook and, in the process, created a great deal of confusion over the use of names. The first annual, which was published in 1913, was called *The Gateway*. In 1914 the yearbook was named *The Metropolitan*. This change in names occurred because the annual that year was actually the third and last issue of the newspaper, *The Metropolitan* which the students had started the previous fall. But in 1915 and for the rest of the era the students settled on *The Gateway* as the name for the annual, as well as the newspaper.

Student government was another activity at the early University of Omaha. Those students who were Juniors urged the creation of a student government during the 1911-1912 school year, but a majority of the students voted against the idea. However, in June, 1912, the faculty decided there would be a Student Cabinet of ten members "to cooperate with the faculty of this institution in an advisory capacity," and in September of that year President Jenkins announced that a Student Cabinet would be organized. Although the editor of *The Yellow Sheet* protested that the students did not want a student government and that its creation might be an attempt by the faculty to rid themselves of some disagreeable work, such as disciplining students when they skipped the daily convocation, the students did elect representatives to the Cabinet and it went into effect. Almost nothing is known of the activities of this first effort at student government or how long it existed.

By the fall of 1916 there was a new Student Council in operation, created primarily to help handle the problem of students who disturbed classes in Redick Hall by making too much noise in the corridors. This body lasted through the 1917-1918 school year and then it faded from existence. As the first decade ended, the Student Council appeared once more. Some students in the fall of 1919 "demanded" a voice in governing themselves, although the editor of *The Gateway* felt this group was acting arbitrarily and stung them with a biting editorial ditty:

The Student Council

*The classes met one winter's day,
And elected Councillors,
Who were to be the school police
And save the Dean his labors.
The first they did was bring us in
To camouflaged Chapel - then
They told us all our faults and sins
We were never to do again.
Eat not in the rooms nor any place else
Except in our new lunch room!
George Eychaner has washed the windows clean,
Marguerite Carnal has used the broom.
The next they did that brought us woe,
And put us "in a pickle!"
Was lock up our books which we left 'round
And for which they charged us a nickel.
So this is the end of our story true,
Of our Student Council's work
What next they'll do - no one knows,
But beware! - in corners they lurk.*

However, as the editor of *The Gateway* noted, this Student Council did succeed in establishing a lunch room, with hot lunches served on cold winter days, a very significant accomplishment. It also worked to encourage school spirit.

Greek social societies arrived on the campus that first decade and became a lasting tradition at the University of Omaha. In 1910, male students formed the A.T.C. club, an athletic organization, which became Phi Sigma Phi fraternity within a few years. In the fall of 1915 two sororities, Kappa Psi Delta and Sigma Chi Omicron, joined Phi Sigma Phi, and in the following year a second fraternity, Theta Phi Delta, organized on campus. The Greek societies carried on their individual social affairs - parties, dances, banquets - and became very involved in campus activities. There were always a large number of Greek society members involved with the student newspaper, government, athletic teams and the major social event of the school, Gala Day. The Greek societies of those days also engaged in their typical initiation stunts. One such event took place in the spring of 1915 when Phi Sigma Phi fraternity had one of its pledges stand on an orange crate at the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets and sing for fifteen minutes dressed in dark blue girl's bloomers and a white middy.

Gala Day, a celebration of spring, was the most popular "institution" or social occasion at the University during its early years. Gala Day originated in May, 1911, as a means of raising money to support athletics. Students had organized a basketball team that year, and the school barely had the money to purchase a ball. Therefore, the students decided to raise money by casting ballots, at one cent each, for their favorite coed. The girl who received the greatest number of votes would be crowned Queen of May on Gala Day.

On Gala Day each May, the students engaged in a variety of events besides the coronation of the Queen of May. That first year they held a parade which wound through the business district of the city. The highlight of the parade was a large green and yellow dragon draped over six boys which frightened several citizens' horses. There was also an inter-class track meet and a vaudeville show, the latter of which became an extremely popular event over the years. Each class and various student organizations presented serious plays, humorous skits, dances or almost any type of activity they could create. In 1917, with American involvement in World War I, the Gala Day vaudeville show ended with a student, William H. Thompson, who would later become a dean at the University, leading the audience in a medley of patriotic tunes. The following year the program closed with guns firing, cannon roaring and the audience singing "America."

Always the most beautiful part of Gala Day was the crowning of the May Queen which involved an elaborate homage to spring. This ceremony was held at first on the campus, and then at nearby Kountze Park. Annually the May Queen proceeded to her throne where a Maid of Honor crowned her with a wreath of flowers. Following the ceremony, subjects entertained the Queen, her court and spectators with dances celebrating the coming of spring. In various years there were Woodland dancers, Daisy dancers in yellow and white, and always Maypole dancers. In 1917, the Maypole dancers with white and purple streamers linking them to the Maypole, according to one viewer, to "the strains of flute and reed these spirits did wind and unwind until their forms were lost in a blurred vision of white and starlight."

UNIVERSITY GALA DAY

MAY 19, 1911

VAUDEVILLE SHOW 4:00 and 7:45 p. m.

Namron's Performing "Athletes" "The World's Best"
Boxing—Wrestling—Rowing

The Utopian Stock Company
Present their Successful Farce, "THE BURGLAR"

Professor Phaker, M. S. H. D., etc.
Hypnotist and Phenologist, Wonderful, Mysterious, Mystifying. Special Engagement. Only Appearance in America.

The Dumb Show
Novel, Original and Unique. Featuring J. C. Dahlman, Judge Croley and Eddie Nation

The Ladies' Minstrel Show
Direct from Successful Tour of Algiers. New Jokes, New Music, New Songs. Beautiful Chorus.

Lessee & Salisbury
Negro Comedians. Elaborations in Songology.

10—CONCERT ORCHESTRA—10

Prices—Matinee 15c, Night 25c

SIDE SHOWS Continues 4 to 5:00; 7:30 to 10:00.

SEE The Gyacatta—only one in captivity.
The Ruby Roger's Gallery—Fine works of Art.
The Cuban Collection of Curiosities.

HEAR The Fortune Teller
The Heavenly Twins

PRICES, 5c TO EACH

Coronation of May Queen and May Pole. Dance, 7:35 p. m. May 19th at University.
Free Gratis—For nothing.

Watch for Our Parade. All new—A Mile long.

NOTICE—All Orphans accompanied by their Parents will be admitted Free.

UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA, 24th and Pratt Sts.



1917 Gala Day Royalty



1919 Gala Day royalty

No recollection of student activities at the University of Omaha is complete without a look at athletics. As a young institution, the University experienced difficult times in athletics during this decade. The first organized team was basketball in the 1910-1911 school year, and the season was moderately successful. Of six collegiate games played, the University won three. When the team defeated Cotner University, a Nebraska college which closed in the 1930s, the dean danced in the middle of the floor with a chair. Following a victory over Dana College a large crowd of University of Omaha supporters filled the small town of Blair with shouts of victory and college yells. The next year the University joined the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association and fielded both football and basketball teams. For the remainder of the decade the University football team struggled for victories, handicapped primarily by small players. In 1912 everyone in the entire student body was ecstatic when Coach Ollie Morgenthaler's Ponies or Shetlands, so called because of their size, scored twice on a powerful Creighton University eleven and even defeated Cotner University. After the victory over Cotner the students celebrated with a bonfire on campus. When two Omaha policemen told them to extinguish the blaze, the Chief of Police, in his enthusiasm over the win, told the students they could burn Redick Hall if they wanted to. Fortunately, they did not do so.

The next year Creighton struck back with a vengeance and defeated the Crimson and Black, the team's new name, by a score of 128 to 0. An Omaha newspaper reported that the Creighton players slashed through the University of Omaha line like "a meteor through space." The team improved little under Andrew Dow in 1914 or Harry Delamatre in 1915 and 1916. By 1915 the situation was so dismal the young men would not come out for the team until the coeds threatened to shun them if they did not. Those early warriors of the University of Omaha gridiron, who struggled to defend their school in their crimson and black sweaters, deserve the appreciation of all alumni of the University. Facing defeat more often than victory, the players' efforts were best described by the *The Yellow Sheet* editor at the end of one season: "we tried."

THANKSGIVING FOOTBALL

1912

OMAHA UNIVERSITY

vs.

TARKIO COLLEGE

Played on Tarkio College
Athletic Field

Nov. 28, 2:30 p. m.

OFFICIALS

Referee--Carns, Dartmouth, Omaha
Umpire--Moore, Vanderbilt, Maryville
Headlineman--Cassidy, New York, St. Joseph

In basketball the University managed a better start. The team played in both the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association and usually in a local league composed of teams from local businesses, the Y.M.C.A. and some of the high schools. All games were potentially difficult since they were played on courts of varying size and, at times, with the roughness of a football game. The University of



1919 Men's Basketball Squad.

Omaha team compiled a respectable record for a young group, due primarily to the play of some outstanding young men. Andrew Dow, the future coach, George Parish, Ernest Adams, Edgar Ernst and others undoubtedly wore their "O's" with pride.

There was also a women's basketball team by the spring of 1914, but throughout this period the faculty refused to let the young women play public games. Therefore, instead of playing teams in the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association, they were limited to closed games (no males) with other young women's local groups, primarily the high schools. Still, enthusiasm was strong and in their bloomers, long stockings, blouses and sailor neck scarves, these young women played to win. In the spring of 1916 they went undefeated.

Other sports were not as well organized during the first decade. A formal baseball team existed only one year. Men's and women's tennis clubs were common each year, and usually intramural tournaments were held. In the spring of 1911 a men's team did play Creighton University in a tournament. Creighton won all matches and seventy-two of the eighty-five games played. A track team was formed by the second year. The only strong athlete in this sport was Andrew Dow, an all-around athlete and the best at the University during this era. In 1912 Dow won the only first place for the University in a meet with Tarkio College of Missouri. The following two years he managed respectively to place second in the shot-put and third in the discus at the state meet of the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

There were several factors that hindered the development of athletics during the early years at the University. The small number



1917 Women's Basketball team – From left: Rasmussen, Jones, Seibert, Hunter, Leach, Berger (captain).



Early Alumni Association 1918, from top Katherine Case, Gladys Talmadge, Zela Elmer.

of students provided fewer potential athletes than schools with dormitories. Also, the University did not have a full-time coach during this era. Instead, there were a series of part-time coaches for both basketball and football, including the versatile Andrew Dow who coached football in the fall of 1914. In the spring of 1915 the students asked President Jenkins to hire one coach who could work with all the teams on a full-time basis, but the request went unanswered. Finally World War I temporarily ended all athletic events at the University of Omaha. As increasing numbers of able-bodied young men left for military service, there simply was not enough athletic talent to allow the formation of teams.

Student organizations, athletics and other activities at the University of Omaha during its first decade of existence played a prominent role in student life. But above all these there was something much more important. School spirit or loyalty, one might even call it a sense of belonging, was the key ingredient that helped hold the University of Omaha together at this time. The spirit did not belong only to the students. It belonged to President Jenkins, who dedicated a good portion of his life to the University and worked as hard as anyone to keep it alive and expanding. It belonged to the Trustees, who not infrequently dipped into their own pockets to meet pressing bills. It belonged to friends of the University such as Oak C. Redick, George Joslyn and Lillian Maul, without whose generosity the development of a campus would have been virtually impossible.

For the students, though, the spirit had an even greater meaning. It was present at their annual Halloween parties when they decorated Redick Hall with jack-o-lanterns and asparagus fern, and ate pumpkin pie cooked by the Domestic Science class. This spirit was present on those pleasant spring evenings when the students sat together on the porch of Redick Hall and planned Gala Day. And the spirit was carried on by the small Alumni Association formed by the first graduating class of eleven in 1913. One alumnus referred to the days he spent at the University of Omaha as "glorious ones." Another wrote that he and others "look back with fond recollections to the days spent within the walls of this quaint old house and the friendships which existed and still exist among its members, past and present." And lastly, one young coed, an aspiring poet, said it best:

To The University of Omaha

*You may sing praise of spacious halls,
Of buildings grand with frescoed walls;
Of beautiful campus and dormitories,
Of marble halls and conservatories.
You may boast of student bodies great,
Composed of men from every state;
Of football teams of wide renown,
Which down upon all others frown.
But the good old U. of O. for mine:
May success upon her ever shine.
I would not change for buildings tall
Our dear, old, rambling Redick Hall.
But though time may change this well-loved home,
As with each year more students come;
May she never lose the close personal touch,
Or the fine school spirit we prize so much.*

THE TWENTIES: A DECADE OF GROWTH, FRUSTRATION AND REBIRTH

The postwar future of the University of Omaha looked bright but the need for money slowed its growth. The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools withheld its important accreditation because of lack of space. The Trustees launched their most successful fund drive in the school's twenty-year history, but results were still not sufficient enough to expand the campus. The Trustees decided the solution to the financial problem was to give the school to the City of Omaha and by a very close vote on May 6, 1930, the University of Omaha changed from a private institution funded by voluntary support to the Municipal University of Omaha funded by taxes and tuition.

As the 1920s began, President Jenkins was enthusiastic about the future of the University of Omaha. In the 1919-1920 school year enrollment recovered from the war years, and Jenkins felt morale was high. However, many of the old problems which had challenged the school had never been solved and they, along with new ones, continued to plague the University in its second decade of existence. Lack of sufficient space on a small campus with an ever-increasing student body, a paucity of financial support, the need for accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the loss of President Jenkins' leadership late in the twenties all presented crises which would have great impact on the University. In searching for solutions to these difficulties, the Trustees made one key decision that launched the institution into its second phase of development. The University of Omaha entered the 1920s as a private institution; it would greet the next decade as the Municipal University of Omaha.

Academically, the leadership of the University sought ways by which the school might both evolve into a stronger institution and

better serve the community. While emphasis always remained on a strong Liberal Arts program, other facets of education could not be ignored. For returning World War I veterans, the University offered "vocational courses," such as telegraphy and bookkeeping. By the early twenties the University also provided all courses necessary to fulfill undergraduate requirements for those students who wanted to enter the professions of law, medicine, theology, teaching and engineering. In addition, the Trustees created a College of Music which granted a Bachelor of Science degree in Music. Then, in the fall of 1925, at the urging of President Jenkins, the Trustees inaugurated one of the most significant changes in curriculum by creating a College of Commerce. This new college offered short courses in basic business and secretarial skills in addition to a four-year program in which a student could receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce. The College of Commerce utilized local business people as its faculty.



1929 College of Commerce students.

Naturally, as the University expanded its curriculum and served increasing numbers of students after World War I, finances continued to be a problem. The school needed either additional buildings or an entirely new and larger campus to relieve overcrowding and allow for future expansion. Only with adequate facilities and an endowment fund of approximately \$300,000, would the North Central Association grant accreditation. Such an endowment would also make the University eligible for grants from the Rockefeller Educational Board.

In the fall of 1919 the Trustees launched the most successful fund-raising campaign in the first twenty years of the school's history. In newspaper ads and a "University of Omaha" booklet they appealed to parents and other residents of the city for \$500,000. The ads emphasized that for ten years the University had provided educational opportunities for many Omaha high school graduates, and most recently, offered extension and summer programs for local teachers and other adults and had established a College of Law. The brochure reminded the city's citizens that if they wanted a continua-

tion and expansion of these services by a non-sectarian institution, they had to contribute to its support. Although only partially successful, the drive did produce approximately \$200,000, including a building at 1305-07 Farnam Street donated by Sarah Joslyn, widow of George Joslyn, which would eventually house the College of Commerce and the College of Law.

President Jenkins and the Trustees conducted other fund-raising campaigns in the early twenties. Sarah Joslyn, by then a Trustee, was often the initiator of these activities. She continually offered funds toward construction of new buildings if others would do likewise. However, nothing substantial developed from her offers until the fall of 1924. At that time Mrs. Joslyn offered \$30,000 provided another \$70,000 could be raised. Fortunately for the University, the Greater Omaha Association, a recently-organized group of business and civic leaders, gave its support to this fund drive. Through the leadership of William F. Baxter, president of Thomas Kilpatrick Company, the Greater Omaha Association helped raise \$50,000 by the following April and eventually a total of \$100,000 was pledged.

In the midst of these fund-raising activities, the Board of Trustees decided the wiser course might be to acquire an entirely new campus. The Trustees expressed interest in part of the County Poor Farm near Forty-second and Woolworth streets, but lack of transportation was a disadvantage of that site, as it had been to other earlier locations. Most intriguing to the Trustees was Fort Omaha at Thirtieth and Fort streets, which they believed the federal government wanted to sell. President Jenkins and the Trustees, with the Fort Omaha site in mind, began to plan a campus of classroom buildings, a student union, auditorium, library, gymnasium, stadium and dormitories, "the greatest educational institution of our dreams." In January, 1926, legislation was introduced in Congress providing for the purchase of Fort Omaha by the University of Omaha. However, military officials advised the Secretary of War that the site was too valuable militarily to be sold, which meant there was little chance Congress would approve the transaction. University officials had no choice but to drop the Fort Omaha plan and return to the consideration of other sites, including the County Poor Farm, but they failed to take any definite action at this time.

The search for solutions to the problems facing the University of Omaha in the twenties was not made easier when President Jenkins suffered a nervous breakdown in the fall of 1926. The burden of the University administration finally overwhelmed him. In late November the Board of Trustees granted President Jenkins a leave of absence, and he soon left for treatment at Johns Hopkins Hospital and rest at a sanitarium in Trenton, New Jersey. President Jenkins never recovered his health and he died in November, 1927. With his death the University of Omaha lost its most ardent supporter. A few years earlier the *Omaha World-Herald*, in an article dealing with the school described Jenkins as a person of "faith, hope, courage, vision, ideals, sacrifice and service." At the time the article appeared, the newspaper felt the University of Omaha had emerged as a significant institution and one which was vital to the community. This progress had occurred, the newspaper noted, because of the generosity of a few friends of the University, and especially because of the dedication and work of one man, Daniel E. Jenkins.

The Trustees realized in 1926 that Jenkins could not resume his duties and appointed W. Gilbert James, a member of the faculty since 1919, Acting-President while they searched for a permanent presi-



University of Omaha College of Commerce and Night Law School, 1927



Mrs. Sarah Joslyn



W. Gilbert James
Acting President



Dr. Karl Wettstone
President

dent. The man they selected to become the new president of the University of Omaha was Dr. Karl F. Wettstone, a Presbyterian minister, like Jenkins, and president of the University of Dubuque in Iowa. President Wettstone came to the University of Omaha dedicated to the continued academic advancement of the school. The basic purpose of any institution of higher education, he said, should be scholarship. Students should want to study and faculty should have a strong desire to teach, not to crave the popularity of students or to use teaching as a stepping-stone to some other profession. Wettstone also wanted his faculty to have "sound religious convictions." Although the University of Omaha was a non-sectarian school, it should not be a "hotbed of atheism." Nor did Wettstone want the University to overemphasize athletics. While important, he felt athletics had helped turn some universities into "entertainment centers." Too often, according to Wettstone, our academic institutions had become nothing more than "a stadium with a college attached."



Science Hall,
24th and Ames
(Former Saratoga School)

President Wettstone knew in the fall of 1927 that the University had little chance, at least in the near future, of securing the endowment funds necessary for accreditation by the North Central Association. So he decided to concentrate on strengthening the academic programs in an effort to meet the North Central Association's requirements in that area. Recognizing the urban desire for business-oriented courses, Wettstone called for a reorganization and upgrading of the College of Commerce. The University hired additional faculty, appealed to local business establishments to provide financial aid for students and conducted a successful drive to interest more students in attending the College of Commerce.

The University also tried to salvage the School of Music, which was "somewhat in a tangle," by filling the vacant Director's position and promising the new Director support "in his endeavor to build up this school." To specifically meet requirements of the North Central Association, Wettstone proposed a division of the College of Liberal Arts into eight departments with each eventually to be led by a professor holding the Doctor of Philosophy degree. He also suggested that the University hire a dean for the Graduate Program, which was very small, and spend \$10,000 for library books. Many of



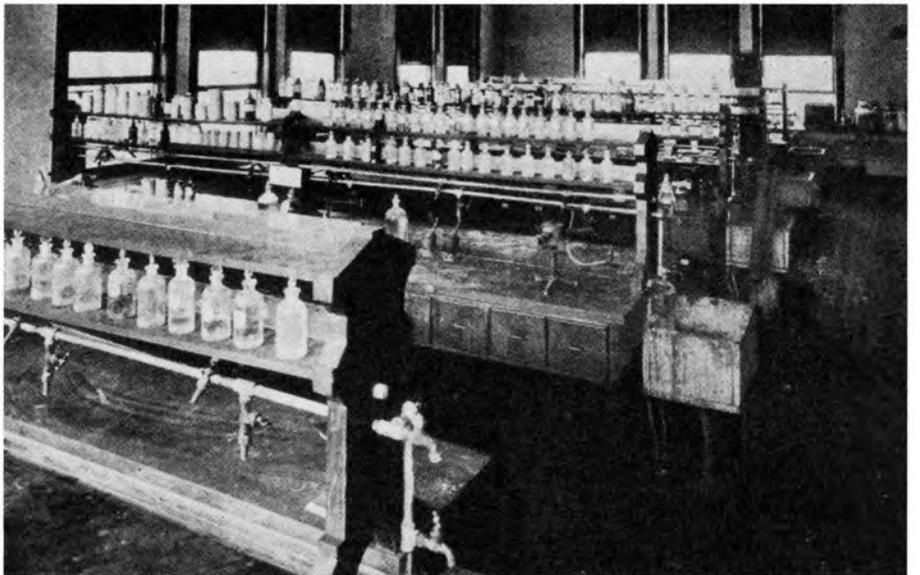
Section of University Library, 1929

these changes were imperative if the University of Omaha was to be accredited. One Trustee noted that he knew of three University of Omaha graduates who had lost job opportunities because their degrees were not recognized, and the University of Nebraska was threatening to no longer accept University of Omaha work as equal to its own. Recognizing the North Central Association's displeasure with insufficient, over-crowded campuses, and acknowledging the Trustees' indecision on future site and building plans, President Wettstone, with Trustee approval, decided to lease an unused city school at Twenty-fourth and Ames streets, Saratoga School. Science and foreign language classes and the Kindergarten training program would be lodged there. An athletic field adjoining the school provided the first football field the University could call its own.

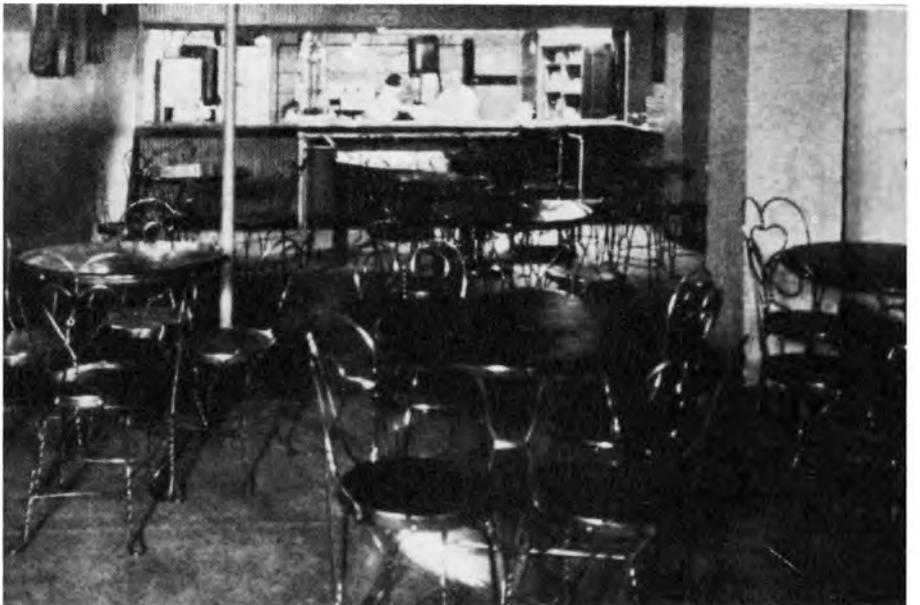
Everyone understood Wettstone's innovations would be expensive. The University needed to hire six individuals with the Ph.D. degree and ten with the M.A. to bring the College of Liberal Arts up to the level demanded by the North Central Association. President



University Shop
Class, 1929



Chemistry Department
Laboratory, circa 1920



Section of Student
Cafeteria, 1929

Wettstone told the Chamber of Commerce that the school eventually needed three million dollars for adequate financial development. As a means of raising funds, he proposed formation of the "University of Omaha Patrons' Association" in which contributing members would be divided into various levels of giving: "O" for those patrons who contributed \$100 annually, "M" for \$75, "A" for \$50, "H" for \$25 and "(A)" for \$5, the letters obviously spelling out O-M-A-H-A. Wettstone hoped the Patron's Association would raise \$50,000, but it did not. Financial support was not forthcoming, and by early 1928 the Trustees expressed apprehension at the financial condition of the University, especially the rapidly-increasing indebtedness. As the academic year ended, the Trustees concluded they had to raise tuition twenty-five percent and borrow \$15,000 to pay the faculty. President Wettstone claimed the Trustees had not supported his academic or financial ideas as he had requested and announced that he was "withdrawing" from the University.

President Wettstone's relationship with the students at the University also had collapsed. By the end of his first semester he announced that students would be required to maintain a seventy average in three-fourths of their classes or face dismissal, even if the rule had an adverse effect on athletics. Wettstone pointed out that this policy had long been in existence; it simply had not been enforced. Trouble developed early in the spring semester when students elected two classmates who were academically ineligible to the Athletic Board, which supervised athletics and athletic events. President Wettstone set aside their election and dismissed them and several other students from the University. Some of these students were basketball players and their dismissal would have a detrimental effect on the team.

The President then angered other students by publicly protesting that he felt students were demanding too much power within the University. In the process they were turning the University into a "5 and 10 cent store" where they could buy academically what they wanted and reject the wisdom of college authorities in determining courses of study. It might even reach the point, he declared, where students would demand to vote at the end of the year as to whether a professor's teaching was acceptable. Some of the students replied by hanging Wettstone in effigy at the Saratoga School grounds with a sign reading "Little Kaiser" and by plastering Joslyn Hall with posters calling for "a new president at Omaha U." One student said the whole affair was merely representative of general student discontent over Wettstone's "autocratic" attitude toward students. President Wettstone described the activities as a "cute little trick" by "snakes in the grass that work only in the night," but also indicated he would let the whole matter blow over. While many students, the Trustees and local newspapers defended Wettstone in his attempt to enforce higher academic standards at the University, the affair undoubtedly weakened his presidency and helped lead to his decision to leave the school.

Direction of the University of Omaha now passed into the hands of the last president of the twenties. Ernest W. Emery, a United Brethren minister, came to the University from York College of Nebraska, where he had served as president the past four years. Although President Emery described the University as "in the bloom of life," he recognized that the school still needed a larger campus, more buildings, stronger financial backing and accreditation. Also, Emery was willing to support an aggressive athletic program, in a



1929



College of Music Auditorium, 1929



Ernest W. Emery

dramatic reversal of President Wettstone's belief and policies.

During the 1928-1929 academic year, the University's problems became more acute. Ironically, even though the school's existence was precarious, enrollment continued to grow and thus compound the difficulties facing the University. The College of Commerce doubled its enrollment to about three hundred, and approximately three hundred and fifty students enrolled in the School of Music, renamed the Conservatory of Music during that year. For the University as a whole, enrollment was twenty-five percent higher than in the previous year, with twenty-six faculty serving approximately one thousand full and part-time students during the calendar year ending June, 1929. The College of Law also contributed a steady enrollment, and seventy-five of its graduates were practicing in Omaha by 1929. A member of the Board of Trustees summed up the situation at the time by declaring that the University was "crowded to the limit." On the other hand, the spirit of the school had recovered from the previous year. The student yearbook observed that "disorganization prevailed" when President Emery arrived, but that he had worked successfully to bring everyone together in "a new spirit of loyalty and cooperation."



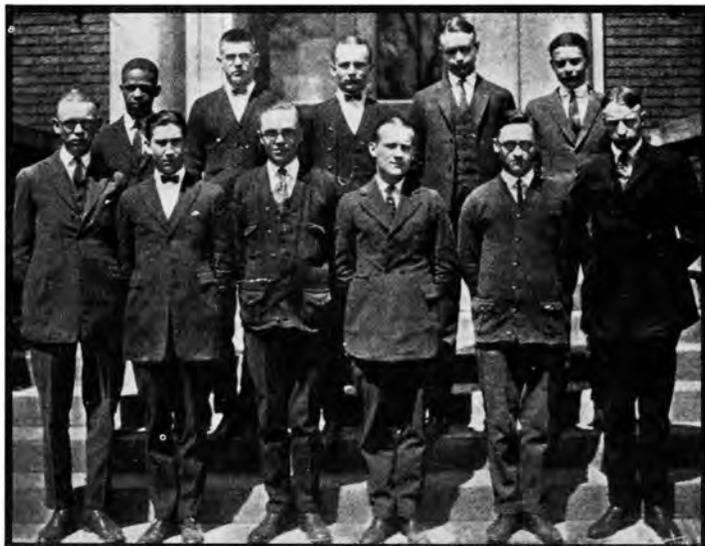
College of Law Students, 1929

While presidents and Trustees continued to deal with the problems of the University, life went on at the school for the students. The organizations and activities which had been established earlier continued to provide opportunities which broadened the students' academic experience, established friendships and provided relaxation and a spirit of collegiate fun. As before, there were many academic clubs reflecting student interests in foreign languages (Los Sabios, Das Deutecher Verein, Les Parisis, La Causerie), teaching (Bacucy, Peter Pan Club), journalism (The Pup), art (Paint Pot), literature (Utopian Society) and medicine (Pre-Med). For those interested in acting, the Dramatic Club continued. Debaters had the Debate Club, which after a decade and a half finally accepted its first female member by the mid-twenties, as well as the Unoma Debating Society. In music there were glee clubs for both sexes, and occasionally combined groups, and also a band and an orchestra by the late twenties.

Other groups and activities served to strengthen school spirit in the twenties. The Gateway Club continued for a few years, but then disappeared from campus. Then, the Y.M.C.A. became the Y Boosters Club and strongly endorsed athletics. And the athletes, themselves, formed their own organization, known alternately as the Varsity Club and the "O" Club. School tradition was carried on especially through Gala Day, *The Gateway* (*The Yellow Sheet* disappeared) and the yearbook. The latter was known as the *Gateway* from 1919 to 1927 and the *Omahan* in 1928 and 1929. There was no annual in 1930.



Members of "The Pup," the Journalism academic club. *Back row:* Dike, Scholes, Alpirn, Gilbert. *Front row:* Mrs. H. D. Jolley, Moore, Gallagher, Leary, Tucker (1920).



Men's Glee Club, 1923



Girls' Glee Club, 1923

In the fall of 1928 students held their first homecoming, with all the necessary ingredients including a five-block-long parade with decorated automobiles and floats, pep rallies, a dinner and, of course, the mandatory football game, which the University lost to Peru Normal. One other way students could express their loyalty and school spirit in the twenties was by proudly singing their own University of Omaha song, written in 1922 by David C. Robel:

*U of O we're here to boost you
While our colors fly,
Always true in all you do
We'll hold your banners high.
We will always stand behind you
Backing up that line - FIGHT.
O-ma-ha we praise forever
U. of O.*



1920 Banjo Club members from left: Beacom, Phelps, Blough, Jerpe, Broadwell

The Greek societies became a definite part of student life in this era. While the percentage of students who joined fraternities and sororities remained about the same as before, the number of societies grew. Besides the original fraternities, Phi Sigma Phi and Theta Phi Delta, and sororities, Sigma Chi Omicron and Kappa Psi Delta, during the 1920s five new societies were formed. They were Alpha Sigma Lambda (1919) and Tau Delta Epsilon (1923), fraternities, and Pi Omega Pi (1922-1923), Phi Delta Psi (1922-1923) and Gamma Sigma Omicron (1925), sororities. Immediately following the war a Pan-Hellenic Council was formed, but it soon disappeared only to reappear at the urging of the faculty during the 1923-1924 school year.

Besides the typical rush parties, holiday parties and annual banquets held at such local establishments as the Fontenelle and Blackstone hotels, members of the Greek societies continued to be very involved in student activities, perhaps to the point where students who were not members of the societies began to resent the role played by the Greeks. Whether accurate or not, a stereotypical view of Greeks developed by the twenties - sorority girls were snobs and all Greeks were cliquish. Significantly, the term "barb," short for barbarian, was first used as an identity badge by non-Greeks in the twenties and late in the decade the "barbs" had their own intramural basketball team and candidate for May Queen.

Whether Greek or non-Greek, students at the University of Omaha showed similar interests in the twenties. Instead of faithfully attending daily convocation, they preferred to visit the nearby University Drug Store, Mrs. Mack's Hash House or the Tea Room, much to the consternation of the faculty. A new tradition begun by one group of students during the decade was swimming in Carter Lake in early spring. It was not unusual for the students to try this bone-chilling experience earlier and earlier each year. One year the lake was still covered with ice so the girls sat on the ice in their bathing suits, while the boys stayed on shore. And, of course, there were always the Greek pledges being paddled by actives or scrubbing the Twenty-fourth Street car track with a vegetable brush. Occasionally the President and faculty tried to exercise a more strict control over the students, but the results were questionable. In the early twenties when President Jenkins and the faculty threatened to label students who failed to attend convocation as "undesirables," only a small percent of the students bothered to show up. The faculty did ban the "weed" and the "flivver" from the campus and decree that even conduct off-campus was subject to University supervision. As a result, several students were suspended in early 1927 for having a session with John Barleycorn in the local Tea Room. However, all were readmitted after they apologized for their conduct.

The athletic program at the University of Omaha in the 1920s did not always produce fond memories. There were occasional bright spots, but the overall picture was fairly dismal. Immediately after the war the school did move to stabilize and strengthen athletics. The University rejoined the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association after being expelled in 1917 for not conforming to the association's rules and for nonpayment of dues. Also, in the spring of 1920 Ernest Adams, who had once played for the school, was hired as the first full-time coach for all teams. Adams was determined that the Maroons, as they were now called, would reverse "the prevailing impression that the University of Omaha always loses."

Olga Strimple, '19, first paid employee of the Alumni Association, executive secretary, 1944





1923 Football Team, *Front row:* P. Konecky, Flynn, Pratt, Slater, Kastman, Chesneau, Russell. *Back row:* Erickson, Ackerman, Willmarth, L. Konecky, Adams, Poucher, Hesler, Christy, (one player not named in photo).

The school did have a great season in basketball that spring under Adams. Led by Jack "Doc" Beacom, Morey "Mo" Pressly, Ray Phelps and Adams as player-coach, the team won most of its games and challenged Doane College to a championship game. When Doane, 5 and 0 in the conference, and the University of Omaha 4 and 0 met, the University of Omaha walked away with a stunning 35 to 23 victory. However, the conference executive board awarded the title to Doane since the Tigers had played one conference game more than the Maroons. The University also had a track team that spring and entered the Nebraska Intercollegiate state meet for the first time since 1915. Out of six teams, the University placed fourth, although the Maroons won only two events. Limited tennis competition for men was re-instituted after a three year absence, and the team played one match, which it lost to Nebraska Wesleyan.

For the next three seasons the Maroons concentrated on football and basketball and compiled a respectable record. In football the team won ten, lost five and tied one. Their best season was in the fall of 1920 and, as a result, four Maroons won recognition on the Nebraska Intercollegiate All-State first team, second team or honorable mention. However, the team was not undefeated as was later reported. The Maroons lost their last game to Tarkio College by a score of 23 to 6, but somehow the game was entered mistakenly in the record book as Tarkio College 23, University of Omaha 66. The basketball team did even better in these years, going undefeated in the 1921-1922 school year. The University was not conference champion, though, because it had withdrawn from the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association in the fall of 1921. Coach Adams charged that conference members would not play the University of Omaha after the Maroons defeated Doane in 1920.

While the teams were doing well in the early twenties, President Jenkins warned that the University of Omaha would not become an athletic factory where brawn outranked brains. Faculty at the school had always kept watch over athletes' grades, and that policy would continue. As President Jenkins quite bluntly, albeit esoterically explained, "Spurious and spasmodic devotion to studies does not suffice for eligibility to a place on our teams." Indeed, athletes had

been removed from the teams throughout the school's history because they were academically ineligible.

In the 1923-1924 school year the University rejoined the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association and remained in the conference the rest of the decade. But throughout the era there was little to cheer about at University of Omaha athletic events. The football team opened with one game in the fall of 1923 and then collapsed. The next year the Cardinals, changed from the Maroons and adopted as the school name in the spring of 1924, could not win a game, or even score a point. During the 1927 season, after opening with a disastrous 117 to 0 loss to Chadron Normal, the players went on "strike," and the coach had to plead with them to play. The situation did improve the last two years of the decade when the Cardinals compiled a record of eight wins, four losses and four ties. The basketball team was slightly more successful during this era, although losing seasons were much more common than winning ones. Low points came in the spring of 1928 (the Wettstone era) when the "winless wonders" lost all sixteen games they played and in the spring of 1930 when the team, after winning one and losing eight, "mutinied" and turned in their uniforms.

Still, there were young men who played their best for the University, and some were outstanding. Clarence "Bungy" Gordon, Joe Carlson and Ben Shurtleff were named to Nebraska Intercollegiate All-State football teams in the 1925-1926 season, and Fletcher "Duke" Slater, Fred Schneider (famous for half-court shots), Lester Meek and Ben Prather received similar recognition in other years for their basketball ability. Considering the difficulties athletes encountered at the University in the twenties, their dedication was amazing. In October, 1929, the football team tried to push their bus through twenty-six miles of mud south of Hamburg, Iowa, on their way to Tarkio, Missouri. They finally gave up and hitchhiked the rest of the way.



1927 Lettermen's Club, the "O" Club. *Top row:* A. Smith, Coach Bradfield, Temple, Prather, Mallinson, Hansen, Timmons, Nelson, Wright, Miller, R. Smith. *Front row:* Schneider, Schafer, Hutchinson, Steele, Schleh, Rasp, Carroll.



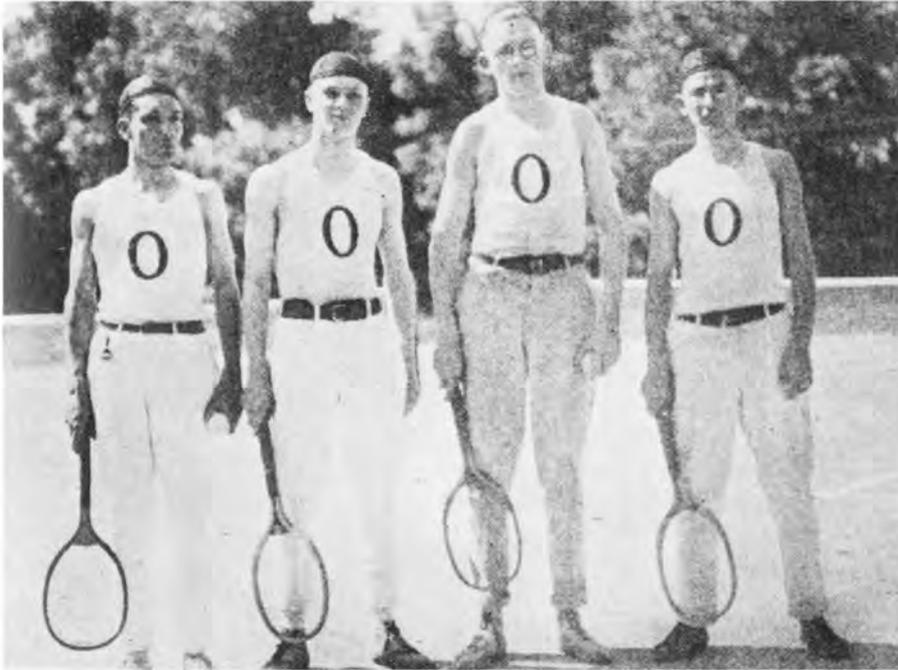
Girls' Basketball Team, 1923

Other sports still lagged in organization and support in the years from 1923 through 1930. There were efforts occasionally at fielding a track team, but the trackmen met with little success. In three conference state meets the Cardinals entered, they managed to score a total of only $5 \frac{1}{3}$ points, compared to a total of $167 \frac{5}{6}$ points compiled by the first place winners. The University did have a tennis team at least one year, but the team lost most of its intercollegiate matches. Usually this sport was confined to intramural competition, both male and female, with some excellent players taking part. Helen Hoover dominated the women's division by winning the singles championship four straight years.

Women's basketball was quite popular at the University in the 1920s, but it was not yet played on an intercollegiate level. The women played only local teams, many of which combined to form the Girls' City Basketball League by the middle of the decade. Coach Adams gave a good deal of encouragement to the sport by calling for a city tournament at the end of each season. The team gained its greatest notoriety, though, in the late twenties under coach Hilma "Min" Peterson, a player from 1922 until 1926. Ms. Peterson caused heads to turn when she had her players change from bloomers and heavy hose to black trunks and cardinal blouses, "mannish costumes," according to a local newspaper. But by the 1928 season the "bloomerless wonders" drew the attention of many by managing a 12 and 1 record while their male counterparts were struggling through their 0 and 16 season. In 1929 the women Cardinals won the city title, and in 1930 one observer remarked that they might be able to defeat the men's team. Throughout the twenties students enthusiastically supported the women's team. The old rule forbidding male attendance had ended.

With the athletic picture as bleak as it was, at least for the men's teams, coaches were not always the most popular individuals on campus. One fall, when opponents were defeating the Cardinals with great consistency, Santa Claus visited the campus and asked the students what he should bring them. Someone yelled: "A new football coach." Amazingly, Ernest Adams lasted through the 1925-1926 season and then chose to become the coach of an Omaha high

school. He was followed by a succession of coaches many of whom had played for the University of Nebraska. L. M. Bradfield served during the very difficult following two years. Ernest Hubka, assisted by Joe Weir, handled the 1928-1929 season, and Warren Howard and William "Soup" Graves split the football and basketball duties during the last year of the decade. All of the coaches worked under difficult circumstances. Presidents Jenkins and Wettstone were determined to keep athletics in perspective and under control. Many athletes, like other students, held outside jobs which interfered with practices and games. Ineligibility, whatever the cause, was a problem. Also, the University of Omaha had difficulty competing for the better athletes since the school could allow few funds for athletics when it had little for academics. In the late 1920s President Emery thanked the players when they provided their own soap and towels.



1920 Tennis Team *From left:* Taylor, P. Pressly, Phelps, Capt. Grau



1925 "Bloomerless Wonders" Girls' Basketball Team

The University of Omaha had reached a crossroads by the late twenties. In the fall of 1929 the Board of Trustees decided the school could not continue as a private institution with its inadequate facilities. For twenty years the University had relied upon voluntary contributions for support, but the Trustees felt the school had never received sufficient funds for either academics or student activities and that there was little hope for future growth and expansion. Rather than simply close the doors of the University of Omaha, the Trustees had a better option. They voted to give the school to the city, should the latter decide to establish a municipal university. Such a movement had been developing for probably a year. The Greater Omaha Association, sometime in 1928, shifted from supporting fund-raising campaigns for the school, to promoting the idea that the city of Omaha should create its own university, basically by taking over the troubled University of Omaha. This was a perfect solution for a group of Trustees who had fought a long and difficult battle to preserve the school, but who were exhausted and frustrated by the struggle.

In early 1929 the Greater Omaha Association encouraged several state senators to introduce a bill in the legislature which would allow cities by popular vote to establish a university and support such an institution by levying a one mill tax on real, personal and mixed property. The bill passed both houses of the legislature by April, and the governor signed it into law late in the month. However, the people of Omaha would have to vote their approval for a municipal university before one could be established. So during the summer of 1929 the Greater Omaha Association planned an "educational program to acquaint Omaha citizens with the advantages of a municipal university." A Committee on Publicity, led by William F. Baxter, "father" of the Municipal University of Omaha, decided to put before Omahans by posters, pamphlets, speeches and radio talk shows the value of a city university. Although the University of Omaha Trustees tried to appear non-involved in this movement, they followed the progress of the municipal university bill in the legislature and the president of the Board of Trustees testified for the bill. President Emery and A.J. Dunlap, Dean of the College of Commerce, spoke to many community groups encouraging their members to vote for the creation of a municipal university. President Emery also suggested to William Baxter, who served as a Trustee from 1926-1928, that student organizations and alumni should be used to work in the campaign.

The Committee on Publicity, carrying out its campaign over a period of almost a year, stressed the intellectual and economic value of an urban university. The committee gathered testimonials from the administrators of three other municipal universities, those of Louisville, Cincinnati and Wichita, and from citizens of those communities to demonstrate how the urban institutions provided educational opportunities, especially for the children of working class parents, and raised the cultural levels of their respective cities. Similarly, the committee showed how a municipal university would help the city economically. Not only would parents save by sending their children to a local school, but the city would also benefit financially from the university payroll, student spending and from new families and students who moved to Omaha because of the university.

In its campaign the Greater Omaha Association won the support of many business and civic groups in the community. The Chamber of

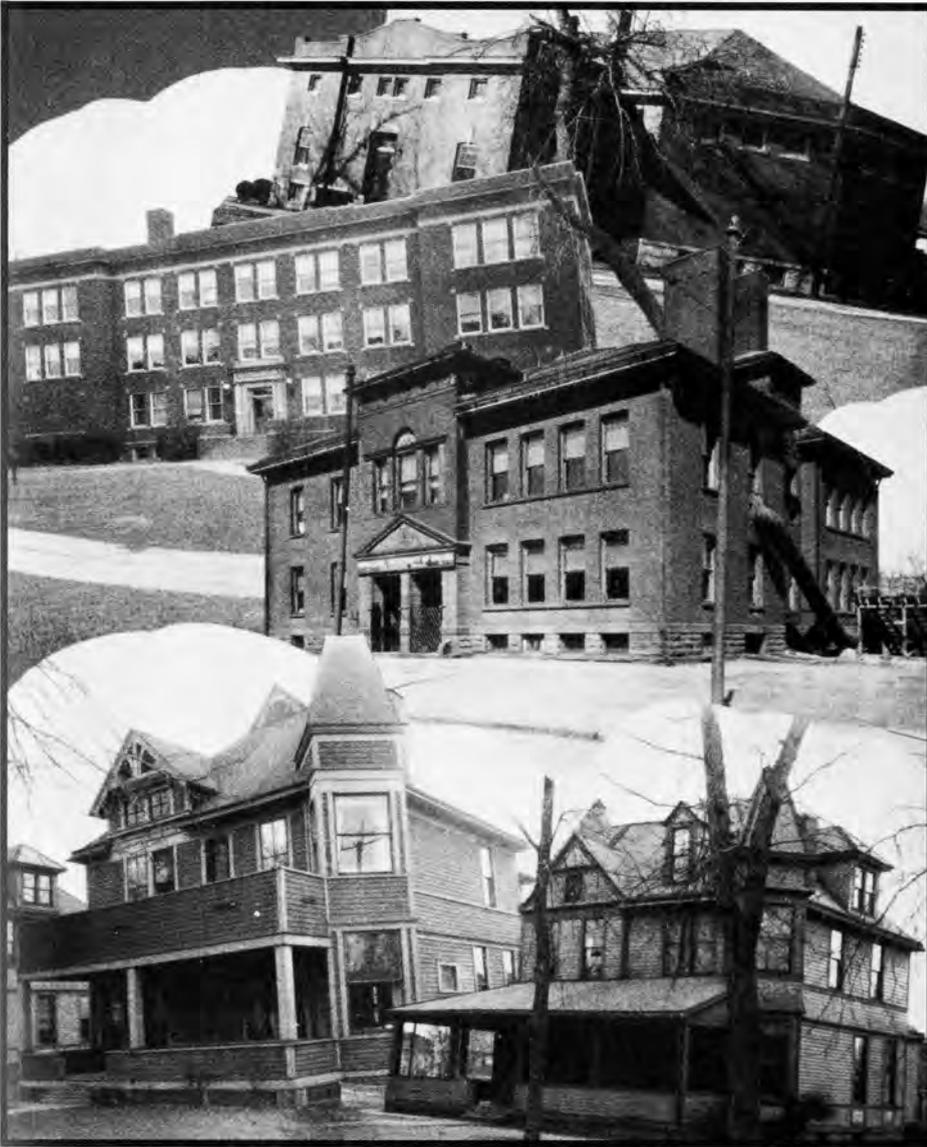


Photo montage of early campus, taken from 1938 yearbook, *The Tomahawk*

Commerce, the Omaha Board of Realtors, Omaha Council of Churches, Superintendent of Schools, members of the Parent/Teachers Association and others endorsed the creation of a municipal university and helped circulate petitions to put the issue before the voters at an election May 6, 1930. In addition, the city's newspapers spoke out in favor of a municipal university, and one publicized the idea by sponsoring a contest among school pupils for the best essay in favor of such an institution. Students at the University of Omaha held rallies, delivered literature and even wrote and sang a campaign song (to "A Bicycle Built for Two"):

*Muny Uni - that's what we need in town;
Muny Uni - don't let them vote it down.
Let's work till the sixth of May,
And on that election day,
We'll put it through -
A Muny "U"
And our city will gain renown.*

OMAHA

UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA

*Non-Sectarian
Co-Educational*

Fall Term Opens Sept. 17

DEPARTMENTS:
 COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
 DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS
 HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT
 TWO YEARS OF ENGINEERING
 TEACHERS' TRAINING SCHOOL
Kindergarten Primary Department
Grammar Grade High School
 PRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
 SCHOOL OF LAW
 SCHOOL OF MUSIC
 DEPARTMENT OF EXPRESSION
 EXTENSION DEPARTMENT
 SCHOOL OF COMMERCE AND FINANCE

Special Night Classes
SEND FOR CATALOG

UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA
 24TH AND PRATT STREETS
 OMAHA, NEBR.
 PHONE WE. 4845

1929

Ad from 1929 The Omahan, (Tomahawk)
note night classes

There was little organized opposition to the campaign and only the Omaha Public Schools League, led by C. G. Carlberg, a realtor, argued that Omaha voters should reject a municipal university. However, the Public Schools League had a viable issue - taxes. Carlberg and other citizens contended taxes would have to be raised beyond one mill in order to adequately support a municipal university. A one mill levy might support a "mediocre university," but it would not be enough for a new campus, buildings and higher professors' salaries "a reputable university" would demand. In newspaper ads in early May, 1930, the Public Schools League concluded that a municipal university was simply a "luxury" Omaha citizens could not afford. Understandably, the president of the Omaha Board of Education, Edward Burke, supported these claims. With a school system that needed new buildings and better pay for its teachers, Burke saw only competition for the taxpayer's dollar in a municipal university.

The tax issue did have an impact on the voters. They approved the creation of a municipal university but only by the narrow margin of 30,209 to 29,189. Still, the *Omaha World-Herald* felt the vote showed the people of the city had "their eyes turned to the front." After the election, in June, the City Council formalized the vote of the people by passing an ordinance to establish a municipal university and the Board of Education, as prescribed by the Enabling Act of 1929, appointed Regents to replace the University of Omaha Trustees. The new Municipal University of Omaha was ready to replace the old University of Omaha.

Chapter Three

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY - THE SEALOCK YEARS

A law suit delayed the actual transition to Municipal University until December, 1931 when the Nebraska Supreme Court found in favor of the transaction. The Trustees selected a new president, Dr. William E. Sealock, Dean of the Teachers College at the University of Nebraska. Controversy over radicalism pervaded the University and President Sealock found himself the center of the issue. The Board of Regents dismissed the embattled president, an action which precipitated President Sealock taking his life.

Although the people of Omaha had voted to establish a Municipal University, there was some difficulty in actually launching the institution. The new Regents did take several steps in the summer of 1930 to make the transition from a private to a public school. Under authorization of the Enabling Act of 1929, they announced the school would levy three-fourths of a mill tax for financial support. The Regents could have levied a full one mill, but they chose not to do so to avoid pressing the taxpayer during difficult times. To fulfill requirements of the North Central Association, the Regents declared the University would move as soon as possible to hire professors with the doctorate degree to head all departments in the College of Liberal Arts and to purchase books for the library and more laboratory equipment. At this same time, the University of Omaha Trustees reiterated their proposal of 1929 to turn over all property of the University to the Regents.

However, all of these proposed changes were put in abeyance in late June when C. G. Carlberg filed a suit contending the Enabling Act was unconstitutional because the Omaha home rule charter of 1922 did not provide that the city could establish a municipal university or levy taxes for such an institution. Until the court resolved these questions, the Municipal University of Omaha could not become a reality.

While waiting for a decision by the court, the Trustees of the University of Omaha announced that the school would open as usual for classes in the fall of 1930, but under a different president. President Emery lacked the Ph.D. degree, which concerned both Trustees and Regents so they replaced him with W. Gilbert James as Acting-President. James had also taken temporary command of the University during the 1926-1927 school year when President Jenkins left. The temporary appointment of Dr. James would allow the Regents, once they gained control of the University, to appoint a president of their own choosing. There were other changes as well. Both the College of Law and the Conservatory of Music were separated from the school, although the University did accept all credits of the Conservatory toward a degree in music. The College of Commerce was changed to a department within the College of Liberal Arts and moved from its location on Farnam Street to the campus.

In December there was good news for supporters of the Municipal University. The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a District Court ruling that the legislature had not acted improperly in allowing the city of Omaha to establish a municipal university. Although Omaha had a home rule charter, according to the Supreme Court, the legislature had always exercised a general control of education and had the right to do so.

Now the Regents could finally assume control. In January, 1931, they accepted the offer of the Trustees of the University of Omaha to turn over the institution to them as the Municipal University of Omaha. The Regents also began searching for a president. They



Dr. William E. Sealock, President of the Municipal University of Omaha.



James Earl



L. N. Garlough



Edgar Holt



William Thompson



T. E. Sallenger



Gilbert James

wanted someone who was a “vigorous, progressive, able educator, with executive ability.” Their choice was Dr. William E. Sealock, Dean of the Teachers College at the University of Nebraska. Although Dr. Sealock did not officially begin his administration until September, he immediately recommended that the College of Liberal Arts be divided into eight departments and that a professor with the Ph.D. degree be placed in charge of each. The Regents and President Sealock hoped this change would bring accreditation by the North Central Association. Despite his intentions to bring academic respectability to the Municipal University of Omaha, President Sealock encountered some difficulty in hiring faculty members. He complained that some academics would not accept positions at the University because they were concerned about the school’s future. Still, he added to the faculty and by the fall of 1931 he had hired four new department chairmen, all of whom held doctorates. They were James A. Earl, Mathematics; Leslie N. Garlough, Science; Edgar A. Holt, History-Government-Economics; and William H. Thompson, Philosophy-Psychology, who was a friend and colleague of Sealock’s at the University of Nebraska. These men, with T. Earl Sullenger, chairman of Sociology, and W. Gilbert James, chairman of English, formed the nucleus of a stronger and dynamic faculty for the new Municipal University.

A larger and better qualified faculty did not solve all the problems of the Municipal University of Omaha. Enrollment continued to grow and the University became even more crowded. When President Sealock and the Regents added approximately five thousand volumes to the library the first year, the University had to purchase

two frame annexes from the Omaha Board of Education and join them together to serve as a library annex to house the new books. A larger campus was imperative. As soon as the Regents assumed control of the University in January, 1931, they began to consider moving the school to another location. Significantly, they stressed that the University should continue to fulfill the urban role for which it was created. That is, it was to be "serviceable to all the people of the city." Therefore, its location was very important. But there was a difference of opinion on the subject. Some Regents, and other citizens, felt the campus should be even closer to the downtown area where the school could be of service to the business community and offer late afternoon and evening adult education classes. Others felt there was no reason why the University could not adequately serve the people of Omaha in a more suburban setting, at least as long as the campus could be reached easily by public transportation.

To strengthen the University's case for a larger campus, President Sealock recommended that an outside committee be appointed to survey the needs of the school. Known as the Educational Survey Board and composed of President H. W. Foght of the Municipal University of Wichita, Dean Fred E. Ayer of the Municipal University of Akron and Dr. Donald T. Cattrell of Columbia University, the group began its work in early 1932 examining the physical plant, academic programs and administration of the University. Since President Sealock and the Regents had been working successfully to strengthen the academic programs and faculty of the University, it was assumed that the committee would recommend that a larger campus was the most pressing need of the school at that time. This assumption was correct and shortly after the Educational Survey Board concluded its study of the Municipal University of Omaha, the North Central Association once again rejected an application for accreditation primarily because of the inadequate campus.

Throughout 1932 the general sentiment in Omaha was that the Municipal University needed a larger campus, and various neighborhoods began to lobby for location of the school in their area. The

Two frame annexes (between buildings) served as the library, circa 1932.



Vinton Commercial Club declared the University should be situated "where it rightfully belongs - in South Omaha." Representatives of this group favored a new campus at Thirteenth Street and Deer Park Boulevard. The North Side Club, on the other hand, offered Miller Park, and the South-Central Munny U Site Club called for relocation near Riverview Park (now Henry Doorly Zoo). The Regents dashed all of these hopes in late spring 1932 when they voted to reduce the mill levy to four-tenths of a mill for the coming year. They would replace lost revenue with surplus funds the University had accumulated. The president of the Board of Regents, James E. Davidson, stated that the cut in tax revenue and expenditure of surplus funds would be a "serious blow" to expansion plans, but that the Regents felt they had little choice "considering the present economic conditions."

By early 1933 President Sealock and the Regents realized they had to acquire funds from outside Omaha if they ever hoped to have a new campus. This became clear when an Omaha senator introduced a bill in the legislature to abolish the Municipal University. Although the senator's bill died in committee, his motivation, he said, was to protect Omaha taxpayers from assuming the burden of a new campus. Therefore, in the fall of 1933 the Regents filed an application with the Public Works Administration requesting the federal government to finance the purchase of a new campus site and the construction of several buildings at a total cost of \$900,000. The arrangements necessary to receive such a loan were so complicated that, after a year and a half of trying, the Regents decided the project was simply impossible and abandoned the idea. It was the mid-thirties and still the University continued to operate with a woefully-inadequate campus. During the winter of 1934-1935 students shivered in the frame annex which was "called a library." The wind blew through the cracks in the building, and, according to the librarian, Inez Chestnut, a temperature of thirty-five degrees inside the building was "appallingly frequent."

Despite the failure to obtain a larger campus, and its much sought-after accreditation from the North Central Association, the Municipal University of Omaha moved forward significantly in academics. In the fall of 1933 the University under the leadership of President Sealock, began to create separate divisions for Education, Commerce and Engineering and Fine Arts, disciplines the North Central Association felt did not belong in the College of Arts and Sciences. But the greatest academic attention focused on a new approach to undergraduate education. President Sealock and key faculty spent two years studying education methods in use at the University of Chicago, Harvard, Princeton and other schools and then introduced significant changes in the University's curriculum. In the fall of 1933, all freshman and sophomore students were required to enroll in broad introductory courses in the social sciences, physical sciences and humanities. The purpose of these courses was to emphasize current society and its problems. Thus students engaged in the study of economic theory emphasized the Great Depression rather than Adam Smith. Equally important was the new method of instruction. Students attended lectures, the traditional style of teaching, but also participated in small discussion sessions dealing with the lecture material followed by a private examination conference with the instructor once a week. Simultaneously, students were expected to read extensively in the subject matter. President Sealock and the faculty hoped this new system



would evolve to a point within a few years where classroom attendance would be replaced by a tutorial system.

In line with these academic changes, the University continued to grow in other ways as well. The library received a tremendous boost in the fall of 1933 when the school purchased the twenty thousand volume holdings of the non-operating Tabor College in Iowa at five cents per volume. By the spring of 1935 the Municipal University of Omaha library had twenty-three thousand volumes in circulation and several thousand more in storage compared to a total collection of less than five thousand in 1930. The faculty also gained more respectability. The number of full-time faculty holding the Ph.D. degree grew from six to fifteen (from twenty percent to about thirty-eight percent of the faculty) between 1930 and 1935. As a result of these changes, by the spring of 1933 the North Central Association objected only to the University's small and crowded campus, and the University of Nebraska agreed to accept the school's work as equal to its own for the next three years.



A variety of adult education programs such as fencing (above left) and home economic (above) were taught through the Extension Division.

Although the leadership of the University in the early thirties obviously concentrated on students seeking a basic liberal arts degree, another goal, as from the early days of the institution, was to serve all members of the community seeking to broaden their horizons. The Extension Division, in existence since 1918 but not listed in the University catalog until the early thirties, offered an ever-increasing number of courses on both a credit and non-credit basis to those who wanted to attend classes in the late afternoon, evening and on Saturday. By the mid-thirties over nine hundred students, ranging in age from seventeen to seventy, were enrolling in a variety of courses which included "Masterpieces of Literature," "Practical Home Landscaping," "American Foreign Policy Since Versailles" and "Jesus and Life's Problems." Significantly, over twenty percent of the graduates in 1934 had taken their work through the Extension Division.

Examining the Municipal University in the spring of 1934, a city

newspaper considered all of these developments and concluded the people of Omaha should be and apparently were "pleased with the progress of the institution on North Twenty-fourth Street." With such a positive atmosphere surrounding the school, everyone was shocked when a crisis rocked the University just a year later. Trouble started in the fall of 1934 when an unofficial student publication appeared. The *Ahamo* created a controversy when an editorial exclaimed that in some universities, student organizations planned to hold anti-war demonstrations on the eve of the November 11th Armistice Day patriotic demonstrations. A local citizen protested to Regent William C. Ramsey, that the editorial "had leanings towards Communism," although the editor claimed he merely wanted to preserve world peace. Within a few days rumors were "buzzing" about the city that a communist demonstration had, indeed, occurred on the campus. Regent Ramsey reported the accusation concerning *Ahamo* to President Sealock, but the latter at first said he could do nothing since the magazine was a private publication. A Board of Student Publications proposed to Sealock that the magazine be made an official student publication, but the President rejected the idea. He did so, *The Gateway* suggested, because of pressure by Regents W.T. Graham and Dr. W.L. Scherer, both of whom felt the magazine should be halted due to the charge of radicalism. Once President Sealock rejected any attempt by the University to recognize the *Ahamo* as an official student magazine, Dean of Men, William H. Thompson, requested the editor to suspend publication, which he did, four months later in late March, 1935.

Before the *Ahamo* controversy subsided, other magazines, all published anonymously, began to appear on campus in the spring of 1935. In early March *Bootstraps* said it would be a "lubricant for rusty minds and a source of general irritation." The following week *The Spectrum* replaced it with the general purpose of "glorifying freedom of thought, speech and the press." Once again the same citizen who had protested the *Ahamo* editorial, joined now by a local minister, denounced the "radical literature" present at the Municipal University. The minister, in an effort to explain his criticism, declared he was against pacifists, labor organizers and the school safety patrol. The other citizen said she was upset because University instructors such as Dr. Edgar A. Holt had attacked fascism and Huey Long, but not communism, in the classroom. Reacting to this criticism, University administrators let it be known that they would prefer to have the new magazine cease publication. However, other anonymous publications continued to appear in the following weeks under such titles as *Rising Tide*, *Boo-o-o-o*, *Bootstraps the Second* and *The Orphan*. As these publications continued, a new development occurred. Accusations were made that both Lewis D. Crenshaw, the Bursar, and Dean of Men, William H. Thompson, were employing students as agents to catch the unknown student publishers and to watch for radical activities on campus. Crenshaw would not comment on the matter, but the student allegedly in his employ said he (the student) resented a paper with "leanings toward radicalism." Dean Thompson later claimed he had employed the students only to help enforce the no-smoking rule on campus.

The background was set for a crisis which hit the University in late spring. In the last days of May, 1935, Regent Paul L. Martin resigned his position because he resented other Regents interfering with his role as chair of the Committee on Faculty Relations. Martin's committee had investigated accusations that certain faculty members

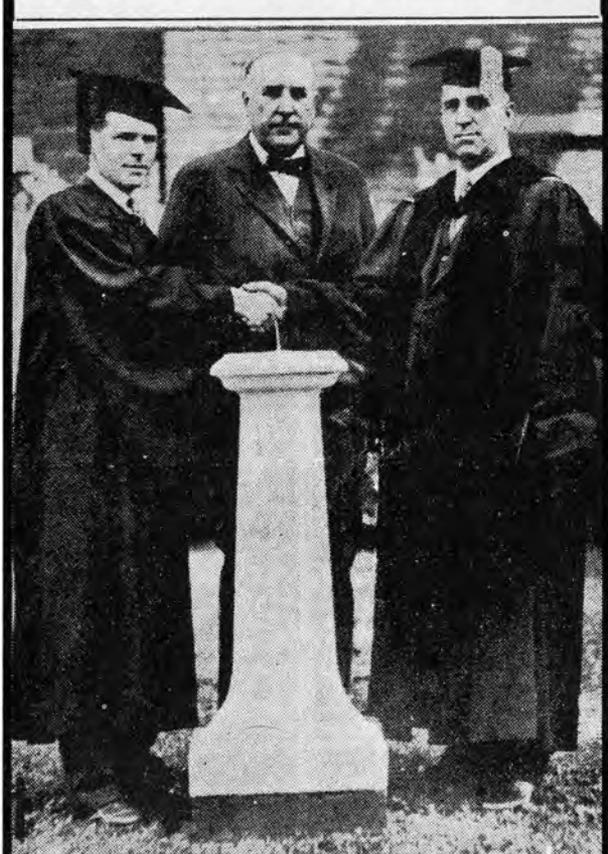
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE 30's . . .



Decorated automobile to take part in 1930 May Day Festivities



Sundial Gift to O. U.



A feature of the commencement exercises at the University of Omaha Thursday was the presentation to the school of a sun dial by Harry White, senior class president. In the picture, from left to right, standing beside the sun dial, are Harry White, Governor Weaver, commencement speaker, and Dr. E. W. Emery, president of the university.



A gift from the class of 1930 . . . this sundial is not located on the current campus. Elma Gore White (class of 31) and husband Harry (pictured) donated this clipping and ask "Whatever happened to it?"



E. M. Hosman, Extension
Director, 1936 photo

were advocating communism. Although the committee could not substantiate any of the charges, some Regents apparently were not satisfied and tried to pressure the committee to take more decisive action. When they learned of Martin's resignation, the students held a mass meeting to demand an investigation of his decision to quit and of the alleged "spy" system operating on campus. The faculty also began to threaten resignations and President Sealock, who was a close friend of Martin, said he believed there was "substantial foundation" to the charge that a spy system was in operation.

The situation then took an even more serious turn. Just a few days after Martin's resignation, the Board of Regents decided to temporarily delay the re-appointments of President Sealock, Dean of Men, William H. Thompson, now considered by many to be Sealock's chief adversary within the University, and Extension Director, E. M. Hosman. The Board did so ostensibly because there were three Regents positions vacant and the Board had to appoint a new chair of the Faculty Relations Committee. But Paul Martin decided at this point to make public a letter he had written to the chair of the Board of Regents, James E. Davidson, in which he accused at least some of the Regents of attacking professors for their political liberalism and President Sealock for supporting the professors and because he was "not a Christian" - he was a Unitarian.

President Sealock himself contended a few weeks later that one of his chief enemies on the Board of Regents was Davidson. According to Sealock, Davidson, who was president of Nebraska Power Company, had complained to Sealock that faculty in the classroom had praised the Tennessee Valley Authority over privately-owned utility companies. At the time Davidson clearly implied that Sealock was to blame for what he considered "radicalism" at the Municipal University because, as he said, "anyone connected with the N.R.A. in any capacity was a Communist or had Communistic leanings." Davidson knew full well that Sealock was chairman of the N.R.A. Adjustment Board for Nebraska. The President of the Nebraska Power Company vehemently denied he ever interfered with classroom instruction, especially on this subject. However, President Sealock made his claim in a letter to Senator George Norris, a letter Mr. Davidson did not want to be made public. Many years later William Thompson stated that there was deep division, indeed, among the faculty at this time primarily because he and others did not care for the "liberal" faculty from the east hired by Sealock. According to Thompson, the Regents lined up as supporters of the two faculty factions. Paul Martin, in his letter, further explained that one additional problem causing division among the Regents was a reluctance by some of the Board to support acquisition of a new campus.

As the city's newspapers called for a full investigation to protect the University, President Sealock and the new chair of the Faculty Relations Committee, Frank T. B. Martin, announced in late June that there would be a hearing by this committee to determine whether a spy system was operating at the school. The topic of primary concern at the hearing was Regent Dr. W. L. Scherer's actions. One student testified that Scherer had criticized her and the University because she had written a term paper on communism and that he had lectured her for two hours on the evils of the doctrine. Scherer denied the accuracy of her statement. Another student reported that Scherer had questioned him about communism on campus. And the wife of Professor J. H. Rhoades added that Scherer had denounced as a communist a speaker she invited to address the League of Women Voters on cooperative medicine.

After hearing all the testimony, the Faculty Relations Committee concluded that no spy system was operating on the campus of the Municipal University. The Board of Regents on June 27 accepted its committee's report and voted to dismiss President Sealock, without explanation, while he was on a trip recruiting faculty. At this same meeting the Board voted to retain E. M. Hosman and William H. Thompson; the latter did lose his position as Dean of Men and, apparently, a future bid at the presidency, for which he had been mentioned as a possible candidate.

There was a ground swell of support for President Sealock. One of the city's newspapers suggested the Regents had sacrificed Sealock and protected at least some of their own members. Regent William C. Ramsey, who cast the lone vote in favor of retaining Sealock, resigned his position, and United States Senator Edward R. Burke, who had originally opposed the Municipal University when he served as president of the Board of Education, praised the "able and courageous leadership of Dr. Sealock." At a meeting of students, faculty and citizens, those attending demanded a reconsideration of Sealock's dismissal. But the Board of Regents also gained some support. William H. Campen, a member of the executive committee of the University Alumni Association and chair of a special committee appointed by the president of the Alumni Association (Dean William H. Thompson) to investigate the firing of Sealock, issued a statement supporting the Regents and denouncing the meeting held in support of the ousted President.

The Board of Regents said it would explain why President Sealock was fired if there was sufficient demand, but it failed to act. Meanwhile there was an attempt to resolve the crisis. Paul Martin tried to arrange one last meeting between James E. Davidson and Sealock, but on the evening of July 7 Martin called Sealock and informed him that Davidson had cancelled the meeting. A few hours later President Sealock went into his kitchen and drank a glass of poison. He died that evening.

The Regents expressed regret over Sealock's suicide, although James Davidson declared "a mountain was made out of a molehill in this case." Few agreed with Davidson. A week after Sealock's death the Regents said they had dismissed him because he lacked "executive ability." But many Nebraska newspapers condemned the explanation as ridiculous, and one concluded it was the Board of Regents, not President Sealock, "who was lacking in executive ability." However, there was an effort to heal the wounds. Regent Dr. William Scherer resigned, and the Board of Regents, with several new members, called for the hiring of a new president as quickly as

Omaha Uni President, Custod, Takes His Life

the Rich Program May Be Broadened

Scientist Finds Perfume May Ruin Romance

Marvin Mitchell, Hit-Run Victim, Dies of Injuries

Fight at Uni Came to Light Only Recently

Dr. Sealock Leaves Note: 'Can't Go On'

Revenue Experts See Plan in Prepared Figures for Meet

Sweet Scent to Girl May Be Opposite to Her Boy Friend

Two Regents Quit

Prominent Faculty Members Indicated Would Follow Chief

Leaves Family Circle and Drinks Poison; Returns and Dies

Go Into Lower Income Brackets to Ease U. S. Funds

See Opening of Africa War

Valley People to Ask U. S. Channel Job

Regents Express Regret at Death of Dr. Sealock

Tragedy Cuts Short Lively Fight Made for His Re-Election

Success Still Urged

Girl to Make Test for Vegetarianism; Faces Rattler Bite

Fear Present Course of Republican May Prove Not Stable

Talk to Cochran

John Keegan Dies of Hurts Suffered in Auto Collision

Breakdown

Italians Want Revenge for Former Defeat by Ethiopian Army

Give a Child Day in Camp

Some Praise Sealock as a Man, Others Decline to Talk

Chautauq May Will Leave Power Behind

Summer's Heat Record Is Tied; Rain Negligible

A Dollar Does This for Unfortunates; You Can Help Now

Are You Well-Informed? Test by These Questions

Write a List Yourself and Send Address a Dollar a Week

Write a List Yourself and Send Address a Dollar a Week

Dr. Sealock's Last Days



Latest Picture of Dr. Sealock

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Wind



Athletic Director
Cedric Hartman

campus in the fall of 1931 as Athletic Director. Under Hartman's leadership as coach, the football and basketball teams achieved new heights. The football team won two-thirds of its games in the early thirties and the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship in 1934-1935. A number of young men contributed to the team during these years. Fans especially watched such players as Gene Hoover and Leo Peary carry the ball down the field many times for touchdowns. The basketball team gained even greater success. Under Hartman they won over eighty percent of their games. The "Iowa Trio," Lowell Curtis, Marlin Wilkinson and Lloyd Patterson, brilliantly led the team to three championships in the N.I.A.A. in 1931-1932 (with a record of twenty wins and no losses), 1933-1934 and 1934-1935. In the spring of 1935 the University also competed in the North Central Conference, a move favored strongly by President Sealock, and managed to win about half of its games.

The University made an effort to strengthen other sports in the early thirties, especially track. Although the school did not manage to win any conference championships, the track team made a respectable showing, primarily in field events. Howard Sorenson in the shot-put and discus, Leo Peary the Javelin throw, David Lewis the pole vault and Fred Tyler in the hurdles were consistent winners. Golf and tennis teams were also formed during these years with moderate success.



1936 Track Squad. *Back row:* Peary, Johnk, Sorenson, Flesher, *Front Row:* Strohbahn, Slump, Olson, Tyler, Coach Hartman.



Ruth Diamond, head of women's physical education.

There was little attempt to elevate women's sports to an intercollegiate level in the early thirties. Ruth Diamond became head of physical education for women in the fall of 1931. She was a strong believer in physical education for women as a means of developing their health, poise, strength and coordination, but she also felt that young women should not strive to excel in athletics because in the process they would lose their charm and develop manly physical characteristics. This would be as "grotesque," according to Diamond, as for a football player to quit the gridiron "so that he might knit, crochet or cook." Therefore, Diamond favored primarily intramural competition in basketball, softball and volleyball, all of which were



taught for class credit. Still, she encouraged any young woman who demonstrated talent in a given sport to perform to the best of her ability. Such an athlete was Maxine Steincamp, an excellent golfer and holder of many Amateur Athletic Union swim titles. Diamond was also quite well known in the thirties for the creative dance classes she taught at the University. In a dance group called Orchesis she introduced the skilled dancer to choreography and developed the appreciation of dance as an art form. By the end of the decade Miss Diamond had gained national recognition for her work in the field of modern dance.

In some ways student life remained quite traditional at the University in the early thirties. The Greek societies continued to grow in numbers. A new fraternity, Beta Tau Kappa, appeared in the fall of 1933 and a new sorority, Alpha Gamma Chi, in the following spring. There were now ten Greek societies, and their members clearly dominated student activities. The independent students began to organize as early as the fall of 1930, as they said, to work for school spirit. The independents, or Barbs, declared they were willing to cooperate with the Greeks in every way, but tensions were present. The Barbs managed to elect a Gala Day queen in May, 1933, by forging alliances with some of the Greek organizations and by voting, in turn, for candidates for other positions from those societies. However, in most cases, Greeks were the only candidates put forward for student offices.

Dance group, Orchesis, members. *From left:* Disbrow, Johannaber, Coren, Arnold, Klaiman, Hermes, Harkness, Twiss, Flynn, 1937 photo



During the 30's an effort was made to bolster sports programs.

Whether Greek or Barb, students at the Municipal University in the early thirties were less willing to play as passive a role as they did in earlier years. In the fall of 1932, even before the appearance of the unsanctioned student publications, there was a controversy between the students and the administrative leaders over control of *The Gateway*. The student editors tried to insert a cigarette advertisement in the newspaper and the administration forbade its publication. The editors decided to reply with a very harsh editorial denouncing the administration. The editorial claimed the school's leadership opposed the cigarette ad because a prospective wealthy donor was against the use of tobacco. President Sealock denied the accusation, but the faculty advisor to *The Gateway* declared the editorial could not be printed. The students then decided they would merely leave the editorial space blank as a protest, but the University demanded instead that the students print a non-offensive editorial. An editorial in *The Gateway* that day urged fellow students to support the creation of a proposed Student Publications Board, which would be composed of three students and two faculty members, and which would control *The Gateway*. Such a board, argued *The Gateway* editorial, would keep the newspaper as democratic as possible. The following spring the Regents did approve creation of a Student Publications Board composed of two students and three faculty. Democracy could go only so far.



Princess Eleanor
Larson

There was also agitation among the students over Gala Day. In the spring of 1934 the Student Council voted to end the vaudeville show which had always been part of the ceremony, but to keep the May Queen. Dean William Thompson said this could not be done. The students would have to keep Gala Day as it was or change it entirely. The administration finally made the decision that spring to hold a Silver Jubilee celebration rather than Gala Day, although the day's activities at Peony Park closely resembled the traditional Gala Day. There were sporting events, a Jimmy Durante Preakness (peanut pushing contest), dance and crowning of a May Queen. The students also celebrated their twenty-five years of history with a four-tiered silver jubilee cake which was decorated with twenty-five red candles in black holders. Mrs. Herbert S. Daniels, the first May Queen in 1911, cut the cake.

This dispute over Gala Day perhaps was the stimulus which led to the end of Gala Day the following year. In the summer of 1934 two members of the Alumni Association, Mrs. C. C. Strimple (Olga Jorgensen, 1919) and Ernest Adams suggested that the school adopt Indian ceremonies to replace Gala Day. During the fall semester students applauded the election of an Indian Princess for homecoming festivities and the use of Indian yells at the football game. In December *The Gateway* sent five students to visit the Omaha Indian reservation at Macy, Nebraska, to learn more about Indian traditions. Then, in the spring of 1935 the Student Council and student body voted in favor of the change. The first "Ma-ie Day" while similar to Gala Day, emphasized the dignity of American Indian life. Students elected Princess Attira I, Eleanor Larson, and the University presented gold feather pins to outstanding senior students. The Municipal University of Omaha now had a new tradition which would last the next three decades.

1935-1945: YEARS OF GROWTH AND WAR

A new president and a new campus site bought significant changes in the next decade. President Rowland Haynes introduced a Work-Study program to the University aimed at helping the "great middle" group of students. Despite strong opposition by some Omahans, the University moved to its West Dodge location and construction was begun on the first building, a beautiful Georgian-style structure which was dedicated in November, 1938. The Administration Building with its distinctive cupola was one of the most advanced university buildings of its time and it set the cornerstone for hoped-for growth. World War II curtailed further growth as college students left to serve their country.

In the summer of 1935 the Regents of the Municipal University busily engaged themselves in a search for a new president and the consideration of future building plans. To prepare for the latter they raised the mill levy for the University from seven-tenths of a mill to one mill. This increase would allow them to hold back additional funds for construction, as they had been doing the last few years. By this method the Regents planned to accumulate \$300,000 by the fall of 1936. They also applied for a loan from the Public Works Administration for \$225,000. With the combined funds of half a million dollars, the Regents hoped to acquire a new campus site and erect a science building and an administration building. However, they were disappointed to learn in the early fall that the federal government had rejected the University's application for a P.W.A. loan because proposed construction plans did not allow a larger portion of funds for unskilled labor.

While unsuccessful in securing funds for buildings at this time, the Regents did find a new president in late summer. Their selection, Dr. Rowland Haynes, had a varied background as university professor, director of city recreational programs and federal relief administrator. He began his career by teaching psychology at the University of Chicago and University of Minnesota. Then, he spent almost twenty



Dr. Rowland Haynes
President



Students worked a variety of jobs under the Work Study program.

years in urban recreation employed alternately as Field Secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, Secretary on Recreation for New York City and director of the Welfare Council of Cleveland. During the Depression Haynes went to Washington to serve on President Herbert Hoover's Organization for Unemployment Relief, and in 1933 Franklin Roosevelt appointed him director of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in Nebraska. He held that position when the Regents chose him as President of the Municipal University of Omaha in 1935.

When Dr. Haynes arrived in Omaha to assume control of the University, his first objective was to calm the troubled waters of the previous administration. Therefore, he called for a "cessation of all controversy and closing up of ranks" at the school. He cautioned the faculty to avoid offending members of the community especially by advocating unpopular ideas in the classroom. He further informed them that he believed they should be free "to guide the minds" of their students but not "to inculcate visionary or radical theories of government." The University was entering a new era under leadership quite different from that provided by President Sealock.

On the other hand, President Haynes did not advocate a static approach to running the University. A new idea Haynes wanted the Municipal University to adopt was a Work-Study program. Already in effect at some institutions, the Work-Study plan would pair students who would share a job in the community. While one student worked at a job and gained valuable practical experience, the other student would attend classes. After six months they would switch positions. President Haynes felt this Work-Study arrangement was one of the best ways the school could help the "great middle group" of students because most graduates immediately became part of the work force after graduation. Only a minority of Municipal University students pursued advanced education. In the spring of 1936 the Regents authorized Haynes to create the Work-Study program and when classes opened the next fall, local businesses provided jobs for fifteen to twenty students at the Municipal University to share under the program. The Work-Study program continued to grow until World War II ended its usefulness.

President Haynes was also a strong advocate of Extension programs. He urged that more courses be offered by this division so that the school would be "of real educational service to the people of Omaha." He hoped the courses would benefit individuals other than just the part-time students. To develop this expanded concept of the Extension Division, in early 1938 Haynes suggested the University create a "Lifetime Study Plan" for students. According to his theory, education should not end after two or four years of full-time college attendance. In two years a student could enroll in basic introductory courses and in four receive a degree, but "systematic study" could follow for the individual's lifetime. Haynes envisioned a system in which the student would keep in touch with an advisor at the University who could suggest additional courses, offered primarily by the Extension Division, that might be of value to the student in relation to his or her job. To strengthen this plan and give greater credibility to part-time education, President Haynes called for the Extension Division to be turned into a School of Adult Education, which was done by the fall of 1938. Over the next several years the School of Adult Education annually increased and broadened its offerings. By the end of the thirties Omaha citizens could enroll in classes ranging from "Radio Broadcasting" and "Parliamentary

Law" to "Fencing" and "Pottery and Ceramic Sculpture," whether they wanted the courses to aid them in their jobs or just for enjoyment.

In one other effort to make the University more serviceable to the community, Haynes wanted the College of Arts and Sciences to be split into a Division of Arts and Sciences and a Division of Applied Arts and Sciences. The former would continue to stress a broad, liberal education while the latter would offer students more practical, vocational-type courses. Under President Haynes' plan students could receive a two-year certificate from the Division of Applied Arts and Sciences for work in Accounting, Secretarial Practice and Engineering as of the fall of 1937. Over the next few years the Regents added Kindergarten-Primary Education, Elementary and Rural Education, Marketing, Home Economics, Journalism, Recreational Leadership and Assistant to Physicians and Dentists to the two-year programs. Then, in early 1941, the Regents at Haynes' urging, acknowledged and formalized his proposal that the Municipal University of Omaha become more than just a Liberal Arts College and split the college into a College of Arts and Sciences and a College of Applied Arts and Sciences.

While President Haynes instituted the academic changes he desired, World War II also affected program changes. As early as 1939 the Municipal University, in cooperation with the federal government, began a pilot-training program. The following year the School of Adult Education added courses in aviation mechanics and soon thereafter production supervision courses. All of these were of great value to students once the Glenn L. Martin Bomber Plant opened at Fort Crook in nearby Sarpy County in the early forties. During the war years over four thousand individuals enrolled in some type of war-related training at the school.

Beyond academic changes, the Municipal University took another major step forward in the fall of 1936 when the University finally

President Haynes "sets up shop" at the new site of the University.



THE BUILDING OF A UNIVERSITY



Construction of
Administration Building,
1937



Aerial view, 1938



The finished product, circa 1946

purchased a site for a new campus. For a year President Haynes had pushed the Regents to acquire a site, and they finally found one they liked. The Regents selected a tract on West Dodge Street just north of Elmwood Park containing just over twenty acres which they felt would make an excellent campus. The land was in the direction of population movement in the city, on a major transportation route and part of a natural setting that would allow the development of "a beautiful campus, in the future, free from commercial aggression." On this new campus the Regents hoped to see within a few years a science building, a general classroom building, library, heating plant and gymnasium erected, all for a million dollars. The Regents applied, once again, to the Public Works Administration for the needed funds. They also wanted a students' building, which was to be constructed with private donations. Perhaps after ten years the Regents hoped to be able to add a business administration building and two or three other structures. These Regents, as had those who had served in the decades before them, continued to dream of the ideal campus.

Few decisions are made without controversy, and that was certainly true regarding the new campus. The Omaha Central Labor Union protested moving the University to the West Dodge Street site and favored instead a site near the downtown area between Dodge and Farnam streets and running from Twenty-fifth Street to Park Drive. William F. Baxter, who had worked so hard to create the Municipal University, agreed. He argued that he and others had wanted the school to remain always close to those who could least afford an expensive education. Baxter felt that "a large campus, with palatial building, located for beauty of scenery on the hills west of the city," simply did not fulfill the goal of many who had supported the creation of the Municipal University. The *Omaha World-Herald* strongly endorsed Baxter's position. To move the Municipal University to such a "remote site" with the intention of adding several buildings represented a "radical change in the plans [for] which the people of Omaha voted." The city of Omaha did not need a school "for the children of millionaires." The Regents countered these criticisms by pointing out that land near the commercial center of the city was much more costly and would severely restrict campus expansion because construction would have to conform to street patterns.

Naturally, other groups challenged the selection of the West Dodge site as well. Neighborhood groups around the city continued to call for the location of the University in their areas. The only neighborhood that did not want the University was the Fairacres area immediately west of the Dodge Street site. Residents there, who included the publisher of the *Omaha World-Herald*, had protested earlier that movement of the University to their neighborhood would cause it to "degenerate into fraternity houses, sorority houses, boarding houses, confectionery stores, small supply houses, saloons, soft drink parlors, and such places." The student newspaper, *The Gateway*, replied to this charge by publishing current photographs of the site showing it cluttered with billboards, a popcorn stand and the building of the "Stop and Sock" golf-driving range, all of which the Board of Regents declared the University would immediately remove from the property.

The Regents did proceed and close the purchase for the sum of just over \$48,000. However, the land was outside the city limits and,



Freshman beanies became required apparel for all U of O first year students. Roy Allen holds mirror for Betty Beck, 1940 World-Herald photo

according to the Enabling Act of 1929, could not be used unless annexed by the city. Probably due to the opposition by various groups and citizens, the City Council moved cautiously on the annexation question, but supporters of the West Dodge site organized their forces also. Various community groups endorsed the site and students presented petitions to the City Council with the signatures of almost 21,000 Omaha citizens urging that the area be annexed. In the midst of this controversy the University suddenly learned the Public Works Administration had approved a grant of \$414,000 for the University to cover forty-five percent of the cost of a new building. The federal government put pressure on the community by giving the school only ten days to accept its offer and by demanding that construction begin in January, 1937. If the City Council failed to annex the West Dodge Street site, the grant could be endangered because the Regents would have to decide on a new location.

According to William Thompson and others, the City Council faced this dilemma because of influence exerted by President Franklin Roosevelt. Supposedly Roosevelt learned that the *Omaha World-Herald*, a bitter critic of the New Deal, opposed the new site. Perhaps he decided to gain some revenge by supporting the West Dodge location, possibly encouraging the Public Works Administration to force the city into a position where it virtually had to agree to the site or lose federal funds for the project. Whether the story is true or not, the City Council accepted the advice of the Regents that the funds could be withdrawn and voted in November for annexation. The next day the Regents voted to accept the Public Works Administration grant with its conditions regarding the West Dodge site.

With the end of the controversy over the site for the University, the Regents moved quickly to begin construction of the first building. The result was a beautiful Georgian-style structure dedicated in November, 1938, which was hailed as one of the most advanced university buildings at the time. Built to accommodate a student body of one thousand, the Administration Building, as it would eventually be called, contained a lecture hall for three hundred, about fifty classrooms, an auditorium for one thousand and sufficient space, finally, for the forty-thousand volume library. An excellent feature of the building was its "thermos bottle" construction, which used a



1939 Photo



The Junior Class of 1937. *Back row:* Knudsen, Holland, Caldwell, Maxwell, Vincent, Kersenbrock, Grau, Brown, Peterson. *Middle:* Hollier, Hurlbutt, Steinberg, Runtlitt, Hansen, Perkins, Dulachi, Nelson, V. Brown, Sautter. *Front:* Thompson, Davis, Tinkham, Johnson, Jerabek, Saltares, M. A. Nelson, Benson, Anderson, Grenville, Hudson, Minteer, Rosenbaum.

two-inch dead-air space between the outside brick and the plaster walls for insulation. Also very unique was the air conditioning installed in the building, and officials of the school long boasted that the Municipal University was the only completely air-conditioned college campus in the nation. Of even greater importance was the fact that the new building and campus allowed for future growth, a luxury denied the institution its first thirty years of existence. Therefore, when the University once again applied for accreditation by the North Central Association in the fall of 1938, the reply was at last positive. In early 1939 the Municipal University of Omaha finally received its accreditation, after some twenty years of trying.

While the Municipal University building was under construction, the Regents added to the new campus by purchasing thirty acres to the west of the site already held. This land would allow for future expansion and protect the University, according to one of the Regents, from the development of undesirable facilities near the school, such as "tourist camps, dance halls, hot dog stands or night clubs." President Haynes and the Regents wanted to build a field-house and stadium on the land to the west of the new building, but funds simply did not exist. So, the Regents applied for another Public Works Administration grant to partially finance a municipal field-house and stadium somewhere in the city, perhaps on Ak-Sar-Ben land at Sixty-third and Center streets. The remainder of the necessary funds, another \$100,000, would be raised through revenue bonds. However, the Regents dropped the idea when they learned the federal government would not provide more than half the sum they

desired. The Municipal University would have to wait another decade for a fieldhouse and stadium.

Instead of adding new buildings to the campus immediately, regardless how much they were desired and needed, the Regents began to plan for the future. In the late thirties and early forties they developed budgets which allowed for the expenditure of additional funds for programs, faculty and other expenses solely from increased tuition receipts. Funds raised through the one mill levy (the limit by the Enabling Act) due to increased property evaluations, were put into a building fund. During these years the Regents were able to put thousands of dollars annually into this fund. With the start of World War II President Haynes and the Regents believed this money could be combined with federal funds after the war since they assumed there would be a slow-down in the American economy when the fighting, and war orders, ceased. Surely there would be public works projects again. By 1943 the University had proposed to the federal government a post-war construction program of a building which would be a duplicate of the Administration Building and which would sit in a direct line to the west, a library and a fieldhouse. These dreams dwindled by the fall of 1945 to include just the proposed fieldhouse. The appropriation of public works funds for educational institutions was not part of the post-war booming American economy.



Built with PWA Funds, the Administration Building housed offices, classrooms and the auditorium (shown here). From the Bostwick Frohardt Collection, 1940.

Unfortunately, the move to the new campus and building in 1938 produced one undesirable side effect - the birth of the nickname "West Dodge High." This term haunted and demeaned the University for decades. At the time, the students themselves could not help but compare unfavorably their one-building-campus, populated primarily by local residents, with larger, more cosmopolitan institutions. One coed who attended the Municipal University of Omaha in the late thirties and early forties said it was not unusual for students returning from visits to other campuses to break out with a verse of "Muni Uni, Puny Uni...." On the other hand, this same coed related that she and others proudly wore their freshman caps and badges, the latter labeled "Quantities of Quality." The Municipal University of Omaha would live with the "West Dodge High" nickname for years to come. In effect, it represented one more challenge for the University to meet before it would be recognized as a quality institution.

Although there were many positive accomplishments under President Haynes in the thirties and forties, there were difficult times as well. Haynes did not always enjoy a good relationship with his faculty, many of whom had been hired by President Sealock. Trouble surfaced as early as January, 1936, when President Haynes announced pay raises would be granted only to those who could show "evidence of growth in value to the University." He had each faculty member fill out a report detailing his or her progress toward advanced degrees, involvement in professional organizations, use of up-to-date research in their teaching, changes in teaching methods to improve their classes, work on faculty committees and with students and any talks delivered to community organizations. In addition, students filled out a ten-question evaluation of their instructors regarding such areas as preparation, interest and enthusiasm in the classroom, self-confidence and whether the professor had a sense of humor. Possibly in an attempt to diminish any faculty resentment to this new system of evaluating them, Haynes announced that henceforth he would notify faculty in January as to whether their services would be needed the next fall. Previously, the faculty had not been notified before June. As might have been expected, there was resentment among the faculty for Haynes' system of evaluation. A year later, in the spring of 1937, a new questionnaire titled "Sauce for the Gander" appeared on campus. This questionnaire provided questions for evaluating the administration by asking the faculty if they felt freedom of expression existed on campus and whether they believed a system of espionage might be operating between students and the administration. The feelings of the Sealock era were still very much alive.

The relationship between President Haynes and the faculty continued to be less than harmonious. Some faculty, including Edgar Holt, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and an old supporter of President Sealock, felt President Haynes was sacrificing liberal education by encouraging the growth of "vocational courses" at the school. This feeling deepened as the administration supported the creation of the College of Applied Arts and Sciences and added the war-related classes in the early forties. Also, the faculty were without a retirement program or a tenure system at the Municipal University of Omaha. In the spring of 1941 over six hundred students signed petitions calling for a tenure system for faculty, but President Haynes and the Regents refused to follow the students' advice.



Feelings intensified among the faculty the next fall when the Regents began to talk about staff reductions as enrollment declined due to the departure of many male students for military service and defense-related jobs. Ironically, rebellion did not occur until the spring of 1942 and students, rather than faculty, led the revolt. The students were upset primarily because of an issue of their own - athletics. They disliked a decision by President Haynes and the Regents not to sign contracts with North Central Conference teams for football and basketball games as of the 1942-1943 school year. President Haynes claimed a temporary suspension of intercollegiate athletics was reasonable because there were fewer male students to participate in organized athletics and because the war had reduced the school's tuition income and thus financial support for athletics. Students, though, felt Haynes was using the war as an excuse to destroy intercollegiate athletics at the Municipal University. After all, he had praised the University of Chicago for ending football just a few years earlier.



From a 1937 edition of LIFE Magazine, student pranks at UNO. The airborne coed is Frances Blumkin Batt. *Courtesy Omaha World-Herald*



The University gets in the spirit of "Golden Spike Days," 1939 photos

On February 23, 1942, the students of the Municipal University of Omaha called a strike. While everyone recognized the athletic issue served as the catalyst, the students denounced Haynes as a dictator and demanded his resignation for other reasons. They accused him of unwise financial policies, which hurt athletics and led to a decision to dismiss three faculty, and of unfair treatment of faculty, particularly his refusal to adopt a tenure system. The faculty, which was obviously sympathetic, handed out assignments to the striking students and called for an investigation of conditions at the Municipal University by an independent agency. President Haynes urged the students to return to their classes as a patriotic gesture, and the head of the Board of Regents, W. Dale Clark, said the Board would listen to the students' complaints in private if they would end their strike. However, the students stayed on strike for five days before resuming their normal classroom activities. They went back only after the Regents agreed to the creation of a Board of Inquiry to be composed of representatives of Regents, faculty, students, administration and alumni.

At the meetings of the Board of Inquiry the ill feelings between President Haynes and the faculty became evident. The latter denied that they instigated the student strike, but they made it clear that they felt President Haynes had ignored the faculty in his decision making. Dean Edgar Holt, later accused by William Thompson of, indeed, leading the strike, reiterated his dislike for "vocational" courses and pointed out that his college had been divided without his knowledge in early 1941 while he was away on a trip. Also, the faculty contended that Haynes had dismissed faculty unfairly and continued to oppose a tenure system, which they wanted. The Regents representatives did not want to discuss the tenure question at these meetings.

The Board of Inquiry decided that several of the students' complaints were not substantiated by the evidence, but that some of the issues needed corrective action. The Regents decided intercollegiate athletics could continue for another year if more flexible arrangements could be made with the North Central Conference teams. The conference did agree that games could be cancelled if a school had insufficient funds or players. For faculty, in 1942 and 1943, the Regents adopted a tenure system by which a faculty member could receive tenure after a stated period of service. They also approved a retirement program, provided for by state legislation passed in 1943, to which faculty and the University would contribute equal shares. In early 1944 President Haynes claimed the University had been



trying for the previous eight years to introduce both of these programs. Whatever precipitated their development, the faculty benefited from these changes.

One further result of the dispute between President Haynes and the faculty was the dismissal of Edgar Holt as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in the summer of 1942. Haynes contended that Holt had failed to work in harmony with him in carrying out administrative policies. The two men certainly disagreed over the importance of "vocational" courses to the University. Supporters of Holt strongly protested his dismissal as Dean, but Holt urged them to cease their activities to avoid harming the University. Holt decided to join the Army Air Corps upon his dismissal and left the Municipal University of Omaha. William H. Thompson replaced him as Dean.

While the late thirties and early forties brought many changes, some with great turbulence, to the University, student life followed basically the patterns established in the early thirties and before, at least until December 7, 1941. There were local and national honorary Greek societies in chemistry, English, sociology, music and education, besides the typical Les Amis de la France, Engineers Club, Camera Club, debate and even a Flying Club among the various student organizations. Continuing from the Sealock era was the struggle between the Greek social societies and those who were not affiliated with them. In the late thirties there were six sororities -



Veronica Hahne takes her sorority pledge to Phi Delta Psi officers. Clara Williamson holds book. 1939 *Courtesy Omaha World-Herald*

Sigma Chi Omicron, Kappa Psi Delta, Pi Omega Pi, Phi Delta Psi, Gamma Sigma Omicron, and Alpha Gamma Chi -and four fraternities - Phi Sigma Phi, Theta Phi Delta, Alpha Sigma Lambda and Beta Tau Kappa - on the campus, although Alpha Gamma Chi became inactive in the fall of 1941 and Beta Tau Kappa was active irregularly. Even though the Greeks were often a minority of the student body, they overwhelmingly dominated student offices and the socially-prestigious positions of Homecoming Queen and Princess Attira, ruler over Ma-ie Day ceremonies. Only occasionally did the non-Greek students join together in a concerted effort to play a greater role in University life. The Independents or Barbs, their name depending on the year, gained control of a majority of campus offices



Members of 1939 Flying Club: Paris, Kraft, McBride, Harmon, Shively, Morely, Knotts, Berlin, Gates, Woodson, Hypse, Pangle, Davis, Foley, Bolin, Blackstone, Anderson, Duda, Lundberg, Durand, Noel, McOmber, Turner, Chaloud, Catalano, Gearhart, Morris, Butler, Lemen, Hull, Woodbury, Holoube, Elias, Larson.

only in the fall of 1940. They did manage to elect representatives of their group as Homecoming Queen in 1940 and 1941 and Princess Attiras in 1936 and 1942. On the other hand, the Greeks and Barbs could work together at times, such as in the fall of 1935 when young women from both groups joined successfully to form a new pep organization called the Feathers. As in previous decades there were fun times at the Municipal University in the late thirties. Homecoming in the fall and Ma-ie Day in the spring brought parades, dinners, dances and a Homecoming Queen and Princess Attira, both of whom emphasized the American Indian traditions adopted by the University in 1935 by wearing native costumes at their respective events. Naturally, Homecoming also had the annual battle between warriors of the gridiron while Ma-ie Day continued the skits presented by student groups and intramural athletic contests. The University did have to abandon the freshmen versus upperclassmen "free-for-all" as part of Ma-ie Day after a student suffered a broken leg in 1938.

Students could even celebrate victories occasionally at athletic events in the late thirties and early forties, but not too often. The teams suffered a definite decline from the success they experienced earlier in the decade. Leo Peary, in his last season at the Municipal University of Omaha, helped lead the football team to the championship of the Nebraska Intercollegiate Athletic Association in the fall of 1935, but starting in 1936 the teams participated only in the North Central Conference where the competition was much stiffer. At the same time the University continued to face the old problems of a lack of players, working students, insufficient financial aid for scholarships and a demand by the University that athletes meet acceptable academic standards. In the fall of 1937, when the football team was experiencing one of its worst seasons of the decade, President Haynes declared that he felt football was very important in creating an esprit de corps at a university, but that scholarship would not be sacrificed in order to recruit a team. All athletes who wanted to play at the Municipal University of Omaha, as well as other students, had to have a C average in their high school work. Critics of President Haynes' position denounced the football team as a disgrace to the city and suggested that the Municipal University of Omaha either build a good team or quit the sport. On the other hand, local sports writers such as Frederick Ware of the *Omaha World-Herald*, praised Haynes



1938 Princess Attira IV
Irene Tinkham



1938 Homecoming Princess
Alice Jane Vickery



1940 Football Squad: *Left back:* Hodak, Kozak, Anderson, Beal, Matthews, Dankof, Powell, Schrage, Maher, McDermott, Waterman, Rohde, Skripsky, Salyards, Gaer, Pflasterer, O'Neil, Profeda, Kritner, Veneziano, Grote, LaMantia, Schmeckpeper, Mazzeri.

for continuing President Sealock's position (and in reality that of other previous presidents) of "athletics for students by students" and for rejecting the "high pressure football business." President Haynes proudly pointed out in the fall of 1940 that eight members of the varsity football team, of which there were approximately eighteen members, had above average grades.

Understandably, the Cardinals, renamed the Indians in the fall of 1939, did not win a large percentage of their games. From the fall of 1936 through the fall of 1941, under Coach Cedric Hartman, they never experienced a winning season, and won just seven of thirty-three conference games. However, in early 1940 *The Gateway* conducted a poll among the students asking them if football should be kept at the University and they voted 432 to 74 to retain the sport. Perhaps one reason for the students support of football was the presence of some excellent players even if the team fared badly in conference standings. Leo Peary received Honorable Mention on the Associated Press Little All American team for his performance in 1935. Fred "Tippy" Tyler in the backfield and Harold Johnk at center finished outstanding careers the following season and were joined that year by "Wild Bill" Kulper and Royce Brown. After playing one more season of college football, Brown played briefly with the Cincinnati Bengals in 1938. Don Grote of Omaha Benson High School and Don "Flash" Pflasterer of Omaha North, both backfield men, were solid contributors to the team. These athletes provided many exciting plays, such as in the 1940 game with the University of South Dakota when, with five minutes to play, Pflasterer raced seventy-four yards before nine thousand fans to score a touchdown and clinch a tie in the game. That fall Pflasterer gained an average of 5.6 yards per carry. In 1939 Joe "Red" Mazzeri, another Omaha

player, at center duplicated Leo Peary's accomplishment of receiving Honorable Mention for the Little All American team, and lastly, Bob Matthews, the "Lean Ranger," of Falls City, Nebraska, played outstanding football for the Indians in the backfield in 1939, 1940 and 1941.

The Cardinals-Indians produced a similar record in basketball. For three seasons under Coach Johnny Baker, an All-American in football at the University of Southern California in 1931, and Stu Baller for another three years, the team finished close to the bottom of the North Central Conference every year except in the 1940-1941 season. The team survived as well as it did in the conference because it had both solid players such as Don Pflasterer, Don Grote, Dean Hilborn, Melvin Boldenow, Francis Donahue and Bob Marks and some outstanding scorers who managed to finish among the top ten in the North Central Conference in various years - Carl Baade and Harold Johnk 1935-1936, Ed Kersenbrock and Dale Wolf 1937-1938, Bob Matthews and Ron Salyards (second in the conference) 1939-1940 and Salyards again in 1940-1941.



1939 "O" Club. From the Bostwick-Frohardt Collection

The Municipal University of Omaha also continued to stress development of a track team during this era. Many of the track and field men were the same outstanding athletes as those who participated on the gridiron and the basketball court, with one key exception. John Elliott, one of the earliest Black athletes of high caliber at the University, was a champion shot putter for the school. In May, 1939, he captured second place in the event at the prestigious Drake Relays.

Student life at the University was affected by the emergence of World War II. Even before the war started in Europe, a group of coeds agreed to boycott silk hose in a gesture against the Japanese invasion of China. In the spring of 1941, once the war was in full bloom, the members of the Creative Dance class in their annual dance concert expressed their opinion of the Nazi movement by performing a number titled "Dictatorship" which featured martial music, goose-stepping, uniformed dancers and one young dancer dressed as Hitler. In the early years of the war there was also a peace movement at the University, just as there was in the country, and in early 1941 a small group of students at the University held a "strike against war"

with a rally in Elmwood Park. There they sang "We're sorry, Churchill, we cannot play with you" and declared that their goal was to "turn the tide toward peace instead of belligerency."

After the United States became involved in the conflict, Municipal University students, as other Americans, united in their support for the war effort. A "scrap drive" was part of Homecoming in 1942 with a "scrap pile rally" held in place of the traditional bonfire. The students purchased war stamps in record numbers, and in the spring of 1942 held their last parade for the duration of the war. For those students who remained at the University during the war, there were minor inconveniences. Rationing and scarcity affected everyone's life, even the coed members of Feathers who could no longer secure saddle shoes.



Coeds give up their silk stockings to aid in war effort, while their male counterparts received physical training prior to military service. *Courtesy Omaha World-Herald.*





Knitting for a soldier overseas, 1943 photo

Eventually intercollegiate athletics collapsed because of the war. Haynes was correct in the spring of 1942 when he claimed the loss of young men to the military and defense jobs was draining the University's pool of athletes. That spring the school managed to finish a twenty-one game basketball schedule, but Coach Baller commented part way through the season that he believed the Municipal University of Omaha had furnished more athletes to the military than any other school. After the completion of fall semester exams, three players announced they would leave immediately to join the military. One of these was Jerry Dutcher, the leading scorer in the North Central Conference at the time. Other talented players such as Bob Matthews, Walt Vachal, Earl Rinehart and Leonard Graham were still on the team, and Bob Matthews had an excellent



1938 Photo from the Bostwick-Frohardt Collection.

season, but intercollegiate athletics were about to become a war casualty at the Municipal University.

The following fall the Indians compiled a one and five record in football and scored thirty-two points compared to their opponents' one hundred and ninety-five. The basketball team lost all of its conference games the next spring. By the end of February, 1943, eleven players had been lost to the team, including the two top scorers. At the time the *Omaha World-Herald* described one of the Indian's games as nothing but a "battle of intramurals." Even Cedric Hartman left for military service that spring. There was now no real protest from students when the University ended football for the duration of the war and did likewise for basketball after a team played a schedule of primarily state teams in the spring of 1944.

Naturally many activities of the University in addition to athletics felt the loss of those individuals who left the school due to World War II. In all, almost thirteen hundred and fifty students and faculty, men and women, served in the military. Of these, fifty-three would never return to the University; they gave their lives, as did other Americans, for a cause they believed right. For those who returned after the war and those fortunate enough never to leave the safety of their homes, World War II marked a significant turning point in the history of the University. The school was on the threshold of tremendous growth. Record numbers of students would soon cram the halls and classrooms of the Administration Building, and thus, produce the greatest demand ever for expanded facilities and programs. The Municipal University of Omaha was about to enter one of its greatest periods of development and in the process prove it was not "West Dodge High."

THE MILO BAIL ERA: A GOLDEN AGE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The University administration changed hands after the war with the retirement of President Haynes and the appointment of Phillip Milo Bail as president. A number of changes occurred under his leadership. New buildings, including a Field House, Library, Student Center, Kayser Hall and a number of "temporary" structures helped house the rapidly increasing student population. The need for parking space became apparent at this time as the administration struggled to cope with a myriad of problems centering mainly on need for a sound economic base. The Bail years proved to be both difficult and exciting.

The post-war years at the Municipal University opened with a boom. Enrollment almost doubled in the fall of 1945 when hundreds of World War II veterans appeared on campus under the G.I. Bill. President Haynes asked the students to be patient with overcrowded classrooms as their numbers neared three thousand the following year. By the fall of 1947 the number of veterans enrolling began to decline, but the classroom chairs they left vacant were filled quickly by high school graduates who began to attend the Municipal University and other institutions of higher learning in much greater numbers after the war. The University would have to respond eventually to this rapidly expanding student body with additional buildings, programs and faculty. However, it would do so under different leadership for President Haynes announced early in 1948 that he would retire at the end of the academic year. The Regents began a search for a new president and soon found the individual who would lead the University the next twenty years through the greatest changes in the history of the school - Dr. Phillip Milo Bail.

Milo Bail had long been involved in education. A native Missourian, Bail served in the Navy during World War I. After the war he obtained a Bachelor's degree from Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Missouri. Upon graduating Bail started an eight-year career



Dr. Phillip Milo Bail, President of the Municipal University of Omaha.

teaching and coaching in Iowa and Minnesota high schools in the early twenties. He also worked toward a Masters degree at the University of Iowa. In 1928 Bail left teaching to become principal of University High School in Iowa City. Three years later he received the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Iowa and assumed an administrative post in secondary education in Minnesota. In 1935 Dr. Bail became president of Chevy Chase Junior College in Washington, D.C., and in 1940 moved to Butler University in Indiana as Dean of the College of Education and eventually Director of the University College. From Butler Dr. Bail moved to Omaha in the summer of 1948.

Under President Bail's leadership, changes began to occur immediately. Bail and the Regents held steadfast to the original mission of the school, a strong liberal arts program, but they recognized there were many other ways the institution could serve the people of Omaha. In the late forties, the University created several programs to meet special needs of individuals and groups in the community. A Division of Technical Institutes started in 1945 provided courses originally to help retrain ex-service men and war production workers to enter the post-war industrial job market. Most changes, though, were designed to appeal to a broader segment of the population. In the College of Applied Arts and Sciences the Regents established new majors in Medical Technology, Home Economics, Journalism and Retailing. The Associated Retailers of Omaha particularly desired the Retailing degree to train personnel who could fill positions in the city's department stores. That organization supported the cost of a director for the new program for its first three years and Henry Doorly, publisher of the *Omaha World-Herald*, donated \$1,000 in scholarships. The Regents also reinstated a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and expanded Graduate Study, both of which they had discontinued in the late thirties. Although the Regents had started Graduate Study again in 1942, they now created a specific Graduate Division and added a Master of Science in Education degree.

In the early fifties President Bail and the Regents further defined the role of the Municipal University. Because of the increasing demand in American society for teachers, the Regents separated the Education major from the College of Arts and Sciences in the spring of 1950 and gave it a new home by creating the College of Education. Two years later they established the College of Business Administration to serve the growing number of students majoring in the various fields of business and to give greater status to the Business Administration degree. At the same time the Regents changed the School of Adult Education to the College of Adult Education. After forty years, the Municipal University was finally becoming the broad university its founders had hoped to develop. The people of Omaha saw these changes and realized the widening potential of the school. Within three years over one-third of all teachers in Omaha Public Schools held degrees from the Municipal University. The business community responded by creating internship programs for Accounting, Insurance, Real Estate and Retailing majors at local firms and for students interested in the field of television at station KMTV. And enrollment in the College of Adult Education jumped from approximately one thousand in the fall of 1945 to over forty-five hundred in the mid-sixties.

Innovation was a key word at the University in the fifties. At the beginning of the decade President Bail and the Regents moved in several entirely new directions in curriculum-development. One significant addition was the creation of a major in Military Science specifically for military personnel at Offutt Air Force Base, probably with the hope they would replace the declining G.I. enrollment. The University offered courses both at Offutt and on campus for those interested in working in the program. When the Air Force started the Bootstrap program in 1951, the Municipal University was in a good position to cooperate with the military. Designed by the Air Force to encourage members of the military to "lift themselves by the bootstraps" through a college degree, the Bootstrap program allowed personnel up to two years to finish a degree which they had perhaps started years earlier. The Bootstrap program was quite successful at the University because the members of the military were eligible to receive the Bachelor of General Education degree created by the



A group of Bootstrappers celebrate graduation day, 1956.

College of Adult Education in 1950. The B.G.E. degree, designed originally for adult citizens who wanted to work toward a degree within a less structured framework, gave officers thirty credit hours for their commission, which they were then allowed to count as their major. The military personnel were also exempt from courses in mathematics, economics and foreign languages, and the Municipal University allowed them to finish their degrees with just over six months residence whereas most schools required a full year.

Only five Bootstrappers received their degrees in 1952-1953, but in the late fifties the program grew rapidly when all divisions of the Armed Forces gave their support. By 1976 over twelve thousand individuals received degrees from the Municipal University under the Bootstrap program including fifteen individuals who eventually rose to the rank of general. Throughout the Bail era the additional revenue generated by this program meant a great deal to the University financially. The sole difficulty to ever develop was a resentment on the part of regular students, some of whom disliked competing with the military students. In general, the Bootstrapper was probably a more mature student, had a broader background and was more dedicated to his studies due to pressure from the Armed Forces to finish quickly.

In a related move, the University also applied for and received a Reserved Officers Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) unit in July, 1951. Since young men enrolling in the program received deferments from immediate military service, with their pledge to accept a military commission upon graduation, President Bail and the Regents hoped



The Cadet Corps, 1957

this program would help prevent a drastic reduction in enrollment brought about by the Korean War. The program was very successful. Over four hundred male students signed up in the fall of 1951. This was twice the number President Bail had anticipated.

Other innovations and improvements in curriculum continued to appear under President Bail's leadership. In 1951 the University started its own radio station, KWOU. Although it broadcast only on

the campus, the station provided a practical learning situation for students. The school soon introduced a degree in radio-television journalism. In 1952 the Municipal University became the first institution in the Midwest and one of the first six in the nation to offer courses to the surrounding community by television when Dr. Wilfred Payne delivered a series of lectures on "Six Major Views of Life," broadcast over station KMTV. During the next ten years the University provided over fifty television courses for which sixteen hundred persons enrolled for credit. At the same time the University streamlined part of its Nursing program, which originated in 1940. By an agreement with Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, students could now obtain an R.N. and a Bachelor of Science degree after four years, plus summers. Students from Immanuel Hospital and Methodist Hospital in Omaha completed their programs after three years nursing training and two years at the University.

In the late fifties and early sixties the University was also the first institution of higher learning in the country to develop another new concept in teaching by use of the Tele-lecture. By a telephone hookup, first used at the Municipal University in 1959, students listened to experts in various fields, such as Nobel prize-winning physicist Dr. Glenn Seaborg, anthropologist Margaret Mead and Sir John Neale, Astor Professor Emeritus of English History at the University of London. The University expanded its academic programs and outreach to the community by starting degrees in Law Enforcement, Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering and by changing the Graduate Division to the College of Graduate Studies in 1962. The University supported the new Graduate College by increasing funds for an internship program. From an initial group of three interns in 1957, later known as Teaching or Research Assistants, the program grew to forty by the 1963-1964 academic year. One of the last changes instituted during the Bail era was the creation in the fall of 1964 of the Center for Urban Affairs. The University hoped the Center would become a depository for surveys and studies of the city of Omaha and serve as a research, development and consulting agency for the metropolitan area.

Beyond the broad range of academic work offered to Omahans through the six colleges of the University by the sixties, the College of Adult Education continued to offer educational conferences,



KWOU was a training ground for young broadcasters. *From left:* Paul Borge, Ray Young, George Ragan, Ron Suchy.



T.V. Classroom brought innovation to academic studies.

workshops, special courses for business and industry and lecture programs for the enlightenment of the general public. Three of the most popular programs sponsored by the College were the Home and Family Life Institute, the Summer Institute for Women and the World Affairs Institute. By means of these programs citizens could obtain an up-to-date understanding of problems dealt with by each Institute. The World Affairs Institute, particularly, was responsible for bringing to Omaha such prominent personalities as Dr. Hans J. Morgenthau and Dr. Henry Kissinger to speak to those attending the Institute. Considering the wide variety of educational opportunity offered to Omahans by their University in this period, one can well agree with the conclusion by retired Dean William H. Thompson late in his life. The Bail years did represent a truly Golden Age in curriculum development.

Equally as important for the University was the growth of the physical campus during the post-war years. Due to the rapid increase in the student body in 1945, President Haynes and the Regents declared that the University desperately needed a fieldhouse and a student center. As an emergency measure in 1946 the school purchased two quonset huts to "temporarily" house engineering machinery and for physical education classes. The next year the University developed a ten year master plan which proposed the addition of a fieldhouse, library, student center, applied science building and a carillon tower. A fieldhouse was of greatest priority, and construction started in the fall of 1948. The Fieldhouse was completed by early 1950 at a cost of \$750,000. The Regents financed the construction entirely with money in the Building Fund, which they had accumulated each year by saving money from the budget. Measuring 290 by 200 feet, the Fieldhouse had a dirt floor, a portable wooden floor for basketball and rollaway bleachers. A swimming pool was to be added in the future since cost had eliminated it from the original plans.



Even with its dirt floor, the completion of the Fieldhouse was a welcome addition to the Campus 1958.

As the University entered the fifties, it continued to follow the master plan developed in 1947. The next two buildings were to be a library and a student center, but the Regents had to first replenish the Building Fund. The University also considered acquiring more land to the west of the campus at this time because of the constraints placed on future expansion. A campus of slightly more than fifty acres simply did not seem adequate due to the potential growth of the student body. However, the Regents decided to drop the idea of land

expansion at least temporarily. Cost and availability of funds were probably of greatest concern, but there was also criticism of the idea by the *Omaha World-Herald*. That newspaper questioned whether an ambitious building program and land expansion really reflected the original purpose of the Municipal University, which was to serve local students. The *World-Herald* felt the University was possibly trying to go beyond that mission and compete with the University of Nebraska.

The Regents authorized an architect to draw up plans for a library in 1951. In order to pay for the building they concentrated the next few years on adding to the Building Fund, at \$200,000 annually. The legislature had given the University authority in 1949 to issue revenue bonds for construction purposes, but there seemed to be too much sentiment in the city against the school acquiring any indebtedness. Ground breaking ceremonies were held finally in June, 1954, sixteen years to the day from when the University moved to its new campus on West Dodge Street. Completed in early 1955, the library was a two-story structure measuring 204 by 112 feet. A one-story addition measuring 114 by 92 feet on the south side of the library was for the College of Adult Education. One of the most important characteristics of the new library was the accessibility of materials to students. According to Ellen Lord, the Librarian, the purpose of the library was the "education of students rather than the preservation of books." The cost of the library was \$850,000, but Eugene C. Eppley, hotel owner and philanthropist, paid the entire sum. The Eugene C. Eppley Library was the most valuable gift the University had ever received.

Because of Eppley's gift, the Regents felt they could move forward much sooner on construction of other buildings. In the mid-fifties they added a small Music Annex to the south side of the Fieldhouse, but their major objectives were a student center and an applied arts building. The University had the money in the Building Fund which had been saved for the library, and the Regents decided to seek federal funds for the student center by including dormitory rooms in the plans. However, the *Omaha World-Herald* once again criticized the Regents' decision. The University might find it too easy to borrow from "soft-hearted Sam" and end up with an indebtedness for which the taxpayer would be responsible. Also, dormitory rooms would allow the Municipal University to compete with the University of Nebraska and other Nebraska institutions of higher learning, something the *World-Herald* obviously felt the University should not do. The federal government did approve a loan of \$740,000 for the Municipal University in the spring of 1956, but almost immediately, without explanation, the Regents withdrew their application and cancelled plans for dormitory rooms. The Regents then returned to their Building Fund, which contained approximately \$1,000,000 by the fall of 1956, but the fund was some \$500,000 short of the amount needed to construct both a student center and an applied arts building. Delay was the only choice.

The University definitely needed a student center. Since immediately following World War II, students had used a wooden building behind the Administration Building for a gathering place between classes. Known officially at various times as The Snack Shack, Pow Wow Inn and The Club, the students always called their building "The Shack." Finally, in the spring of 1958 the University started construction on both a student center to cost \$1,340,000 and an applied arts building \$1,200,000. The Applied Arts Building (Engi-



Library exterior and interior, 1958



"The Shack"
1953 photo.

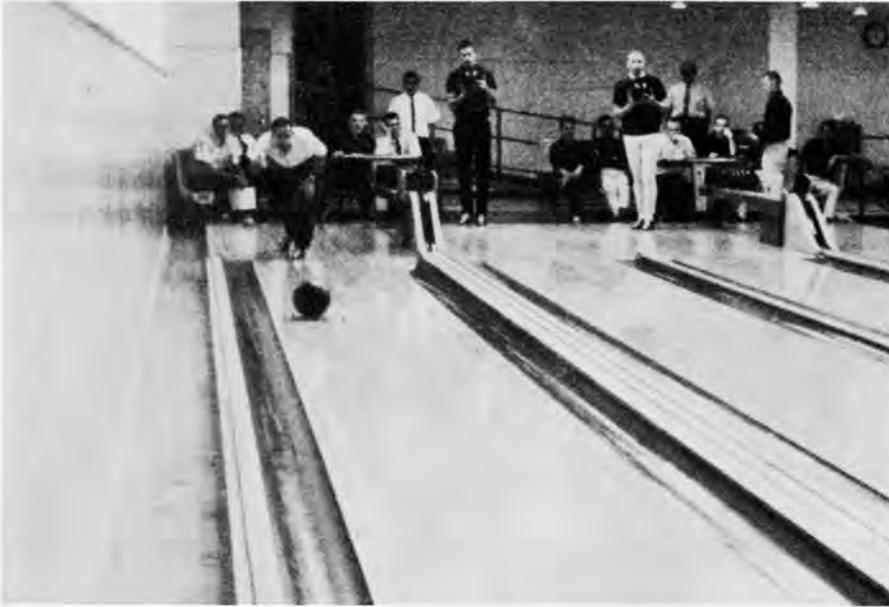
neering) as it was named, opened in the fall of 1959 and helped ease pressure on classroom space by housing seven departments. The student center opened in early 1960 and was eventually named the Milo Bail Student Center when President Bail retired in early 1965. With the addition of these two buildings the editor of *The Gateway* proclaimed in the late fifties that the University could no longer be labeled "West Dodge High."

President Bail and the Regents continually re-evaluated the building needs of the University. In the early fifties they added to the campus master plan a Fine Arts building and a larger addition to the south side of the Fieldhouse for a women's gymnasium and a swimming pool. At the end of the decade, though, President Bail urged that the next buildings constructed should be for Fine Arts and the College of Adult Education. He pointed out that four thousand students were enrolled in College of Adult Education classes and 24,000 individuals used the Gene Eppley Conference Center (the south wing of the library) during 1958-1959.

The last major changes in the master plan came in the early sixties. At that time the Regents proposed doubling the size of the Administration Building with a duplicate building addition to the south, and adding wings on the east and west sides of the library, an L-shaped addition for the west side of the Applied Arts Building, a new Fine Arts building and the women's addition and swimming pool for the Fieldhouse. In order to secure funds for at least some of these projects, the University asked Omahans in 1963 to raise the school's tax levy. When the people refused, President Bail and the Regents drew back drastically from their building plans.

Still, President Bail and the Regents did manage some small additions to the campus in the first half of the sixties. In 1962 an addition was added to the southwest wing of the Applied Arts Building, and two years later another addition was added to the first. At the same time the Eppley Foundation gave the University \$290,000 to cover half the cost of the two wings for the library. This project was completed by early 1964. The Regents also provided for a small metal building for band and chorus practice rooms which was placed south of the Fieldhouse adjacent to the Music Annex.

One other project carried out by the University caused some controversy. The Regents decided to build bowling lanes in the



Student Center when they purchased four used bowling alleys and equipment at a good price. The original plans for the Student Center had included a bowling area, but the cost was too high at the time. Although the Regents were now using money from a Student Activity Fee and profits from the Student Center, several citizens were outraged because they mistakenly thought tax money would be used. One irritated individual suggested that perhaps the school should be renamed Bowling University and that the B.A. degree should be changed to a degree Bowling Aptitude. President Bail finally calmed everyone by explaining exactly what money the University was spending. He added that he was glad Omaha citizens recognized how little money the University had to carry on its operations.

Besides adding buildings for students, the University had to face another problem after World War II. More students were driving their automobiles to an already cramped campus. It was not long before students were desperately cruising parking lots looking for a place to leave their American gas-guzzling behemoths, and they only



"Lots" of cars, a new campus problem.

slowly adjusted to the idea that drivers had to learn to properly park between lines to avoid making the situation worse. The students began to overflow into Elmwood Park with their cars because of the lack of space on campus and sometimes because it meant a shorter walk to their destination. The University considered a multi-level parking garage in the fifties to ease the situation, but cost was a strong deterrent. Therefore, the Regents began adding more and more crushed rock and asphalt to the campus, creating twelve acres of greenless space by the end of the decade. In 1955 the Regents began to "decorate" the lots with meters to help cover the costs of maintenance and future parking expansion, although the Regents always left faculty spaces unmetered as a "fringe benefit" for them.

By 1959 President Bail declared that the University had "come to the end of the rope in finding on-campus parking space." That fall there were about thirteen hundred spaces on campus for twenty-seven hundred day students. According to *The Gateway*, very few of these students could leave their cars at home since a large percentage of them held jobs and needed their autos to travel to their place of employment. At this point the University tried a new approach and asked the city for permission to build a parking lot, which the city would own, in the Elmwood Park ravine between Elmwood Park Road and Happy Hollow Boulevard east of the campus. The *Omaha World-Herald* urged support for the plan because the University "is one of Omaha's greatest assets, and anything that advances its interests helps Omaha," and a neighbor of the ravine labeled it nothing but a "wasteland." However, some citizens believed the plan would be "just the beginning" of a move by the University to acquire more of Elmwood Park. This fear gained more sympathy than did the needs of the University, and so the Regents dropped the idea.

In the early sixties the parking situation simply grew more serious. By the middle of the decade students had to feed twelve hundred parking meters, unless they were lucky enough to find one of the remaining one hundred free spaces. The University still regarded multi-level garages as one of the few solutions to the problem, but the financially-pinched Regents were reluctant to support such a project. So students continued to "cruise" the lots looking for a space to park and devised means of outwitting the campus officers who were on the lookout for parking meter violations. Placing old parking tickets on windshields and coeds writing notes to officers - "Dear Mr. Officer: I love you. I'll be back in a few minutes with some change." - were favorite ploys used by students to avoid a fine. The University had a problem for which there was no easy solution and which would remain to face the school in future years.

Throughout the Bail years, the President and the Regents struggled to pay for the increased number of programs, faculty and buildings at the University. The boom in enrollment was costly. In the fall of 1946 the Regents raised tuition for resident students from \$3.25 to \$4.25 per credit hour. Municipal University students now paid sixty-three percent of the school's costs. The one mill tax levy, in effect since 1931, covered thirty percent. In 1938 the situation had been just the opposite. Tuition continued to rise. It went to \$5.00 in 1948, with the University's first \$1,000,000 budget, and \$6.00 in 1950. In 1951 the University decided it was time to appeal to Omahans to raise the tax levy for the school. A majority (fifty-two percent) of those participating in a special election agreed with the University and voted to increase the levy from one to two mills.



Unfortunately for the school, the additional funds received from the increased mill levy were absorbed all too quickly by new faculty, higher salaries and other rising costs. By the fall of 1956 the University had its first \$2,000,000 budget. The Municipal University needed additional funds, but when State Senator George Syas suggested including the school in a legislative bill which proposed distributing \$200,000 to the state's Junior Colleges, President Bail and the Regents rejected the idea. If the University did not want state aid, probably because of a fear that state control would come with it, the Regents had little choice other than to continue raising tuition. In the fall of 1959 tuition climbed to \$7.50 per credit hour.

By the early sixties, the financial picture was even bleaker. President Bail reported that faculty salaries were below those of many public universities, even with increases he had supported in the fifties, and the budget topped the \$3,000,000 mark. The Regents raised tuition to \$9.00 per credit hour in the fall of 1962, which meant that students paid sixty percent of the University's costs, three times the national average. To produce additional funds for the University the Regents now supported a bill in the legislature to provide \$90 per semester to the state's Junior Colleges and the Municipal University for each freshman and sophomore enrolled, but the bill failed to survive.

Therefore, in the spring of 1963, the University decided to go to the voters once again in an effort to increase the tax levy from two to four mills. This time the University had strong evidence to support its request. The Nebraska Legislature's Committee on Higher Education had conducted a study of institutions of higher learning in the state, the Glenny Report, which showed that Municipal University classes were large, professors at the school taught more hours for lower salaries than did their colleagues at other universities and that many faculty with the Ph.D. left the school for other positions. Also, while enrollment was forty percent that of the University of Nebraska, the Municipal University's budget was only twenty percent of that of the state university. Although many prominent citizens and community groups publicly supported the University in its request to increase the mill levy, the city rejected the idea by a vote of 20,042 to 15,776. President Bail could only lament that Nebraskans apparently did not

Pictured Above is the Alumni Association's board of directors for 1957. The alumni board is a group of volunteers elected from the alumni community that guides the activities and expenditures of the association. The Alumni Association has a full time staff that carries out the board's direction.

Front row, seated: Richard A. Johnson, Mrs. June Gautier, Alan R. Pascale, Mrs. Marjory Murphy, Warren R. Whitted. *Standing:* James D. Borland, Jr., Robert C. Schropp, Erwin G. Schultz, M. Jean Bressler, Jean M. Bednar, Harold E. Poff, Jr., Richard J. McFayden, Homer W. Schleh, John S. Marsall, Neal R. Walker, Christy M. Kara. *Not pictured:* Thresa E. Clark, Mrs. Mary Uhl Collins, Donald J. Pflasterer, Mrs. Sally Clayman.

understand the importance of higher education in the state's development.

As the University neared the end of the Bail years, it returned to the one source of funds which had been tapped heavily since World War II. With a budget of over \$4,000,000 in the fall of 1963, tuition went up to \$11.00 per credit hour. Municipal University students now paid seventy percent of the school's costs, compared to the fifteen percent paid by students at the University of Nebraska. The following year the Regents raised tuition for the sixth time to \$14.00 per credit hour to support a budget of almost \$5,000,000. However, President Bail and the Regents seemed to feel that tuition increases could not continue. The University planned to make another appeal at a future date to Omahans to raise the mill levy. Also, for the first time the University's leaders indicated they might be receptive to state aid, if the school could retain its autonomy. The *Omaha World-Herald* agreed that the people of Omaha should retain control of their university, but the newspaper warned that if proper financial support failed to materialize, state aid and state control might be the only choice.

Despite these difficulties which the University encountered in meeting rapidly escalating costs during the Milo Bail years, the school had undoubtedly reached its greatest level of achievement thus far in its history. Besides the new buildings, vastly expanded curriculum and mushrooming student body, the number of faculty grew from just over fifty in 1945 to triple that number by the fall of 1964. President Bail continually urged local businesses to help him draw faculty to the University and to keep them there with higher pay. Since budget limitations prevented Bail from offering salaries which would be more competitive with other universities, he hoped for private donations so that the University could create endowed chairs. Although the response was not overwhelming, a few individuals did heed Bail's plea. Frederick W. Kayser, a founder and president of Thomas Kilpatrick and Company, left \$450,000 in trusts to the school at the time of his death in 1955. The income from these trusts eventually supported the Kayser Chair of Economics, first awarded to Roderic C. Crane in 1961, and the Kayser Chair of Finance, awarded to George T. Harris in 1964. In the early sixties Albert W. Jefferis, Jr., the son of Albert W. Jefferis, a pioneer Omaha attorney and former Congressman, endowed "The Albert W. and Helen J. Jefferis Memorial Fund" to the University in honor of his parents. This fund was used to establish the Jefferis Chair of English Literature which was awarded to Ralph M. Wardle in 1962. Provision was made for one other chair in early 1965 when the Eppley Foundation gave \$50,000 to endow the Milo Bail Chair of Physics. Since regulations governing this chair required the recipient to hold the Ph.D. degree and no one in the Physics Department could meet that qualification, the Bail Chair would not be awarded for several years.

The University also experienced a remarkable degree of student academic success during President Bail's term of leadership. Honorary scholastic societies were quite strong at this time. Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma, national honorary scholastic societies for women and men respectively, and the Corinthian Society, founded at the Municipal University to recognize academic achievement by both sexes, all arrived on campus in 1948. In addition, there were honorary societies for students in sociology, chemistry, history, music, English, education, business, dramatics, commerce, speech,



Student groups such as the Student Council gained popularity during the 50's.

Back row: Townsend, Satrapa, Williams, Sykora, Wolfe, Johnson, Larkin, Hampton, Step, Cowger, Townsend. Front row: Mr. Lucas, Gautier, Geilus, Metheny, Tobias, Mr. Harry

the social sciences and others which existed either throughout the era or for shorter periods of time. However, the greatest achievement of Municipal University students after World War II was their rise to national recognition. A 1952 graduate of the school, George Marling, won the first Fulbright Scholarship ever awarded to a Municipal University student, and two more students, John Fout and Rita Peltz, won this coveted award in the early sixties. In 1957 Kay Talty became the school's first recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. By the spring of 1965 eleven others also received Wilson Fellowships, a number which allowed the Municipal University to compare itself favorably with other institutions of higher learning in Nebraska.

The Bail years were truly years of progress at the University, and they were also a time of fun for many students. Many traditional ideas still guided students at the Municipal University, even though it was an urban commuter-campus without dormitories. The Greek social societies perhaps represented one of the major links of continuity with the past. Although the sororities lost one of their members when Gamma Sigma Omicron became inactive in the fall of 1950, Sigma Chi Omicron, Kappa Psi Delta, Pi Omega Pi and Phi Delta Psi remained on campus.

There was less stability among the fraternities. Alpha Sigma Lambda, Phi Sigma Phi, Theta Phi Delta and Beta Tau Kappa returned to campus after all became inactive during World War II. There were attempts to form five or six more fraternities over the next decade and a half, but the only three to survive were Sigma Lambda Beta, Phi Beta Chi and Alpha Epsilon Pi. By the sixties all the major sororities and fraternities had gone national, another good sign of the broadening horizons of the University. They appeared on campus under their national names as Chi Omega (Pi Omega Pi), Alpha Xi Delta (Phi Delta Psi), Sigma Kappa (Kappa Psi Delta), Zeta Tau Alpha (Sigma Chi Omicron), Theta Chi (Phi Sigma Phi), Sigma Phi Epsilon (Alpha

Sigma Lambda), Pi Kappa Alpha (Theta Phi Delta), Lambda Chi Alpha (Sigma Lambda Beta), Tau Kappa Epsilon (Phi Beta Chi) and Alpha Epsilon Pi, Colony.

The Greeks continued to dominate campus life, probably to a greater degree than ever before. The non-affiliated students, who joined the National Independent Student Association in 1949, were almost never elected to serve as class or Student Council officers or, as far as female students were concerned, to the socially-prestigious positions of Ma-ie Day Princess Attira, Homecoming Queen or Tomahawk Beauty Queen. The editor of *The Gateway* questioned in the mid-fifties why, when there were sixteen hundred non-affiliated students and only seven hundred Greeks, the Greeks held every position on the Student Council. No one really answered the question, but it is possible that fewer students, at least among the non-affiliated, had any interest in campus affairs. Student life is never easy to organize on an urban campus without dormitories, and the tremendous growth of the student body after World War II made the task that much more impossible at the Municipal University. In reality, membership in Greek societies represented one of the strongest links a student could have with the campus.



1959 Tomahawk Beauty
Queen
Judy Flint

The Greek societies did attempt to build a more positive image of themselves in the post-World War II years. In the late forties they started Greek Week, during which they met at workshops to discuss aspects of Greek life and how to improve their societies. A banquet and dance concluded the week's activities. In the early fifties they ended traditional Hell Week, at least theoretically, by replacing it with Help Week. This idea was catching on across the country among the Greek societies, although at the University, a national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, was the first to introduce the idea in 1948. During Help Week the Greek society members worked on a community project, cleaning and painting facilities of such organizations as the Y.M.C.A. or the St. James Orphanage. Greeks still found time to enjoy their own social events in the fifties. Late in the decade they started the Theta Chi "Ox" Olympics, a parody with a chariot race, tug of war, egg-tossing contests, tricycle races and other "Olympian feats."

For students, the Bail period at the Municipal University was an interesting time to be in college. Like students everywhere they were

caught up in a rapidly-changing world. The Korean conflict, atomic warfare, Senator Joseph McCarthy and loyalty oaths drew their attention, as reflected in a pictorial addition to the yearbook in 1952. Yet, students at the University were probably quite typical. In 1948 they were seventy percent in favor of Thomas Dewey for President, and in 1956 they "liked Ike" by a three-to-one margin. The students continued to join a multitude of clubs, whether they were academic, athletic, political or religious. New groups of students, such as the G.I.'s after World War II and later the Bootstrappers, gave an added dimension to campus life by creating such powerful organizations as the Pen and Sword Society. The students also managed to exhibit a great deal of community spirit during the Missouri River flood of 1952 when they, along with other citizens, contributed thousands of hours of work building dikes.

There was a strong effort during these years to encourage school spirit among the students. In the late forties Ben Koenig, manger of the bookstore, stimulated the movement by digging out of his files a "comic Indian" caricature which a student, Alvin Parsons, had drawn in the early forties at Koenig's urging. Koenig had felt the original Indian mascot, a copy of the Indian appearing on the Buffalo nickle, did not inspire any spirit. World War II interrupted his plans to promote a new mascot, but in 1946, when Koenig returned from military service, he again encouraged a change. A contest that year led to the selection of another Indian symbol. However, this new mascot did not catch on among the students. Koenig then took Parson's drawing out of his files and began reproducing it on school items. There was immediate interest. Parson's Indian began appearing everywhere on campus. In early 1950 the Alumni Association sponsored a contest to name the new Indian, and the winning entry was OUampi.



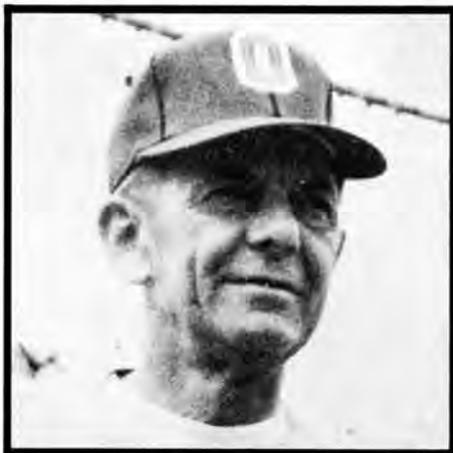
Loading sandbags during 1952 flood

Below left: Dance group Orchesis performs OU War Dance, 1954.



In the fifties a male student added to the tradition by appearing at pep rallies and football games dressed in native American costume to lead cheers and imitate Indian war dances. In the fall of 1956 a coed marching team joined OUampi as the Indiannes. In addition, "braves" rode horses along the side lines at football games when the team scored a touchdown. No one, of course, could see into the future when Native Americans would denounce the imitation of their cultural heritage and OUampi as offensive. The Indian symbols, especially the concept of a great warrior as portrayed by the human OUampi, did encourage school spirit. To many, a valiant and brave





Athletic Director
Virgil Yelkin

Indian warrior was a much better symbol for the University than a squabbling Cardinal.

School spirit is always stronger when athletic teams produce winning seasons. Between 1945 and 1965 the Municipal University produced several championship teams and some of the most outstanding athletes in the school's history. At the end of World War II students at the University made it clear that they favored an immediate return to a full athletic program, especially football. President Haynes and the Regents agreed and in the fall of 1946 they strengthened athletics by hiring Virgil Yelkin to serve as Athletic Director and baseball coach and Lloyd "Wild Hoss" Cardwell as football coach. Both of these men had played football at the University of Nebraska in the thirties under the great D. X. Bible. In the 1945-1946 school year the University fielded basketball and track teams for intercollegiate competition and in the following year added baseball, tennis and golf teams. An attempt to introduce boxing failed. Students did organize an ice hockey club which competed locally. During 1948-1949 the University added wrestling as an intercollegiate sport, but both wrestling and hockey collapsed by the early fifties.



Joe Arenas, intercepts a pass, 1953.

In the late forties the University teams were moderately successful. The football team managed a record of six wins and three losses by the 1950 season, the best since 1935. A backfield made up of Joe Arenas, who went on to a successful career with the San Francisco Forty-Niners, Fred Abboud, Gene Cheely, Rudy Rotella and Dick Christie provided the major spark for the team by gaining over two thousand yards that year. It took two years for Don Pflasterer, who took over as head basketball coach in early 1948, to build a winning team. Although the students probably did most of their cheering for Joe Arenas and the rest of the football team, the "minor" sports fared well during these years. Both the golf and tennis teams won almost seventy-five percent of their matches, and the baseball nine had a



1950 Tennis Team Standouts: Rutt, Pisasale, Berg.

winning record in three out of five years. One of the best athletes at the University was tennis player Fred Pisasale. During his four year career, Pisasale won forty-eight to fifty-two singles matches he played. The track team managed only a mediocre record in the late forties with one consistent winner, Joe Nalty, a sprinter.

Everyone at the University hoped for even better years for the athletic program. Many believed that once the football team gained its own campus stadium and the basketball team, a fieldhouse, the athletic picture would brighten because better facilities would draw a larger number of better athletes. Unfortunately, a move into the new facilities during the 1949-1950 school year did not serve as the desired elixir. In the early fifties there was little optimism for the "major" sports, football and basketball. The departure of Joe Arenas and others sent the football team into a decline while the basketball team played slightly better than .500 ball. Enthusiasts could celebrate the sharp shooting of Don Claussen, Bob Mackie and Bob Rose on the basketball court, but they still felt the sting of losing eleven out of eleven games to cross-town rival Creighton University by the spring of 1953. The inability to produce strong teams in football and basketball was more important even than the continued success of the baseball, tennis and golf teams, each of which continued to win sixty-five to seventy percent of their contests over opponents, including Creighton University.

Students called for a greater effort at the University to produce winning football and basketball teams. A *Gateway* editorial, which followed a 90 to 40 loss to the Creighton basketball team in early 1952, made two suggestions. The University should join a conference (it had been independent since 1945) and provide additional financial aid for athletes. But President Bail had warned in late 1948 that the Municipal University would not deviate from the concept of amateur athletics long held at the school by going "into the open market to shop for athletes." In March, 1952, Bail and the Regents re-affirmed this position. Athletes could compete with other students for tuition grants on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. There would be no additional aid.

In the fall of 1952 *The Gateway* tried a different tact by proposing that lights be added to the stadium for night games as a means of

Don Claussen, 1952





1955 cheerleaders at Downtown Pep Rally

inducing more fans to attend games. The student newspaper pointed out that the Municipal University Indians could not compete with Saturday afternoon television broadcasts of other football games or with the University of Nebraska. However, the Regents also tabled this idea after some consideration because of the cost. School spirit was important, but the Regents felt priority had to be given to the construction of a library and a student center.

In the mid and late fifties, even without any additional financial aid for athletes, University teams experienced greater success. Bill Engelhardt led the football team to a record of twenty-nine wins, five losses and one tie from 1953 through 1956. The high point of these four years, which were indeed a "Golden Age" of football at the University, was the 7 to 6 victory over Eastern Kentucky State at the Tangerine Bowl January 1, 1955. At that game Engelhardt was named Most Valuable Player. During his career at the Municipal University, Engelhardt set a new NCAA small-college record by gaining 5,709 yards. He was selected NAIA Little All-American two years, and in 1956 he was named to the Associate Press Little All-American second team. Recognition also came for Coach Cardwell during the 1954 season when he was named Little All-American coach.

The basketball team managed its last winning season of the fifties in 1954-1955. Led that year by Stan Schaeztle, the team accomplished the impossible by defeating Creighton. For the remainder of the fifties the basketball team had a dismal record of thirty wins and eighty-six losses. Jack Cotton took over as coach in the fall of 1955, but neither he nor Clarence Means, who succeeded Cotton four years later, could produce a winning team. Upon joining the Central Intercollegiate Conference during the 1958-1959 season, the University found itself occupying the cellar. Stan Schaeztle finished a brilliant career in the spring of 1957 with a career scoring record of 1278 points, which surpassed Bob Mackie's 1254 points and Don Claussen's 1070 points. Schaeztle was followed by some solid players - Phil Gradoville, Dean Thompson, Wayne Westphal, Bill Harmon and others. However, the championship team just was not there. The team did surprise Creighton University with a victory again during the 1957-1958 season, although by the end of the decade Creighton



led the series twenty-four to two and the two schools were on the verge of cancelling the agreement to meet each other in intercollegiate competition.



Several OU Basketball standouts are included in this 1958 Photo. *First row:* Std. Mgr. Fielding, Coach Cotton, Asst. Coach Schaetzle. *Second row:* Harmon, Stamp, Gradoville, Bolte, Kozeny, Anderson. *Third row:* Westphal, Adkins, Anderson, Hegarty, Shields, Siekman.

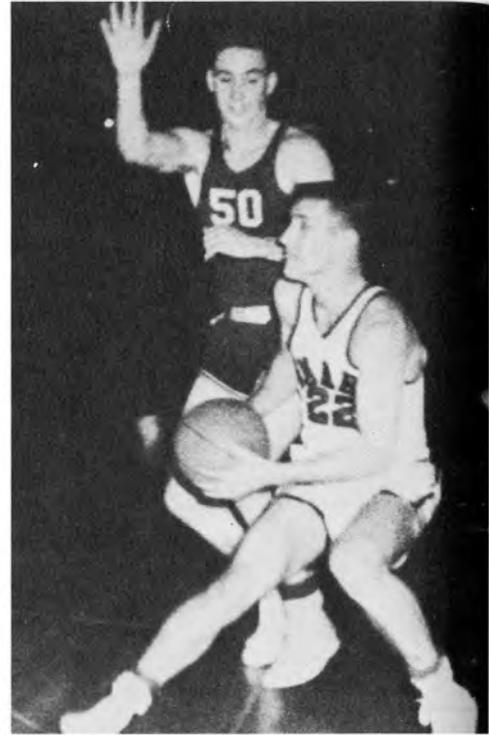
Baseball produced some of the brightest moments, particularly in the late fifties. During the 1959 and 1960 seasons the team finished first in both the CIC and the Kansas-Missouri-Nebraska League. Due to these very successful seasons, the team went on to play in the NAIA national tournament and ended up second in the nation in 1959 and fourth in 1960. A few of the stalwarts on the team included Jack Vaccaro, George Casper, Joe Neuberger and Larry Kozeny, the latter of whom in one game of the national championship series in 1959 hit two home runs, two triples and drove in ten runs. Milo Bail referred to the 1959 baseball season as "one of the greatest athletic achievements in the University of Omaha athletic history," an accomplishment equal to the Tangerine Bowl victory.

Tennis and golf remained strong in the late fifties. By the end of the 1958 season the tennis team had accumulated eighty-eight victories out of 121 matches since 1947. The golf team, led by Bill Berg in 1958 and Bob Julich in 1959, was a constant contender for the conference title, which it won in 1959. Wrestling resumed during the 1957-1958 school year. The team accumulated a respectable record the next few seasons with such grapplers as Don Benning, Bob Tallman and George Crenshaw, but when the athletic department wanted to send Tallman to the national meet in 1960 there were no funds to do so. The track team was not generally strong during these years. However, in 1955 Bill Barnes was NAIA national champion in the 220 low

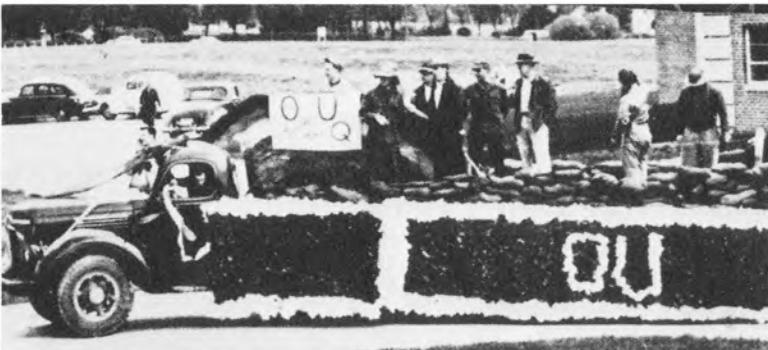
THE BAIL YEARS AT OU



Milo Bail with Coach Al Caniglia



Bob Mackie, 1954





The Indiannes, 1958



Left: Graduation Day, 1952





NAlA National champ (1955) Bill Barnes displays a winning form.

hurdles and Bob Gerdeman walked away with a similar championship in the 440 hurdles at the Drake Relays.

President Bail felt the University athletic program, especially football, faced a crossroads by the sixties. In December, 1960, he announced that the Administrative Council, an advisory body to Bail, would conduct a study of extra-curricular activities at the school through a Student Activities Study Committee composed of faculty, students and alumni. Although Bail charged the committee with examining the drama, music and debate programs, student publications and athletics, at least some members of the academic community and the community at large concluded that he intended to use the committee as a means of dropping intercollegiate athletics at the University. Bail was concerned about the cost of the athletic program, as well as the cost of the other programs. He pointed out that few people attended music and drama productions or football games. President Bail definitely felt the University was outclassed in the CIC conference, at least in football and basketball, and as far as he was concerned, the school was not going to match the level of funds spent on athletics by some conference opponents. In 1959 the University had inaugurated a grants-in-aid program for athletes, but it was quite small. Bail felt it might be best if the Municipal University withdrew from the CIC and played smaller Nebraska schools or, as some feared, drop intercollegiate sports and emphasize an intramural program.

After four months the committee produced its recommendations. In the non-athletic areas the committee proposed renovation of the stage and auditorium for drama, the hiring of an additional faculty member in the Speech department to aid in the directing of an expanded debate schedule and the promotion of the music program by the University in an attempt to make the Music department a focal



While Pres. Bail enjoyed OU Athletics, he was concerned about the program's cost.

point for musical and cultural life in the city. For athletics the committee, after stopping a move by some members to end intercollegiate competition, suggested development of a larger intramural program; more facilities on campus for intramural competition, such as a swimming pool and more tennis courts; and basically a continuation of intercollegiate competition. Everyone seemed to agree that it would be wise to withdraw from the CIC conference.



All Sports Bowl, Oklahoma City, 1962

The committee favored athletic competition in a new conference, possibly made up of teams nearby in Nebraska, and an ending of grants-in-aid, which covered an athlete's tuition and books. However, the parent Administrative Council revised the latter of these recommendations and proposed instead membership in some conference other than the CIC and a continuation of grants-in-aid. The Administrative Council did re-affirm that there should be "no special aid to athletes." Basically, the Board of Regents adopted the position of the Administrative Council as a guideline for future development of the athletic program and voted that grants-in-aid for the 1961-1962 school year could total \$18,000. The Regents did not feel there should be any dramatic increase in financial support for athletics, something the Athletic department had pleaded for during the committee investigation.

Lacking any immediate changes, the Athletic department continued to drift along, caught between a program limited financially and a desire to produce winning teams. The teams did experience better times in the early sixties due primarily to some outstanding talent. When Lloyd Cardwell resigned as football coach following the 1959 season, Al Caniglia took command of the sport. In two of the five seasons from 1960 through 1964 Caniglia-coached teams climbed to second place in the CIC and to first in two other years. The team did so with such individuals as Carl Meyers, Paul Blazeovich, Roger Sayers, Gerald Allen, Jack Peterson, Jimmy Jones and many others. Blazeovich, Allen and Peterson were all named to Associated Press Little All-American teams, and Allen went on to a successful career with the Washington Redskins. At the end of the 1962 season the University participated in its second bowl game, the All Sports Bowl in Oklahoma City, at which the Indians defeated East Central Oklahoma State 34 to 21.

Basketball also got a new head coach, Jim Borsheim, by the 1961-1962 season, and for the next three years his teams played .500 ball. While the tennis and golf teams were somewhat weaker than they had been in the fifties, the baseball team continued its winning ways. The baseball nine finished on top in the CIC every year from 1961 through 1965 and finished in second place in the national NAIA tournament in 1965. Pitchers Barry Miller and Larry Krehbiel were a key part of the team's strength, and in 1964 and 1965 Krehbiel was named to NAIA All-Star teams.

Rocket Roger Sayers defeated U.S. Champ Bob Hayes to win the 1961 100 yard dash NAIA championship.





Top: Don Benning, Bottom: Lloyd Cardwell

Don Benning, a wrestler for the University a few years earlier, became the new wrestling coach in 1963. Benning was one of the first Blacks in the nation to hold such a position at a basically white university, and he was also the first black assistant professor at the school. Under his leadership George Crenshaw presented the University with its first NAIA title in that sport. However, one of the greatest athletes in the early sixties and one of the greatest in the history of the school was the track star Roger Sayers. The "Rocket," as he was often called, performed brilliantly as a sprinter and brought fame to himself and the Municipal University when he defeated the United States champion Bob Hayes to win the 100 yard dash at the NAIA championships in 1961.

During the years of Milo Bail's presidency at the Municipal University there were many golden moments, from academics to athletics. The community recognized Bail's accomplishments in 1955 by naming him King Ak-Sar-Ben LXI, an "enlightened" and "refreshing" choice according to Nebraska newspapers. On the other hand, some faculty members at the University felt President Bail ruled his academic realm with too firm a hand. He was a strong leader; some even labeled him authoritarian. Academic freedom in the classroom apparently was not endangered by Bail. However, he was conscious of the University's image in the community and he would go to great lengths to protect it. In 1962 Bail succumbed to community pressure and tried unsuccessfully to force History professor Thomas L. Bonner to resign because various groups found Bonner too "liberal." Professor Bonner had challenged Congressman Glenn Cunningham that year for his seat in Congress. Also, nude models in art classrooms and a Manet nude hanging on a professor's office wall made Bail uneasy, and he certainly "suggested" that the print be taken down. Bail was even known to comment on a professor's style of dress if he felt the attire was inappropriate. Such actions led at least one faculty member to denounce Bail as a "tyrant." The University needed a strong president to help lead the school through the many difficult problems encountered during the years following World War II, but Bail's style of leadership would not be suited to the more turbulent years of the late sixties and early seventies. By the mid-sixties, it was time to move into a new era under a new president.

MERGER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA: A NEW BEGINNING

Administrators came and went as the University of Omaha became part of the University of Nebraska system in July, 1968. Presidents Leland Traywick and Kirk Naylor were replaced by Interim-Chancellor John Blackwell for the 1971-72 academic year. In the fall of 1972 the Board of Regents named Ronald W. Roskens as first Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Chancellor Roskens served in that position for five years before being appointed President of the University of Nebraska. His successor was Del D. Weber, who was named Chancellor in 1977 and who continues in this position at the time of the Diamond Jubilee.

In the summer of 1964 the Regents hired Dr. Leland Traywick to replace Milo Bail as president of the Municipal University on February 1, 1965, the date Bail had announced he would retire. Traywick had been president of Southwest Missouri State College since 1960, before which he had a distinguished career as teacher and scholarly publisher. The Regents were not disturbed that Traywick had resigned recently as president of Southwest Missouri because he and the regents of that school could not work together. A delegation of Regents from Omaha traveled to Springfield, Missouri, to investigate the reason for Traywick's departure from the Missouri school and came back with the impression that everyone in the community supported Traywick except the Missouri regents. The Municipal University Regents concluded that the primary difficulty at Springfield had been an attempt by the Southwest Missouri State regents to go beyond their role as policy-makers and assume administrative duties as well. The *Springfield News and Leader* agreed and declared that Omaha's "gain is our own terrific loss."

Controversy soon developed, though, when Traywick spoke to representatives of the press after signing a contract with the Municipal University Regents. While explaining his philosophy concerning

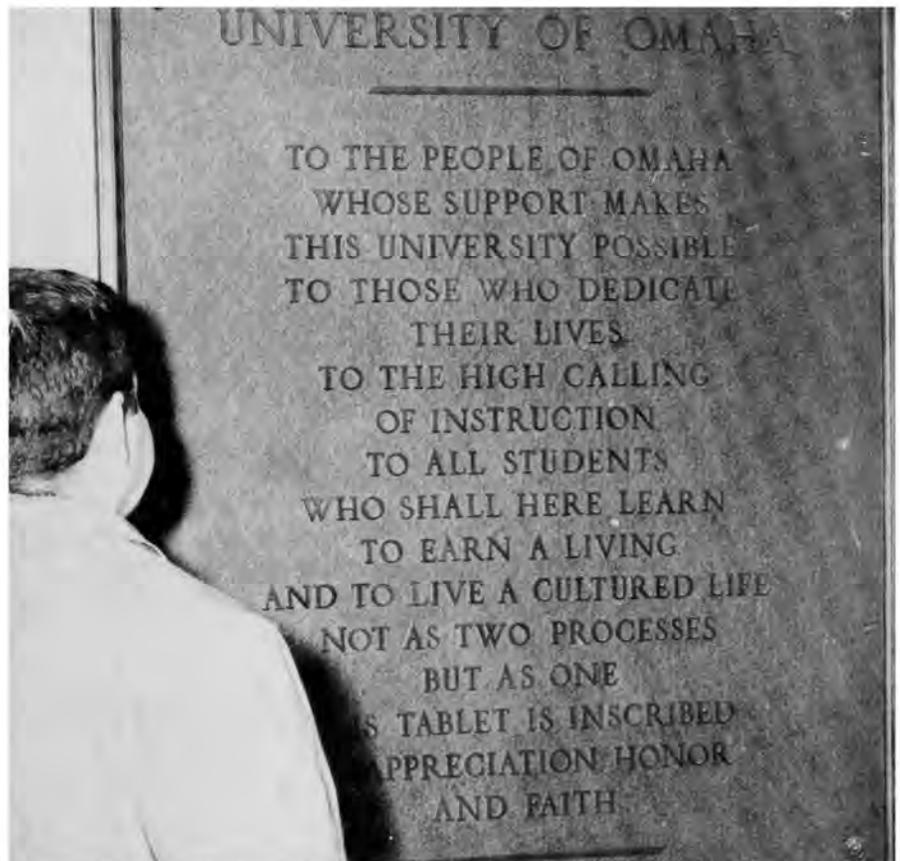


Dr. Leland Traywick

the operation of a university, he declared that a communist should not be denied the right to speak on campus. Congressman Glenn Cunningham denounced Traywick for taking such a position because, according to J. Edgar Hoover, communists were trying to influence young Americans by speaking to them on college campuses. Cunningham said he could not understand why the Regents would hire someone such as Traywick. The Regents defended their choice and retorted that Congressman Cunningham was engaged in "character assassination." The issue quickly faded when support failed to materialize for Cunningham.

When President Traywick assumed control of the Municipal University in early 1965, one of the first things he did was create a Committee of the Future. Composed of twenty faculty members chosen by their colleagues, the Committee of the Future was responsible for examining all aspects of the University. The committee reported its findings and recommendations to Traywick by late November, 1965, but the President announced the information would not be made public. Instead, the University would begin work on a Master Plan which would incorporate at least some of the findings of the Committee of the Future. The Master Plan was to be presented by mid-1966, although once again nothing ever officially appeared.

The information gathered by the Committee of the Future illustrated that the Municipal University continued to face many problems that had been present for decades. A shortage of classrooms, a campus too limited for future expansion and inadequate financial support were some of the major weaknesses studied. The committee felt better financial backing might come from a fund drive, an increase in the mill levy or limited state aid. An option that did not



Inscription, 1967 photo



KYNE broadcast for the community schools, 1966.

gain a great deal of support among the committee members was the possibility of merging with the University of Nebraska. Several members felt such a solution would not be in the best interest of the Municipal University. Members of the committee were of the opinion that the campus should be expanded by acquiring part of Elmwood Park. A sub-committee which looked at this specific problem declared Omahans would "have to decide which is most important, higher education or golf."

Under President Traywick's leadership there were continued advancements at the University. The colleges of Adult Education and Applied Arts became the College of Continuing Studies and College of Engineering and Technology; a Bachelor's of Urban Studies was created; and several new masters programs were started, including a Master of Business Administration which local business groups had long urged the University to initiate. In addition, in the fall of 1965 the University began broadcasting educational programs to community schools over station KYNE for the Nebraska Educational Television Network. These types of accomplishments led the *Omaha World-Herald* to comment in October, 1965, that in eight months Traywick had demonstrated that "he has both the eagerness and the ability to direct the school along the right road."

Unfortunately, President Traywick was not able to solve one of the most serious problems confronting the University. The financial outlook remained very bleak. Costs increased annually as the student body continued to grow. For the 1965-1966 school year the Regents approved a budget nearing \$6,000,000, of which the students paid an overwhelming seventy-two percent through tuition. The Regents and President Traywick felt the students could not be expected to carry any more of the burden. So in the spring of 1966 the school's leaders decided to appeal to Omahans once again to raise the mill levy from two to four mills. President Traywick stressed that with the additional funds the University would be able to support programs for "students of all ages." Without the funds the school might have to limit enrollment, raise tuition even higher or become a state school.

As in earlier campaigns, there was strong support to increase the University's tax levy. The Omaha Central Labor Union, AFL-CIO, urged Omahans to stand behind this "working man's school." The *Omaha World-Herald* pointed out that students nation-wide paid approximately thirty-five percent of the cost of their education compared to the seventy-two percent paid by Municipal University students and that it was time Omahans accepted a greater financial responsibility for their university. A writer in the *Sun* newspaper even revealed that Municipal University students indicated in polls taken at the school that they believed in God and the war in Viet Nam, unlike their counterparts at Berkeley. All efforts failed. The citizens of Omaha again refused to increase their financial support in a vote that was far from close.

President Traywick and the Regents reacted after the defeat the only way they could to keep the University solvent and moving ahead. They raised tuition for the fall of 1966 from \$14 to \$18 per credit hour to support a budget of \$6,500,000. This was the fifth tuition hike in eight years and meant that students now paid seventy-four percent of the cost of their education. A student at the Municipal University now spent approximately \$700 a year for tuition. This was cheaper than the \$1120 paid by students at the private Creighton University, but a great deal more than the \$334 paid by students at the University of Nebraska.

The only answer now seemed to be some type of state aid, a solution not favored by President Traywick. In 1965 he and the Regents opposed a move by the Nebraska Legislature to create a single board of trustees to govern all public institutions of higher learning in the state. Traywick said he did not want a "czar" of education. By the spring of 1966, though, pressure was building to do something. Shortly before the defeat of the mill levy increase in May, State Senator Terry Carpenter said he would introduce a bill in the legislature to make the Municipal University part of the University of Nebraska. Even more interesting, at the same time former President Milo Bail declared his support for a "Greater University of Nebraska" which would include the University of Nebraska, the Municipal University, four state colleges and several junior colleges. Bail envisioned a system in which the junior colleges would serve basically freshmen and sophomores and the other campuses would each specialize in various programs for upperclassmen. Only the Omaha and Lincoln campuses would develop graduate programs. According to Bail, a "Greater University of Nebraska" would end costly duplication of programs and allow financial resources to be used most effectively.

Following the failure to increase the mill levy, the crisis finally occurred in the fall of 1966. Enrollment dropped by six hundred, probably due to the higher tuition. With the loss of the money these students would have brought to the school, Kirk E. Naylor, Dean of Administration, told the Regents that the Municipal University faced a "critical financial situation." President Traywick indicated he would now accept state aid and was willing to see the Municipal University become an independent state school. He said he was "unalterably opposed to becoming part of the University of Nebraska." On the other hand, the Regents by this time had moved much closer to embracing exactly that idea and by early December they were meeting with former President Bail to discuss the future of the University. Since the Regents and President Traywick disagreed so strongly over an issue that would so affect the future of the



Connie Claussen, a '61 university grad, motivates callers during the Alumni Association's annual National Call Campaign. This campaign is part of the Association's Annual Fund drive to raise dollars from alumni to aid the university. The fund has grown from a total of \$1,727 in 1953 to \$585,595 in 1982.

University, they met in early December to consider Traywick's departure. The Regents and Traywick agreed that he would resign if the Regents paid him his salary for the remainder of his three year contract - a total of \$33,783. For the sake of the University Traywick announced that he was voluntarily resigning to return to teaching and research, but suspicions abounded regarding the cause of his resignation. When a citizen filed suit to prevent the Regents from paying his salary, the Regents voided their agreement with the President and announced they were firing him. They now claimed Traywick had not adequately handled the financial problems of the school or developed a program for the future by completing the proposed Master Plan and that he lacked "executive ability." They did say he was "a fine gentleman." Traywick left the University, but he also filed suit for the money the Regents had agreed to pay to him. Eventually he received a settlement out-of-court since the Regents had little chance of winning the dispute. The *Omaha World-Herald* commented that the Regents had made some "serious errors" in the way they handled Traywick's dismissal, but they now needed to turn their attention to the University's problems.



Dr. Kirk E. Naylor



The Student Center was one of the last buildings the Regents were able to construct out of their limited budget.

The Regents replaced Traywick with Kirk E. Naylor as Acting-President. While the Regents said they had not promised Naylor the permanent presidency, they probably intended to do so since they revealed at the time that they had no intention of soliciting any other applications. These events upset the faculty. Several members of the faculty reported their colleagues were terribly confused over which direction the school was headed and that there was some negative feeling toward Naylor, or toward the quickness of his selection by the Regents. One faculty member declared that Naylor had “no chance to gain the respect of the faculty.” The faculty as a whole passed a resolution calling for a committee composed of faculty and Regents to recommend candidates for the presidency. In early 1967 the Regents agreed to accept a faculty advisory committee to help select a permanent president, although they continually stressed that the final choice was their’s to make.

Meanwhile, Acting-President Naylor and the Regents proceeded to seek a final solution to the University’s financial problems. After meeting with state senators and local groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the school’s leaders decided the only choice was to merge with the University of Nebraska. In the early months of 1967 the Municipal University and the University of Nebraska drew up a merger agreement whereby the two institutions would have a common governing board and yet the Municipal University would retain reasonable academic and administrative autonomy. Also, the Municipal University would keep its college and department structure in existence at the time of merger and the faculty would be guaranteed their present rank, tenure and other benefits. Acting-President Naylor insisted that the merger be approved by the voters of Omaha before it could go into effect since it was their university. Because the state government would have to first give its approval to merger, all of these provisions were incorporated in a bill sponsored in the legislature primarily by State Senator Terry Carpenter.

There was little question that the Omaha community in general supported the merger, both as a means of strengthening the school and as a means of reducing the tax load of the people by ending the mill levy for the Municipal University. But Omahans wanted a merger in which the Municipal University would be treated equally with the Lincoln campus. The Omaha Chamber of Commerce declared that "there are overwhelming advantages to merger...provided that the Omaha campus can be accorded the same rights and status as the Lincoln facility." There was particular interest among Chamber members that merger would mean strong colleges of Business Administration and Engineering for the Omaha campus, and the Eastern Chapter of the Professional Engineers of Nebraska endorsed merger on the premise that an Omaha College of Engineering would have strong programs on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Mayor A.V. Sorensen believed merger would produce funds for campus expansion, additional programs and parking facilities in Omaha. And Acting-President Naylor even believed there would finally be dormitories on the Omaha campus. Only the future would show what merger would actually mean for the city of Omaha and its university.

The bill to approve merger encountered a measure of difficulty in the legislature. Some senators disliked the idea of increasing the tax load of all Nebraskans for the benefit of Omahans, while others claimed it would be hard to support another state school when higher education was already under-financed. Others claimed the Municipal University could achieve financial solvency on its own through improved administration and a reorganization of goals.



Students strongly supported the merger effort.

Many persons in the state suggested that the merger bill would not pass unless Douglas County senators supported a bill to create a sales and income tax for Nebraska, both of which out-state Nebraska desired. This was not the case. Omaha senators voted almost unanimously against the tax measure, which still passed, and yet the merger bill drew the support of over twenty senators from outside the Omaha area. On April 24, 1967, Governor Norbert Tiemann signed the merger bill into law. According to provisions of the law, the state would assume control of the Municipal University July 1, 1968, if the voters of Omaha approved merger in a special election.

In June, 1967, Naylor was appointed president of the University. He was the unanimous choice of the Regents and the Regents-Faculty committee appointed to work with the Regents in the selection of a president. No other candidates were even considered. It then became Naylor's responsibility to help persuade Omahans to vote for merger the following December. To accomplish this goal he appointed a Merger Committee of sixty business, labor, education and Municipal University faculty and staff representatives to speak for merger before various community groups. Their job was not overly difficult. Omahans were glad to hear their tax burden would decline, at least in the short term, and that the University would grow with state funds. State Senators Clifton B. Batchelder and Henry F. Pedersen appeared as the primary critics of merger, but their arguments were not persuasive. Batchelder suggested raising tuition even higher and Pedersen claimed the people would vote for a mill levy increase if the University leaders really explained the needs of the school. When the vote came in, Omahans had approved merger by a four to one margin. The *Sun* newspaper declared it was unclear whether the people voted heavily for merger "in a flush of enthusiasm for improved education or in a rush to rid themselves of responsibility for O.U.'s upkeep." Whatever the motive, Omahans would benefit from merger. For sixty years the University, first as a private institution and then as a municipal school, had suffered financial limitations. With state aid the new University of Nebraska at Omaha

June 30, 1968 ceremony commemorating the University's merger with the NU system Pres. Naylor at podium.





Allwine Hall, 1970

would enter a period of tremendous growth. On July 1, 1968, when the formal ceremony transferring the Municipal University to the state took place, Sydney L. Cate, a member of the University's Merger Committee, declared that merger represented "the greatest educational gain in this city's history." It was, indeed, a new beginning.

Even before merger took effect in July, 1968, the situation began to look brighter at the Municipal University. In 1967 the legislature provided additional funds for the school through a bill which granted \$7.50 for each credit hour taken by freshmen and sophomores. Approximately ten percent of the school's 1967-1968 budget, its last as a municipal university, came from this source. Academically the Regents continued to expand the graduate program and created another endowed chair for faculty. The Frederick W. Kayser Chair of Marketing was awarded to Charles M. Bull in 1968. Bull held the chair until 1978. Then, it became simply the Kayser Chair and was awarded to Robert T. Reilly in Communications. Also in 1968 the Omaha Real Estate Board provided funds to support one other chair, the Chair of Real Estate. C. Glenn Lewis held this chair until 1974, and it was then awarded to David Sirota 1974-1976, Donald Nielsen 1976-1980 and Roger Sindt 1981-1982. The chair then ceased to exist. There were now five endowed chairs at the University, although the Milo Bail Chair of Physics was awarded for the first time only in 1977 to Richard Tipping, who held the chair until 1982. The faculty also requested and the Regents agreed to the creation of a University Senate, the first ever at the school.

Under the leadership of Traywick and Naylor the University physical plant also grew. An addition to the Administration Building in the west court provided much-needed office space for faculty by the fall of 1966. In early 1967 the Regents decided to proceed with construction of a science building if the University could obtain one-third of the cost from the U.S. Office of Education under the Higher Education Facilities Act. The University planned a two-story building of red-painted concrete blocks at a total cost of \$1,300,000. The structure was to be designed so that three more stories could be added at a later date. Although the Office of Education approved the

grant, in June the Regents decided instead to build a five-story brick building at a cost of \$2,116,000. They would do so by using the \$1,250,000 general reserve fund, which could not be carried over after merger took place. They would also have to apply to the Office of Education for a second loan of \$625,000. Construction on the science building, named Allwine Hall for A.A. Allwine who donated a farm to the school in 1959, would not start until September, 1968. Municipal University and federal funds paid for the building, which would have been much smaller and plainer if merger had not freed the general reserve fund for use on the structure.

Although merger meant the end of the Municipal University as a separate entity, it brought financial stability and funds for the further development of programs and the campus. In one respect merger did not really change the focus of the Omaha campus from what it had been for the previous sixty years. A committee of representatives from the three campuses of the new University of Nebraska system agreed in 1968 that the chief responsibility of the



University of Nebraska at Omaha should be areas of study involving urban America. This theme was re-iterated in 1970 by a "Regents' Commission on the Urban University in the 70's." The "Regents' Commission" stated that UNO should develop programs which would benefit Omaha, including an Institute for Public and Community Affairs; and training in such vocational-related occupations as teaching, nursing, engineer's aide, construction technician and insurance executive. Creation of a graduate degree in Public Administration, the Goodrich Program, the College of Public Affairs and Community Service, the College of Fine Arts, a Performing Arts Center and even radio station KVNO-FM represented just a few of the ways UNO achieved its assigned goal during the years after merger. The Goodrich Program, which originally provided financial aid for one hundred students who wanted to attend college but lacked the funds to do so, was the idea of Hubert Locke who was head of the College of Public Affairs and Community Services at the time. State Senator Glen Goodrich sponsored the necessary legislation in the legislature which provided funds for the program in 1972. By 1976 this program served one hundred and ninety-two students,

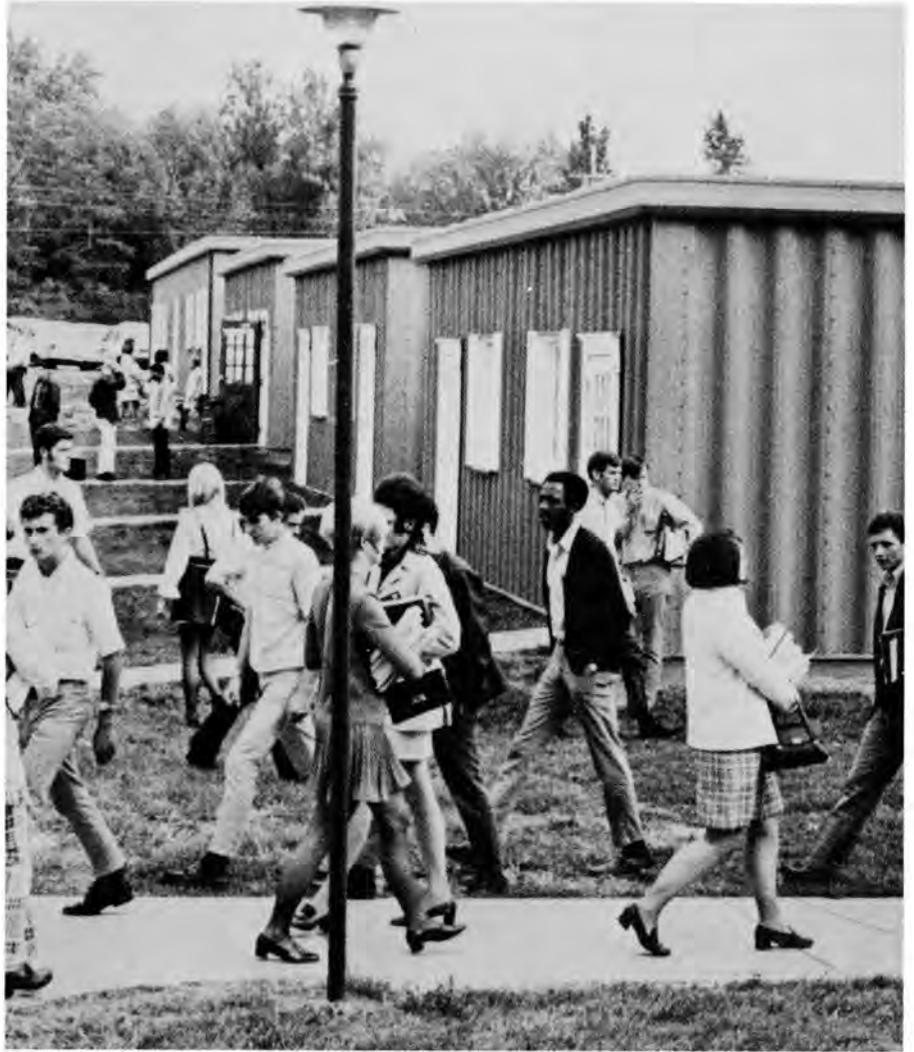


including eighty-nine Blacks, seventy-seven Whites, twenty Chicanos and six Native Americans. The College of Public Affairs, created as a School in 1972, served as the home for major urban-oriented programs, including the departments of Public Administration, Criminal Justice, Urban Studies, the Graduate School of Social Work, the Center for Applied Urban Research and a Gerontology Program.

One of the few areas not assigned to UNO with merger which the Omaha campus and its city felt should be part of the school's role was the engineering program. As mentioned previously, professional engineers, many of whom lived in the Omaha area, wanted a strong and even expanded program in the city. After two studies of the engineering programs on the Lincoln and Omaha campuses, though, the Regents concluded that the state could not support both. In 1972 they united the two programs and gave control to a dean on the Lincoln campus. The Regents also provided that UNO would no longer offer a General Engineering degree. The Omaha campus would continue to offer Bachelors degrees in Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering, and students could still enroll at UNO for two years pre-engineering and then transfer to Lincoln to finish the required work in a speciality field offered there. In addition, the Regents provided that UNO could develop a School of Engineering Technology which would focus on the application of engineering principles rather than theory. This program did not start until 1976. Later in the seventies the Regents further limited Omaha's engineering program by eliminating the Bachelors degree in Industrial Engineering. Finally, in the fall of 1981, the Regents eliminated the basic pre-engineering program at UNO, but protest by students, the Faculty Senate and others led the Regents to reinstate the program one year later.

One other positive result of merger was a fantastic building boom on the Omaha campus. In the fall of 1968, after merger took effect, the school added twelve "shockingly blue" "temporary" buildings to absorb some of the increased enrollment, and during the 1968-1969

The University's commitment to urban oriented programs through the College of Public Affairs drew many minority students to UNO.



The "shockingly. blue" temporaries, 1970 photo.

school year an office annex was added to the southeast corner of the Eppley Library and the East Court of the Administration Building was enclosed. A serious building campaign then started. Construction started on a College of Education Building, Kayser Hall, in 1969. Finished two years later, this was the first building on the Omaha campus to be financed with state funds. The Performing Arts Center, Phase I, opened in 1973 and construction of a College of Business Administration Building immediately followed. There was protest over the Business Administration Building because the school decided to put it in the middle of the lawn in front of the Administration Building. The stately old Elm trees lining the two sidewalks from Dodge Street to the front of the Administration Building would have to be sacrificed, although the University contended most of the trees were diseased and would have to be removed anyway. Due to the controversy, the school's leaders asked a citizens committee to make suggestions as to possible alternative campus locations for the building. That group concluded that unfortunately there was no other place to put it on the cramped campus, although it was moved as far west toward the Eppley Library as possible.

By the mid-seventies the school also had a new library, costing over \$5,000,000 and by the late seventies expanded physical education facilities, including a fifty meter swimming pool, in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Building. These build-

ings might have been added more quickly, but Nebraska governors in the seventies demanded economic conservatism. Still, by the end of the decade the UNO campus had added five major new buildings valued at almost \$20,000,000. In addition, the Regents and legislature provide funds for a central utilities plant, an Astro-turf surface and additional seating in the stadium and a rubberized floor in the fieldhouse, and student fees paid for an addition to the Student Center.

In an effort to gain a more suitable location for conferences and an off-campus class site, as recommended by the "Regents' Commission," the Regents asked the legislature for funds to construct a building in the Omaha business district. This project had a great deal of support in the business community. Peter Kiewit, an Omaha business leader, offered to contribute \$2,500,000 toward the project and other business leaders jointly pledged the same amount. The state would have to provide only \$5,000,000. However, there was opposition from different sectors. Faculty and students feared a loss of funds for the main campus, and the governor would support only a combined UNO education-state office building. The legislature and governor finally provided funds for the project along the lines the governor desired, and in December, 1980, the Peter Kiewit Conference Center opened.

All of these changes were taking place under several leaders. Naylor served until the fall of 1971 when he was asked to resign by D.B. Varner, who was the head of the University of Nebraska system at the time. Varner contended that he wanted new leaders on all three campuses in an effort to dissolve past local ties which might be stronger than loyalties to the united University of Nebraska. John V. Blackwell, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, replaced Naylor during the 1971-1972 academic year as Interim-Chancellor of the UNO campus. Due to a shift in titles at this time, Varner became President of the University of Nebraska system and the campus heads assumed the title of Chancellor. For the greater part of the seventies two individuals provided the leadership for UNO. In the fall of 1972 Ronald W. Roskens, Executive Vice-President of Kent State University in Ohio, became Chancellor at the University of Nebraska of Omaha and served the next five years, until he became President of the University of Nebraska system in 1977. He was then replaced by Del D. Weber, a native Nebraskan and Dean of the College of Education at Arizona State University.

By the spring of 1977 the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools felt that the administrative leaders of UNO had been carrying out their responsibilities well. A North Central accreditation review team reported that since 1970 enrollment had increased twenty-five percent and the number of faculty had grown by one-third, seventy-five percent of the faculty now held the doctorate and federal and foundation grants had increased from \$857,971 to \$4,200,000 in the previous six years. The North Central Association granted UNO accreditation at the highest level possible and raised its review period from every five years to every ten. The University of Nebraska at Omaha could not have received a higher rating.

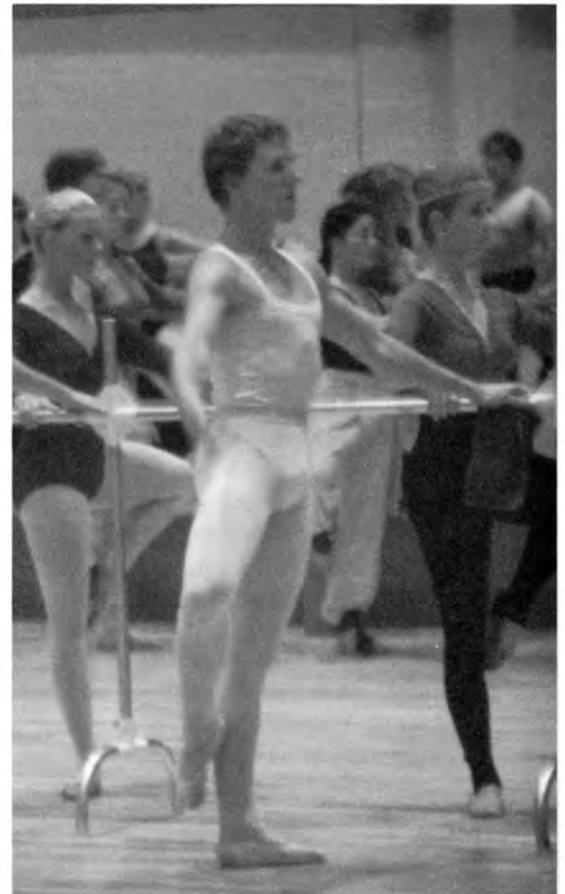
Naturally there were problems as well as accomplishments after merger. The University, as others, had to deal with the increasing awareness of cultural, racial and sexual groups in American society by expanding curriculum and facilities. In the fall of 1967 the racial



Dr. Ronald W. Roskens



Top: The Engineering Building. Bottom left: Student Center Commons area. Bottom right: Ballet class, HPER Building.





Kayser Hall completed in 1971 houses the College of Education.

revolution awakened the school when the Afro-American Council for Action held a "teach-in" in the Department of History offices. The main complaint of this Black student organization was the absence of Black History courses in the school's curriculum. A member of the Black community who joined the students was Ernest Chambers, described by the *Omaha World-Herald* as "a barber with militant views on civil rights." Chambers, who eventually became a state senator, declared that the history curriculum should provide "fair and adequate representation of black people and their contribution to the world and American civilization." At the same time this protest was going on, a second demonstration by the Student Committee for the Organization of Public Effort (SCOPE) denounced the scarcity of Black employees at the University and alleged discrimination by the Greek social societies.

The University responded to these complaints in several ways. In the spring of 1968 a University Senate committee investigated the charge of discrimination and found that the primary problem appeared to be with the Greek societies. The committee reported that the members of those organizations seemed to hold strong racial views and allowed only Whites to join their groups. Nation-wide there was suspicion that Greek societies refused to remove discrimination clauses from their constitutions, and some universities were banning them from campus. The University Senate committee also reported that Blacks were excluded from other school organizations. The committee stated that all members of the women's cheerleading squad were white and members of Greek societies. The faculty

sponsors of that organization said they would make an effort to change recruiting procedures to assure equal opportunity.

A committee led by President Naylor examined ways the University could better serve financially disadvantaged youth in Omaha who wanted to attend college. As a result the school offered free counseling and non-credit courses in basic skills during the summer of 1968. Also, the History Department began offering a course "Ethnic Groups in America" the next fall.

Renewed protest occurred the following year. In November, 1969, a group of fifty-four Blacks, members of Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC), occupied part of President Naylor's offices after they decided he was responding too slowly to a list of demands. The BLAC members called for increased aid for athletes, student participation in the creation of Black Studies courses and several other changes which they felt affected them as students. Since the students would not leave, President Naylor eventually called the police and the students were arrested. The demonstration did produce some results. The University Senate suggested that the school create the position of Ombudsman to help solve school-related problems of students and faculty, and in 1970 President Naylor named Professor Thomas Majeski to fill the office. The University also created a Black Studies program which became the Black Studies Department in 1971.

In the early seventies groups representing other minorities became more visible on campus. Chicano students formed LA CAUSA and held Chicano Awareness Days; American Indians United sponsored Indian Days; and women on campus formed Adam's Rib and Everywoman. The University formed the Office of Minority Affairs in 1973 to work with Black, Chicano, Native American and other minority students, but encountered some difficulty in solving women's problems. In 1974 women on campus filed a complaint with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare charging that women were not treated equally at the University. They alleged, among other things, that only eighteen percent of the faculty were women, a decline from previous years; there were few female full professors; women's courses were not encouraged; and the women's physical education and intercollegiate sports programs were far below those of the men. The last charge was the most obvious and damaging. Women's physical education classes were held in a twenty-seven year old quonset hut with a leaky roof, a worn tile floor, poor lighting and terrible shower facilities. Three women's varsity sports teams shared the same uniforms. The University protested it could do little in this area until the legislature and the governor agreed that UNO could have its HPER Building, and therefore, relief was several years away.

Merger did not necessarily produce a happy faculty. The problem of insufficient pay had been present for years, but especially since World War II salaries in education had lagged behind other fields. There were other problems as well. In the late sixties discontent developed among faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences over what they considered salary inequities within their college and between colleges. A study by the University Senate showed why these faculty were concerned. The median salary in the College of Arts and Sciences was \$10,700 versus \$16,500 in the College of Business Administration, and professors in the social sciences and female professors were the most poorly paid of all. One faculty member denounced all administrations from Bail forward for justify-

Homecoming parade
1962.





Registration, 1970

ing the situation with the "market place" theory, that is, that professors who could make higher salaries in the business world, such as those in the College of Business Administration, should receive higher pay at the University.

The Regents and UNO leadership upset the faculty even more by securing only small salary increases (two percent in 1971-1972) and by introducing merit pay in the early seventies, a system proclaimed by many faculty to be unfair and unwisely handled. President Varner admitted in July, 1971, that UNO faculty faced a drop in "real income" for the third straight year. Faculty also complained that the Regents and the UNO administration hurt attempts to gain funds for higher salaries by urging that money be spent for new programs and a new downtown education center. The Regents and the UNO administration contended that they were merely trying to carry out legitimate goals of the "Regents' Commission on the Urban University in the 70's." One other charge by faculty was that too much of the budget was spent on administrators at UNO and for the University of Nebraska system's office. The student newspaper *The Gateway* did show that administrative salaries in 1969-1970 amounted to \$686,000 and \$1,266,000 in 1974-1975. Chancellor Ronald Roskens defended his additions to the administration in the early seventies and argued that their salaries should be even higher.

Out of a feeling of frustration, between twenty-five and thirty percent of the faculty formed a local chapter of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, in the early seventies. Understandably the Regents and University administrative leaders did not want the faculty to unionize, and therefore, they refused to recognize the AFT as the bargaining unit on the Omaha campus. The chapter eventually disbanded because it did not have the financial resources to fight through the courts for recognition. There was a second attempt among faculty to unionize in the late seventies since many felt little had been done to improve their situation. A 1976 study by the University found UNO faculty salaries competitive with comparable institutions only on the instructor level, and in 1977 President

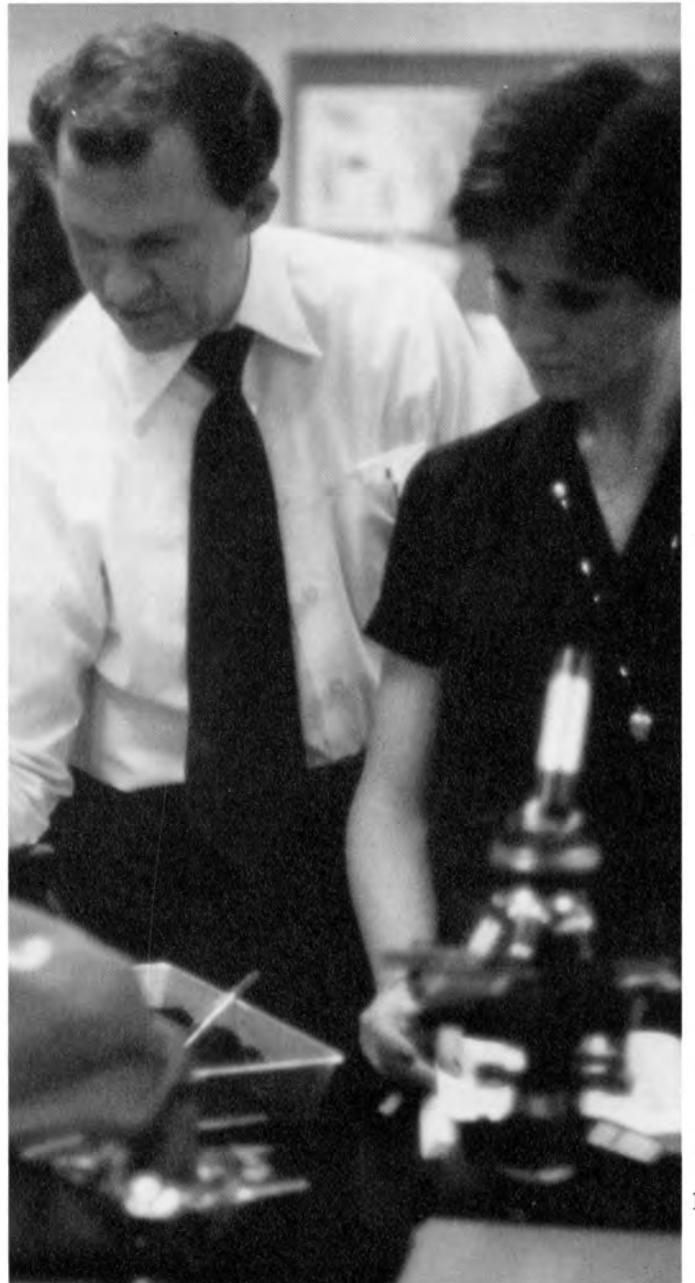


Top: Students by Eppley Administration.
Bottom: Library Interior.

Roskens, who left UNO to head the University of Nebraska system that year, pointed out that University of Nebraska salaries averaged 11.13 percent below the average for comparable universities. Such news was not welcome to the faculty. A poll of UNO faculty at the time indicated a large number of them favored cost-of-living raises before any funds were used for merit pay. Nor did they appreciate the continued argument by Chancellor Del Weber that UNO had too few administrators. Faculty now asked that the American Association of University Professors be recognized as their bargaining unit. Once again the Regents refused. This time the faculty appealed to the Commission of Industrial Relations, and that body ruled the faculty had the right to choose the AAUP as its bargaining agent in an election. In September, 1979, the faculty did vote in favor of the AAUP. No contract was ever signed, and in 1982 the two sides went before the Commission in an effort to secure a settlement. Fortunately for the University the dispute did not disrupt the educational process at the school. Both faculty and administrative leaders were able to maintain a normal working relationship despite their differences.

One of the most serious problems after merger was a sense of divisiveness among the various campuses, especially between UNO and the Lincoln campus. The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools reported in 1971 that the Lincoln campus feared a loss of power to Omaha and regarded the Omaha campus as academically inferior. The Omaha campus felt unwanted and the victim of unequal workloads and salaries. Varner, as leader of the University of Nebraska system, tried to reassure UNO that he and the







Regents did not regard it as a "stepchild." After all, the Omaha campus had the newly completed Kayser Hall, the Performing Arts Center under construction and plans for more buildings in the near future. Still, by 1975 the head of the UNO Faculty Senate, which replaced the University Senate in 1972, stated that the two campuses could achieve equal funding, or parity, only if the Regents gave UNO an additional \$3,000,000 or reduced Lincoln's share of the budget by \$6,000,000. In 1976 the legislature did give UNO an extra \$300,000 to help achieve a better balance in funding but then gave the Lincoln campus an additional \$850,000. Ronald Roskens, who was still Chancellor of UNO at the time, proclaimed that the legislative action certainly did not help achieve greater parity. Later in 1976 President Varner suggested additional funds be provided for Omaha, and the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce responded that it was afraid UNL programs would begin moving to Omaha. The question of parity was a sensitive issue which affected not only two schools, but two cities as well. After 1976, therefore, UNO's leadership felt the wiser choice was to avoid urging "parity." The most feasible route was to work for the best funding possible for Omaha programs.

Another problem that remained with the University was the unforgettable and ubiquitous parking situation. In the mid-sixties the Regents again rejected a plan to build a high-rise parking garage because of the cost and instead continued to add surface lots to the campus. In 1969 the University did remove the hated parking meters and began charging students a flat annual fee to park. That same year the Regents proposed putting a lot along the entire front of the school next to Dodge Street but postponed the idea after a week of protest by students, citizens, city officials and state senators. A very frustrated President Naylor responded by asking: "But if not this, then what should we do?" The answer apparently was Elmwood Park once again. The legislature agreed by passing a bill which required the Regents to negotiate with the city for the purchase of at least five acres of city-owned land within a three-mile radius of the campus. Due to opposition from various members in the community, though, the city proposed the leasing of land in the ravine east of the campus where the University could build and operate a parking lot. The City Council and the University signed an agreement in early 1971 for joint-use of a parking lot in the ravine. Although a poll showed sixty-five percent of Omahans favored the idea, critics denounced the loss of any park land and filed suit to block the agreement. Eventually a District Court ruling held the agreement invalid because the city would no longer have total control of the land, and the University lost an appeal to the Nebraska State Supreme Court.

Even before the courts decided the ravine case, the University began to consider other options for parking. A Texas firm, Caudill, Rowlett and Scott, was hired to study the space needs of the school and make recommendations concerning expansion. The company recommended that the University acquire sixty acres of land west of the campus to Sixty-Ninth Street between Dodge and Howard streets. The land would be used for both buildings and parking to serve an anticipated enrollment of twenty thousand by 1980. Opposition also developed to this suggestion of westward expansion. Neighborhood residents formed the Citizens Action Association and suggested the University build upward instead of outward, at least for parking. These neighbors contended that they did not oppose use of land to the west for buildings. They just did not want parking lots next to their homes. President Naylor replied that high-rise parking

garages would cost much more than surface parking.

The University acquired its first piece of property to the west in 1970 while the Caudill, Rowlett and Scott company was still studying expansion. At that time the University of Nebraska Foundation purchased the Adolph Storz home and surrounding land and then turned it over to the University. It would be years, though, before enough property could be acquired to handle parking for a significant number of automobiles. Therefore, parking continued to be an issue on campus. In the spring of 1971, *The Gateway*, expressing the frustration of the students, called for conversion of the football field into a parking lot. The editor of the newspaper said use of the field was "not a pleasant alternative, but...seemingly the only one." To save the football field the UNO administration signed an agreement with Ak-Sar-Ben to allow students to park at Ak-Sar-Ben and then ride a shuttle bus to the University. Ak-Sar-Ben parking did not work in the fall of 1971 for a variety of reasons, one of which was that the shuttle bus service ran too infrequently.



In the early seventies the University continued to purchase property to the west. The Regents decided UNO should purchase slightly over forty-two acres of the sixty recommended by Caudill, Rowlett and Scott. By early 1973 the University had acquired seven pieces of property and constructed surface lots on the Adolph Storz and Hymie Milder land. The Milder home was torn down, but the University used the Storz home for offices. The Myron Milder home was eventually turned into an art gallery. The University also hired the local firm, Leo A. Daly Company, to conduct another study of parking, although it was highly unlikely that anyone would come up with any new ideas at this point. In effect, the Daly report, which was released in 1974, suggested that the school try once again to secure use of the Elmwood Park ravine, renew the Ak-Sar-Ben parking agreement and build a high-rise parking garage. The next year there was an attempt in the legislature to appropriate funds for a high-rise garage, but Governor J.J. Exon's austerity budgets doomed any such effort.

Also, at this time the University announced that it would ask the legislature for permission to secure part of the ravine for parking by condemnation, but dropped the idea once again when a storm of protest developed. There was a return to Ak-Sar-Ben parking in the

The Myron Milder home, now the University Art Gallery



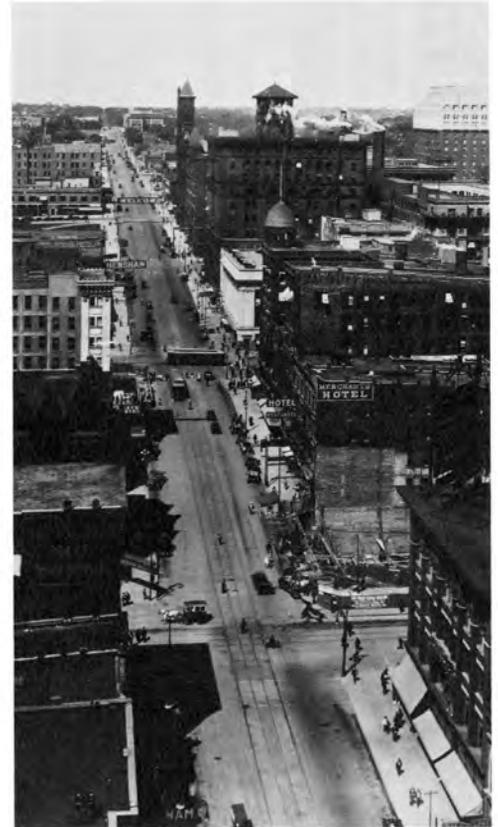
The Alumni Association officially dedicated the William H. Thompson Alumni House on September 1, 1981. Alumni provided \$560,000 for the purchase, remodeling and a maintenance endowment for the 5,000-square-foot home at 6705 Dodge St. A crowd of more than 400 major donors and dignitaries were on hand for the event.

Pictured above at the ribbon-cutting ceremony from left: D. B. Varner, James Moylan, Gordon Severa, Mrs. William H. Thompson, Chancellor Del Weber, Al Thomsen.



fall of 1975, and this time it was more successful, even with a \$6 fee. One other idea tried by the University did not work. The administration required that a certain number of courses be offered during the afternoon hours in an effort to reduce the high demand for parking spaces during the morning hours, but level-scheduling, as it was called, was not popular with the students because so many of them held full or part-time jobs which started in the afternoon. Possibly in an effort to moderate student discontent over parking, President Roskens and the Regents decided by the mid-seventies that faculty would also have to pay a fee to park, a change the faculty felt was a violation of the merger agreement by which they were not to lose any benefits.

Ak-Sar-Ben parking became even more popular the next fall when the University ended the fee to park there. By 1979 at least one thousand cars parked at Ak-Sar-Ben daily. However, the parking problem had not been solved. Students still prowled lots on campus in search for a space there, and faculty grumbled that students overflowed into their lots. Chancellor Weber stated in 1981 that the best solution was to build more lots on land to the west, but the Citizens Action Association still opposed the idea. By the beginning of the eighties the University had added a total of eleven pieces of property comprising approximately twenty-one acres to the original campus of fifty-one acres. The Citizens Action Association urged the University not to build lots there, but the University refused to rule out the possibility. Chancellor Weber considered a high-rise lot and a ravine lot as other future options. The primary focus, though, remained on acquisition of land to the west and the construction eventually of surface lots on that property. In 1982 the Regents reinforced this plan by announcing that the University would purchase thirteen additional pieces of property to the west when the funds became available.



Scenes from the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, downtown Omaha. Top right: Downtown Omaha, 1915 – *Bostwick-Frohardt Collection*.



Maie Day Mini Skirt Contest, 1970

As the University developed and expanded in the sixties and seventies, both before and after merger, students at the school also experienced a rapidly changing world. By the mid-sixties, students at the Municipal University had not yet joined the student revolts against the "establishment," which were occurring in other parts of the country. They still obeyed dress codes at the school, shunned marijuana and overwhelmingly backed the war in Vietnam. But change, indeed, was "blowin' in the wind." In the fall of 1966 a writer in *The Gateway* questioned whether the school's administration should have the right to maintain dress codes. An official of the University defended the policy because if the women started to wear something such as shorts, they would act like "Daisy Mae." When the administration refused to act, a short-lived student newspaper, *The Lone Haranger*, renewed the demand for an end to the dress code. In the spring of 1968 the University finally approved ending dress codes for the library and student center and soon the codes disappeared entirely from campus.

In the late sixties the majority of students at the University remained quite conservative. During the Presidential campaign of 1968 Omaha students favored Richard Nixon over Robert Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy, the reverse of students nation-wide. They also took an opposite stand of other students by favoring an all-out American military effort in Vietnam. But the same fall Richard Nixon won the presidency, more politically-oriented student groups such as Black Liberators for Action on Campus and Students for a Democratic Society began to appear at the University. Then, by the



Pro-Vietnam War March, 1968

spring of 1969, students and *The Gateway* began to denounce the Vietnam War and the University for offering Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for academic credit. Letters from readers also attacked the bootstrappers as "war mongers." In the fall of 1969 *The Gateway* called upon the University community to support the Vietnam Moratorium activities at the campus, including a one-day boycott of classes.

In the early seventies a very important issue affecting student life occurred when the Omaha Indian Center requested that the University stop using the Indian mascot. Although some individuals felt the Indian mascot had been used by the school only in a positive manner,



Top left: Dramatic Arts presentation, 1975.
Top and bottom right: Sororities vie for honors at Theta Chi Olympics.

the Native Americans contended that the comic caricature OUampi was demeaning and that students of other ethnic backgrounds should not imitate the dances and war cries of the American Indian. *The Gateway*, Student Senate, University Senate and President Naylor all supported the call by the Indian Center to end the Indian tradition. So in the spring of 1971 the last Ma-ie Day was held. The next fall the students selected a new mascot, the Maverick, and a new tradition started at the school.

Students tried to be relevant in the seventies. The number of professional and honor societies continually increased and student clubs touched on practically every aspect of life possible: politics (Young Democrats and Young Republicans), religion (Baha'i and Campus Crusade for Christ), sexuality (Everywoman and Gay Action Group), athletics (Letterman's Club and Karate Club) and even life itself (Right to Life and Students for Reproductive Freedom). Black students were typical of those individuals who searched for a greater identity in the seventies, which they partially achieved with their own Black Homecoming. Students also wanted to be treated with greater respect by the University, and many were very disturbed in the late seventies when the Regents for a few years prohibited the use of student fees for speakers of a controversial nature on all campuses. The University did start placing student members on University committees as early as the sixties, and in the seventies the students gained their own non-voting member of the Board of Regents. At the same time the University experienced a few "streaking" incidents in the early seventies when it was a rage across the country. Whether those students who "bared all" were being relevant or irrelevant is, indeed, debatable.

Greek societies at the University and across the land declined in popularity in the seventies. However, the number of sororities and fraternities actually increased at UNO. A new sorority, Gamma Phi

Left below: The 1962 "Quampi" Larry Roits-
 tein. The Football field with Fieldhouse in
 background. Right top: The Mavericks.
 (Right bottom) HPER 50 meter pool.



Beta, joined four older groups, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Sigma Kappa and Zeta Tau Alpha, in 1969, although it became in-active by 1977. Seven fraternities, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Delta Rho Gamma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Theta Chi, continued from the Bail era, but Delta Rho Gamma collapsed immediately and Alpha Epsilon Pi was in-active by the early seventies. Six more fraternities started in the seventies. Two of these, Phi Kappa Tau and Acacia, lasted only a few years. The other four, Pi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Gamma, Sigma Nu and Omega Psi Phi, a Black fraternity, survived into the eighties.





Members of the Greek societies continued to dominate student life throughout these years, but the general mood was running against them, as it was at other universities. When *The Lone Haranguer* originated in the spring of 1967, it did so as an anti-Greek newspaper. The editors of *The Lone Haranguer* "invented" a new game, "Thermopoly," in which the object was "through back-biting competition with the other players...to attain 'instant popularity' by acquiring the most Popularity Points." One of the most damaging points made against the Greek societies, though, was their alleged restriction on membership to Whites only. In the late sixties and early seventies the Student Senate tried to suspend the sororities from campus privileges because they refused to reveal the content of their constitutions. During the summer of 1971 President Naylor finally did propose that Chi Omega be suspended, but the Regents refused to support him when alumni and active members testified the sorority did not discriminate.

The University's Academy, Business and Community lecture series Top right and left: brings prominent speakers, such as Vice President Walter Mondale to the metropolitan community. Bottom left: The Performing Arts Center. Bottom right: Teaching and learning . . . the essence of a university.



The athletic program at the University after 1965 generally was quite strong, at least in the major sports. Football, of course, remains one of the most popular sports with Americans, and the school produced its share of gridiron stars in this era. Al Caniglia, who continued as coach in the mid-sixties, led the team to Central Intercollegiate Conference championships in 1965, 1967 and 1968. Marlin Briscoe, one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play for the University, provided the leadership on the field during these years. By the time he ended his collegiate career in 1968, Briscoe had surpassed Bill Engelhardt for total yards gained in four years and set twenty other records as well. Briscoe was named to several All-American teams his senior year and went on to a highly successful career in professional football.

In 1969 the football team began competition in a new conference, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. The team was unable to capture any conference championships in the late sixties and early seventies even though talent abounded at the school. Phil Wise, Dan Klepper, Tom McKernan, Charlie McWhorter, Fred Tichauer and many other fine athletes represented the University during these lean years. The school had hoped that the move into the Rocky



The 1968 team featured standout Marlin Briscoe (far left).

Mountain Conference would help draw greater support and financial aid for the various athletic teams and was disappointed when in 1971 the conference moved to limit the sum members could expend on grants-in-aid. Financial support for the various athletic programs at the University climbed slowly in the late sixties, but the Athletic Department argued for more substantial increases. Therefore, the Athletic Director and other staff were shocked in the fall of 1971 when the department heads of the College of Arts and Sciences passed a resolution suggesting that the University discontinue its intercollegiate athletic programs because budget limitations were threatening academics. Omaha mayor Eugene Leahy and others jumped to the aid of athletics at UNO. Mayor Leahy began attending football games and suggested the University could eliminate its History Department rather than athletics. The Athletic Department was relieved when a committee appointed by Interim-Chancellor Blackwell to investigate athletics concluded that the University should continue intercollegiate competition and increase financial aid significantly.



1971 Cheerleading Squad: Row 1: Jones, Armetta, Giller, Roitstein, Ciani, McNutt, Toohey. Row 2: O'Hagen, Pennington, Chamberlin, Frels. Row 3: Marks, Rice, Stilwell, Schmidt.

Athletic Director Don Leahy with predecessor Virgil Yelkin.



In the early seventies there were some changes in the athletic program. The committee appointed by Blackwell suggested that the University hire an Athletic Director who would have only minimal coaching and teaching duties. So after twenty-six years service Virgil Yelkin resigned as Athletic Director in the spring of 1972, and the University hired a new individual for the position, Clyde W. Biggers. Also, the University dropped out of the Rocky Mountain Conference and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). In 1973 UNO joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in an obvious move upward. Other personnel changes occurred the next year. Clyde Biggers left the University and Don Leahy, a native Omahan, replaced him as Athletic Director, and C.T. Hewgley took over as football coach following the death of Al Caniglia. Then, in the fall of 1977 the University found a home in the North Central Conference, where it remained the rest of the period.

Football coach Sandy Buda.



C.T. Hewgley did not work out as football coach. An upgraded schedule included schools such as Abilene Christian and Jackson State, and losses to those schools by scores of 35 to 9 and 75 to 0 were bound to sow seeds of discontent. Also, Coach Hewgley, a retired military officer, had definite ideas concerning how to handle people. The players did not approve of his stricter regulations concerning road travel or his attempt to determine dress and hair-style codes. After just one season Athletic Director Leahy dismissed Hewgley and replaced him with Bill Danenhauer. Unfortunately, Danenhauer was unable to turn the team around and three years later Leahy replaced him with Sandy Buda, another Omaha native. Buda immediately reversed the losing trend with a record of eight wins and two losses in the fall of 1978 and took the team to the NCAA Division II playoffs that year. By the end of the 1981 season Buda had compiled a record of twenty-eight and fourteen. Throughout the seventies the coaches had a wealth of talent with which to work, such as the electrifying Dan Fulton and Bobby Bass on offense and the very solid Rod Kush, Tom Sutko and John Walker on defense.



Touchdown ... 1977 style. UNO beat North Dakota 17-14.

Several other men's sports were equally strong during these years. The basketball team, under the direction of Jim Borsheim through the 1968-1969 season and then Bob Hanson, won championships in the CIC in 1966-1967, the Rocky Mountain Conference, Great Plains Division 1969-1970 and the North Central Conference in 1978-1979. In addition, the team frequently participated in NAIA and NCAA regional playoffs. Much of the basketball team's success from the mid-sixties to the present can be attributed to the fact that eleven of the top twenty scorers in the school's history played for the University during those years, led by the Forrest brothers, Dennis and Calvin. Perhaps one of the greatest victories by the team under Coach Hanson came in the fall of 1982 when the Mavericks defeated cross-town rival Division I Creighton University for the third time since 1945.

UNO vs SDU for Conference Championship, 1979. Steve Criss celebrates a Mav victory.





Basketball Coach
Bob Hanson

1970 Wrestling Team Coach Benning, center
front row.



The University probably gained its greatest attention nationally in the sports world after 1965 in wrestling. Don Benning coached the team through the 1970-1971 season, Mike Palmisano the next eight years and Mike Denney after 1979. These men produced too many All-Americans to name and numerous national champions. From the Washington brothers, Roy and Mel, in the sixties to Mark Rigatuso in the early eighties these mat kings brought home to the University consistently outstanding rankings in the NAIA and the NCAA, including a first in the NAIA championships in 1970.

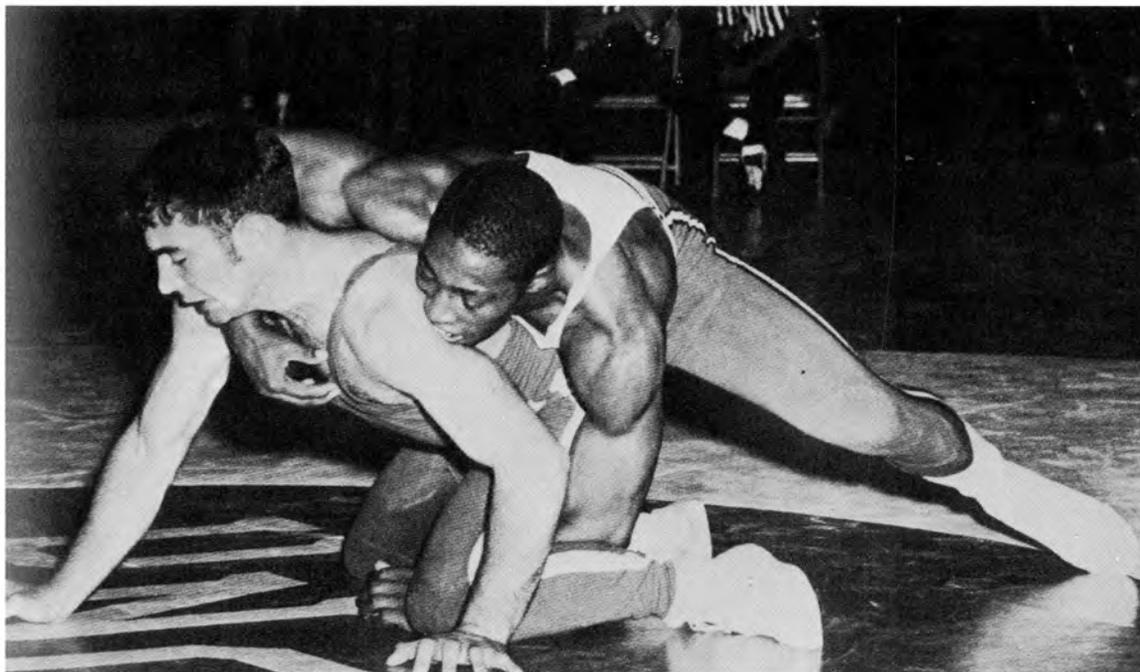
In other men's sports the baseball team never experienced a losing season in the years after 1965 and won the NCC championship in 1981. One of the most outstanding baseball players, Bruce Benedict, went on to become the starting catcher for the Atlanta Braves in 1982. Accomplishments in track were limited during these years, although there were excellent athletes such as Pat Rinn and Wade Thompson, both All-American Cross Country runners. Financial limitations forced the school to drop the more minor sports of golf and tennis by the end of the seventies. The University did have athletic clubs, organizations without University financial support, in soccer, rugby, ice hockey and bowling at various times, and the Bowling Club won the NAIA national championship in 1965 and 1966.

Women's athletics reappeared and made remarkable strides forward during the seventies. The varsity sports program started in the early seventies with a budget of only around \$1,000 annually and the determination and dedication of Connie Claussen. By the eighties Claussen, as Coordinator of Women's Athletics, directed a program with a budget of \$350,000 and financial aid for approximately forty young women. In short, she had developed one of the leading Division II programs in the country. Probably the sport to gain greatest attention during these years was the softball team which won the national championship in 1975 and the NCC championship in 1981. Basketball started during the 1971-1972 school year. The first few years the women played limited schedules with only schools located in the state. By the mid-seventies the Lady Mavs had a full-time coach, Cherri Mankenberg, and were playing definitely



1967 NAIA National Bowling Champs from OU.

Below: Director of Women's Athletics, Connie Claussen. Bottom: Wrestling champ Roy Washington.





upgraded schedules. Under Mankenberg the results were spectacular. The Lady Mavs won NCC championships in 1979-1980, 1980-1981 and 1981-1982, and participated in the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Division II national playoffs in 1979-1980. In 1981-1982 the team moved to the NCAA and was one of ten teams invited to the NCAA's Division II national tournament. A women's volleyball team also started in the 1971-1972 school year and accumulated a very respectable record of 221 wins, 135 losses and 1 tie during the next decade. In the fall of 1982 the women spikers took part in the NCAA regional playoffs. The last women's sport to be added was track in the mid-seventies. There also the results were very positive with the track team winning the NCC Outdoor championship in 1979 and the Indoor championship in 1981. In all of these sports there were excellent performers, but perhaps none better than Marlene McCauley in softball and Niece Jochims and Barb Hart in basketball. These young women helped build a program which had come a long way from the days of bloomers and closed games.



Top: Lady Mavs winning style. Middle: Band Day, 1969. Bottom: Strong performance on the field.





Proud Past - Exciting Future

In its Diamond Jubilee year, whether one looks at the campus, programs, faculty, athletics or any other aspect of the institution, the changes have been phenomenal. Within the last few years Chancellor Del Weber has supported not only the expansion of the campus, but also its beautification. Hopefully, in the not too distant future students, alumni and others will be able to walk across their campus in a setting as lovely as that surrounding old Redick Hall. Programs at the University continue to grow and serve the community, just as President Jenkins desired. On the local level the Center for Applied Urban Research and the ABC Breakfasts, which present nationally-known speakers to citizens of the community, are but two examples of how the institution reaches out to Omahans. But the University has gone far beyond Dr. Jenkins' dreams and developed programs even larger in scope. For Nebraskans across the state UNO operates the Nebraska Business Development Center, and for a national and international audience the school maintains the only Center for Afghanistan Studies in the Western Hemisphere.

A dedicated faculty of over four hundred strives to fulfill the objectives of teaching, scholarly research and service to the community in the tradition of their predecessors. The University currently recognizes outstanding faculty members by conferring upon them the Regents' Professorships, Peter Kiewit Chairs and the annual "Excellence in Teaching" Awards. The athletic teams, both men's and women's, have brought honor and glory to the school whether they were the Crimson and Black or the Mavericks. Within the last five years all of the University's teams have participated in post-season playoffs, a remarkable achievement.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha has come a long way in seventy-five years, from old Redick Hall to the modern campus along Dodge Street. Changes occurred slowly in the first four decades of the University's history as the school passed from its existence as a small, private institution to become the Municipal University. Then, after World War II, with the rush of young Americans into colleges and universities, there was a demand for more rapid growth at the

Ralph Wardle





school. Under Milo Bail's leadership programs multiplied and buildings blossomed on the new campus in what was then west Omaha. As in the earlier years of the school's history, though, financial limitations continued to plague the University, and in 1968 President Naylor and the Regents succeeded in merging the Municipal University with the University of Nebraska in an effort to place the school on solid financial ground.

What has been most remarkable in the school's history is that whatever its name, wherever it has been located, the mission of the University has never changed. The founders created the school to serve the people of Omaha and that goal remains the primary objective today.

But what of the future? Chancellor Weber has stated that "this institution faces serious questions in the years ahead which will test its tenacity and its vision of purpose." Perhaps most pressing will be financial support for the school. In an age of "stay-even" budgets the University will have to struggle as it has in the past to meet the needs of its constituents. Another unresolved question will be whether the school can acquire additional land and buildings. The need for parking spaces is not the only reason the University desires more acres to the west. Even if there were no parking problem, the University would need land for future buildings. A University must have adequate room to carry out its educational mission.





"The University of Nebraska at Omaha, according to Chancellor Weber, "must share the trials and tribulations and the joys of an urban environment. And it must do so by reaching out with all manner of instruction, research, and service programs." The University must serve its city and state by acting as a research and training center; it must be flexible enough to serve a student body of all ages, a wide range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and both sexes. Can the University satisfactorily meet these demands which will face the urban university in the future? Undoubtedly, the school will have the tenacity to achieve most of these goals. Finances, land acquisition and faculty-university relations may be the most difficult. On the other hand, the University should have little trouble following its mission as an urban university because it has always worked to fulfill that very goal.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha can well be proud of its accomplishments as an urban university, and as Chancellor Weber has remarked, the school now stands ready to accept the challenges of an exciting future.



PRESIDENTS AND CHANCELLORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA



DANIEL E. JENKINS

Dr. Jenkins was born in England in 1866. His family moved to the United States and settled in Ohio when he was just one year old. He remained in Ohio long enough to start his college education at the University of Wooster in 1882. Then, he and his family moved to Australia and Jenkins completed the work for his B.A. in 1889 at Melbourne University. The following year he received the M.A. from the same institution. Jenkins returned to the United States to study theology at The Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1891 he was ordained a Presbyterian minister. The young Daniel was following in the footsteps of his father who also was a Presbyterian minister.

After graduation the Reverend Jenkins became pastor of a church at New London, Pennsylvania. He also married Annie Finley in 1891. Jenkins served at New London five years and then became president of Parsons College located at Fairfield, Iowa. Then, in 1900, he moved to Omaha as Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics at the Omaha Theological Seminary. During these years he continued to pursue advanced training and received the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1899 from Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and the Doctor of Divinity from the University of Pittsburgh in 1906. In 1909 Dr. Jenkins became President of the University of Omaha and retained that position until his death in 1927.



W. GILBERT JAMES

In 1904 Dr. James began a teaching career at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa, where he was head of the Speech Department and director of physical education. In 1907 he moved to Bellevue College as professor of English and Public Speaking. After three years at Bellevue Dr. James went to Highland College in Kansas. He stayed there nine years. During that time he served as professor of English until 1914 and then as president the last five years.

Dr. James came to the University of Omaha in 1919 as Dean of the College. During the 1926-1927 school year he served as Acting-President due to the illness of Dr. Jenkins. In 1928 he again filled this position for a few months following the resignation of President Wettstone, and in 1930-1931 before the arrival of President Sealock.

In 1933 Dr. James was named Dean of the newly-created School of Fine Arts. He held that position until that division was ended in 1937. For the remainder of his years at the Municipal University of Omaha Dr. James served as head of the English Department. He retired in 1948 and died that year.



KARL F. WETTSTONE

Dr. Wettstone was born at Genoa, Italy, in 1893, the son of a missionary. He received his elementary education at Beaulieu, France, and Genoa and attended the Gymnasium at Karlsruhe, Germany, for two years. In 1909 he left Europe for the United States and entered the University of Dubuque, in Iowa and received his B.A. from that institution in 1913.

In 1916 Dr. Wettstone graduated from the Dubuque Theological Seminary and was ordained a Presbyterian minister. He then became pastor of the Mount Ida Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa. Two years later he moved to St. Louis as pastor of the Sidney Street Church. During these years he also pursued advanced theological training, and in 1922 Wettstone received the Doctor of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque. In 1924 he became president of his alma mater. Due to the reputation he gained as president of the University of Dubuque over the next few years, the Trustees of the University of Omaha hired him as President of their school in 1927. After one year Dr. Wettstone left the University of Omaha and became pastor of the Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.



ERNEST W. EMERY

President Emery was born near Sedalia, Missouri, in approximately 1888. A year later his family moved to Washington, Indiana, and he spent his boyhood years there. President Emery graduated from Indiana Central College in 1915 and he and his young wife immediately left for British West Africa where they served as missionaries for the next three years. President Emery was now an ordained minister of the United Brethern Church. After returning to the United States he worked as field representative for Indiana Central College until 1923. He then returned to Indiana Central for advanced studies and eventually received the M.A. degree. From 1927 to 1928 Emery served as president of York College in Nebraska. In 1928 he became President of the University of Omaha and held that position until 1930.



WILLIAM E. SEALOCK

President Sealock was born at Rural Dale, Ohio, in 1877. In 1898 he married Nancy M. Whitney. For his B.A. degree he attended Ohio State University, from which he graduated in 1905. Sealock then became Superintendent of Schools at Circleville, Ohio. He held that position until 1912. Returning to his own studies, Sealock received the Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1914. For the next two years he was Supervisor of high schools for the Ohio State Department of Education. Then, in 1915, Dr. Sealock became Associate Professor of Vocational Education at the Iowa State College. He remained there for three years. In 1918 he joined the University of Nebraska as head of the Department of History and Principles of Education. After three years Dr. Sealock was appointed Dean of the Teachers College. While at the University of Nebraska, he published *Evolution of the Free School in Ohio*. In 1931 the new Regents of the Municipal University of Omaha selected him as the first President of the school.



ROWLAND B. HAYNES

Rowland Haynes was born in 1878 in Worcester, Massachusetts. He received a B.A. degree from Williams College, Berkshire, Massachusetts, in 1902. Three years later he graduated from Clark University with the M.A. degree. In the following year Haynes married Wilhelmena Rose, and in 1907 became an Instructor of Psychology at the University of Chicago. After one year at Chicago he assumed a similar position with the University of Minnesota.

In 1911 Haynes began a new career. For the next five years he was the Field Secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. He then settled in New York City and served as Secretary on Recreation for that city in 1916 and 1917. During World War I Haynes was Director of the New York War Camp Community Service which provided entertainment for servicemen.

From 1920 to 1927 Haynes worked in Cleveland as Director of the Cleveland Recreation Council and Head of the Cleveland Welfare Council. In 1927 he returned to the University of Chicago as Secretary in charge of endowments. He held that position until 1931.

In the early thirties Haynes served on President Herbert Hoover's Organization for Unemployment Relief, and in 1934 President Franklin Roosevelt appointed him Nebraska Relief Director. He left that position in 1935 to become President of the Municipal University of Omaha.



PHILLIP MILO BAIL

Milo Bail was born in 1899 at Boonville, Missouri. He spent his boyhood in Marshall, Missouri. After serving in World War I, Bail returned to Marshall where he attended Missouri Valley College and played football, basketball and baseball for the school. He received his degree from Missouri Valley College in 1920 and then accepted a position at Red Wood Falls, Minnesota, where he taught physics and chemistry and served as coach. Moving to Minnesota with Bail was his young wife, Josephine Hayden of Marshall. In 1921 the Bails moved to Keokuk, Iowa. While he taught at Keokuk he worked toward a Masters degree at the University of Iowa during the summer months. A move to Iowa City in 1928 when Bail became principal of the University High school allowed him to continue with advanced graduate work and in 1931 he received the Ph.D. degree from the University.

In the thirties Bail served four years as Director of Secondary Education in Hibbing, Minnesota. Then, he moved to Washington, D.C. as president of Chevy Chase Junior College, a private girl's school. After serving there five years Dr. Bail became Dean of the College of Education at Butler University in Indiana. He remained there until he assumed the Presidency of the Municipal University of Omaha in 1948.

LELAND E. TRAYWICK

Leland Traywick was born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in 1915. He graduated from Okmulgee Junior College and then attended the University of Missouri where he received his B.A. in 1936. For the next three years Traywick taught at Stephens College in Columbia. In 1939 he completed work for an M.A. degree in history and political science. Next, he attended the University of Illinois and received an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from that institution.

In 1942 Dr. Traywick married and moved to Washington, D.C. where he served a year with the Statistics Division of the War Production Board and the Control Division of the Office of the Chief of Ordinance. Then, in 1942, he joined the army and served the rest of the war at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland.

After the war Dr. Traywick became Assistant Professor of Economics at Michigan State University. He remained there the next thirteen years, eventually becoming Full Professor and Assistant Dean of the College of Business and Public Service. During these years Dr. Traywick was engaged in the editing of two college textbooks and the publication of scholarly articles. He was also appointed a member of the Council of Economic Advisors to the governor of Michigan.

In 1960 Dr. Traywick became president of Southwest Missouri State College at Springfield, Missouri. During the next four years he started an extensive building program at Southwest Missouri, something the Regents of the Municipal University of Omaha found appealing. Because of a dispute with the regents of Southwest Missouri, Dr. Traywick resigned in 1964. The next fall he served as Distinguished Visiting Professor and Consultant to the president and deans at Northern Illinois University. Meanwhile, of course, he was hired to succeed Milo Bail as President of the Municipal University in February, 1965.



KIRK E. NAYLOR

President Naylor was born in Kansas in 1918. His entire education was in educational institutions of that state. After graduating from Covert High School he taught at a rural school in 1936-1937 and then attended McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas. Naylor received his B.A. in 1941. He also married the former Margaret Wineland during this time period. Next, he pursued graduate work at the University of Kansas where he earned an M.A. in 1947. With this background he became Superintendent of Schools at Eskridge, Kansas, 1947-1949, and held a similar position at Phillipsburg from 1949 until 1951. In 1952 Naylor completed the work for the Ed.D. degree at the University of Kansas and became Associate Professor at Fort Hays, Kansas State College. After three years in that position he moved on to Southwest State College in Oklahoma as Dean of Instruction. It was in 1960 that Naylor came to the Municipal University of Omaha as Dean of Administration and Professor of Educational Administration. Then, in 1967 he took over as the last President of the school. In 1972 Dr. Naylor returned to teaching until his retirement.





JOHN V. BLACKWELL

Dr. Blackwell was born in Yale, Oklahoma, in 1919. After spending his early years there, the Blackwell family moved to Kankakee, Illinois, in the thirties. Young Blackwell served with the military in World War II, and in 1943 he married Jane Johnson. Following his release from the military Blackwell attended James Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, and received his B.A. from that institution in 1947. He immediately started advanced work at the University of Iowa. In 1948 Blackwell received an M.A. degree and in 1949 the M.F.A. degree. He took his first teaching position at Ball State University in Indiana in 1950. In 1957 he completed all work for the Ph.D. degree at the University of Iowa. At that time he came to the Municipal University of Omaha as Associate Professor. Eventually Dr. Blackwell became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and in 1971 Interim-Chancellor. In 1972 he returned to the deanship for a few years and then back to teaching.



RONALD W. ROSKENS

Chancellor Roskens was born on a farm near Spencer, Iowa, in 1932. He attended the University of Northern Iowa, from which he received a B.A. degree in 1953. Following his graduation he taught one year in the high school at Milburn, Iowa. Roskens then returned to school and received his M.A. from the University of Iowa in 1955. The next year he became Assistant Dean of Men at the University of Iowa, a position he held for three years. While at the University of Iowa Roskens completed the work for the Ph.D. degree in 1959.

In the meantime Dr. Roskens married Lois Lister, and in 1959 they moved to Kent, Ohio, where he became Dean of Men at Kent State University. During the next thirteen years Roskens rose to the positions of Vice-President for University Relations and Development and eventually Executive Vice-President for Administration. He left the last of these positions to become Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1972. In 1977 Roskens became President of the University of Nebraska system, a position he still holds.



DELBERT D. WEBER

Del Weber, the present Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was born at Columbus, Nebraska, in 1932. All of his educational training was in Nebraska schools. In 1954 he received a B.A. degree from Midland College. He also married Lou Ann Ross that year. From 1956 to 1958 Weber taught and served as principal of the Creston, Nebraska, High School. He then attended the University of Nebraska and received an M.E. degree in 1959 and the Ed.D. in 1962. In the early sixties he also taught at the University High School.

In 1962 Dr. Weber became Assistant Professor of Education at Arizona State University. After serving there three years he moved to Cleveland State University as Assistant to the President. Then, in 1969 he returned to Arizona State as Dean and Professor of Education. Dr. Weber remained in that position until 1977 when he became Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA



- Nathan Adams 1909-1918
 C.A. Alden 1913-1914
 E.A. Baird 1927-1932
 William Baird 1909-1910
 H.H. Baldrige 1908-1910
 Joseph Barker 1909-1911
 W.F. Baxter 1925-1928
 George A. Beecher 1910-1912
 John Bekins 1913-1928
 C.C. Belden 1911-1912
 Park Billings 1923-1926
 C.W. Black 1916-1928
 D.C. Bryant 1909-1911
 A.C. Busk 1911-1915
 W.F. Callfas 1920-1926
 A.W. Carpenter 1918-1919
 David Cole 1908-1914
 Maynard Cole 1921-1922
 M.B. Copeland 1915-1929
 Robert Cowell 1920-1925
 A.B. Currie 1924-1928
 E.R. Curry 1910-1914
 James E. Davidson 1923-1931
 B.B. Davis 1911-1912
 Robert Dempster 1908-1911
 N.P. Dodge 1925-1930
 F.R. Dufrene 1910-1914
 A.N. Eaton 1916-1928
 A.J. Eggers 1913-1923
 E.W. Emery 1928-1929
 Thomas H. Fall 1914-1919
 Harlean C. Fetters 1929-1932
 Palmer Findley 1923-1929
 J.F. Flack 1908-1914
 W.E. Foshier 1920-1923
 W.S. Fulton 1908-1910
 W.S. Gibbs 1908-1922
 Sandford Gifford 1925-1926
 A.W. Gordon 1915-1930
 C.A. Goss 1910-1911
 E.U. Graff 1911-1919
 Wilson T. Graham 1908-1932
 J.D. Haskell 1908-1909
 C.S. Hayward 1908-1919
 W.O. Henry 1908-1911
 Ford E. Hovey 1928-1930
 Warren H. Howard 1928-1930
 H.J. Hughes 1908-1911
 Adolph Hult 1910-1912
 Daniel E. Jenkins 1908-1927
 E.S. Jewell 1919-1924
 Alvin E. Johnson 1928-1932
 A.F. Jonas 1916-1928
 Sarah H. Joslyn 1919-1929
 Frank W. Judson 1910-1911
 William H. Kearns 1909-1912
 Howard Kennedy 1908-1930
 Frank Keys 1908-1920
 Henry F. Kieser 1919-1929
 Charles J. Kountze 1908-1909
 Paul W. Kuhns 1908-1929
 A.A. Lamoreaux 1908-1932
 N.H. Loomis 1910-1911
 J.P. Lord 1911-1931
 Frank L. Loveland 1910-1911
 T.J. Mackey 1910-1912
 Frank Martin 1929-1932
 J.G. Martin 1913-1914
 Paul L. Martin 1929-1932
 Mrs. M.O. Maul 1921-1925
 H.E. Maxwell 1908-1912
 H.H. Maynard 1908-1912
 R.B.A. McBride 1908-1910
 H.M. McClanahan 1909-1928
 Robert McClelland 1916-1924
 C.G. McDonald 1915-1919
 R.A. McEachron 1920-1930
 C.F. McGrew 1908-1912
 Nathan Merriam 1908-1909
 David W. Merrow 1908-1932
 C. Louis Meyer 1925-1930
 Rome Miller 1911-1912
 C.E. Mitchell 1915-1919
 J.A. Monroe 1910-1911
 H.A. Myers 1913-1931
 L.E. Orcutt 1913-1914
 Arthur Palmer 1927-1930
 George H. Payne 1914-1924
 R.C. Peters 1911-1912
 George Platner 1923-1929
 George Rasmussen 1914-1926
 Oak C. Redick 1908-1914
 W.S. Robertson 1919-1930
 F.T. Rouse 1910-1915
 H. Salisbury 1908-1912
 W.L. Shearer 1925-1932
 C.R. Sherman 1914-1919
 S.K. Spaulding 1910-1915
 R.B. Stauffer 1908-1910
 S.W. Stookey 1908-1910
 Hird Stryker 1929-1932
 J.J. Sullivan 1916-1918
 J.A. Sunderland 1910-1911
 A.L. Sutton 1909-1910
 Arthur C. Thomsen 1919-1930
 W.G. Ure 1914-1924
 J.H. Vance 1908-1931
 C. Vincent 1914-1931
 Mrs. C. Vincent 1919-1929
 Alice R. Ware 1925-1930
 John D. Ware 1908-1909
 G.W. Wattles 1910-1911
 F.D. Wead 1911-1923
 J.R. Webster 1908-1910
 Arthur R. Wells 1911-1913
 C.M. Wilhelm 1908-1911
 J.F. Wilhelmy 1910-1911

REGENTS OF THE MUNICIPAL UNIVERSITY OF OMAHA



Edgar A. Baird 1931-1937
 Harry D. Barber 1959-1965
 John H. Bath 1945-1947
 Mary Bath 1941-1949
 Mrs. James E. Bednar 1934-1941
 F.E. Borchers 1954-1962
 DE Emmett Bradshaw 1937-1939
 Harry S. Byrne 1939-1947
 Daniel W. Campbell 1956-1961
 William H. Campen 1947-1951
 W. Dale Clark 1936-1944
 Alfred H. Clarke 1941-1943
 James E. Davidson 1931-1937
 Herbert H. Davis 1962-1968
 Mrs. Harlean C. Fetters 1931-1934
 Margaret R. Fischer 1965-1968
 Frank Fogarty 1958-1966
 Robert G. Fraser 1966-1968
 W.T. Graham 1931-1936
 Samuel M. Greenberg 1960-1968
 J.L. Haugh 1939-1942
 Frank C. Heinisch 1941-1948
 Roman L. Hruska 1950-1957
 H.A. Jacobberger 1936-1940
 Morris E. Jacobs 1942-1948
 Alvin E. Johnson 1931-1937
 Will R. Johnson 1943-1949
 Henry C. Karpf 1955-1963
 Peter Kiewit 1960-1966
 W. Ross King 1940-1942
 Ralph E. Kiplinger 1955-1963
 Clarence Kirkland 1950-1958
 Louis R. Leigh 1957-1959
 A.D. Majors 1937-1947
 Herbert D. Marshall 1947-1954
 Frank T.B. Martin 1931-1940
 Paul L. Martin 1931-1935
 Mrs. John Merriam 1957-1965
 C.F. Moulton 1963-1968
 Floyd J. Murray 1936-1941
 T.F. Naughtin 1940-1944
 Farrar Newberry 1944-1952
 Richard W. Nisley 1966-1968
 George C. Pardee 1948-1955
 Milton Petersen 1952-1957
 A.B. Pittman 1967-1968
 Thomas C. Quinlan 1950-1958
 William C. Ramsey 1934-1936
 Varro Rhodes 1958-1966
 Ray R. Ridge 1948-1951
 W.L. Shearer 1931-1936
 D.J. Sibbernsen, Jr. 1966-1968
 George A. Skinner 1936-1939
 V.J. Skutt 1943-1950
 Louis Somberg 1952-1960
 Robert M. Spire 1963-1968
 Robert H. Storz 1948-1952
 Hird Stryker 1931-1940
 Mrs. A.C.R. Swenson 1949-1957
 Arthur C. Thomsen 1940-1948
 W. Dean Vogel 1948-1955
 Kenneth B. Young 1965-1967

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYSTEM SINCE 1968

Adkins, Richard E.; 1968-1971
Anderson, Rodney; Student Representative, UNMC; 1978-1979
Baker, Christine; Student Representative, UNMC; 1976-1977
Clingenpeel, Ron; Student Representative, UNL; 1974-1975
Cuca, Ralph P., Jr.; Student Representative, UNL; 1979-1980
Elliott, J.G.; 1968-1975
Greenberg, B.N.; 1968-1971
Hansen, Kermit; 1971-
Herman, Richard L.; 1968-1971
Hoch, Mrs. Nancy; 1983-
Hoffman, Paul; Student Representative, UNO; 1978-1979
Janzen, Verlin; Student Representative, UNMC; 1983-1984
Johnson, Greg; Student Representative, UNL; 1977-1978
Kennedy, Richard; Student Representative, UNMC; 1979-1981
Kirk, John; Student Representative, UNO; 1979-1980
Koefoot, Robert; 1971-
Langford, Florene; Student Representative, UNO; 1981-1983
Malone, John; Student Representative, UNO; 1977-1978
Mandery, Ray; Student Representative, UNO; 1983-1984
Marienau, Ken; Student Representative, UNL; 1978-1979
Mockler, Richard; Student Representative, UNL; 1981-1982
Moylan, James H.; 1971-
Mueller, William; Student Representative, UNL; 1976-1977
Mulry, Charles; Student Representative, UNMC; 1982-1983
Payne, John; 1981-
Prokop, Robert; 1971-1983
Raun, Robert L.; 1968-1980
Rinn, Kathleen; Student Representative, UNO; 1980-1981
Robinson, Mrs. Margaret; 1983-

Say, James; Student Representative, UNL; 1975-1976
Schmidt, Michael; Student Representative, UNMC; 1981-1982
Schwartzkopf, Edward; 1968-
Shovers, Steven; Student Representative, UNO; 1976-1977
Simmons, Robert G.; 1975-
Soshnik, Joseph; 1968-1969
Wagner, Kermit; 1971-1983
Wallace, Matt; Student Representative, UNL; 1983-1984
Wedekind, Dan; Student Representative, UNL; 1982-1983
Wessels, Renee; Student Representative, UNL; 1980-1982
Whitted, Peter; Student Representative, UNMC; 1977-1978



STUDENT COUNCIL/STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

1917	Floyd Woosley	1953	Ray Hampton
1918	Clara Lindley	1954	Don Chase
1919	Olga Jorgensen	1955	Jim Erixon
1920	Marie Elizabeth Cejnar	1956	Lew Radcliffe
1921	Fern Gilbert	1957	Dean Thompson
1922	Elizabeth Parsons	1958	Robert L. Matthews
1923	Helen Vancura	1959	Gary Sallquist
1924	Kenneth C. Baker	1960	Lee Perkins
1925	Howard S. Anderson	1961	Lyle Franzen
1926	F. Kenneth Gates	1962	Al Taylor
1927	Carl Stromberg	1963	Jim Leslie
1928	Charles Wood	1964	Dudley Kersey
1929	Donald Butler	1965	Richard Tompssett
1930-1935	Unknown	1966	Doug Slaughter
1936	Kenneth Turner	1967	Jim Butler
1937	Betty Majors	1968	Randy Owens
1938	Edgar A. Howe	1969	Randy Owens
1939	Mary Edith Majors	1970	Steve Wild
1940	Frank Spangler	1971	Steve Wild
1941	Roy Alley	1972	Lawrence (Rusty) Schwartze
1942	Bob Spellmeyer	1973	David Parker
1943	Richard T. Burress	1974	Jim Sherrets
1944	Mildred Cunningham	1975	Clint Bellows
1945	Adele Pangle	1976	Steve Shovers
1946	Edith Holmes	1977	John Moore
1947	Don Nielsen	1978	Paul Hoffmann
1948	Joe H. Baker	1979	John Kirk
1949	Dan Koukol	1980	Katie Rinn
1950	Lloyd Metheny	1981	Florene Langford
1951	Ben Tobias	1982	Florene Langford
1952	Ben Tobias	1983	Ray Mandery



1925 Student Council

OU/UNO PRESIDENTS OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association was formed on June 6, 1913 with the election of Harry Jerome '12 as its first president. Authors of the 1913 yearbook wrote:

"The possibilities of such an organization are unlimited and no one can prophecy the influence which this organization will doubtless have on the University and its future."

The individuals listed below followed the path of Harry Jerome in leading the Alumni board of directors as representatives of all former students of the university.

The few individuals gathered by lamplight in 1913 foresaw the Alumni Association as the viable and essential force it is today in the advancement of the university.

1982 Reunion of UNO Alumni Assoc. Past Presidents. *Left to right:* Edward J. Smith, Jim Erixon (former Association Executive Sec.), Bruce H. Abraham, Robert C. Schropp, John Estabrook, Robert D. Satrapa, Alan R. Pascale, Ellen Hartman Gast, Robert E. Seitzer, Olga Jorgensen Strimple, Mark Gautier, Margaret Fitch, Lawrence (Rusty) Schwartz, Charles C. Matthews, John Furstenberg, Richard Tompsett, Alfred Thomsen, Ted Ridgway, Darrell Clemmer.

Year Served

1913-14	Harry Jerome, '12	1950-51	Joe H. Baker, BS '48
1914-15	Marilla Case Koenekamp, BA '14	1951-52	Edgar A. Howe, BA '38
1915-16	Lottie Underhill More, BS '14	1952-53	Charles V. Ammons, BA '49
1916-17	Paul Selby, BA '15	1953-54	Harold E. Poff, Jr., BA '49
1917-18	T. Victor Jorgensen, BA '15	1954-55	Robert E. Seitzer, BA '50
1918-19	Katherine Case, BA '14	1955-56	Warren R. Whitted, BA '41
1919-20	Mrs. Louis W. Edwards, BA '15	1956-57	Alan R. Pascale, BS '50
1920-21	Fern Gilbert, BA '17	1957-58	Thresa E. Clark, BA '34 - MA '48
1921-22	Elizabeth Parsons, LLB '19	1958-59	James D. Borland, Jr. BS '51
1922-23	Olga Jorgensen Strimple, BA '19	1959-60	Richard J. McFayden, BS '48
1923-25	Pansy Williams Daniel, '13	1960-61	Robert C. Schropp, BS '54
1925-26	Olga Anderson McDougall, BA '17	1961-62	Don L. Fitch, BS '53
1926-27	William L. Shearer, BA '21	1962-63	Donald W. Maseman, BS '54
1927-28	Thomas B. Dysart, LLM '24	1963-64	Thomas E. (Tuck) Moore, BS '52
1928-29	A.C. Thomsen, LLB '10	1964-65	Gordon Severa, BS '51
1929-31	Mary Uhl Collins, BA '26 - MA '38	1965-66	John A. Jeter, BS '54
1931-32	Herbert W. Fischer, LLB '25	1966-67	Mark Gautier, BS '55
1932-36	William H. Thompson, BA '17	1967-68	D. Nick Caporale, BA '49
1936-38	Frank C. Heinisch, '30	1968-69	Robert D. Satrapa, BA '51
1938-39	George C. Pardee, '23	1969-70	Gary Sallquist, BA '60
1939-40	Gus H. Seig, '21	1970-71	Edward J. Smith, BA '40
1940-41	John S. Herzog, '27	1971-72	Ellen Hartman Gast, BA '38
1941-43	Olga Jorgensen Strimple, BA '19	1972-74	Richard Tompsett, BA '66
1943-44	Olga Jorgensen Strimple, BA '19	1974-75	Bruce H. Abraham, BGS '71
	Charles C. Matthews, BS '32 - MA '46	1975-76	John Furstenberg, BGE '68
1944-46	Bernard B. Combs, '24	1976-77	John Estabrook, BS '50 - BGS '53
1946-48	Virgil V. Sharpe, '34 - BA '62	1977-78	Andrew Grimm, BA '68
1948-49	Herbert E. Story, LLB '29	1978-79	Darrell Clemmer, BS '44 - MBA '68
1949-50	Robert W. Turner, BA '42	1979-80	Lawrence (Rusty) Schwartz, BS '76
		1980-81	Ted Ridgway, MBA '71
		1981-82	Alfred Thomsen, BS '57
		1982-83	Margaret Fitch, BS '54 - MS '58



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CITATION FOR ALUMNUS ACHIEVEMENT

Since 1949, the Alumni Association has chosen select alumni who have achieved distinction in their civic and professional lives to honor with the Citation For Alumnus Achievement. These individuals are presented with the award annually at spring commencement exercises.

The individuals listed below serve as an inspiration for alumni and students alike. They stand out as some of the best in their chosen career fields.

Recipient	Awarded	Name	Year
Joe Arenas	1954	John W. Madden, Jr.	1976
Jay L. Beecroft	1968	John R. Maenner	1981
Robert W. Bell	1978	Frank Mansell	1969
Edward C. Binder	1978	Sharon Gidley Marvin	1976
Marguerite Hermon Bro	1950	Patricia J. Matson	1979
William D. Brodbeck	1967	Robert L. Matthews	1983
Robert Brown	1974	Stan L. McClellan	1976
Richard T. Burress	1973	J. Westbrook McPherson	1970
J. Donald Butler	1970	Frank Menolascino	1980
D. Nick Caporale	1982	James P. Mullins	1980
Sister Mary Caritas (Dragica Zaplotnik)	1982	Raymond R. Nelson	1980
Thresa Clark	1961	Oldham Paisley	1968
A. Mort Crim	1983	Carl Palmquist	1969
Glenn C. Cunningham	1957	George C. Pardee	1956
Robert G. Cunningham	1977	Gary D. Penisten	1975
Jerry R. Curry	1979	Don D. Pittman	1975
James P. Duff	1974	Bryce Poe II	1977
Alfred J. Eggers, Jr.	1958	Elmer Rhoden	1978
John Estabrook	1979	Lawrence B. Rohde	1967
J.J. Exon	1974	Thomas M. Ryan	1981
Jody Fike	1980	Stanton W. Salisbury	1949
Margaret Fischer	1971	Adolph J. Schneider	1950
Joe Hanna	1967	Gordon Severa	1967
Helen F. Hansen	1959	Ralph Shaw	1978
Oliver W. Hasselblad	1970	William L. Shearer	1951
Harvey L. Hayes	1983	Herbert A. Sklenar	1977
John L. Holland	1981	Ruth K. Solomon	1974
Roman L. Hruska	1955	Howard Sorensen	1971
W. Robert Jenkins	1953	Norman Sorensen	1971
Jerome F. Kutak	1969	Eugene L. Step	1975
Samuel Leftwich	1982	William H. Thompson	1960
N. Murray Longworth	1963	Robert W. Turner	1973
		Einar Viren	1972
		Milton Wolsky	1968



Chan. Weber begins presentation to 1980 recipients *From left:* Chancellor Weber, Raymond R. Nelson, Frank Menolascino, Jody Fike, James P. Mullins.

THE CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL

The Chancellor's Medal of the University of Nebraska at Omaha was established to recognize the contributions of faculty and administrative staff which are a mixture of academic prowess, physical vigor, the ability to visualize social structure and an applied sense of humanity.

People are responsible for the growth and vitality of institutions. At The University of Nebraska at Omaha we are fortunate to have men and women who have accepted this charge. They have a belief in the University's destiny and this dedication has resulted in a kind of genius that merits special attention. The Chancellor's Medal is one means of recognizing these people. It is bestowed only to those within the University community who have demonstrated unusual excellence.



1976 Frank Forbes
William Petrowski



1977 Joseph G. Dunn
Francis M. Hurst



1978 Margaret P. Gessaman
Charles R. Hein



1979 Jane Kempf



1980 Paul C. Kennedy



1981 Constance J. Claussen



1982 David M. Ambrose

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

The University Excellence in Teaching Award is presented to those whose distinguished performance in classroom teaching is exemplified by their ability to educate and motivate students to develop the full range of their intellectual talents.

The recipients of this award must also demonstrate teaching related involvement outside the classroom. These activities may include counseling and advising of students, addresses delivered to community groups and scholarly and creative activity by the nominee.



Top: Tony Jung. Bottom left: The late Joseph Dunn. Bottom right: James Saker.

- 1970 Gary L. Blum
M. Gene Newport
- 1971 Paul L. Beck
Donald C. Cushenbery
- 1972 Orville D. Menard
- 1973 Joseph G. Dunn
- 1974 Ralph M. Wardle
- 1975 Thomas H. Majeski
- 1976 Charles Gildersleeve
- 1977 Frank Forbes
- 1978 Kris Berg
- 1979 Laurence M. Hilton

- 1980 Paul A. Haeder
- 1981 John Anstey
William deGraw
Dennis Dossett
James Fawcett
Frank Forbes
Elvira Garcia
Julien J. Lafontant
Robert Ottemann
Susan Rosowski
James R. Saker
- 1982 Paul Ackerson
Wayne Higley
Anthony Jung
Kermit Peters
William Wakefield



ACADEMIC CHAIRS

Recipients of Academic Chairs are normally members of the faculty who are outstanding in their field. The Chairs, which are held for varying lengths of time, provide a supplemental financial fund for those individuals who hold them. Both private funds and University of Nebraska Foundation monies support Chairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Regents' Distinguished Professor:
Wilfred Payne, 1962-1963

Frederick W. Kayser Chair of Economics:
Roderic C. Crane, 1961-1967
Elroy Steele, 1967-1983

Frederick W. Kayser Chair of Finance:
George T. Harris, 1964-1983
Frederick W. Kayser Chair of Marketing:
Charles M. Bull, 1967-1978

Frederick W. Kayser Chair:
Robert T. Reilly, 1978-1983
Jefferis Chair of English Literature:
Ralph M. Wardle, 1962-1971
Bruce P. Baker, 1972-1983

Milo Bail Chair of Physics:
Richard Tipping, 1977-1982

Omaha Real Estate Board Chair of Real Estate:
C. Glenn Lewis, 1968-1974
David Sirota, 1974-1976
Donald Nielsen 1976-1980
Roger Sindt, 1981-1982

Issacson Chair of Music:
Robert Cowdin, 1975-1976
Jon Polifrone, 1977-1981

Judaic Studies Chair:
Jonathan Rosenbaum, 1977-1979

Regents' Professors:
Donald C. Cushenbery, 1971-1977, 1980-1983
Ralph M. Wardle, 1972-1974
Willis Rokes, 1974-1980
Donald Hakala, 1977-1983
Shelton Hendricks, 1977-1983
John Flocken, 1977-1980
Kenneth Deffenbacher, 1980-1983

Peter Kiewit Chair:
John Kasher, 1982-1983
Willis Rokes, 1982-1983



Top: Donald Cushenbery. Bottom: Donald Hakala.

ALUMNI OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The Alumni Association's Outstanding Service Award is presented annually to persons who have given of their time and resources to the University of Nebraska at Omaha and its Alumni Association. The individuals listed below were named as recipients of the award at the Alumni Association's annual Homecoming Banquet.

Connie Claussen
Darrell Clemmer
Betty Davis
Margaret Fischer
Terry Forsberg
John Furstenberg
Ellen Gast
June Gautier
Mark Gautier
John A. Jeter
Harold Keefover
Margaret Killian

Charlie Mancuso
Don Pflasterer
Ted Ridgway
Gary Sallquist
Robert C. Schropp
Lawrence (Rusty) Schwartze
Gordon Severa
Maury Shadle
Bob Spire
Olga Strimple
Al Thomsen
Richard Tompsett



Bob Schropp, alumni awards chairman, presents the Outstanding Service Award to John Furstenberg at the 1978 Homecoming dinner.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

In 1975, the Alumni Association began sponsoring an Athletic Hall of Fame program to recognize individuals for outstanding contributions to the university in the area of athletics.

The Association honors these individuals at an annual awards banquet. The following list contains names of former sports greats inducted in past years.

Year Inducted	Name-Years at University	Sport
1982	Don Benning, 1963-71	Wrestling Coach
1982	Al Caniglia, 1960-73	Football Coach
1981	Ben Huff, 1928-32	Football, Basketball
1980	Stan Schaeztle, 1953-57	Football, Basketball, Baseball
1980	Harold Johnk, 1933-37	Football, Basketball, Track
1980	Fred "Tippy" Tyler, 1933-37	Football, Track
1979	C.L. (Sed) Hartman, 1931-41	Football and Basketball Coach,
1979	George Parish, 1911-13	Athletic Director
1979	Rudy Rotella, 1951-54	Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track
1978	Lloyd Cardwell, 1947-78	Football
1978	Wm. H. Thompson, 1913-60	Football and Track Coach
1977	Bob Matthews, 1939-42	Player, Administrator
1977	Howard Sorensen, 1933-36	Football, Basketball, Track
1977	Mel Washington, 1968-71	Football, Track
1976	Joe Arenas, 1947-51	Football, Wrestling
1976	Don Pflasterer, 1938-41	Football, Basketball, Track
1976	Virgil Yelkin, 1946-76	Football, Basketball, Track Basketball and Baseball Coach,
1975	Marlin Briscoe, 1963-67	Athletic Director
1975	Bill Engelhardt, 1953-56	Football
1975	Leo Pearey, 1932-35	Football
1975	Roger Sayers, 1960-63	Football, Basketball, Track Football, Track



Inaugural inductees with Athletic Director at first banquet in 1975. *Left to right:* Bill Engelhardt, Patricia Pearey Durbin, (daughter of Leo Pearey) Don Leahy (Athletic Director), Marlin Briscoe, Roger Sayers.

GALA DAY QUEENS



Gala Day, 1921

- 1911 Pansy Williams
- 1912 Gladys Solomon
- 1913 Lottie Underhill
- 1914 Mildred Foster
- 1915 Effie Cleland
- 1916 Gladys Tallmadge
- 1917 May Leach
- 1918 Clara Lindley
- 1919 Lillian Anderson
- 1920 Lucille Kendall
- 1921 Izma Tucker
- 1922 Helen Gwinn
- 1923 Flora Jones
- 1924 Cecile Perkins
- 1925 Clara Pease
- 1926 Betty Sowell
- 1927 Gertrude Jones
- 1928 Lorraine McIlvaine
- 1929 Helen Marks
- 1930 Bess Sturrock
- 1931 Barbara Dallas
- 1932 Marjorie Darling
- 1933 Elizabeth Wendland
- 1934 Maxine Munt



1923 Queen Flora Jones.



1921 Gala Day. *From left:* Janssen, Taylor, Tucker, Edwards, Madgett.

MA-IE DAY PRINCESS ATTIRA



Princess Attira 1937 Betty Majors

1935	Eleanor Larson	1954	Joan Haven
1936	Elaine Coulter	1955	Donna Reynolds
1937	Betty Majors	1956	Gayle Anderson
1938	Irene Tinkham	1957	Marilyn Jones
1939	Harriet Salmon	1958	Gayle Chapman
1940	Joyce Minter	1959	Roberta Kucera
1941	Ruth Saxton	1960	Sonja Ruckl
1942	Roseanne Hudson	1961	Carol Robinson
1943	Mary Hassler	1962	Karolee Wybenga
1944	Jane Griffith	1963	Beth Nelson
1945	Eleanor Mann	1964	Earlene Timm
1946	Eileen Cobb	1965	Judith Jensen
1947	Joan Sorenson	1966	Pat Karre
1948	Jane Harkert	1967	Terri Pospichal
1949	Marilee Steinman	1968	Betty McGinnis
1950	Gloria Pheney	1969	Suzi Mortensen
1951	Gloria Schiro	1970	Rosie Krecek
1952	Gloria Johnson	1971	Cheryle Rowe
1953	Marilyn Rogers		

TOMAHAWK BEAUTY QUEENS



Tomahawk Beauty Lani Stockman

1938	Florence Kennedy	1955	Carole Kratky
1939	Alice Vickery	1956	Gayle Chapman
1940	Mary O'Neil	1957	Jackie Grau
1941	Eula Friend	1958	Sharon Fleming
1942	Jean Cappel	1959	Judith Flint
1943	Hazel McConnell	1960	Karen Kleider
1944	Dorothy Thompson	1961	Betty McMichael
1945	Joan Sorenson	1962	Barbara Schradar
1946	Sarah Frohardt	1963	Susan Rester
1947	Marilyn Henderson	1964	Susan Johnson
1948	Barbara Ludwig	1965	Francee Ernst
1949	Nadyne Alley	1966	Lani Stockman
1950	Barbara Haugness	1967	Karyl Ronsin
1951	Joyce Della	1968	Colleen Looney
1952	Janet Langhamer	1969	Karen Hiller
1953	Patricia Kavan	1970	Jacquelyn Hammer
1954	Donna Ragorshek	1971	Cheryle Fangman

HOMECOMING ROYALTY

From the early thirties through 1971 students chose only a Homecoming Queen. Starting in 1973 they selected both a Queen and King, although in 1982 there were no qualified King candidates.



1962

1931	Bernice Corbaley	1961	Virginia Anderson
1934	Doris Coonley	1962	Dolores Brewer
1935	Elinor Johnson	1963	Dotti Mott
1936	Ellen Hartman	1964	Shari Zagor
1937	Betty Minter	1965	Patti Matson
1938	Alice Vickery	1966	Kathy Wybenga
1939	Mary Pottorff	1967	Mary Jacobi
1940	Helen Coulter	1968	Linda Lindamood
1941	Margie Litherbury	1969	Linda Backora
1942	Mary Heumann	1970	Sally Ganem
1943	Jean Pratt	1971	Jacquelyn Hammer
1944	Ginny Powell	1972	Carol Shrader
1945	Wilma Kruse	1973	Laura Havelka and Willie Bob Johnson
1946	Mary Paulson	1974	Marsha Babcock and Larry Michael
1947	Pat Roessig	1975	Linda Puncocar and Don Cahill
1948	Roberta Muir	1976	Terry Connor and Terry Forman
1949	Eileen Wolfe	1977	Martha Ridgway and John Bowenkamp
1950	Jean Duncan	1978	Mary Cunningham and Frank O'Neal
1951	Jackie Zerbe	1979	Kelly Williams and Dave Johnson
1952	Charlotte Alberti	1980	Kathy Farris and Keith Hansen
1953	Jane Engelhardt	1981	Vivyonne Collins and Russell Green
1954	Patricia Norman	1982	Dena Mangiamele
1955	Blanche Bell		
1956	Jo Ann White		
1957	Sharon Gidley		
1958	Virginia Frank		
1959	Mary Chapman		
1960	Roberta Garvin		

Marsha Babcock, 1974 Homecoming queen, welcomes back some of the homecoming queens from past years at the Alumni Association's annual Homecoming Banquet. *Left to right:* Ellen Hartman Gast, Wilma Kruse Wallin, Sharon Gidley Marvin, Mary Heumann Northrop, Ginny Powell Miller, Marsha Babcock, Laura Havelka, Dotti Mott Callahan, Carol Shrader, Roberta Muir Wirtz, Elinor Johnson Thornton.



BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

The history of the University came largely from its various types of records which have been preserved in the University Archives. The Board of Trustees of the University of Omaha and the Board of Regents of the Municipal University both left their *Minutes*, although these written accounts of the Trustees' and Regents' meetings often provided little more than an abbreviated story of events. The University's Catalogs provided a means of tracing the development of colleges and programs, and also of identifying when faculty were associated with the school.

Several sources were helpful in learning about student life. The University Catalogs, again, listed the names of student clubs and Greek societies. Annuals were very valuable. These also identified the names of clubs and Greek societies and often listed their members. Athletic teams were covered fairly well by the Annuals. Unfortunately, there were no Annuals from 1931 through 1935 and after 1975. Student newspapers provided many types of information. The *Yellow Sheet* and *The Gateway* reported news of student events and other aspects of University affairs, from parking to economic woes. Once again, no copies of *The Gateway* exist for much of the twenties.

The *Omaha World-Herald*, as a non-University source, was extremely helpful in supplementing the school's records and in determining community opinion. Also valuable for the early years of the University's history was a thesis by Lillian Henderson Campen, "The Early History of the University of Omaha," written at the Municipal University in 1951. Another study, "An Unsung Pioneer: The Contribution of Ruth Diamond Levinson to Modern Dance," by Davida Wittman of New York University in 1982, provided insights into Ruth Diamond's work at the University. For the Sealock controversy one should refer to Richard Lowitt's *George W. Norris The Triumph of a Progressive 1933-1944*, written in 1978.

One other source of information which provided first-hand accounts of the University's history was a series of video-taped interviews conducted by Professor Paul Borge of UNO. Although Professor Borge has completed over ten of these interviews, those that were especially helpful were with Milo Bail, Margaret Fisher, Kirk Naylor, Don Pflasterer, William Thompson and Ralph Wardle. In addition, I gained a great deal of information from a number of individuals who either volunteered or responded when asked. These included: Gary Anderson, Milo Bail, John Blackwell, Thomas Bonner, Connie Claussen, Harl Dalstrom, Harold Davis, John Denny, John Farr, Elaine Hess, Helen Galda Jasa, Ben Koenig, Hilma Peterson Lathrop, Don Leahy, Ruth Diamond Levinson, Thomas Majeski, Ernie May, Willie Munson, John Newton, William Petrowski, G. David Richardson, Frank Russell, Olga Jorgensen Strimple and Wayne Whitmarsh.



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