

CHAPTER VIII

THE McNICHOLS ERA BEGINS: LAST DAYS ON JEFFERSON AVENUE

“FATHER MAC” BECOMES PRESIDENT

“He was of the stuff of Pioneers—of that staunch and sturdy timber, mentally, physically and spiritually that has made for triumphant accomplishment through the ages. The stout heart and keen mind, the courageous soul inspired by faith—nothing was impossible to him. He had the imagination the fathers of our country possessed—the imagination that opened America to the ideals of freedom—that conquered forest, field, mine and river and put them at the service of the people; the imagination that saw a great university rise above the smoke-stacks of an industrial metropolis as one of its proudest ornaments. In a very real sense the present University of Detroit was founded on his inspired conviction that Youth, dedicated to high ideals and trained for high service, is the greatest product of any community.” So spoke Mayor Frank Murphy on the occasion of Father McNichols’ death in April 1932.¹ However, no particular fanfare greeted the comparatively young man who exchanged places with Father Doran on October 2, 1921, and entered the president’s office for the first time down on Jefferson Avenue. People had not yet come to know the man whom they would admire as a “go-getter” and love as a “regular guy.”²

John P. McNichols was born of Henry and Mary O’Neill McNichols in St. Louis, Missouri on February 24, 1875. After a basic parochial school education in that city he entered the Society of Jesus at Florissant at sixteen, the earliest age possible. There he made his two years Novitiate and then studied classical languages and literature at the Normal School

1. Mayor Murphy, Eulogy delivered over radio station W.W.J. April 29, 1932, as reported in *Gesu News*, May 8, 1932, 2.

2. E. A. Batchelor, “Personal and Confidential,” *Detroit Saturday Night*, November 30, 1929, 5.

of St. Louis University, 1893-1895. He did his philosophy and science studies at the same University, 1895-1898. After teaching for five years at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati he studied theology at the St. Louis university School of Divinity from 1903 to 1907. In the meantime he kept up his interest in English literature and was awarded on M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University. After his ordination Father McNichols taught at St. Xavier in Cincinnati, first at the High School and then at the College. Finally, after a year of teaching at Campion College, he was transferred in 1915 to Marquette University where he became Head of the English Department and, from 1919 to 1921, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science.³ While still at Marquette Father McNichols manifested that remarkable insight for business affairs that was to benefit the University of Detroit in the years to come. When it was proposed to raise \$7,000,000 for higher education in Wisconsin, he was chosen to represent Marquette in the venture. He was, at the same time, chairman of the Associated Wisconsin Colleges, a group of private colleges throughout the state.⁴

Coming to Detroit just as the academic year of 1921 was getting under way, Father McNichols soon realized the shortcomings of the Jefferson Avenue campus. On October 24 he called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University to discuss the purchase of thirty acres of land near Palmer Park "for College and Athletic Field Purposes." The Board authorized him to look into the project and act to his best judgement. He was further authorized to see about purchasing ten additional acres which had already been divided into lots and sold.⁵ That same day, at a special meeting, the house consultors also gave him unanimous approval for the above action.⁶ Contrary to the advice of real estate men and with the misgivings of his friends, he decided on the Six Mile property which was to become the McNichols campus.⁷ In so doing, to use the words of one writer, he exhibited "an enterprise and a knowledge of real estate and building conditions that was to win him the respect of Detroit's leaders in these lines. He showed a grasp of fundamentals and of local conditions that would do credit to one

3. John P. McNichols to Mr. George Derby, Managing Editor *National Encyclopedia of American Biography*, June 29, 1931, U. of D. Archives, McNichols file; *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 149.

4. *Detroit Saturday Night*, November 30, 1929, 5.

5. Trustees Minutes 1912 to June 1930. October 24, 1921.

6. Minutes of the Meetings of the Consultors of the House, 1920-1938, October 24, 1921. The Consultors served Fr. McNichols as Rector of the Jesuit Community just as the Trustees served him as President of the University. It was later that the two offices would be separated.

7. *Detroit Times*, Thursday, April 28, 1932.



The Reverend John P. McNichols, S.J., Eleventh President 1921-1932.

who had devoted a lifetime to these things alone.”⁸

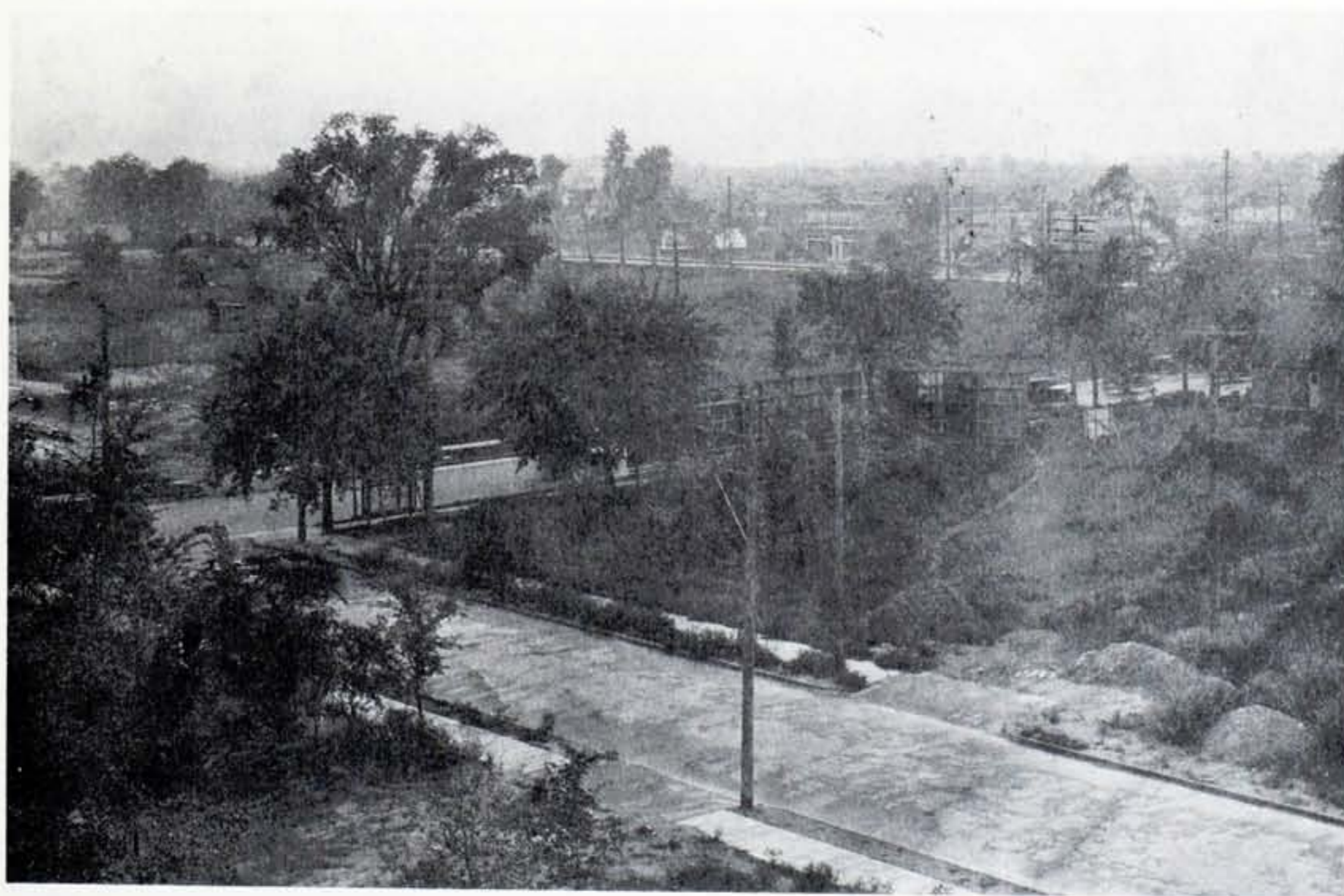
In a sense the history of the McNichols campus began back in 1835 when the land round about was surveyed by Hiram Wilmarth. In ancient times a glacial lake had covered this northwestern portion of the city

8. *Detroit Saturday Night*, November 20, 1929, 5.



Campus Dec. 25, 1924. Taken from Fairfield looking towards the site of the Engineering Building.

leaving on what is now the campus a swamp surrounded by a dense growth of tamaracks, willows and cranberry bushes. The area was approached by an old Indian trail which ran north from Grand River. It has been recorded that "an enterprising citizen," witnessing Detroit's land boom, determined to have a bit of a boom of his own—a mining boom. Purchasing a grant east of the campus he "salted" the land near Florence and Muirland with several wagon loads of iron ore. Needless



Quincey Avenue, north of McNichols with Livernois showing in the background c. 1927.



Puritan Avenue looking east from the present Linwood Ave. in 1898.



Livernois and McNichols when the Street Car still turned around there.

to say the "boom" was shortlived though he did manage to sell some thirty lots before his plot was discovered.⁹ With the lumbering of the tamaracks in the eighteen-forties and fifties the swamp was drained and the land ultimately cleared and converted into truck farms. It was one such farm of thirty acres that constituted the nucleus of the present campus. The story of how it was purchased is interesting.

The owner John Horkey, who lived in the old farm house later moved across Livernois and used by the St. Francis Club, as a good, conservative Bohemian mistrusted banks and bankers and demanded that the price of the land—\$120,000—be paid in new bills. Getting that much cash took a bit of doing, but with the help of John Dinan and the Federal Reserve Bank, a hundred thousand dollars in one hundred dollar bills and twenty thousand in twenty dollar bills were obtained. As Judge John P. Scallen, legal advisor for the University, later told the story: "I agreed to drive Father McNichols and John Dinan who was aiding them in financing the purchase, out to the farmhouse, but not without protection I got Detectives Andrew Roach and George Smith to go along and they rode in the car with drawn guns Everybody watched the bag on the trip and it was carried into the kitchen and placed on the table in the presence of the farmer, his children and grandchildren."¹⁰ The bag was opened. A moment of horror! There was nothing in it but old newspapers, whereupon Father McNichols began to empty the pockets of his overcoat, suit, vest and trousers of the small fortune. The date was Tuesday, November 8, 1921. According to Father Minister's Diary, Father McNichols, Attorney Scallen and the two detectives celebrated the closing of the deal by having lunch in the Jesuit dining room.¹¹ Apparently the remaining ten acres were purchased in short order since, according to the same source, on December 22, Benediction was had and a solemn *Te Deum* chanted in thanksgiving for the successful purchase of the forty acres at Livernois and Palmer Boulevard (Six Mile).¹² Before the end of the following year the University had accepted a gift of seven and a half acres in the southwest part of the campus. Another seventeen acres were next purchased, in part embracing the land where the Memorial Building and the playing field

9. *The University of Detroit Almanac*, 1968-1969, Green Pages; *The Tower*, 1928, 17.

10. *Detroit Free Press*, April 24, 1932. Accounts vary as to who were present. Another version has Michael Dinan, J. Lee Baker, the real estate agent, and a bank official also present. *Detroit Times*, Thursday, April 28, 1932.

11. Father Minister's Diary, January 1, 1915-May 15, 1924, 200.

12. *Ibid.*, 202. The exact total was 42-1/2 acres and the price of the whole came to \$260,000. Cf. *Historia Domus Universitatis Detroitensis*, 1894-1932, 114.

behind it now stand. The cost of this was about \$206,000, helped, partly by a gift of \$26,000. The land south of Florence was purchased a bit later.¹³

No sooner had the University of Detroit announced its plans of moving out to Palmer Boulevard and Livernois than considerable activity occurred in that area. For example, the subdivision department of the Hannan Real Estate Exchange in three days' time in the spring of 1922 sold thirty-three lots facing Livernois between Palmer Boulevard and Lincoln Highway (Seven Mile).¹⁴ The April 12 issue of the *Varsity News* contains two full-page ads by Casper J. Lingeman and by Murphy Brothers telling "those interested in the U. of D. and St. Mary's College" (Marygrove) all about the beautiful Palmer Boulevard Estates which lay north of Palmer Boulevard between the two schools—extending roughly from Greenlawn to Prairie and north to Pickford. Prices ranged from \$800 to \$1700 per lot.

It will be recalled that, according to the original agreement with Bishop Borgess, in the event that the college be moved to another part of the city the Jesuits were empowered to build a church near the new college and to organize a parish whose limits would be agreed upon by the Bishop and the Jesuits. Accordingly Mr. John Dinan got busy and personally supervised converting the old Horkey homestead on Livernois south of Six Mile into a temporary chapel. The Altar Society from SS. Peter and Paul's helped Father Minister get altar, linens and vestments ready for the first mass to be said on the Feast of St. Joseph. March 19, a Sunday that year of 1922, dawned cold, raw and rainy. But it was a crowded congregation that witnessed Father McNichols bless the little "Gesù Chapel" and attended the high mass that followed. Father McGearry had his college choristers sing the mass.¹⁵ By mid-October 1922 two masses were celebrated in the chapel every Sunday at eight o'clock and at nine-thirty.¹⁶ Beginning with Sunday, September 23, 1923 there were four Masses. The arrangement was that Father McNichols would go there Saturday evening for confessions and remain for two services on Sunday.¹⁷

Father McNichols had his problems at the new chapel right from the start. One Saturday evening there he had his auto stolen. It was recovered up on Eight Mile Road but everything had been taken from

13. *Historia Domus Universitatis Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 119; Minutes of the Meetings of the House Consultors, 1920-1938, September 16, 1922.

14. *Varsity News*, April 26, 1922, 6.

15. Father Minister's Diary, 1915-1924, 208-209; *Detroit News*, March 20, 1922, p. 23.

16. Father Minister's Diary, 1915-1924, 208-209.

17. *Ibid.*, 242.



The Horkey Farmhouse become "Gesu Mission." Taken March 19, 1922.

it that could be removed.¹⁸ The Ku Klux Klan had come to be very powerful in the 1920's. Apparently one of the favorite haunts of the Detroit Klan was out on Seven Mile Road near Livernois. Considerable tension was aroused in the neighborhood, particularly in the summer of 1925, as the Klansmen came up Livernois every Saturday night past the Gesu Chapel, out to Seven Mile Road where they burned a cross. As John Yelinek, one of the original settlers in the area, tells the story: "Father Mac would call for me and my uncle, who was a deputy sheriff: 'Better bring your guns.' My uncle had a double-barrelled shotgun and I had a pump gun. One of us stayed in front and one in back. Father Mac did not want them to burn down the church."¹⁹

It is surprising that the very issue of the *Varsity News* which informed students and alumni about the purchase of the Palmer Boulevard tract should also have had detailed information on the proposed building program. All "departments" of the University except Law, Evening

18. *Ibid.*

19. William Bunge, *Fitzgerald: Geography of a Revolution*, Shenkman Pub. Co. Cambridge, Mass. 1971, 55. By late October, 1923, the chapel had been considerably enlarged. (Fr. Minister's Diary, 249)

and Extension courses were to be moved uptown; and every "department" would occupy a separate building. New facilities to be erected would include administration building, rectory for the Jesuit Fathers, arts building, general science building and a separate unit for commerce and finance. Included in the plans were a Detroit Union building and a men's dormitory to house six hundred students. There was to be a gymnasium large enough to seat six thousand in addition to gallery space. The gymnasium would also house an indoor running track and a swimming pool "large enough . . . to permit the holding of swimming meets of national importance." Finally there was the stadium designed to accommodate 75,000 spectators. All of the above buildings were to be of "modified mission" style of architecture.²⁰ On New Year's Day the *News* and the *Free Press* carried headlines announcing the new stadium which was to be ready for the following fall. The *News* carried a rough picture of what the stadium would look like in its initial stage.²¹ More complete plans were published on January 29, 1922.²²

Although Professor Arthur Des Rosier of the Engineering Department had submitted his plans by February 1, 1922, the actual size of the initial stage of the stadium was not decided until mid-June. At a meeting of the consultors of the house on June 17, the Reverend President explained the "Stadium Problem." It was the stated opinion of the consultors "to erect a 12,000 seating capacity stadium for the present." At the same time it was voted that the Athletic Association be allowed to borrow \$100,000 using as collateral the land equivalent to the donations made by the Association and by Messrs Dinan.²³ However, the next day at a special meeting of the consultors it was decided to authorize the erection of a 20,000 seating capacity construction.²⁴

Meanwhile the students were engaging in a drive to have every student buy a share in the proposed stadium or, more specifically, a seat at \$7.50 each. With 1600 students in school this would net \$12,000. The *Varsity News* beginning with the January 25 number informed the students on the current state of the drive.²⁵ The alumni were also busy with a stadium drive of their own, and by February 15 seventeen had promised

20. *Varsity News*, Holiday number 1921-1922, 1. also cf. *Detroit News*, Sunday, January 1, 1922, Sports Section; *Detroit Free Press*, Jan. 1, 1922.

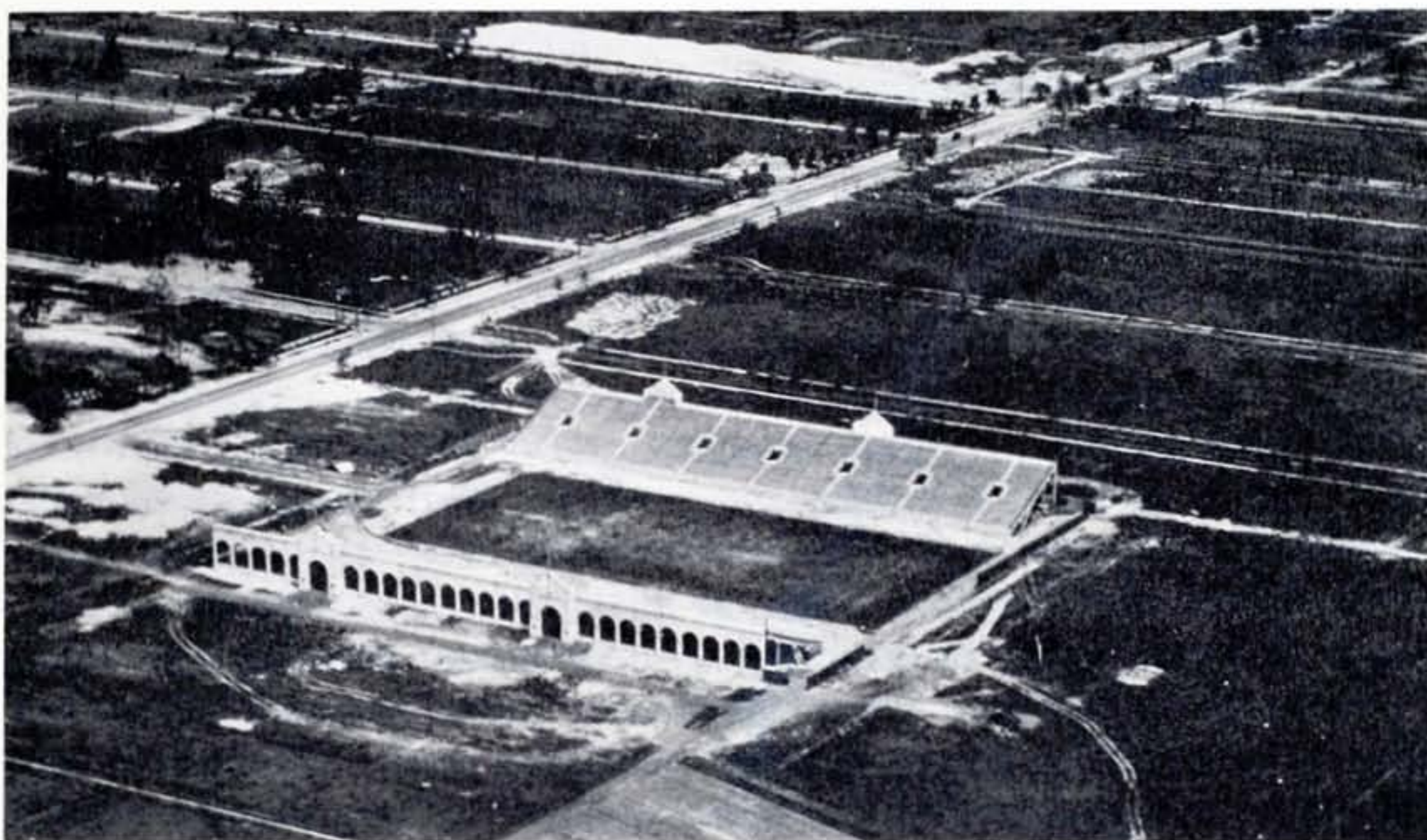
21. *Detroit News*, Sunday, January 1, 1922.

22. *Ibid.*, Sunday, January 29, 1922. Note. All of the above were very much in the initial planning stage in January 1922. Some of the proposed buildings were constructed within a few years; others such as dormitory, student union and gymnasium would not be built until years later. And the University is still waiting for some kind soul to build a swimming pool!

23. Minutes of the Meeting of Consultors, June 17, 1922.

24. *Ibid.*, June 18, 1922.

25. *Varsity News*, Jan. 25, 1922; Feb. 1, 1922, 1 and 3.



The Stadium at the time of its completion. McNichols Road lies above.

a thousand dollars and two of them five thousand. By March first the total came to \$40,000. At the conclusion of the Alumni Fund Drive the committee chaired by B. A. Seymour had collected \$126,000, to which amount was added \$40,000 by the Dinan brothers John and Michael who had already been so generous in their gifts to the University.²⁶ Ground was broken for "Dinan Stadium" on June 28, 1922. John Russell, Dean of Commerce and Finance, turned the first spade-full of dirt. Some fifty alumni together with several faculty members witnessed the ceremony.²⁷

THE ATHLETIC SITUATION IN THE TWENTIES

If one wonders why all this sudden interest in a stadium, it should be recalled that there was no adequate space down on Jefferson Avenue for football or baseball. For years the Detroit teams had had to comb the city for practice and playing facilities. Even Navin Field was not

26. *Historia Domus Universitatis Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 115. The Pictorial Number of the *Varsity News* (1922) claims that the total amount was \$127,000 and that this was matched by the Dinans. We find no evidence for this assertion. The formal *Historia Domus*, July 1, 1921, to July 1, 1922, which is written in black ink has the Dinan contribution listed in blue ink—evidently added later. Could the *Varsity News* have added in a contribution by the Dinans towards the original purchase of the land?

27. Father Minister's Diary, 1915-1924, 214 (Wed. June 28, 1922).

sufficiently large at that time to accommodate more than nineteen thousand. Moreover, renting it was considered to be too costly. Furthermore, if the post-war growth of the University of Detroit's academic community was amazing, her growth in athletic prowess was little less so. This was particularly true in the case of football. Mention has already been made of the 1917 team which lost but one game, (14 to 3, to Michigan). In 1918 most colleges and universities considered it unwise to drop sports because of the war. Hence a joint group of Detroit faculty and alumni decided to retain football that fall.²⁸ Meanwhile Coach Dobie had taken a position at Annapolis; and Coach Duffy, recently become Ensign Duffy, had to watch the first game from the sidelines. The "S.A.T.C team" defeated Selfridge Field, lost to Albion in rain and mud, and lost to Great Lakes. The 1919 season showed a complete reversal. With victories over Georgetown, North Dakota, Buffalo and Holy Cross among others, the only loss was a 7 to 3 affair against Tufts. As one prominent sports writer put it: "It was a truly remarkable achievement that brought the University of Detroit in a single season from an obscure position in the football world to a place in the sun among the leading teams of the country The eleven was not only a good one, but a great one." The same writer attributed the success of the team in large part to Coach Duffy's thoroughness in teaching fundamentals.²⁹ Sports writer Harry Costello considered Detroit to be "on a par with Minnesota, Ohio State, Notre Dame and Wisconsin in the West and Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Army, Navy and Pennsylvania in the East."³⁰

This same "thoroughness" showed its worth in 1920 when Detroit defeated Duquesne, Marquette, St. Louis, Fordham, Tufts, West Virginia Wesleyan, Rutgers and Tulane. The team lost to Bethany and Springfield Y.M.C.A. The end of the season saw Detroit get its first All-American with Walter "Tillie" Voss making Eckersall's first team and Walter Camp's third. Camp also gave honorable mention to Walter "Speed" Ellis and Elmer McCormick.³¹ The 1921 season came up with even more startling results. The "Tigers" ran up 252 points to their opponents' 24. After winning their regular season games they lost a crucial post-season contest on December 3 to Washington and Jefferson by a 14 to 2 score. The "Presidents" then went on to play in the Rose Bowl, which ended in a scoreless tie. Meanwhile Ellis was selected for the right tackle

28. *Memoranda*, April 1917.

29. E. A. Batchelor in *The Detroitier*, reproduced by courtesy of *The Detroitier* in *Varsity News*, Dec. 16, 1919, 8-10.

30. *Memoranda*, XV, November 30, 1919.

31. *Detroit News*, December 12, 1920, Sports Section, 1; *Varsity News*, December 15, 1920, 1.

position on Walter Eckersall's All-Western Team. Harold Lauer was fullback on the second team and Thomas McNamara right guard on the third team.³²

Unfortunately the basketball team of 1922 did not live up to the pace set by football that year. Since the 1913 team, which won twelve games and lost none, the basketball teams at the University had been good but not outstanding. One exception to this may have been the 1918 team which had a 14 to 5 record with Ernie Rynearson the high scorer. The 1922 team seemed to be strong on paper but when the season was over it found itself on the short end of a 2 to 14 record with one tie. One wonders whether, with a nucleus of basketball players such as Art Molitor and Paul D'Arcy, coach James Brown did not have to rely too much on football players to fill out the team? Of the original twenty-seven games scheduled only seventeen were played that year.

In January 1922 the Athletic Board decided to drop hockey and tennis for the time being. The reason given was the "work necessary to get the new field in shape."³³ Later the same month the Board cancelled baseball. The stated reason was that the campaign for the new stadium would require "the undivided attention of all students and alumni alike." One suspects that "our present indebtedness" was the more cogent reason for giving up the sport. However, the board did say that a team would be fielded the following year "when we will have our own campus."³⁴ The University of Detroit had no golf team at that time but it contributed its share to the profession in the person of one of its star basketball players, Leo Diegel. Leo dropped basketball for golf. Two years later at Inverness in Toledo he ended up second to Ted Ray of England in the National Open. Brilliant play won for him the Florida Open in late winter 1925. During his professional career he was to do more than hold his own with the great players of the day such as Chuck Evans, Jim Barnes, Walter Hagen and others.

The call for volunteers to form a band first went out in September 1919. Though in early October the outlook was somewhat dim, the initial practice under Mr. Kelly, S.J., saw twenty-five enthusiastic musicians on hand with more in the offing. In April 1920 the band made its first appearance under the direction of F. M. Deschaine, the occasion being the presentation of *As You Like It* by the Thespians.³⁵ Fully equipped and having practiced all summer the band was ready for the football

32. *Chicago Tribune* as in *Varsity News*, December 7, 1921, 4.

33. *Varsity News*, January 11, 1922, 1.

34. *Ibid.*, January 25, 1922, 1. Tennis was resumed in 1925 with the team losing to Notre Dame 4 to 2, defeating Michigan State 5 to 2 and Detroit College of Law 3 to 0.

35. *Ibid.*, Sept. 30; Oct. 7; Oct. 14; Dec. 16, 1919; April 21, 1920.

season of 1920. From the reports they seem to have done well. In the course of the year they obtained new uniforms.³⁶ By the following fall the band had increased to forty members and was making a name for itself by its performances in parades and at the University games.

In the spring of 1924 the Athletic Board of the University decided that the nickname "Tigers" was not exclusive enough and tended only to make for confusion among the baseball fans of the city. Stanley Brink of the *Free Press* had called Coach Duffy's team the "Titans". Personal investigation by Board members showed that the name "Titans" was not being used by any other large institution in the country. The Board felt that the name, which denoted "courage and boldness", was appropriate as well as distinctive. Accordingly it was sanctioned.³⁷

FURTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

"U. of D. Wins Silver Debate Cup Over 11 Colleges." So ran the headlines in the *Varsity News*. The occasion was the splendid victory by the Detroit team of Stanley Beattie and Vincent McAuliffe over St. Mary's College, Kansas, in the final debate for the silver cup of the Missouri Province Debating League. It had been a busy season for Messrs Beattie and McAuliffe. They first downed Marquette University at Milwaukee on Friday January 11, 1924. The subject: "Resolved, that the United States should enter the World Court under the Harding Plan." Detroit upheld the negative position. The second victory, over Champion College at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, on February 15, entitled the team to debate Loyola University, Chicago, in the semi-finals. This debate took place in Chicago and again the Detroit team did exceptionally well and was judged the winner. Meanwhile the St. Mary's College team had shown up equally well with its semi-final victory over John Carroll University. The final debate was held in Detroit at the Knights of Columbus Auditorium. Judges Clyde Webster, De Witt Meriam and Patrick H. O'Brien awarded the decision to the Detroit debators. On this occasion Messrs. Beattie and McAuliffe upheld the affirmative position against the Loftus brothers of St. Mary's. It was the first year that the Debate League had been in operation.³⁸ The following year the University of Detroit won the "unofficial" championship of the league in a double debate with John Carroll. The home team in each case defended the negative side of the question: "Resolved, that Congress should have the power to override, by a two-thirds vote, decisions of the United States Supreme Court." Messrs. Beattie and

36. *Ibid.*, Sept., 29; Oct. 13; Nov. 3, 1920.

37. *Ibid.*, May 7, 1924, 1; June 7, 1924, 1.

38. *Ibid.*, January 16 to May 14, 1924, *Passim*.

Griesie debated in Cleveland and Messrs. McAuliffe and Singer in Detroit.³⁹

Debating seems to have been most popular at the University at the time. The 1924 Skinner Debate was won by a talented young debator, Raymond F. Griesie, an Arts and Science freshman, who had already won the oratorical contest in March. Messrs. Griesie and Clement Singer, both of whom later became Jesuits, upheld the negative side of the question, "Resolved, that the Johnson Bill be adopted as a solution to our present Immigration Problem." Their opponents were John Slevin, who was awarded second position, and Ralph Nicholson.⁴⁰ At the first inter-school debate held in May, 1924, Arts and Sciences represented by Raymond Clancy and Nicholas Wagener defeated Commerce and Finance representatives John Scullen and Leo Kelly. They debated the question of federal control of child labor.⁴¹ In 1925 the Skinner Debate was won by Stanley Beattie, an exceptionally fine debator, as already seen.

On November 3, 1974, the University of Detroit chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu, National Jesuit Honor Society, celebrated its Golden Jubilee at the Dearborn Inn. Scholarship, Loyalty and Service are the threefold requirements for membership in the society. Although a student must be in the upper fifteen percent of his class this does not assure him of admission. He presents his credentials for loyalty and service as well, and these are studied by the active chapter on campus. The chapter makes its recommendations to their respective deans who then select candidates with the approval of the President of the University. Alpha Sigma Nu, once Alpha Sigma Tau, which is restricted to Jesuit schools, was founded at Marquette University in 1915. At first a local affair it admitted a second chapter at Creighton University in 1921. St. Louis and Detroit followed in 1923 and 1924 respectively. Today the Society numbers twenty-eight chapters.⁴² Charter members at the University of Detroit were V. F. McAuliffe and N. J. Wagener (Arts and Science), A. Stolinski and B. Couture (Law), C. Kammer and L. Kemp (Engineering), H. P. Haughian and F. B. Herz (Commerce and Finance), together with Fathers McNichols and Cogley as honorary members. Until 1966 only two men could be admitted annually from each college; that year admissions was broadened somewhat. Still more recently women have

39. *Detroit Free Press*, March 12 and 14, 1925; *Detroit News*, March 7 and 14, 1925; *Detroit Times*, March 11 and 15, 1925.

40. *Varsity News*, May 7, 1924, 1 and 2.

41. *Ibid.*, May 21, 3.

42. *Alpha Sigma Nu History, Constitution and By-Laws*, 1966, 7-8; *Varsity News*, March 4, 1925; *Adelphotes Skolastikon Nikephoron* means Brotherhood of Honor Students.

been admitted into what was originally an all-male organization.

Many Catholic and not a few Protestant students still make an occasional "Retreat"—a sort of refreshing pause in the course of the year for spiritual inventory-taking. Up through the years, almost to the present, such retreats were annual affairs at the University of Detroit, and if they were not compulsory most students would not even consider "ducking" them. In 1925, for example, the *Michigan Catholic* announced that a thousand men students were expected to attend the noted preacher Father Christopher Kohne's university retreat in St. Catherine's Chapel, an exceptionally high percentage in those days. From the other papers we gather that the retreat was an outstanding success.⁴³ In the twenties the open retreat or mission-type was still popular as opposed to the "closed retreat" of today. The retreat was based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and would consider for meditation such topics as man's purpose in life, God's gift of creatures and man's use or abuse of them, God's punishment of such abuse, Christ our Exemplar, His dying for us, His reward for faithful service, etc. The retreat would end with



More than 1000 men attended the University Retreat Feb. 12, 13, 14, 1926, to set a new record.

43. *Michigan Catholic*, Feb. 5, 1925; *Detroit Times*, Feb. 7, 1925; *Detroit News*, Feb. 7, 1925.

an examination of conscience and Confession. There would follow a solemn mass at which the students received communion. Normally such a retreat would begin on a Friday morning and last until Sunday noon.

PROGRESS ON THE JEFFERSON CAMPUS

Amid the excitement caused by the prospect of a new campus uptown, the University continued its steady growth on the Jefferson campus. A very important advance was made in the spring of 1922 when it was announced that a Commerce and Finance Day College would be begun in the fall which would be open to women. Five courses were to be offered, General Business, Accounting, Banking, Finance and Journalism, the last leading to a Bachelor of Science in Journalism.⁴⁴ It was pointed out that a "novel and very practical feature" of the new program was that the classes would close at noon and thus enable the students "to gain actual laboratory experience in the local banking houses."⁴⁵ Students in Arts and Sciences were to be permitted to take electives in the new school in their junior and senior years. Lest the students get the idea that the new program was to be a "watered-down" affair, Father McNichols emphasized that it would be in every respect a college one and that the entrance requirements for those seeking a degree were practically the same as in other degree programs. The tuition over the four year course was \$125 a year plus the ten dollar athletic fee which had recently been added.⁴⁶

The school year 1921-1922 found the Law School with an enrollment of 303 students of whom 140 were freshmen. The obvious solution for the crowded condition of the school was to start holding day classes. This was done beginning in October 1921. Classes were held daily, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 o'clock noon. An added feature of the course was thought to be that law students could now take literary courses in addition to their legal studies.⁴⁷ Apparently the new branch of the Law School was greeted with considerable interest and enthusiasm at a time when day law was not as common as now. The first of its kind in the city of Detroit, the school was regarded as a kind of pioneer

44. *University of Detroit*, Detroit 1922, 17 and 20.

45. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, Commerce and Finance (Day Course), 1922-1923, 4 to 11; *Varsity News*, April 5, 1922, 1.

46. *Ibid.*

47. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, Law School 1922-1923, 6. *Varsity News*, Oct. 12, 1921, 1. That the immediate reason for opening the day law program was to relieve the congestion of the evening classes is evident from the meeting of the Board of Trustees who, as late as October 4, 1921, agreed with Father McGovern, Regent of the School, that such a move should be made. Minutes of the Board of Trustees 1912-1930, October 4, 1921.

venture not only here but elsewhere. Meanwhile, though the University highly recommended the new course, it took cognizance of the fact that circumstances made it impossible for "many deserving and brilliant students" to avail themselves of the advantages of that course. It was not slow to point out that "some of the ablest jurists and attorneys of the state today owe their training to the existence of the afternoon or evening law schools."⁴⁸ The wisdom of continuing evening law classes at the University of Detroit has amply been proven by the remarkable careers of so many of her graduates over the years.

Although the University of Detroit has not had a School of Architecture until more recent years, as early as 1923 it had a program in Architectural Engineering, one designed to give a "thorough grounding in the sciences as well as the essentials of a liberal education." Its purpose, of course, was to enable the students to design commercial and industrial buildings. In addition to the basic study of Civil Engineering students were given "adequate training in pen and ink rendering; water colors; heating and ventilating; sanitation of populous sections and architectural construction."⁴⁹ The professor in charge of the new program was Bert. N. Blakeslee who had been a member of the University of Michigan faculty for several years. Architectural Engineering enjoyed immediate success at the University and by the fall of 1923 had a large enrollment among the lower classmen. Much of the popularity was due to the pleasing personality of Professor Blakeslee, together with his knowledge of and wide experience in the field.⁵⁰

As long as the University of Detroit was no more than a small Arts college there had been a fine spirit of "togetherness" in the institution. With the founding of colleges of law, engineering and commerce and finance this unity was seen to fade somewhat. In late winter 1919 Howard Springer, a freshman in engineering, set on foot a movement to unite the various divisions of the University. His plan was to form a university-wide club to be known as the "Detroit University Union." On Monday, March 3, a select group of delegates from the four divisions met to formulate the plans for such a union. About a week later, at the first

48. *University of Detroit*, Detroit 1922, 13.

49. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, College of Engineering 1923-1924, 18.

50. Note. Beginning in the fall of 1918 the School of Engineering had conducted a two-year course, not cooperative, in industrial arts. Its purpose as stated in the *Bulletin* for that year was "to meet the needs of young men who are not qualified, or for other reasons, to enter the regular co-operative courses but whose education or experience has shown them the advantage of some technical education as a requisite to further progress. The object is to give an introduction to the fundamentals." The program did not lead to a degree. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, School of Engineering 1918-1919, 14.

regular meeting of the group, a constitution was read and adopted.⁵¹ On April 8 the Board of Directors met and chose John A. Reynolds President of the organization. Because of the lateness of the semester the "J" Hop was the only affair sponsored by the Union that year. The following year, with H. Irving Soleau as President, the Union was most active. Enthusiasm was high and the organization, in addition to several dances, sponsored meetings to which prominent speakers were invited. There were also "smokers" featuring free cigars and candy and what might be termed old-fashioned vaudeville acts for entertainment. Meetings had to be moved from the Moot Court to the larger gymnasium and even off campus to the Lounge Room of the Board of Commerce.

The school year 1920-21, however, saw a decline in the activities of the Union and witnessed a corresponding falling-off of interest. From the *Varsity News* we gather that a bit of factional strife may have been part cause of this. However, President Edward H. Kennedy, Law '21, came up with four objectives: one hundred percent enrollment in the Union, a Union house, affairs to bring the divisions together and the biggest "J" Hop in history. Of these four the last objective was fully attained leaving six hundred dollars in the Union treasury. The following year, 1921-1922, started off enthusiastically with John R. Monaghan as President. In November a new constitution, based on a nationally formulated document, was adopted. A month later Father McNichols was greeted with cheers when he stated that he favored a club-house for the Union which would be a credit to the University. But then came the Student Stadium Drive, and the Union came to be in a "dormant if not a moribund condition."⁵² In a series of articles the *Varsity News* published headlines blaming the officials of the organization for, among other things, failing to take action in the matter of a Union house. Evidently such a house was a necessity. Since most of the students were "day-hops" a place was needed where they could gather socially or study between classes. By late September in 1922 the Union house was an accomplished fact. A house had been purchased on Jefferson Avenue and fitted out quite nicely. The quarters thus provided included a cafeteria, lounging room, library, music room, pool room and office.⁵³ To raise funds for the Union a Cadillac was raffled off in the spring of 1923. Moreover, a fee of five dollars per student was added to the tuition.⁵⁴ President Francis J. Van Poppelen and his Board of Control

51. *Varsity News*, March 5 and 19, 1919.

52. *Varsity News*, March 8, 1922.

53. *Red and White*, 1923, 154-155.

54. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, 1923-1924, College of Arts and Science, 7.

deserve much credit for their drive in making the Union house an actuality.

Since, practically speaking, the University of Detroit was still an all-male institution, the Detroit Union was for men only. In order to "foster University spirit, promote co-operation and good fellowship and encourage social friendship among the co-eds of the University of Detroit" a co-eds' union was organized in September 1922. Pearl Knight Quermbach, C and F '25, the guiding light, was made Honorary President in appreciation for her work. Theresia Schneider was elected President and by the end of the year the membership was 115. In November a beautiful room on the second floor in Dinan Hall was opened and formally dedicated by Father Otting, who had been most helpful to the new organization. To get funds the co-eds worked for three weeks making crepe paper sweet peas and the result was a very satisfactory Red and White sweet pea flower sale at the Washington and Jefferson football game. In like manner a sale before Christmas enabled the co-eds to give Christmas gifts to the children confined in St. Mary's and Providence Hospitals.⁵⁵ A formal dance in February and several teas helped to round out the year. From the first the Co-eds' Union proved to be a grand success.

The year 1922-1923 had its joys and its sorrows as far as student publications were concerned. The *Varsity News*, begun as a bi-monthly in 1918 with Paul Kennedy as its first editor, had made steady progress. In 1919 under Roy C. Hayes the paper became a weekly and ended the year with an excellent pictorial number. Under William Millor in 1921-1922 the good work continued. Worthy of mention are the Christmas, Easter and Pictorial numbers. However, because of difficulties met with that year the *Varsity News* was compelled to cease publication during the 1922-1923 school year.⁵⁶ Publication was again resumed in the fall of 1923 with John R. Miller editor.⁵⁷ Meanwhile one good result came from the *News*' misfortune—the publication of the *Red and White*, a year-book known since 1927 as the *Tower*. The first issue of this "Annual" which took the place of the Pictorial number of the *Varsity News* was

55. *Red and White*, 1923, 156; telephone conversation with Mrs. John (Ruth Munson) Miller, C & F '26, July 19, 1976.

56. The difficulties were financial. Originally the students had taken all responsibilities on themselves. When the paper resumed in October 1923 it was under University auspices and became the official newspaper of the University (Interview with Dr. John G. Slevin, '25). In view of the fact that creditors generally believed that the University stood behind the *News* the consultors of the House voted in March 1924 to assume the \$1,900.00 debt on condition that the paper should make it up later (Minutes of the Consultors 1920-1938, March 22, 1924).

57. *Red and White*, 1924, 162.

controlled by the Union Board which selected its editorial board from the University at large. Considering the little time at the disposal of the staff the 1923 *Red and White* was a creditable publication.

Mention should also be made here of the *Monthly Law Review* which began its existence in 1916 and which may be considered to have been the precursor of the *University of Detroit Law Journal*. The *Review*, which was edited by students, set forth various articles and editorial comment. Mostly, however, it featured printed reports of the written opinions of the Michigan Circuit Courts from which no appeal had been taken. In so doing the *Review* was making a distinct contribution since such opinions were not published elsewhere. Later the *Monthly Law Review* was modified somewhat to become the University of Detroit bi-monthly *Law Review*.⁵⁸ The title *Law Journal* was first used in 1931. Unfortunately the *Journal* had to suspend publication from 1933 to 1939 because of the Great Depression. Beginning with volume 44, October 1966, the periodical has been well known as the *Journal of Urban Law*.

THE DINAN BROTHERS JOHN AND MICHAEL

Before we move on to the new campus, a word should be said about two fine gentlemen who helped make that move possible—the Dinan brothers. They were born on old Abbot Street in Detroit, John in 1870 and Michael in 1872. Their father, Michael, was a native of County Clare, Ireland; thier mother was a Danahey, an old Detroit family. The Algeresque story of the Dinans is the story of the growth of Detroit at the turn of the century. While still in their teens the two young men started a grocery store at Tenth and Abbot Street; they later added a saloon to the store, a good old Irish combination. There in the evening would meet the solid men of the community to discuss politics, economics, the latest funeral, and other interesting topics. From these meetings the brothers formed shrewd conclusions as to the direction in which Detroit would grow and invested their savings accordingly.⁵⁹ These same conclusions played no little part in Father McNichols' decision to move the University to the Six Mile location. We know that he referred to John Dinan as his "chief advisor."⁶⁰

Even after they had become very wealthy through their various business ventures, the brothers continued as sole clerks in their little grocery

58. William Kelly Joyce and Dnaiel J. McKenna, *The University of Detroit School of Law*, Detroit 1947, 7.

59. *Detroit News*, Oct. 29, 1921; *U. of D. Almanac*, 1968-1969, Green Pages, 6.

60. U. of D. Archives, Dinan File.



John P. Dinan (L) and Michael T. Dinan (R).

store. It was said that they knew their customers by their first names and even “kept a mental list of every baby arriving in the neighborhood.” It was also said that throughout their life they had never had an argument. “Heart and mind they stood together, their affections, their viewpoint, their activities, their reactions to society identical.” Little wonder that the Old Corktowners referred to them as “twins in everything except birth.”⁶¹ Their humor, their cheerfulness, their infectious laughter were a boon to the whole neighborhood. John and Michael never married. They enjoyed golfing, usually together, and together they watched football and baseball games and went to the “movies.” They did not drink but together they managed to smoke a dozen cigars each day. John died in 1936 and Michael in 1941.⁶²

It was said of the Dinans that, whenever a new church or school was to be erected in the city, they were always among the contributors. The philosophy behind this generosity was beautifully brought out in an interview with the *Detroit News*. “We have always been successful,” said Michael Dinan, “you ask me the reason. I think it was because as we succeeded we were always ready to give to causes that seemed worthy to us. And because we were always faithful to our church and religion. Our religion has always meant much to us. Had we refused

61. G. W. Stark, *Detroit News*, March 11, 1941.

62. U. of D. Archives, Dinan file.

to act in the spirit of our religion, had we refused to give when giving was called for, I do not believe we would have been successful.”⁶³

In addition to their many gifts to the University of Detroit, especially Dinan Hall, St. Catherine's Chapel and contributions towards establishing the new campus, the Dinans were most generous to Sacred Heart Seminary, the Bertha M. Fisher Home for the Aged, and the Jesuit Seminary Association. In recognition of this generosity Pope Benedict XV made the two brothers Knights of St. Gregory in 1921.⁶⁴ It was the first time that a Detroiter had received such an honor since the founding of the Order in 1831. After taking dinner with the Jesuits, John and Michael went to St. Catherine's Chapel where the formal investiture took place.⁶⁵ Father Doran, the former President of the University, pinned the medals on them and Father McNichols delivered the oration. “For God and for Country” read the inscription on the medals. Certainly a fitting tribute to the brothers! In 1927, the golden Jubilee year of the University, John and Michael were awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, by the University of Detroit as a small token of her gratitude.

63. *Detroit News*, Sat. Oct. 29, 1921.

64. Note. Only God knows the sum total of their gifts to charity. One such gift came at the height of the depression. One evening at a time when conditions were particularly difficult for the Jesuits and the University, John and Mike came to the door with a check for \$25,000. (Dean Joseph Horst, S.J. to Norbert Huetter, S.J.)

65. Father Minister's Diary, 1915-1924, 201. (Nov. 21, 1921) On several occasions we read in the diary jottings such as the following: “Sunday. The two Dinans—John and Michael take dinner with us and also spend recreation. They are our generous benefactors.” Sept. 26, 1915, 26.

CHAPTER IX

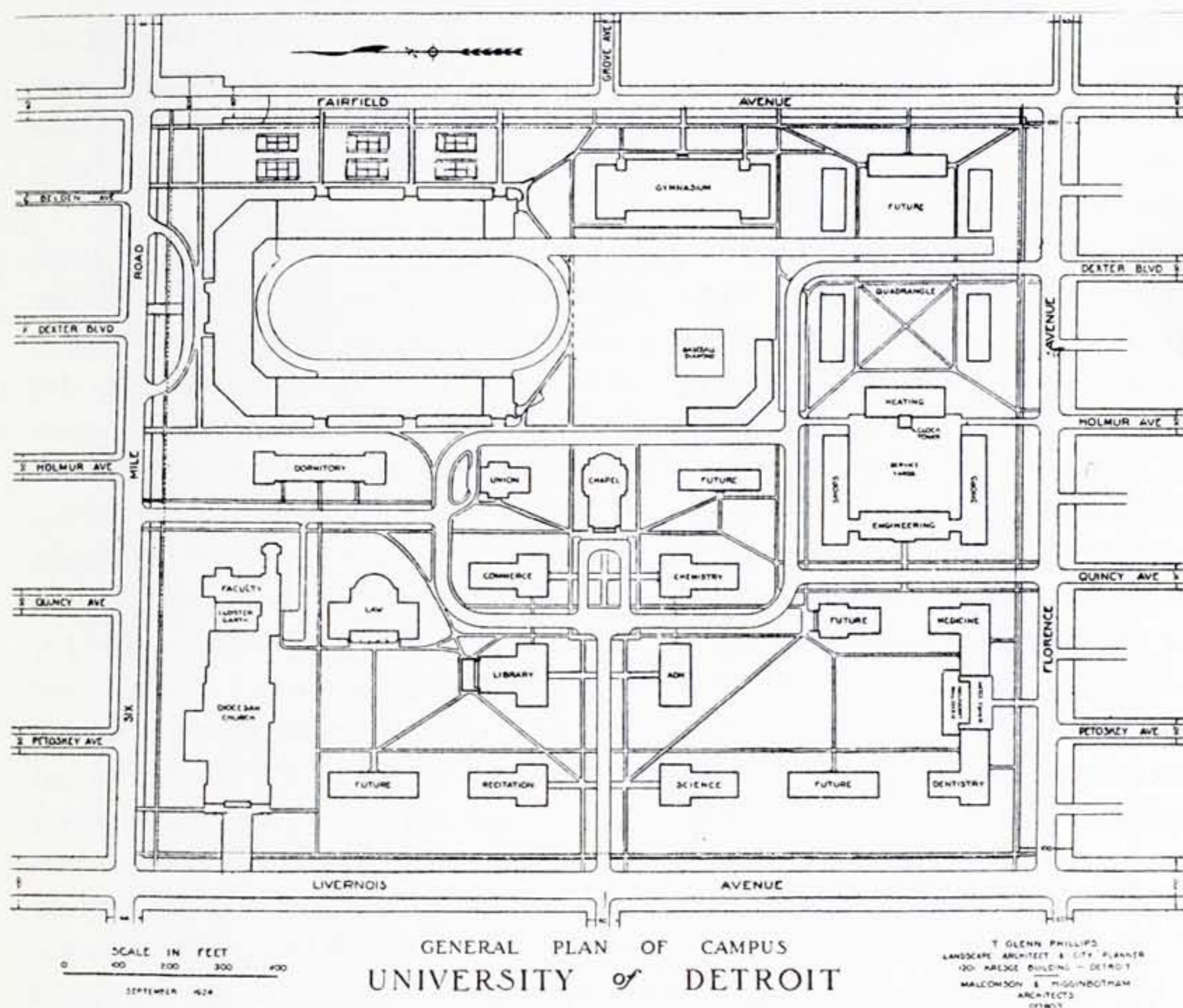
BUILDING A UNIVERSITY

THE PLANNING STAGE

As Father McNichols rose to outline his plans for a new university at a dinner meeting in the Board of Commerce, he was greeted by an enthusiastic group of three hundred alumni. The date was Monday, January 16, 1922. The Reverend President called attention to the significance of the proposed move from the crowded Jefferson campus to the spacious acres uptown. He paid tribute to the Dinan brothers for their part in the selection of the site and the successful conclusion of its purchase. He then went on to explain the advantages of a "group plan of construction" which would allow "individuals and organizations to identify themselves with the construction of units." He further stated that he was reasonably sure of the donation of two such units, with the possibility of as many as three more.¹ It should be noted here that, from the start, Father McNichols was determined not to rush ahead with his building program without mature planning. Moreover, it seems to have been his intention to have plans for the whole university approved by Rome and to oblige future generations to follow them.² In an article written for the *Varsity News Magazine* Father McNichols began with a quote saying that: "The sensible way to erect any great group of buildings is to determine in advance a program or group plan for its development as far as this can be foreseen, whether the buildings to be erected immediately are few or many. . . ."³

On September 1, 1923, an announcement was made of a contest to be held among architects competing for the University bid. Three months later nine architects submitted their plans, which were then studied by a jury composed of John Donaldson, Sr., architectural advisor for the University; Charles Maginniss of Boston, chairman; Albert Kahn, Detroit; and T. Glenn Philips, City Plan Commissioner; John Dinan, James Murphy and Father McNichols acting as trustees for the University. Since

1. *Detroit News*, Tuesday January 17, 1922.
2. Father Minister's Diary 1915-1924, 291 (May 3, 1924).
3. *Varsity News Magazine*, Building Number, Spring 1925, 5.



Ground Plan accepted as final by Fr. McNichols.

Malcomson & Higginbotham, Detroit, had best complied with the mandatory clauses and come closest to solving the problems involved, they were given first prize. B.C. Wetzel & Co. were second and Stratton & Snyder third.⁴

Once the plans were chosen University officials were anxious to start building in view of the inadequacy of the downtown quarters. However, as Father McNichols told the students, there were "so many contingencies entering into a building program of this size" that no definite date could be set. He did think though that an early start would be forthcoming.⁵ Actually it would be another two years and more before ground would be broken on the new campus. Meanwhile Glenn Philips and the architects,

4. *Varsity News*, Dec. 12 & 19, 1923. According to Father Minister's Diary 1915-1924, 255, only three architects sent exhibits to be set up in the gymnasium on December 3, 1923, the day of the judging.

5. *Ibid.*, Dec. 19, 1923.

Malcomson & Higginbotham, worked on the ground plan for the future university. According to Father McNichols' own statement more than twenty-five such plans were studied and rejected before that which we give here was accepted.⁶ And, as will be noted, even this plan was modified almost immediately.

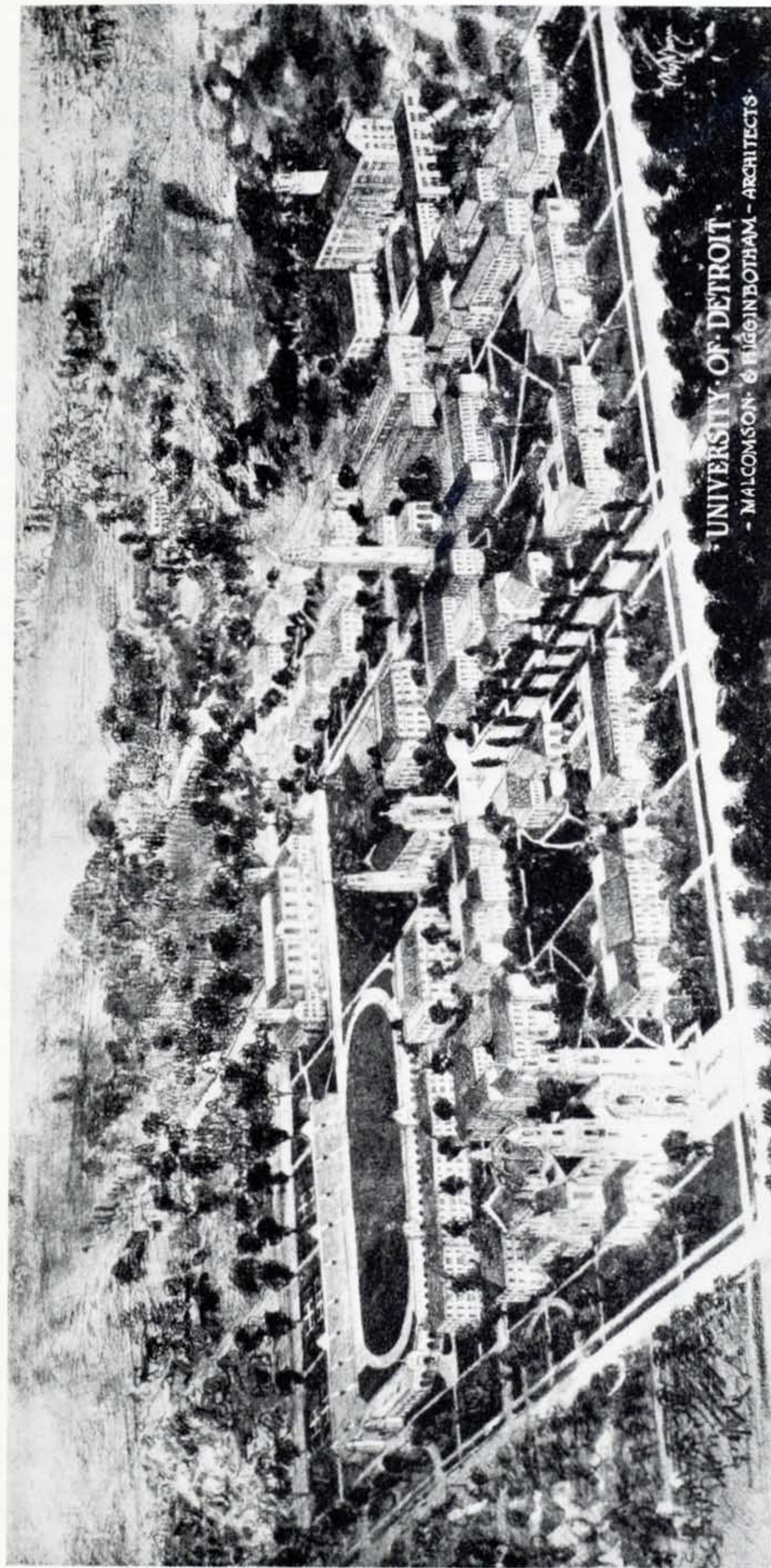
As for the buildings themselves the "monumental style" was deemed unsuitable. It was thought that, since the university itself was made up of a multitude of small units of more or less equal importance, no one or two buildings should dominate the group. Throughout the United States three styles of school architecture predominated—Classical, Tudor Gothic and Georgian. But instead of one of these the architects chose the Spanish Mission style developed in the Americas. Basically this was a Spanish Renaissance style adapted by the Padres to the materials at hand and the limited skills of the workmen. This style was chosen for the University of Detroit group of buildings because of its simplicity, its dignity and its great flexibility. The material originally chosen for the buildings was a grey or white granite. Instead a Carboniferous Berea Sandstone was used, a type that is supposed to resist cold and heat well and which is at the same time very durable.⁷ Time has proven these qualities accurate. Unfortunately its natural color, Briar Hill Golden Buff, soon turned black from soot and air pollution. The original beauty of the stone may still be seen up under the eaves of the old buildings. It is possible that a thorough cleansing together with modern methods of sealing may restore and prolong the beauty. Certainly the stone fitted in marvelously well with the mission style.

FINANCING THE NEW PROJECT

Obviously the first and most important item under consideration next to planning the new campus was the financing of the venture. Unlike the present, in 1925 the Jesuits still owned the University of Detroit. We are not surprised therefore to find numerous letters in the Missouri Province Archives written by Father McNichols explaining what he was doing and asking for necessary permissions particularly when money had to be borrowed. Moreover, the plans had to be sent to Rome for approval. This may strike us as a terrible waste of time and effort until we consider that the Father General's architects were constantly reviewing buildings from all over the world and were thus able to give valuable advice based on long experience. At any rate, by October 1925, Father McNichols had received clearance for blueprints of the buildings

6. *Varsity News Magazine*, Building Number, Spring 1925, 5.

7. *Varsity News Magazine*, November 1927, 34.



Architect's Sketch of the future U. of D. Note church at the left and hospital at far right.

then in prospect as well as permission for a proposed loan.⁸

We are fortunate in having at hand a letter of Father McNichols dated May 28, 1925, which gives an accurate account of the convertible assets of the University at the time, which ran "easily to \$525,000." The Reverend President added that this did not include \$60,000 which he knew were in wills and some \$115,000 which had been promised but not yet paid. He continued: "I would say therefore that if we had a *beneplicitum* (permission from Rome) for \$1,200,000 and if we were allowed a little latitude—moral interpretation of the *beneplicitum*—that we would not need more than that. Then let us get permission from the General for buildings running to about \$1,750,000. I know that there is always a certain latitude allowed on permissions of this kind, at least so I was told by Father Grimmelsman long ago."⁹

Shortly thereafter the President announced to his Board of Trustees that he had been receiving bids for a loan of \$1,500,000 and that "of the eight bids received, that of Ed. Dillon offered the most favorable terms." Thereupon the Trustees unanimously resolved that the President be authorized to sign the loan.¹⁰ The formal document of authorization was signed by the Trustees on September 7, 1925.

Meanwhile steps were being taken to enlarge the building fund of the University. In late January, 1925, Father McNichols called a meeting of his consultors to discuss ways and means of raising money. On requesting their opinion he found them divided on the matter. Some thought that the Jesuit Seminary Aid Association was a big enough burden on their friends and that a request for additional funds would "disgust them."¹¹ However, two months later a movement to secure funds was started among the Alumni. Letters were sent out to explain the financial status of the University and the projected building program. Each alumnus was asked to give the equivalent of one hour's wage a week.¹²

8. Missouri Province Archives. III Detroit. John P. McNichols to Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, May 21, 28; June 30; July 4; August 25; Sept. 29; Oct. 2, 1925. The letter of August 25 is typical. In part Father McNichols writes: "Your documents from Rome were very imposing. What are you trying to do? Do you want to scare a poor Rube like me? As soon as details of the loan are fixed, and that will be within a few days, I shall let you know just how the amortization will occur. I am having Mr. Bitting the financial man for the Fishers pass on the loans. . . ."

9. Missouri Province Archives. III Detroit. Fr. McNichols to Very Rev. Fr. Provincial, May 28, 1925. Also cf. *Michigan Mfg. and Financial Record*, Sept. 5, 1925.

10. Trustees Minutes, August 27, 1925. Meanwhile the President's Consultors also authorized such a loan. Minutes, July 18, 1925.

11. Minutes of the Consultors 1920-1938, January 1925.

12. *Varsity News*, March 25, 1925.

The students too were asked to contribute their share. The stadium drive has already been mentioned. Their new project was to concern the Memorial Tower on the new campus. Under the auspices of the Student Union they would attempt to raise \$25,000 towards its construction. Alan Devine, president of the Union, backed by the presidents of the class councils, asked each student to contribute a minimum of ten dollars by the opening of the fall semester.¹³

Nightly from July 28 to August 15, 1925, a huge spectacle, *India*, was staged in the Stadium featuring a dozen performing elephants, snake charmers, Hindu fakirs, ballet dancers and fireworks. The show was produced by the alumni for the benefit of the University with about a thousand people taking part in the production. For weeks the papers, local and state, were full of information on what the *Detroit News* termed "A Good Show for a Good Cause." E. A. Batchelor thought the pageant came "pretty close to following a small boy's specifications for heaven."¹⁴ In spite of inclement weather at the outset, the spectacle was exceptionally well attended.¹⁵ Evidently the show was also a financial success since the following summer was to witness a pageant entitled *1776*. However, even if it were not, the state-wide publicity coming to the University would have more than repaid the alumni for their efforts in producing the show.

Most helpful to the building fund were the bequests that came to the University in ever-increasing numbers. For example, in December, 1927, the Trustees were happy to accept \$50,000 from Mrs. Adelaide Campau-Thompson whereby the Physics Auditorium of the University would be named the Daniel J. Campau Jr. Auditorium after her brother. A bronze tablet and engraved bust gives memory to the honor.¹⁶ Another generous gift came from Mrs. Monette Reilly and her sister Miss Marie E. Lansing. This was in the form of a bequest of \$150,000 to provide funds towards the erection of what is now called Lansing-Reilly Hall or, more properly, Reilly-Lansing Memorial. A ceramic plaque inside the main entrance tells us that the building was erected in memory of the Honorable C. J. Reilly and his son Lansing.¹⁷

When the city papers and others notified the public about the bond issue in conjunction with Edward J. Dillon and Company, they were quick to point out that this meant that the University was ready to

13. *Ibid.*, May 14 and 21, 1926. The projected cost of the tower was \$55,000.

14. *Detroit News*, July 31, 1925; *Detroit Saturday Night*, August 1, 1925.

15. *The Dearborn Press*, August 13; *Huron Valley Sentinel*, August 14; *Washtenaw Post*, August 13, claimed that the 100,000 attendance mark had been reached with two or three performances to go.

16. Trustees Minutes, December 30, 1927.

17. *Memoranda 1920-1925*, XVI, June 1922; *Varsity News*, March 15, 1922.

start construction on the new site.¹⁸ *The Detroit News* carried a feature article with the general plan of the university and an architect's sketch of the faculty building. The *News* explained quite accurately that a faculty residence and power plant would come first. Once these were under way the chemistry and general science buildings would follow. Next would come arts and engineering buildings followed by commerce and finance, library and administration units. All of these were to be ready by the fall term 1927. As soon as possible after the first group had been completed there would be erected in turn buildings for law, student union, chapel, medicine, dentistry, research laboratory, gymnasium and others, which would include dormitories.¹⁹ But because of lack of funds all thought of the second group of buildings had to be abandoned.²⁰ Of the first group the power plant and tower, faculty building, commerce and finance, chemistry, science, and engineering buildings were ready by 1927 as promised.

In mid-February 1927 Father McNichols informed the public that three more buildings would be begun that year at the approximate cost of \$600,000. These were to include the Knights of Equity Memorial (a three story recitation hall), a library and an administration building. The Reverend President further announced plans to erect a \$350,000 gymnasium early in 1928.²¹ In view of the imminent depression it was fortunate that these plans were dropped and that the University did not add to an already-heavy financial burden. For years arts classes were held wherever they could be fitted in; the same was true of administration offices; the library was crowded into the top floor of the engineering building while the chapel was located in a small room in the basement of the Chemistry Building. A chemistry laboratory served as the Student Union. For the most part the basketball teams used the Jefferson Avenue University of Detroit High School gymnasium for practice and for games.

The ground-breaking ceremonies for the faculty building and the power

18. *Detroit Times*, August 27, 1925; *The Detroit News*, August 27, 1925; *The Flint Journal*, August 28, 1925; *et al.*

19. Bernard E. Meyers, *Detroit News*, Sept. 6, 1925.

20. From the Minutes of the Board of Trustees we find that an additional loan of \$400,000 (Series B Bonds) was negotiated in June 1927 (Minutes of special meeting of the Stockholders of the University of Detroit, January 23, 1927). On August 29, 1927, the President was allowed to execute a mortgage in favor of the National Bank of Commerce in the sum of \$175,000. (*Ibid.* Aug. 29). On June 3, 1930, a short term loan of \$105,000 was authorized by the Trustees to pay principal and interest on A and B bonds handled through the Fidelity Trust Co. (Minutes 1912-1930, June 3, 1930).

21. John M. Carlisle, reprinted by *Varsity News*, Feb. 16, 1927, 3, "as published in the *Detroit News*."

unit took place "under a somber autumn sky" on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1925, with about a thousand students, alumni and friends in attendance. Among those present on the platform were Bishops Gallagher and Plagens, Mayor John W. Smith, Dean John A. Russell, John P. Scallen, Father McNichols and the Jesuit Provincial Jeremiah O'Callaghan, S.J. After Bishop Gallagher had blessed the ground in solemn fashion he stepped down to turn the first spadeful of earth with the silver implement still used on such University occasions. As the *News* stated so well: "The hole made by the spade was small . . . but to the group gathered in the November wind, it forecast, in the near future, a group of massive and dignified buildings housing thousands of students and upholding the standards of education which have been carried for nearly 50 years by the university under less ample facilities."²²

The principal address was delivered by Bishop Plagens, an alumnus of the University. He was followed by John A. Russell of the first graduating class who gave a historical sketch of the college. In his turn Bishop Gallagher stated that this should be cherished as a red-letter day not only for the Church and the Society of Jesus but for the City of Detroit and the Commonwealth of Michigan as well. The University was not an institution meant for Catholics only. Rather it was an institution for the entire public to be proud of.²³ The ground-breaking ceremony was followed by the University of Detroit-Bucknell football game at the new Dinan Field. Bucknell won a well-played game 7 to 0.

Meanwhile, on the downtown campus the University was prospering. Shortly after coming to the University of Detroit Father McNichols had proposed the slogan "Every Man Bring a Man." By the 1924 fall term the increase in students was phenomenal—three hundred percent in three years! For the first time in the history of the institution the doors had to be closed to further registration.²⁴ According to the 1925-1926 *Bulletin*, which lists the names of the students for the previous year, we find that there were 1672 students in the University, plus 536 in the High School.²⁵ To alleviate crowded conditions two new classrooms were added on the third floor of the Godfroy Memorial Building and a large classroom on the third floor of the Commerce and Finance building. Day Commerce was also awarded a much-needed professors' room. In the spring of 1925 it was decided to alter Godfroy Hall and at the

22. *Detroit News*, Nov. 27, 1925. Cf. *Michigan Catholic*, Dec. 3, 1925, 2.

23. *Ibid.* Also cf. *Detroit Free Press*, Nov. 27, 1925; *The Detroit Times*, Nov. 26 and 27, 1925; *The Michigan Councillor*, Dec. 2, 1925.

24. *Varsity News*, Oct. 23, 1924.

25. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1925-1926, *Passim*. The breakdown was as follows: Arts & science 218; Engineering 372; Law 274; Day Commerce 255; Evening Commerce 525; Foreign Trade 28; High School 536.



Caroline Godfroy Hall used as classroom building for Arts and Sciences.

same time add an inexpensive, temporary one-story addition which would give the University ten more classrooms. It was thought that this move would relieve congestion until the new uptown campus was ready for occupancy.²⁶

26. *Varsity News*, February 25, 1925.

BLESSINGS AND DEDICATIONS ON THE NEW CAMPUS

Great black clouds began to gather from the southwest. Lightning flashed and thunder rolled across the heavens. Then came the rain in gusty torrents. Fourth degree Knights of Columbus were no longer so neatly uniformed as earlier; bishops and clergymen, Protestant and Catholic, had their church finery drenched; students and friends were thankful at least that the rain was not cold and that the day was warm. The date was Decoration Day 1926; the occasion was the laying of the cornerstone for the first of the buildings being erected, the faculty residence Lansing-Reilly Hall.²⁷ If Father McNichols had a worried look on his face, as is evident from a picture in the *Detroit News*, there was good reason for his concern. Still, the event was a grand success in spite of the summer storm. Worthy of note is the beautiful address delivered by United States Commissioner of Immigration Harry E. Hull, who ended with the plea that "the structure of rock and cement, here erected, prove a fitting and lasting monument to the spiritual force which inspires it—the love of Jesus Christ."²⁸

Even more auspicious than the cornerstone laying was the blessing on Sunday October 9, 1927, of the grounds and buildings of the University's new campus. Bishop Michael J. Gallagher officiated at the ceremony and, as he moved from building to building, he was assisted by the Reverend William P. Schulte as deacon, the Reverend Maurice Chawke as sub-deacon, and the Reverend John J. Hunt as master of ceremonies. In addition to some fifty church dignitaries there were present seventeen prominent Jesuits from various parts of the country. The ceremony was part of the University's celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.²⁹ That same morning at SS. Peter and Paul's church the Golden Jubilee sermon was preached by the Reverend John Cavanaugh, former president of Notre Dame University.

27. *Ibid.*, June 9, 1926, 1. A short, most interesting movie of the affair shows a fairly large crowd in attendance. The movie begins with the parade—Police, Knights of Columbus, University Band, etc.—marching up to the building and ends with the actual blessing of the corner-stone. There is a good shot of Mr. Hull. Umbrellas are much in evidence.

28. *Ibid.*; Cf. *Michigan Catholic*, May 27 and June 3, 1926.

29. *Ibid.*, Oct. 12, 1927, 1. Note. Students sometimes ask about the cost of these buildings and campus service facilities in the Twenties. Lansing-Reilly Hall came to \$300,000; Chemistry \$375,000; Science \$322,043; Commerce \$261,470; Tower and Heating unit \$200,000; Engineering \$426,767; Sewers \$35,000 and Paving \$20,000. Cf. Thomas Ashlock, "The New University," *Varsity News Magazine*, November 1927, 34. The addition to the engineering building made about two years after its completion, and which pertained mostly to aeronautical science, cost a further \$240,000. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis 1894-1937*, 143.



The Tower "a thing of rare beauty" with a "personality all its own."

It was thought fitting that the most imposing structure on the new campus should be dedicated to those former students who gave their lives during the World War for the ideals the University of Detroit sought to inculcate. The dedication of the tower and the unveiling of the marble tablet at its base marked the formal opening of the Jubilee

celebration. Almost all of the 2,738 students were in attendance, together with many former classmates of the twelve men who were honored and their parents, relatives and friends. Present also were detachments of marines, soldiers and sailors as well as American Legion members, Spanish War and G.A.R. veterans.³⁰ The dedication address was delivered by former Secretary of the Navy, Edwin Denby. At its close Father McNichols stepped forward and, as the American flag was drawn aside, laid a wreath of laurel at the base of the tablet as a token of the University's esteem. While the crowd stood with bared heads a squad of soldiers fired the time-honored salute of three volleys; a trumpeter from the Marine detachment then sounded "Taps" from his station at the base of the tower.³¹

It may be well to note here that the "Tower Idea" was quite coincidental. It was not the original purpose of Father McNichols, whose busy brain was responsible for so much of the new campus, to emulate foreign universities by adding a graceful though unnecessarily costly campanile. At the same time he was unwilling to see the aesthetic effect of ten million dollars worth of buildings marred by an enormous chimney. The result was the tower as we know it today, a unique structure lending dignity to the campus, concealing a pragmatic chimney and serving as a landmark for much of Detroit. Truly, as Jerry Donovan remarked at the time of the dedication, the tower is "a thing of rare beauty" with a "personality all its own."³²

30. *Varsity News*, October 12, 1927.

31. *Varsity News Magazine*, November 1927, 26-30.

32. *Varsity News Magazine*, November 1927, 23. Mr. Donovan was assistant Feature Editor of the *Varsity News*. It was he who wrote the following verses for the occasion. They may be found in the *Magazine*, Nov. 1927, 22.

Silent and aloof thou art
 To all this turmoil round thy base.
 Let mortals reverence and depart.
 Thy task is one—to guard this place.
 For in thy rugged bosom lies
 A memory holy and sublime,
 And thy stern vigilance defies
 The desecrating hand of Time.
 'Tis true their sacred dust lies not
 Within thy shadow's round,
 For stark white crosses mark each spot
 On other hallowed ground.
 Yet, when the night-wind murmurs low
 About thy sheer, tall sides,
 Unseen feet tread to and fro.
 Their presence here abides.

The four-day Golden Jubilee celebration was concluded with a civic banquet held Tuesday evening, October 12, in the new Engineering Building. The banquet was attended by a large number of faculty and alumni members and about two hundred civic leaders. At its conclusion the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on sixteen prominent citizens, mostly Detroiters. These included Senator James Couzens, Walter O. Briggs, Fred and Charles Fisher, Fred Wardell, John and Michael Dinan, James Fitzgerald, Judge Richard C. Flannigan, John P. Scallen, Dr. William P. Keane, Thomas F. Chawke, Judge Vincent M. Brennan, William B. O'Regan, B. A. Seymour, and Peter J. Monaghan.

How could one possibly neglect to relate that the students began celebrating the Jubilee on Friday night, November 7 with a gigantic



The original seven structures a few years after their completion.

For Alma Mater is their home—
The place that each loved best.
No more their weary spirits roam,
For here, at last, they rest.

bonfire-rally? Some two thousand students and alumni listened to Tom Connell, captain of the University of Detroit football team, Red Grange, Benny Friedman and numerous other speakers who told in no uncertain terms how Knute Rockne's Fighting Irish would be dealt with the next day. The speeches were followed by a torch procession about the campus headed by the band. The "largest, finest, noisiest rally in the history of the University of Detroit" was ended with a short address by the President, more yells and songs, and "fiendish" freshman snake dances directed by the ever-present sophomores.³³

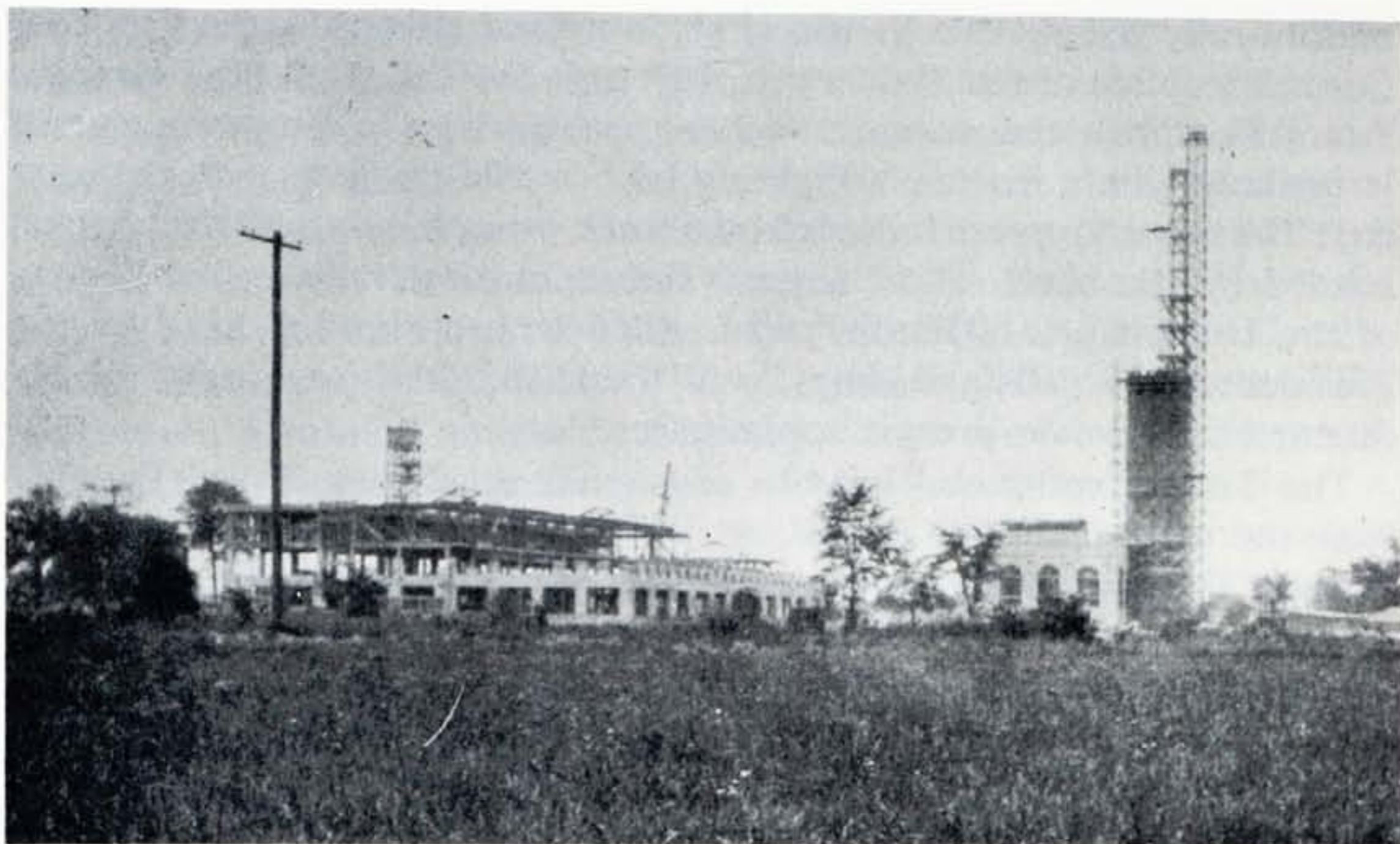
The Titans, composed heavily of sophomores, lost to the Fighting Irish the next day 20 to 0. But, as Willis W. Edgar stated in the *Free Press*: "Though defeat was their portion, the Titans were not disgraced, and surprised their most ardent admirers by the stubborn defense that several times averted touchdowns for the highly touted Irish eleven . . . a game that never lagged in action and abounded in thrills until the final whistle."³⁴ It may be well to recall here that prior to this game the Titans had defeated Adrian 44 to 0 and lost to the Army at West Point by only 6 to 0, to the amazement of the whole East Coast. After the Notre Dame game Detroit defeated Columbia College 58 to 0, Michigan State 24 to 7, Haskell Indians 38 to 7, St. Louis 21 to 0, Carnegie Tech 12 to 7 and South Dakota State 38 to 0. With such stalwarts in the lineup as Lardner, Goodnow, Brazil and Connell, to mention but a few, we need not be surprised that the team should have done so well.

THE PROPOSED MEDICAL SCHOOL

Father McNichols had every intention of starting a medical school once the University moved uptown. For one thing it was becoming traditional for major Jesuit universities in the United States to have such a school. Fordham, Georgetown, St. Louis, Marquette, Creighton, Loyola in Chicago and Loyola in New Orleans all had faculties of medicine. Moreover, the idea was not at all new in the case of Detroit. As early as May 1909, two years before a university charter had been acquired, President Slevin wrote to St. Louis explaining the possibility of a union with the Detroit College of Law. In the same letter he explained to the Father Provincial that one advantage of such a union might be that "through that union we would probably be able to get the Detroit College of Medicine to unite with us." Father Slevin continued: "This school is first class and is on very friendly terms with the Law School,

33. *Varsity News*, October 12, 1927, 2.

34. Willis W. Edgar, *Detroit Free Press* as in *The Tower* 1928, 164.



Construction of Engineering Building and Tower on Sept. 22, 1926.

holding classes in the same building. The Sec'ty of the Law School told me that he thought the Medical School would be glad to unite with us and that right now was the best time to approach them on the subject."³⁵

From the minutes of the consultors we learn that the question of an affiliation of both law and medical schools was given serious consideration.³⁶ In December 1909 a copy of the terms of agreement between St. Ignatius College and the Illinois Medical College was sent to Dr. McGraw of the Detroit Medical College together with some annotations outlining the requirements on the part of the University of Detroit for affiliation.³⁷ For the time being the matter ended there. Two years later, when the Detroit trustees again took up the matter, "nothing definite was agreed upon."³⁸ From here on the Medical College took the initiative. In December 1911 a communication was had from Doctor McGraw stating the terms under which the stockholders were willing to sell. The price they asked for the College, \$225,000, was considered "exorbitant" and, since the Jesuit provincial authorities at St. Louis "seemed not too

35. R. R. Slevin, S.J. to V. Rev. R. J. Meyer, S.J. May 28, 1909. Missouri Province Archives. III Detroit 19 B.

36. Minutes of the Consultors 1905-1920, Nov. 9, 1909.

37. *Ibid.*, Dec. 3, 1909.

38. Trustees Minutes, Nov. 6, 1911.

favorable towards the project of acquiring the Medical College" at the time, no definite steps were taken.³⁹ The following March Dr. McGraw asked for another conference. Founder Doctor Walker's heirs were anxious to sell the College.⁴⁰ President Dooley promised to take the matter up with authorities at St. Louis, who in turn asked for more information. Almost a year later the Dean of the Medical School asked for another meeting. President Dooley consented but let it be known that he was not in favor of purchasing the school. The reasons as set down in the minutes of the Consultors' meeting are that "we have two struggling schools [law and engineering] on our hands and can get no financial help from the wealthy Catholics in the city. The Medical [sic] is in poor standing & would require heavy financial backing to put it in satisfactory shape."⁴¹ The proposed merger of the Detroit Medical College with the University of Detroit ended there. When analyzed, it was for the most part a matter of finances that prevented the step from being taken.

As stated above Father McNichols was definitely interested in starting a medical school. Already in the general plan of the new campus issued in September 1924, space was allotted to both medicine and dentistry where the Student Union and the Administration buildings now stand.⁴² In July 1926 a special meeting of the Consultors was held to consider the advisability of purchasing a site for a hospital. Father McNichols informed the consultors that Mr. Charles Fisher had agreed to pay the interest on the loan needed for the purchase. The consultors agreed to the proposal.⁴³ However, the Reverend President seems to have had his troubles getting Sisters to staff the proposed hospital. In the spring of 1928 it looked as though the Sisters of Charity might take on the responsibility. But in October and again in November we find him discussing the matter with the Sisters of Mercy.⁴⁴ The archives do not tell us whether the matter was ever finalized. A cryptic statement in the *Historia* informs us that in October 1929: "A beginning was made of the new course of medicine with the accession of Doctor Daly as Dean."⁴⁵ There is no further mention of a medical school in the *Historia*. The consensus of oral opinion seems to indicate that the stock-market crash in 1929 and the ensuing depression caused University authorities

39. Minutes of the Consultors, 1905-1920, Dec. 1, 1911.

40. *Ibid.*, March 13, 1912.

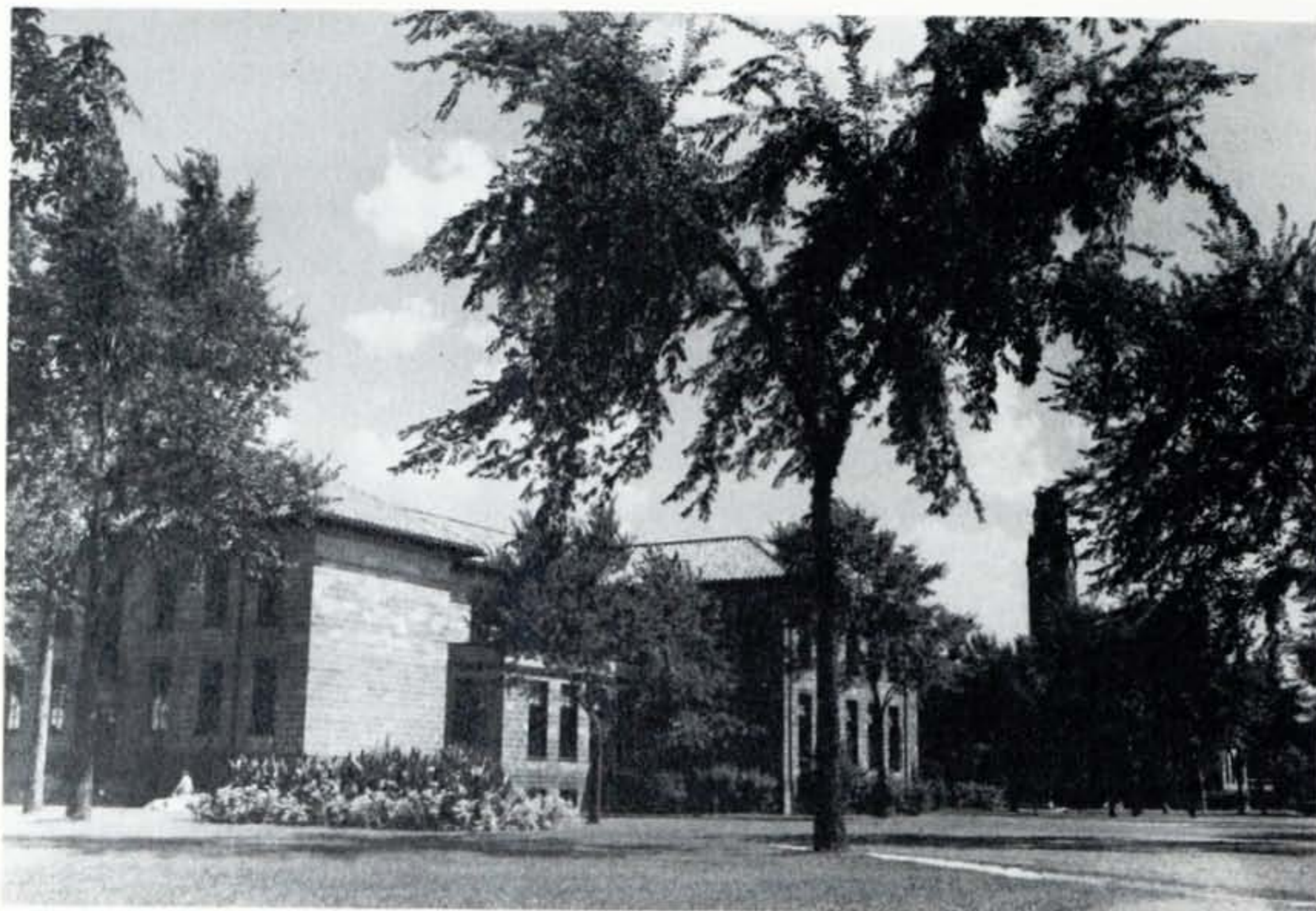
41. *Ibid.*, January 3, 1913.

42. A copy of this plan is given in the *Varsity News Magazine*, Graduation Number 1925, 19.

43. Minutes of the Consultors 1920-1938, July 3, 1926.

44. *Ibid.*, May 6, October 7, November 11, 1928.

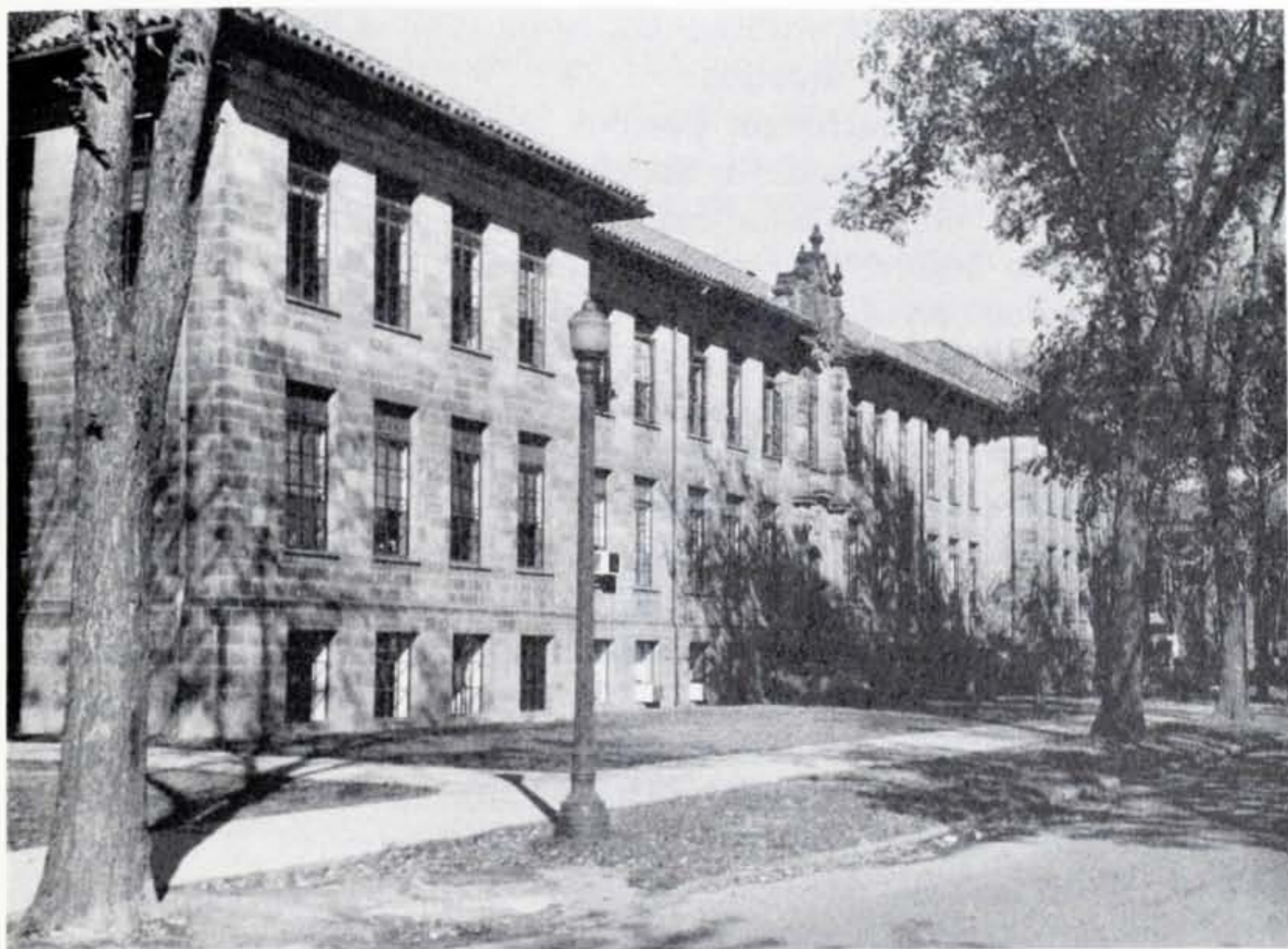
45. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis* 1894-1937, 143.



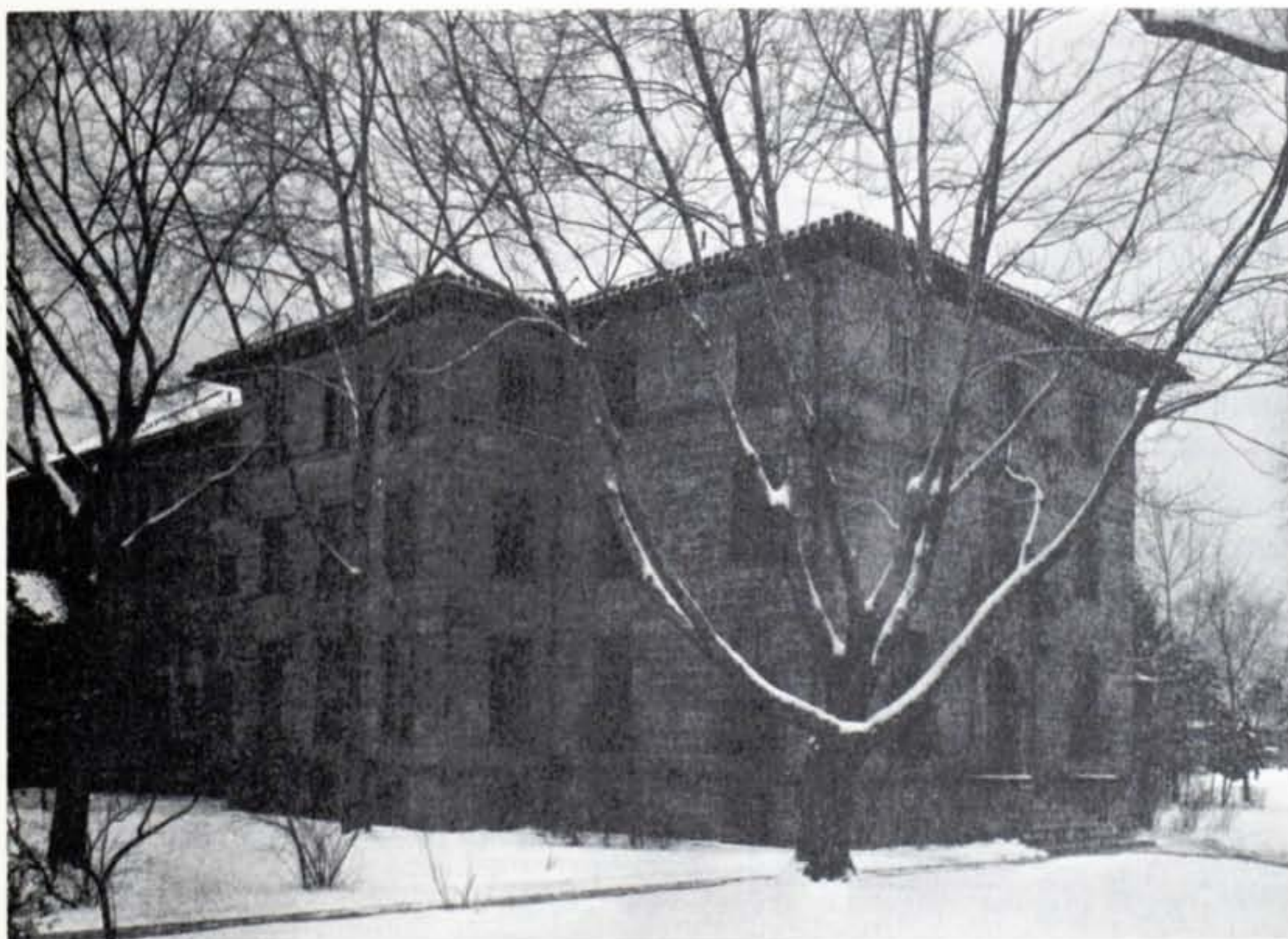
Commerce and Finance Building



Science Building



Chemistry Building



The Jesuit Residence, Lansing-Reilly Hall.

financial worries enough without adding those of a medical school. At any rate the matter was dropped.

While still on the Jefferson Campus the University of Detroit had opened an Extension School for Sisters and Public School teachers who wished to better themselves in their profession or obtain credits leading to an academic degree. The minimal entrance requirement was a four year high school certificate. Classes were held in the late afternoon on Monday and Thursday and on Saturday morning.⁴⁶ The new program proved to be an immediate success with 125 students in attendance that first term. Of these sixty were Sisters.⁴⁷ The success of the extension course prompted University authorities to consider starting a Summer School. However, after "serious discussion of the matter" it was decided that the decision be postponed until further data be had concerning availability of faculty as well as students.⁴⁸ By early May 1926 this information was forthcoming and it was decided to conduct a Summer School for the first time in the history of the University. It would run from late June to early August. The fee for the session was set at \$4.00 a credit hour. One is amazed at the fine selection of courses in arts and sciences that were made available to students that first summer. Like the extension course the summer program was geared primarily for teachers not, however, to the exclusion of "other mature students" who were desirous of completing their education in languages, history, science, philosophy, etc.⁴⁹

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND PARISH

When the Detroit College first opened its doors in 1877 it was conceived as embracing a seven year program leading to the Bachelor's degree. Although a distinction was made between collegiate and academic divisions, the latter was not looked on as an ordinary high school. However, over the years the academic division was gradually to achieve its identity with its own dean, its own quarters and its own athletic program. On the departure of the main body of the University from the Jefferson campus in the fall of 1927, the Reverend Arthur D. Spillard, S.J., Principal of the High School, was named Rector and President of that institution in place of Father McNichols, who had been President of both high school and college. Father McNichols was then appointed to another term as President of the University of Detroit on July 31,

46. *Michigan Catholic*, Sept. 17, 1925; *University of Detroit Bulletin*, Summer School Arts and Science 1926, 3.

47. *Ibid.*, Oct. 22, 1925.

48. Minutes of the Consultors 1920-1938, February 13, 1926.

49. *University of Detroit Bulletin*, *loc. cit.*; *Michigan Catholic*, May 13, 1926.

1928.⁵⁰ Meanwhile property had been purchased and plans made for a new University of Detroit High School campus on Seven Mile Road about a mile and a half from the University. The estimated cost of the operation was \$750,000. The formal move to Seven Mile Road was made on July 31, 1931, feast-day of St. Ignatius Loyola founder of the Jesuits.⁵¹ The buildings on Jefferson Avenue, held in the name of the University, continued to house Evening Commerce, Law and, beginning in 1932, Dentistry.

Original sketches of the McNichols campus of the University show the Gesu Church as an elaborate baroque structure on the northwest corner of Livernois and Six Mile Roads. At the same time property was being bought between Holmur and Quincy for a parish elementary school. To the original acre thus purchased Mrs. Anna Kean donated an additional seven lots and two more lots were purchased in 1924.⁵² In March that same year Father McNichols told his consultants that plans were almost completed for the new school, which would consist of ten rooms and would cost up to \$80,000.⁵³ However, when the plans were released by W.C. Wetzel & Co. a month later, it was announced that twelve rooms of the forty-room structure would be built at the estimated cost of \$90,000 to \$100,000. The actual cost ultimately came to \$120,000. A large area in the basement at the north end of the building would serve as a temporary church. The building was to be ready by the spring of 1925.⁵⁴ Considering the heavy traffic at the corner of Livernois and McNichols in recent years, we must admit that it was fortunate that the plan to build the church there was abandoned. The cornerstone for the church as it now stands north of the school was laid on November 4, 1933. On the following August 15 the first mass was said and the new edifice was formally opened. The consecration of the altars followed on December 8.⁵⁵

At this point it may be well to mention the debt of the University of Detroit to Brother John Beaton, S.J. It was under his direction that the campus was landscaped. Early pictures of the grounds show them to have been all but bare of trees. In 1930 Brother added 112 trees to the 270 he had planted the year before. And even earlier he had

50. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 141.

51. *Varsity News*, March 24, 1924, 4. Burns, *Glory of Saints Peter and Paul*, 55-58.

52. *Varsity News*, April 12, 1922. Minutes of the Consultants 1920-1938, Feb. 16, 1924.

53. Minutes of the Consultants 1920-1938, March 22, 1924.

54. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 141. *Varsity News*, April 9, 1924, 5.

55. Burns, *Glory of Saints Peter and Paul*, 60-61.

planted 100 trees, in addition to flowers and shrubs.⁵⁶ As a Father who had lived with him at the University was later to write: "The Campus was his plot in the Lord's vineyard. He loved his lawns, trees, flowers, because in them he recognized the imprint of the Creator. . . . he achieved great success in keeping the lawns green and his cannas-blooming.⁵⁷ For years Brother Beaton was the scourge of small boys who tended to view the campus as one vast playing field. And yet, he loved and consorted with his college students. Of sturdy Scotch frame, on one occasion when a group of students were trying to put an old telephone pole on top of a home-coming fire, Brother Beaton pushed them aside, picked up the pole and threw it onto the pile.⁵⁸

SOCIAL ACTIVITY ON THE NEW CAMPUS

If one were called upon to single out the number one annual social event for the years 1926 to 1930 inclusive it would probably have to be the Union Opera. Somehow the stage had been neglected for a few years at the University until 1926 when *The Butterflies*, a comedy by Henry Guy Carleton, was produced. The following year witnessed the production of the first of the Union Operas, *Merry Ann*, a light opera in two acts and ten scenes. Sponsored by the Student Union, the book and lyrics were the work of Seniors James Silas Pooler and P. Ralph Miller. The music was largely the work of Paul Madera Mertz, a journalist major, who later became a well-known director of music for Columbia Films. Mr. Mertz was already known for his song "Someone." He was ably assisted by Ange Lorenz, a law school student who had previously written "Sleepy Time Gal." Well before the staging of the opera three of its hits were accepted for publication in sheet music form. Especially well known was "Merry Ann."⁵⁹

Though Cornelius McIntyre, Nicholas Wagener and their associates did a great job in staging the play, which drew large crowds, it was not a financial success due largely, it seems, to the cost of production. The same was true of the two shows that followed, *Aces Wild*, and *Hoofs, My Dear*. And though *Hello Stranger*, produced in 1930 by Frank Potts, proved to be a financial success, the Union was hesitant about staging an opera in 1931. Jack Teubert, who had played a leading role in both *Hoofs* and *Hello Stranger*, was asked to canvass the faculty concerning the matter. Wisely Father McNichols thought that "in the present state of financial stress" the opera should be temporarily

56. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, 147.

57. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, March 1953, 68.

58. *Ibid.*

59. *Varsity News*, Oct. 3, 1926, 3 and 14; *The Tower*, 1927, 186.



James Shea (L) and Albin Urbanik (R) as they appeared in *Aces Wild*.

abandoned. The Reverend President considered it an imposition on friends to expect them, under the circumstances, to come forward with the same generosity they had shown in the past.⁶⁰ Meanwhile “hits” from the operas were being played about the country. Actually the calibre of the operas was surprisingly high. As one critic remarked of *Merry Ann*: “The University of Detroit is to be congratulated on the fact that its first college opera, ‘Merry Ann,’ playing all this week at the Shubert-Detroit Theatre, is an acceptable play on its own merits, and does not rely on partisanship of students or alumni to draw liberal applause from its audiences and thoughtful praise from critics.”⁶¹ Similar praise was given the productions that followed *Merry Ann*.

Debating continued to be a most popular activity on the new campus. One is somewhat surprised to see the student interest in the University debate teams as it was mirrored in the *Varsity News*. While debating was as old as rhetoric at the University of Detroit, it had always been under the aegis of the Philomathic Society. It was not until 1924 that Professor C. Baldwin Bacon, recently appointed head of the Department of Public Speaking, organized a distinct debating team. In the academic

60. *Varsity News*, Jan. 21, 1931, 1.

61. Editorial, *Detroit News*, Dec. 26, 1926.

year 1924-1925 the Varsity debators met four intercollegiate teams. Gradually the program was expanded. In 1928-1929, for example, the University teams engaged in debate with seventeen colleges, among them such representative schools as Northwestern, Marquette, Notre Dame, Loyola, Michigan and Washington.⁶² The following year John Treem, David Leahy and Ralph Johnston showed their mettle when they travelled to Marquette, Northwestern and Loyola and defeated all three in an audience vote. A week later Edward Monaghan and James Britt gained national prestige in winning debates with Cincinnati and Xavier Universities broadcast over Crosley's powerful radio station, WLW, at Cincinnati.⁶³ With their ever-increasing reputation the University of Detroit debators found themselves challenged by strong college teams from all over the United States.⁶⁴

The flourishing condition of the Sodality Movement on the two campuses gave ample testimony to the fact that University of Detroit students were at heart solid practicing Christians. From the original sodality of Detroit College days there came to be no less than seven sodalities at the University by 1930, sponsored by Arts and Sciences, Day Commerce and Finance, Section A Engineering, Section B Engineering, Law, Night Commerce and Finance, and University Co-Eds. In 1931 the prefects were respectively Williams J. Maledon, August Christie, George McCormick, Lawrence Riley, Lawrence Moloney, Thomas Mullin and Lucie Pequegnot.⁶⁵ On Sunday May 17 that year more than seventeen thousand sodalists from Ontario and Greater Detroit gathered in the University of Detroit stadium to offer their prayers for the Catholic youth of Russia. The event was labeled "one of the most striking demonstrations of deep and courageous faith that the dynamic city of Detroit has witnessed in a great many years."⁶⁶ But it was rather for their fidelity to their weekly meetings and the many less publicized good deeds that the University of Detroit sodalists engaged in that they are to be lauded today.

The annual retreat continued in importance in the twenties. In February 1926 the students set a new record when over a thousand students made the retreat conducted by Father William Robison, S.J., who will be remembered as having been Detroit's first football coach in 1896.⁶⁷ On

62. *Varsity News*, Oct. 9, 1929.

63. *Ibid.*, March 12, 1930, 4; March 19, 1930, 1.

64. *Ibid.*, May 7, 1930, 4.

65. *The Tower*, 1929, 198-204.

66. *Varsity News*, May 20, 1931, 1.

67. *Red and White*, 1926, has a picture of the retreatants in the pictorial section between pages 160 and 161. A picture of those making the co-ed retreat is given on the opposite page.

the new campus, since the chapel in the basement of the Chemistry Building was small, the retreat was normally given division by division in the Gesu church. Smaller groups, however, used the chapel. The annual retreat in the twenties and thirties was considered an essential part of the school curriculum and was compulsory for Catholic students but optional for others.

Students and friends of the University visiting or attending meetings in the "large parlour" of Lansing-Reilly Hall are struck by the beauty of a large mosaic depicting St. Peter's in Rome which hangs on the south wall. Mr. Fred Fisher, the donor, obtained it while travelling in Europe. It dates from the early sixteenth century and had been in possession of the family from whom it was purchased for nearly three hundred years.⁶⁸ Though it was insured in transit for about ten thousand dollars, it would be difficult to assess the value of this rare mosaic today. Another interesting work of art is to be seen above the altar of the Lansing Reilly Chapel. It is a painting by Charles Bosseron Chambers which shows the Madonna and Child with the Jesuit saints at their feet. The painting, which cost three thousand dollars when purchased, was a gift from the Palms family.⁶⁹

68. *Varsity News*, Feb. 29, 1928.

69. *Ibid.*, Jan. 11, 1928, 5.

CHAPTER X

THE DEPRESSION YEARS

PRESIDENCY OF FATHER POETKER

On April 26, 1932, the University of Detroit suffered a severe loss in the death of Father McNichols. A heart attack was the immediate cause of his death at the age of fifty-seven. Although he had been ill for quite some time, he kept on working until October of the previous year, when he was prevailed upon to enter Providence Hospital in Detroit for treatment. After a month or so there he insisted that he felt fine. Coming home he threw himself into his work with renewed effort in an attempt to catch up. It was too much for him. Heart trouble, pleurisy and other complications of health coincided with the financial crisis to darken his dreams for the University just as they were nearing fulfillment. He broke under the strain. On March 7 he was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Ann Arbor "for a rest."¹ After a few weeks there "Father Mac's" friends had every hope that he would get well. However, at ten o'clock on the night of April 26, a nurse came into his room and, looking at him, notified the attendant sitting there that he had ceased to breathe. As the *Historia* remarks: "So quiet was his departure from the labors and anxieties which he had borne so courageously."² Though he received the last rites of the Church while unconscious, his death was certainly not spiritually unprovided for after a life of such dedicated labor in the service of his Master.

So great were the crowds that wished to show their respect for one they loved that two funeral masses had to be celebrated on April 29. At the second of these, a Solemn High Mass sung by Bishop Plagens, an alumnus of the University, there were present Mayor Frank Murphy, members of the City Council, representatives of city departments, judges, many Detroit business and industrial leaders and over a hundred diocesan priests.³

1. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis* 1894-1937, 148-152; *The Province News Letter*, XIII, June 1932, 71-72; *Detroit Free Press*, Wed., April 27, 1932, 1.

2. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis* 1894-1937, 151-152.

3. *Province News Letter*, CIII, June 1932, 71.

Looking back we are inclined to remember Father McNichols as an administrator, a leading educator, a business man, a civic-minded citizen. We are correct in so doing. But it is noteworthy that the newspapers of the time, while eulogizing his great contributions to Detroit and to the University of Detroit in particular, also brought out the fact that "Father Mac" was first of all a devoted priest and a genuine Jesuit.⁴ Similarly an editorial in the *Varsity News* entitled "Paster Noster," gives us an insight into the students' evaluation of their president. It reads:

Our father is dead. In these words we sum up the deep feeling of admiration and love we had and always will have for our deceased president, Rev. John P. McNichols, S.J.

"Father Mac" was our father; he didn't come up to each of us, pat us on the back and laugh and joke with us, but his guiding spirit was ever on the campus. We could not see it with our eyes but we felt it. His was a dominating personality; his was the lovable character of a fighting man; his was the kind solicitude of a father.

Each of us was ever aware that over there in the Faculty Building we had a booster, a friend and benefactor. Beneath his stolidity

4. The following verse was written by the poet James J. Daly, S.J., for many years Professor of English at the University of Detroit. U. of D. Archives, McNichols' file.

The roseate aurora lights are dancing in the northern nights.
The fickle lights, the siren lights, the lights that lure to slay;
All the compasses are crazy, and the north-star dim and hazy,
And the captain-souls in blank dismay are leading souls astray.

The little captain-souls, who guess their pathway through the heaving
press
Of waters sown with terror far from friendly harbor-bar,
Consult their giddy compasses with solemn, learned emphasis,
And hurl their small defiance at magnetic pole and star.

No little captain-soul were you, McNichols, captain straight and true,
Who in the nights upon the bridge were planted like an oak;
The treacherous lights might dance and drift, the compass-needle whirl
and shift,
While thunders of mad water broke on rocky reefs in smoke;

Your sane, clear vision could pierce through auroral false fires to the
blue,
Where God stands on His patient star for all poor souls that roam;
And by its light, through storm and stress, you brought through mortal
wilderness
Steadfastly, strong captain-soul, souls to their harbor-home.

he was a kind, lovable and holy man. . . . He became a legendary hero while yet alive. He remains our hero. . . .⁵

An editorial in the *Detroit Free Press* lauded Father McNichols as an "educator with wide grasp and sound insight, a man of executive ability and high integrity . . ." His death was "a loss to the city . . . a calamity for the Society of Jesus . . . a tragedy for the school he guided." The editorial then continued: "The work of Father McNichols will go on. He built truly and soundly, and what he achieved is far too valuable to be neglected or lost. Other hands will take up the task he has laid down, and will carry it forward as a sacred trust and as a labor of love. And the ideals he has instilled into the hearts of thousands of young men, the sound principles he has inculcated in them, will remain and bear fruit for a long time to come. Father McNichols will be missed, desperately missed, but what he did remains to testify that a man who made the world better and happier has lived."⁶

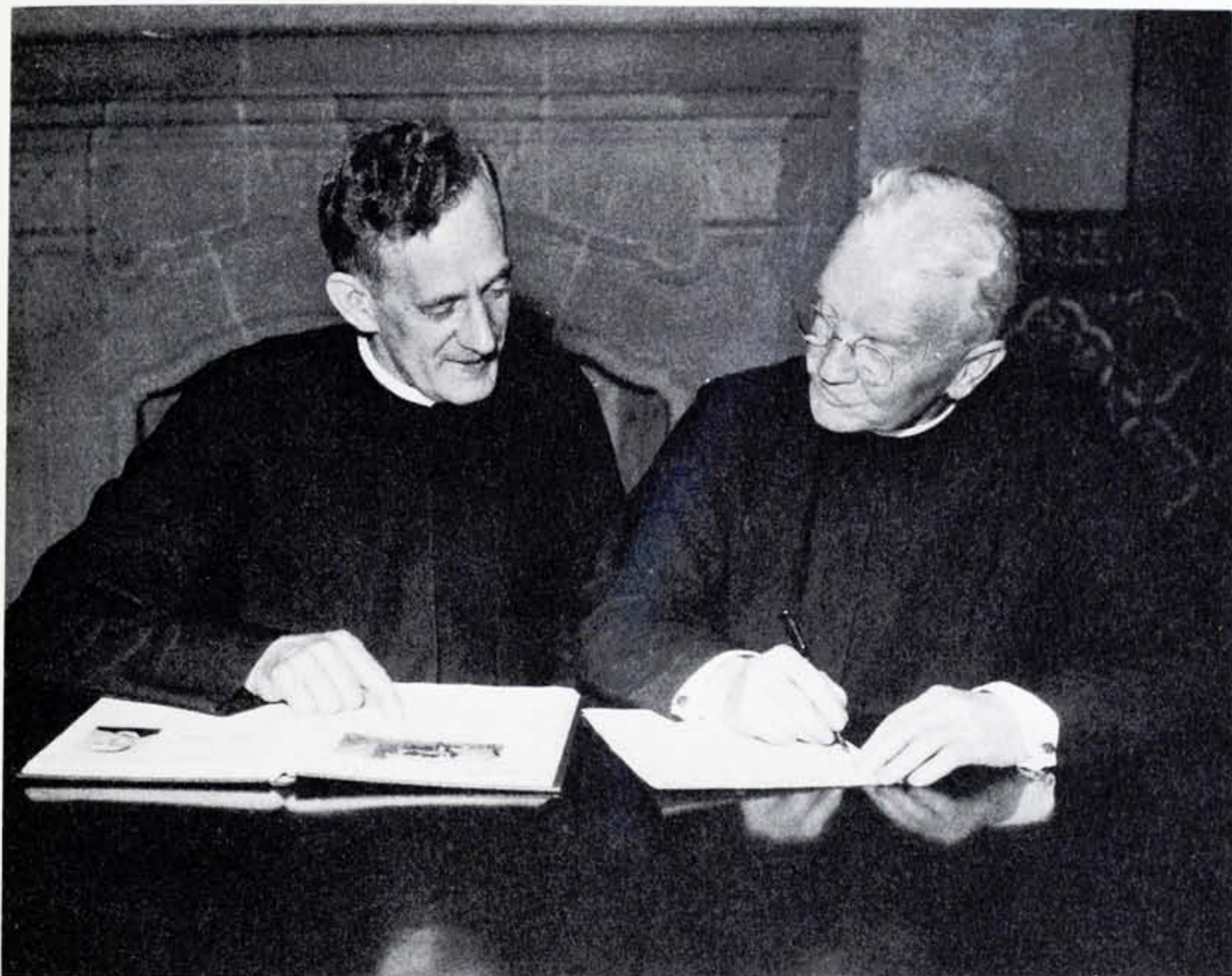
The man chosen to "take up the task and carry forward" the work of Father McNichols was the Reverend Albert H. Poetker, S.J. Father Poetker had been acting president during Father McNichols' last illness. Previously he had been regent of the College of Engineering and head of the Physics Department of the University. As acting president he continued in the latter positions but gave over his teaching assignments to other members of his department. He was installed as president of the University on June 9, 1932. The choice was a happy one from the standpoint of the students as well as of the University. When he was first named as acting president an editorial in the *Varsity News* stated that, after a year at the University, he was already known for his solicitude for the students and that he had "endeared himself to the entire student body." The editorial further commented on his administrative ability, a quality, we might add, which was shortly to identify itself with the life's blood of the University of Detroit.⁷

Albert Henry Poetker was born January 4, 1887, in Cincinnati, Ohio, one of seven children of Henry and Catherine Steinkemp Poetker, whose ancestors had come to America from Germany in the 1830's. After completing his college course at St. Xavier's in Cincinnati, he entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Florissant, Missouri, in 1907. Further studies were done at St. Louis University where he received an M.A. in physics and philosophy in 1914. Then, after several years of study abroad, at Madrid and Barcelona in Spain, Valkenburg in Holland and Paray la

5. "Pater Noster," *Varsity News*, Wed., May 4, 1932.

6. *Detroit Free Press*, Thurs., April 28, 1932.

7. *Varsity News*, Wed., Feb. 24, 1932, 2.



Rev. Albert H. Poetker, S.J. (L) and Rev. Charles H. Cloud S.J., (R), Twelfth and Thirteenth Presidents of the University of Detroit.

Monial in France—years that also saw his ordination to the priesthood—he enrolled at Johns Hopkins University where he received his Doctor's degree in physics and mathematics in 1926. Prior to his studies abroad Mr. Poetker, S.J. had taught physics and geology, first at Campion College and then at St. Louis University. After his years at Johns Hopkins he spent four years at Marquette University as professor of physics. It was in the fall of 1931 that he came to Detroit.⁸ Father Poetker was an excellent physicist. He was a good teacher with a text-book that was well received. Moreover he was an exceptionally talented research scholar. While he was at Johns Hopkins he made significant contributions to atomic research. It was for his important developments in infra-red spectroscopy that he was particularly lauded by leading physicists at the time.⁹

8. Faculty Questionnaire, University of Detroit Archives, Poetker file, *Detroit Free Press*, May 7, 1960; *Detroit News*, May 6, 1960.

9. *Catholic Telegraph Register*, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 13, 1960.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE DEPRESSION

The prosperity of the "Roaring Twenties" convinced most Americans that they stood on the threshold of a "New Era." The radio and the automobile had ushered in pleasures hitherto unknown. Thousands of miles of roads were stretched across the country connecting expanding cities replete with new office buildings, department stores and theatres. The economy was expanding, employment was good and poverty was on the run—or so it seemed. Behind the scenes the farmer was still suffering from his World War expansion, the railroads were shaky, mine and textile workers were still feeling the pinch of poverty. Moreover, increasing imports and unprecedented gambling on the Stock Market, to say nothing of pyramiding holding companies with heads of gold and feet of clay, were threatening the body economic in a way that augured ill for the future. Still, the stock market crash of October 1929 caught America quite unawares. It was only a matter of weeks before unemployment was widespread. Banks began to close throughout the land; farmers lost their holdings; the average American frequently found himself digging into hard-earned savings and many eventually lost their very homes.

Needless to say the schools throughout the country were soon to be affected by the depression. The University of Detroit affords a typical example of this. Relying largely on tuition as a source of revenue the University found itself with 1200 fewer students in 1935 than in 1930. But a decrease was already seriously felt in September, 1931. The *Historia* informs us that, "when classes were resumed as usual, the number of students was found to be notably lower due to current financial difficulties."¹⁰ In an effort to increase its enrollment the University liberalized its attitude somewhat towards accepting co-eds. Women might now be given the Bachelor of Science degree in education and in social sciences. They were, however, to be encouraged to attend Marygrove or other Catholic women's colleges. But it was felt that the University could not close its doors to Sisters and lay women who insisted on coming.¹¹

Today private schools still rely heavily on gifts to meet running expenses, increase scholarship funds and similar academic needs, and to aid building programs. In 1929 such gifts to the University of Detroit, restricted and unrestricted, totalled \$66,959.66. By the following year

10. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, Sept. 1931. 148.

11. Minutes of Consultors, Sept. 11, 1935. It would take a few more years before the A. B. would be bestowed on women!

they had fallen to \$36,485.19. In 1933 unrestricted gifts amounted to only \$20,436.¹²

The Jesuit faculty were among the first to suffer. As in the early days of Detroit College, current university bills had to be paid first. There was not much left for the Jesuits after that. The fact that the University's bank account, somewhat over \$50,000, was impounded early in 1933 was a further blow, even though this was offset by the lay faculty members waving a portion of their salaries aggregating \$54,-722.41.¹³ The consultors of the house were called together in the midst of the depression to ascertain whether even further cuts might be made in living costs. At the same time the community was lauded for its "splendid cooperation" during the "hard times."¹⁴ Members were asked to keep windows closed in chapel, dining room and private rooms during the chilly fall days so that heat need not be turned on until *absolutely* necessary. Recently one of the Fathers told the writer how he studied in his room in his overcoat with two blankets wrapped around him. At the same time the bulbs in both ceiling light and desk lamp were too weak to be of much use. The Fathers had been advised to keep only one light on in a room at a time to keep down electric bills. They were also asked to watch the use of water.¹⁵ We are told that the Little Sisters of the Poor helped the community with food. Meanwhile the lay faculty were having similar problems. In an effort to preserve fuel and food a group of engineering faculty members and their families would meet at each other's houses on successive Sundays. In this manner only the house of the host had to be heated and one oven used. They also seem to have shared any bargains they got by way of food.

From the students' standpoint the depression was a mixed blessing since, if money was harder to come by, they did not need quite as much as formerly. Home owners, hotel proprietors and restaurateurs were compelled by the competition to cut their prices drastically, thereby bringing the cost of living and eating down to a level hitherto unknown in the vicinity of the McNichols campus. In 1933 a special Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings was advertised at the Peter Pan (a Livernois restaurant) for only seventy-five cents! Titan football ticket prices were reduced in 1931, making several thousand available at one dollar. High school students were admitted for fifty cents.¹⁶ In the fall of 1931 the

12. Report of Federal Master in Chancery William S. Sayres printed in *The Legal Record*, Thurs., July 23, 1926, 2, col. 2.

13. *Ibid.*, 2, col. 1.

14. Minutes of the Consultors, May 23, 1933.

15. *Ibid.*, Oct. 21, 1934.

16. *Varsity News*, Oct. 28, 1931.

Student Union featured a free dance while the Women's League charged but fifty cents. Tickets for the play *Wedding Bells* sold for thirty-five and fifty cents. Even tickets for the Frosh Frolick at the Masonic Temple, with two ball-rooms and two bands, sold for only \$1.50 a couple in 1933. It was an era of "No corsages, please."

In spite of lowered prices hundreds of students were in dire need. The treasurer's office was deluged with requests for loans and extensions of payments; deserving cases far exceeded the capacity of the office. The student employment bureau under the capable management of Frank Potts found itself severely hampered by the business standstill. Jobs for students were simply not available, at least not for all the thousand students who were in the bureau's files.¹⁷ Beginning with the Spring Term 1934 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration helped greatly in this matter. The FERA was a national program set up by the energetic Harry Hopkins, who had been brought to Washington in 1933 for that purpose. Its function was to aid 100,000 indigent young men and women acquire a higher education. It catered especially to new students entering college for the first time. According to its provisions certain allotments were made to individual institutions; these in turn paid wages to students who worked as library assistants, janitors, clerks, etc. At the University of Detroit students employed under the terms of the FERA were entitled to work forty-three hours per month with a maximum pay of \$15.00.¹⁸ This may not seem much by present-day standards but it enabled two hundred students to enroll at the University in September 1934 because, as a student editorial put it, "the United States government was kind to them."¹⁹ The FERA as an emergency measure was originally to last only until June 1934. Fortunately the Government continued the program and even expanded it into what came to be known as the National Youth Administration. The NYA also took care of young folks other than college students. Like its predecessor the NYA was a great source of help to the University of Detroit as well as to its students. University of Detroit Librarian Robert Kearns, S.J. recalls how he was first put to work in the Psychological Testing Clinic and later in the Library. "Fifty cents an hour wages," he says, "was a lot of money in those days." President Malcolm Carron, S. J. laughingly remarks that he "must not have been so smart since they gave me a broom and set me to sweeping the corridors in the Engineering Building for my fifty cents an hour."²⁰

17. *Ibid.*, Sept. 30, 1931.

18. *Ibid.*, Feb. 28, 1934.

19. *Ibid.*, Sept. 26, 1934, 2.

20. Interview with Fathers Kearns and Carron, Oct. 5, 1975.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COURTS

It will be recalled that by the fall of 1931 the University of Detroit began to face serious financial problems. It managed to pay interest on its loans up to September 1932 but had to borrow the money to do so. In March 1933, with the whole country in the throes of the national bank holiday (a bank closure), the University was compelled to default on its debt of some three and a half million dollars.²¹ Almost immediately the University endeavored to effect a reorganization with respect to its bonded and bank indebtedness.²² The plan of readjustment thus submitted met with the approval of the Public Trust Commission of the State of Michigan.²³ At the time an editorial in the *Detroit Free Press* congratulated the University on this approval and then continued:²⁴

This institution has been a part of the civic, educational and cultural life of Detroit for more than 70 years, and has among its alumni many of the leaders of our community.

Not supported by the taxpayers, as are the State schools, the U. of D. has had more than the usual difficulties of the depression. But with good business sense the Jesuit fathers have met their problems manfully. . . .

Under the brilliant leadership of Father McNichols the University

21. Roughly this amount was made up as follows: Series "A" (1925) Bonds \$1,500,000; Series "B" (1927) Bonds \$400,000; Series "C" (1931) Bonds used to defray cost of building University of Detroit High School \$600,000. By 1936 these still totalled \$2,229,000. Loans from the Guardian National Bank for purchasing a hospital site \$349,000. Borrowings from the First National Bank of Detroit \$587,960.62. Of this \$198,000 came from a loan made by the Athletic Association for building the stadium and later assumed by the University; \$47,720 was used for additions to the Engineering Building; \$130,000 used for additional expenses on the High School, etc. In addition to the above there were several smaller debts such as \$14,669.29 on dental equipment, \$9,000 owed to Loyola University, \$115,000 borrowed from the Chicago Province of the Jesuits, etc. (Report of Federal Master in Chancery William S. Sayres published in *The Legal Record*, Detroit, Michigan, Thurs., July 23, 1936, 1, col. 7).

22. Note. The story of the University's struggle in the courts is told in a vividly fascinating manner in the 36 page Sayres Report already alluded to. The report as presented to Judge Edward J. Moinet tells the story up to the final judgement in the latter's court October 19, 1936. Records of the court proceedings are to be found in the University of Detroit Archives under the title "Reorganization." The Detroit City News Media gave more than adequate coverage to the proceedings. For the sake of convenience quotations from the Sayres Report will be taken from *The Legal Record* reprint.

23. A. H. Poetker, S.J., as quoted in the *Varsity News*, Feb. 13, 1935.

24. *Detroit Free Press*, Editorial, Dec. 8, 1934.

of Detroit was forging ahead as one of the best Jesuit schools in the United States. It was with general civic pride that Detroiters saw the great new buildings go up, for the University has been more than a religious institution. Always more than half the student enrollment is made up of those not members of that faith.

The tragic death of Father McNichols made it necessary to find new leadership. This is now emerging. A fine old school is getting back on its feet.

Unfortunately, while the banks and most of the bondholders were willing to cooperate with the proposed plan for reorganization, a small minority refused to do so. It was at this juncture, and because of the opposition, that the University decided to avail itself of Section 77B of the Bankruptcy Act then recently passed by Congress as part of its New Deal legislation. The main purpose of the law was to prevent a minority group from blocking a reorganization plan, such as was presented by the University, in the face of approval by a majority of the creditors. The University's action meant appealing to the Federal Courts; in the event it was most fortunate that she did so. A letter from President Poetker to the bondholders dated July 1, 1935, makes this evident.²⁵ The letter explains why in the preceding February the University found it necessary "to petition a reorganization of its indebtedness under the jurisdiction of the Federal court." It tells how in the meantime the University continued to operate "under the jurisdiction of and accountable to the Federal Court." More important, the letter recalls how on November 15, 1934, a Plan of Readjustment was proposed to the Bondholders' Committee and approved by the Public Trust Commission. The admission is then made that, had the Plan been "declared effective," the University would have been forced into another default. Economic conditions had not improved and at the same time prices were rising. Hence, since the University cannot "in good faith" submit the plan of November 1934 to the Federal Court as it stands, a modified plan will be tended "broad enough to give the Bondholders the benefit of any improvement of conditions, and yet liberal enough to afford the necessary relief to the University and give assurance of probable accomplishment."

The petition for reorganization referred to in Father Poetker's letter was filed in the Federal Courts on February 12, 1935. Meanwhile the University was threatened with foreclosure when the minority group, holding coupons worth \$13,581.98 obtained judgements in the Circuit

25. President Poetker to the Holders of University of Detroit first mortgage five percent Gold Bonds, Series A, B, and C. July 1, 1935.

Court.²⁶ As Peter Monaghan, counsel for the University, pointed out: "If these creditors proceed to levy on their judgement they will receive priority consideration over the others and an equitable settlement of the total debt will not be possible."²⁷ The hearings in the Federal court began in February 1936 and lasted until May. A dramatic high point took place during the hearing on April 22 while Renville Wheat, attorney for the protesting bondholders, was cross-examining Father Poetker. Mr. Wheat had stated that his clients wanted to know whether or not the Society of Jesus would allow a group from outside the university, who would represent the creditors, to have veto powers over university expenditures. In reply Father Poetker indignantly pointed out that such vigilance was tantamount to saying that the administration was not to be trusted. It showed not only a lack of faith in the University but in its Jesuit administration "because it is a Jesuit administration." And if that were the case then there was no reason why the Jesuits should have any further connection with the University of Detroit since "that fundamental lack of faith . . . will continue to exist." At such a point it would be better for the Jesuits to withdraw and allow the group concerned to run the University.²⁸ Father Poetker further pointed out that "education is a professional activity and therefore it cannot be simply conducted with the idea of making profits." Indeed, education institutions are not supposed to show a profit and nobody expects them to. Furthermore, "any interference by outside control always carries with it a danger of destroying the quality of the educational service, and that kind of outside control is very severely criticized by educational associations and it has led in the past . . . to an unfavorable attitude regarding a university."²⁹ Finally Father Poetker pointed out that such management was contrary to the policy, the regulations, the practice and the method of both the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus. As he put it: "We have never simply become employes for a business concern."³⁰

Due to illness the Master in Chancery, William S. Sayres, did not get to file his report until July 20. However, the thirty-six page document was worth waiting for. It is a masterpiece of legal summation. Moreover, friends of the University of Detroit were delighted to find that the Master

26. *The Detroit Times*, Feb. 12, 1935.

27. *Ibid.*

28. Proceedings for the Reorganization of a Corporation #18585. April 22-24, 1936, 357. University of Detroit Archives. *Reorganization*. Court Proceedings, April 1936.

29. *Ibid.*, 359. For newspaper reports cf. *Detroit Times*, April 23, 1936; *Detroit News*, April 22, 1936, 1 and 2.

30. *Ibid.*, 360.

supported the amended plan of the University throughout. Nor could he find valid reasons for the objections of the minority group of bondholders. If we may cite a few pertinent parts here the report reads:

In conclusion, it is my opinion that: The plan is fair and equitable and does not discriminate unduly in favor of any class of creditors; The plan is feasible; The plan complies with the provisions of Section 77 B of the Bankruptcy Act as to its contents and the offer of the plan has been made in good faith. . . . Accordingly . . . I recommend that the proposed plan of reorganization be confirmed.³¹

Concerning the possibility of liquidation the Master states that, in his opinion, this should be avoided if possible. He says:³²

I do not believe that liquidation would realize for the bondholders more than 50¢ on the dollar, if that, and nothing could be realized for the creditors. Furthermore, while the fact that the Debtor is an educational corporation does not entitle it to special consideration in these proceedings, the reflection cannot be avoided that such an institution should be allowed to continue to serve the community if such a result can be accomplished consistently with the rights of the creditors. I feel very certain that liquidation would be disastrous to everyone concerned, and that a reorganization, promptly effected, is the best and most desirable solution to this problem.

Regarding the question of creditor control so vehemently rejected by Father Poetker the report states:³³

The objectors have said that the plan is unfair because it does not provide for creditor control of the debtor. Not only do I believe that such control of an educational institution would be ill advised, but I think, as a matter of fairness, that so long as the Jesuits contribute annually \$30,000 in cash and upwards of \$90,000 in services to the university and administer its affairs economically, they should have the right to control it. The evidence indicates that in fact the university has been operating along lines of strict economy. While an educational institution cannot curtail expenses to the same extent as might be possible in a business enterprise, there has been no evidence that in the operation of the debtor there has been any tendency to waste money in disregard of the right of creditors. While the cost of operation per student increased

31. Sayres Report, *loc. cit.*, 5.

32. *Ibid.*, 3.

33. *Ibid.*, 4.

from \$120.45 in 1930 to \$211.47 in 1935, this was due chiefly to the fact that approximately 1,200 less students were enrolled in 1935 than in 1930, while the university still had to maintain a staff with facilities which would have been sufficient for a much larger enrollment. On a comparative basis it appears that the educational cost per student was much lower than the average student cost in 17 other schools from whom figures were obtained.

The plan for refinancing was approved by Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet on Monday, October 19, 1936. In so doing Judge Moinet was most emphatic in stating his position. The *Detroit News* reported him as asking the claimants whether they realized that in eighty percent of similar cases before him the face value of the bonds were reduced some thirty percent, whereas in the case of the University of Detroit the bonds would remain at face value. Judge Moinet agreed with Master Sayres that liquidation was no solution since the institution would not bring much at a sheriff's sale. He then added: "They have a class of men out there who have sacrificed their lives, their earnings and their devotion to make the university a success. You don't find that situation in any other institutions that come before me under Section 77 (b). In fact, about the only interests most of the others sacrifice are the interests of their creditors." The Judge pronounced the plan "fair, just, and equitable to all parties."³⁴

Apparently the metropolitan news media agreed with the verdict of the courts. The *Free Press* called it "a happy solution of a difficult situation growing out of depression conditions." Their editorial continued: "The adjustments reached are fair and constructive. They take proper care of the interests of creditors, and they also insure continuance of the University as a vigorous, progressive center of learning . . ."³⁵

34. *Detroit News*, Oct. 19, 1936.

35. *Detroit Free Press*, "A Fine Achievement," July 22, 1936. In brief the new plan was to work as follows. Outstanding bonds would be exchanged for new bonds of equal value dated November 1, 1935, with a maturing date November 1, 1950. In place of interest due, the bondholders would receive 1% of the outstanding bonds plus coupons for 11% payable November 1, 1950. For the first four years the bonds would receive 1% interest after that 3% or, if funds were available in the sinking fund, up to 5%. The sinking fund will be gotten from 70% of all unrestricted gifts, etc. The rest of the plan deals with possible future expenditures, loans, etc. Moreover, it was stipulated that the bondholders might foreclose if the University defaulted anew. The matter of Bank indebtedness was handled in a similar fashion except that after the four years the interest was to be 2% instead of 3%, but might be extended to 3% depending on funds available in the sinking fund. The sinking fund would be garnered from 30% of the net operational earnings of the University and 30% of unrestricted donations, etc. For further details cf. Sayres Report, *loc. cit.*, 3.

A later editorial called the University "a valuable school with high standards and a great history." It considered it "a matter for gratification that the school is to continue under the full control of the Jesuit Order which founded it, built it up, and made it one of the outstanding centers of learning in the country, giving its best without financial reward or desire for profit. Any other arrangement . . . would have been unjust. . . ." ³⁶ The *Detroit News* felt that the solution would "enable the university to go forward with assurance, maintaining the creditable place it has gained among worthy educational institutions of the country." ³⁷

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE NORTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

In the midst of its financial problems, and largely because of them, the University suffered still another setback. It was dropped temporarily by the North Central Association from its membership. In so doing the NCA cited three grounds for its action: the athletic situation, academic standards and finances. From our position today we find the proceedings somewhat puzzling. Apparently so did President Poetker who unsuccessfully appealed to the NCA executive committee for reconsideration. With a view to informing the public as to the University's position in the matter, and at the same time to clear up possible doubts in the minds of the students, Father Poetker gave a statement to the press in April 1934. It will be worthwhile to give it here in summary form. ³⁸

Father Poetker pointed out that, regarding the athletic situation, the report of the inspectors actually commended the University for the progress it had made, and then stated that the athletic situation could be "considered acceptable." If the report of the inspectors, from which the action was supposed to have stemmed, meant anything, "the athletic situation should in fairness have been deleted in citing the cause of action." Regarding academic standards the report stated that, in the College of Arts and Sciences, there was evidence of occasional lenience in its admissions. Yet, as the President pointed out, the previous September 57 were rejected and 159 admitted. This was better than one out of every four applicants being eliminated. The report further said that too many high grades and not enough failures were given by some departments, a type of generosity calculated to lessen the efficiency of instruction and damage the tone of the institution. "The other complaints," said Father Poetker, "are even less serious or less well founded." He then stated that the financial standard gave "the

36. *Ibid.*, "U. of D. Squared Away," Oct. 21, 1936.

37. *Detroit News*, "U. of D. Saved," July 22, 1936.

38. *Detroit News*, April 23, 1934, has practically the whole of the statement intact. So, too, the *Varsity News*, April 25, 1934, 2.

only intelligible cause for dropping the University." He added that every effort was being made to remedy the financial situation "which was the main cause of the unfavorable action of the Association."

Father Poetker concluded his message to the press by stating how unfortunate it was that the Association should have taken "such extreme action with so little ground for complaint." At the same time he felt that it would be far more unfortunate if the reputation of the University, won by over fifty years of "academic excellence in city and state," should be seriously affected by the action of the Association. He was confident that the righting of the financial problems would render reinstatement of the University the following year "easy of accomplishment."

University officials immediately set about getting ready for the next tour of inspection. A three-page letter from Arthur J. Klein of Ohio State University's Department of Education seems to indicate that the University had not formulated its specific objectives with clarity sufficient to be intelligible to lay professors, especially those of other faiths, though they might be fully known by the Jesuits. Dr. Klein pointed out how very important such a declaration was to the examiners who judged a school in the light of its defined purpose.³⁹ At any rate the University seems to have gotten its affairs in order because, after an even more rigorous scrutiny than that leading to its expulsion, the University was reinstated in mid-April 1935. Moreover the report of the examiners was quite laudatory in many instances. The one remaining doubt in their minds concerned the debt of the University.⁴⁰ It was with a great sigh of relief that Father Poetker telegraphed the University of Detroit from Chicago: "Accreditation of the U. of D. announced today. Rating on administration, faculty, plant and athletics well above average. Commended on library, instruction, graduate work."⁴¹ The readmission was for a four year period, which was unusual, since normally such reinstatement was granted for one or two years only pending reexamination.

THE END OF AN ERA: THE DEATH OF FATHER McCLOREY

The depression years were to witness a series of deaths of dear members of the University of Detroit family, a series that began with Father

39. Arthur J. Klein to Albert H. Poetker, S.J., Oct. 29, 1934. University of Detroit Archives, NCA Files 1935.

40. Survey of the University of Detroit for the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, March 1935. University of Detroit Archives, NCA Files 1935.

41. Telegram of Fr. Poetker to U. of D. quoted in unidentified newspaper clipping in University of Detroit Archives, NCA Files 1935.

McCloy and culminated in the death of Bishop Gallagher in January 1937. Father McCloy's passing away was not a sudden affair. He had been in ill health for over two years. The wonder was that he lived as long as he did. The Lenten Season 1932 found him delivering a series of six sermons on "The Drama of Salvation." The following October he began a series of radio talks on Shakespeare. On October 3, for example, he considered Shakespeare's treatment of the praeternatural world of spirits and fairies as seen in *Midsummer Night's Dream*. In the midst of these lectures he was called upon by Father Provincial (Cloud) to give some priests' retreats. The breakdown came in December that same year while giving a course of talks in Louisville. Father McCloy was brought back to Detroit where he gradually recuperated. However, his was not the same strong physique he once enjoyed. He went to his reward on July 28, 1935.

Great as were some of his predecessors, Father McCloy was the most famed and at the same time the most accomplished orator to stand in the pulpit of SS. Peter and Paul's. His oratorical career beginning about 1917 was, within a few years, to achieve national recognition. In the Lent of 1923 some sixteen hundred people crowded into the college church to hear his famed "Brazen Serpent" series. About six thousand heard him repeat his talks on Tuesdays at the Arcadia Auditorium. Moreover, it is estimated that from one to two thousand were turned away! Father McCloy was accompanied by a choir of sixty men and boys under Father McGear and Professor Zittel.⁴² An example of how popular he had become may be gathered from the fact that in 1924 he preached his "Unknown God" sermons one night in Detroit, then in Chicago and later in the week in New York. In 1929 he was first in the pulpit at SS. Peter and Paul's in Detroit and then at the Arcadia; next he travelled to New York where he delivered his sermon in St. Patrick's Cathedral. He then went to Gesu in Milwaukee and ended the week at St. Xavier's in Cincinnati.⁴³ Meeting such demands can there be any wonder that he ultimately suffered a heart attack?

Father McCloy was not content with delivering sermons, lectures or radio talks from an outline. He was a perfectionist throughout. Each word, sentence, phrase and paragraph was carefully worked out in writing, tested and then rewritten. Nine volumes of his sermons came to be published in this manner. In the matter of his delivery he was also most careful. The well-known Professor Koehler, coach of Booth and Barret, a once-famous Shakespeare Repertory Company, was then at

42. *Memoranda*, XVI, Mar. 1923.

43. Burns, *Glory of SS. Peter and Paul's*, 59.

the University. To him Father McClorey went for advice and coaching.⁴⁴ It should also be noted that, while all this activity was going on, Father McClorey still remained a popular professor of philosophy at the University, certainly down to 1926 if not later.⁴⁵

At the time of his death the newspapers were most generous in their eulogies of this great orator. Tributes of praise came to the University from around the country. The *Detroit Times* printed the statements of several prominent Detroiters. We quote a few of these here in part. Thus Dr. Leo M. Franklin of Temple Beth-El said that in Father McClorey's death the clergy of Detroit were losing "a brilliant thinker and a man whose sympathies were very broad. He was not only a great scholar and facile writer but he had rare oratorical gifts which immediately gave to all his witnesses an immediate forcefulness of appeal." Dr. Franklin added that the Father and he "were able to work together on many projects of mutual interest and community significance." John C. Lodge, councilman and former mayor of Detroit, after mentioning the great loss the city suffered in his passing, added that "he was a wonderful man with a great mind, a splendid gentleman and one of the most delightful conversationalists" he had ever encountered. "Father McClorey was a man among men," he said, "and I personally feel his loss deeply."⁴⁶

In November 1935, while on his way from St. Louis to Detroit to take part in a celebration at SS. Peter and Paul's Father Patrick Burke was killed in an automobile accident. He had been pastor of that Jesuit church from 1911 to 1926 and was universally respected and loved by the people of Detroit, Protestants and Catholics alike, for his Christ-like charity.⁴⁷ A year later on Saturday, October 17, 1936, Mrs. Margaret Fisher, mother of seven remarkable sons and three daughters, was buried from the Gesu Church. The newly erected altars stood as silent witnesses to her faith and generosity while a remarkable funeral oration was pronounced by Father Poetker.⁴⁸ The following Monday witnessed the passing to his reward of Mr. John Dinan who, together with his brother Michael, had been so very loyal to the University of Detroit in its early years. John, an alumnus of the school, had been generous not only with his benefactions described earlier, but also unsparing of his

44. Letter from Mrs. Pearl Knight Quermbach a student at the University at the time.

45. Interview with Fathers Norbert Huetter, S.J. and Gilbert Krupitzer, S.J., who were students of Fr. McClorey in 1925-1926.

46. *Detroit Times*, July 29, 1935.

47. Burns, *The Glory of Saints Peter and Paul's*, 61.

48. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, I, No. 2, Nov. 1936, 23.

time and experience wherever and whenever he could be of service to his Alma Mater.⁴⁹

With the death of Bishop Michael J. Gallagher on January 20, 1937, the University of Detroit lost another good friend. From his first coming to Detroit from Grand Rapids, and even before, he had been most friendly and warm to the Detroit Jesuits. As bishop he was ever ready to participate in a University function, whether it was to bless a chapel, help lay a cornerstone for a new building, take part in a ground-breaking ceremony, or assist in a special church celebration. From his sermons and remarks to the public on such occasions we know that the University played an important part for him in the spiritual and cultural life of his diocese. The students admired Bishop Gallagher "as a stalwart defender of American ideals and traditions." And it was because they recognized "those qualities of intrepid adherence to the principles of the constitution, of firm purpose in the purusance of duty, of zeal in spreading enlightenment, and of paternal solicitude for the people, which are attributes of the true leader of men," that they dedicated the 1936 *Tower* to him.⁵⁰

49. *Ibid.* Michael Dinan died after a short illness February 20, 1941. *Ibid.* April 1941, 53.

50. *The Tower*, 1936, "Dedication".

CHAPTER XI

THE DEPRESSION YEARS: CONTINUED PROGRESS

GRADUATE STUDIES AND DENTAL SCHOOL

From the preceding chapter one might conclude that all was red-inked disquiet and gloom on the University of Detroit campus during the years of the great depression. But stagnating frustration did not prevail. Though there was a great deal of hardship for students and faculty alike, life at the University seems to have gone along and advanced on many fronts. Indeed on paging through the *Varsity News* one cannot but wonder that there was such steady growth in the academic life of the University as well as in student activities. It is important that we sketch in brief some of this progress.

Beginning with the year 1885, graduate degrees were conferred by the University from time to time. In the earlier years the work required for such a degree was somewhat difficult to determine. Seemingly one could get his Master's degree if he were engaged in scholarly endeavor, for example, teaching or newspaper writing, for a two-year period after receiving his A.B. Or he might do another year of "philosophy" at the college.¹ In 1920 the Committee on Studies for the Missouri Province of the Society of Jesus sent out a report which resulted in a number of regulations pertaining to graduate studies at the University of Detroit.² These are listed in the 1921-1922 Bulletin of the College of Arts and Sciences. Henceforth, the M.A. or M.S. candidate must have had the A.B. degree from an institution of good standing. He must devote one year exclusively to resident graduate study and complete twenty-four semester hours. Two years were to be required if the candidate did not devote his full time to study. The new curriculum also provided for what we now call majors and minors. Concentrated work was to

1. Cf. above, Chapter III, 15-16.

2. *Report of the Committee on the Course of Studies*, St. Louis, Missouri, June 1920, 56-58. A copy of the *Report* is bound in the front of the *University of Detroit Bulletin*, Arts and Sciences, 1920-1921.

be done in such subjects as Philosophy, History, Economics, Law, Classics, English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology. At the conclusion of his studies the candidate had to pass a satisfactory examination in all subjects studied and present a typewritten or printed thesis in his major subject.³

Graduate studies at the University of Detroit were enhanced greatly with the opening of late afternoon and Saturday courses in the fall semester of 1925. When the college moved uptown in 1927 the Saturday classes continued, though the late afternoon classes were temporarily abandoned. The spring of 1928 saw a new classification of elementary, advanced and graduate courses. Henceforth, of the twenty-four hours required in addition to the thesis, at least twelve had to be purely graduate. The remainder could be such as were given to advanced undergraduates. Course numbers below one hundred would no longer be counted towards a master's degree. At the same time it was decreed that a graduate student must achieve eighty-five percent or better in examinations taken in all subjects studied. Moreover, jurisdiction over graduate students was, henceforth, to be invested in a Graduate Committee.⁴ Late afternoon classes were resumed at the urgent request of a number of Detroit educators.

When Joseph C. Flynn, S. J., became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1931, organization of the graduate studies program continued. While remaining a part of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate Committee, now become the Graduate Council, was placed in direct charge of graduate students and courses pertaining to them. In September of the following year a further step was taken when all graduate functions were placed under the Graduate Council. Paul D. Sullivan, S. J., chairman of the Graduate Council, was in charge of the new "Graduate Division" as it came to be styled. Though the University of Detroit was not to have a full-fledged Graduate School until 1950, the Graduate Division became a separate school directly responsible to the Council of Deans and Regents.⁵

Although the University of Detroit could have granted the doctor's degree on the basis of its charter, it never did so except *honoris causa* or in its professional schools. When the question came up in a consultants'

3. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1919-1921, "Arts and Sciences 1921-1922," 13.

4. *Ibid.*, 1928-1930, "College of Arts and Sciences Summer School 1929," 6.

5. Organization Chart, University of Detroit, Board of Trustees, Dec. 7, 1929-Oct. 25, 1955. *The Tower* for 1933 is accurate as it presents much of the above material; it is also correct in labelling the Graduate Division a "distinct school" of the University of Detroit.

meeting in September 1935 as to whether the Ph.D. degree in Education should be given to four or five students who had taken advanced courses after the Master's degree, it was determined that the University was not yet prepared to award Ph.D. degrees. Rather, the applicants should endeavor to transfer their credits to institutions "who confer the doctorate degree regularly."⁶

As we learned earlier, in the mid-twenties, when business and industry were still healthy, President McNichols had envisioned a medical center on the uptown campus that would embrace a medical and dental school coordinated with a hospital unit.⁷ When the depression hit the nation at the end of the decade this and other projects had to be abandoned. However, in July 1931, William E. Cummer, D.D.S., F.A.C.D. (University of Toronto), was appointed Dean and began to develop tentative plans for a Dental School.⁸ The death of Father McNichols in the spring of 1932 put a temporary halt even to this action. However, that same summer there came to the University as Executive Dean one of the most capable and far-sighted officers in the history of the institution, the Reverend Frederic Siedenburg, S.J. As Dean at Loyola University for twenty years Father Siedenburg was well acquainted with the Dental School there. After surveying the situation in Detroit he concluded that, depression or no depression, the dental part of the medical concept was feasible. At the time there was no dental school or dental clinic in Detroit. Both were needed.

On July 12, 1932, the President and Trustees of the University authorized the initiation of the dental school on a modest scale and for the first year only.⁹ On July 15 an official public announcement was made regarding the opening of a "course in the Science and Practice of Dentistry" to begin Wednesday, September 21, 1932. Outstanding dentists and physicians in the Detroit area were optimistic about the plan when consulted. Dr. M. Webster Prince, President of the Detroit District Dental Association, referred to the establishment of the school as a "distinct contribution to this community."¹⁰ Under the able direction of Dean Cummer and Doctors Alfred Nelson and Raymond Andries the school soon began to take shape. In conformity with the practice

6. Minutes of the Consultors 1920-1938, Sept. 11, 1935.

7. The first mention of a Dental School is made in the minutes of the Consultors Nov. 25, 1923. They read as follows: "Fr. Rector proposed some ideas about a Dental school—and gave the present status; left as matter for reflection and discussion; nothing done." The question was again taken up by the Consultors on Feb. 16, 1924.

8. University of Detroit Archives, Dental School Files, early correspondence.

9. *The Tower*, 1933, 66.

10. *Detroit Free Press*, July 15, 1932, 5.

of the best dental schools in the country, the course as planned by the Dental Educational Commission of the Carnegie Foundation was to take three years, presupposing two years of college pre-dental studies. Women students were accepted. In the first year of the program only pre-Juniors were to be taken; in the second, pre-Juniors and Juniors; the third year would admit pre-Juniors, Juniors and Seniors, with the first graduation envisioned for June 1935.¹¹ About the time of this graduation the University announced the adoption of a four-year course in dentistry effective in September 1935. It was the first school of dentistry in the State to do so.

The faculty that first semester was strongly competent with Dr. Nelson, D.D.S., at the head of Dental Anatomy and Dr. Andries, M.D., at the head of Gross Anatomy. Together with Dean Cummer they were assisted by ten Doctors of Dental Surgery, five University faculty members from Arts and Sciences and two from Engineering.¹² Dr. Raymond L. Girardot, D.D.S., was appointed Vice-Dean to Dr. Cummer. We are told that cooperation was generously given from all sides and that many doctors volunteered their services. Fortunately, there was no lack of space. Across from Dowling Hall, Dinan Hall, which had housed the Engineering School up to 1927, was still comparatively new and readily adaptable. Three chemistry laboratories were remodeled. For Gross Anatomy the students had to visit the new Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery. The old "Engineering Pit" was soon to be converted into a more-than-adequate Main Clinic. When the new college opened its doors on September 21, 1932, there were forty-three regular and three part-time students in attendance.¹³ The basic tuition was \$200.00 for the year, plus fees which came to another hundred dollars.

By the end of the first year the Dental Library, under the supervision of Dean Cummer and Rev. Edward Bergin, S.J., had acquired over seven hundred volumes. These included a goodly number of bound and unbound periodicals; six of these sets dated from the first issue. Some thirty-two periodicals were subscribed to, eleven coming from foreign countries. The library also contained over a thousand lantern slides as well as six hundred microscopic slides together with the necessary equipment for their projection.¹⁴ Dr. Cummer was personally responsible for the wealth of apparatus in the new school, much of which he brought with him from Toronto. Through him new equipment was also purchased

11. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1932-1933, "School of Dentistry, July 12, 1932," 6.

12. *Ibid.*, 4 and 5.

13. Mary Virginia Burns, Interview with Dean Rochon, *University of Detroit School of Dentistry 1932-1957* (Detroit 1957), 8-9; *The Historia* says "circiter quinquaginta discipulis" (about fifty students), 154.

14. *The Tower*, 1933, 70.

by the University and the rest was made up of gifts from friends, some of these coming from such distant places as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco. The result was that the dental laboratory soon came to be "one of the most complete and modernly equipped in the country."¹⁵

The 1935 edition of *The Tower* lists forty-seven pre-Juniors, forty-two Juniors and forty-three graduating Seniors in the Dental School.¹⁶ Of the latter, twelve received their D.D.S. degrees at a special convocation the following November 6. It was on this occasion that the graduating class dedicated a large painting of St. Appolonia, patron saint of dentists. It was the work of Efty Kyprie, a Detroit artist, and it hung in the Dental Library for many years.¹⁷

When the Dental Clinic opened its doors in mid-winter 1933-1934 it was regarded as one of the finest in the country. It was located on the ground floor of Dinan Hall and had fifty-seven chairs. Each student was assigned his own chair and dental unit with accessories identical to those used in the most modern of dental offices. The reception room, examination room, surgical department, porcelain and prosthetic laboratories and rest rooms were similarly well done. A special children's clinic was set up on the second floor of Dinan Hall complete with eleven chairs and a separate reception room. The chairs and furniture of the reception room were especially designed for children's service and comfort. All of the above facilities and equipment, including sterilizing stations and X-ray machines, were new and of the finest type. The Orthodontia Clinic was directly connected with the Children's Clinic and had the service of a full-time Orthodontist. A separate Denture Clinic with twelve chairs, waiting room, etc., occupied half of the fourth floor of Dinan Hall. It, too, was very modern. The Diagnostic Room had three up-to-date diagnostic units, and for surgical operations there was a large room, together with two small rooms and a retiring room, all connected with the main clinic. Doctor A. Alfred Nelson was placed in charge of the new Clinic, which was open daily from two to five o'clock in the afternoon.¹⁸

FURTHER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

On Tuesday, October 26, 1937, Father Poetker was delighted to announce that the College of Engineering of the University of Detroit had received the highest accreditation possible for an engineering school,

15. *Varsity News*, Sept. 28, 1932; Oct. 5, 1932.

16. *The Tower*, 1935, 36ff.

17. *Varsity News*, Nov. 13, 1935, 4.

18. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1933-1934, School of Dentistry, 10; *Varsity News*, Jan. 17, 1934; Mar. 6, 1935, 1 and 4; *Detroit News*, Jan. 12, 1934.



The School of Engineering.

that of the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. At the time it was the only school in the Detroit Metropolitan Area so to be recognized. In March the College had been visited by a team of six inspectors who made a thorough study of faculty, curricula, student body and physical plant. Full accreditation meant that each curriculum in the school had to be approved in turn by the examiners, by a regional committee of the Council, by the National Council and, in some cases, by special authorities. University of Detroit administrators and Engineering faculty were happy and proud of the fact that all of its departments were fully accredited in this manner—aeronautical, architectural, civil, electrical and mechanical.¹⁹

In the fall of 1940 Tau Beta Pi, the leading national engineering society, held its convention at Lexington, Kentucky. It was here that the University of Detroit School of Engineering was admitted to its ranks and granted a chapter membership. This was considered an outstanding honor since it meant that one of the strongest professional societies in the world

19. *Varsity News*, Oct. 27, 1937.

considered the College of Engineering to be a first-rank school. The Association had been started at Lehigh University in 1885 and by 1940 numbered sixty-nine chapters in the United States. The engineers were grateful to Mr. J. W. Parker, Vice-President and Chief Engineer of the Detroit Edison Company, who, together with other Michigan delegates, backed the University of Detroit petition for membership.²⁰

The Engineering School was most fortunate in this pre-World War II period in having the services of a group of fine gentlemen who were noteworthy not only for their scholarship and learning but for their interest in and loyalty to the University as a whole. We might single out here such stalwarts as Professors Peter Altman, Bert and Robert Blakeslee, Charles Duncombe, Jasper Gerardi, T. C. Hanson, George Higgins, Clair Johnston, Francis Linsenmeyer, Herman Mayrose, C. J. Pajot, Kenneth Smith, Ralph Tapy, John Uicker and Harry Warner. Finally there were the Reverend George Shiple, S. J., Regent of the Engineering School and Clement J. Freund, who had come to the University of Detroit as the newly appointed Dean of Engineering in the summer of 1932. Dean Freund, replacing Russell Lawrence (who went on to form Lawrence Institute of Technology), had received his Bachelor of Arts degree from old Campion College in 1916 and his Master's in Engineering from Marquette University in 1922. For a while he had been instructor at the University of Wisconsin. From 1926 to his coming to Detroit he was in charge of apprenticeship, education and personnel of Falk Corporation in Milwaukee. Meanwhile, he had written numerous articles for such nationally known periodicals as *Mechanical Engineering*, *Forbes*, *America*, *Iron Age*, *Industrial Digest*, *Columbia*, *Thought*, *Harper's*, *American Machinist* and others. Moreover, he had given many and diverse lectures throughout the midwestern and eastern States.²¹

Dean Freund and his colleagues realized fully the value of the School of Engineering's location at the hub of the most dynamic automotive center in the world. Through personal contact with leading engineers and scientists throughout Metropolitan Detroit and, indeed, throughout the nation, they early came to know what was to be expected of their students. They were able to set their students to work at live problems while still in their formative years. The fact, too, that the students, through the cooperative system, had firsthand information on such duties and problems was a further source of invaluable knowledge and experience. Because of all this one need not wonder that the merit of the University's formula of engineering education should constantly have

20. *Varsity News*, Oct. 9, 1940.

21. *Ibid.*, May 18, 1932.

been shown both by the success which its undergraduates enjoyed in competition with students in state and sectional contests, as well as by the success achieved by so high a percentage of its graduates in their engineering careers.²²

Within a few years of its inception the School of Aeronautics was to attain a national reputation as one of the outstanding schools of the country. In 1929 this branch of the College took second place in the Grover Loening Intercollegiate Competition, earning a spot between Harvard and Yale. In 1930 the school again finished second and in 1931 it was third. For three consecutive years the University of Detroit students placed first in competition with engineering students of southern Michigan in an annual undergraduate thesis contest sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers. In 1933 a Detroit student took first prize while competing with students of the fourteen engineering colleges of the Midwest, thereby winning the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Award.²³ Similarly University of Detroit student engineers were outstanding in the annual competition in engineering drawing and descriptive geometry conducted by the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. In 1937, while no other institution got more than one award in the nine divisions of competition, Stanley Siggs, Henry Gieyrn and Leo Skowron teamed up to take five places, resulting in the University's being awarded the highest rating in engineering drawing among colleges in the United States and Canada.²⁴ When Michael Sharoff, Kenneth Frey, William Lenneman and Robert Pocock took three firsts and a third in the same contest in 1939, thereby outplacing fifty-five colleges, they boosted the University's record to five "firsts" for five consecutive years.²⁵

On the north side of the second floor corridor of the Engineering Building hangs a plaque with the names of Detroit students who won the Charles T. Main American Society of Mechanical Engineers Award over the years. This is a national award involving a stipend plus a trip to the A.S.M.E. national convention. There is only one such prize given each year. Until recent years at least, no school had won it as often as the University of Detroit. Names on the plaque are Edward W. Connolly, 1938; John J. Balun, 1941; Mitchell C. Kazen, 1943; Fred M. Piaskowski, 1944; Victor S. Rykwaldler, 1946; Stanley M. Kovacheff, 1949; Richard T. Johnson, 1950; Marion J. Balcerzak, 1956. To John Uicker, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and a remarkable student

22. *The Jesuit Bulletin*, Nov. 1934, XIII No. 7, 5.

23. *Ibid.*

24. *Varsity News*, Sept. 29, 1937.

25. *Ibid.*, Sept. 28, 1939.

advisor, goes much of the credit for these awards since it was he who was always ready to inspire students to compete for this prize.²⁶

An entry in the *Historia* dated October 5, 1930, informs us that "classes have been begun for the purpose of instructing foremen in the factories of this city. Those who wish to advance themselves in the learning necessary for their profession come three evenings a week."²⁷ The three-year course of studies was enthusiastically received by the foremen. At the end of the three-year period they were to be given a certificate showing that they had successfully completed the work assigned. Subjects to be taken included algebra, English, plane geometry, drawing, physics, trigonometry and industrial organization. Moreover, any course within the range of the College of Engineering would be offered if there was sufficient demand. The normal fee was five dollars per subject. By September 1931 there were already 850 men registered for the "Foremen's Night Course."²⁸ In the spring of 1931 the Foremen started the University of Detroit Dynamics Club, a live-wire organization that typified the spirit of the men. It was most unfortunate that this valuable service to the community had to be relinquished after a few years. At the time the Dean and Faculty of the Engineering College were striving to set up a strong professional program. The Foremen's program was dropped, not because it was necessarily sub-professional, but because it was proving to be a severe strain on the regular faculty, who had to spend two or three nights a week on campus in addition to their regular teaching assignments and their research.²⁹

During the years of the depression and immediately after, the enrollment at the University of Detroit Law School reflected the falling enrollment in most American law schools. Still, the number averaged about 150. Meanwhile the school had been steadily improving due, it would seem, to the farsighted insistence of President McNichols. Prior to 1922 a student could be admitted to the University of Detroit Law School if he had a high school diploma. In 1922 he needed an additional year of college education and, after 1923, two years. Actually, in the years right before Pearl Harbor about a third of the students would have had a bachelor's degree and another third at least three years of college pre-law work.³⁰ When the School of Engineering moved uptown in 1927

26. Interview with Professor Kenneth Smith, Mechanical Engineering, Oct. 27, 1975.

27. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, Oct. 5, 1930, 146.

28. *Varsity News*, Sept. 30, 1931; Sept. 28, 1932.

29. Interview with Dean Clement Freund, Oct. 29, 1975.

30. William Kelly Joyce and Daniel J. McKenna, *The University of Detroit School of Law* (Detroit, c.1947), 5 and 6.

the Law School took over Dinan Hall, thereby greatly increasing available space. Meanwhile its library had increased from an initial eight thousand volumes to approximately 18,000 by 1935. Though the *Law Journal*, as it came to be called in 1931, had to suspend publication in 1933 because of the financial crisis, its publication was again resumed in 1939.³¹

In the mid-thirties the School of Law achieved the goal towards which Father McNichols had been so earnestly striving. In 1933 it was placed on the approved list of the American Bar Association. It is noteworthy that, since its inception in 1912, over ninety percent of its graduates had passed the bar examinations successfully.³² In 1934 the school was elected to membership in the Association of American Law Schools as a fully accredited institution. Actually this was a great honor when one considers that, at the time, there were only eighty schools to be so accredited. In Michigan, for example, the University of Michigan was the only other member of the Association. And in Ohio only three schools were thus accredited out of thirteen offering law degrees. This action on the part of the Association of American Law Schools placed the University of Detroit Law School among the leading law colleges in the nation.³³

While the Evening College of Commerce and Finance on the Jefferson Campus continued to render outstanding service to the Detroit community, the Day College was making great progress on the McNichols Campus. Started in 1922, Day Commerce was moved uptown in 1927 where it was to enjoy its own building. By 1934 it was considered to be "one of the few of its kind in the country." Moreover, it was the only one of its type in the State of Michigan to be registered by the Board of Regents of the University of New York.³⁴ At this date all courses in the College were to last four years and all of them led to the bachelor's degree in one of the following: accounting, economics, finance, foreign trade, journalism, or marketing.³⁵ Although accredited by the North Central Association, the school would have to wait a few more years for its much-coveted membership in the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business.³⁶

31. *Ibid.*, 7.

32. *Jesuit Bulletin*, Nov. 1934, XIII, No. 7, 5.

33. *Varsity News*, Jan. 16, 1935; Joyce and McKenna, 7.

34. *Jesuit Bulletin*, Nov. 1934, XIII, No. 7, 5.

35. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1934-1935, Commerce and Finance, 9-28.

36. Note. The 1950-1951 *Bulletin* lists the School as a provisional associate member of the Association. Full membership came two years later.

ATHLETICS TO WORLD WAR II: THE DORAIS ERA

“Charles E. Dorais, director of athletics, University of Detroit, is an excellent teacher of football. And to teach football, chemistry, economics, mathematics, history, Latin, or any other subject worth teaching, one must know his subject and have the ability to impart it to others. A coach is no more and no less than a teacher. Dorais qualifies.” So wrote Stanley Brink of the *Detroit Free Press* in December 1925 at the end of Dorais’ first season at the University of Detroit.³⁷ That he qualified was amply proven during his eighteen years as Athletic Director and Coach of Football at the University. “Gus” Dorais had played football at Notre Dame from 1910 to 1913, where he became famous for his passing skills with Knute Rockne as his receiver. As coach at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, he had had a fine record, so that, when the Detroit authorities were searching for a man to take charge of the athletic program, they could think of none better to fill the position. Under Dorais’ guidance the University greatly expanded its athletic program. His football teams had the enviable record of 113 games won, 48 lost and 7 tied. Ten of the games lost came in his first two years before the men really grew to know his system.³⁸

This is not the place to tell the complete story of Dorais’ teams down to the time that he became coach of the Detroit Lions when the University gave up football during World War II. Mention might be made though of a few highlights, particularly of the 1928 team which was probably Dorais’ greatest. That year Detroit went undefeated, counting victories over De Paul, Tulsa, Louisville, Loyola of New Orleans, Dayton, St. Louis, Michigan State, Fordham and Georgetown. A total of 267 points were scored with only 27 for the opposition. As H. G. Salsinger of the *Detroit News* remarked: “Whether the 1928 team was the best in the United States is open to argument. Due to the schedule the team was denied the opportunity to prove its full strength and ability. . . . It would have been a fine thing for football if the University of Detroit had been able to meet the pick of the major elevens. . . . We would have full confidence in the outcome of such meetings. . . . In Vachon, Connell, Maloney and Brazil the University of Detroit had the best balanced backfield we have ever seen. . . . Goodnow and Phelan were probably the best pair of ends of 1928. . . . Between the ends the team was strongly equipped. Ruhlin and O’Halloran at guard, Long and Ryan at tackle and Lardner at center. . . . Each man was an unusual

37. Stanley L. Brink, “Dorais a Teacher of Football,” *Varsity News Magazine*, Dec. 1925, 17.

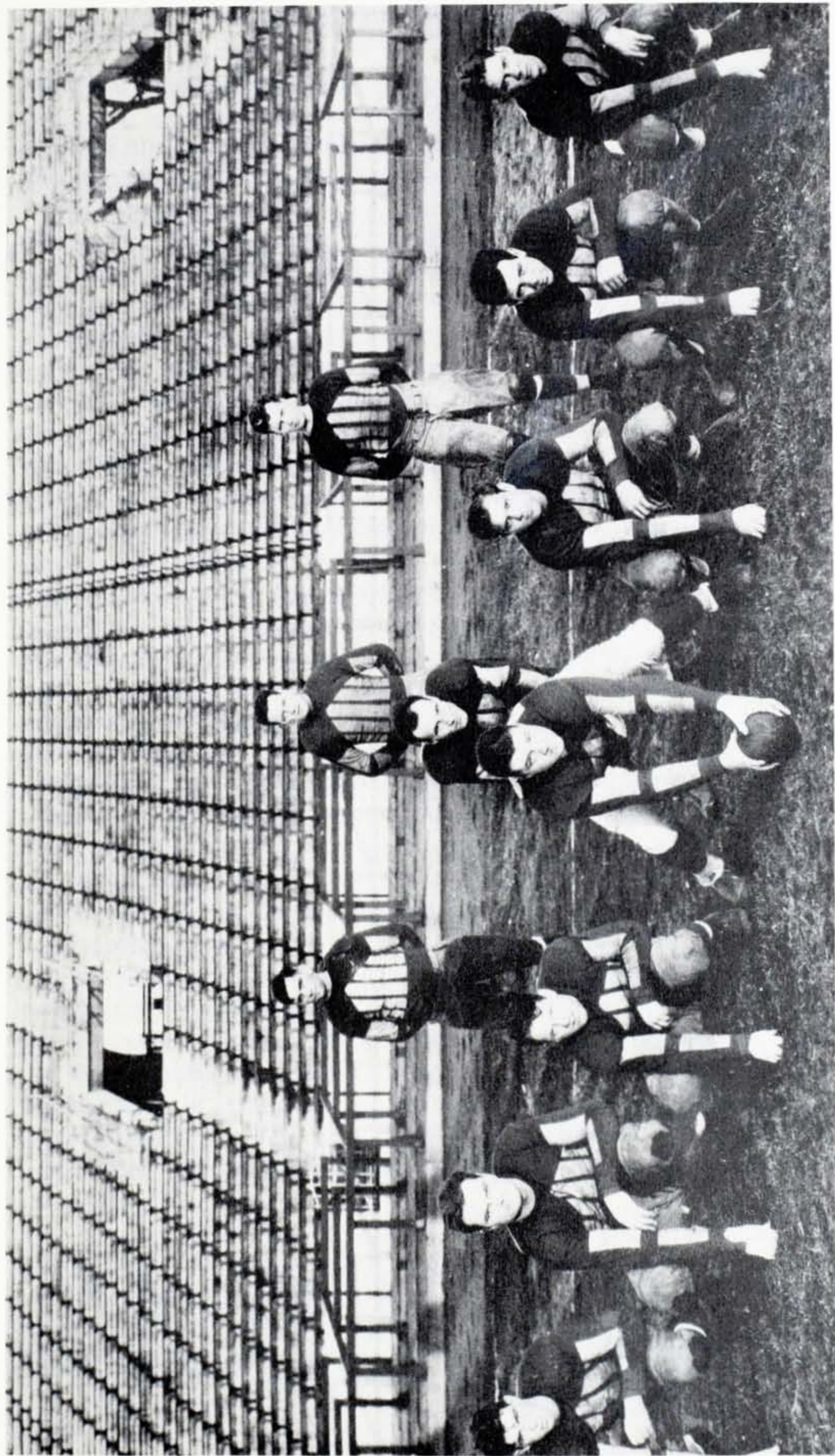
38. *University of Detroit Football Programs*, 1945-1946, Sept. 28, 1945, 36.



Charles E. "Gus" Dorais led the Titans to a 113-48-7 record.

forward."³⁹ At the conclusion of the 1928 season Lloyd Brazil was placed on Grantland Rice's first All-American team, on Red Grange's second team and on the United Press third team. At the time of this

39. H. G. Salsinger, "Tribute to the Titans," *The Tower*, 1929, 256. Note: The Freshman team was also undefeated in 1928.



The 1928 team undefeated with nine games won. Top: O'Connell, Maloney, Brazil. Middle: Vachon. Bottom: Goodneau, Ryan, O'Hallorand, Lardner, Ruland, Long, Phelan.

writing he still holds the all-time record of most yards gained by any college football player in the State of Michigan.

On September 27, 1929, the University of Detroit opened its season with De Paul University of Chicago in what was the first game to be played in Detroit under artificial lighting. A packed stadium of 22,000 witnessed the event. What General Electric engineers referred to as the most powerfully illuminated stadium in the world was termed an *opus praeclarum* (outstanding work) by the *Historia*. The same source mentions that credit for it should go to the ingenuity and industry of the University alumni.⁴⁰ A replica in miniature of the stadium was made by General Electric engineers and placed on display in the Lighting Institute of the G. E. Lamp Research Laboratories at Nela Park in Cleveland.⁴¹ In July 1926 a special meeting of the Consultors had been held to consider sodding the field with "a special grass."⁴² The result was that Dinan Stadium came to be sodded with creeping bent grass and was termed "one of the best playing fields in the country."⁴³

Though no other Dorais team equalled the record of the 1928 squad, the University of Detroit had become a decided football power. In 1931, for example, Detroit could claim the mythical State football title in downing Michigan State 21 to 13; Michigan State had previously tied Michigan. The 1933 team shut out six of its opponents including Michigan State and scored 157 points to its opponents' 20. The lone defeat came at mid-season from Duquesne. That year United Press placed Douglas Nott at halfback on its alternate team and gave Norb Reisterer honorable mention. Earl McCracken and Nott received certificates from the All-American Board. Outstanding player on the 1937 team was halfback Andy Farkas, who made the *Sports Illustrated* team of "All-American Specialists." That year, with the men placed in twenty-eight categories, Andy was selected the best line-bucker in the United States, an ability he was to demonstrate during his distinguished career with the Washington Redskins.⁴⁴ At this point at least passing mention should be made of Vincent Joseph Banonis, who was captain of the 1941 Titan squad as well as captain of the All-American team of that year. After his graduation from the College of Commerce and Finance in 1942, "Vince" spent forty-one months in the Navy and then joined the Chicago Cardinals,

40. *Historia Domus Collegii Detroitensis*, 1894-1937, Sept. 1930, 146.

41. *Varsity News*, Dec. 10, 1930, 3. Note: Of the original six towers four still stand guard over the North Parking Lot (1975). One of the center towers is being used as a television tower at the University's television studios.

42. Minutes of the Consultors, July 17, 1926.

43. A. P. release Sept. 21, 1926, as in *Lansing State Journal*. Cf. *Battle Creek Enquirer-News*, Sept. 23, 1926.

44. *Varsity News*, Dec. 9, 1937, 3.

playing on their 1947 championship squad. He came to the Lions in 1951 on a straight trade for Jack C. Simmons, another Titan great of the mid-forties. Arthur "Bud" Boeringer called Banonis the "best defensive center" he had ever seen.⁴⁵

Through the years football was definitely king of sports at the University of Detroit. Basketball was also a major sport but it does not seem at times to have been regarded as such. All during the Dorais Era and long after, the basketball team did not even have their own floor for practice. The big complaint was that, while the new McNichols campus benefitted everything else, it was detrimental to basketball. It is surprising, therefore, that Lloyd Brazil's teams from 1935 to 1940 should have managed a record totaling 69 victories and 28 losses. These teams had to practice at the old University of Detroit High gymnasium on Jefferson Avenue, at the Hackett Field House in Highland Park and at the Naval Armory on East Jefferson near the Belle Isle bridge. Generally home games were played at the Armory. From 1946 to 1948 John Shada's teams had to make Lincoln High School, Ferndale, their home court.⁴⁶ Still later, until the Memorial Building was completed, Coach Bob Calihan used the new University of Detroit High School gymnasium.

The first signs of change, perhaps, came in 1934 when the first scholarship was granted a basketball player. That year New York prep star Larry Bleach was recruited. At the same time the schedule was stepped up. Larry had been regarded as one of the outstanding high school athletes in the country. At the University of Detroit he proved his ability and soon developed into one of the finest guards ever to wear a Titan uniform. He was the first Black captain of a University of Detroit basketball team. After graduation Larry played for the New York Renaissance and the Harlem Globe Trotters, as well as the Great Lakes Big Five. After twenty-five years of distinguished service with the Detroit Police Department Larry joined the Stroh Brewing Company first as a sales representative and more recently as community relations director. On May 6, 1976, Mr. Bleach was one of twelve outstanding sports personalities to be honored at the sixth semi-annual awards banquet of the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame.⁴⁷

The 1938-1939 season is typical of the University's effort to go "big time" in basketball. That year the team won fifteen and lost five games,

45. *Alumni Bulletin*, Oct 1951, 1; *Varsity News*, April 29, 1952, 8.

46. Interview with Robert J. Calihan, Director of Athletics, Sept. 25, 1975. It is significant that as late as Feb. 10, 1937, an article appeared in the *Varsity News* begging more men to come out for basketball. At that date there were only seven men on the squad, not even enough for scrimmage.

47. Frank Saunders, "Frankly Speaking," *The Chronicle*, Section B, April 10, 1976.

the latter to Purdue, Wisconsin, Xavier, Toledo and Notre Dame. Of these five Xavier and Toledo were defeated in return matches. The Toledo game saw the much-talked-about contest between Bob Calihan and Toledo's big center Chuck Chuckowitz. The game ended 53 to 52 in Detroit's favor. A total of 105 points was most remarkable at a time when the center jump after each basket was still the rule.⁴⁸ That same year Bob Calihan became Detroit's first All-American in basketball. He was chosen by Collyer's News Bureau among its first five players and by the News Enterprise Association (NEA) on a squad of fifteen. Similar honors were bestowed on Calihan after the 1939-1940 season. In mid-April 1940 he received the *Free Press* trophy, an annual award to Michigan's most outstanding basketball player in college competition.⁴⁹

While still on the Jefferson campus the students had been promised an expanded athletic program once they arrived uptown. The promise was kept, and in addition to football and basketball, teams were fielded in golf, tennis, hockey, track, fencing, and, within a few years, baseball, rifle, handball and even polo. The golf team of 1929 was rated one of the best in the country with victories over Loyola of Chicago, St. John's of Toledo, Ohio Wesleyan, Xavier and Michigan State. Perhaps the most famous golfer to play for the University prior to the War was Bob Babbish, who went to the semi-finals of the National Intercollegiate meet in 1938 before being eliminated. That summer Bob won the Western Amateur Tournament.⁵⁰ The hockey teams at the University suffered for lack of an indoor rink, but they usually did quite well. In 1930 a hockey team fielded by Evening Commerce won all but two of their games in outside competition. In the spring of 1941 baseball, one of the oldest sports at the University of Detroit, was restored after a lapse of nineteen years. Under the direction of Bud Boeringer, the first season was a grand success with six victories and one defeat, the latter coming from Bowling Green 11 to 8.

On Saturday, April 13, 1940, the University of Detroit defeated Assumption College, Windsor, 15 to 8 in what was claimed to be the first intercollegiate handball meet ever held in the United States.⁵¹ The following year Detroit defeated both Assumption and Wayne by the same score, 15 to 8 at Detroit, and a strong University of Michigan team 12 to 11 at Ann Arbor.⁵²

Polo and Rifle were the other newcomers to Detroit athletics. The Titans started off the former sport with an interesting defeat of Michigan

48. *The Tower*, 1939, 188-199; 263.

49. *Varsity News*, April 10, 1940.

50. *Ibid.*, Sept. 28, 1938.

51. *Ibid.*, April 17, 1940.

52. *The Tower*, 1941, 159.

State. Both teams were made up of one student, one alumnus and one outsider each. Some five hundred spectators watched the match. To student A. J. Neberle went the credit of organizing the sport.⁵³ The high point of the season seems to have been the match with Chicago University, nominal Western Conference polo champions. The game was played in the Chicago Riding Club Coliseum before 3,200 fans. Chicago won the match 10 to 7-1/2. Messrs. Derry, Neberle, Otto and Dowling represented the University of Detroit.⁵⁴ Unfortunately, the sport lasted only one more year. The fall season 1935 began with a victory over Wayne and an ambitious schedule was meant to follow. One suspects the depression had much to do with the demise of polo at the University of Detroit since a fine batch of freshmen and sophomore horsemen gave every hope for a bright future for the sport.

The Pistol and Rifle Teams were successful from the very start in the 1939-1940 school year with initial victories over Wisconsin and Searles Lake Rifle Club of California. There followed victories over Santa Clara, Iowa State, Harvard and Illinois with losses to Michigan State, Purdue, V.M.I., Xavier and Oklahoma.⁵⁵ The 1940-1941 squads, directed by Mr. W. J. Judson of the Engineering Faculty, could boast an enviable record of winning ninety percent of its matches.⁵⁶ The Rifle Team took third place after the Naval Academy and Illinois in the National Intercollegiate Rifle Meet men's division, while the coed team finished in sixth place among the nation's collegiate women's teams. Titan Ann Lechert scored a brilliant 496 out of a possible 500. A bit earlier Miss Lechert had gained national recognition by placing fifth in the Intercollegiate Individual Rifle Tournament when she shot 491 out of a possible 500. Freshman Arlan Bowman, who coached the coeds, took 377 out of 400 points to lead his team in the men's division.⁵⁷

Coed activity in sports was not to be limited to the Rifle Team alone. Throughout the pre-War years there was constant mention in the student publications of coed participation in intercollegiate contests in both basketball and fencing. Mention was also made of intramural tennis, riding, bowling, golf and archery.⁵⁸ This increased activity was due

53. *Varsity News*, Nov. 2, 1933, 6; Nov. 8, 1933, 3.

54. *Ibid.*, Mar. 15, 1934.

55. *Ibid.*, May 8, 1940, 3.

56. *Ibid.*, April 30, 1941, 3.

57. *Ibid.*, April 2, 23, 30, 1941.

58. Coed team pictures are to be found much earlier than their first regular appearances in the *Tower* from 1937 on. In the 1928 *Tower*, for example, the picture of the coed basketball team follows that of the varsity; that year, under the able leadership of Lucie Paquegnot, the coed basketball team suffered but one loss. The *University of Detroit Alumnus* also has a picture of the then-current coed basketball team in its May 1931 issue.

in part at least to constantly increasing coed enrollment during the mid-thirties. We might note here that, in September 1932, Miss Evangeline Sheibly became the first woman instructor ever to teach at the University of Detroit. Miss Sheibly, a graduate of Marygrove, was engaged to lecture in social work.⁵⁹ By 1940 the coeds had their own intramural association. With 225 coeds on campus in April of that year, the Women's Athletic Association was created to supplement the Coed Intramural Program. A board was set up consisting of Constance T. Maier, Dean of Women; Edmund J. Barbour, Intramural Sports Director; Helen Lambe, coed Sports Director; and a manager from each coed sport.⁶⁰

Track as an intercollegiate sport was born at the University of Detroit with the arrival of Michael H. "Dad" Butler. Mr. Butler had been a very successful coach at Oregon State University and from the beginning he was determined that at Detroit he could be equally successful. Beginning from scratch, year by year he picked up one or two or three runners such as Bill O'Neill or Archie Yaeger or Earl McCracken. But there were never enough really great runners at one time to make an impressive showing in major competition—that is until 1935. In April of that year "Dad" Butler had the thrill of seeing his medley team of Scott, Bolog, Quaid and Daly take first place at the Drake Relays. The next day Bill Daly trailed Glenn Cunningham, then the world's greatest miler, and Glenn Dawson by a mere yard or two.⁶¹ A full track team was fielded until 1939-1940 when the University was represented by a relay team and only one or two runners. Meanwhile, however, "Dad" Butler was kept busy as trainer of the various Titan teams and a new boxing program introduced in the fall of 1939. He was a kindly, fatherly sort of gentleman, to whom all the boys were "Son." Everybody who came in contact with him was impressed not only by his friendliness but also by his great fund of athletic knowledge gained over years of association with athletes in many sports.⁶²

FORENSIC ACTIVITIES

Comparisons are said to be odious. In the case of University of Detroit forensics it would be a matter of pure conjecture to say which debating team was the greater: Raymond Griese, Vincent McAuliffe and Stanley

59. *Varsity News*, Oct. 5, 1932, 4.

60. *Ibid.*, April 3, 1940, 3.

61. *Detroit Free Press*, April 29, 1935, as quoted by *Varsity News*, May 1, 1935. On May 29 of that year, as part of the May Fair, a special 3/4 mile race was run between Daly and Cunningham at U. of D. before 5,000 fans, in which the latter won. *Free Press*, May 30, 1935.

62. *The Tower*, 1940, 165.

Beattie, or Joseph Rashid, David Bayne and Emmet Donnelly. However, it may well be true that a new high in debating was reached when, beginning January 31, 1938, the latter trio toured eleven eastern states, debated eighteen times, won six decisions and lost none. Some of the schools met were Niagara, Canisius, Colgate, Connecticut State, Boston University, Rhode Island State, Lehigh, Rutgers, Western Maryland, Bucknell, John Carroll and Western Reserve.⁶³ Shortly before leaving on their extended tour Messrs. Rashid and Bayne visited Governor Frank Murphy in East Lansing and were given the title "Michigan Goodwill Ambassadors," thereby becoming personal representatives of the governor while on the tour.⁶⁴

Perhaps the highest honor ever accorded a University of Detroit debating team had come the previous year when a committee, representing Noble and Noble Publishing Company of New York, voted a debate written by Joseph Rashid and Abner Hamburger third best delivered in the United States during the 1936-1937 season. The debate was one of nine included in the *Yearbook of College Debating* of which 300,000 copies were printed for high school and college study. The selection was made on the worth of the debate itself, though apparently the forensic record of the school—the number of debates, the number won and lost, and the teams contested—was also considered.⁶⁵ The record of the Detroit teams that year and the years following was little short of amazing. No small part of the success in forensics was due to the drive and imagination of such Directors of Speech at the University of Detroit as Professors A. T. Keene, Alvin E. O'Konsky and Michael P. Kinsella.

Coed debating received a great deal of encouragement when, in the spring of 1932, a Coed Debating League was formed at the University with Margaret Lada its founder and first president.⁶⁶ The league was meant to be intra-mural until sufficient experience was acquired to warrant intercollegiate competition. This experience was soon forthcoming because in the 1935-1936 school year, women were admitted to all phases of speech activities. On May 15 Jeanette Spolansky tied for second place in the state interpretive reading contest held at Albion College.⁶⁷ The following year saw the first debating team in the history of the University composed solely of women. This team of Florence Carleton, Margaret Klinkhamer, Pearl McLean and Tina Poppy debated both men's

63. *Ibid.*, 1938, 142-145. Several of these debates were broadcast over radio.

64. *Varsity News*, Jan. 19, 1938. Mr. Donnelly took Mr. Rashid's place after the Rutgers debate.

65. *Ibid.*, Oct. 27, 1937.

66. *Ibid.*, April 13, 20, 1932; May 25, 1932.

67. *The Tower*, 1936, 100.

and women's teams from several other colleges. In the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Women's Debate Tournament held at Michigan State they won four of six debates. Later in the Pi Kappa Delta Provincial Tournament at Kalamazoo College, with the help of the coeds, the University of Detroit made a brilliant showing.⁶⁸ That year (1937) at Detroit women for the first time entered competition for the oldest forensic award on campus, the Skinner medal, and though the affirmative team of Pearl McLean, Florence Carleton and David Bayne won the debate, Margaret Klinkhamer was awarded the medal.⁶⁹ On January 23, 1938, the fortieth annual Skinner debate was held at Convention Hall as part of the Michigan Industrial Exposition. After having had a very successful season a coed team of Florence Carleton, June Hallagan and Pearl McLean defeated a very strong team of Michael Hand, David Bayne and Emmet Donnelly. Pearl McLean was awarded the Skinner medal with June Hallagan second. Coed debating had more than arrived on the University of Detroit campus!

The Faculty Wives Club, so popular on the Detroit campus, was founded at the height of the depression. According to its constitution this club has as its primary objective "the promotion of a better acquaintance and kindlier understanding among faculty members and their families, the fostering of a spirit of loyalty to the University of Detroit, and the furthering of beneficial contacts and activities." It had its beginning in 1930 when the wives of the faculty of the University and of Marygrove College joined together for the purpose of creating a friendlier atmosphere between both groups. The founders of this initial organization were Mrs. Bert Blakeslee and Mrs. George H. Derry, whose husband was President of Marygrove. Though the joint venture was short-lived, the University of Detroit group continued to be active. By 1941 there were fifty members with annual dues of fifty cents.

Despite the handicaps created by gas rationing, the war years saw an increase in the number and variety of activities: family picnics, Christmas parties, theatre parties and pot-luck dinners. The Club also raised funds for university scholarships, for purchase of war bonds, and for donations to the Red Cross. Devon Gables became a popular spot for many of the social events. In 1947 the Club initiated a Welcoming Tea for wives of new faculty members. The post-War years witnessed a considerable growth in membership: from 52 in 1949 to 115. At the same time activities were widened to include fashion shows, cocktail parties, square dances and Christmas teas. Christmas baskets were distributed to needy families in the city. In 1957 the Club was invited

68. *Ibid.*, 1937, 105-106.

69. *Ibid.*

by Father Allan Farrell, S.J., Dean of the Graduate School, to serve as receptionists and hostesses for the Graduate Faculty meetings held twice each semester.

Further extension of membership was effected in 1963. Now eligible are women members of the faculty and wives of those administrators under contract as well as wives of retired and of deceased members of faculty and administration. By the end of the sixties the membership reached 155. Steak cook-outs at the Jesuit Fathers' villa at Kingsville, Ontario, became most popular. Children's theatre parties were added to the list of well-attended activities. The Faculty Wives also participated in welcoming foreign students to the campus. The highlight in the history of the organization came in February of 1972 when the Faculty Wives Club was presented with a Proclamation from His Honor, Mayor Roman Gribbs, for its services to the community.⁷⁰

Just as the University of Detroit was later to be among the early leaders in educational television, so too was it among the first to use the radio as a means of challenging the public with its views on burning issues of the day. By 1931 University speakers were heard regularly over WWJ each Friday afternoon at 4:15 and at 7:00 Wednesday evenings. In 1935 a series over WWJ entitled *University Looks at the News* had Father Frederic Meyer, S.J., lecturing on "Mercy Killing," Mr. Donald Ranny, S.J., on "Christmas among the Modern Poets," Professor Frederic Siedenburg, S.J., on "National Social Justice," Professor R. E. Ireton on "Taxing Corporate Surpluses," and so on. In late November 1935 an editorial in the *Varsity News* stated that students "could not be but impressed and elated by the manner which the public of Detroit had reacted to the bi-weekly radio programs of the University." There were few students who had not encountered "individuals in no manner connected with this institution, who have expressed in glowing terms their appreciation of the radio programs, which featured members of the faculty from the various departments of the University." Apparently what impressed these audiences most was the timeliness of the topics delivered objectively, clearly, and dispassionately. Certainly the radio programs did much to add to the prestige of the University faculty throughout Metropolitan Detroit.⁷¹

One finds it most refreshing to note that the average student at the University of Detroit in the thirties gave some thought to good manners. To be sure, university officialdom was then less permissive than now.

70. The above summary is taken from a brief history of the Faculty Wives Club submitted by Mrs. Katherine Grassi, wife of Dr. Carlo Grassi of the Philosophy Department. Mrs. Grassi was president of the organization from 1969 to 1971.

71. *Varsity News*, Editorial, Nov. 27, 1935, 2.

For example, one could not smoke in classrooms, corridors or lavatories. There was a lounge in each building where smoking was permitted. About the grounds only pipes could be smoked. Moreover, male students were asked to remove hats when entering a building and they were encouraged to "respectfully salute" not only members of the faculty when they met them, but to greet their fellow students as well, since acceptance into the University spelled social equality.⁷² Editorials in the *Varsity News* at the time pleaded for a show of manners. One such, for example, mentioned Columbia University President Nicholas Murray Butler's distinguishing between "going to school and getting an education." Together with Dr. Butler the editorial wondered "why it is that youth cannot come to full adolescent years with no apparent appreciation of the difference between good manners and the opposite."⁷³ A later editorial points out how good leaders and good manners are synonymous on campus. "A simple gesture like opening a door for a coed or removing one's hat when in a building does not slap virility in the face. . . . It merely serves as a salute to courtesy, an only too rare indication of good breeding."⁷⁴

REVEREND CHARLES H. CLOUD, S.J., BECOMES PRESIDENT

On Sunday evening, July 9, 1939, at the simple ceremonial so long a custom among the Jesuits, the Reverend Charles H. Cloud, S.J., succeeded the Reverend Albert H. Poetker, S.J., as rector-president of the University of Detroit. The announcement, coming from Father-General Ledochowski, S.J., was read at dinner in the Lansing-Reilly dining room. Thereupon Father Cloud, who had come to Detroit that afternoon, exchanged places at the head table with the retiring president. There were brief exchanges of good wishes and the University had a new president.⁷⁵

Father Cloud came to Detroit from West Baden College, Indiana, a Jesuit house of studies, where he had been dean of philosophy. Born in Cincinnati February 20, 1879, the son of Francis H. and Julia Schierburg Cloud, he was educated at St. Xavier's College in Cincinnati and at St. Louis University. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1897 and was ordained in 1912 after the usual rigorous courses in philosophy and theology. During his regency, 1905-1909, he taught physics and mathematics at St. Louis University. After his studies were completed, he

72. *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 1933.

73. *Ibid.*, Editorial, Oct. 17, 1934, 2.

74. *Ibid.*, Editorial, Feb. 10, 1937, 2.

75. University of Detroit Archives, Historical—Past Presidents, Rev. Charles H. Cloud, S.J., (1939-44).

taught first at St. Xavier's and then returned to St. Louis where he taught philosophy to the undergraduates and served as regent of the schools of medicine and dentistry.⁷⁶ He was president of St. Louis University from 1924 to 1930. As regent and later as president he was responsible for erecting the buildings for the Medical and Dental Schools, the gymnasium, and the stadium. The corporate college plan whereby Webster, Maryville and Fontbonne became colleges of the University was sponsored by him.⁷⁷

From 1930 to 1936 Father Cloud served as Provincial of the newly formed Chicago Province of the Jesuit Order while the depression was at its height. During these years he converted the famed West Baden Springs Hotel with its magnificent dome, the gift of Charles Ballard, into a scholasticate for young Jesuits. His foresight and interest in higher education may be seen from the fact that, in spite of the difficulties of the times, he began to send men into special studies both in the United States and abroad.⁷⁸

Speaking at a 1939 luncheon welcoming him to Detroit, which was attended by some two hundred prominent business men, Father Cloud was emphatic in his praise of Father Poetker. He pointed out that he had been partly responsible for Father Poetker's appointment as president and then addressed himself to his predecessor: "I say to you here, Fr. Poetker, you not only saved the university, you have rebuilt it. My sincere congratulations to you, Father, for the splendid job you have done."⁷⁹ A "splendid" job it was when we consider that the Reverend President Poetker had not only begun the work of rehabilitating the University financially, but at the same time strengthened and expanded its educational program, so that by the end of his seven and a half years in office the University had advanced to a high degree of academic excellence. To insure that there would be no notable change of policy, in August 1939 Father Cloud appointed Father Poetker Executive Dean in place of the late Reverend Frederic Siedenburgh, S.J. Father Poetker at the same time assumed the regency of the School of Dentistry. He was also faculty advisor to the Alumni Association. He served the University well until the time of his transfer to Xavier University, his alma mater, at the beginning of the Steiner administration. His work for the Government during World War II will be treated in the next chapter.

It may be recalled that the Detroit College was incorporated for the

76. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1945, 31-32.

77. *Jesuit Bulletin*, Dec. 1944.

78. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1945, 32.

79. University of Detroit Archives, Historical—Past Presidents, Rev. Charles H. Cloud, S.J., "Luncheon, Frs. Poetker and Cloud."

first time in 1881. In 1911, after thirty years, the College, now become the University of Detroit, entered its second term of incorporation. This term ended in 1941. Meanwhile the Michigan laws governing educational institutions had changed considerably. Thus, for renewal of the charter, full approbation of the State Board of Education had to be certified for the Corporation and Securities Commission. In the spring of 1941 the University amended its Articles of Incorporation to conform with the new laws. By June full approbation was accorded the University of Detroit and its amended articles were extended to another thirty-year term.⁸⁰

80. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, June 1941, 70.

CHAPTER XII

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR

IMPACT OF SELECTIVE SERVICE TRAINING

The attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, left the nation in a state of shock. It might be imagined that the selective service training bill signed by President Roosevelt on September 16 of the previous year would have conditioned the American public for war. Such was not the case. This may be seen from the fact that, when a measure for prolonging the conscription came up in the fall of 1941, it was passed by a majority of only one vote in the House. The isolationist mood of the thirties was not yet too much affected by the actions of Hitler, or Mussolini, or the Japanese. Americans were still striving, and hoping, and praying for peace.

This same attitude seems to have been prevalent on the Detroit campus. One editorial in the *Varsity News* asked the students to take an active part in the Jesuit Crusade of Prayer for Peace to be held during the month of May.¹ A prayer for peace was said before each class during the entire month. Another editorial, while admitting the pressing need for military preparedness, thought the growing divorce rate with its accompanying evils to be equally a concern of national defense.² The *Varsity News* editor also considered what he called "intellectual defense" important. With the North Central Association of Colleges he thought a student should be deferred until the end of the school year in which he became subject to call. Moreover, he could not see that our defense program was so vitally important that it must snatch future civilian leaders from the university simply to fill another army uniform.³

In a less strident tone President Cloud, in a special message to the students, advised them not to discontinue their college studies until forced

1. *Varsity News*, April 30, 1941, 2; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, June 1941, 70.

2. Karl Blaesser, "What Profit It Us." *Varsity News*, Dec. 11, 1940, 2.

3. "Intellectual Defense," *Ibid.*, April 2, 1941. 2.

to do so. He pointed out that Selective Service authorities, recognizing the important status of college students, deferred them as a group to the end of the academic year. In certain professional and scientific fields essential to national welfare it was imperative that available manpower be increased. Hence, the emphasis on engineering, dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and other special fields of science. Father Cloud then pointed out that, at the beginning of the draft, President Roosevelt had declared it the "patriotic duty of young people to continue the normal course of their education" until they were called to the Services. "This is still good advice," stated Father Cloud, and while "the University of Detroit is cooperating in every way possible with the current needs of our national defense," it still feels that its patriotic duty is to continue in its imparting of regular education.⁴

Registration of University of Detroit draftees took place for the first time on October 16, 1940. For the convenience of the students an office was set up in the Engineering Building. In alphabetical order every male student between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five who was a citizen of the United States or an alien resident therein, with certain exceptions, had to present himself between the hours of eight in the morning and five in the afternoon.⁵ The impact of the draft on the University of Detroit was immediate. By the following fall practically every unit had a decreased enrollment. The one exception was Engineering which, however, witnessed a decided shift from day to evening classes. Interestingly enough, the draft was not the sole cause of this decline. A study showed that new opportunities for highly gainful employment together with "a general feeling of uncertainty about the future" were major contributing factors.⁶ This latter point was evidenced in the second semester, February 1942, when registration in most units was down from fifteen to twenty percent. The decline was most evident among the freshmen. Apparently the chance of not being able to finish college determined many high school graduates either to get their selective service over with first or else to enter industrial employment for the time being.⁷

As chronicled by the university Registrar during the war years, The Enrollment Saga was frightening for a university trying to pay off a large debt. Semester after semester witnessed a constant draining-off

4. *Ibid.*, April 30, 1941, 1. In his message to the freshmen in September 1941, President Cloud mirrored the increasing malaise and ended by saying: "Success in college is now the best thing for you, your parents and your country. I wish you that success and pray that God may favor you with it." *Ibid.*, Sept. 24, 1941, 1.

5. *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 1940, 1. *Historia Domus*, 1941, 4.

6. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Nov. 1941, 14.

7. *Ibid.*, Mar. 1942, 45.

of upper classmen with the possible exception of dental students. Freshman classes fluctuated for some unknown reason. Increasing coed registration helped a great deal. However, the status of reservists on campus was never really fixed. On March 11 and 12, 1943, for example, one hundred and sixty reservists were called into active service only two weeks after seventy-five AFER students had been similarly treated. To hire or not to hire faculty members was the big question that plagued administrators. In the fall term of 1943 civilian enrollment had almost reached the all-time low of the depression years. Arts, Commerce, and Engineering, usually the largest units, were down fifty percent from the previous fall.⁸ A survey of the full-time civilian enrollment made in January 1944 showed that forty percent of the students were women. Of the men, forty percent were 2-A; twenty-one percent were 4-F; thirty percent were unclassified; and the remaining nine percent were in various other classifications.⁹

Shortly after Pearl Harbor the Very Reverend Zacheus J. Maher, S.J., Assistant-General of the Society of Jesus for America, addressed a letter to His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt. After first pledging the loyalty of the American Jesuits to the President and to our country, Father Maher recalled to Mr. Roosevelt that:¹⁰

During the previous World War, all the Jesuit Universities and Colleges in America served the country, not only by continuing their normal educational activities whereby patriotic citizens and high-minded leaders were supplied to the nation; they assisted the Government in other fields as well. Should you, Mr. President, deem it necessary or useful to the defense of the country or the promotion of the common welfare to employ again the facilities of these institutions in the present danger, you have but to make your wish known, I can assure you of our wholehearted, our devoted, our glad cooperation.

Father Maher concluded his letter with the assurance that no day would pass without the President's being remembered before the altar of God, at the same time asking Him to grant the President health and strength to bear the heavy burden placed on him.

In his gracious reply to this letter, after first thanking Father Maher, President Roosevelt wrote:¹¹

8. *Ibid.*, Nov. 1943, 14.

9. *Ibid.*, Feb. 1944, 38. The four hundred full-time women students constituted the largest coed enrollment to that time in the school's history.

10. Zacheus J. Maher, S.J., to His Excellency Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dec. 29, 1941. Printed in full in *The Jesuit Bulletin*, Feb. 1942, Cover.

11. Franklin D. Roosevelt to Zacheus J. Maher, S.J., *Ibid.*, Cover and 7.

The assurance that the government can reply upon you and your fellow Americans, who are spiritual sons of a Soldier Saint, will give new determination to our effort to continue this war until we have vindicated for all time an order of society which shall recognize the dignity of human nature in accordance with immutable laws laid down by the King of Kings who is Lord and Master of us all.

How the 5,552 American Jesuits, together with their loyal lay colleagues and students in the numerous high schools, colleges and universities throughout the land, responded to this pledge of Father Maher is now a glorious record of history. Certainly the University of Detroit did not lag behind her sister institutions in the war effort. We hope the following pages will make this clear.

DEFENSE COURSES AND PROGRAMS

The University of Detroit was happy and proud of the fact that it was listed among the first twenty-four American engineering schools approved for "intensive training courses in the development of the National Defense Program." The rationale of the courses was to provide "designers, inspectors, and supervisors in government agencies and cooperating industries."¹² Applicants for the course of studies were to have had two years of engineering education or the equivalent. Their tuition was to be paid from a nine million dollar federal appropriation. From over 700 applicants in Detroit 257 were selected for an initial five courses in the program.¹³ By the following September some 28 courses were being given to about 280 students. In February 1942 a new series of Engineering Science and Management Defense Training (ESMDT) courses was begun. Again the purpose of the program was "to accelerate defense industries by giving intense, college-level training to prepare employees for more responsible positions, or to discharge their assignments more efficiently." The five hundred students enrolled in this series paid no fees except for books and supplies.¹⁴ Beginning in April 1942 another series of 37 ESMDT courses had 1,200 students enrolled.¹⁵ The following fall some 40 courses were listed in the program.

The 1941 spring semester also saw the inauguration of an intensive preparatory course for aviation cadets. The course was given at the request of army recruiting officers. However, this program was abandoned

12. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1941, 30.

13. *Historia Domus*, 1941, 4; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Mar. 1941, 46.

14. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Feb. 1942, 38.

15. *Ibid.*, May 1942, 62.

after a few months due to the fact that the academic norms for entering this branch of the Service were dropped.¹⁶ Meanwhile the University had been conducting both primary and secondary Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) flight training programs.

When the Federal Government made the suggestion that college careers be shortened for the duration of the war, the University of Detroit was quick to respond with an accelerated twelve-month program. Summer 1942 witnessed an extended twelve-week session. Then, beginning in the fall, a trimester plan of sixteen-week periods was put into effect with each trimester equal in value to the former semester. A student following the whole program could thus graduate in three years instead of the usual four. The new plan affected Arts, Commerce, and the first two years of Engineering. It was not until January 1943 that a four year program replaced the customary five for the School of Engineering.¹⁷

Beginning with the second semester 1942, the Colleges of Arts and of Commerce devoted their customary assemblies to an orientation course in military training. Lectures were given by Doctor Leonard M. Ekland, a captain in the Reserves. In the fall term that year an optional course in military training was offered in order to benefit students who would shortly be entering the Services. Dr. Ekland, who conducted the course, was aided by students who at some time or other had taken courses in military science. In addition to theoretical instruction, the students engaged in drill exercises twice a week. Some thirty-eight students availed themselves of the opportunity presented by the University.¹⁸ Meanwhile all enlisted reserves were expected to take part in a physical fitness program calculated to get them in shape for the rigors of their future military duties.

In mid-July 1942 the first "Titan Squadron of Aviation Cadets," as they were called, left for their training camp at the University of Iowa. This squadron, organized by Freshman Dean George Kmiecik, S.J., was made up of university students and graduates, and conscripted with the understanding that they would proceed to their training camp as a unit. A second Titan Squadron left the University a month or so later.¹⁹

The University of Detroit was also very conscious of its duty to

16. *Historia Domus*, 1941, 4.

17. *Ibid.*, 1942, 2; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Feb. 1942, 37-38 and Jan. 1943, 30.

18. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Dec. 1942, 21; *Varsity News*, April 29, 1942, 1; May 6, 1942, 1.

19. *Historia Domus*, 1942, 2; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Oct. 1942, 6; Nov. 1942, 21.

perform its share in attending to civilian defense. With an eye towards coordinating the diverse efforts of faculty and students in the defense program, a University Civilian Defense Committee was formed in the spring of 1942. Subcommittees were set up to care for "the registration of volunteers, campus defense plans, Red Cross training, cooperation with U.S.O. and war relief, civilian morale programs," and like matters.²⁰ Again, thirty professors, nine Jesuits and some of the neighboring laity were given a course of lectures intended to prepare them to instruct citizens in extinguishing fires, caring for the wounded, and aiding refugees. It was left to a committee of Engineering faculty members to study and work out plans for protection against possible air raids on the University itself.²¹

THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

The University of Detroit did not have an Army Specialized Training Program on campus until early July 1943 when an Army dental unit was activated. About the same time a Navy dental unit came to the campus. The forty-eight soldiers and twenty Navy trainees were for the most part natives of Greater Detroit and as such were allowed to live at home.²² A larger Army unit was not to arrive until September that year. It should be noted that, by spring 1942, the University had already submitted V-1 Navy programs for approval to the Navy Department. Similar Army programs were also submitted. In due time the University was approved for five different types of Army and Navy programs. There seems never to have been any question of the University's academic facilities; the big problem was housing and dining. Since there was neither dormitory or student union on campus, university officials contacted owners of the Campus Hotel (now Foley Hall), and of a "large commercial building on Livernois." Dining facilities were also available in the neighborhood. But still the Army delayed because of the high activating expense involved.²³ It was at this juncture that President Cloud called his Trustees together and recommended that the Jesuits turn over Lasing-Reilly Hall, their residence, to the Army. A vote was taken and the recommendation was passed with but one or two negative votes.²⁴ Within ten days Father Poetker, to whom charge

20. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, April 1942, 54.

21. *Historia Domus*, 1942, 3; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, April 1942, 54; May 1942, 62.

22. Edward J. Dowling, S.J., "Lamp and Sword," *The Jesuit Bulletin*, VIII No. 8, May 1944, 5.

23. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, April 1942, 54; Jan. 1943, 30; April 1943, 54; June 1943, 70; Oct. 1943, 6.

24. *Historia Domus*, 1943, 2.

of the matter had been delegated, was notified that four hundred cadets would be sent to Detroit.

In mid-August the Fathers and Brothers began moving out of their residence. Ten of them, mostly administrators, were housed in the Union Building at 16800 Fairfield, now the Phi Kappa Theta house. Six, including the Gesu pastors, were located in the parish school. The rest of the Community, about thirty in number, were to reside in the old college building on East Jefferson.²⁵ It was this latter group that had to suffer the greatest inconvenience. The rooms downtown had not been lived in since 1927 and were dingy and dilapidated. Furniture was, for the most part, scanty and old. The radiators did not work properly after sixteen years of non-use. However, the Fathers cheerfully went about setting things in order. Transportation presented something of a problem. There was apparently only one car downtown, in addition to a beaten-up, trucklike, antique station wagon known as the "Brown Bomber." This latter conveyance took some of the Fathers to the uptown campus in the morning and returned in the evening. The rest had to rely on public transportation, which worked out well enough except for those teaching night classes. It was not uncommon for a Jesuit teacher to arrive downtown tired and hungry at midnight, and then get up at five o'clock the next morning for another day's work. President Cloud, it might be noted, lived downtown with the larger Community.²⁶

The curriculum of the Army Specialized Training Program was basically engineer-oriented. Courses were given in physics, mathematics, engineering drawing, chemistry, English, history and geography. The soldier trainees had little time for relaxation. When they were not in class or marching to and from the mess-hall set up in Gesu School, they were largely engaged in physical training which included formal gymnastics, touch football, basketball, volleyball and handball. Evenings were devoted to three hours of supervised study in assigned classrooms.²⁷ Still, many of the soldiers managed to find time for various university activities on equal terms with their civilian fellows. For example, they voted in student elections, edited a column "Kampus Khaki" in the *Varsity News*, and engaged in the many social events on campus. We are informed that, with but "relatively few exceptions," the cadets all became "sincere in their appreciation and enthusiastic in their loyalty" to the University. The same source also tells us that they were "outspoken in their thanks for the fine living quarters provided them, and grateful

25. Trustee Minutes, Sept. 22, 1943. Report of Father Cloud.

26. Interview with Fathers Edward J. Dowling and James P. Caine who taught at the University during the war years and lived downtown during that time.

27. Edward J. Dowling, S.J., "Lamp and Sword," *Loc. cit.*, 3 and 4.

too for the personal interest taken in them by the Fathers and Professors."²⁸

The sudden order for suspension of the basic Army Specialized Training Program caused no little consternation on campus. Even greater concern was had when reliable word was received that the group of advanced engineers, previously assigned to the University, would probably not be sent in view of drastic cuts in advanced engineering units that were being made elsewhere. In the event the sudden termination of the ASTP, together with a new Selective Service policy that did away with science and engineering deferments, caused "serious problems of faculty adjustment." By way of solving these the University assigned seven of the engineering faculty to research projects at the University or in local industries. Five faculty members took commissions in the Armed Forces while six were granted leave of absence for positions with the government or in industry. Three members took the opportunity to continue their graduate work and two were willing to change over to part-time instruction.²⁹

At this point let us recall that many of the university faculty had long since signed up for military duty. By December 1942 twenty-four faculty members were already in service, some of them in important positions. Thus Law Dean Daniel McKenna was commissioned as a Major in the Judge Advocate Division of the United States Army. Professor George Higgins, director of Aeronautical Engineering, was at the Naval Academy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander lecturing in his special field. Several of the Jesuits, Fathers Byrne, Ewing, Kmieck and O'Connor, entered the Service as chaplains.³⁰

It was in the fall of 1944 that registration in the University had dwindled to 1800 students, of whom seven hundred were women. Since many of the young men on campus were approaching military age they were apt to be called before the end of the school year.³¹ Still, the situation was not wholly bad. Engineering Science and Management War Training courses (ESMWT) were still in progress. One is amazed to learn that by mid-Winter of 1944 over 8,000 trainees had enrolled in these courses

28. *Ibid.*, 4. Members of the faculty had volunteered to assist the trainees in their school work, a service for which the boys were duly grateful. The *Chronicle* informs us that the chapel in Lansing-Reilly Hall, exclusive of the sanctuary which was boarded up, the dining room, library and recreation room were all used for dormitory purposes. An additional wash room was installed in the basement (Oct. 1943, 6).

29. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, 1944, 62.

30. *Historia Domus*, 1941, 6; *The Jesuit Bulletin*, Dec. 1942, 3 and 4; Dec. 1943, 1 and 2.

31. *Historia Domus*, 1944, "De Numero Alumnorum," 4.

since their beginning in 1941.³² Again, the Adult Education Program offered by the University had become quite popular. This program was designed for mature students who wished to take advantage of courses on timely subjects but who were not interested in college credits. There were no academic requirements for the courses which usually ran one night a week for eight consecutive weeks. The fee was a nominal five dollars per course.³³ Ten such lecture series were offered beginning in January 1945 ranging all the way from "Ceremonials of the Church" to "Gilbert and Sullivan Operas." Almost two hundred persons were enrolled in the winter program. One course entitled "What Your Catholic Neighbor Believes" enrolled some thirty non-Catholics.³⁴

It is interesting that the most popular of these adult education courses was Father Robert Eiten's series on the interior life. Father Eiten, S.J., Professor of Mathematics, had always been interested in ascetical theology as a hobby. His first series of lectures in that area seems to have been inspired when a Detroit high school teacher asked for a course on the apostolate of suffering! The popularity of this series prompted Father Eiten to map out a whole complement of courses dealing with such topics as: the nature of the interior life, motives for living it, its sources, Christ as our Redeemer, sanctifying grace, the indwelling Trinity, Mary our Mother and Mediatrix of all graces, mental prayer and similar topics. Registration for these theology lectures averaged fifty or more per course, though it was not unusual for invited guests to bring the attendance to well over the hundred mark. As one critic remarked: "Father Eiten's sincere method is as pleasing as a four-color layout in *Better Homes and Gardens* for clarity, color, freshness, and tone." It was with profound sorrow that students and friends of the University learned of the untimely death of this young Jesuit in October 1953. Father Eiten not only taught ascetical theology; he lived it.³⁵

As part of the adult education program, and yet in a way distinct from it, Fathers Wirtenberger and Horne directed a series of courses for working men and women in the Detroit area. Some of the course titles in the fall term of 1945 were: The Current Labor Front, Practical Public Speaking, Procedures and Problems in Collective Bargaining, Principles of Modern Industrial Society, and Basic Economic Principles

32. *Varsity News*, Dec. 1944, 1.

33. *Ibid.*

34. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1945, 20; Feb. 1945, 38.

35. *Alumni Bulletin*, Oct. 1953, 1; "Ascetical Theology for the Laity," *The Jesuit Bulletin*, April 1946, 6. In his comparatively few years in the University Father Eiten wrote two books, *The Apostolate of Suffering* and *A Layman's Way to Perfection*, in addition to articles for *Review for Religious*, *Thought*, *Theological Studies* and *Sponsa Regis*.

and Problems. The program, sometimes referred to as the "Labor School," was restricted to members of labor unions.³⁶

Lest it be thought that the coeds did nothing but sit around waiting for the boys to come back from "over there," let it be said that they were most active on campus during the war. Many of them engaged in Red Cross activities. In March 1942 the University Civilian Defense set up a program for women which included some thirty-five hours of motor vehicle training and thirty hours of classwork in first aid. The purpose of the program was to meet all the training requirements for members of the Red Cross Women's Motor Corps. Its immediate object was to train and organize a mobile emergency medical unit to provide for the possible future needs of the University and the northwestern part of the city. Coeds had to have reached their twentieth year before applying for admission to the course.³⁷ Thirty coeds joined the first group, together with a number of faculty wives and members of the Gesu Red Cross unit. There were no fees for the course.³⁸

In March 1944 when the University launched a drive for the benefit of the Red Cross, coeds belonging to the organization canvassed the school for contributions. In May 1945 thirty-seven coeds received their Red Cross course certificates and ended their activities on campus with a special dinner for all coeds who had completed Red Cross courses over the two years they had been in progress.³⁹ By March 1946 there were 175 Red Cross college units in the United States. A record was published listing these units and depicting the activities of fourteen of them in text and photographs. Of the latter group the University of Detroit Red Cross Unit was the only Michigan college to be represented. Pictured in the Red Cross record were Susan Miner, chairman of the University unit, Catherine De Claire, secretary, and Jeanne Shanahan, as they were engaged in packing boxes at Christmas for hospitalized service men.⁴⁰

When Michael Hand '40, secretary to the chaplain at Chanute Field, sent his Alma Mater a plea for prayer books, missals, and other religious articles, men and women sodalists combed the city in an effort to secure

36. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Nov. 1945, 18.

37. *Varsity News*, Mar. 18, 1942, 1.

38. *Ibid.*, Mar. 25, 1942, 1. A similar program for men was started a week later as well as a Red Cross First Aid teacher training course for faculty members. The purpose of this latter course was to produce a group of trained first aid teachers for service with the Detroit chapter of the Red Cross. Dr. Ernest Stefani, M.D., University Health Head, and Dr. A. V. Witkowski were in charge.

39. *Ibid.*, May 16, 1945, 2.

40. *Ibid.*, May 8, 1946, 2.

the desired books and articles.⁴¹ A prayer for men in the Services was composed by members of the Sodality Council and received the *Imprimatur* of Archbishop Mooney. Copies of the prayer were printed and distributed to the students.⁴²

There were many other ways that could be cited in which the University in general lent its support to the war effort. When, for example, an Army War Show visited Detroit in the summer of 1942, the University put the Stadium at its disposal free of charge for nine appearances. Benefits from the performances were to go to the American Emergency Relief Fund. Detroit could be proud of the fact that the returns were greater here than at any previous location of the show.⁴³ One might also note here that some six acres of University land south of Florence Avenue were plowed up and staked out into Victory Gardens to be used by people of the neighborhood, among whom were listed twenty-four members of the University faculty and staff. Brother John Beaton meanwhile combined his victory garden with some of the fifty-four flower beds he had planted on campus over the years, which together covered about an acre and a half.⁴⁴

For two days the flag at the north end of the university stadium hung at half-mast in memory of its first casualty, Lieutenant James J. Meehan, Air Corps pilot, who had been fatally injured in a plane crash in Texas, September 7, 1941. Lt. Meehan, player and director of plays, athlete, *Varsity News* editor, had been very popular on campus and the student body was saddened at his death. He was buried from Gesu amid great solemnity with officers and men from Selfridge Field paying him military honors.⁴⁵ A month or so later Andrew O'Brien and Joseph Bacon were also killed in airplane crashes. As the *Chronicle* relates, the campus tower, reminder of those who had died for their country in the past, "commanded more respectful minutes of attention from the students" that Armistice Day.⁴⁶ When the *Varsity News* listed the University's gold stars, December 1941 to December 1945, these totalled 137.⁴⁷ This number is not surprising when we consider that the commissioned officer alumni of the University of Detroit in service

41. *Ibid.*, Oct. 22, 1941, 1. In their first convocation in the fall of 1941, the sodalists decided that the main weekly meetings would be devoted to training their future draftees as lay apostles to work with the chaplains. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Oct. 1941, 6.

42. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1942, 30.

43. *Ibid.*, Oct. 1942, 6.

44. *Ibid.*, May 1943, 62.

45. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Oct. 1941, 6.

46. *Ibid.*, Dec. 1941, 21.

47. *Varsity News*, Dec. 5, 1945, 2.

alone came to well over 800 by January 1945.⁴⁸ Considering its size at the time the University could hold its head high on its outstanding military record during World War II.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ON CAMPUS DURING THE WAR

Midway through the war the announcement of Athletic Director Charles E. Dorais' resignation came as something of a shock to many Titan fans. For weeks the news media had been hinting at such a move on Dorais' part, but in the past he had turned down many lucrative offers in favor of his beloved Detroit, and many no doubt thought that, after eighteen years with the University, he would continue there. One cannot blame Dorais for his move. With limited prospects of a team being fielded at the University of Detroit in 1943, and with an attractive five-year contract offered him by the Detroit Lions, his choice was most understandable.⁴⁹ Possibly his experience of getting a team together in 1942 had something to do with his decision. Some of the Armed Services allowed their cadets to play football but the University of Detroit was never blessed with such a unit. Dorais' 1941 team was his last strong team at Detroit. He began by defeating Indiana 14 to 7 and went on to win all of his games but two. Arkansas defeated the Titans 9 to 6 and Villanova 7 to 6.⁵⁰

Homecoming Day that fall was dedicated to Michael "Dad" Butler, who had been the trainer of Titan teams for seventeen years. He was seventy-one years old at the time. The effort of the University to honor Dad Butler was augmented by the local news media, who lauded his marvelous manner with athletes in the various sports, particularly his international reputation as a trainer of world champion boxers and Olympic trackmen. It was a sad day on the Detroit campus when, on June 1, 1944, this much-loved gentleman left the University to take up duties in a Detroit industrial plant where he aided in the rehabilitation of returning veterans. The departure of Dorais and Butler marked the closing of an era.

The end of the 1941 season saw a great honor bestowed on Vincent J. Banonis, Captain of the football team, as he was placed by Grantland Rice as center on his Collier's All-American Board. He was hailed by

48. *Ibid.*, Jan. 10, 1945. The *Varsity News* gives their names with branch of service and rank.

49. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Feb. 1943, 38.

50. University of Detroit *Football Program* 1945-1946, 42. Football was dropped in 1943 and 1944 except for an annual freshman-sophomore game. Varsity football was resumed in 1945.

many as "the greatest center in the last decade." In addition to Colier's Banonis made International News Service, Paramount News, The New York Daily News, Football News, and other lesser teams. During the Bowl Game in New Orleans on January first, he received a *Liberty* All-American trophy. He had played in the North-South all-star game on December 27.⁵¹

At the beginning of the 1943 school year Lloyd Brazil, successor to Dorais as Athletic Director, announced that all varsity sports with the exception of football would be played that year. "This year we will play seventeen-year old basketball," Brazil said. "Not a single member of last year's team is returning, varsity or reserve."⁵² Actually Brazil did not fare too badly with his "seventeen-year olds" that season, winning twelve games and losing six. The baseball team also did well that year, while the rifle team enjoyed its usual fine season.

Through the years the Little Theatre groups at the University of Detroit, or "Players" as they came to be called, staged their performances at the old Art Institute on East Jefferson or at various other halls and theatres in downtown Detroit. The University had no theatre of its own until about 1935 when a basement room at the southeast corner of the Chemistry Building on the McNichols Campus was converted into a little theatre. And little it was! It could seat an audience of about sixty. The area behind stage was tiny and once the show started, the only exit for the players was through a basement window.⁵³ Still, it was their little theatre and they "loved" it. The players too suffered from Selective Service, but somehow managed to stage such productions as *Twelfth Night*, *Little Women*, *The Late Christopher Bean*, *Jane Eyre*, and others.⁵⁴ For a brief period, while the soldiers were on campus, plays were again produced downtown at the Art Institute or in the old Jefferson Campus gymnasium, where a temporary stage had been erected. On returning uptown the group found that their theatre had been completely remodelled under the guiding hand of Father James P. Caine, S.J., faculty advisor for the theatre, and Richard Burgwin, who was then a student at the University. It was with mixed feelings that the players left the Chemistry Building in February 1945 for somewhat more spacious quarters in Commerce 108. The space in Chemistry was needed for new laboratory facilities.⁵⁵ The following year the theatre was set up in the Florence Ryan Auditorium where it remained until the Library

51. *The Tower*, 1942, 205; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Jan. 1942, 30.

52. *Varsity News*, Sept. 29, 4.

53. Interview with Fr. James Caine, S.J., who came to Detroit in 1942 and was faculty advisor to the players for about thirty years thereafter.

54. *The Tower*, 1942, 124.

55. *Varsity News*, Feb. 14, 1945, 1 and 4.

Building was completed. After that the third floor of the new building housed the theatre for about fifteen years.

In forensics in 1942 the University's Zeta chapter of Sigma Rho Tau, Professional Engineering speech fraternity, wrested the speakers' crown from the University of Michigan where it had been held for twelve years. Detroit took four firsts—Michael Ducody, Raconteur; Richard Brennan, Impromptu; Edward Nesbitt, Engineering Project; David Schroeder, After-Dinner Speech. Joseph Roehl took second place in the Hall of Fame Contest. Detroit speakers were tied with Michigan in scheduled intercollegiate debates held during the regular season. The University of Detroit ended with 79 points, Michigan 69, Detroit Institute of Technology 37, Toledo 28 and Wayne 24.⁵⁶ On November 20 and 21, 1942, two University debating teams captured second and third places in the Annual Midwest Direct Clash Debating Tournament. The Detroit affirmative team of Emil De Graeve and Robert Nelson, who lost only to John Carroll University, had the privilege of engaging in the demonstration of the techniques of direct clash debating, a feature of the Tournament Clinic.⁵⁷

The University all but abandoned intercollegiate debating for a couple of the war years, but during that period, in 1943, John Baumgartner won the Detroit award in the college division of the Jefferson Memorial Oratorical Contest. In the finals held at Mercy College, he defeated one of his own college mates Roberta Edwards, a freshman at the University of Detroit. In the Midwest Zone finals in Chicago, Baumgartner was defeated by James Rathbun of Northwestern University.⁵⁸ The Debating Team reentered the intercollegiate debate field in 1945 and, under the direction of the Reverend Francis Wilson, S.J., placed third among eleven colleges in the Midwest Intercollegiate Tournament held at Kent State University that year. Ann Hughes and Anne Schultz won three out of four of their debates.⁵⁹

In 1940 three University of Detroit students, Casimir Domzalski, Albert Kolch and Thomas Egan, took fifth, seventh and eighth place respectively in the Jesuit Intercollegiate Essay contest. In 1941 John Kavanagh took second place. The following year James Guinan won the contest with his paper on "Catholics and Creative Writing." He was not, however, as the *Varsity News* claimed, the first Detroit student to be so honored.⁶⁰ In 1943 John Smee was awarded first place and Leo Greenup second.

56. *Ibid.*, May 13, 1942.

57. *Ibid.*, Nov. 25, 1942.

58. *Ibid.*, April 7, 1943, 7.

59. *Ibid.*, Feb. 21, 1945; May 16, 1945.

60. *Ibid.*, Feb. 4, 1942, 5. E. J. Brownson took "first" in 1892, W. F. Connolly in 1893, and D. C. Lawless in 1900.

The topic was "The Challenge of Pan-Americanism to the Catholic College Graduate."

The Tower, University yearbook since 1927, was not published in 1943. However, the seniors managed to collect five hundred dollars and put out an abbreviated edition of the annual. The following year neither the *Tower* nor a substitute of any kind was published.

Present-day students may be surprised to hear that the wood and concrete benches about the campus were first placed there in the fall of 1942. The benches, thirteen in number, were the idea of Dean of Men Thomas Ewing, S.J., who suggested that the Inter-Fraternity Council have them made. Chairman of the "Bench Committee" Joseph Saracino and Carpenter Joseph Cassidy were responsible for their production.⁶¹ Another interesting addition to the campus that year came in the shape of two "Jesuit pear trees," presented to the University by the City Department of Parks. The trees were offshoots raised from the sole survivor in Waterworks Park of a whole grove of the trees planted by the Jesuits in the seventeenth century before Cadillac's founding of Detroit. The pear trees had been brought over by the Jesuits from Northern France. Other offshoots from the original tree were also planted with public ceremony in Gabriel Richard Park on East Jefferson near the Belle Isle bridge.⁶²

The University of Detroit has been most fortunate through the years in the choice of her Deans of Women. The first of these, Frances Donohue, is still remembered by the alumni of the early thirties. When Miss Donohue became university registrar she was replaced by Miss Constance Maier (Mrs. Karl Schechter). Both of these women were well liked and respected. In January 1942, following the resignation of Mrs. Schechter, Miss Helen Kean, a summa cum laude graduate of Marygrove, was appointed Dean of Women. Miss Kean had come to the University in 1934 to take a position with the publicity staff. In 1938 she was elevated to the position of assistant director of the University's Student Counsel Bureau, which had been organized a few years before. Among other duties she had charge of interviewing prospective coeds.⁶³ Miss Kean remained Dean of Women from 1942 until the fall of 1968 when she became Associate Dean of Students and then, for the school year 1970-1971, Dean of Students. Meanwhile, she had been teaching a course in "Student Personnel Work in Higher Education" in the Department of Education. In the fall of 1971 she began teaching full time in the Department of Teacher Education in the area of guidance and counselling.

61. *Ibid.*, Oct. 7, 1942, 1.

62. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, June 1942, 70.

63. U. of D. Archives. "Individual Files—K"; *Varsity News*, Feb. 4, 1942, 3; Feb. 11, 1942, 1.

Miss Kean's outstanding loyalty and devoted service has been a great blessing to the University as well as to the coeds who profited by her guidance over the years.

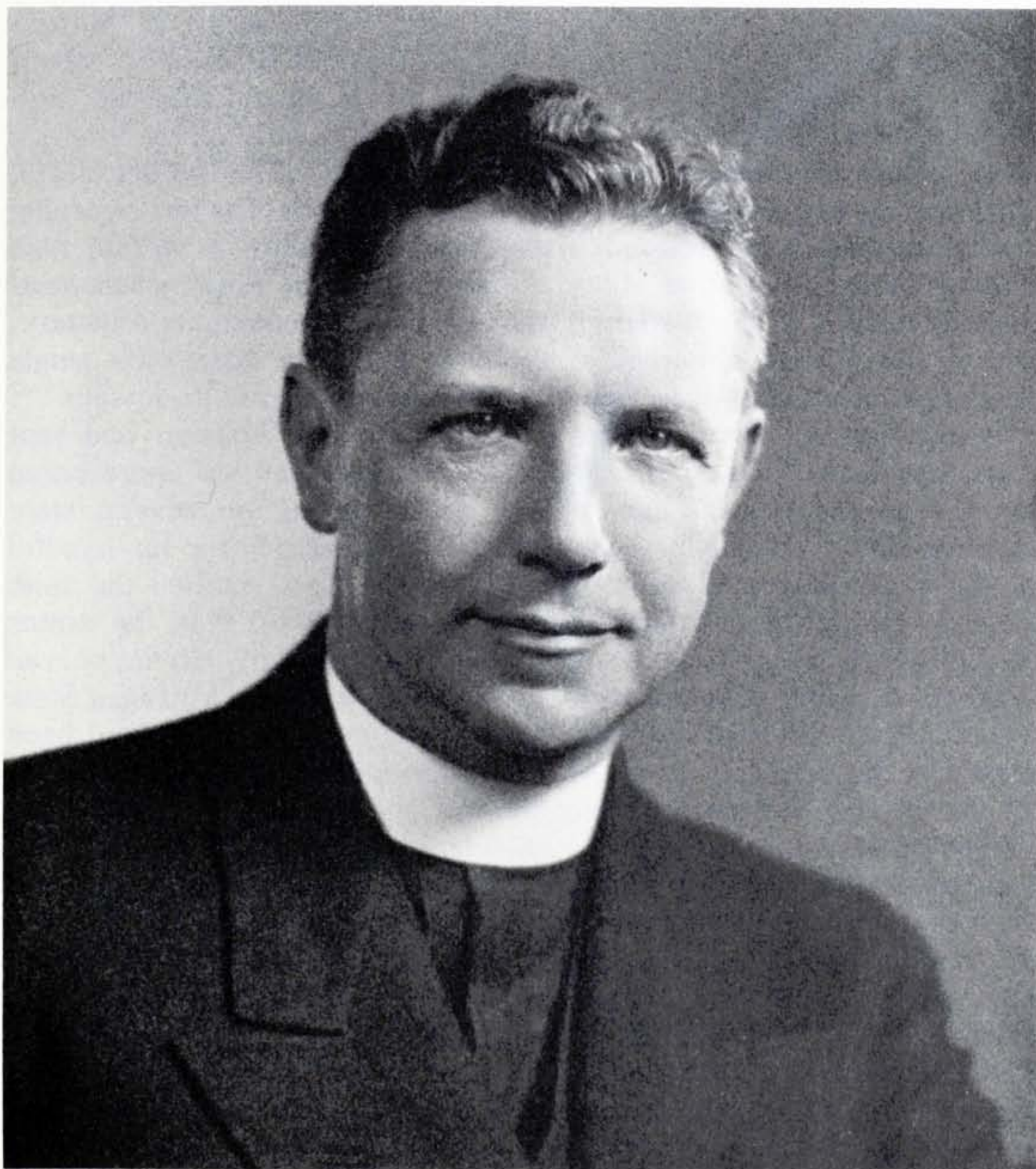
The fall of 1942 also saw a new Dean of Men, the Reverend Edward "Nate" O'Connor, S.J., replace Father Thomas Ewing, S.J., who had left to become an Army Chaplain. There are few alumni from his years at the University who do not remember Father O'Connor's southern drawl—from the South Side of Chicago! Though somewhat inexperienced, he had been a popular teacher in Chicago and in Toledo. He had also served as a high school basketball coach for a while in Kansas and had counselled juvenile delinquents in Ohio and in Chicago. He was a talented priest and, in dealing with college students, he drew upon a great fund of common sense.⁶⁴ He was most popular with the students and it was with sincere regret that the University saw him leave for Xavier University in August 1957.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM J. MILLOR, S.J., FIRST ALUMNUS PRESIDENT

Of the hundreds of its graduates who had left the University of Detroit diploma in hand, many came back to visit their Alma Mater, but none had come back as did William J. Millor, S.J., '23, first alumnus president of the University. A native Detroiter he was born January 1899 in Saints Peter and Paul's parish, entered the grade school and later the University High School. After a brief spell in an officers' training camp during the First World War, he entered the University of Detroit and graduated in 1923.⁶⁵ Two years later he was on his way to the new Milford Novitiate of the Society of Jesus, near Cincinnati. He continued his studies at Florissant, Missouri, and at St. Louis University where he received his Master's degree. He was ordained at St. Mary's, Kansas, in 1934. Soon after, Father Millor left for England where he did four years of classical studies at the University of London, at the end of which he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Coming back to the States he served Loyola University, Chicago, for five years as professor of classical languages. Father Millor succeeded the Reverend

64. *Historia Domus*, 1942, 2; *Varsity News*, Sept. 30, 1; personal recollections of the writer.

65. Note: The *Varsity News*, Sept. 27, 1944, is incorrect when it called Father Millor "the youngest president in the history of the school." That honor belongs to President Michael P. Dowling, S.J., 1889-1893, who was thirty-seven years and nine months old when he took office. At least six other men were younger than Father Millor when they became president, scilicet Walshe 38, Frieden 40, Foley 42, Kellinger 42, Slevin 42 and Dooley 39. Fr. Millor was 45. Cf. Missouri Province Catalogues, *passim*.



Rev. William J. Millor, S.J., first alumnus President of the University 1944-1949.

Charles H. Cloud, S.J., as president of the University of Detroit on June 25, 1944.⁶⁶

Ill health was the reason for Father Cloud's retirement from office. In the spring of 1944 he had undergone a major surgical operation. But he was always so cheerful and affable, never speaking of his problems that his friends did not realize how serious his illness actually was.

66. *Historia Domus*, 1944, 1; *The Jesuit Bulletin*, Nov. 1944, 3; *Varisty News*, Sept. 27, 1944, 1. Cf. U. of D. Archives, "Individual Files—M."

On leaving Detroit he was appointed Rector (President) of Milford Novitiate of the Society of Jesus. In early October he came to Mount Carmel Hospital, Detroit, for a check-up on an ailment that had been troubling him while president. He died in his sleep early on the morning of October 6. Thrombosis was the apparent cause of his sudden death. That evening his remains lay in state in Gesu Church. The next morning Archbishop Mooney presided in the sanctuary during a solemn high mass celebrated by Father Millor. Fathers Millor and Poetker accompanied the body to Milford where it was interred in the novitiate cemetery. One of his friends remarked at the time that "for scarcely a single year of his Jesuit life was he free from the responsibility of leadership."⁶⁷

Before leaving office Governor Murray D. van Wagoner had sent Executive Dean Poetker an expression of his gratitude and appreciation for the special work done by him while serving on several state commissions. "Your name," he wrote, "stands among the top-handful of those appointees of mine who have more than justified the faith I had in calling them to high places in State Service."⁶⁸ In the winter of 1941-1942 Father Poetker had been appointed by Governor van Wagoner to a special commission to study and revise the Michigan State Constitution.⁶⁹ Prior to the Ford strike in the early forties he had been named by the Governor to the Michigan Special Mediation Commission. At the request of both the Ford Motor Company and the UAW-CIO, Father Poetker consented to act as sole arbitrator in the then famous backwage controversy. We are told that: "On this occasion, and others, he was applauded from both sides of the bargaining table."⁷⁰ When the new regional War Labor Board was first established in the Detroit area, Father Poetker was asked to serve as a public member on local panels. Shortly thereafter he accepted appointment as the "impartial third arbitrator" in a dispute between the Detroit Street Railways and the street car and motor coach operators' union and became chairman of the panel.⁷¹ Similar interesting arbitrations were to make great demands on his time during the war years. One can readily understand why an editorial in 1950 termed his departure from Detroit "an incalculable loss to the community." The editorial continued: "Fr. Poetker may be classed as one of the Nation's outstanding educators. But beyond the distinction which he won in that field, and which he wears modestly, he is above all else a useful citizen. The list of his public services

67. "Jesuit Leader," *The Jesuit Bulletin*, Christmas 1944, 3; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, "Obituary," Jan. 1945, 31-32.

68. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Feb. 1943, 39.

69. *Ibid.*, Jan. 1942, 30.

70. *Detroit Free Press*, May 7, 1960.

71. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Oct. 1943, 7.

in Detroit is long. No group or committee to promote a civic undertaking or necessary community enterprise was complete unless Fr. Poetker was a member . . .”⁷² The University of Detroit is grateful to President Millor for having had the wisdom to retain Father Poetker as Executive Dean during the course of his administration.

72. *Detroit Free Press*, Feb. 3, 1950.

CHAPTER XIII

POST WAR DEVELOPMENT

THE UNIVERSITY'S *CREDO*

At the beginning of the War in 1941 the University of Detroit published a "credo" which, together with its preamble and conclusion, set forth beautifully the rationale—the ideals and aspirations—of Jesuit educators at the institution up to the present day. Bearing in mind events in Europe and the Far East, the document pointed out that a struggle was taking place "to capture the mind of youth." Not only were foreign dictatorships seeking to perpetuate their shackles by means of youth movements, but American youth as well was being exposed to "pernicious poisons" which had "the potency to destroy our hard-won liberties."¹ The document further stated that, while "many great universities and colleges" dared not or would not take a stand, the University of Detroit refused to subscribe to the doctrine that *academic freedom* might "be used as a pretext to teach systems which destroy all freedom." It had always taught and would continue to teach "principles on which rest all law, order, and right government."² In view of the struggle in the world at the time a statement of the principles contained in the Credo of the University was then set forth as follows:

It believes in God.

It believes in the personal dignity of man.

It believes that man has certain natural rights which come from God and not from the State.

It therefore is opposed to all forms of dictatorship holding the philosophy that the "total man" (totalitarianism) belongs to the State.

It believes in the sanctity of the home—the basic unit of civilization. It believes in the natural right of private property, but likewise that private property has its social obligations.

It believes that Labor has not only rights but obligations.

1. *University of Detroit Bulletins 1941-42*, College of Arts and Sciences, 3.

2. *Ibid.*

It believes that Capital has not only rights but obligations.

It is vigorously opposed to all forms of "racism"—persecution or intolerance because of race.

It believes that liberty is a sacred thing, but that law, which regulates liberty, is a sacred obligation.

It believes in inculcating all the essential liberties of American Democracy and takes open and frank issue with all brands of spurious "democracy."

It believes, briefly, in the teachings of Christ, who held that morality must regulate the personal, family, economic, political and international life of men if civilization is to endure.

If the firm stand taken by the University was deemed advisable before the war, this was all the more the case at its conclusion. The Western Powers may have won the war; it was questionable whether they won the peace. After Yalta Russia was to pocket Poland, Eastern Germany including Berlin, and the Balkans. To be sure, the people of these countries were to be allowed to establish democratic governments through free elections, but it soon became evident that "democracy" was not a univocal term. The events showed that the peoples of Eastern Europe had simply exchanged oppressors. Russia proceeded with a variety of Machiavellian power politics that amazed a Western World by then more or less accustomed to such maneuvers. The story of how so large a portion of the Far East was to drift into Communism is not relevant here.

While there was a definite trend towards intellectual conservatism in the United States at the close of the war, topics such as positivism, materialism, rationalism, Marxism and militant atheism were anything but dead issues in so large and open a country. Moreover, at the same time the American universities, particularly the private, religious-oriented institutions, were still plagued by the problem of how to handle the question of academic freedom of the more radical kind. With all this apparently in mind, and considering the great influx of returning veterans, most of whom had been out of touch with the University for two or more years, shortly after his re-appointment as Executive Dean by Father Millor, Father Poetker wrote an article for the Detroit Trust Company's *Quarterly* entitled "The U. of D. Teaches a Way of Life."³ We are taking the liberty of including a few paragraphs from the article since they further elaborate the points set forth in the Credo. After a brief historical sketch of the University the article states that:

Jesuit education keeps in mind the whole human personality and aims at the complete and harmonious development of all man's

3. Fr. A. H. Poetker, S. J., "The U. of D. Teaches a Way of Life," *DTC Quarterly*, IV No. 1, Autumn 1944, 2 and 3.

powers and faculties. It is concerned not only that the student acquires knowledge and learning but that he have the ability to express that knowledge clearly, precisely and forcibly. It builds its specialized and professional training on a broad basis of general education. Even in fields of science and engineering, it liberalizes the curriculum so that the scientist and engineer may also be a broadly educated MAN. It believes that making a life is more important than making a living and deprecates the over-emphasis of utilitarian objectives.

Jesuit education, moreover, is based on the conviction that religion and morality are an essential part of education as they are an essential part of the student's life. Hence, while no religious requirements are placed on the non-Catholic students, a religious atmosphere helps to build the consciences of all students for the right fulfillment of their civil, social and religious duties. Students of all faiths learn to appreciate the primacy of moral principles in every human relationship. They develop a philosophy of life which will guide them to wise decisions in all the problems of life and give them stability and anchorage in emergencies and times of stress.

Jesuit education is conservative in the best sense of the word—upholding the traditional principles on which our American government is founded. It will never be suspected of undemocratic or totalitarian sympathies. Strong in defending the inalienable rights of man based on his eternal origin and destiny, it is no less strong in demanding respect for the rights of others. It makes the individual neither a pawn of the State nor yet a law unto himself. It thus becomes an effective defense of our democratic institutions against the pernicious philosophy of State absolutism and pagan materialism that has threatened to engulf the world.

In the years that followed, this "Way of Life" would be put to a severe test. How succeeding administrations, beginning with that of Father Millor, met the challenge will be treated in the pages that follow.

THE UNIVERSITY MEETS A CHALLENGE

The story of how the colleges and universities of the nation adapted themselves to bulging enrollments at the end of the war makes interesting reading. The University of Detroit offers a representative example. In September 1944 the total enrollment at the University was 1821 students including 52 returned veterans. In September 1945 it was 2810 and in 1946 the total came to 7489 with over 5000 veterans. For the next three years the record reads as follows: 8996 in 1947, 9613 in 1948, and 9134 in 1949. In 1950 the total enrollment fell to 8758 at which point it more

or less levelled out until the astounding increase in students in the late fifties and early sixties.⁴

Just as during the war the University had hastened to make its facilities available to men in the services, so now it spared no effort in behalf of the returning veterans. While all were urged to give first consideration to the regular four-year degree programs, the University organized a number of certificate programs available to returned veterans only. Thus in Arts a one-year course was devised for those who wanted a foundation in liberal arts upon which they might build later either in college or informally by private study. For those interested in science, but who did not want a full program, the Departments of Chemistry and Physics constructed two-year programs calculated to give a fairly intensive training in these two sciences.⁵ Similarly the College of Commerce and Finance introduced four new two-year programs of sixty-four semester hours in Accounting, Merchandising, Personnel Management and Basic Business. As in Arts and Sciences, students taking the programs in Accounting, Merchandising and Personnel Management could build on them for a degree should they later wish to continue with their education. The Basic Business Program was conceived as a terminal affair giving a fundamental training in business and qualifying an individual for a wide variety of office positions.⁶ Information regarding programs and courses open to veterans were set forth in a special folder entitled *Educational Opportunities for Returning Service Men and Women*.

The earliest of the returning veterans were wont to bring their problems—vocational, educational, personal, financial—to the attention of the Student Council Bureau. In the spring of 1944 the University recognized the need to establish a Special Veterans Division of the Bureau.⁷ Paul P. Harbrecht was placed in charge of the new Veterans Bureau and was aided by Dean of Freshmen Hugh Smith, S.J., Enos Roberts, Commerce Representative, Dr. Francis Arlinghaus, Graduate Representative, Dean Henry Wirtenberger, S.J., Commerce Night and Law, and Dr. Leo Cadarette, Dental Representative.⁸ Professor Harbrecht had Miss Helen Kean as his Assistant Veteran Director. The Veterans Bureau occupied three offices in the Science Building on the McNichols Campus, with a branch office in Dinan Hall on the Jefferson Campus. In addition to academic and vocational counselling one of the objectives of the Bureau was “to keep the returning veteran informed concerning

4. Official Registration Enrollment Record, Registrar's Office, The University of Detroit.

5. *University of Detroit Bulletins 1945-46*, College of Arts and Sciences, 85-88.

6. *Ibid.* College of Commerce and Finance, (Day), 56-61.

7. *The Tower*, 1947, 24-25.

8. *Varsity News*, Oct. 3, 1945, 1.

his educational rights and privileges under the various federal laws.”⁹ In June 1946, in an attempt to obviate the veterans having to travel downtown for an answer to non-academic problems, the Bureau established a branch office of the Veterans Administration on the uptown campus. It occupied an adjoining office in the Science Building.¹⁰

Contrary to the prediction of the more pessimistic economists, the nation's postwar period was most prosperous. Various reasons are given for this. There were the vast savings accumulated because of wartime price controls and shortage of goods. People now began to spend in a big way. Important too was the generous veterans' education program sponsored by the government, Public Law 346, or the "G.I. Bill of Rights" as it came to be called, which kept many of the returning veterans out of the labor market until peacetime conversion would have been well on its way. A summary of the "G.I. Bill" together with benefits accruing from the Veterans Rehabilitation Program, Public Law 16, is given below.¹¹

If anything was apparent to faculty and administrators alike it was

9. *The Tower*, 1947, 24.

10. *Ibid.*

11. The following summary is taken from the *University of Detroit Bulletins* 1945-46, Arts and Sciences, 3.

Any man or woman who served in the active military or naval service on or after September 16, 1940, and prior to the termination of the present war is entitled to educational benefits under the "G.I. Bill"; provided (a) that he or she shall have a discharge other than dishonorable, (b) that the time of service was at least 90 days, or if within less than 90 days, the veteran shall have been discharged or released from active service by reason of an actual service-incurred injury or disability, and (c) that the person's education or training was delayed or interrupted by reason of his entrance into the Service. If the person was not over 25 years old when he entered the Service, it is assumed that his education was interrupted.

Such eligible persons are entitled to education for a period of 12 months (or the equivalent thereof in continuous part-time study). Upon satisfactory completion of this period of education, the veteran is entitled to an additional period of education equal in length to the total time in service before discharge.

Any person who was over 25 years upon entering the service and whose education was not interrupted is entitled to a refresher or retaining course not to exceed 12 months.

Every veteran eligible for education or training will receive tuition, fees, books and necessary supplies up to \$500 for an "ordinary school year." This allowance continues for the entire period of education to which his time of service entitles him. In addition the veteran will receive, while in a full-time educational program, a subsistence allowance of \$50 a month if without dependents, or \$75 a month if he has one or more dependents.

the serious intent of the returned veterans. As *Varsity News* editor Dick Pfeiffer remarked: "College life has changed. The 'Rah, rah,' and 'Let us be gay' attitude is still there but it is not as pronounced as in former years. In its place there is appearing a new, a serious element in education which is enveloping our colleges the country over."¹² The veterans were a bit older than the average college student. Many of them were already married and were more serious-minded than their fellows. They had seen more of life and had a clearer concept of what they wanted from it than the college student of pre-war days. One can appreciate the justifiable pride that Professor Harbrecht took in his veterans when he notified President Steiner after the graduation of 1950 that "of the 1260 graduates listed in the 1950 Commencement Program 605 were veterans; of the 91 recipients of honors, 56 or 62% were veterans."¹³

In the spring of 1947 Father Millor announced that plans had been completed for the following fall whereby all Commerce freshmen, Arts freshmen pursuing Ph.B. and pre-legal degrees, and all General College students would attend classes in Dowling Hall on the Jefferson Campus. At the same time Evening Commerce and Finance would move to Dowling Hall, thereby making available additional space for Law and Dentistry in Dinan Hall. By opening Dowling Hall, which had been closed since 1932, the University hoped to create enough classroom space to increase its enrollment to 10,000 if need be. As things stood the uptown campus was being swamped with applications from new students and returning veterans.¹⁴

If the veteran wishes to be gainfully employed and take his educational program on a part-time basis (in evening classes, for example) he may do so and receive the equivalent of his allotted time. He must, however, forego all or part of the subsistence allowance, as determined by the Veterans' Administration.

Veterans who are honorably discharged with a service-incurred or service-aggravated physical disability and who have an established need for vocational training or education will be entitled to certain benefits under the law. These benefits are similar to those under the "G.I. Bill," except that the length of the educational program is not limited by the veteran's time in service, but may be carried to a reasonable conclusion, such as a four-year course in college which represents the maximum. Expenses paid to the institution on behalf of the veteran are the same; cash payments to the veteran, including his pension, will be greater than under the "G.I. Bill." This law is also administered by the Veterans' Administration.

12. *Varsity News*, Oct. 23, 1946, 4.

13. P. Harbrecht to Fr. Steiner, July 7, 1950, General Archives XII, "Veterans Bureau."

14. *Varsity News*, April 2, 1947, 1.

When some two thousand students entered Dowling Hall on September 8, 1947, they found that the grand old building had undergone a sand-blasting which revealed the original beauty of its sandstone facing. The floors had been completely resurfaced, the walls repainted and the men's and women's lounges had been renovated and enlarged. A modern snack bar had been installed for the convenience of the students. The gymnasium too had been readied for the use of the freshmen.¹⁵ The Reverend Edward F. Maher, S.J., was appointed Dean of Dowling Hall. He was assisted by Francis J. Filas, S.J., Dean of Men and Miss Ann Hughes, Dean of Women.¹⁶ Father Filas was succeeded a year later by Father Arthur Loveley, S.J. Freshman classes were conducted in Dowling Hall until 1951 when lowering enrollment and added buildings on the McNichols Campus no longer necessitated a split campus.

THE GENERAL COLLEGE AND COLLEGE OF MUSIC

All accredited colleges and universities have an admission policy embracing certain standards that must be met before a high school graduate is admitted to their program of studies. Each institution generally demands that a specified number of high school units be taken with a stated quality point ratio. Frequently, however, students will graduate from high school who cannot meet such standards and who still want to better themselves by attending college. With a view towards giving such students a chance to fulfill their desires, the University of Detroit in 1938 inaugurated in its General College a two-year terminal program. This program enabled some students to get into the University; for others it provided an intellectual enrichment they might not otherwise have enjoyed. The courses in the program carried no credit that could be transferred to any other college in the University. However, if a student in the program were to achieve a "B" average in any given semester, he might, with the approval of his teachers, be admitted to one of the colleges of the University as a beginning freshman.¹⁷ First-year courses in the General College included English, Western Civilization, Orientation in Science, Principles of Economics and Speech. In the second year one took English, American History, Political Science, Sociology, Music Appreciation and a course in the Arts. In both years Catholic students took Religion while non-Catholics took courses in Rational Foundations of Religion.¹⁸ A General College student was entitled

15. *Ibid.*, Sept. 17, 1947, 2.

16. *University of Detroit Bulletins 1948-1949*, College of Arts and Sciences, 6. *Varsity News*, Sept. 17, 1947, 1.

17. *The General College of the University of Detroit*, College of Arts and Sciences. Cf. General Archives, "General College."

18. *Ibid.*

to the fringe benefits of the University the same as any other student, although he could not become a member of one of the varsity athletic teams.

In 1945 the University of Detroit worked out an affiliation with the Detroit Institute of Musical Art. The Institute had been first organized in 1914 and in 1920 moved into its handsome quarters close to the Public Library. According to the Articles of Affiliation college-level work in music was to be conducted under the supervision of a Joint Committee representing the two institutions. Academic courses were to be taken at the University. College programs in music were to lead to a Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and to Certificates in Music. The degrees were to be conferred by the University of Detroit.¹⁹

The affiliation was operative to September 1958, when the last freshmen were admitted into the joint program. The reasons for discontinuing the program were several. First of all, according to a change in the North Central Association's policy, technical and professional schools such as schools of music could now be accredited by the NCA.²⁰ More to the point, Dean Britt and his Arts and Science Council were concerned that continuance of the musical program seemed not to fit in with specifications set down by the NCA, which in general did not look with too much favor on such affiliations. It would have been hard to prove to the NCA the need for the program since a mere fifty-seven students had been granted degrees in music in eight years. An even more serious consideration was the fact that such students took too few academic subjects and that these were not specific enough. For example, a Bachelor of Music degree specified only six hours of basic English. The remaining twenty-six hours were elective. A student could get a degree from the University of Detroit without ever having had a course in philosophy, theology, history, language and literature, mathematics or science, all of which were part of the core curriculum at the University at the time.²¹ From the time of the discontinuance of this program the University of Detroit did not grant degrees in music until the Consortium was worked out with Marygrove College in the early nineteen-seventies. However, in the meantime, students were granted Bachelor of Arts degrees with majors in music or in art. Many of the courses in music and art were taken at Marygrove.

19. U. of D. Archives, D.I.M.A. file 1942-1944; Trustees files, University of Detroit, Dec. 7, 1929-Oct. 25, 1955; *University of Detroit Bulletins 1945-46*, Detroit Institute of Musical Art, 8ff.

20. Celestin J. Steiner, S.J., to President Willoughby D. Broughton, August 6, 1958, U. of D. Archives, D.I.M.A. file, 1960.

21. L. V. Britt, S.J., to C. J. Steiner, S.J., April 22, 1958, U. of D. Archives, D.I.M.A. file 1958.

In the spring of 1945 Father Millor announced that a Department of Psychology would be added to the University. Classes were to be conducted in that discipline beginning with the first summer session. Dr. Alexander Schneiders, prominent psychologist and writer, chairman of the new department, was joined by Dr. Michael Erdelyi. Meanwhile courses in Educational, Child, and Rational Psychology seem to have been given by the departments of Education and Philosophy. By 1949 James Casper, James J. Freer, Owen Kiely, Rex Pulford and Joan Purcell had been added as Instructors in Psychology.²²

During the war years the faculty of the College of Engineering had worked on a revision of its curriculum of general studies. Its intent had been to broaden further the outlook of its students by the addition of more liberal arts subjects without at the same time working against their scientific and technical proficiency. The new curriculum contained well-planned courses in economics, English, philosophy, religion, sociology and personnel relations. It was a further step towards making the engineer the "broadly educated MAN" referred to by Father Poetker in the article cited earlier in this chapter.²³

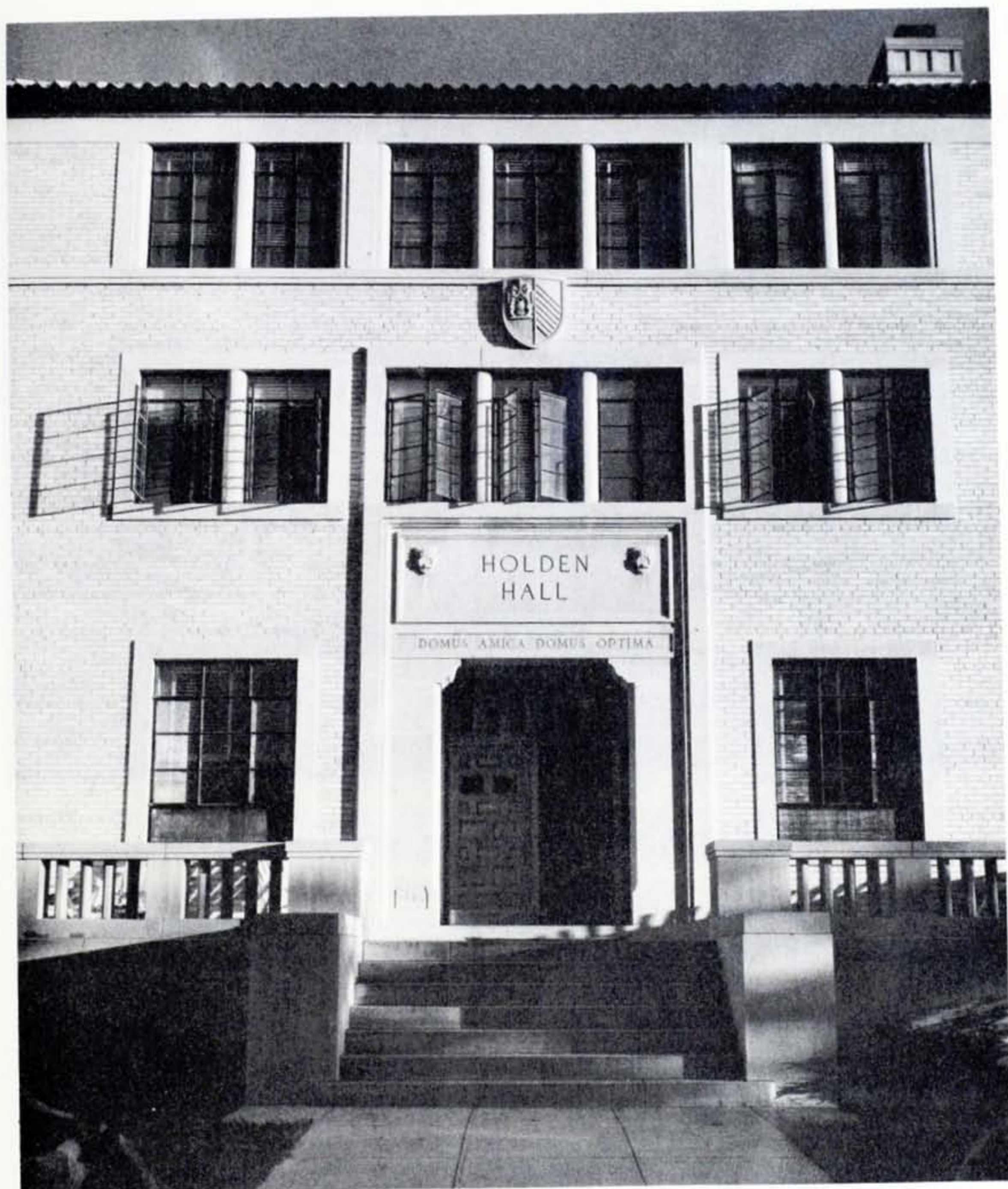
THE NEW BUILDING PROGRAM

It may be recalled that, in the original plans submitted by Father McNichols to his trustees, a library, student union, gymnasium and dormitories played a significant part. Unfortunately the Great Depression, followed by the war, made impossible of attainment that which the prosperity of the post-war years now saw actualized. The first of the new buildings to be erected was Holden Hall, a men's dormitory capable of housing two hundred students. It was the gift of James S. Holden, a former member of the Administrative Council of the University. In a letter Mr. Holden gave as the reason for the gift "the respect, admiration and friendship" he held for Father Poetker, former President and then Executive Dean. Writing in the third person Mr. Holden continued: "In his position as a member of your Advisory Committee, he was closely associated with Father Poetker during the period of financial reorganization of your institution and thus became cognizant of the work you are doing and with your hopes and ideals for the future."²⁴ The only request made by Mr. Holden in connection with the grant was that "suitable recognition be permanently accorded Father Poetker in

22. *University of Detroit Bulletins*, 1945-1950, College of Arts and Sciences. *Varsity News*, April 4, 1955, 1; *Chicago Province Chronicle*, May 1945, 67.

23. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Dec. 1943, 22.

24. James S. Holden to the University of Detroit, Jan. 26, 1945, Trustees' files, University of Detroit, Dec. 7, 1929-Oct. 25, 1955.



Holden Hall, first Dormitory on Campus.

the form of an appropriate tablet, to be placed in the main hallway of the proposed building, which would record a tribute to Father Poetker for his services to the University."²⁵

Ground was broken for the hall in late spring 1946. It was originally meant to be completed by the fall of that same year, but construction

25. *Ibid.*



The Sacred Heart Statue with the Briggs Building in Background.

was delayed several times due to lack of building materials. It was fortunate that the hall was approved by the Civilian Production Administration and so got a preference rating since it was intended largely for the use of returning veterans.²⁶ In September 1947 a hundred and eighty-two students walked for the first time under the arched doorway that proclaimed *Domus Amica Domus Optima* (A friendly home is the best home).

Shortly before ground was broken for Holden Hall, a similar ceremony took place in the mall between the Commerce and Chemistry buildings when Father Joseph Foley, S.J., broke ground for the statue of the Sacred Heart. The statue, which has since become a spiritual focal point on campus, came from the Kaletta Company in St. Louis and stands five feet, six inches in height. It was the gift of the Students' Sodality.²⁷

“The Board of Trustees of the University of Detroit requests the

26. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, May 1946, 74.

27. *Varsity News*, Oct. 17, 1945; May 15, 1946, 1.

honour of your presence at the dedication of the University Library by his Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney on Saturday, the eleventh of November nineteen hundred and fifty at two o'clock in the afternoon McNichols Road Campus."²⁸ So read the invitation sent out by the University. Its friends could rejoice with the students that another of Father McNichol's dreams had finally been realized. Since 1927 the library with its hundred and fifty thousand plus volumes had been crowded into dusty quarters on the third floor of the Engineering Building.

Word that a library would be constructed in spite of high post-war building costs first reached the public in April 1949. The proposed cost was announced by Father Millor as being a million dollars. Its architectural design and general planning was the result of studying libraries at Harvard, Princeton, MIT, and elsewhere. As planned, the new building would seat eight hundred students and house about five hundred thousand books. It was intended that the building should be in keeping with the University's Spanish Renaissance type architecture.²⁹ The Architects were Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., while W. E. Wood Company was the general contractor.

Ground was broken for the new library on June 11, 1949, with Father Millor and Elmer J. Smith of the Dearborn Stamping Company doing the honors.³⁰ In late November, without a formal ceremony, one of the cornerstones was laid by Joseph Essiambre who had set the Tower cornerstone a quarter century earlier.³¹ The formal dedication and blessing of the Library by His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney took place on Saturday afternoon, November 11, as one of the prime features of the four-day 1950 Homecoming celebrations. Assistant priest to His Eminence was the Reverend Celestin J. Steiner, S.J., President of the

28. U. of D. Archives, General Files, "New Library, Ground Breaking-Dedication."

29. *Detroit News*, April 17, 1945; *Varsity News*, April 22, 1949; Paul B. Brown, "University of Detroit Library Building," *National Architect*, Jan. 1952, 4-6. Unfortunately the architect's plans have not been realized even twenty-five years later. Part of the third-floor bookstacks were not completed and other modifications dropped seating capacity to fewer than six hundred students.

30. *Alumni Bulletin*, August 1949, 1. The University silver spade bears the following inscription in Latin: "By the use of this spade to remove the living sod, Most Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, bishop and chief pastor of the diocese of Detroit, laid the foundation of the new and greater University of Detroit, November 25, 1925. Long may it live, flourish and prosper." Translated from the Latin *Alumni Bulletin*, Aug. 1949, 1.

31. U. of D. Archives, General Files, "New Library," unmarked clipping dated Nov. 29, 1949. Note: The limestone exterior was seen to be more practical than the sandstone of the original buildings. Later, when the addition was added to Lansing-Reilly Hall, it was found that, while the quarry still had some of the original stone, the cost was prohibitive.



The University of Detroit Library.

University. Assistant Deacons were Father William J. Millor, S.J., who, as President of the University, had been responsible for starting the library, and Father John F. Quinn, S.J., Rector of the University Community. The University Choral Society offered a fine selection of songs for the occasion. Meanwhile various student organizations had prepared special exhibits depicting library services for the open house that followed the dedication.³² In his address to the assembled alumni, faculty and students, President Steiner pointed out that this dedication was not a mere ritual. "Our nation," he said, "faces an ideological crisis, and it is the duty of our educational institutions to preserve our freedom, the wisdom and culture of the past."³³

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held Wednesday January 4, 1950, the Reverend Celestin J. Steiner, S.J., who had succeeded Father Millor as President the previous September, emphasized "the absolute

32. *Detroit Times*, Nov. 12, 1950; *Detroit Free Press*, Nov. 12, 1950, Sect. B; *Michigan Catholic*, Nov. 9, 1950, 5.

33. *Detroit News*, Nov. 12, 1950.

and immediate need of a gymnasium and a Union building.” After no little explanation and considerable discussion the Board approved unanimously that an architect be engaged to make the preliminary study and drawings for these two structures.³⁴ On April 2 Father Steiner and Father Preusser, Treasurer of the University, were authorized to sign contracts covering the proposed buildings. At the same meeting it was voted to finance the Activities Building, as the Student Union came to be called, by adding one dollar per semester to the activities fee and five dollars per semester once the building came to be in operation.³⁵ On July 3 Father Steiner wrote to the Very Reverend Provincial, Joseph M. Egan, S.J., explaining the project and asking him to pass on the information to Father General in Rome. In the course of the letter he made clear the multiple-purpose nature of the “gymnasium”—its suitability for intercollegiate and intramural sports, physical education program, student convocations and assemblies, chapel or “cathedral” capable of holding the entire student body at Masses of the Holy Ghost, auditoriums, social events participated in by students, alumni and parents. He further pointed out the considerable saving of rentals of halls, auditoriums, gymnasiums, etc., once such a fieldhouse was had on campus.³⁶

In mid-December word came back from Rome approving the building projects and giving permission to borrow \$900,000 on the field house.³⁷ Meanwhile W. E. Wood Company set the estimated cost of the structure at \$2,250,000 and of the Activities Building at \$990,000.³⁸ Shortly thereafter the trustees at the suggestion of Father Steiner voted to postpone any decision to start the Activities Building until January. At this latter date Father Steiner reported that, while full authorization had been received from Rome for the erection of the Student Center, it seemed “more prudent to proceed no farther than completion of the plans.” At this same meeting it was agreed that the name Alumni Memorial should be carved in the northeast corner of the new fieldhouse.³⁹ The obvious reason for this name came from the fact that, as early as April 1950, the Alumni Board, together with the D Club and the Stadium Club, had pledged themselves to raise \$400,000 to \$500,000 towards payment of the building.⁴⁰

34. Trustees Minutes, Jan. 4, 1950, 35. The cost of the preliminary drawings, about \$20,000, was approved on Mar. 5.

35. *Ibid.*, April 2, 1950, 37.

36. Celestin J. Steiner, S.J., to Very Rev. Joseph M. Egan, S.J., July 3, 1950, U. of D. Archives, General Files VI, “Memorial Building.”

37. U. of D. Archives, General Files VI, “Memorial Building-Construction.”

38. *Ibid.*, Henry J. Brennan to Harley, Ellington, Day, Inc., Nov. 28, 1950.

39. Trustees Minutes, Jan. 14, 1951, 46.

40. *Ibid.*, April 2, 1950, 37. The Stadium Club was organized in late summer



The Memorial Building.

Under the leadership of Merritt D. Hill the Alumni organized a citywide campaign to raise \$500,000. The city was divided into sections with a "major" at the head of each section. Each major had on the average about ten captains under him. The size of a captain's team varied greatly but here again the average was about ten men or women.⁴¹ On July 18 a one-day "blitz attack" called T Day (Titan Day) was held to spur the campaign. That day \$127,000 was pledged. In early November a two-day drive ("TNT Days") was organized to secure the remaining \$200,000 before the groundbreaking ceremony, set for November 12.⁴² The previous May 19, in an editorial which concerned itself with the University of Detroit's overall campaign for \$20,000,000, it was noted

1948 by one hundred men to assist the Athletic Department at the University with ticket sales and generally to sponsor activities and projects which would advance the status of athletics there. Merritt D. Hill was president. *Alumni Bulletin*, Aug. 1948, 3.

41. *Michigan Catholic*, July 13, 1950.

42. *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 1950.

that the University had educated thousands who had become "valuable citizens of Detroit and Michigan." Somehow the institution had remained self-sufficient. Now, however, outside help was needed. The writer concluded: "The aim is not to benefit the U. of D. The aim is to enable the university better to benefit the community. This is an appeal which should not go unanswered."⁴³

The present writer recalls showing the Memorial Building to an educator from France a few years after its completion. Looking at the interior with its unobstructed view from row after row of armed chairs, he turned and said simply "C'est magnifique!" At the time of the dedication *The Detroiter* also thought it to be a "magnificent edifice." The *Free Press* considered Detroit to have been presented "with its finest convention hall."⁴⁴ Similar eulogies were expressed by other news media. Clearly the three-story structure with its huge arena, its classrooms, offices, showers, equipment rooms, locker rooms, ROTC range, handball courts, women's gymnasium, band room and running track amazed and delighted the four thousand spectators who came to see "the city's latest and most modern model home."

At the dedication ceremony held May 25, 1952, His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, blessed the new edifice. When he had finished he asked that he might add a "brief and informal word."⁴⁵ Thereupon he praised the Fathers for the almost seventy-five years' work they had done in the diocese. He lauded the "vision and courage of the energetic and enterprising President" of the University, who had accomplished so much in so short a time. He pointed out the outstanding contribution of the University to its students, Catholic as well as those of other faiths. He said:

Assuredly the cultural courses these young people choose to follow will confirm and deepen their belief in God as the Author of life and liberty, as the Supreme Lawgiver and Judge, as the ultimate source of human rights and duties in the individual, in the family and in all the political and economic relations of men in society. In the atmosphere that prevails here they become quickly aware that this University takes its stand on certain absolutes in human knowledge, in human rights and in human morality and sees in the general acceptance of these spiritual absolutes our country's one sure protection against the brutal, materialistic absolutism in government which, in this age of confusion, has invaded wide

43. *Detroit Times*, Friday, May 19, 1950.

44. *The Detroiter*, June 9, 1952; *Free Press*, May 27, 1952, "As We See It."

45. A copy of Cardinal Mooney's address is to be found in the U. of D. Archives, General Files VI, "Memorial Building—Dedication."

stretches of Europe and Asia and enslaved hundreds of millions of people.

In his dedicatory address the Very Reverend Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., President of Fordham University, pointed out that certain agitators in this country, laboring under the impression that democratic unity means uniformity, had singled out for attack private or religious schools. They had forgotten that "in every country behind the Iron Curtain the religious school was first attacked and then the church and then the home."⁴⁶ Father McGinley called attention to the fact that, in this very building, Army and Air Force ROTC cadets would drill where at other times civic, religious or academic functions would be held. This was the "American Way." And to this American Way of Life the University of Detroit was making two great contributions. "The first," he said, "is by its very existence as an independent non tax-supported University The second is by the philosophy this University teaches and practices. Here man, as such, no matter what his nationality, his color, or his creed, is accepted as possessing the personal dignity of a child of God with certain natural rights that came to him from his Creator. Here the welfare of the individual is the goal of the State, not vice versa. Here 'social engineering' finds no place where freedom is lost and the individual has value only by subordinating personality to the scientifically engineered monotony of the group."

Music for the dedication ceremony was supplied by the University of Detroit Choral Society under the direction of Mr. George McLeod and by the University of Detroit Concert Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Robert J. Taptich and by Mr. John Callaghan at the organ. The Reverend J. B. Dwyer, S.J., and Dr. Bernard F. Landuyt, co-chairmen of the program, together with their various committees, were praised for their painstaking efforts in making the occasion a grand success.

FINAL SEPARATION OF HIGH SCHOOL AND THE UNIVERSITY

Although the University of Detroit High School had been separated academically from the collegiate division since 1928, financially the two institutions were still being administered by the University. In September 1947 Father Poetker proposed that the University sell to the Chicago Province all or part of the High School plant for an amount sufficient to redeem outstanding bonds after the deposit in the Sinking Fund would be exhausted. The cash thus obtained from the Province would then

46. A copy of Father McGinley's address is to be found in the U. of D. Archives, General Files VI, "Memorial Building—Dedication."

be paid into the Sinking Fund and the refinancing of the University would be completed.⁴⁷ After consultation with Jesuit officials in Chicago the sum of \$750,000 was set as a fair price for the High School. This, together with interest due, came to \$900,000 in Father Poetker's opinion. Then, if the High School were allowed \$250,000 for its share in the Jefferson Avenue property the balance due the University came to \$650,000.⁴⁸

When the trustees of the High School were advised of this proposal they were not at all sure that it was just. President Stein, S.J., noted that former Provincial J. J. O'Callaghan had said that, in lieu of its share in the Jefferson Avenue property, the University should build a high school. Father Robb thought that, as the High School had shared the University's indebtedness, so it should share its good fortune.⁴⁹ During November the High School loaned the Province \$100,000 to help buy the school on Seven Mile Road. The High School trustees noted that the University had called in all bonds and would be solvent by January 1, 1948, as far as the banks were concerned. It would still owe the Province some \$450,000, however, which it expected the High School to pay.⁵⁰ The High School did not think it should be thus obligated; moreover, it felt it should get back the \$100,000 loaned to the Province in November for purchasing the property.⁵¹ It might be noted here that Fathers Millor, Shiple, Reno and Preusser, University trustees, also felt that too great a burden was being placed on the High School.⁵² The matter was settled when a verdict came from Rome stating that the financial split was to become effective June 30, 1948, and each house was to keep exactly what it had. Moreover, there was to be no debt incurred by either High School or University.⁵³

Obviously this question of financial separation of the two institutions after seventy-five years was a complex affair. The minutes of the trustees of the University show that its members were striving for a just and charitable solution of the problem. There was not complete accord as to how this could come about. Some were disappointed at Rome's solution; but all quietly accepted its verdict. It was another good example of the wisdom of having such a central tribunal at Rome. The issue, in

47. Trustees Minutes, Sept. 27, 1947, 3.

48. Minutes of Trustees, U. of D. High School, Sept. 16, 1947.

49. *Ibid.*

50. *Ibid.*, Dec. 1947.

51. *Ibid.*, Jan. 5, 1948.

52. Trustees Minutes, Jan. 7, 1948, 13.

53. *Ibid.*, June 2, 1948. Also cf. Minutes of Trustees, U. of D. High School, July 1948. The particulars of the transference are to be found in a letter of A. H. Poetker, S.J., to Rev. Gilbert F. Stein, S.J., Aug. 31, 1948. Copy in U. of D. Archives.

secular institutions, might well have resulted in long, drawn-out, expensive court proceedings without benefit in the end to either side. In October, 1950, the trustees of the University approved a resolution to pay the balance of its entire indebtedness to the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus. This sum came to \$255,450.⁵⁴

AIR FORCE AND ARMY RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS PROGRAMS

Beginning in 1922, or possibly earlier, the University of Detroit had given serious consideration to having a Reserve Officers Training Corps unit on campus. On January 1, 1922, that hope seemed about to be realized when, after several months' negotiations with the War Department, Aeronautics Dean Thomas F. Dunn received permission to form an air service unit.⁵⁵ However, nothing came of the venture. Further attempts seem to have been made in 1931, and in 1935 the University had hopes of getting an ROTC armory via the WPA. Then came World War II. Early in 1946 we are informed that, as part of the Army's program of expansion of ROTC units, the University had applied for such units in aviation and dentistry. Meanwhile army representatives had visited the campus.⁵⁶ It was not until 1949 that the University received word that an Air Force ROTC unit had been approved and would begin operation on campus on July 1st that year.⁵⁷

The stated purpose of the Air Force ROTC was "to produce junior officers who have qualities and attributes essential to their progressive development as officers in a component of the Air Force of the United States."⁵⁸ The four-year program was made up of a Basic Course for freshmen and sophomores and an Advanced Course for the remaining two years. Generally speaking the latter depended on the individual cadet. Thus Administration, Logistics and Flight Operations were open to all students, while General Technical was designed mostly for science majors and Comptrollership for those in business and economics. Completion of the program, which included a six weeks' summer camp, led to a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force Reserves, though the better students could apply for an appointment in the Regular Air Force. Academic credit was allowed by the University to the extent of two credits per semester for the Advanced Course. Air Force uniforms

54. Trustees Minutes, Oct. 19, 1948, 23.

55. Memoranda XVI, unidentified article, Jan. 1922.

56. *Chicago Province Chronicle*, Feb. 1946, 47.

57. Trustees Minutes, June 26, 1949, 27.

58. *University of Detroit Bulletins 1952-54*, Arts and Sciences, 18; Engineering 33.

were issued to students in the Basic Course while an allowance was made by the government for those in the Advanced Course. Moreover, a daily allowance was provided for the latter up to 570 days.⁵⁹ By 1952, under the able leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Tyrus H. Kirke, the unit had grown to over seven hundred students on the Detroit campus.⁶⁰ At first somewhat crowded in its quarters in the "Tower Court" next to the power house, the ROTC moved into its spacious quarters in the Memorial Building in the summer of 1952.

The fall of 1950 saw the formation of the Arnold Air Society on campus, a unit named for the leadership of General "Hap" Arnold. The rationale of the new society was to promote "the purpose, mission, tradition, and concept of the U.S. Air Force as a means of national defense." It was further intended to promote American citizenship and finally "to bring about a closer and more efficient relationship among the Air Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets."⁶¹ On November 10, 1950, the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps in conjunction with the Arnold Air Society, and as part of the Homecoming celebration, presented the first formal Military Ball, with Miss Sally MacInnis, Commerce Junior, as "Sweetheart of the Corps."⁶²

Though President Millor had come out on more than one occasion against conscription he had always favored the ROTC programs. Now with an Air Force unit on campus he was eager to have an Army program as well.⁶³ However, problems on the part of the Army as well as the University prevented an Army unit being started until September 1951. The objectives of the newly installed Army Engineers Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University were similar to those of the Air Corps. The program at the University of Detroit was open to Engineers, technical and scientific students. It was a four-year program with pay allotments, uniforms, university credit, summer camp, and ultimately a commission coming to advanced students.⁶⁴ Later the Army program at the University was broadened so as to admit students other than those engaged in technical or scientific studies only.

59. *Ibid.*

60. *The Tower*, 1952, 52-53.

61. *The Tower*, 1951, 131.

62. *Varsity News*, Nov. 10, 1950, 6.

63. Cf. correspondence in U. of D. Archives, General File, ROTC—Army '47-'50.

64. *University of Detroit Bulletins 1952-53*, Arts and Sciences, 18-19.