

A Pictorial History of Ohio Northern University

Paul Logsdon

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Introduction

Those interested in the history of Ohio Northern University may also wish to consult two earlier publications. The first of these, *H.S. Lehr and His School*, by Sara Lehr Kennedy was published in 1938. Mrs. Kennedy was the daughter of the institution's founder, Henry Solomon Lehr. She was a student at Ohio Northern and served as her father's secretary until her graduation in 1893. In this capacity, she would have been well placed to observe the operation of the university during the later years of the Lehr administration. As the author noted in her Foreword, she also drew on her father's serialized reminiscences which appeared in the *University Herald* between 1904 and 1909.

Although some coverage was provided through the next two administrations, the emphasis of *H.S. Lehr and His School* is clearly on the Lehr years. Indeed, 235 out of its 267 pages were devoted to that period. This concentration on the Lehr administration may have been due, in part, to her lack of later direct contact with the University. In February 1900, shortly before her father's retirement Sara Lehr married Edward Kennedy, a Methodist clergyman. The couple lived in Indiana, China, and Illinois until 1922.

A second work, *Tempered in Crisis*, by Eugene Belch, was published in conjunction with the University's centenary in 1971. This book was based, in part, on the research of Prof. Wilfred Binkley of ONU's department of history and political science. Dr. Binkley had been asked by President Meyer to write an institutional history, and fragmentary notes indicate that this work was to have been comprehensive and detailed. Following Dr. Binkley's untimely death in 1965, the task devolved to Dr. Belch of Ohio Northern's English department. The result was a short occasional piece with numerous anecdotes but a shortage of citations. Although *Tempered in Crisis* carried the institution's history to the 1970's, it covered much the same ground as *H.S. Lehr and His School*. Slightly more than half of the 42-page publication was devoted to the Lehr era. Like Sara Kennedy, Dr. Belch drew on Dr. Lehr's reminiscences heavily.

In researching the early years of the University I too relied on the serialized memoirs of Dr. Lehr. Some issues were contained in a scrapbook compiled by Sarah Lehr Kennedy. Dr. Belch mentions in his Acknowledgements using this material. In comparing the scrapbook to microfilm of the reminiscences as they appeared in the *Ada Record*, I noted gaps in both sources. Given the advanced deterioration of the scrapbook I thought it best to produce a compilation of these memoirs from both sources. This material is available as a two-volume set, *History of the O.N.U.*, from the ONU Archives.

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Each weekly installment is cited regarding the original newspaper date and pages. In citing the memoirs in this work, however, I have provided the page numbers from *History of the O.N.U.* since it is a far more convenient resource than either the microfilm or the scrapbook.

Since the history of Ohio Northern University is intertwined with that of the village of Ada, readers may also wish to consult two additional publications. Professor Emerita Elizabeth Miller, formerly of the ONU department of English, has compiled an excellent series of books dealing with the village's history. They have been published under the series title *Small Town Sampler* and are numbered one through six. In addition, she collaborated on a compilation of 17 historical articles by Agnew Welsh, editor of the *Ada Record*. The series first appeared in the *Ada Herald in the 1930s*, and was reprinted in 1987 under the title *History of the Ada Community*.

I am deeply indebted to a number of persons for their assistance in preparing this work. Mr. Monty Siekerman of the Ohio Northern University Public Information and his staff have been of great help with double-checking the accuracy of the material included and with the many steps in turning the manuscript into an actual book. I especially wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs. Mary Devore of the university Communication Skills Center for her help in proofing the manuscript and for her numerous and tactful comments.

Two former faculty members and life-long residents of Ada must also be mentioned. Professor Betty Miller has offered many helpful and perceptive comments as has Mrs. Miriam Smull Parkhill, former Cataloging Librarian at ONU's Heterick Memorial Library. They have the advantage of having lived much of the history about which I have merely read.

¹Stephen J. Kennedy, Edward Bidwell Kennedy and His Ancestors (1983) 121.

²Kennedy 127-165.

Preface

Ohio Northern University was established at a time when both the United States and American higher education were rapidly changing. These changes were clearly evident in Ohio in the years leading up to Ohio Northern's founding.

The pre-civil war curriculum, with its concentration on classical languages and religion, was giving way to one which emphasized modern languages, the sciences and a strong dose of vocationalism. Northern's founder, Dr. Henry Solomon Lehr, was a product of both environments, and, not surprisingly, the institution which he guided for three decades partook of both. While paying homage to the usages of an earlier era, Northern was, from its inception, designed to prepare its students, in practical ways, for success in later life.

If the school, originally named the Northwestern Ohio Normal School, appeared to be run like a business, that was not accidental. Lehr and his fellow trustees owned the institution outright during his administration. Their concerns for the marketability of their product was not misplaced, especially when one considers the numerous other schools of the day, also founded on a shoestring, that failed.

Under its first president, Henry Solomon Lehr, Northern established its focus on professional education with the creation of programs in education, engineering, pharmacy, and law. Lehr, an educational entrepreneur, made Northern his life's work and devoted himself to nurturing the fledgling school as best he could. His view of higher education was an amalgam of the rural school house, earlier classical college traditions, and Progressive educational theory.

Like numerous institutions of the time, Lehr and his colleagues also tapped into the growing market for public school teachers. Many students followed Lehr's own career pattern and combined periods of employment with periods of education. This was especially true of the normal or teacher's training program where students attended episodically over several years. Numerous short-term courses were also offered in subjects like stenography or telegraphy.

While this model served to launch Ohio Northern, it quickly became obvious that it would be unable to sustain it. Competition from other normal schools in the region was fierce. It also proved difficult to secure outside assistance for the institution. Fortunately Lehr recognized these facts and the need for changes in the administration of the school..

Preface

His two successors, presidents Belt and Smith, saw the need for Northern to grow beyond its normal school origins and took steps to complete the transformation begun by Lehr. Their joint administrations spanned the period from 1902 to 1930. At the end of this period, the curriculum and organization of the school had been completely revamped. The university added numerous buildings and greatly expanded the campus.

Dr. Smith's two immediate successors, presidents Williams and McClure, faced a far less hospitable financial environment than existed during much of President Smith's tenure. The arrival of the Great Depression and then the Second World War left Northern in precarious condition for approximately two decades. Indeed, during WWII, the university came close to closing.

Although the period of post-war recovery was underway by the end of Dr. McClure's administration, it was under President McIntosh that Northern finally shook free from its recent hardships. All of the university's professional programs finally were accredited by their respective evaluating bodies as was the undergraduate program in general. A significant building program was undertaken, and enrollment soared. These trends continued under President Meyer.

The short and unhappy administration of President Ray Loeschner was in stark contrast to those of his two predecessors. Although several of his ideas were basically sound, the way in which they were put forth alienated many faculty members and led to serious unrest on campus. He resigned after 23 months in office.

In 1979 Ohio Northern has resumed its development under the leadership of President Debow Freed. Several trends carried over from previous administrations such as the expansion and strengthening of the curriculum. Additional buildings were constructed on a campus which grew by another 120 acres. A serious attempt was made to shift Northern's focus from being primarily a local institution to one with greater regional visibility. At the same time, efforts began to be made to forge ties with sister universities abroad.

Chapter 1 - A Select School, 1866 - 1870



Lehr Family Cabin

Henry Solomon Lehr, founder of Ohio Northern University, was born in 1838 at Ohlton in Mahoning County, Ohio. His father was a weaver by trade, and at age eight Henry joined him, working as a "spool boy." His formal education began in local country schools when he was 12 and continued between 1850 and 1854 as the finances of the Lehr family permitted. By his own accounting, Lehr attended school for a total of perhaps one year during this period. His informal education was, however, fairly extensive.



Lehr's Early Years

When he was 16, Henry decided, at the urging of one of his teachers, to broaden his educational horizons by entering Alfred Holbrook's academy at Marlborough, Ohio. He attended for about five weeks, or until the close of the fall term. By the time he left for home that autumn, young Henry had decided that he wanted to make teaching his life's work, and in October he sat for, and was awarded, a teaching certificate. Although his formal qualifications may seem sparse by today's standards, he received the top rating from among the 52 applicants applying.

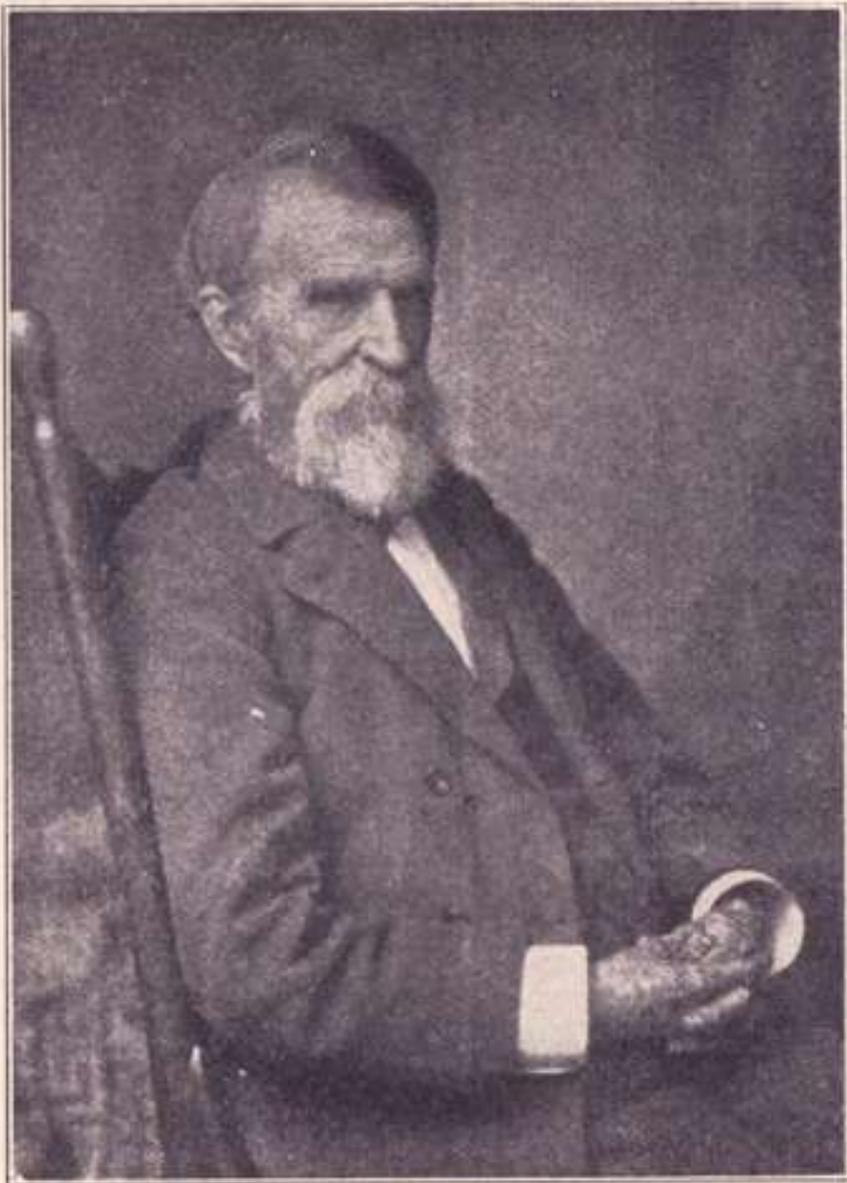
Lehr's First Teaching Certificate, 1854

Chapter 1 - A Select School, 1866 - 1870

That winter he put his newly-acquired skills to the test by teaching in a country school near his home. Physically, Lehr was small, and the rumor was circulated at his first school that the directors had hired a child of 14. Lehr conceded that the report was correct as to his size but that he was actually 16 at the time. Even at 23 Lehr weighed only 110 pounds. As a result of his slight build, he became skilled at maintaining discipline by a mixture of sound psychology, tact, and perhaps a dash of guile. This ability was valuable both during his days as a country schoolmaster and later when dealing with university students.

At the close of the 1855 academic year, he returned to Holbrook's school. Lehr's later efforts at Ohio Northern were shaped by his early educational experiences. Holbrook's academy emphasized low cost-education organized around academic terms of short duration. Holbrook himself was an educational entrepreneur who created his institution singlehandedly, as Lehr was later to do. Having both studied and taught in rural schools, Lehr gained insight into the needs of this branch of education. Later, he was able to craft a curriculum at Northern which prepared teachers for the practical demands of the country schoolhouse.





ALFRED HOLBROOK

Chapter 1 - A Select School, 1866 - 1870



Lehr as a Student at Mt. Union

In March of 1856, Lehr entered Mount Union Seminary, an institution which, in many ways, resembled the later Ohio Northern. The college's first president, Orville Nelson Hartshorn, began what he called a "subscription school" on October 20, 1846, to educate the youth around Alliance, Ohio. In fall 1849, the school was named the Mount Union Seminary, and in 1858 it was designated Mt. Union College.

As the history of Mt. Union indicates, Hartshorn created a college

"... where the sons and daughters of the poor and common people, as well as of the wealthy and distinguished, can freely, economically, and equally obtain, under generous aids to proper support, thorough, illustrative, integral instruction, necessary to prepare them fundamentally, as rational and moral beings, for life's responsible duties and actual pursuits."

In such an institution, tuition and other expenses were naturally kept as low as possible. While low tuition benefited students, it also left Mt. Union with a case of chronic fiscal anemia.

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Not surprisingly, Lehr absorbed much of Hartshorn's educational philosophy. Hartshorn's insistence on "education for the masses, coeducation, economy of education, [and] illustrative and integral instruction," were all later to be echoed by Lehr at Ohio Northern.

On a more personal note, Lehr was impressed by Hartshorn the man, describing him in later years as "a born leader, an excellent executive and with all, a true Christian." Indeed, Lehr thought well enough of President Hartshorn to later have him officiate at his wedding.

Lehr financed his education by continuing to teach in several area schools. It was during his time at Mount Union that he was first exposed to formal debate through the college's literary societies. Although not a notable speaker himself, Lehr embraced the value of literary societies and their forensic activities, later making them an integral part of the Ohio Northern curriculum.

Mt. Union also profoundly shaped his social and political outlook. In the years leading up to the outbreak of the Civil War, collegiate debate naturally dealt with the sectional differences between the northern and southern states and with the issue of slavery in particular. Lehr entered Mt. Union, by his own account, a pro-slavery Democrat, and in at least one society debate he was roundly denounced by his largely Republican fellow students. During the winter of 1857-58, however, a Boston-based abolitionist delivered a lecture at Mount Union on "The Blighting Sin of Slavery." As a result of that presentation and his own subsequent research, Lehr completely changed his views on slavery and also became a lifelong Republican.



President Hartshorn

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Lehr and the Civil War

At the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, Lehr was still enrolled as a student at Mount Union. Like many others, he believed the war would be concluded in a matter of months. Not until the following year did the seriousness of the conflict become apparent to him. In June 1862, Lehr enlisted in the Union Army but was discharged at the end of September due to ill health. After recuperating for approximately a month, he resumed teaching school, and the next year he returned to Mt. Union until a case of typhoid fever compelled his withdrawal. December 1863 saw Lehr back in the classroom.



War Time Photograph

In 1864 Lehr re-enlisted, and this time he served for nearly a year. Shortly after the battle of Nashville in December 1864, Lehr again fell ill. While recuperating, he worked for several months in the Nashville Post Hospital, first as a nurse and later as a steward. (This experience was to prove helpful in seeing to the health of sick students at Ohio Northern.) He was discharged from the hospital in May 1865. At the war's end, Lehr was initially uncertain about his future career. Teaching was his first love, but he also observed that teachers in the public schools of the day were often itinerants. Founding his own academy would give him the settled existence he desired, and in this the example of Alfred Holbrook was doubtless an encouragement.

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Searching for a Site

Concept in hand, Lehr next had to find a suitable site. As he searched for a location for his academy, he quickly concluded that there was already a surplus of such institutions in northeastern Ohio, the part of the state with which he was most familiar. For a time he seriously considered teaching in Missouri, where an uncle had promised him assistance, and also toyed with the idea of becoming a doctor. In August of 1865, he went so far as to read medicine with a physician in Alliance, Ohio, before returning to his original plan. March of 1866 found Lehr on the road, looking for a town in which to establish his school.

To the casual observer, Ada in the spring of 1866 must have seemed an unlikely location for such an ambitious undertaking. Incorporated only five years previously, the village consisted of scattered dwellings near the railroad depot. The main street was unpaved and became a sea of mud when it rained. In addition to local agriculture, the village's economy was supported by two sawmills, a stave mill and barrel factory, a gristmill, a tannery, and an ashery. The village also boasted five saloons. Both they and their clientele were to be a particular thorn in Lehr's side in the coming years.



VIEWS TAKEN MANY YEARS AGO.

Chapter 1 – A Select School, 1866 - 1870



PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD DEPOT.

Ada did, however, have two elements essential to his plans. Excellent transportation to bring in students from elsewhere was available via the Ohio and Indiana Railroad (later a division of the Pennsylvania Railroad). Of equal importance was a high degree of local support. During his first visit to Ada, Lehr discussed his proposal for an academy with S.M. Johnson, the president of the local board of education, who immediately saw the potential benefits that might accrue to Ada if, as Lehr suggested, his institution were to grow into a regular college. Johnson was not alone in this view. Over the years, Lehr found the community generally, if not invariably, supportive of his goals.

Lehr Teaches in Ada

Lehr was hired by the Board of Education to run the public school until his reputation as an educator was locally established. During that time he was also permitted to offer instruction beyond the elementary level to area students after regular school hours. The unspoken assumption was that it would take several years for Lehr to gain sufficient local stature to attract students to his projected academy.



FORMER UNION SCHOOL BUILDING.

Chapter 1 – A Select School, 1866 - 1870



Lehr's School Building – Currently (2008)
On W. Montford Ave.

The building was sold to a J.H. Mustard in Feb. 1870
and moved from the corner of Montford and
N. Main St. to its present location.

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Normal School Planned

Upon hearing that Lehr was considering leaving Ada, a group of prominent citizens met with him and asked that he prepare a counter offer. In doing so, Lehr proposed the establishment of "a Normal School to be superintended and controlled by H.S. Lehr." He also asked that land for a campus be donated and that the citizens of Ada and the vicinity loan him \$3,000 of the \$6,500 that he requested for the first building. The agreement further stipulated that those subscribing more than \$20 to the building fund were to be repaid starting within five years. Amounts under \$20 were to be considered gifts. Those contributing to the project were allowed to vote on the location of the school's campus at one vote per \$20 and to select a board of trustees for the fund. The trustees were to supervise the actual erection of the building. Even with this substantial assistance, Lehr eventually had to provide \$3,500 of his own, a tall order for the village schoolmaster. To help him launch the school, Lehr took on two partners, J.G. Park and B.F. Niesz. They, along with Lehr, served as the institution's first trustees.



THE FACULTY
FREDERICK MAGLOTT
JOHN PARK WARREN DARST
HENRY S. LEHR

During the fall of 1870, fund-raising reached fever pitch as various sections of the village vied for the campus. It was obvious to many that Lehr's project had commercial as well as educational ramifications, and several parts of the village strove to become the site of Lehr's institution. This view was supported by a comparative flood of students in the "select school" that fall. Even before the campus was established, 119 students had enrolled.

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Voting on the school's location took place in September, though not without controversy. At a crucial moment, and without his knowledge, Lehr's two partners contributed \$600 and so gained 30 additional votes for the present location of the campus. Despite Lehr's protestations of innocence, partisans of other sites denounced him as the author of the scheme, and he was roundly criticized. With the choice of a location finally made, the competition ceased. When fund-raising slowed and then stopped, Lehr was left to contribute the balance from his own pocket.

With financial matters in hand, the three trustees next turned to erecting the first building of what Lehr had named the Northwestern Ohio Normal School. At Niesz's suggestion the contract was awarded to a Mr. Wyant of Canton, Ohio. The agreement was signed on April 5, 1871, with the expectation that the Normal Building would be completed by August of that year. On August 14, the first day of classes, construction was still underway. The structure's roof also exhibited a regrettable tendency to leak, a problem which the contractor was subsequently unable to correct. This was far from the only problem to be overcome by the fledgling school.



Northwestern Ohio Normal School, Ada, Ohio.

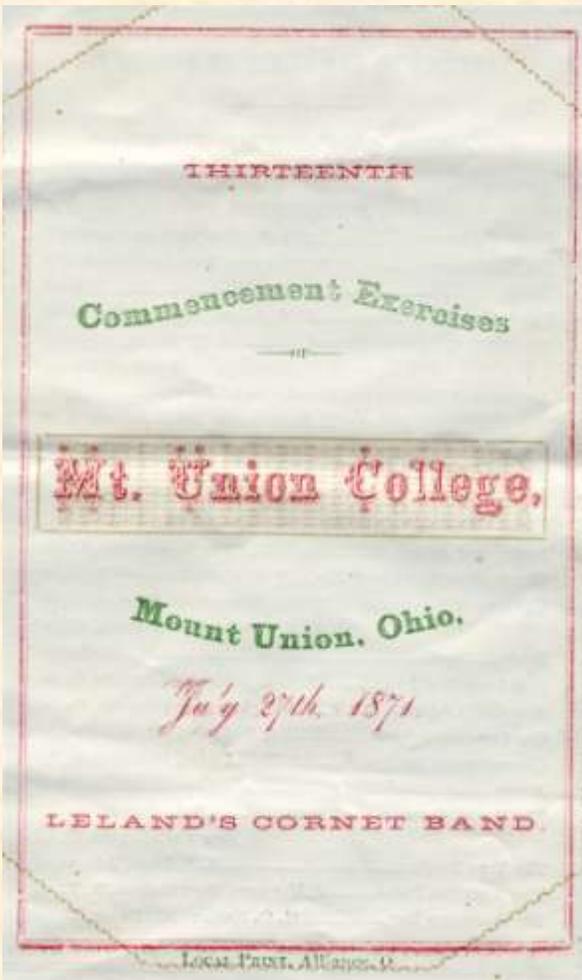
Photo by M. V. Gilbert, Ada, Ohio

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

As specified in the agreement between Lehr and the contributors, classes began at the new institution on Monday, August 14, 1871, though not without difficulties. Due to delays in finishing the Normal School Building, the 147 students enrolled found themselves temporarily relegated to downtown stores and local churches. Not until October 16 were the first classes taught in the building, and even then the interior was still incomplete. Lehr had recently rushed to finish his own degree at Mt. Union prior to the start of classes. He also had to pressure the contractor to fulfill his obligations, recruit a faculty, see to the furnishing of the classrooms and to the printing of the school's catalog. Lehr was, in short, creating an educational institution literally from the ground up. Several weeks into the fall term, Lehr collapsed while conducting classes, possibly under the strain of the ordeal.

The fledgling institution's educational philosophy was set forth in its first catalog. It is the design of the Institution to provide

“...the best *practical* [emphasis added] means of obtaining a thorough and efficient...education that will fit the rising generation to discharge life's duties with credit to themselves, honor to their parents, and benefits to humanity.



Lehr's Commencement Oration was Titled "The True Teacher"

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle



As the catalog's introduction made clear, the emphasis was on vocational, as opposed to theoretical, education. Although religion, in a general sense, was important to Lehr, he avoided tying his school to a particular denomination. Students were expected to be present at morning chapel services and were encouraged to attend local churches, the catalog noted that "...no sectarian principles will be taught."

Literary Societies Founded

That first fall also witnessed the founding of the Adelpian and Philomathian literary societies. These bodies, and the later Franklin Society, played a vital role at Northern until their demise in the 1920s. By sponsoring debates, dramatic presentations, outside speakers, and entertainers, they served as an important adjunct to the regular curriculum. They also exerted a strong influence on the social life of students prior to the advent of various clubs and Greek organizations. Before a college-wide library was established in 1915 the societies also maintained libraries for their members. President Lehr donated part of his private library to the Adelpians and the Philomatheans at their inception and in 1880 made a similar contribution to the Franklins. By modern standards, these collections were modest. They were maintained in glass-fronted bookcases in each society's hall and were available to members for only a few hours per week.



Window From Lehr Memorial Dedicated to
The Literary Societies

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Although proprietary collections, the Philomathean and Adelphian libraries could be used by non-members for a fee. As long as the number of courses to be supported by the libraries remained relatively low they served their purpose. For a variety of reasons, however, the societies eventually gave their libraries to the university.

Boarding Houses

Students of the time lived in boarding houses throughout the village. Although students boarded in private homes, a number of buildings were constructed by local residents specifically to cater to the residential needs of students. Often known by the names of their landladies, the boarding houses could supply students with room, meals, heating fuel, and laundry services. Weekly costs in the 1870s generally ranged between \$3.00 and \$3.50. This situation benefited the normal school, the students, and local residents. Lehr and his fellow trustees avoided the costs of constructing and maintaining their own dormitories. Lehr did, however, contract with various boarding houses for rooms to ensure a constant supply of affordable housing. He was also spared the need to maintain discipline in dormitories. In most cases, this was handled informally by the landladies themselves. The influx of students was a source of revenue to the boarding house proprietors as well as to local merchants. At the same time, competition among the boarding houses benefited students by keeping prices low.



Members of the Povenmeir House

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

Throughout the Lehr administration and well beyond, students were expected to make their own living arrangements, and, indeed, for some years the institution boasted of the fact in its catalog.

One of the marked features of the Ohio Normal University [the institution's name was changed in 1885] is that the students are not herded together in large halls, as is the custom and manner of arrangement of many other institutions. The plan is certainly not conducive to *good manners or morality*.

It is a fact well known by all college students that the *Hall* is the place for fun and the breeder of mischief. We have avoided this by inducing the citizens to room our students. In this they are brought into the families and are made to feel at home and comfortable. In case of sickness, the lady of the house having few to care for, assists in nursing and supplying them with those delicacies so essential to speedy recovery.



Smith House Club - 1896

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Ada Community

The village, in which Northern's earliest students lived, lacked many of the amenities which are taken for granted today. Sidewalks, where they existed, were wooden affairs, which, while suitable for elevating pedestrians above the often-flooded streets, did not always offer secure footing. Outhouses were often located dangerously close to the numerous backyard wells that supplied the village with drinking water. Drainage was provided by open ditches which ran along several streets, and the first street lighting, consisting of 67 gasoline vapor lamps, was not installed until January 1887. Eventually, in 1903, the village began a comprehensive street-paving program. Prior to that time students, faculty and townspeople got by as best they could. By the standards of the day, however, Ada was reckoned a fairly progressive community, and successive waves of civic improvement eventually corrected these problems.

Costs Kept Low

Having struggled to pay for his own education, Lehr made affordability one of his school's underlying principles. In the mid-1870s, for example, weekly tuition ranged from \$0.62 to \$0.77, depending on the course of study. To this might be added rent for a room with furniture and bedding provided and cared for, board at \$1.50 to \$1.60, book rental at \$0.05, light and fuel at \$0.05 to \$0.20, for a weekly total of between \$2.75 and \$3.37. As will be seen, this policy, praiseworthy as it was in some respects, left the university rich in students but poor in cash.



Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

Although enrollment grew throughout the first decade, there were initial setbacks. Lehr himself referred to the winter term of the 1872-73 academic year as the Normal's "Valley Forge" when enrollments failed to live up to initial projections. In subsequent years, however, the school prospered, and by the end of the 1870s enrollment had climbed to just over 1,000.

Short Academic Terms

The Normal's calendar was also designed to assist students of modest means. The academic year was divided into five and later six relatively short terms for the convenience of different groups of potential students. The short term, which ran for six weeks from June 1, was arranged for teachers who desired to continue their studies during the summer break. A 10-week winter term starting on January 1 allowed farmers and their children to attend when farm work was less pressing. These arrangements harked back to those at Alfred Holbrook's academy.



Normal School

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Another interesting feature of the university was the policy of year-round admissions. Students could begin their studies at virtually any time during an academic year as opposed to entering each autumn. Although students were advised to enroll at the beginning of a term, the university catalogs noted that "our school is so organized that we can form classes at any time when needed."

Northern's numerous short academic terms doubtless assisted students in this regard. Then, too, many of the courses of study were quite short. In the 1890s, for instance, a student in ONU's Commercial College could complete the program in "twelve to twenty weeks according to the ability of the student and his knowledge of the common branches on entering College."

Admissions Standards

Of necessity, admissions and placement criteria had, to be quite flexible. They were presumably handled by the professor in whose class a student sought enrollment. At least during the Lehr administration, the possession of a high school diploma was not a requirement to attend Northern. The university operated its own Preparatory Department to provide remedial work to students, and, in any case, high schools were not that common during Northern's early years.



ADELPHIAN HALL

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Although these arrangements permitted many students to attend Northern who would have been otherwise unable to do so, the nature of the academic calendar and courses gave rise to doubts among some as to the quality of the work being done. Over the years, Lehr rebutted these criticisms as best he could through testimonials from satisfied and successful graduates, but the institution's chronic shortage of funds made it difficult to increase the rigor of the academic program. Indeed, this issue would have to await a new century and a new president before tentative steps could be taken. It is perhaps fair to say that standards were as high as the condition of the university permitted.

From its inception, President Lehr believed that his institution would grow to become more than a “mere” normal school. Although the course for training elementary school teachers remained an important part of the school's curriculum, other areas of study were rapidly added. As a harbinger of things to come, the first catalog in 1871 listed courses in “Commercial Science” including “Book-Keeping and Penmanship.” By the end of the decade, the institution offered classes in several departments, then called courses. The preparatory department received “all who are but moderately acquainted with the simple branches of an ordinary common school education.” Like other institutions, the normal school found it expedient to offer this sort of remedial education as a bridge between high school and college. Students completing their high school education would presumably continue into college and at the same institution.



FRANKLIN HALL.

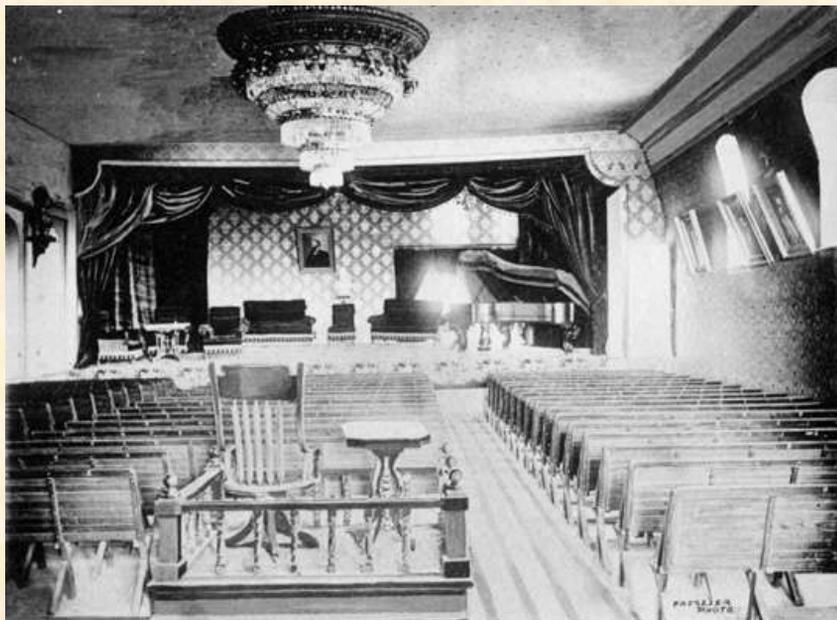
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Training Teachers

The purpose of the teacher's course was "pre-eminently that of fitting teachers for their work." By attending year-round, students could complete the course in two years. As a practical matter, however, many students, already employed with provisional teaching certificates, would attend part-time as their local school year permitted. Thus, students could be listed on the rolls for the better part of a decade as they completed their education class by class. Consequently, the teacher's course was the most popular area of study. Of the 1,006 students enrolled during the 1879-80 school year, for example, 543, or nearly 54 percent, were in the teacher's course. As late as 1894-95 approximately 33 percent of the students were still studying in this area.

Classics and Science

At the end of the decade students could also attend either a two-year classical course or a two-year scientific course. The former was designed "to awaken thought, and to make each member of every class efficient and self-reliant, practical as well as theoretical." Classes were included from the scientific, teacher's, and commercial courses, though some work in the teacher's course was omitted for those without teaching aspirations. The scientific course was geared to those "who desire to become acquainted with nature and her harmonious laws, but care nothing about Latin and Greek roots and derivatives further than what they can obtain from a good unabridged dictionary."



PHILO HALL

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

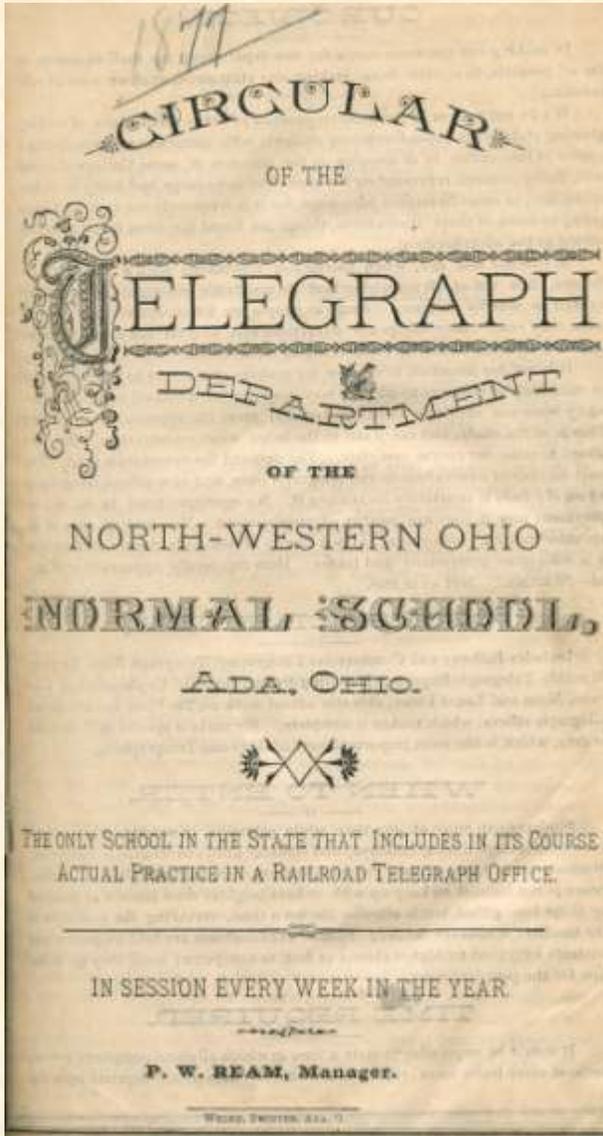
Regular instruction in modern languages was not yet available, though the 1879-80 Annual Catalog noted that classes would be formed on request.

Commercial Department

The commercial department offered courses in a variety of areas including bookkeeping, joint accounts, general partnership, commission, storage, penmanship, and commercial calculations. Students could complete the program in four to six months. They could also study stenography and ornamental penmanship; the latter course being offered by one of the institution's more colorful faculty members, D.S. Pence. Pence had lost the fingers of both hands as a result of a childhood accident and wrote with the stubs. Despite this disability, or perhaps because of it, examples of his excellent penmanship were much sought after.

Telegraphy

In keeping with the institution's emphasis on vocational education, the normal school also offered instruction in telegraphy. The first such program was noted in the 1874-75 Annual Catalog, and eight students were enrolled that year. This part of the curriculum appears to have been offered episodically since the next reference to telegraphy was in 1884 when P.W. Ream offered instruction in his School of Telegraphy in downtown Ada. His school was affiliated with the normal, though the exact relationship was unclear..



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Telegraphy was last offered in 1911, this time on campus in the attic of the pharmacy building.

Music

The creation of a music department early in the normal's history further indicated President Lehr's desire to expand the institution's curriculum. In 1870, while Lehr was receiving his A.B. from Mt. Union, Professor Niesz introduced him to Theodore Presser. Presser had enrolled in 1868 in Mount Union's recently-established department of instrumental music. Apparently the meeting left a mutually favorable impression since Lehr extended an offer to Presser to head the normal's projected music department. Presser, for his part, was willing to forgo graduation in exchange for immediate employment.



THEODORE PRESSER IN 1876

President Lehr, in the rush to launch his school, left the work of actually organizing the music department to Presser. When the latter arrived to take up his duties, he found that his department consisted of only two students and little else. After a year's hard work, Presser accepted a more lucrative position elsewhere, but he remained on friendly terms with Lehr, whom he later referred to as "a university with whiskers." Despite this inauspicious beginning, by the 1874-75 school year the department had expanded.

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

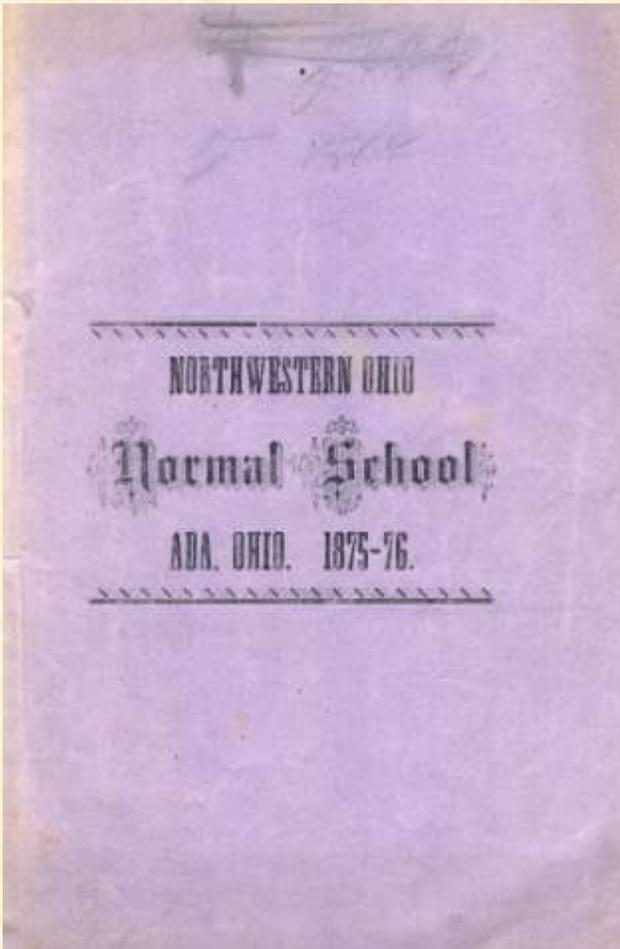
The *5th Annual Catalogue* noted a total of 167 students variously enrolled in instrumental, voice, voice culture, violin, and guitar courses. At the end of the decade instruction in piano and organ had been added.

Fine Arts

The school's fine arts department was organized during the 1879-1880 academic year, largely as an outgrowth of course work in engineering and architectural drawing. These latter classes had been offered for several years. Professor W.A. Smith taught sketching from nature, oil painting, and crayon painting, in addition to classes in mechanical engineering and architectural drawing. Although students were encouraged to take classes in the department through the 1880s, only engineers were required to do so.

Fostoria's School

During the fall of 1875, Lehr received an invitation from Professor J.F. Richard, the president of the Northern Ohio Normal School located in Fostoria. Richard proposed that Lehr move to Fostoria and become joint president of the normal there. Whether Lehr took the proposal seriously or chose to visit Fostoria to size up a potential rival is not clear.



Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

THE NORTHWESTERN OHIO NOR- MAL SCHOOL

—
Shall It Be Located in Upper
Sandusky, Ohio?
—

A Question for the People to
Decide
—

[From the *Upper Sandusky Union*]

Some time since it became evident to
The Managers of the Northwestern Ohio
Normal Schoolthat owing to the
Steady increase in the number of students
That their building was becoming much too
Small for their use and the people of Ada
Were applied to for aid in furnishing means
Necessary for enlarging the same. That
Aid was not granted, and the management
Feeling obligated to resort to some other
Means of securing a building of sufficient
Capacity to meet their wants, have com-
Menced looking about for some place
where such buildings can be procured with
the intention of moving there school.

Among the points which have been con-
sidered most suitable for that location, is
Upper Sandusky....

Ada Commercial Record

Upon his arrival, however, Lehr found that the Fostoria school was on a less sound footing than Richard had led him to believe, and, sensing an opportunity, he made Richard a counteroffer. It provided a cash payment of \$1,200 to Richard, and for the next seven months he was permitted to retain the tuition "with the exception of penmanship and music" paid by any Fostoria students he induced to transfer to Ada. He was also required to move to Ada and to teach five hours per day at the normal during the seven-month period. Richard accepted in 1876, and both he and his wife taught for a time in Ada. Lehr, for a modest sum, gained two new faculty members and additional students. He also removed a potential rival for his own school.

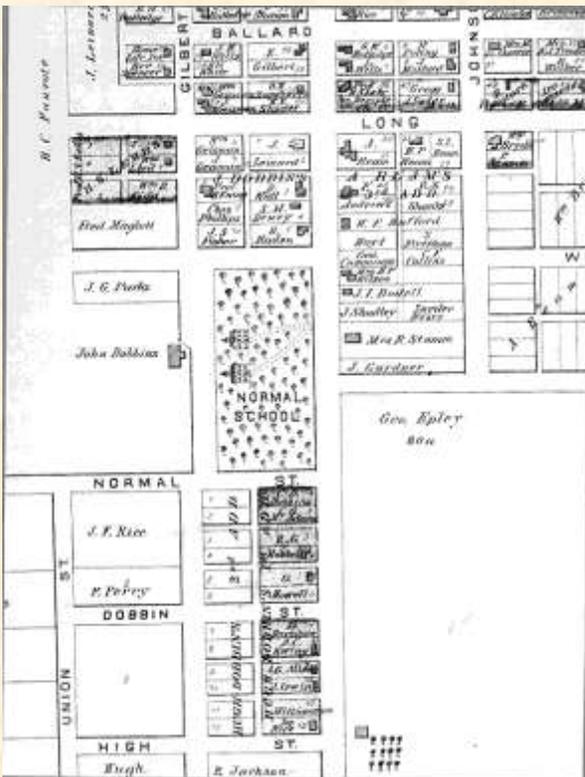
Threatened to Move

By the 1877-78 school year, increasing enrollment clearly indicated that an additional and larger building would be required if the Normal were to prosper. Once more President Lehr turned to the citizens of Ada for assistance. This time, however, there was less enthusiasm for assisting the school. Professor Lehr vainly canvassed the village, pointing out the benefits, educational and financial, wrought by the Normal. Finally, he threatened to relocate the institution and visited several nearby towns.

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

Whether because of the threat of losing the normal or the realization of the school's genuine need, a committee of citizens approached Lehr and offered to discuss matters. This time, however, the source of funding was to be the Ada Union School District rather than individual contributors.

The agreement reached between the Normal's trustees and the school board had several significant provisions. Funds were raised by taxing the local school district. In return, the faculty of the normal school was bound "to educate free of tuition all scholars within the present limits of the school district now known as the Ada Union School District," although some courses of study were exempted. For its part, the board was obligated to provide \$2,000 for the purchase of a building site next to the Normal School Building and \$16,000 for constructing a new building. The land in question comprised roughly two acres on the northern end of the present block fronting on Main Street and bounded by College Avenue on the south and University Avenue on the north. The building was to be leased to the normal school for 30 years.



Campus and Environs,
Circa 1879

Chapter 2 - 1871 – 1880, A Decade of Struggle

Construction on what became known as the Administration Building, began in the fall of 1878, and, as with the Normal School Building, troubles were not long in appearing. Part way through the project the contractor left town, and responsibility for finishing the work fell to a group of local citizens who had given their bond to complete the structure. The bondsmen were unable to determine the validity of demands for payment by the various workmen, and the latter threatened at one point to burn down the uncompleted building. Even though the structure was not finished, classes were held there in August 1879.

Despite these problems, President Lehr eventually obtained a spacious and modern building. The Administration Building had three large floors in comparison to the Normal School Building's smaller two, and the growth of the next decade was to prove the wisdom of erecting such a sizable building.



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Having survived its first decade, the Normal entered an era of rising enrollments, curricular growth, and expanded extracurricular opportunities for students. A careful observer might have discerned trends which were to culminate in wrenching changes in the 1890s. However, as the decade began, they were but insignificant clouds on the horizon.

Name Changed to Ohio Normal University

This happy situation was reflected by the trustees' decision in the spring of 1885 to change the institution's name from the Northwestern Ohio Normal School to Ohio Normal University. The catalog for that year cited the growth of the curriculum as the first reason for the change, and by the end of the decade the institution's professional programs were all in evidence. It was also true that student recruitment was no longer limited to the northwestern corner of the state. For example, the catalog for 1890-91 could boast of students from 32 states and the District of Columbia, as well as one Austrian and three German students. Likewise, there was pressure from the students themselves to change the school's name. They wished their alma mater to join the ranks of more prestigious institutions and felt that the addition of the term *university* would elevate the status of Northern.



Lehr Family, Early 1880's

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Lehr and his fellow trustees took another important step when, on May 21, 1885, they had the university incorporated as an "Institution of Learning not for Profit." Up to that point, the school had been unable to legally grant degrees, but incorporation removed this impediment. Incorporation also meant that Lehr and his associates no longer owned the university outright; however, they still retained control. As incorporators they were legally required to elect a board of trustees. They elected themselves, and, from an administrative point of view, things continued as before.

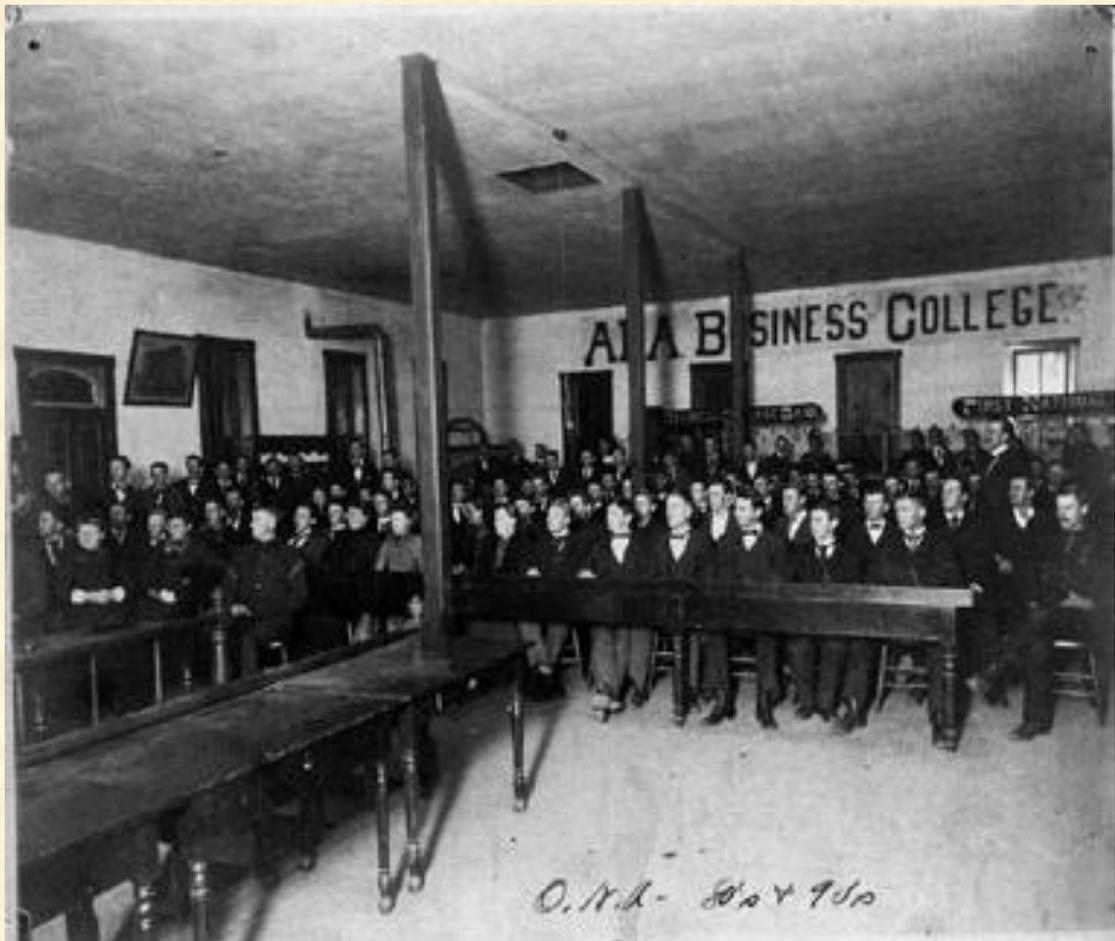
Business College Organized

During this period the commercial course of the 1870s emerged as a separate college. The title page of the 1881-1882 catalog cited a "Business College" at the normal, but not until two years later was an actual course of study published. Students were first admitted to the theoretical department, where they were introduced to the basics of bookkeeping, the use of drafts and notes, and commercial law.



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Classes took place in a series of offices which mimicked actual commercial establishments. The Merchants Emporium, for example, contained sample goods which could be sold at wholesale or retail. As part of the course, students handled the emporium's accounting and the transfer of funds to the Business Hall's bank. Appropriate forms, ledgers, and currency were provided to make the operations as realistic as possible. This arrangement was a feature of the program for many years, and it echoed the emphasis on practical education of Lehr's mentor from Mt. Union, President Hartshorn.





Commercial College Classroom

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Civil Engineering

The Civil Engineering Department, first of the institution's professional programs, appeared in the 1881-82 catalog. Architectural drawing classes, provided in the 1870s by the Art Department, indicated a willingness by Lehr to explore expanding the curriculum in this direction. Throughout the 1880s, engineering remained a six-term program with the bulk of the coursework coming in the final two terms. Additional instruction in mechanical, engineering, and architectural drawing was available.

Medical Program Attempted

A preparatory medical program was established in 1882. The catalog expressed the intention that the facilities and work of "this department will not be surpassed outside the medical colleges." Courses were offered in anatomy and physiology as well as some preliminary work in dissection, and these classes had an unanticipated municipal benefit. The editor of the *Ada Record* pointed out that "the physiology classes of the university are doing a good work in ridding [the] town of worthless curs which they use as subjects for anatomical demonstrations." Given the institution's slender resources, however, it is not surprising that the medical program failed to flourish and was subsequently absorbed by the new pharmacy program.



Early Civil Engineering Students Grading a Drainage Ditch

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

School of Pharmacy

The 1885-86 Annual Catalog listed for the first time a "School of Pharmacy." Along with the medical program's classes, courses in chemistry and botany were offered. The decision to expand these into an actual program was prompted by the passage of Ohio's first pharmacy act in 1884, which stated:

It shall be unlawful for any person not a registered pharmacist to open or conduct any pharmacy or retail drug or chemical store, as proprietor thereof, unless he shall have in his employ and place in charge of such pharmacy, or store, a registered pharmacist within the meaning of this chapter.

The act created a State Board of Pharmacy to examine those wishing to engage in the business. Although provision was made for existing proprietors to be registered with the board without taking an examination, additional formal training would be required of pharmacists in the future.

By the end of the decade, the pharmacy program had evolved into a course of 40 weeks, divided into four 10-week terms. The exact sequence of courses was not listed in the catalog, but students worked in the pharmaceutical and dispensing laboratory, as well as in chemistry, botany, and *materia medica*. Tuition was \$16 per term--paid in advance--or \$60 for the entire program.



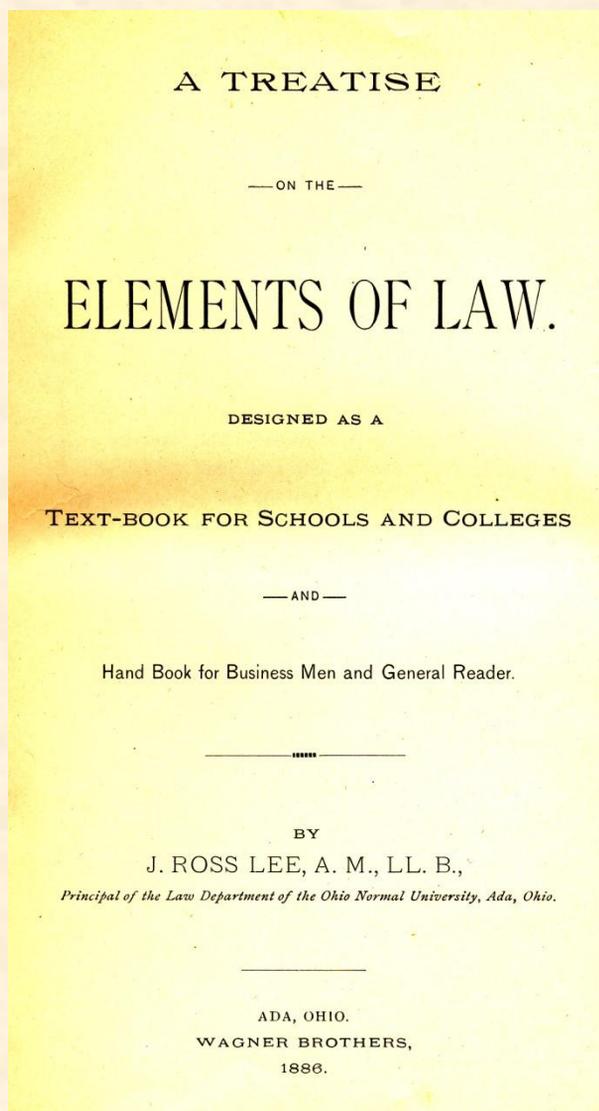
Early Pharmacy Students

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Law Department

The existence of a law department was first cited in the catalog of 1884-85. Coursework in business law had been offered earlier in the commercial department. The new law department also offered interested students similar instruction provided that "a sufficient number at any one time should desire to acquire, at a small cost to each student, the elementary principles of law." The department was, however, created primarily to meet the needs of those seeking admission to the bar. The program required two years of nine months each to complete and was open to "anyone holding a diploma from the Normal, or any Academy or College of the country; all others will be required to pass a written examination on all the studies required in the Teacher's course of the Normal. Tuition was \$30, payable in advance.

As an adjunct to its growing curriculum, the normal established a museum in 1884. The core of the collection consisted of several hundred marine specimens which President Lehr solicited from the federal government. Apparently no concerted effort was made to develop this facility nor is it clear what curricular purpose it may have served, but the catalogs of the period routinely carried requests for donations of "any specimens, geological, mineralogical, zoological, botanical, historical, Indian relics or any curiosity of any value or any kind whatever." In 1923 part of the materials collected was displayed in Lehr Memorial; however, by 1940 the museum was apparently defunct.



Textbook by First Dean,
J. Ross Lee

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Third Building Sought

Although this burgeoning program meant greater educational opportunities for students, President Lehr was again forced to seek local support for a new building. From 1881 to 1883, attempts were made to raise funds for the project via contributions or tax levies, and the columns of the *Ada Record* contained numerous appeals by the university and its supporters. The school's needs were emphasized as were the economic development brought about by the presence of the university.

It became increasingly apparent, however, that community funding would not be as readily available as in the past. As an added incentive, the price of the project was progressively reduced and the share of the costs to be born by Northern was increased. In November 1881 the cost of the new building was estimated at between \$35,000 and \$40,000. By February 1882 Lehr was proposing a \$33,000 building to be funded by \$20,000 in contributions from the township, \$10,000 from the residents of Ada, and \$3,000 from the faculty for land. When this proposal failed, the cost was further reduced to \$22,000, and, in the end, the faculty offered \$10,000 towards the project. One impediment to these efforts was the fact that the school was still controlled by Lehr and his partners. Funds given to the normal were perceived by many as being donations made to private individuals.



Sheepshed (R), Normal School Bldg. (C), Administration Bldg. (L)
Looking East Toward South Main St.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

"Sheepshed" Erected

With customary financial routes blocked, two other approaches were tried. The trustees first hatched a complex scheme to raise \$25,000. New partners in the school were to be accepted, and some of the existing trustees would sell fractional shares of their interest in the school to these new partners. The balance of the construction costs would then be raised by subscription. The plan fell through due to the death of one of the principles, and, as a last resort, Lehr again threatened to relocate the normal. This time the threat fell on deaf ears. In the end, the faculty paid for a modest two-story frame structure which was erected in 1883 behind the Normal School Building. It contained two recitation rooms on each floor and, because of its homely appearance, was informally known as the "Sheep Shed."

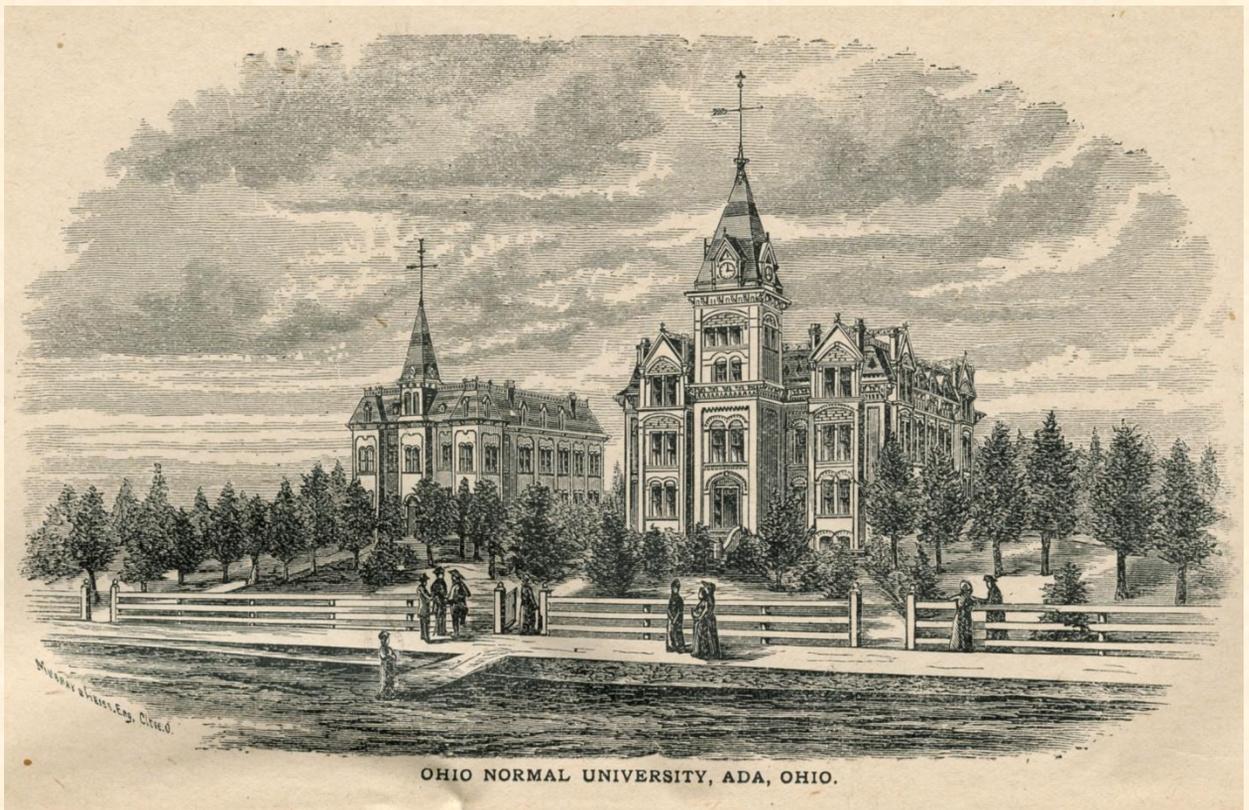


Later Moved Off Campus as a Private Residence and Fraternity House

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Catches Fire

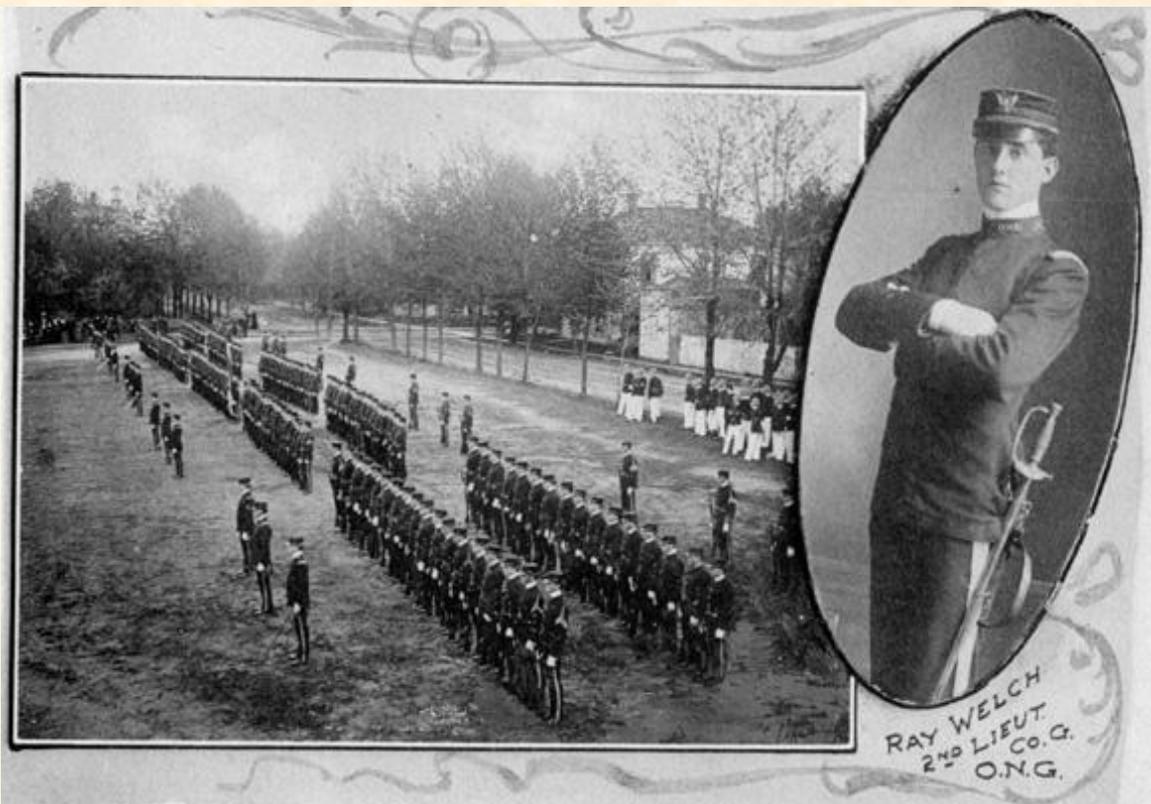
Shortly thereafter, the trustees almost found themselves in need of yet another building. On December 23, 1889, at around 6:30 p.m., the Administration building, erected just 10 years earlier, caught fire. Illumination at that time was provided by oil lamps, and a student had decided to dip into the faculty's oil barrel stored in the building's basement. He lit a match to see if his can was filled, blew it out (or so he thought), and left. The resulting blaze had a quantity of waste paper and kindling, as well as the better part of a barrel of oil and approximately 30 tons of coal, on which to feed. A combination of fervent prayer by the president and vigorous pumping by the local fire brigade saved the building. Despite the apparent severity of the fire, the harm was largely limited to smoke and water damage, most of which was covered by insurance.



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Military Department

During the 1880s the extracurricular opportunities open to students grew along with the institution as a whole. In 1884 a military department was created, in part to supply an alternative to varsity athletics. Although the department's origins are complex, its roots can be found in the previous fall's elections. An issue on the ballot would have prohibited the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the state, and a number of local boys and girls were organized to march in favor of the issue. Lehr, a former soldier, volunteered to provide elementary military drill to the group. This, in turn, led some Normal students to suggest that a military department be organized to offer drill as a form of exercise. In April 1884 President Lehr traveled to Columbus and purchased, at his own expense, 110 Enfield muzzle-loading rifles and other military accouterments.

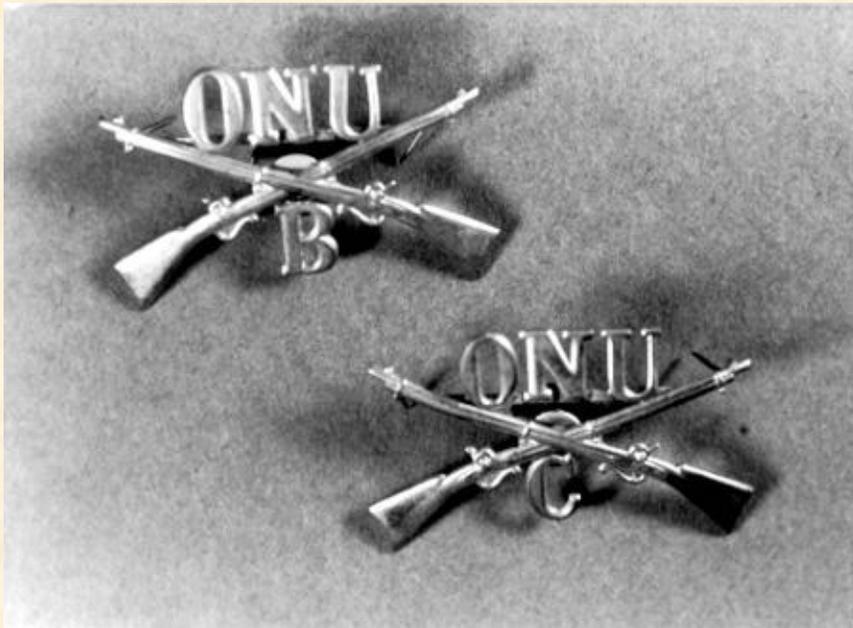


DRESS PARADE—O. N. U. BATTALION.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

At roughly the same time he discovered that Army officers could be appointed to offer military instruction at colleges and universities. An officer was already on duty at Ohio State University, but one more was still available. When news of the Normal's application became public, six other schools also submitted requests. The remaining officer was ultimately assigned to the College of Wooster, but, as a result of congressional action, the number of officers for Ohio was increased to three. One of the additional officers, Lieutenant H.L. Roberts, was secured for Ada.

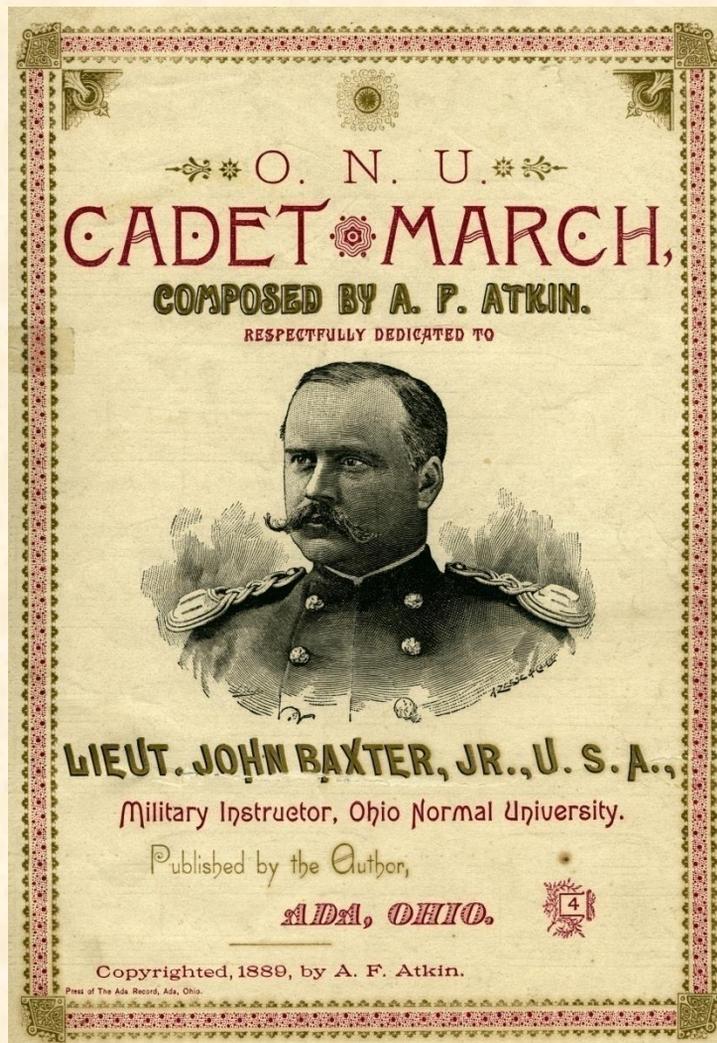
After all of Lehr's efforts, Lieutenant Roberts proved a sore disappointment, and the military department very nearly expired under his command. Prior to his arrival, the students had been organized in separate companies, an arrangement which fostered interest and a spirit of competition. They also took special pride in wearing their insignia. Roberts lumped all students into one company and forbade the cadets to wear their shoulder straps. As a result, both morale and participation plummeted. President Lehr himself pronounced Roberts "a weakling and unfit for the place." Two years later, due to an adverse inspection report, Northern's officer was withdrawn. With his pet project now in danger, Lehr traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for a new officer and the reinstatement of the department. After considerable effort, he obtained a new officer, Lieutenant John Baxter, Jr., who proved a great success.



Cap Badges

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

At first, the level of student participation was modest. Until about 1891, those seeking a degree were only required to complete one quarter of tactics in the military department. A fair number of early students were probably exempt since they were teachers attending the university to prepare for local school board examinations rather than to receive a diploma. This loophole was closed in 1891-92 by making a minimum of one quarter's classes in the department a substitute for a comparable amount of coursework. By 1910, all incoming male students were automatically assigned by the registrar to units for a minimum of three quarters. Drill, once voluntary, had become mandatory.



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

The structure of the department grew along with enrollment. The university catalog of 1887-88 stated that 424 students had drilled "one term or longer," and until 1893-94 the scholar-soldiers were simply divided into two companies. By the latter date, some 600 students were participating, and two additional companies were raised. A signal corps was mentioned in the 1907-09 university catalog; however, no indication as to its size or composition was given.

Among the pieces of equipment that the War Department donated to the Military Department were two Civil War-vintage cannons. After being received in the spring of 1885, they were used both for military and ceremonial purposes. One early example of the latter use was the 21-gun salute planned for President Cleveland's first inauguration. The night before the event, someone, conceivably a disgruntled Republican, spiked the guns. Since the job was inexpertly done, the pieces were quickly cleared, and the new president had his salute. In December 1902 these cannons were sent to the government arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois, for refurbishment and were returned the following summer. They were almost lost to the university in 1913 when they were sold to a junk dealer for \$5.30. Ultimately, they were retrieved, mounted on granite bases, and were a prominent feature of the campus's front lawn for many years.



Drill on Campus, Pharmacy Building (L)

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Color Contest Day

The annual Color Contest Day, sponsored by the military department each May was a major social event in rural Ada with parades, military ceremonies, special drills, band concerts, and addresses. In addition, the department was literally on parade for Inspection Day at the close of spring quarter when it was evaluated by regular Army officers. Awards were presented and certificates of participation were given. The latter were not, however, the equivalent of a regular military commission.



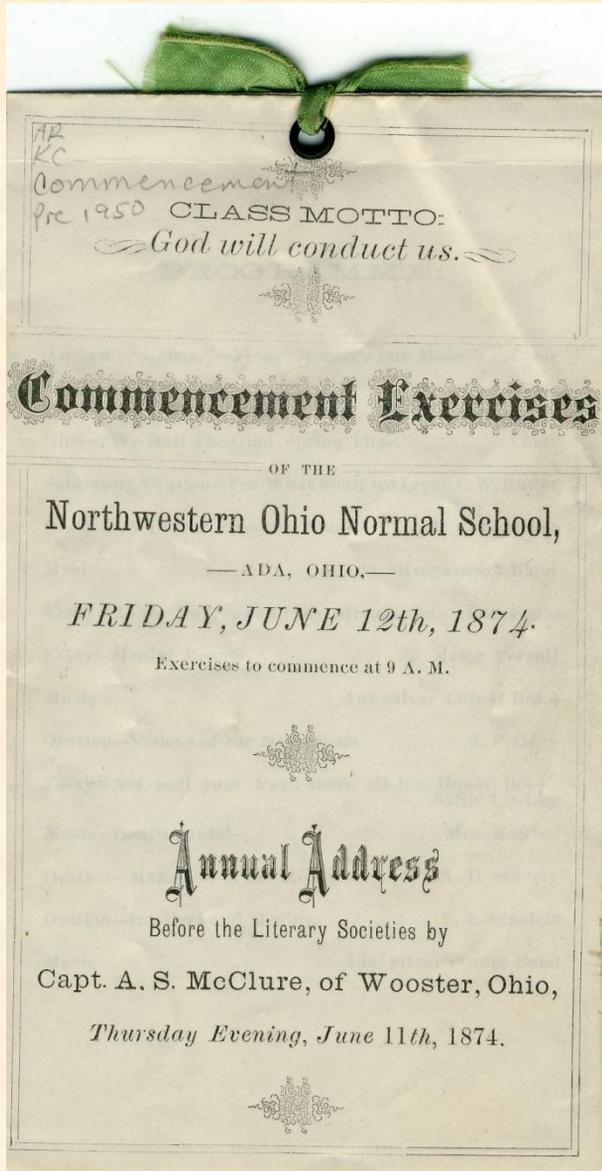
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

Know Ye, That, respecting special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and ability of
John G. Higdon
I do hereby appoint him Cadet **Corporal** in the Battalion of the Ohio Northern University, &c. will take rank as such from the *Twelfth* day of *June* one thousand nine hundred and *five*. He is therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of *Corporal*, by doing and performing all manner of things therunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require all Non-Commissioned Officers and Cadets under his command to be obedient to his orders as *Corporal*. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time to time as he shall receive from me, or the future Commanding Officer of his Battalion, or other Superior Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers set over him, according to the rules and regulations of the Ohio Northern University.
This Warrant to continue in force during the pleasure of the officer commanding this Battalion for the time being.
Given under my hand, at the Headquarters of this Battalion, at *Ada, O.* this *Tenth* day of *June* in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and *five*.

Joseph J. Janda, Capt. 11 Dist.
Commandant of Cadets
Le Roy A. Bell, M.A. D.D.
President of the University
Henry Whitwood
Secretary of the University

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Commencement



Eleven Graduates
Listed

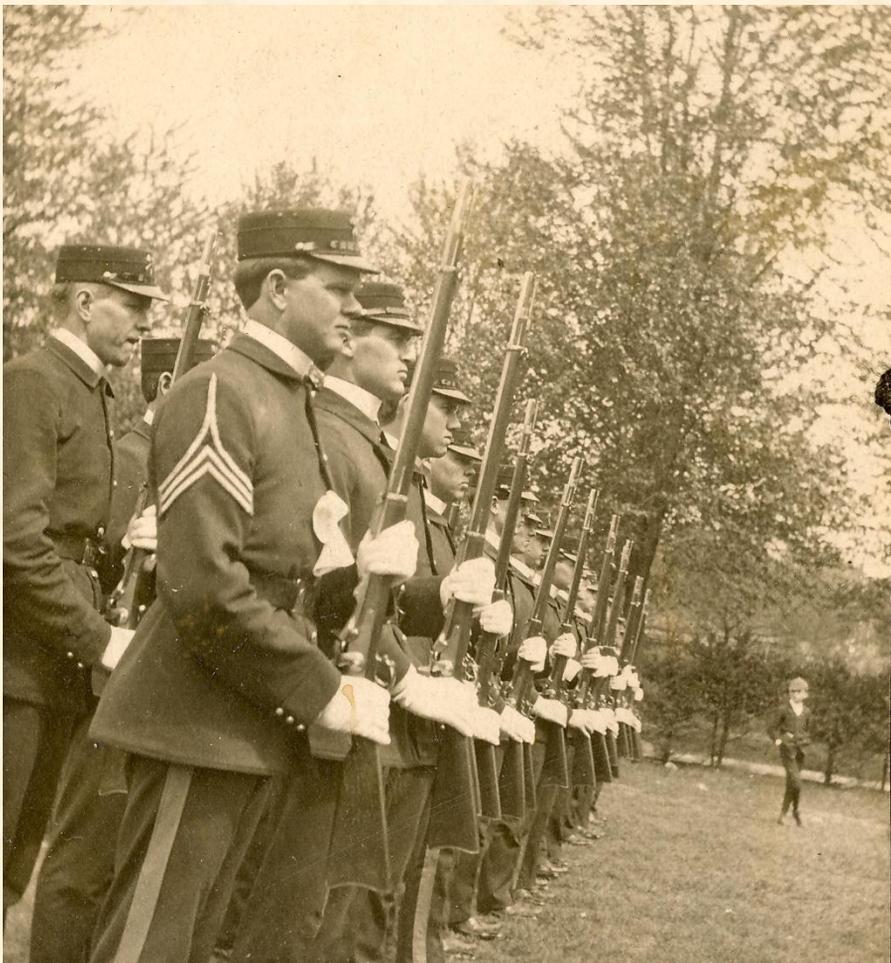
Along with the Color Contest Day, each spring also witnessed the university's graduation ceremonies. The commencements of the 1870s (the first was in 1874) were relatively simple affairs, and this remained the pattern through the early 1880s. Students would demonstrate their oratorical skills, honed in the literary societies, and they would also provide vocal and instrumental music. One or more local notables would address the graduating class, Dr. Lehr would present the diplomas, and the event would be concluded in a day.

Throughout the decade of the '80s, however, the trend was to ever more elaborate ceremonies. By 1888, for example, events were held from Monday through Thursday. Class Day on Monday featured orations in English, Latin, and German. A variety of student ensembles and soloists performed, and the class song and poem were presented. A musical commencement was held Wednesday morning and a literary commencement in the afternoon. The actual graduation ceremony was held the following day. Given the difficulties of travel at the time, it is not surprising that the annual graduation ceremonies were an important part of both the university's and the local community's social life.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Athletics

Unlike the military department, organized athletics, faced a less hospitable atmosphere under President Lehr. A product of rural 19th-century America, he found agricultural pursuits more suitable as exercise than frivolous games. This attitude was fairly common among college administrators of the day. Indeed, part of the impetus behind the organization of the military department was to provide constructive physical activity, at least for the male students. Drill was performed for one hour each day, except for Saturday, and was touted as being "especially entertaining, invigorating, and healthful -- a most pleasant relaxation after the close and sedentary hours of the student's desk and recitation room."



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

This is not to say that athletics were not played informally during the period. In addition to their oratorical and forensic activities, the literary societies also hosted baseball games, and as early as 1886 President Lehr permitted part of his property along the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks to be converted into a ball diamond. In contrast to baseball, football initially received a very chilly reception from the administration in general and from some faculty members in particular. Nevertheless, by 1896 the students had created an "Athletic Organization... to promote the interests of athletics in the school," although this body was not sanctioned by the university.



Football Team, 1895 – Still a Club Activity

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

If organized athletics were slow to take root under President Lehr, fraternities faced even bleaker prospects. The literary societies held a virtual monopoly on extracurricular activities at Northern, and most students belonged to one. The societies were quite comfortable with the status quo and were not anxious to see their influence on campus diluted by the creation of competing bodies.

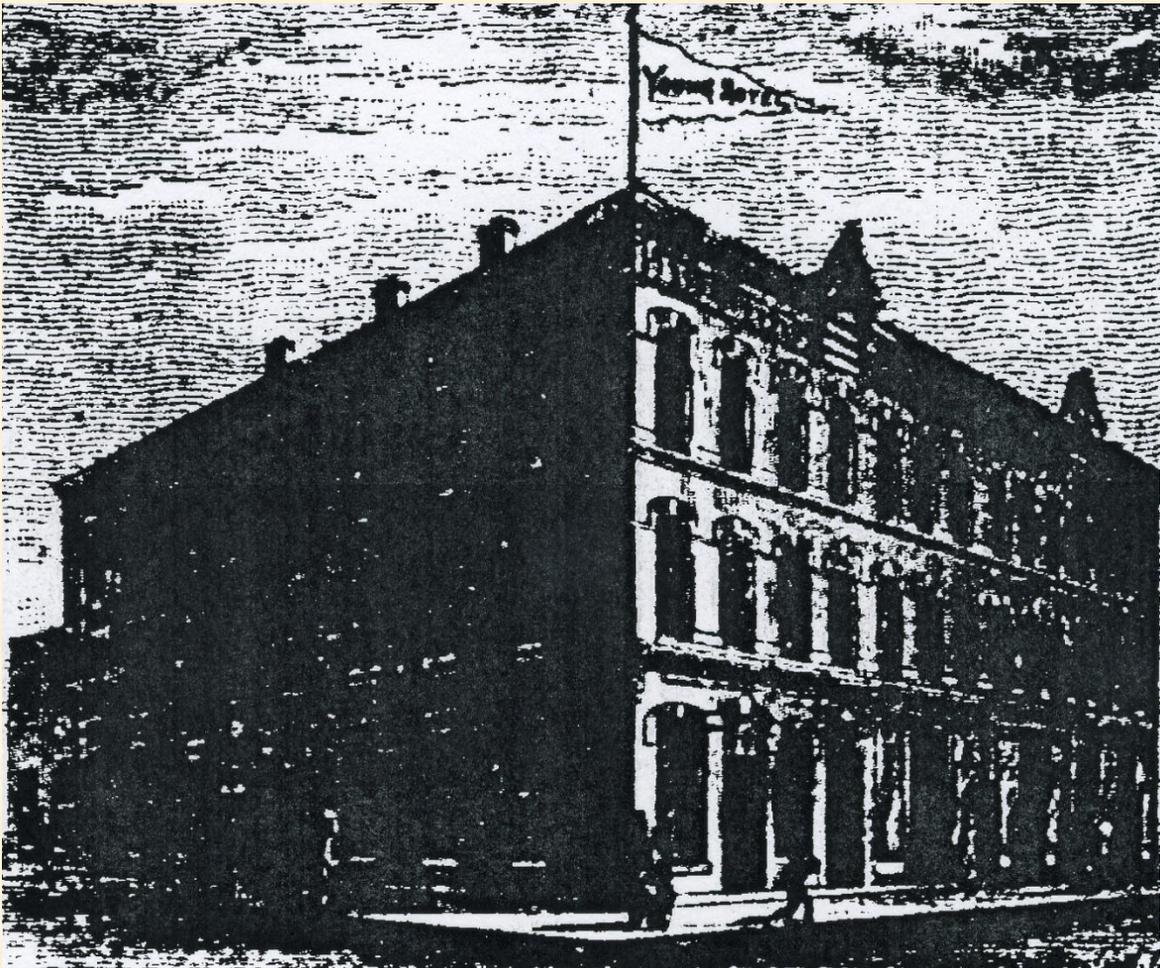
First Fraternity

In May 1886, however, three prominent students approached President Lehr for permission to organize a college fraternity. Unfamiliar with the nature of Greek letter societies, Lehr assumed that the organization would be similar to the Masons or other secret society lodges. He gave the enterprise his blessing without consulting the other trustees, a decision he quickly came to regret. Shortly thereafter, 18 students marched into Monday chapel services wearing the insignia of the Kappa Sigma fraternity accompanied by boos and hisses from the rest of the student body. The anti-fraternity students believed that Kappa Sigma would destroy what they saw as the democratic nature of the university and undermine the interests of the literary societies. (On the latter point, they were eventually proven all too correct.) For their part, the fraternity members attributed the majority response to jealousy at not being asked to join their organization.



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

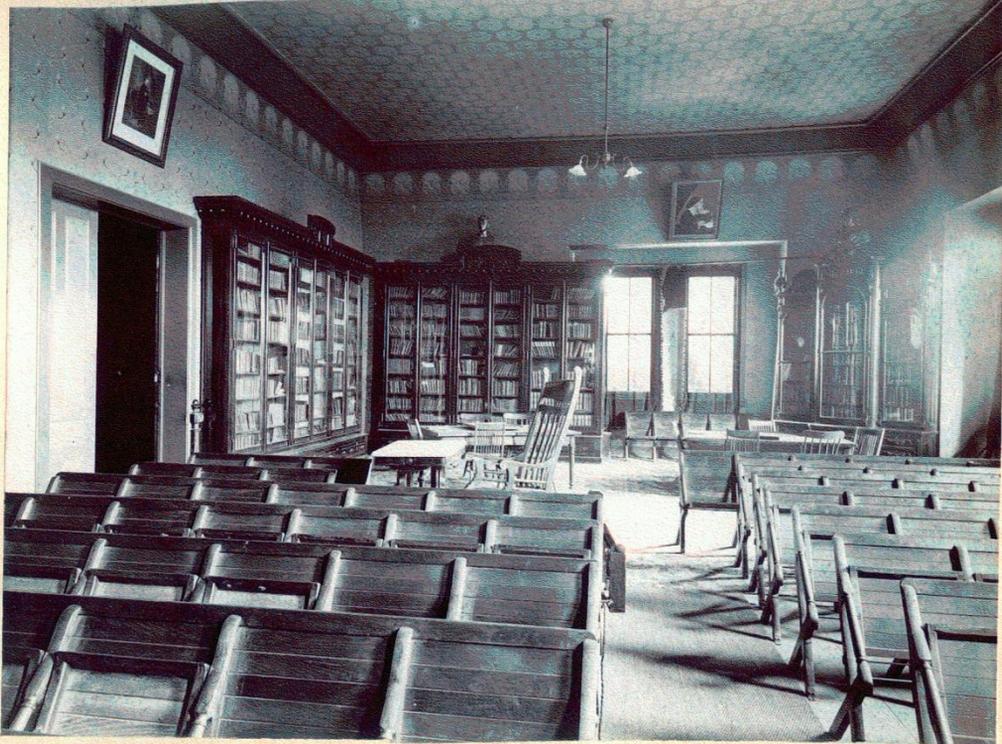
Due to sustained pressure by the "anti's," the fraternity ostensibly disbanded, although, in reality, the group continued a brief and clandestine existence. When it became known that the fraternity still existed and was meeting in Ada's Young Hotel, a near riot occurred. Shortly thereafter, the local newspaper reported that the group had disbanded, though apparently, it continued a sub-rosa existence through May of the next year. The literary societies followed up their victory by passing joint resolutions banning fraternity members from their ranks and denying them access to class honors. Fraternities were not to re-emerge at Ohio Northern until after the turn of the century when both the students and administration were more supportive.



Destroyed by Fire – April 2005

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

By contrast, the 1880s and 1890s marked the heyday of the literary societies. Membership was high, and society activities were well attended by both the campus and Ada communities. During this time, the Franklins and Philomatheans had large halls on the third floor of the Administration Building. The Adelphians, as the junior group, met in the old Normal School Building. The societies competed vigorously for members, and each sought to have the largest library or the most elaborately decorated meeting hall. In July of 1886, for example, the Franklins installed an elaborate \$500 chandelier in their hall. Three months later, the Philos acquired a huge 32-lamp chandelier with "a large polished brass globe set with different colored jewels through which shines the light from a lamp situated within." The Philos specialized in acquiring paintings while the Franklins concentrated on sculpture. All purchased expensive pianos.



O. N. A.

FRANKLIN LIBRARY

PHOTO BY
Marsh

80's & 90's

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

In one case, however, this competition had unintended consequences. In 1886 the Franklins decided to grace their hall with a seven-foot tall cast-marble statue of Apollo. Ten years earlier President Lehr had seen the original sculpture at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, and a reproduction was acquired with his assistance. At a cost of almost \$450, the 500-pound Apollo was imported from the German firm of Brasch and Rothenstein. In today's terminology, it was an "anatomically correct" male figure. Over the years, area newspapers would periodically publish articles purporting to tell the tale of scandalized students and locals insisting that the offending areas being covered in breeches or similar attire. Victorian sensibilities notwithstanding, few at the time thought the acquisition shocking.



PHILOMATHEAN LIBRARY

Photo by

D. N. U.

80's & 90's

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

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Efforts to recruit new society members from among arriving students were vigorous.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification



A Session Begins – Scene at the Ada Depot

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Ada in the 1880s

The community in which Northern was developing was itself undergoing a period of growth and change. As previously mentioned, the area around Ada suffered from poor drainage, and one of the early municipal improvements was the start of a drainage system. In 1872, a sewer constructed from wooden planks was installed, followed three years later by the first stone conduit. These projects were the beginning of a long struggle to keep local flooding under control.

At roughly the same time, the first concerted efforts were made to maintain the village's streets. Although the state of the local thoroughfares left much to be desired, the village government in the 1880s was small and underfinanced. Thus, in order to keep the streets passable, each able-bodied male person between the ages of 21 and 55 years of age was required to perform in each and every year, by himself or substitute, two (2) days labor upon the streets and alleys of said village [of Ada] or upon public roads or highways or parts thereof.

This ordinance applied to students as well as permanent residents and was the cause of some vexation among the student body. They petitioned the village council for a waiver, but were turned down. When 16 of their fellow students were called out to work on the streets, a group of about 600 students presented themselves to the street commissioner and demanded that they all be put to work. It appears that the issue was resolved as far as students were concerned since there was no further reference to the issue in the local papers.



Downtown Ada, 1880's

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

With improvements to the village's streets underway, the community undertook to illuminate them properly. On Christmas eve 1886 the first of 67 gasoline vapor lamps were lit. The village supplied one lamp at the corner of Main Street and University Avenue, and the faculty elected to pay for a second fixture between the Normal School Building and the Administration Building. Under average conditions, the lamps would burn until around midnight.

Communication with the world outside Ada was greatly improved when, in 1882, the Midland Telephone Company installed the first instruments in Ada. Access was initially by subscription. Residents could purchase tickets in multiples of 50, each of which entitled a caller to five minutes conversation. Persons could talk to parties in places as distant as Columbus or Dayton, though calls all the way to Cincinnati had to be repeated through Springfield.



Looking north on Main St., - 1890's
Central Business District Was Paved
By This Time

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Gas!!!

In January 1886 the inhabitants of Ada saw a strange glow on the northern horizon "which at times wavers and flashes up, like the Northern Lights." Visible from 26 miles away, Findlay's great Karg Gas Well marked the culmination of several years' efforts to locate commercially-viable natural gas deposits in the area. To some, the event may have been a mere curiosity, but to Ada's budding capitalists the light on the horizon hinted that untold wealth might also rest beneath their feet. Numerous local residents, including at least three persons affiliated with the university, Professors Lehr, Park and Maglott, contributed to Ada's own efforts to locate natural gas in the area.

The previous year, when the first indications in the area became known, the privately-owned Ada Natural Gas Prospecting Company was organized. Although the company was sold to the village of Ada in 1890 sufficient gas was located to mount a display of Ada's riches on July 4 of that year. Three stand-pipes were erected along Main Street and were ignited with spectacular results.

When the gas was turned on it came with a rush and roar that alarmed people unaccustomed to such demonstrations and a number of ladies in the vicinity were frightened into a stampede, and in their mad rush to get away they upset a lemonade stand and one woman fainted.

Although it is tantalizing to consider how different the history of the community and Ohio Northern might have been had Ada become a center of natural gas production, such, alas, was not to be. Whether because of the profligate use of gas in displays or because the local fields were not extensive, the era of local gas production was short. By 1917, Ada piped in its gas from outside.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Lehr's New Residence

Although the village's hopes for riches proved to be as substantial as the gas upon which they rested, the period left one tangible improvement. Northern's prosperity allowed Lehr to construct a residence that was more in keeping with his status as head of an up-and-coming school. In 1888, he engaged an architect, E.L. Lambert, of Kenton, Ohio to design a large two-story frame residence, the cost of which was estimated at \$8,200. For that princely sum, President Lehr got a home with all the modern conveniences including "incandescent electrical globes" and speaking tubes. It was located on the site of the present-day Stambaugh Hall. Over the years, this structure served as the Lehr family home and was the site of numerous university functions.



— THE GREAT —
Tri-County Fair!
Ada, Ohio,
Sept. 18, 19, 20 and 21.
Greater and Grander Than Ever.
A * New * Feature!



BALLON ASCENSION!
— AND —
Aerial Trapeze Performance!
By the Renowned Gymnast and Aeronaut,
Prof. E. D. HOGAN,
Of Michigan.

— One of These —
THRILLING ASCENSIONS!
Will be made on
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the Fair!

This alone will be worth miles of travel
to witness.

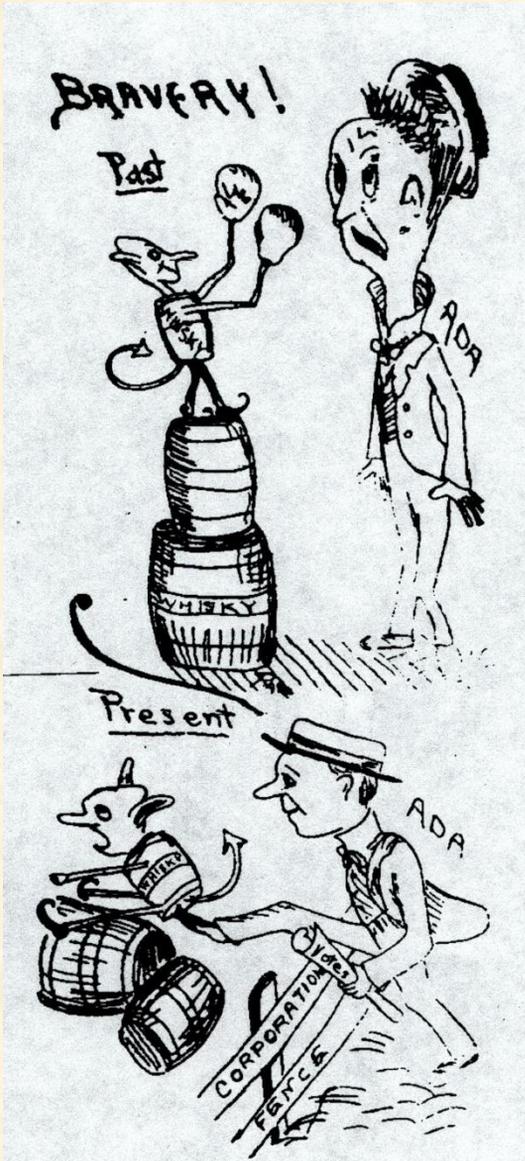
Come to the Big Fair!

Fairgrounds

The inhabitants of Ada could take a break from all these civic improvements at the Tri-county Fairgrounds. In 1883, a tract of 25 acres, which occupied much of the present village park, was purchased to provide a location for fairs for Hardin, Allen, and Hancock counties. A race track was subsequently added along with an exhibition hall and other buildings. The fairs ran from 1884 until just after the turn of the century and provided considerable entertainment. One of the early spectacles was the balloon ascension and aerial trapeze performance by a "Professor" E.D. Hogan in September 1888, an event which the local newspaper assured its readers would "be worth miles of travel to witness." Actually, three ascensions were made which landed the professor in and around Ada.

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification

Temperance Issues



Unfortunately not all activities in the 1880s were as benign as the tri-county fairs. Local efforts to control the sale of alcoholic beverages had begun in the 1870s, but it was not until the following decade that the temperance movement in Ada began to have lasting effects. Throughout the 1880s, the liquor question was vigorously debated, and various local temperance ordinances were enacted. The university's faculty members and a significant number of students participated in the movement. These efforts were motivated by a sincere belief in the inherent harm done by saloons and the consumption of liquor. Also, a wholesome local atmosphere made it easier to recruit new students. Indeed, during the intermittent periods when Ada was voted dry, the university took pains to mention the fact in its catalog.

The Demon Rum
On The Run
In Ada



Agnew Lehr

ADA, OHIO, SEPT. 12th, 1888.

DIABOLISM.

The Fire Bug Again Abroad.

Shortly before 11 o'clock on last Saturday night the buildings adjacent to John Davenport's barn, about two miles north of town, were found to be on fire. Some neighbor boys who had been to Ada on returning home saw the light from the Hog Creek bridge and hurried forward to awaken Wesley Lappin who lives on the farm, and through their combined efforts the flames were extinguished.

Within a few feet of the barn stands a frame sheep shed, and it was to this that the match was applied. The fiends had carried a glass fruit can, filled with kerosene, with them, fixing a carrying bail with a piece of a wire. The can and even the match used were found on the spot.

As might be expected Mr. Lappin was very indignant over the matter and fearing the second attempt might be

As a member of the Ada Village Council between 1884 and 1886, Lehr was one of a number of persons closely identified with local temperance efforts. The patrons of the village's five saloons, however, took a dim view of these efforts to "improve" them. In September 1888, for example, the barns of two temperance supporters, one of whom was Ada's mayor, burned. Evidence suggested the cause was arson. The following January a barn on a farm owned by Dr. Lehr was consumed under similarly suspicious circumstances.

Prof. Lehr's \$1400 Barn Goes Up in Flames.

About 9 p. m. last Saturday night the fine new barn on Prof. Lehr's farm, a few miles south-east, was burned to the ground. Nothing was saved and besides the barn and grain there was burned two horses and a cow belonging to the tenant, Henry Kemsel, also some farming utensils belonging to Pat Travers. Mr. Kemsel's farming utensils, harness, &c., were all burned. Mr. Kemsel was in bed sick and the neighbors who came to assist found the flames raging so that they could do nothing, the fire having started in the hay bay.

The barn was built two years ago on Prof. Lehr's farm, on the western boundary of Washington township, and

Articles from
Ada Record

Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification



Adelpian Literary Society

FRANKLIN LITERARY SOCIETY
PIN BELONGING TO OLIVE UNCAPHER
CONLEY. GRADUATED IN BACHELOR
OF SCIENCE IN 1883



Literary Society Pins



Chapter 3 - 1880 – 1890, Growth and Diversification



Literary Society Tableau Vivant

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

President Leroy A. Belt was born in Delaware County, Ohio, in 1837. Although nearly the same age, (Belt was one year older than his predecessor) Drs. Lehr and Belt came from different backgrounds. Lehr was, by his own account, from a poor family and completed his education as funds permitted. Belt apparently came from a comfortable if not wealthy background. He enrolled at Ohio Wesleyan University around 1855 and graduated in 1861 after having studied for the ministry. He served at several Methodist churches, first in Van Wert, Ohio, and later at Wapakonetta, Ottawa, Bellefontaine, Marion, and Toledo. In 1871 Dr. Belt became a trustee of his alma mater and also served as financial agent for Monnett Hall, an independent women's academy, which merged with Ohio Wesleyan in 1877. In addition, he gained administrative experience through holding several positions in his church conference. As far as background was concerned, there were grounds to be optimistic about Dr. Belt's presidency.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

During his administration he faced serious challenges, perhaps the most daunting of which was former president Lehr. No one person could, or arguably should have, replaced Dr. Lehr. Administrative power had come to be concentrated in his hands with all of the drawbacks previously noted. The faculty was chosen by Lehr, and several members had been with him since the founding of the school. Although in the end they gave the new president their support, Belt must have wondered more than once where their loyalties might lie. Local residents, many of whom had been students of Lehr's, found it difficult to accept the change in leadership. This was especially true of the editor of the *Ada Record*, Agnew Welsh, who later characterized Belt as "an erstwhile president of the O.N.U. whose makeup was principally gall and vindictiveness." As it turned out, President Belt was not given time to convert many of his critics.

As for Lehr, he remained in Ada following his retirement in August 1902, an uncomfortable reminder of past controversies. He appeared at several campus events during this period, and President Belt must have been relieved to see him move to Winona Lake, Indiana in 1903. Although Dr. Lehr made periodic visits to Ada, he remained at Winona Lake during the balance of President Belt's administration.



MONNETT HALL, OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, DELAWARE, OHIO
(ORIGINAL BUILDING)

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Name Changed to Ohio Northern University

At the July 28, 1903, trustee meeting the university's name was changed from Ohio Normal University, a name which it had borne since 1885, to Ohio Northern University. Tradition recounts that President Belt was petitioned to make the change by a group of engineering students headed by Thomas J. Smull. As participants in a professional program, they felt that the value of their degrees was lessened by their being granted from a mere "normal school." Belt was sympathetic; as he later explained, "The word 'normal' being expressive of but one specific function performed by the institution, [it] was thought to be incompatible with the idea of the university, and, though performing the function of normal teaching, this school was judged by the status of other poorer normal schools."⁴ The change had the additional benefit of retaining the school's traditional initials

As rapidly as their contracts expired, President Belt moved to place faculty members in a more standard departmental organization. Under Lehr, a number of courses such as law, art, pharmacy, stenography, music, and oratory, were conducted on a semi-autonomous basis. Tuition collected in these courses was divided among the faculty with only a percent being remitted to the university. Under Belt, all funds were sent directly to the ONU treasurer, who then paid individual professors a stipulated salary.⁵ The practice of faculty members renting books and equipment to students was also curtailed. Finally, individual professors were placed under the supervision of department chairmen.



From 1901-1902 Catalog

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Medical Department Revisited

Along with these general changes to Northern's academic program, one specific addition to the university's curriculum was attempted, namely a medical department. This had been tried under President Lehr, but the project foundered on the school's chronic shortage of funds. This new department was not, however, based solely on Northern's own slender financial resources. Instead, the trustees reached an agreement in April 1904 with the Fort Wayne College of Medicine in Indiana. The college had been in existence since 1876. Under the terms of this arrangement:

...the Fort Wayne College of Medicine [would] constitute a department of the Ohio Northern University, and the party of the first part [ONU] in its catalogue and other publications or advertising matter which it may issue, will publish therein as the medical department of said university the Fort Wayne College of Medicine.



HOPE HOSPITAL.
College of Medicine, Ohio Northern University.

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

For its part, the Fort Wayne College of Medicine was to list their school as a department of Ohio Northern in its publications and to "...recommend to its [Fort Wayne's] students and to all other persons who may desire a general education, that they attend and receive such instruction at the Ohio Northern University.⁷ Students applying at Fort Wayne, whose general education was judged to be insufficient, were especially encouraged to attend Northern to correct such deficiencies. They could presumably then enroll at Fort Wayne, and upon graduation they would receive diplomas signed by the secretary and president of ONU and bearing the Northern seal.

Aside from an obligation to encourage students to attend each other's schools, this contract left both institutions with complete autonomy. Neither assumed and financial duties as to the other, nor was there any mechanism for sharing tuition income. Each retained total control over their respective curricula.

Although this scheme may have had some potential, it proved to be very short-lived. The ONU catalog for 1904-1906 ran a glowing promotion of the project, but all mention was subsequently dropped. In October 1905 Fort Wayne merged with the Indiana College of Medicine to form the School of Medicine at Purdue University.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

State Legislative Challenges

President Belt, like Lehr, faced legislation which had disturbing implications for Northern. The most direct challenge to Ohio Northern was the Seese Law of 1902 which established normal schools at two state universities, Ohio University and Miami University. As a percentage of overall enrollment, the teacher training part of Northern's curriculum had been decreasing. It was still, however, a significant enough element in the academic program for this additional competition to be troubling.

A second piece of legislation that year, the Brumbaugh Law, had implications for Northern's preparatory department. The university, like many other schools of the day, operated a department which provided high-school-level courses to students who then could continue on at Northern. This scheme provided a means of capturing students by guaranteeing them admission to the university. The Brumbaugh Law defined the differences between high schools, colleges, and the work to be done at each. Although it would be several years before ONU's own preparatory department closed, this law served notice that Northern would have to concentrate its efforts in higher education.

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Dukes Memorial Opens

One of the underlying reasons for the sale of the university to the Methodist Church had been the need to raise funds for further expansion, and in this regard, President Belt proved a resounding success. On April 16, 1901, prior to Belt becoming president, the trustees had organized a committee to examine the need for a new building. President Belt took over these efforts and was able, in January 1902, to announce the receipt of a \$10,000 gift from Lewis Dukes for the project. Despite his continuing controversies with Dr. Lehr, President Belt completed the fund-raising that March. Excavation for the building, Dukes Memorial, began in June 1902, and on July 27 an impressive ceremony was held to mark the laying of the cornerstone. By April 20, 1903, Dukes Memorial was in use.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Brown Auditorium

Even before the ground had been broken for Dukes Memorial, President Belt was exploring the possibility of an auditorium for the campus. Early proposals included remodeling the 1871 Normal School Building or constructing the auditorium on the front lawn immediately in front of the Normal School building. In May 1902, John Burkhart of Kenton, the contractor for Dukes Memorial, was also awarded the contract for the auditorium, although it wasn't until March 1904 that a generous gift from Edwin Brown settled the financial aspects of the project.

The last major hurdle was finding an appropriate site for the building. By August 1904 the choices had been narrowed to two. The one favored by the university involved vacating all or part of Peach Ave., now University Ave., between Main St. and Gilbert St. This would have allowed the auditorium to be built directly north of the Administration Building in line with the other structures fronting Main St. Although there was substantial local support for this proposal, the Ada Village Council rejected the scheme because of protests from nearby property owners.¹⁴ The alternative, which was subsequently adopted, was to locate the building on the lawn directly in front of the Administration Building. Construction of Brown Hall began with a ground breaking ceremony on October 11, 1904. Despite a late start, construction proceeded rapidly enough to permit the dedication of the auditorium on July 2, 1905.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Athletic Facilities

Under President Belt's administration athletics began to receive considerably more support than previously. Not until the final year of Dr. Lehr's administration was the need for a gymnasium was discussed, and even then it was seen as much as a facility for the benefit of the military department as for sports. President Belt, by contrast, purchased in 1903 the former Tri-county Fair Grounds on the southeast corner of the village. This extensive plot had been used as a fairgrounds between 1883 and 1901. In 1902 it was sold to a local resident, Henry Young, who in turn sold it to Ohio Northern. The northern end of the grounds was sold for building lots and the balance was made into an athletic facility called Alumni Field. Not only did this provide new playing fields, but it also allowed students in the military department to drill off campus. Their constant marching had reduced the lawn fronting Main St. to tatters. As a temporary expedient, the Lehr-vintage "Sheep Shed" was converted from a recitation hall to an "athletic building" in 1904. Descriptions of the interior are sketchy, but it included a basketball court. When Brown Auditorium was completed the following year, the Sheep Shed was sold to A.W. Clutter, a local photographer. He moved it two blocks off campus and converted it to a private residence.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Fraternities

Another departure from the previous administration was President Belt's decision to allow fraternities at Ohio Northern. The near riot occasioned by the attempt to establish a chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1886 was long since past, and student opinion on the subject had become more favorable. In 1903 a chapter of Theta Nu Epsilon was established with none of the earlier rancor. The literary societies, which once held a virtual monopoly on the extracurriculum, were themselves facing competition from other student organizations. The oratorical and dramatic activities, long the main feature of the societies, had less relevance to the growing percentage of students enrolled in Northern's professional programs. Then, too, Belt's academic background was with Ohio Wesleyan, an institution where fraternities had existed since the 1850s. Unlike his predecessor, Belt was familiar with fraternities, and he presumably saw nothing unusual with their introduction in Ada. Other student extracurricular activities proved more vexing.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Class Rivalries

The university students had always been a boisterous group. Even under Dr. Lehr they engaged pranks which were, for the most part, innocuous. With the removal of his benign and parental gaze, however, matters began to take a more serious turn. The process started innocently enough with the sort of junior - senior class rivalries common at many institutions. In 1900, for instance, the two classes staged a joint parade in nightshirts, and each group posted humorous cartoons and placards about the other throughout the village. The juniors then hosted a senior roast to which the senior class was invited. The local newspaper observed:

Upon the whole the conception and execution of the cartoons and program was good and wholesome fun, barring one of the cartoons left at Kemp's and included some good take-offs on the quips and quirks, the shortcomings and peculiarities of some of the teachers and Seniors.



Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Two years later a class scrimmage between the engineers and pharmics resulted in "some sore heads and faces cut by flying missiles." What had started out as innocent fun escalated into periodic riots. It would be left to President Belt's successor to eventually harness the energies of the students for more constructive purposes.



Senior Students on S. Main Street

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Northern Integrated

Another problem faced by President Belt, largely avoided under President Lehr, was whether black students should be admitted to the university. For the time and place, Lehr himself was fairly liberal on racial matters. In the fall of 1867, for example, shortly after he moved to Ada, he voted for the 15th Amendment which enfranchised Negroes. He was approached by a member of the local school board which had employed him with the advice that he not vote for the amendment.²³ Nevertheless, he was willing to vote his conscience on the matter even if it meant endangering both his job and local support for his select school. On the other hand, he was a realist when it came to actually admitting blacks as students:

He [Lehr] accommodated himself to the less hospitable attitude of the community and student body. His catalog was silent on admissions policy for Negro students, but when queried, Lehr would quietly advise blacks to apply to Oberlin or Wilberforce.

This policy changed under President Belt in 1904, because of two students who were enrolled in what was then the law department. One, G.W. Koontz of North Washington, was a negro. The other, W.C. Kennemar, was a white student from Alabama and a 1902 graduate of Northern's scientific course. Kennemar took a strong dislike to Koontz and was apparently involved in drafting a student petition to the faculty to expel him. The faculty rejected the petition. When it was also rejected by the trustees, the law students staged a strike, and for a time Koontz was the only student attending classes.

The conflict was resolved in a way reminiscent of the melodramas of the era. Several days later a deputy United States marshal arrived in Ada bearing a warrant for Kennemar's arrest. The government had been following him from Indian Territory, later Oklahoma, where, it was charged, he had embezzled government funds earlier that year. With his unceremonious departure, the strike quickly collapsed. In reviewing the episode, the Central Ohio Conference stated:

We commend the action of the board of trustees in refusing to dismiss a student because of his color, and thus opening the doors of the university to all persons of proper character."

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

This policy was re-emphasized by President Belt's successor, Dr. Smith, at the latter's inauguration when he observed:

The doors of Ohio Northern University will be open to every man and woman of the free American nation seeking an education regardless of creed, color or race.

President Belt's short but eventful administration ended with his resignation on June 27, 1905. During his brief tenure in office he began the process by which Ohio Northern moved from its normal school roots toward a more standard, modern institution of higher education. It was inevitable that such change would be wrenching, and there was no question that President Belt angered many of Dr. Lehr's partisans.

It could be argued that Dr. Lehr had taken the university as far as his talents and insight allowed. His departure, however painful to all involved, was necessary for the institution's continued development. In the end, Lehr himself, while not overlooking what he considered personal affronts, acknowledged the good that his successor did for the university. The following April Dr. Belt died at his home in Kenton, and in tribute, classes were canceled to permit the faculty to attend his funeral.

Charge of Embezzlement.

Ada, Sept. 3.—A. J. Kenemer, student of the Ohio Normal university two years ago, and who had returned a few days ago to enter the law department, was arrested late last night by a United States marshal and taken to Toledo on the charge of embezzlement of stamps from parties in Oklahoma.

Mansfield News, Sept. 3, 1904, p. 3

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration



Thomas Jefferson Smull, later dean of the College of Engineering,
standing third from right

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Chapter 5 - 1900 – 1905, Belt Administration

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



After the jarring transformations of President Belt's administration, the university needed a period of stability and firm leadership. Fortunately, Dr. Albert Edwin Smith, the man chosen as Ohio Northern's third president, was able to provide both. This is not to say that his administration was one of unruffled calm since the university was enlivened by a series of controversies. The real significance of his term in office, however, was that he was able to complete the work begun under President Belt of transforming Ohio Northern into a modern educational institution.

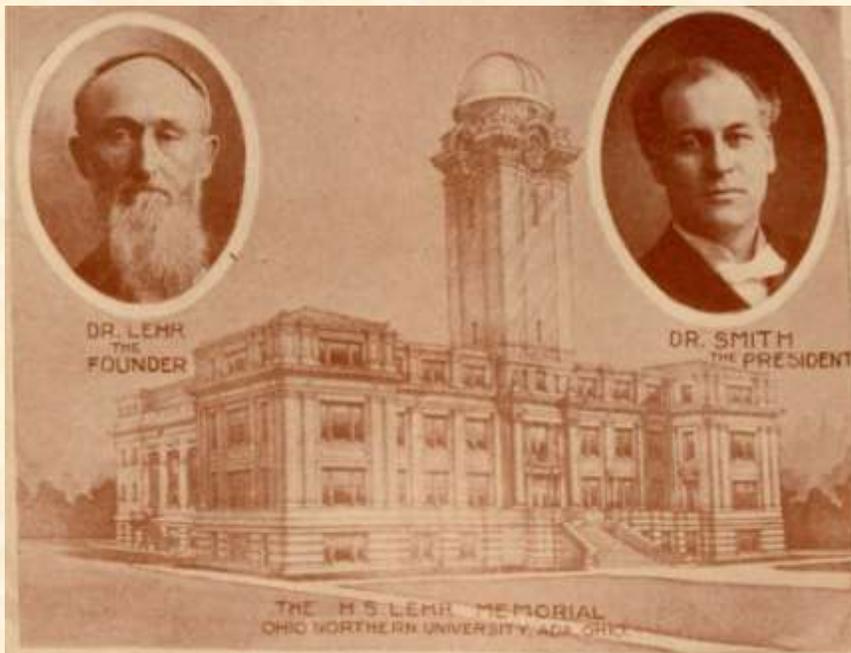
Dr. Smith was born in Clermont County, Ohio, in 1860. After attending several country schools he entered the Clermont Academy and later Ohio Wesleyan University, from which he graduated in 1887 with a B.A. For the next two decades he preached in a variety of Ohio pulpits, and, immediately prior to assuming office at Northern, served at Epworth Methodist Church in Marion, Ohio

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Dr. Smith had a substantial background in higher education, having served as a trustee of Ohio Wesleyan for several years and as a trustee of Ohio Northern since its sale to the Methodist Church. Smith was the unanimous choice of the ONU trustees at a special meeting held in Kenton on June 27, 1905, and he assumed his duties in Ada as a vigorous 45-year-old.

Reconciliation with Lehr

President Smith's inauguration on July 20, 1905, signaled several significant changes. One of these was the beginning of a reconciliation with former President Lehr. At Smith's installation, A.S. Hoskins, the president of the Board of Trustees, "spoke of the early days of the O.N.U. and the many struggles it encountered; how they were surmounted by the patience, integrity and persistence of that brainy little gentleman, Dr. H.S. Lehr, whom all remember most dearly." These sentiments were echoed by one of President Belt's critics, Martin L. Snyder, editor of the *University Herald* and a former student of Lehr's, who also praised Dr. Lehr. In his remarks, President Smith noted a second change, namely his desire to encourage student athletics. He characterized himself as "an ardent friend of the ball ground."



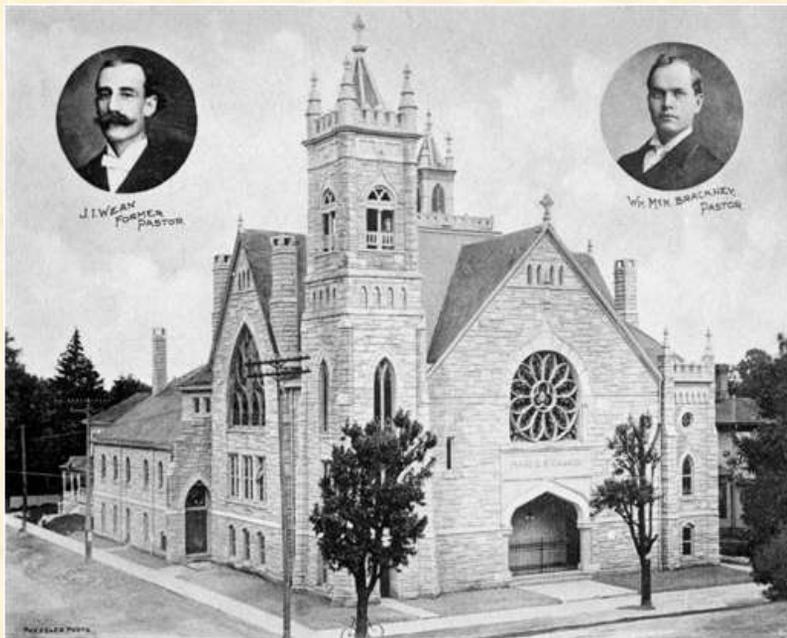
An Early Collaboration – Promotional Postcard
For Lehr Memorial

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

The reconciliation between Dr. Lehr and the university was cemented by two events. In the fall of 1905, after Dr. Belt had returned to his home in Kenton, Dr. Lehr moved his family from Winona Lake back to Ada. In March of 1906, Lehr was the guest of honor at an alumni reunion and banquet held in the dining room of the Ada M.E. Church. President Smith took special care to praise Dr. Lehr and to show the approximately 120 alumni present that "there was the kindest of relations existing between the old president and the present one." Smith, not having had the thankless task of dislodging Lehr from office, could afford to be charitable. It also was sensible to address the concerns of the alumni, a group vital to the continued well-being of the university.

Fraternity Strife

Although President Smith was able to usher in an era of good feelings, as far as Dr. Lehr was concerned, his relations with the fraternities were less amicable. After the abortive attempt in 1886 to organize a fraternity on campus, the matter had lain dormant until President Belt's administration. Greek letter societies first gained a foothold on campus with the organization of Theta Nu Epsilon in 1903. By the time President Smith took office in 1905 their number had grown to three, and he wasted little time in making his views on them known.



FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Sigma Phi Epsilon
Established at Northern
In 1905

At chapel early that fall he observed that fraternities were, in several ways, inimical to the very nature of Ohio Northern. Northern had been founded to provide an education to those of modest means, and the president feared that separating the student body into those who could afford fraternity dues and those who couldn't would prove divisive. In addition, he believed,

“...fraternities manufacture a little aristocracy, a select crowd with better clothes, better food, 'pledging' young ladies to their membership, etc.”

Finally, he observed:

An open life keeps young men straight. It is a dangerous thing for young men to have an entrance key to a secret lodge room where they can take whomsoever they please, and a secret fraternity where three public balls are held in eight weeks.

He noted that he had been authorized by the faculty "to carry out any proceedings to exterminate them [the fraternities].”

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Smith's approach, which he clearly viewed as a reasonable compromise, was to permit members of the fraternities to continue their studies at Ohio Northern but to prohibit the fraternities from pledging further members. Attrition would settle the matter in due course. This proposal, however, held few charms for the fraternity members who apparently did their best to circumvent the president's efforts. March of 1906 found President Smith issuing an ultimatum that "those students who belong to fraternities must sever connection with the societies or leave the school."

The issue was finally dealt with by the trustees at a meeting in Ada in late May. A subcommittee of five trustees was formed to consider the question, and this group wrestled with the fraternity matter from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. By a vote of 10 to two, the trustees adopted a resolution which stated that personal behavior, and not fraternity membership, would be the basis for deciding who would remain at Ohio Northern. It further stipulated that all societies, including fraternities, "shall be under direct and immediate supervision of the President and members of the faculty." Disciplinary problems relating to an entire fraternity were to be referred to the trustees by the faculty. President Smith had threatened to resign if this resolution was adopted, but he later changed his mind



Sigma Phi Epsilon House, 1905 – 1915
On S. Gilbert Behind Lehr Memorial

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Rules Tightened

Smith's general tightening of school rules extended far beyond the fraternities. In the fall of 1905, at the same time that he made his first pronouncement on fraternities, the president banned cigarettes and pipes from campus. Cigars, curiously, were exempted, Smith leaving that form of tobacco to the conscience of individual students. Although this edict applied only to the campus, he left open the possibility of inspections in boarding houses and elsewhere.

President Smith also began sounding out the boarding house proprietors on limiting each house to boarders of one gender only. Under Lehr, it had been customary for male and female students to live in the same residence. One would surmise that there were occasional "irregularities" under this scheme, but it is also likely that the presence of landladies kept such behavior to a minimum. In any case, as Lehr later observed, the general lack of housing made segregation by gender impractical. President Smith, however, thought that the informal discipline of the Lehr era was inadequate, and he proceeded with, "toning up the ideals, [and] fostering a healthier spirit." By the 1912-13 academic year female students coming from outside of Ada were required to live in rooming houses kept exclusively for women.



Turner House Boarding Club in Lehr Era

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

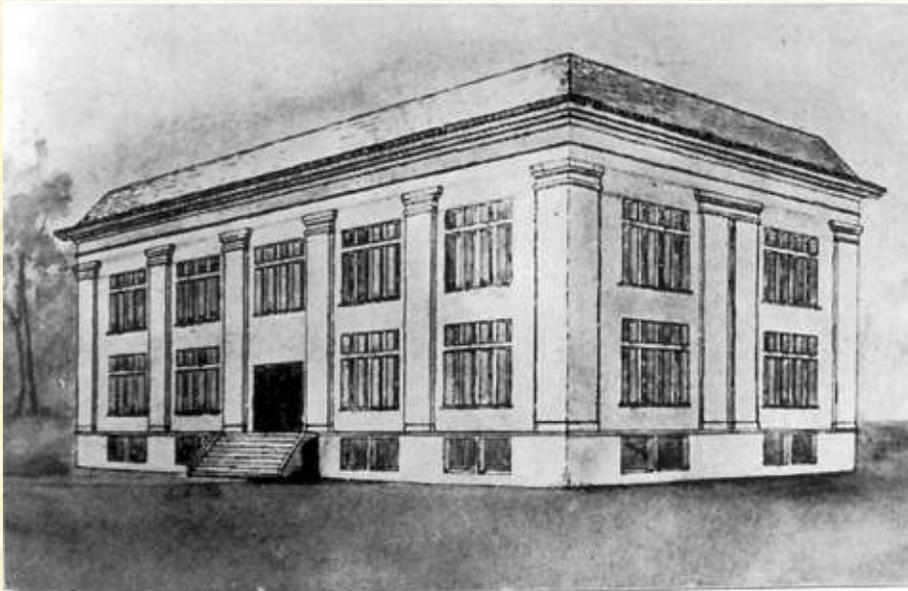
College of Agriculture

At the same time that he was toning up the ideals of the university, President Smith also added to its curriculum. One of the more interesting innovations was the establishment in the spring of 1911 of a College of Agriculture. By the fall term, nearly 300 students had enrolled in the college and several courses were created in animal husbandry, soil fertility, economic entomology and farm accounts. The college's farm initially consisted of a parcel of 50 acres on what is now the university's west campus. In 1916 an additional 40 acres were purchased. As with many such academic experiments, the Agriculture College failed to thrive, and in 1923 it was disbanded. Plans were then made to convert the property into a nine-hole university golf course. This idea was discarded, but the university wisely retained ownership of the former farm.



Looking West Past future Sites of McIntosh Center (L)
And Taft Gymnasium (R)

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



PROPOSED BUILDING OF COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.



ONU's "Aggies" at Work

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Window Commemorating College of Agriculture.
Originally in Lehr Auditorium and Currently (2008)
In Presser Hall

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Athletics Expanded

Athletics was another area of the curriculum which was expanded during this period. Although President Belt's purchase of the Alumni Field facilities to the east of campus provided much-needed athletic space, they were somewhat removed from the shower and locker room facilities in Brown Auditorium. After the purchase of the university farm, a part of this land was set aside for athletics, and by 1918 Alumni Field had been abandoned in favor of this new site. The entrance was two blocks west of Brown Hall next to the current Taft Memorial and fairly near the railroad tracks. It was hoped that a suitably imposing sign could be erected marking the entrance since its being visible to railroad passengers would provide additional advertising for the school.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



T.J. Smull, Future Dean of the College of Engineering
With Team-mate on His Shoulders

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



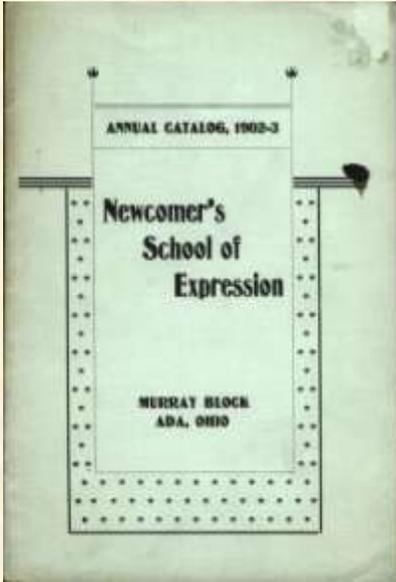
Girls Basket Ball Team 1913-14'



Baseball Team, 1911

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Newcomer School Purchased



Another curricular change occurred in 1910 when Ohio Northern purchased the Newcomer School of Expression. This independent school had operated in downtown Ada for the 15 years prior to Professor Newcomer's retirement. Northern itself had offered courses in "Special Elocution," upon request, as early as the school year of 1888-89. This was subsequently expanded into an elocutionary department and in 1902-03 into a College of Oratory. Although some Northern students attended, there is no evidence that they received credit for their work with Newcomer. This acquisition removed another source of local competition for the university.

Another School Purchased



Two years later Northern acquired a second independent institution, the Ada School of Arts and Crafts. Although the university had its own School of Fine Arts, some 126 pupils were enrolled during its last year. Upon her marriage and later relocation, the proprietress, Mrs. S.M. Harford, donated her studio and the school's patronage to the university. In May 1912 the re-named ONU Art School was moved to the 200 block of North Main Street. An advertisement of the period indicated that the school was open to the general public as well as university students. In addition to the more traditional coursework, one could also study tapestry, leather, china, and woodcarving.

Mrs. Harford

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Library Organized

The growth of the university curriculum after the turn of the century demanded better library facilities. As has been previously noted, the society libraries were geared to supporting the literary and oratorical activities of their respective organizations. While this was an acceptable approach in the 1870s and 1880s, the growth of the university's curriculum, especially that of the professional programs, later made such arrangements increasingly anachronistic. By 1911, however, a true university library had been formed. This facility occupied the entire first floor of the Normal School Building. The west room was used for shelves and book cases while the better-lit east room was used by patrons as a reading room. The size of the collection is not stated nor is the library's budget apparent. Donations of books appear, however, to have been an important source of materials.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

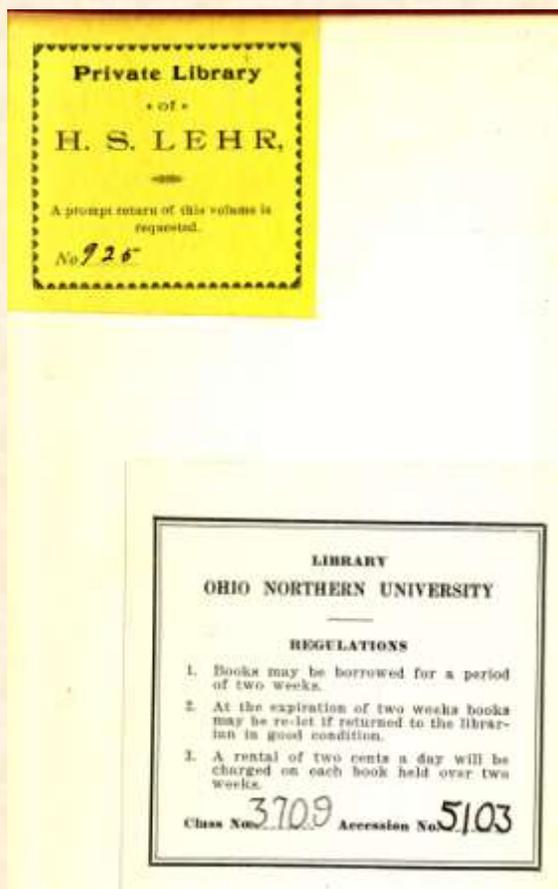
In 1911 the Franklin Literary Society voted to contribute its library to the university. Use of the society's collection had been declining for several years, and this donation would have made some 2,000 volumes available to the entire student body. There was apparently enough internal dissent to delay the actual transfer until the fall of 1913 and not before the founder of the library, Dr. Lehr, was forced to state his views on the matter. As he observed:

The Franklins take no periodicals and magazines at present. Seldom [are] any books taken from the library. Often on Saturday [the one day on which materials were circulated] the cases are not unlocked, and even when books are returned they cannot be cared for.

This was clearly not what Lehr had in mind when he gave the Franklins part of his personal collection years earlier.

Books Transferred

The Philomatheans lent their library of some 2,000 volumes to the university in December 1912. Like the Franklins, they concluded that the labor involved in running a modern library was beyond their resources. Their collection had been available to their members on Saturday evenings only. Earlier that fall the society amended its constitution to indicate that, although the books would be housed in the university library, the actual ownership still remained with the society.



Inside cover of Book
Belonging to Dr. Lehr
And Transferred to
University Library

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Dean Samuel P. Axline
1889 – 1902, 1903 - 1914

The option to reclaim the collection was never exercised, and the books were, for all intents and purposes, a part of the university library. By the following spring, the Adelprians, the final holdouts, authorized the formation of a committee of three "to consider the advisability of transferring the books of the Adelprian library from the [society's] hall to the university library." After considerable discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and shortly thereafter the era of the literary society libraries ended.

Law Library

The College of Law also acquired a library at this time. In February 1914 President Smith purchased the entire law library of the late Attorney George Jameson along with 150 volumes from a Columbus, Ohio, law firm.. These works formed the core of a permanent law collection. Up to that time, the college used the private library of Dean Samuel Axline whose retirement from the College of Law prompted the change. Law students were permitted to use the library between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. except for the noon hour. They were not, however, permitted to take any books from the library except with written permission of the dean.

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

New Publications

Students were accorded two opportunities to sharpen their writing skills in the early Smith years. In 1910, Northern began publishing a yearbook. The first volume appeared under the title *The Comet*, to commemorate the appearance of Haley's comet that year. From then on it was simply called *The Northern*, and it has been printed annually with breaks only during WWII.

In 1912, *The Northern Light*, a fortnightly publication, first appeared. Part newspaper and part magazine, it apparently ran afoul of President Smith. It was abolished after May 26, 1914 when "radical and disturbing articles appeared involving the administration and students..." The paper probably had not endeared itself to Smith by publishing the text of a petition the previous year, calling for his resignation. It was succeeded in 1915 by the current student newspaper, the *Northern Review*.

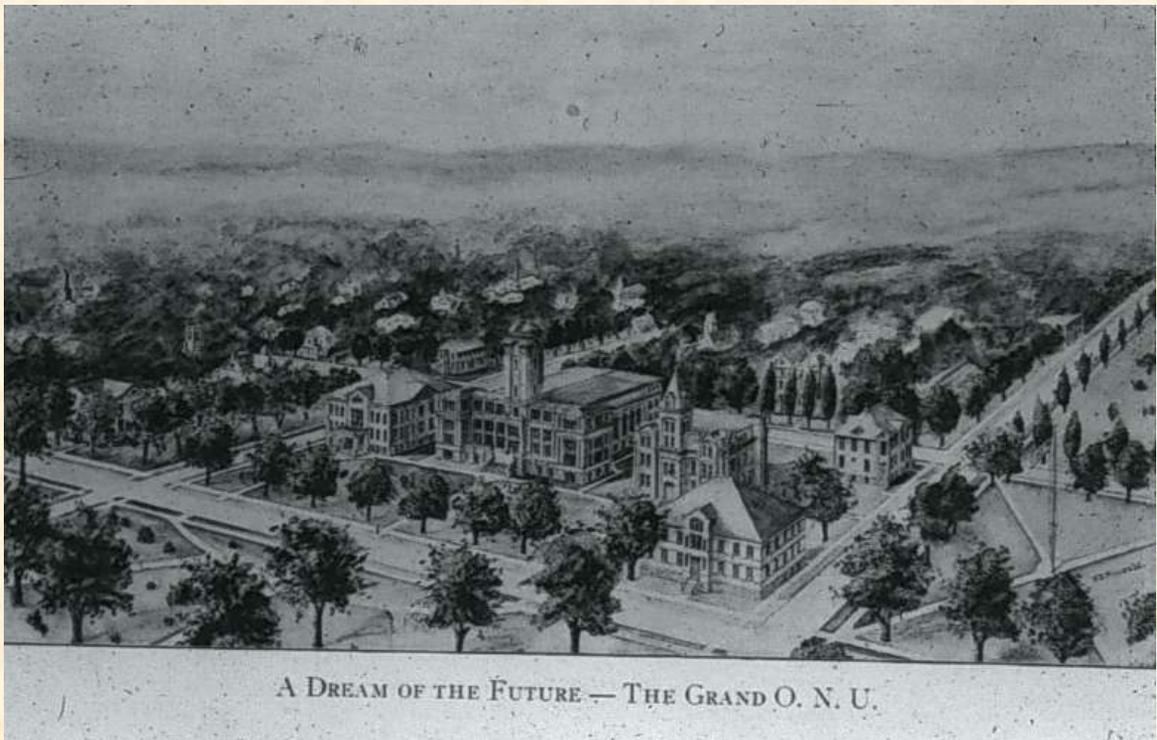


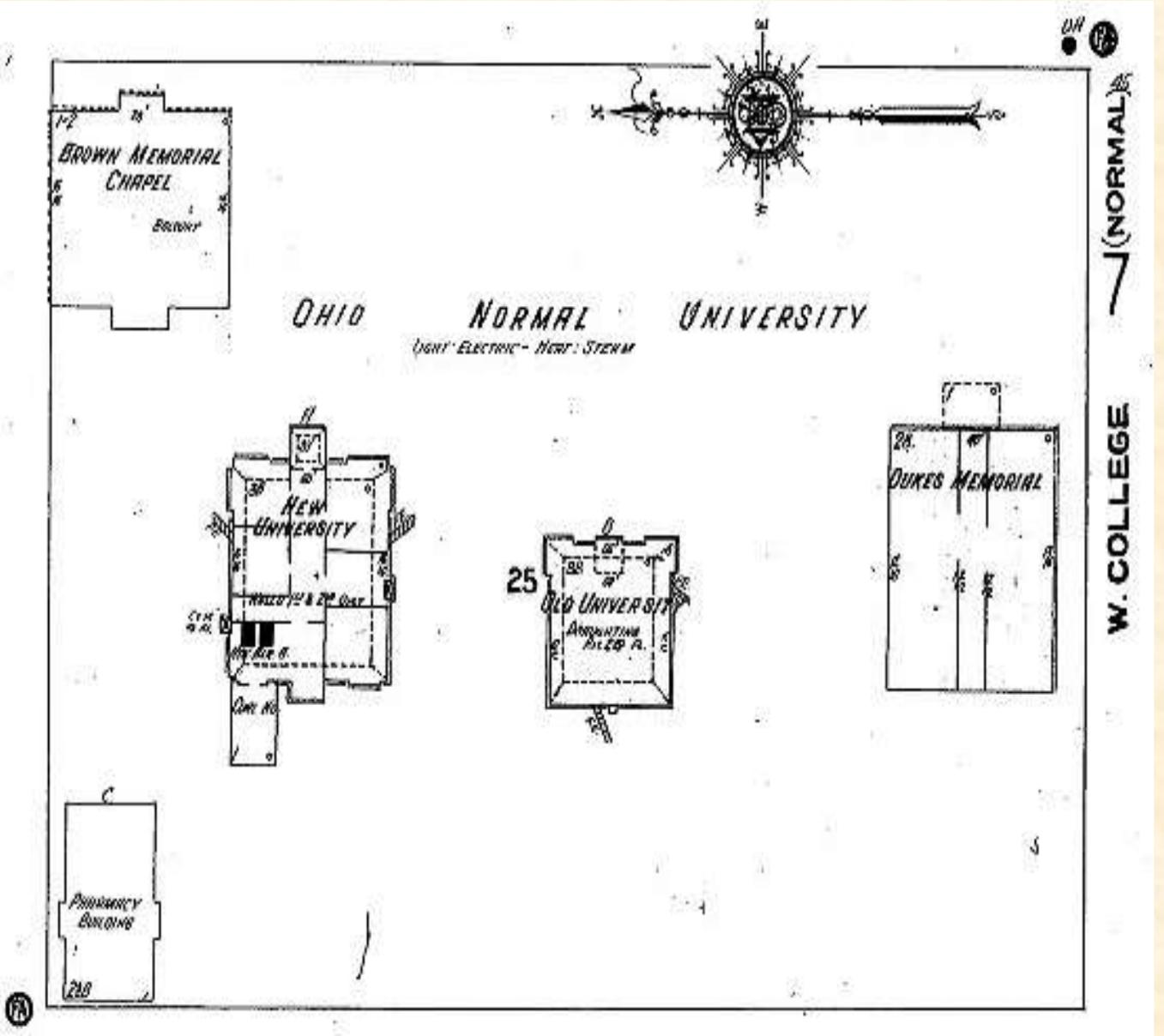
PUBLISHED BY THE
SENIOR CLASS OF THE OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Campus Facelift

Along with the expansion of the curriculum, the strengthening of academic standards, and improvements to the library, numerous improvements to the university's physical plant took place. Indeed, President Smith is perhaps best known for the extensive construction which occurred during his administration. Of course, his predecessor, President Belt, had added two badly needed buildings, Dukes Memorial and Brown Hall, giving the university some respite from its chronic shortage of space. In 1906 Smith picked up where Belt left off when he ordered a major facelift of the campus fronting on Main Street. This area had been run down from years of drill by the military department. Now that the cadets had access to Alumni Field, President Smith had the tree lawn graded and concrete walks poured between the buildings. This was not a trivial project for the day as the cost came to around \$3,000.





Campus, 1910, Note Pharmacy Building
Now on corner of S. Gilbert and W. University Ave.

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

In 1910 President Smith took steps to improve the facilities of the College of Music. The entire program had been housed in two rooms in the Administration Building with a pipe organ in Brown Hall. As the latter facility was used for assemblies, chapel, and basketball games, it hardly served the College of Music well. A small chapel, erected in 1879 by the Wesleyan Methodist congregation, was purchased for \$1,700. As President Smith later recounted:

We found that we could lift the roof and made the building two stories and remodeled the entire structure until we had three studios, a reception room, a choral room downstairs and ten practice rooms upstairs.

This building served as the college's home until the opening of Presser Hall in 1929.

Lehr Memorial

The next building erected, Lehr Memorial, was a far more ambitious undertaking. Locating a site for Brown Hall, the last major building, had been difficult because of the small size of the campus. Now the problem was just the opposite. In the ensuing years, the purchase of 90 acres to the west of Main Street had given the campus room to grow.



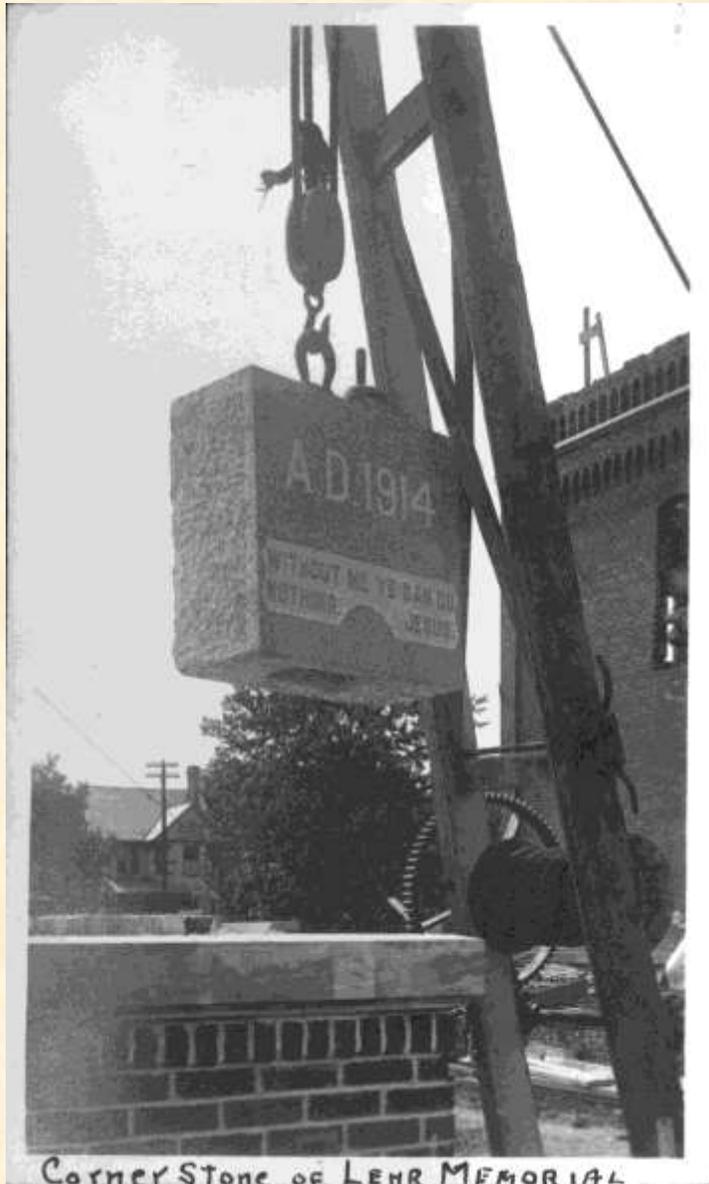
Former Wesleyan Chapel, Home of the
Music Dept. 1910 – 1929

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

There were those who urged building the new structure on the university farm, but a substantial number of persons also favored building along Main Street on what some considered the traditional campus. In the end, the latter location was selected in the spring of 1913. Given the congested condition of the front campus, it was decided that the old Normal School Building would have to be razed. Demolition of Lehr's original building began in late October 1913. To empty the Normal School Building, the university library was temporarily shifted to the top floor of the Administration Building. The timing of this move proved unfortunate.



Demolition of Normal School Building
In Preparation for Lehr Memorial



CORNER STONE OF LEHR MEMORIAL

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



LAYING CORNER OF LÉHR MEMORIAL 6/28/14

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Major Fire

On the morning of November 4, 1913, Dean Axline, who lived directly across Main Street from campus, was awakened by his cat. Smoke from an unknown source had caused the animal to start sneezing. The origin of the smoke turned out to be the Administration Building where a fire, which appeared to have started in the front part of the basement, rapidly engulfed the building. Despite the efforts of the local fire brigade, the structure was reduced to a shell before dawn. This tragedy, along with the recent demolition of the Normal School Building, left the university critically short of classroom space. The Franklins and the Philomatheans also lost the contents of their halls, the Philos their paintings and the Franklins their statuary, including the much-maligned Apollo.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Administration Building Front
Old Pharmacy Building (R)

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Looking North From Lehr Memorial
Construction Site – Brown Hall (R)
Old Pharmacy Building (L)

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



As bad as things appeared in the morning light, there was some good news. No one had been seriously injured, and approximately a third of the library had been saved. The previous night, when it became obvious that the main part of the building could not be saved, President Smith ordered the firemen to play their hoses on the heating plant at the rear of the building. This, at least, was saved and could be connected to Dukes. Although the fire had spread to Brown Hall, damage was limited primarily to the destruction of the pipe organ. Another piece of good news had to be delayed two weeks until the safe containing the university's records could be hoisted from the basement. Despite the ferocity of the blaze, all of the important documents inside escaped destruction.

Brown Hall Interior

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

The morning following the fire, Mayor Campbell issued a proclamation ordering all Ada businesses to close for an hour so that citizens could attend a meeting on ways and means to help the university. Numerous statements of support were offered, and enough space in stores and churches was found around the village to permit classes to resume, though not without some interesting consequences. One student later recounted how his Latin class was held in an undertaker's room from which a corpse could be viewed. President Smith moved his offices into a nearby boarding house, and the remains of the library collection were housed in the Church of Christ Disciples across from campus.

The university trustees' response to this calamity was decisive and ambitious. Shortly after the fire, they met in Lima and declared that the Administration Building would be rebuilt on its original site. Permanent repairs were to be made to Brown Hall, and work was to continue on Lehr Memorial.

Hill Memorial Replaces Administration Building

Despite initial concerns about their structural integrity, the remaining walls of the Administration Building were subsequently incorporated into a new building. The third floor of the original structure, however, was omitted from the new building, and the bell tower was truncated. By the beginning of December, an architect had been retained for the project, and the work of clearing rubble from the basement was underway.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Hill Building in 1980's

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

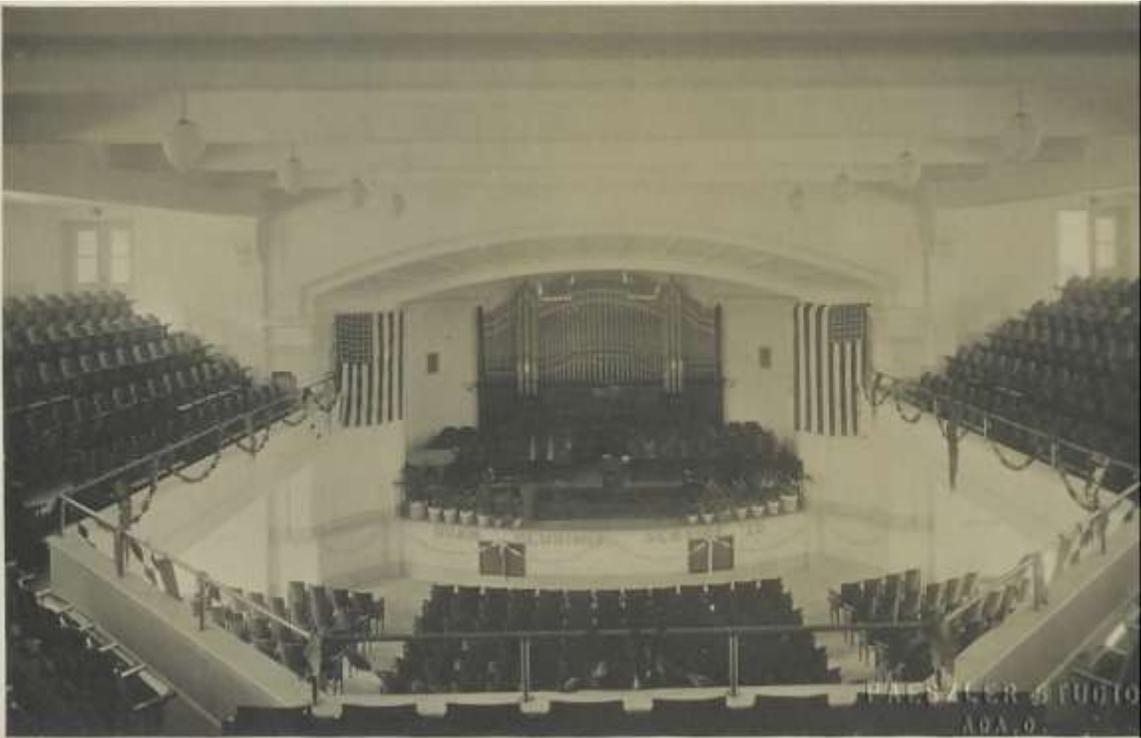


Lehr Memorial

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Construction proceeded at a rapid pace. In early June the roof was nearly completed and a new bell for the tower received. The building was re-named Hill Memorial after clergyman John Wesley Hill, Sr., whose son was a trustee and substantial donor to the project.

Work also pressed ahead on Lehr Memorial, and in late May of 1914 the building's cornerstone was laid. In tribute to the thousands of students who had entered the old Normal School Building over the decades, the cornerstone was carved from a section of the threshold from Dr. Lehr's original edifice. In his address, Congressman and former faculty member Frank Willis observed that "the stepping stone of the old has become the cornerstone of the new." A copper box was inserted in the stone in which a Bible, university catalog and bulletins, copies of local newspapers, photographs of Lehr, Smith, and others, the original contact and subscription list of the Normal School Building, and other memorabilia were placed.



Lehr Auditorium

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



LIBRARY

Second Floor of Lehr Memorial,
The Library 1915 - 1930

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Exuberant Students

As challenging to President Smith as the struggle to build a modern campus was, it often paled in comparison to the effort needed to deal with an exuberant student body. After several years, the fraternity question again arose. In May 1910 the trustees adopted a new set of regulations governing the Greeks. Although some provisions were fairly noncontroversial, others, such as restrictions on card playing, dancing, or bringing intoxicating beverages into fraternity houses, were not popular. Existing fraternities were given two years to affiliate with a national organization or face expulsion. New fraternities needed the permission of the president and faculty to organize at the university. It was not long before one group ran afoul of the edicts.

More Fraternity Problems

In February 1913 the members of Lambda Tau Delta hosted a banquet at which Dr. Lehr and Prof. Beers were made honorary members. President Smith saw this as a clear violation of the new rules and responded with speed and vigor. All members were suspended, and the fraternity was barred from enrolling new members. Although the individuals were later reinstated with full rights and privileges, Lambda Tau Delta, deprived of new members, expired.



Former Campus Building, the "Sheep Shed"

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

It appears that, for a substantial number of students, this action was the last straw. The weekend after the expulsions, students plastered the village with handbills listing their grievances, real or imagined, against Smith. They called for his resignation, and at chapel the following Monday a petition was started to that effect. The president was out of town on one of his preaching engagements, a fact which doubtless gave the student leaders considerable courage. The student newspaper, *The Northern Light*, published the text of the petition which ran as follows:

To the Trustees of the Ohio Northern University:

We, the undersigned students of Ohio Northern University, hereby petition your honorable body to remove Dr. A.E. Smith from the office of president of our University, because

"First, he has wielded the scepter of a despot over the heads of students without consideration of their rights.

"Second, the personal enmity of the Alumni towards him, not only in Ada but wherever they may be found, greatly hinders the endowment fund.

"Third, he speaks publically in favor of the literary societies, but his arbitrary and unnecessary regulations are killing them.

"Fourth, the president of the Ohio northern University should attend all representative state and national meetings of school men and be able to participate in their programs with credit to the Institution in order that our claim for recognition by other schools receive merited attention.

" Fifth, Dr. Smith's personality renders him unfit for the position he now holds. His overbearing egotism constantly antagonizes and humiliates every one who approaches him, either from a business or professional standpoint thus causing constant friction [sic] between himself and the student body.

President Smith returned the following day, and, despite the students fulminations, appeared to be reason personified. He suggested setting the matter before the board of trustees. Eventually, the fraternity members were reinstated and matters apparently returned to normal. In the case of *Northern Light*, however, Smith was biding his time.

Dr. Smith Will Resign

BECAUSE

1. He is a misfit in his job.
2. Nobody loves him.
3. Few students respect him.
4. The faculty despises him.
5. Every business man hates him.
6. Other schools make sport of him.
7. The press puts him in the funny column.
8. He thinks he is IT.
9. He is not a school man.
10. He has quarreled with every graduating class. They left disgusted. Their motto has been "Graduation, then retribution."
11. He has fussed in settling up with the professors, and, when compelled to grant favors, has done it grudgingly.
12. He thinks he owns the school. Calls them "My teachers, My school, My farm, My pipe organ, My janitor, My —, My! My!! BAH!!!"

HE WILL RESIGN

Because the university needs a president and the church needs a preacher. The town is tired of him and the students (except the rookies) have taken his measure.

Think of it! \$3,000 for a man(?) like that. Colleges elsewhere have popular presidents, and why can't we? Other college students take their hats off when they meet their president, and we should like to feel that way too. In other colleges there is a feeling of friendship between the president and other members of the faculty

that is sadly lacking here. When has he ever entertained the faculty or senior class? But for personal enmity toward Dr. Smith, the alumni would have subscribed for the full amount of the endowment long ago.

Prexy is stupid and expects to rule by brute force. He would make an excellent slave driver, but school management is clear out of his line. A college president should be more than a man to boss painters.

He says he wants societies to prosper, yet he has made several rules which, but for their violation, would have killed societies before this. Whoever saw him attend society?

He neglects his work every week end in order to dedicate churches and do other outside work for which he pulls down from \$25 to \$50 a Sunday, then poses as a martyr to the university's interest.

Furthermore, Dr. Smith does not observe the rules of common, decent courtesy in his business, social and professional dealings with his fellow men. One must either subject himself to his capricious moods or otherwise submit to unjustified insolence, bullying and reproof.

In order to prove to the trustees that the foregoing is the true sentiment of the O. N. U. and Ada, a petition has been drawn up demanding the resignation of President Smith, and that petition is being signed by all who dare speak their minds.

WILL YOU SIGN IT?

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

At roughly the same time that President Smith was engaged in correcting problems with the fraternities, the university's non-Greek students found their own disciplinary solution. Since the Belt administration, competition between the junior and senior classes and between the pharmics and engineers had taken an increasingly violent turn. In July 1905, for example, the senior class occupied Dukes Memorial and flew their class colors from the building's roof. In the juniors' ensuing attempt to capture the flag "Several holes were torn in the walls and ceilings of the building to gain entrance and the building was otherwise damaged." A senior student sustained serious injuries saving his class colors when he leapt from a third-story window. Unlike those between the juniors and seniors, conflicts between the engineers and pharmics appear not to have resulted in major injuries or structural damage. President Smith, however, was sorely vexed by all such manifestations of student high spirits.



Junior/ Senior Day, 1910 –
On South Main Street



Junior/ Senior Day, 1909
Parade on Main Street



1909 – Captured Seniors

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



A corner of the Campus.

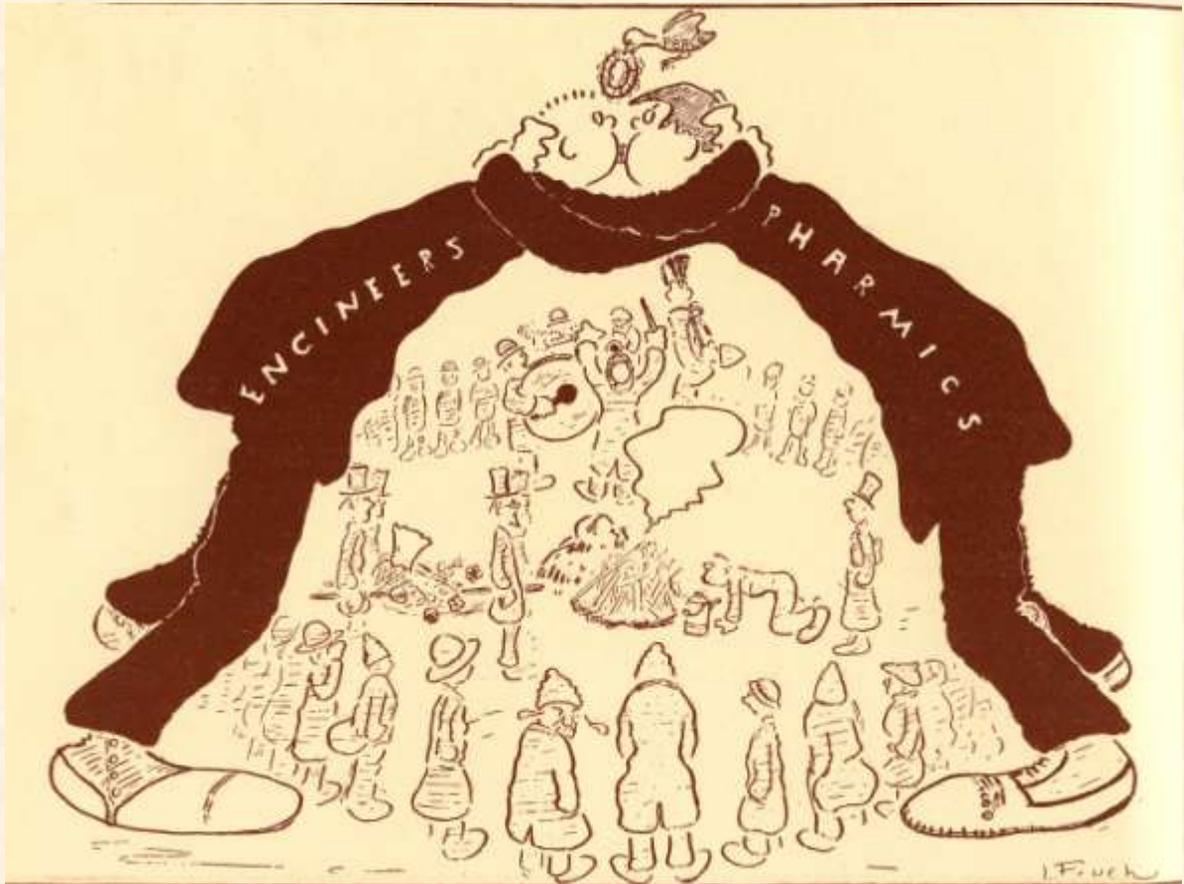
*Hey! Do you see that pennant on the main
(Engineer's Victory over Lawst Pharmics) Building?*

Dukes Memorial (L)
Picture from T.J. Smull Estate

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Hatchet Burial Ceremony

In 1911 a joint committee from the engineering and pharmacy colleges decided "that probably the best substitute for the annual fight between the two largest departments of the school was a final and complete abandonment of the past policy; and as a final chapter to this yearly affair decided on the hatchet burial ceremony."



Cartoon from Yearbook

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

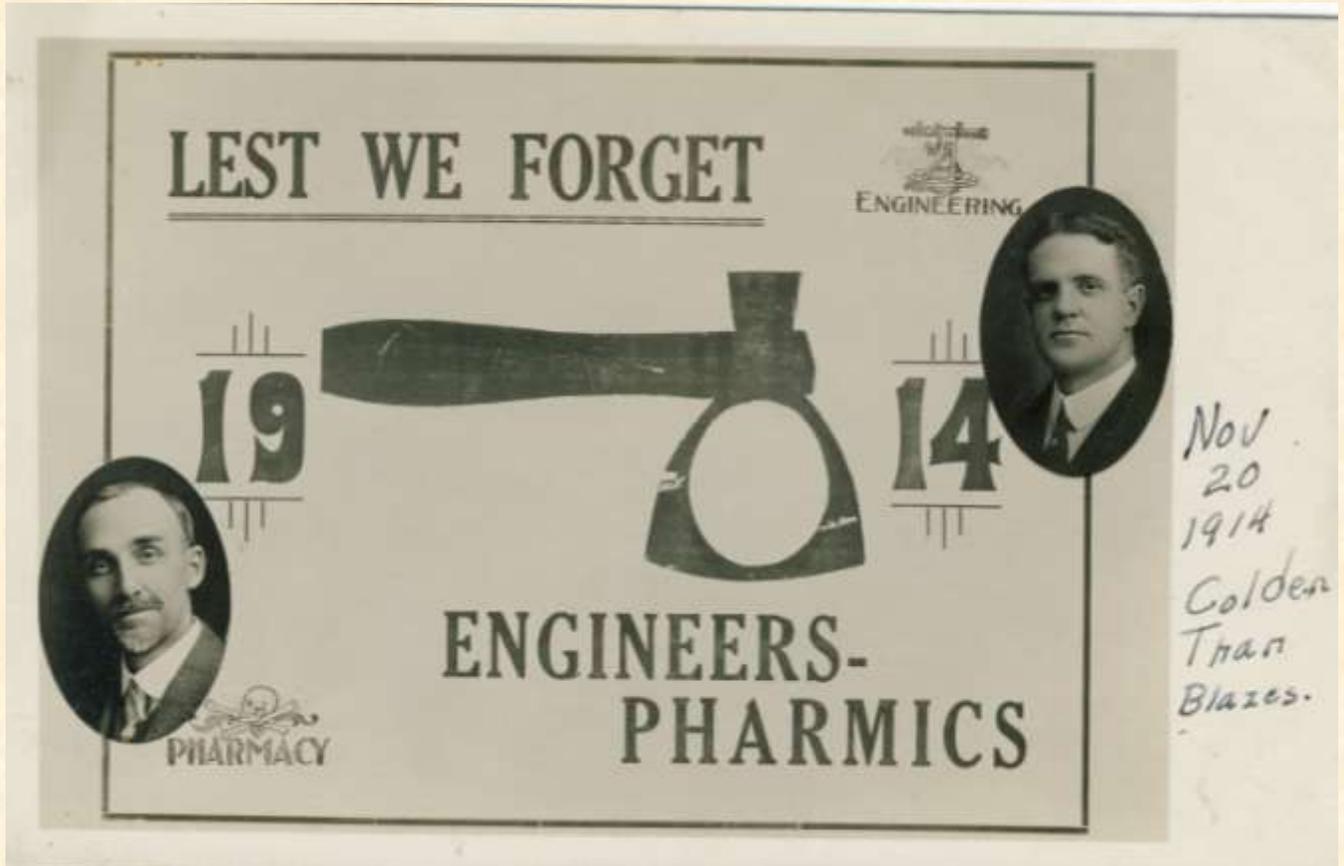
The event was celebrated on the last Friday before Thanksgiving. The night before, students usually paraded through the village in nightshirts. At the first ceremony, a hatchet was burned, but in subsequent years hatchets were buried in the campus lawn on Main Street. On Friday various campus groups and notables would be symbolically interred under markers with appropriate epitaphs. In 1912, for example, the law college was accorded:

Corpusjuris, quotes Old Axey [Dean Axline of the College of Law]
As he piles the fuel high;
Hell's on fire, but make her hotter
Here's where all lawyers die.



Nov. 20 1914 Prof. T.J. Small

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

As the 1920s progressed and the origins of the Hatchet Ceremony receded, the deans of the two colleges questioned the propriety of this campus tradition. By 1928 both clearly signaled their displeasure in a pair of articles in the student newspaper. The last "burying of the hatchet" occurred in November 1929, but the stock market crash only a few weeks earlier and the resulting sobering in campus mood likely played as great a role as administrative disapproval in ending this tradition.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Students Parading in Front of Campus

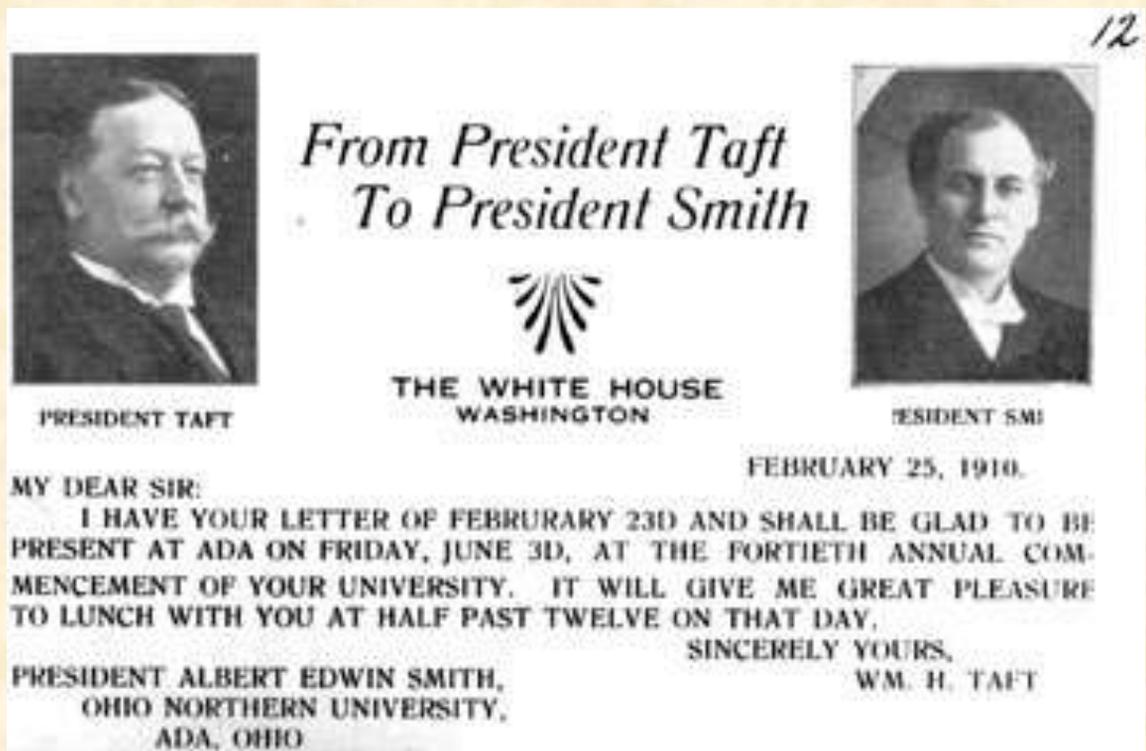


1919 Ceremony in Front of Lehr Memorial

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

President Taft Speaks

In addition to his work with the university's curriculum and buildings, President Smith also served as the university's chief publicist, and like President Lehr, he was only too happy to employ politicians to boost Ohio Northern. Smith was able to go Lehr one better, however, when, in 1910 he was able to secure President William Howard Taft as the commencement speaker. This was accomplished though the influence of one of the university's trustees, the Rev. John Wesley Hill.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

From the initial announcement in February, Taft's impending visit touched off a rush of planning. Students from the military department were designated as a guard of honor. A citizens' committee was formed to see to municipal decorations and a similar group to beautify the campus. A week's work succeeded in transforming "the buildings and campus into a fairyland of beauty."



BROAD SMILES AT ADA ON TAFT DAY, JUNE 3, 1911

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Commencement Day, June 3, began at 10:30 a.m. with the arrival of Taft's train at the Ada depot. A line of carriages and autos, accompanied by the ONU band and cadets, proceeded to the campus. There, a large grandstand had been erected along Main Street facing Dukes, the Normal School Building, and the Administration Building. Among the dignitaries on the platform could be seen the slight, and doubtless proud, figure of the 72-year-old Dr. Lehr.



On the Way to Campus

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Taft's speech may not have been among the most memorable delivered on campus, at least in terms of its content. He began with a graceful tribute to Dr. Lehr and registered his surprise at seeing so many female students among the graduates. The bulk of his presentation, however, consisted of a review of the prospects in various occupations into which the graduates might enter.



Campus Front Lawn – Brown Hall (L)

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



President Taft Speaking – Pres. Smith and Lehr (R)

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Simeon Fess

Another politician with ties to Northern, Simeon D. Fess, also came into his own during this period. Fess had been a student at Ada under President Lehr and joined the faculty after graduation. It was he, along with the Rev. S.L. Boyer, who first broached the idea of selling Northern to the Methodist Church. After being admitted to the Ohio Bar, he taught history and law at Northern until 1902 when he left to study and lecture at the University of Chicago. Fess served as president of Antioch College from 1908 until being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1913. During his tenure at Antioch, he played an important role in helping that institution through financial hard times. After a decade as a U.S. Representative, he was elected to the Senate where he served until 1935.



The unique picture above is Ohio Northern in the United States Senate. From left to right they are: Arthur D. Robinson, '01, U. S. Senator from Indiana; John M. Robsion, attended Ohio Northern 1895-96, U. S. Senator from Kentucky; Dr. Robert Williams, president of Ohio Northern; and Simeon D. Fess, '89, U. S. Senator from Ohio. The background reveals where the picture was taken. Senator Fess arranged for this and the luncheon that followed.

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration

Willis

The flamboyant Frank B. Willis was a contemporary of Fess. Like Fess, Willis was a product of Dr. Lehr's Northern. As a student during the Campbell-McKinley debate, his interest in politics was fired by the event. After graduation, Willis joined Fess on the Northern faculty where he taught mathematics, rhetoric and political economics. A popular teacher, his classes were known for their rapid pace and interesting content. His speaking abilities were also noteworthy, especially his booming voice. It is said that once when he called the roll a tardy student downtown answered as he hurried to class. Another student, when questioned about his absence from class after being found in the railroad park a quarter of a mile from school, replied that he was auditing the class from there.

In an age before electronics, this natural amplification proved a valuable asset. Given his interests and abilities, it was not surprising that Willis shortly entered politics. He was elected to the Ohio General Assembly in 1901 and in 1910 won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1915 he resigned to run for Governor of Ohio, a position in which he served from 1916 through 1917. In 1920 Willis was elected to the U.S. Senate where he served until his death in 1928.



Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Victory Parade on South Main Street, 1915
His Opponent was James M. Cox

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



1909 – Moving the Old Pharmacy Building

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Pharmacy Building – New Location on the
Corner of W. University Ave. and S. Gilbert Street

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Paving South Gilbert Street – (R to L)
Normal School Building, Administration Building
Pharmacy Building in New Location
Between 1909 and 1913

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



O.N.U. PHARMACY LABRATORY

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



Main Street in Ada - 1907

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



1910

Chapter 6 -1905 – 1915, Smith Administration



1913

Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

War Years 1915-1920

On July 21, 1914, the new university bell pealed for the first time from the reconstructed tower of Hill Memorial. The previous November, the building had been gutted by fire, and the restoration had been accomplished in a remarkably short time. As the bell's tones drifted over Ada, they were joined by ominous rumblings from the First World War which had begun less than a month earlier. Up to that point, Ohio Northern had been affected by local or state-wide influences. For the next five years Ohio Northern was, for the first time in its history, subjected to international forces.

During the early years of the war, Ada, like the nation as a whole, basked in complacent isolationism. Local press coverage of the conflict was slight. Of Ada's two commercial papers, the *Ada Record* carried the most news on the war. The other, the *University Herald*, scarcely acknowledged the conflict's existence. The *Herald's* editor probably reflected local sentiment when, in contemplating the 1914 crop prospects, he observed:

A billion bushels of wheat for America! Greatest wheat crop prospects ever heard of since time began! That beats killing each other with shot and shell. Training the youth in the alchemy of the soil and sun is better than training them with sword and gun. The arts of peace are more commendable than the arts of war.



Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

Bryan Speaks Again



Bryan's Last Campus Appearance, 1919

Another critic of the war, William Jennings Bryan, visited ONU in early March 1916. He was on campus to address the law students, but he also delivered a speech on the war before a packed audience in Lehr Memorial. Bryan, who had served as President Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State through June 1915, was increasingly concerned with what he perceived as the country's drift toward the European conflict. He saw the federal government's strengthening of the armed forces as a precursor to American involvement in the war and observed, "If the nations of Europe had spent one-tenth as much spreading the lessons of peace as they did for 'preparedness' there would be no war today." Apparently his message was well received. Shortly after Bryan's speech, however, news from the Mexican border challenged the nation's pacifists.

In early March 1916, Mexican general Francisco Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 17 U.S. citizens. The American response was to send an expeditionary force to deal with General Villa and his followers. It was necessary to mobilize various National Guard units, including Ada's Company G.

Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

In July, the companies were shipped to Columbus, Ohio, where they remained until September.

During their stay in Columbus, the companies were stationed at Camp Willis, a temporary facility named in honor of then-governor Frank B. Willis. As a former ONU faculty member, Willis' visits to camp were especially welcome. Days were occupied by the routine of military life including immunizations and the issuing of equipment. There were also hikes, drill, and some military exercises.

The next stop was Ft. Bliss, Texas, where they arrived on September 9. There, training took on a more serious tone with work in range finding, patrolling, map reading, target practice, and the packing and care of mules. As it turned out, the National Guard played a purely defensive role along the border, and no units were ever sent into Mexico. By the following June, the Ada troops had returned home, but by then events in Europe had overshadowed the Mexican expedition.



Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

World War I

ON PATRIOTISM PRESIDENT SMITH SPEAKS

President Smith has spoken on many things the past week but on Tuesday he devoted his declarations to the student body in the form of "fatherly advice" concerning enlisting and becoming carried away with "spasms of patriotism." He would not have anyone be disloyal, not even himself, and when the time comes for enlistment he asked that every man respond with avidity, but said he, until the nation and its leaders in Washington know their minds as to what is best to do and how best to do it there should not be the breaking up of school and plans in spasms of patriotism. Let us keep cool and plod on.

It will take cool, resolute volunteer men to win the battles and everyone including students should keep cool now, and get quite ready for duty when the time comes. There should be no undue rushing to get into the game before there's a place and a time.

In early April 1917, it became apparent that the United States would enter the war. Although the formal declaration of war was not issued until April 6, President Smith anticipated the event by telegraphing a resolution of support to President Wilson. In it he noted:

In the crisis that is upon our country it behooves every true citizen to show his loyalty and devotion to the nation. The Ohio Northern University, with five of its sons members of the present congress, with many others already forming existing military units, with a splendid and competent battalion trained at Government expense, and with the whole student body ardent and earnest in patriotism desires to assure our most sincere and hearty support.

Like many Americans, President Smith was ambivalent about American involvement in the European conflict, but when war was finally declared he supported the decision. At the same time, he cautioned students to be hasty when it came to enlisting.

Ada Herald
April 27, 1917, p. 1

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For the first few months, the war's impact on Northern was slight. To forestall a rapid drop in enrollment, President Smith, in late April, advised male students against enlisting precipitously. Since the government was still formulating its mobilization plans, this was probably sound advice. By May, criteria for admission to officer training programs had been finalized, and college graduates were given preference. This was fortunate for Northern since it provided an additional argument in favor of students continuing their studies.

Enrollment Drops

Even so, President Smith was obliged to publicly deny rumors that Northern would be closing at the end of spring quarter in 1917 and to take appropriate measures. In May, the student newspaper, the *Northern Review*, suspended publication. The next month matters took a more serious turn when faculty members were notified that their salaries had been cut by one-sixth as a war-time economy. Eventually, it was necessary to close the College of Law for the fall quarter of 1918.



Student Army Training Corps (SATC) Students
Impromptu Mess Hall in Brown Auditorium

Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

In July 1917, President Wilson issued an executive order drafting the entire National Guard into the regular United States Army. It was to take effect on August 5. The number of local residents affected by the call was estimated at between 100 and 150, though not all were connected with the university. Enrollment figures for the fall quarter that year are not available, but obviously mobilization and individual enlistments reduced the student body. As the *Ada Herald* observed:

The decrease in enrollment for the Fall term is noticeable at the rooming and boarding houses. In past years nearly every room in the city was occupied while good boarding places were taxed to their capacity. This term many rooms are vacant and tables at eating places have been abandoned.

Fuel Shortages

Those students remaining at Northern that winter had to cope with a coal shortage. As early as July 1917, some magazine editors noted that the combination of greatly increased demand for fuel by war industries, plus stagnant coal production and transportation bottlenecks, was already hampering industry. By September, the looming problem had become serious enough for the head of the federal government's Fuel Administration, a war-time agency, to urge all families to reduce home temperatures by at least five degrees.



Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

Educational institutions like Northern were also expected to bear part of the burden. In October, the music department was moved from its own building into Lehr Memorial, and the three literary societies were requested to hold joint programs to reduce the need for heating. Brown Auditorium was closed, and the women's gym classes usually held there were cancelled. Since only one half of the Pharmacy Building was heated, all classes were scheduled for that section. Evening meetings were limited to Wednesday and Friday nights, and all heat to academic buildings was stopped on weekends. By late January, more stringent measures had been imposed. Some classes were moved from Hill to Dukes so that heat could be turned off in the former building in the early afternoons. The noon-time break between classes was cut in half, and law and business classes were moved to the dwindling number of heated rooms. Although Northern survived the winter, this was not the last the university would see of fuel shortages.



BAYONET DRILL

Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

Engineering Deferments

As spring 1918 approached, Northern received the welcome news that it had been added to a list of schools authorized to train engineers for war-related work. This policy gave the university a much-needed boost by granting engineering students a deferment from the draft as long as they were studying areas which were deemed necessary to national defense. In addition to securing a supply of trained engineers for the government, it served to cushion the war's effect on enrollment.

Training Corps Organized

Another government policy which benefited Northern was the creation in 1918 of the Students Army Training Corps (SATC). This officer training program allowed college students to continue their education while preparing for a commission in the regular army. That fall, regular and SATC students raised Northern's enrollment to around 600. SATC students began their day with reveille at 6 a.m. followed by 30 minutes of calisthenics. Breakfast was followed by drill from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. The period from 10 a.m. till noon was allotted for classes.



"OVER THE TOP"

Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration

Lunch occupied 50 minutes, and classes then resumed from 1 until 4:30 p.m. Athletics lasted until 5:30 p.m. followed by retreat and a 30-minute dinner. Study hours lasted until 9:30 p.m. with taps at 10 p.m. The usual social activities of college life were obviously precluded by this rigorous schedule.

The SATC preferred to billet its men in groups, and the number of buildings in Ada capable of housing numerous individuals was limited. The downtown Young Hotel was pressed into service, as were the Theta Nu Epsilon and Sigma Phi Epsilon houses. Local boarding house proprietors benefited since even smaller houses were eventually used. On campus, the literary society halls in Lehr Memorial were converted into impromptu barracks. Meals for the SATC students were provided in Brown Auditorium which was converted into a mess hall.

Return to Civilian Life

With the end of the war in November 1918, the campus rapidly reverted to civilian life. The SATC program had been in existence at Northern for less than one quarter when, on December 20, its members were discharged. As it turned out, the greatest danger that this group faced was from the influenza epidemic that year. The Northern SATC was fortunate not to suffer any deaths and had remarkably few serious cases of flu. Law classes resumed in January, and the fraternities, closed during the conflict, began re-opening.



COMPANY C BEFORE THEIR "SHIP"

Students in Navy Training Unit in Front of Former
Lambda Tau Delta House on East College Ave.

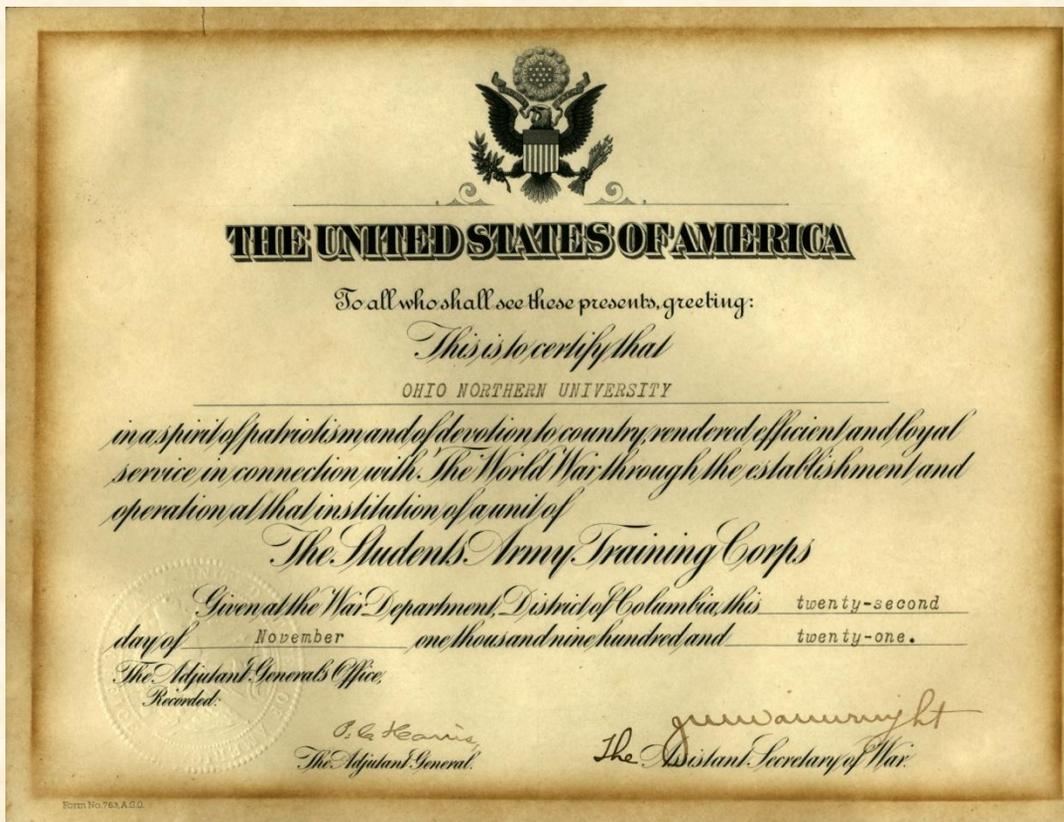
Chapter 7 -1915 – 1920, Smith Administration



AN INCIDENT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

As the 1920s began and the dislocations of war faded, the evolution of Ohio Northern's curriculum resumed. Arguably the last war-time casualty at Northern was the military department. The relatively informal drill of the Lehr-era military department was clearly inappropriate for modern warfare, and when, in 1917, the War Department created the Student Army Training Corps, the military department became superfluous. At war's end, the SATC was disbanded. In 1919, Northern requested, and was given, a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) unit.. Training under ROTC was far more rigorous and formalized than had previously been the case. Two years' participation was mandatory, although this was shortly waived for those taking a two-year physical education program.² After the initial two-year period, students could continue in the program and, upon successful completion, receive a commission. Although some students adapted to the new regimen, many apparently objected to ROTC's compulsory nature and the amount of work involved.



SATC Certificate of Appreciation

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Athletic Department

Under President Smith the original rationale for participation in military training was beginning to look shopworn. Lehr advanced participation in drill as a substitute for organized athletics, but, with the rise of varsity and intramural athletics, students could choose from any number of forms of exercise. The university had played an important role in this process by organizing an athletic department in 1917. The first coach of the department had been Lieutenant Hill, the head of the SATC program, but by 1920 both the department's director and his assistant for women were civilians.

Given these factors, it was not surprising that student and faculty support for military training at Northern waned. The faculty members initially refused to schedule an hour's break in classes to accommodate drill. Although the necessary adjustments were eventually made, the faculty's views on the issue became a matter of public record. By the spring of 1921, interest in military training had declined to the point where the students and faculty voted to abolish ROTC at Northern. Seeing little support for the program, the trustees agreed, thus ending a 37-year tradition at Northern.



ROTC Company A - 1920

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Two years later, the university's foray into the field of agronomy ended when the College of Agriculture was discontinued. This experiment, which began in 1911, arguably was a distraction from Northern's core curriculum of professional programs, and, despite efforts to promote the program, it never prospered. The land purchased for the university farm did, however, provide the nucleus for the present west campus.



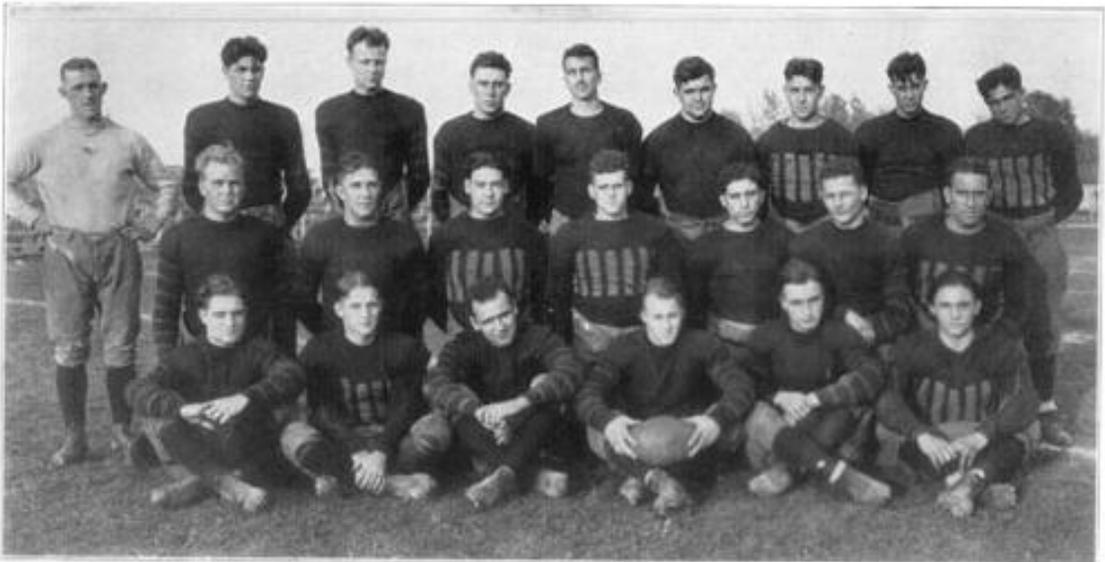
Athletic Fields At Top of Picture

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Athletics

While the curriculum was being standardized, the work of improving the campus and its buildings continued throughout the 1920s. Plans had been made for improved outdoor athletic facilities at Northern since at least 1916. Although preliminary planning began that year, the project was shelved during the war. By November 1920, however, the school was able to begin work on a baseball field with bleachers. Students assisted in the early part of the project. Later, a football field with a 198-foot section of bleachers was constructed in time for the fall 1922 football season. Students again worked on the facilities, this time with 25 helping to construct the bleachers. The following spring, a cinder track was added around the gridiron and ground was being leveled for a tennis court.

One unusual piece of Ada history was added to the athletic fields, when, in 1926, the village's memorial flagpole was donated to the university. Erected in December 1918 to honor Ada's servicemen, the pole stood in the middle of the intersection of Buckeye and Main Streets. Although the local newspaper cited concerns over its extreme height as the reason for its removal, the fact that it was planted in the center of a major thoroughfare may have also been a factor.



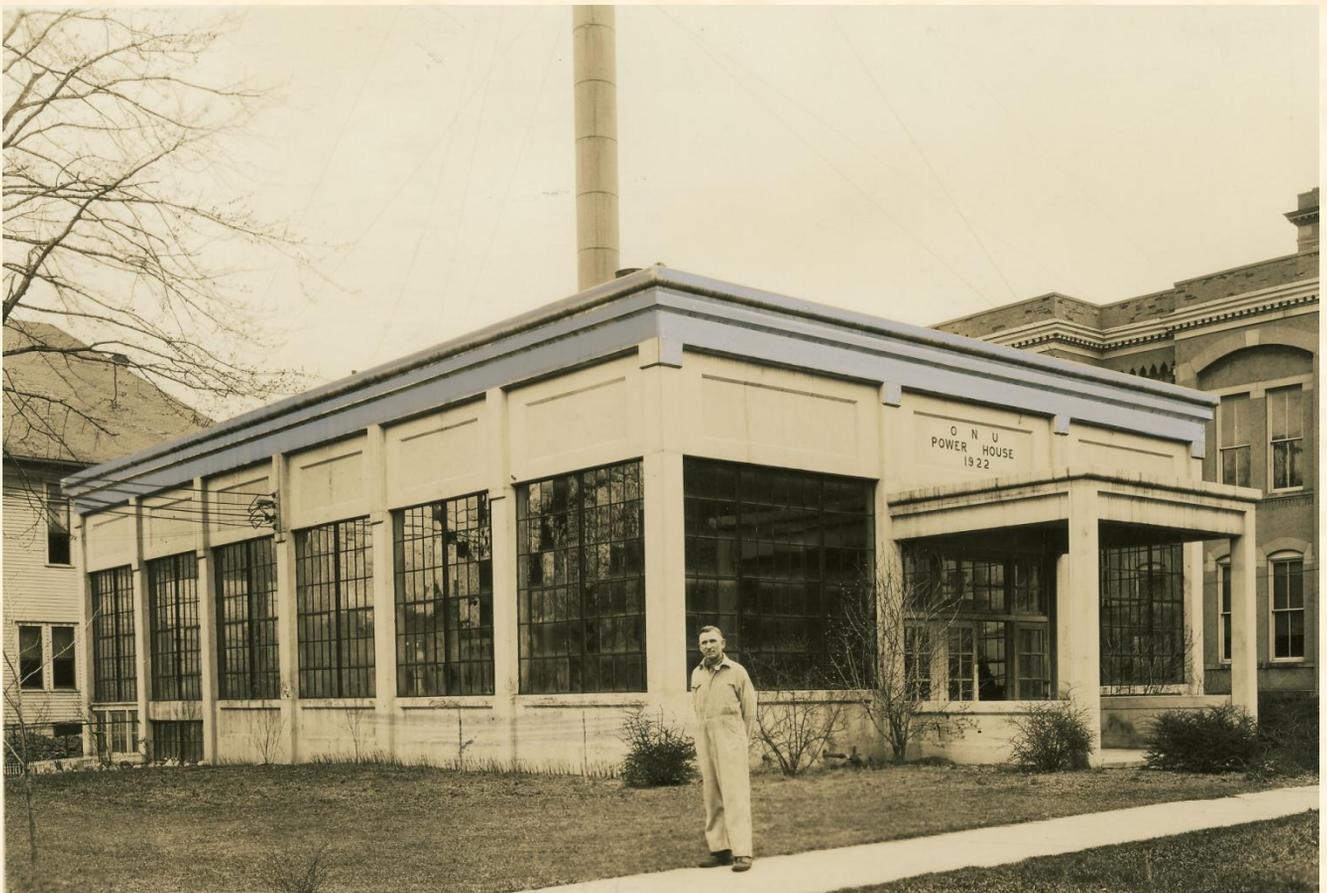
Captain Roderick, Boyer, Kattman, Gahman, Snow, Herge, Lehman, Lynch, Garman,
Raabe, Halry, Newland, Graham, Goldstein, Mathney, Beck,
Swisher, Graybill, Haase, Capt. Kershner, Anspach, Morgan.

Football Team of 1924-1925

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Power Plant

The next major improvement was the addition of a power plant at the rear of Hill Building. Heat for the campus had been provided for several years by a small steam plant behind Hill. In 1914, two gas-powered generators had been added. By 1922, this facility was inadequate; thus, at their May meeting, the trustees authorized the construction of a modern \$30,000 plant. The university's generating capacity was more than doubled to 100 kilowatts, and extra heating capacity was included to handle several buildings under consideration. The plant began operation in November 1922. In addition to providing heat and light to the campus, the power plant also served as a practical laboratory for engineering students.



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

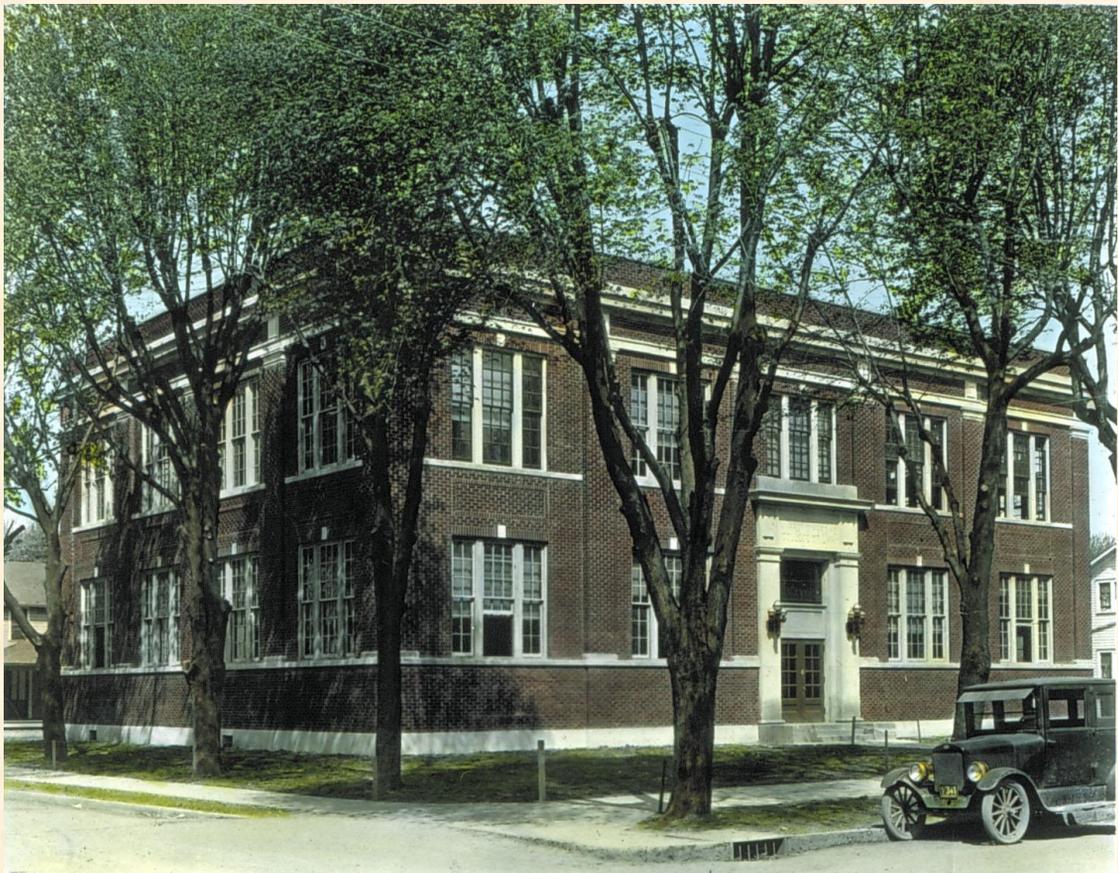


Engineering Students at Work in the Power Plant

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Warren G. Harding College of Law

The power plant's excess capacity was put to good use when, in 1923, work was begun on the Warren G. Harding College of Law building, now Huber Building, and used by the College of Business Administration. That March, the university announced plans for a two-story structure, with four classrooms on the first floor and a courtroom, library, and reading room on the second. By mid-October, the exterior work was nearly completed, and the next month President Smith announced at chapel that the new building would be named for the late President Harding. The structure was dedicated during the May 1924 commencement.



College of Law – Later Huber Building

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



College of Law - Classroom

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Presser Hall

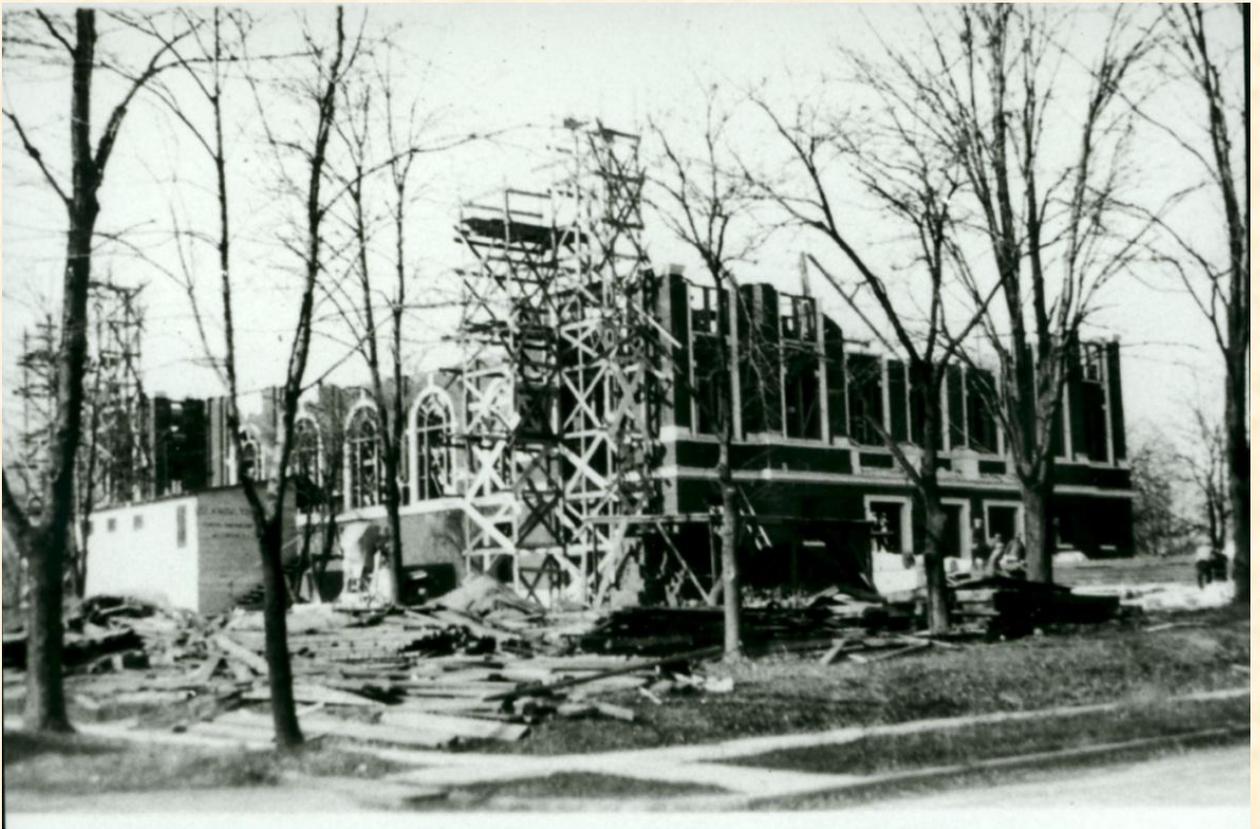
Theodore Presser had taught at Northern during its first year, and he maintained cordial relations with President Lehr. After leaving teaching, Presser entered the field of music publishing and founded the firm which still bears his name. In 1925, Presser's will provided funds for music buildings on 10 campuses, including Ohio Northern's. In the university's case, this gift amounted to around \$100,000. The funds were administered by the Presser Foundation.

Fortunately, an excellent site existed for the new building. In the fall of 1925, the university purchased the house of former governor Frank Willis. By spring of 1928, two other adjoining properties had also been acquired. One of these, the Estill house, was a boarding house which had served several generations of students. That August, engineers began staking off the foundation. One notable feature of the Presser recital hall was almost omitted when the Presser Foundation recommended sepia glass windows. President Smith wished something more decorative, and the result was eight stained-glass windows, each commemorating an individual composer. An impressive dedication ceremony was held on May 26, 1929, at which two officials from the Presser Foundation delivered addresses.



Presser Hall Under Construction

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Presser Hall Under Construction

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Recital Hall in Presser – Originally
Designated the Willis Auditorium



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Willis Residence – To the North of Presser Hall

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

First Cafeteria

Not all of the construction at this time consisted of academic buildings. After the First World War, the number of boarding houses declined rapidly as it became less profitable to offer meals along with lodging. Therefore, in February 1921, the university opened its first cafeteria in the basement of Brown Hall. This facility was available to both students and the general public, and three full meals were served daily.



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Library on First Floor of Brown Hall – Above the Cafeteria

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Cafeteria in Basement

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



THESE HOUSES MUST GO - BUILDING DEVELOPMENT



HOUSE MOVING - NEW GYMNASIUM SITE



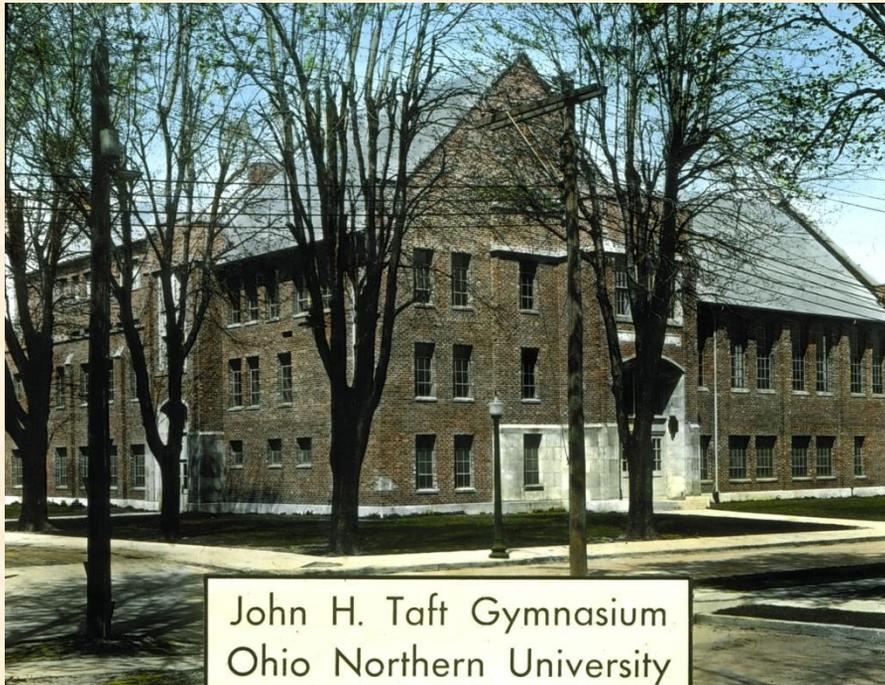
House Moving - New Gym. Site.

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Taft Gymnasium

Throughout the 1920s, the university acquired individual lots between Union Street and the university farm, and by May 1926, an unbroken strip between University and Lehr Ave. had been secured. Before construction could begin, three houses had to be removed from the building site. Beginning in January 1927, these were either moved or demolished, and the cornerstone of the new gym was laid during that May's commencement. Not until September, however, did funds become available to begin construction in earnest. That month it was announced that John H. Taft, a former ONU student and Chicago businessman, had donated \$50,000, roughly half the cost of the building. By October 1928, preparations were being made to complete the building's roof and finish the interior. The new Taft Gymnasium was dedicated during the 1929 commencement.

These campus improvements were financed, in part, by growing enrollments. In the academic year 1916-17, there were 732 students attending Northern. As noted earlier, this number dipped to around 600 during the war, but by 1922-23, enrollment rebounded to 968. At the decade's close, 1,056 students were attending Northern.



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Taft Gym Interior

DEDICATION
of the
JOHN H. TAFT GYMNASIUM

OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY
Ada, Ohio



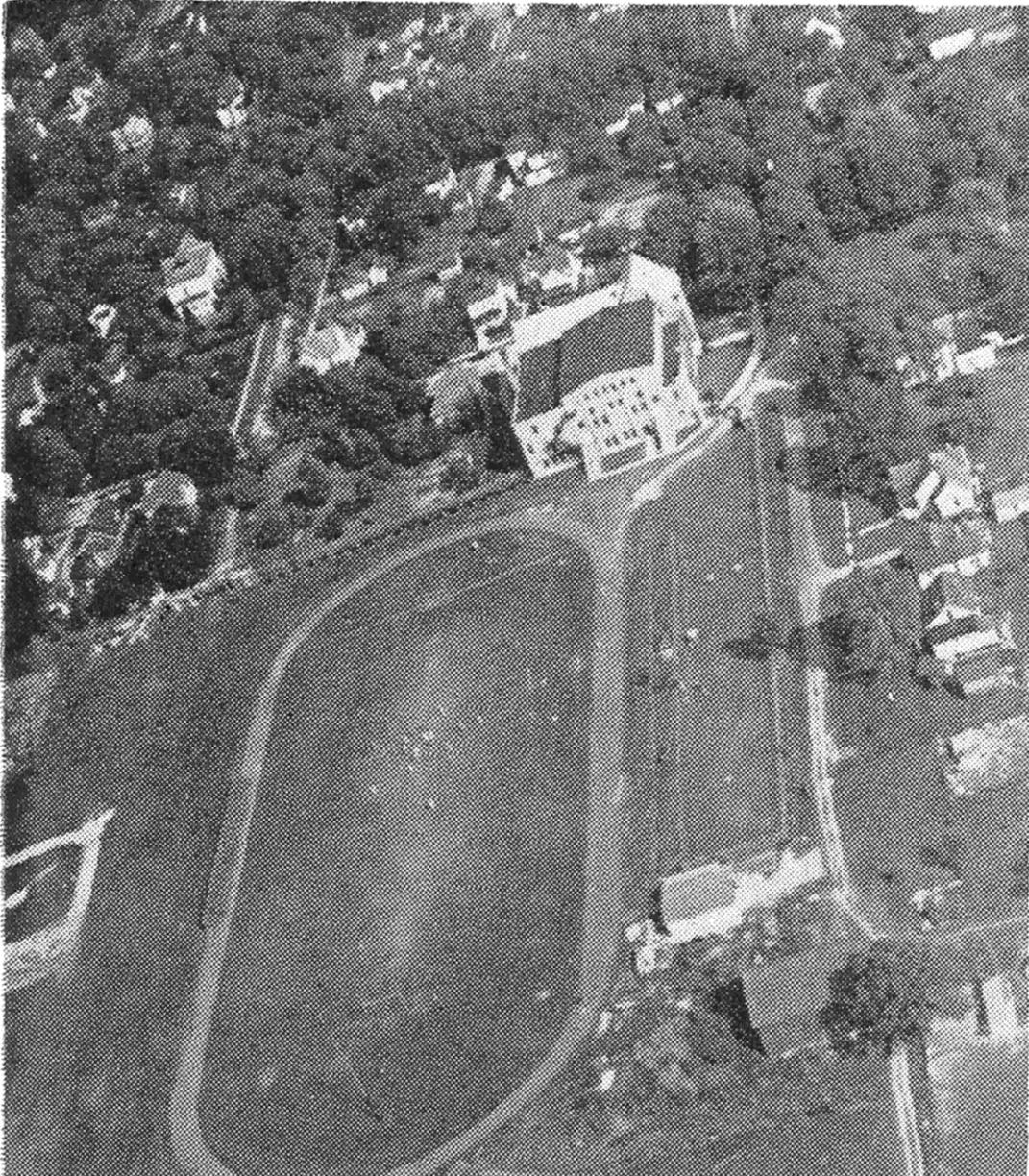
Saturday, May Twenty-fifth
Nineteen Hundred Twenty-nine
Two o'clock

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



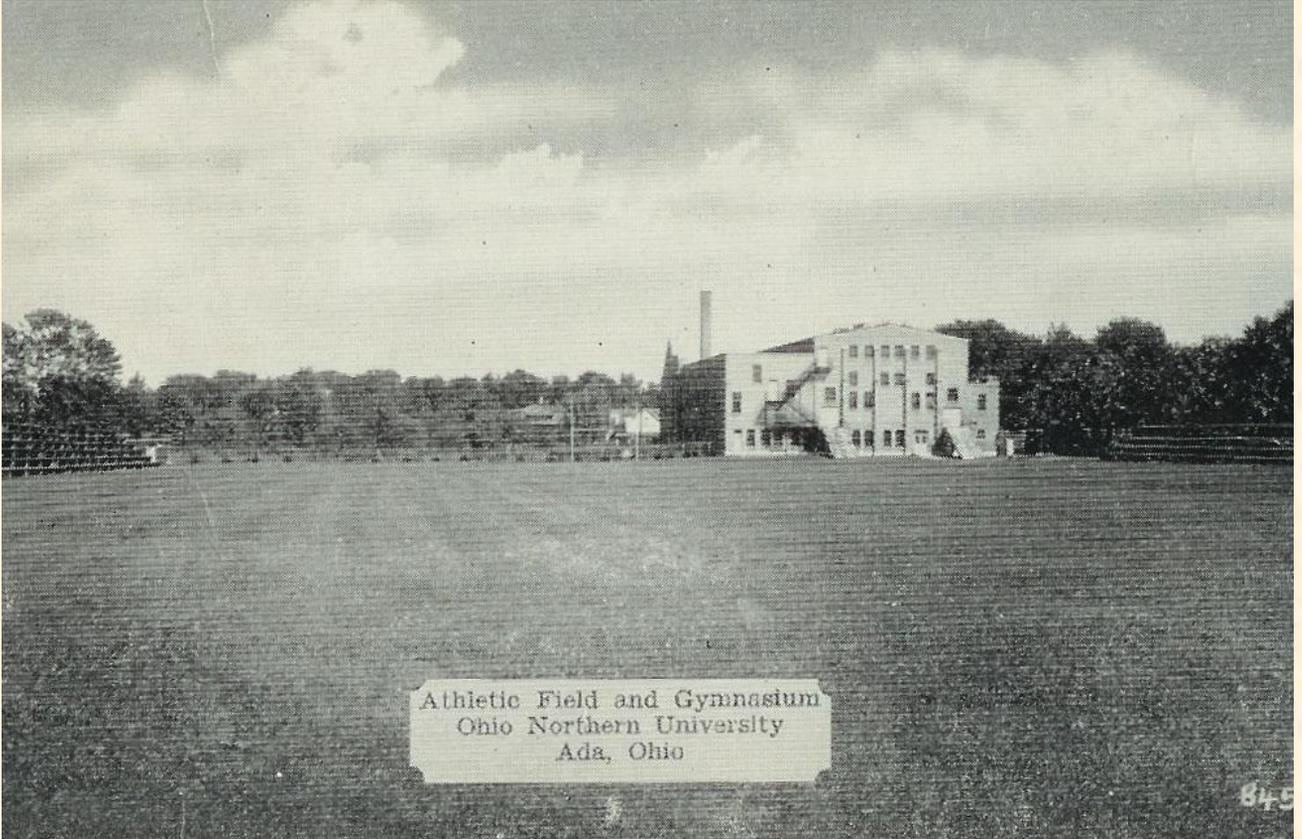
Gateway to Athletic Fields
To West of Taft Gym

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration



Looking East to Taft Gymnasium

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

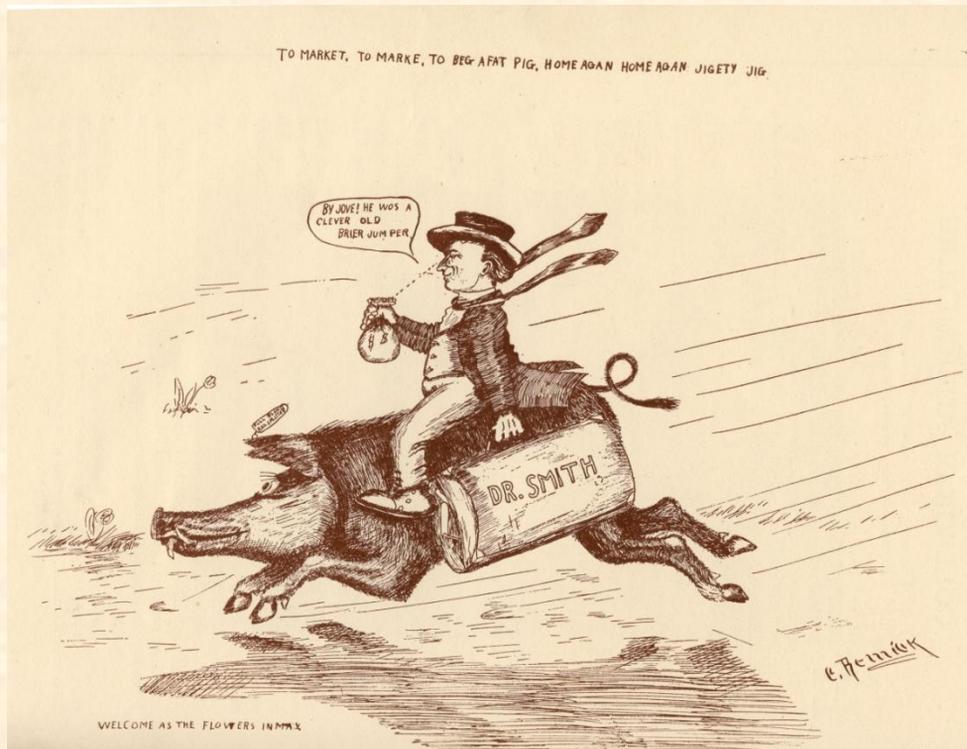


Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Fund-Raising

President Smith was also a fund-raiser of considerable ability and stamina. During his administration, the local newspapers were peppered with articles announcing his departure on trips to visit potential benefactors. The student body, which found itself occasionally at odds with Smith over his regulations, may well have breathed a collective sigh of relief every time his train pulled out of the Ada depot. There is, however, little doubt that his frequent journeys made possible many worthwhile additions to the university.

Until President Smith's administration, Ohio Northern had no endowment to speak of. Indeed, under President Lehr, the university proudly boasted that "the institution is self-sustaining. Not having an endowment fund to rely upon, its teachers are made to feel that success and pay depend upon energetic, earnest, [and] systematic labor." Lehr's successor, President Belt, took tentative steps to establish an endowment, but his term in office was too brief to accomplish much in this area.



Student Comment on Pres. Smith's Efforts – Smith - "By jove, he was a clever old briar jumper."

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Smith, however, was compelled to act by a January 1908 decision of the Methodist Church. That year, the University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the denomination's governing body for church-affiliated institutions, decreed that a college or university have "a minimum productive endowment of not less than \$200,000." The senate later agreed to give institutions until 1916 to meet this criterion. Even so, it was not until the spring of 1918 that Northern actually achieved this figure, an event that was celebrated on campus with parades and speeches



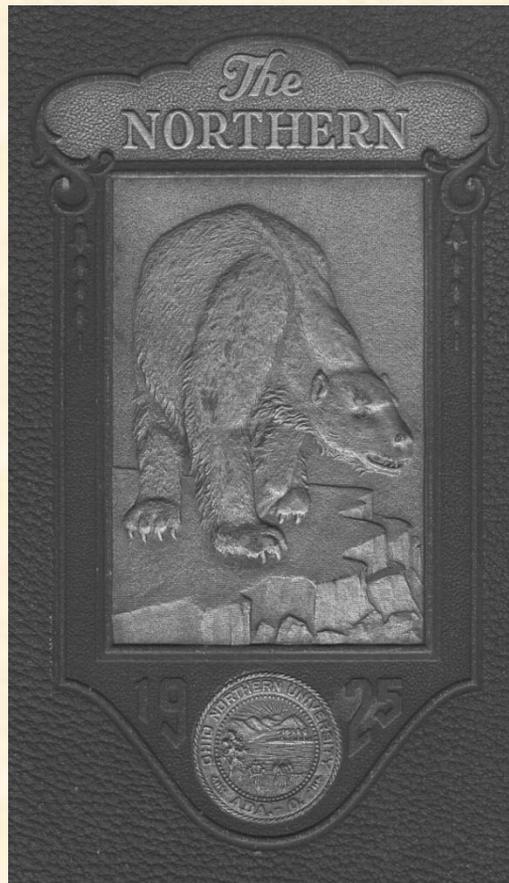
Celebration on Campus Front Lawn

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

New Traditions

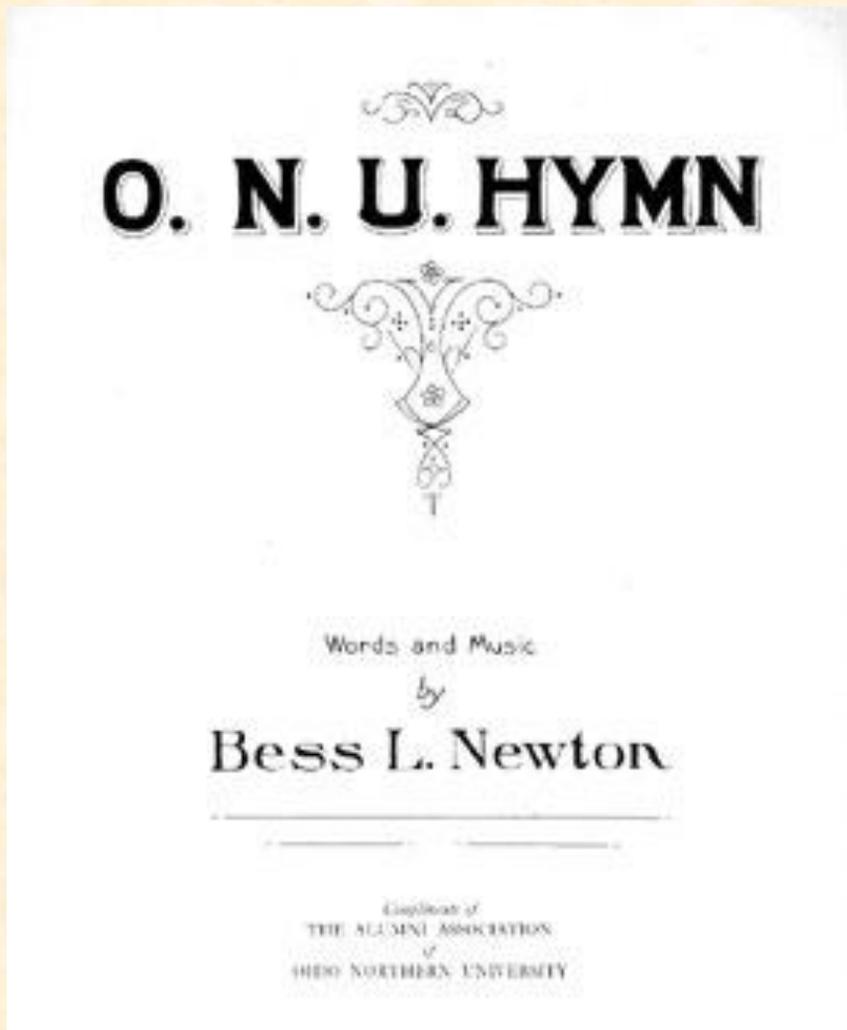
As old traditions faded, however, new ones were being established. At a chapel exercise in 1923, one of the university's more durable features, its mascot, was adopted. According to G. Walter Eighmy, BSCE '26, President Smith, Dr. Smull, Dr. Newton, and other members of the faculty challenged the audience to select a mascot. The polar bear was chosen by a wide margin for, as the students observed:

The Polar bear is symbolic of the school in many ways. It is a Northern animal, large, strong, invincible. Its coat of white stands for purity, while its home is from pole to pole and it has the sky for a limit, where we have a constellation named the Bear. Hereafter the teams of Northern will be designated as "The Polars.."



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

The university also acquired two musical trademarks at this time. In 1924, Frederick Thomas Killeen, Dean of the College of Music, published *Sons of Old O.N.U.*, a march still played at athletic events. The following year, Ohio Northern finally received an official song. Although there was a tradition of different classes composing their own songs each year, no one piece of music applied to the entire institution. In March 1925 a contest was announced in Chapel to select a song, and ultimately fourteen entries were submitted. After due consideration, the *O.N.U. Hymn* was selected and the composer, Mrs. Bessie L. Newton, wife of Athletic Director J.O. Newton, was given the first prize of \$25.00.



Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

2

SONS OF OLD O. N. U.

Ohio Northern University
College Song

Words & Music by
FREDERICK THOMAS KILLEEN
Arr. by Harry Jay

INTRO
Tempo di Marche

March a-way to vic-tory for North-ers Our gal-lant
sons must win the fight
Do or die shall be our cry for North-ers, We'll bat-tle

Copyright: MCMXXIV by Fred Killeen.
Printed in the U. S. A.

Chapter 8 -1920 – 1930, Smith Administration

Lehr Dies

During this decade, several persons closely linked with the school's earliest years died, most notably former president Lehr. Lehr had been a campus institution since his return to Ada in 1905. Although in waning health, he appeared at major campus events, and his opinions were sought on a variety of educational issues. He was an active supporter of former faculty member Frank Willis during the latter's 1914 gubernatorial campaign. The overexertion involved, however, led to a temporary collapse. In 1920, shortly after his 82nd birthday and the *Ada Herald* noted his vigor and interest in the university and national politics. On January 29, 1923, however, Dr. Lehr suffered an apparent stroke. Three weeks later, he died at age 84. After lying in state in the Lehr Memorial auditorium, he was buried in Ada's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Dr. Henry S. Lehr, Founder Of Ohio Northern University Has "Finished the Course"

Life of Dr. Henry S. Lehr

Henry Solomon Lehr was born at Westernfield, Franklin county, Ohio on the 9th of March, 1839. When he was but a child his parents moved to Wayne county. Here his youth was spent. His parents were very poor, and he was unable to attend his school until he was twelve years old, and then only irregularly.

In the spring of 1864 he went to Marlboro, Stark county, Ohio, (walking all the way) to attend school under Alfred Holbrook. That winter, at the age of sixteen, he taught his first school. The next summer he followed Holbrook to Salem, Ohio, and the following year he entered Mt. Union College. From that time on he attended college (spending one term at Haynesville), and taught alternately until the spring of 1861 when Lincoln issued the call for volunteers. He answered his country's call and

Career of Great Educator Closed with Note of Triumph

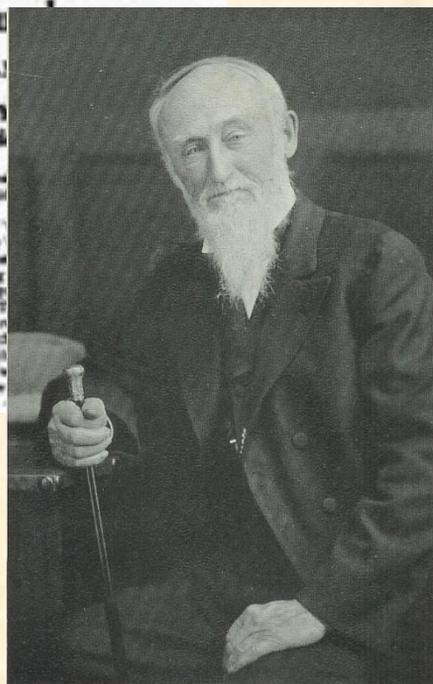
"MY WORK IS DONE; I AM

Thousands of Heads Bowed To Honor of Grand Old

The founder of Ohio Northern University and one of the nation's notable educators, Dr. Henry S. Lehr, answered the call of the Great Teacher Monday morning at 4:30 o'clock at his home here, after three weeks of illness due to paralysis. He was wearing his 80th birthday.

Dr. Lehr approached the close of his life of service in the spirit of triumph. He frequently remarked to friends and former students who sat at his bedside during the past few weeks, "My work is finished. I am

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Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Under the arrangements made by outgoing President Smith, his successor, Dr. Robert Williams, became interim president on September 1, 1929, and was formally installed as Northern's fourth president in October of the following year. A less determined man than Williams might have chosen to leave town before his inauguration. On October 23, 1929, the stock market crashed, ushering in the Great Depression. His administration was a constant struggle with the effects of this catastrophe.



President Robert Williams

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Considerable Indebtedness

President Williams may well have needed the consolations of philosophy as he contemplated the university's finances. The assumptions on which Northern's budgets had been based during the 1920s doubtless seemed sound enough at the time, but they did not serve Northern well in the current decade. The school had not had an endowment until President Smith started one. With the prospect of endless prosperity before them, Smith and the trustees had elected to spend considerable sums on buildings rather than concentrating on securing the institution's finances. Reviewing the aftermath of this policy in 1931, the Commission on Survey of Educational Institutions of the Methodist Episcopal Church concluded:

[T]he institution has a large debt and ... the endowment is far too meager for its needs. The fact is that strong efforts were made in the past to erect buildings and that the endowment was neglected. Buildings were constructed without regard to need. The Theodore Presser Music Hall is a case in point; it was erected because a gift was available, although debt had to be obtained for half the cost and the university might well have managed to get along without the building. The university is now suffering from the effects of this short-sighted policy.

The debt to which the Commission referred totaled \$259,183.36. The bulk of it arose from President Smith's construction projects, but \$96,600 was incurred as a result of operating deficits over the years. In 1928-29 alone, the operating deficit was reported at \$34,000, and the carrying charges for the interest on the debt were a severe drain on the university. It was President Williams' unpleasant task to deal with these problems.

While the Commission had concerns about university finances, the report was also complimentary in several areas. It recognized the efforts being undertaken to consolidate and streamline the curriculum. The group also noted the work underway to modernize the university's overall administration. Clearly, President Williams understood what was required to keep the institution afloat, and, in those areas under his control, was making progress.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Enrollment Decline

The size of the student body was unfortunately something over which he exercised little control. The lack of endowment income and the need to service the institution's debt was especially troubling since financial hard times resulted in a decline in enrollment and, consequently, in tuition. Historically, Northern had been heavily dependent on tuition income, and during fiscal year 1929-30, for example, only 12.5 % of the university's income came from endowment. Tuition accounted for 77.6%, and the balance came from miscellaneous sources. The number of students enrolled each fall dropped from a pre-depression high of 1,056 in 1928-29 to 529 in 1935.

Enrollment, 1929 - 1940



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

President Williams and the trustees enacted several measures to improve the university's finances, perhaps the most significant of which was to reduce the number of staff employed. In 1928-29, for example, Ohio Northern had 60 faculty members, but by 1934-35 this number had been slashed to 32. By the latter date, many of the administrative staff were also listed with the faculty, suggesting that the administrators were pressed into the thinned faculty ranks.

Consolidation of Curriculum

The curriculum was revised with an eye towards greater efficiency. The overall effect was to consolidate various independent academic programs in the College of Liberal Arts. One of the first units to be abolished was the College of Music. It had been formed at the very end of President Smith's administration, and, given the modest size of the program, demoting it to a department in the College of Liberal Arts was a sensible step. In 1930, the College of Education was similarly reduced to the division of teacher training. Both the School of Fine Arts and School of Oratory met the same fate. Indeed, even the School of Commerce, a product of the Lehr era, became the department of economics and business administration within the College of Liberal Arts.

Financial constraints also forced the university to defer action on several pressing problems. Despite an overall improvement in the academic program, Ohio Northern still lacked any real outside accreditation. At the beginning of President Williams' administration the university was a member of the Ohio College Association and the Association of American Colleges, but neither body was a true accrediting agency. Williams was acutely aware that this non-accredited status reflected poorly on the institution. In 1929, in his first address to the faculty, he indicated a strong desire to obtain recognition from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, a regional accrediting body. Reaching this goal was, however, postponed for almost 30 years.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Turner Hall

President Williams was able to fulfill his hopes for women's dormitories, though in a modest fashion. In January 1930, the university purchased Dr. Lehr's former residence from P.W. Turner and converted it into a hall for some 15 women. Lehr had sold the home to Turner in 1903, and, in honor of its most recent owner, it was christened Turner Hall. The structure stood on the site of the present Stambaugh Hall.



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Turner Hall Interior

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Turner Hall Interior

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Terrace House

Eleven years later, Northern acquired another historic house. In April 1941, the former residence of S.M. Johnson was opened as the Terrace dormitory for women. It was Johnson, the president of the Ada board of education, who had encouraged Lehr in 1866 to establish an educational institution in Ada. Approximately \$12,000 was spent in converting the building to a home for 16 women. These unpretentious dwellings, along with several smaller houses, reflected the financial difficulties under which Northern had to work, and they were to be the last permanent student housing for almost a decade.



Looking North on S. Gilbert Street – Terrace on Left, then the Sigma Phi Epsilon House

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Front View of Terrace – Earlier, the Home of
Sigma Pi Epsilon, 1905 - 1915

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Terrace in 1950's as Student Union

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

THE MILLER HOUSE

South Main



THE MOORMAN HOUSE

South Gilbert



THE WELLS HOUSE

West University



Co-ed Housing, 1939

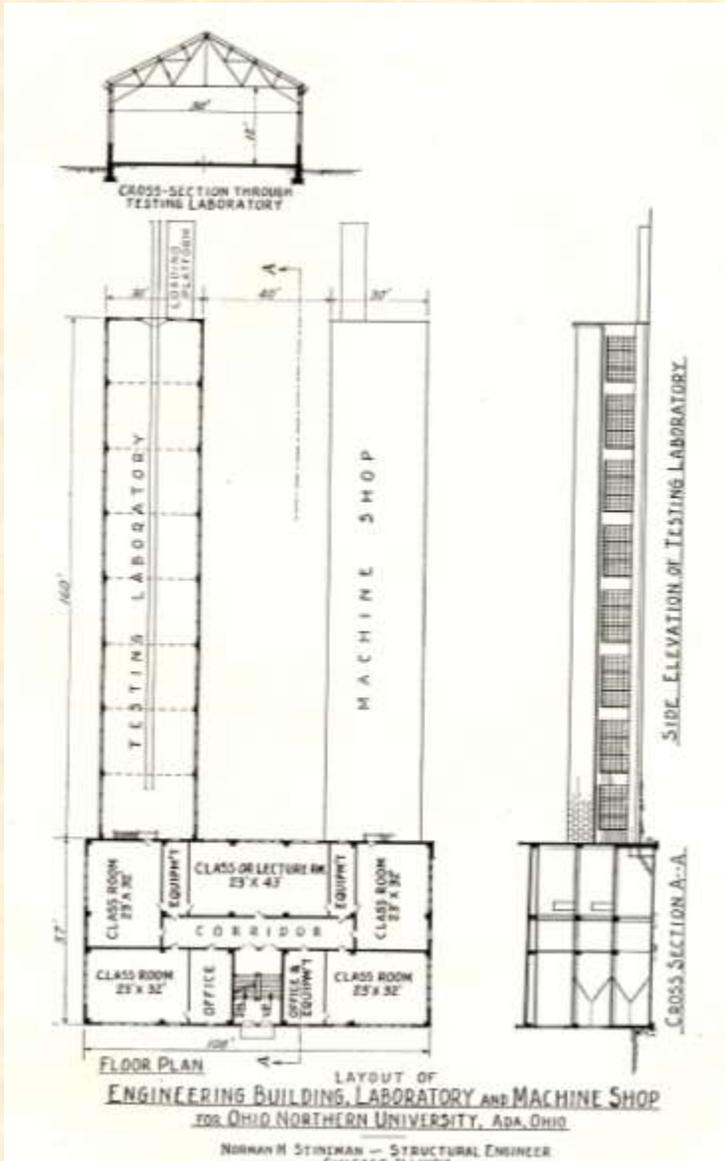
Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



THE NEAL HOUSE
East University

Co-ed Housing, 1939

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



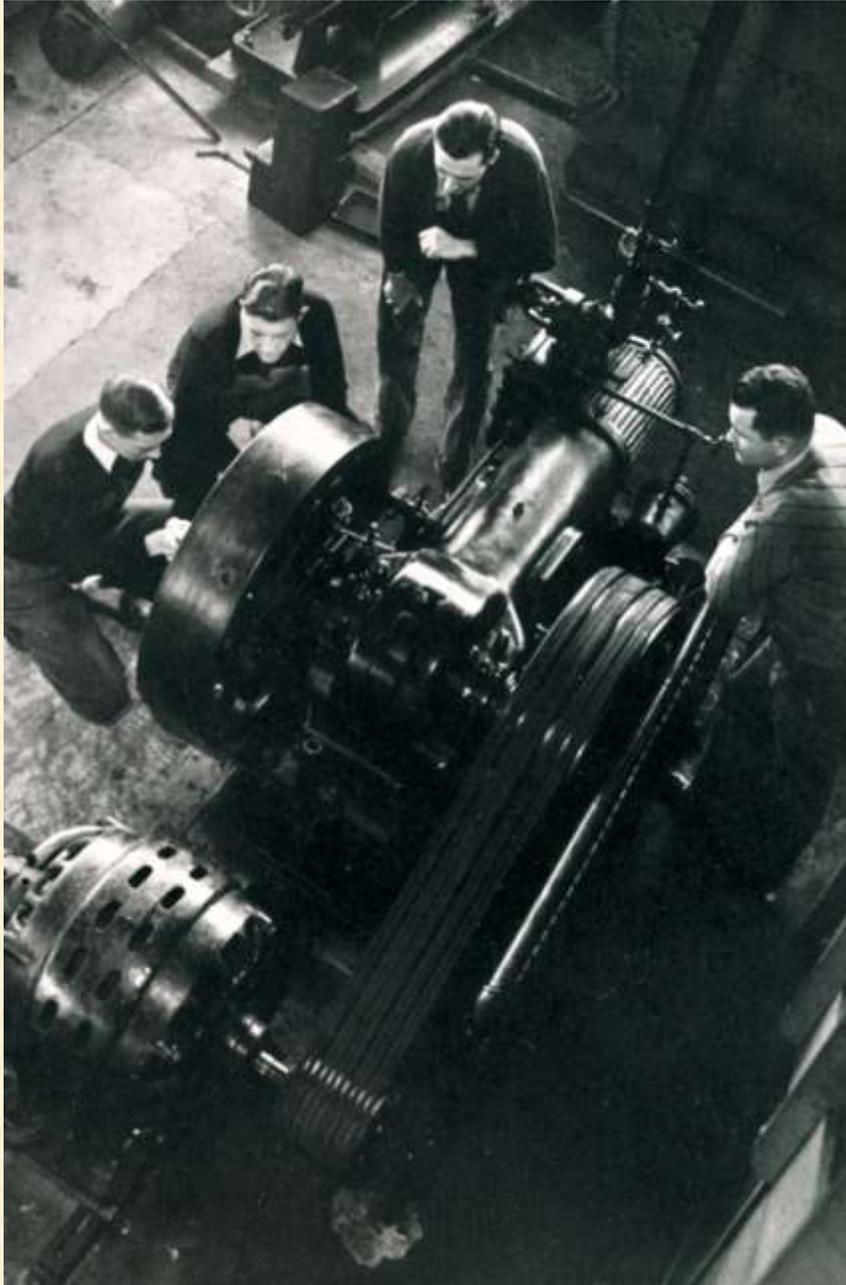
The one academic building acquired under President Williams was not actually on campus. In October 1929, a \$175,000 campaign for a new engineering building, to be named after former dean T.J. Smull, was initiated. A four-page illustrated folder was mailed to 1,000 engineering alumni describing a two-story structure measuring 57 by 108 feet. Given the state of the economy that fall, it is not surprising that the project fell through. Instead, the university bought and remodeled the McCurdy Manufacturing Plant in downtown Ada for the College of Engineering. The 15,000 square-foot structure stood on Liberty St. near the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. This proved, however, to be only a temporary solution since the university sold the property in 1937.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Campus in 1929 – Note Proposed Small Engineering Lab, #11 Below Football Field

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Meanwhile, students continued using the University power plant as a laboratory.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Old Pharmacy Building Removed

It was still possible to improve the appearance of the campus, but, under Williams, this involved subtracting rather than adding buildings. The Lehr-vintage pharmacy building, which stood on the southeast corner of Gilbert St. and University Ave., was abandoned in 1934. The three-story wood frame structure had housed the College of Pharmacy's laboratories and classrooms since its erection in the 1890s. Later moved and enlarged, the building housed the Adelphian's meeting hall on its third floor after the demolition of the Normal School Building in 1913. By the 1930s, however, it had become an eyesore and a potential fire trap. The College of Pharmacy was moved to Dukes where the departments of chemistry and mathematics were also located. Early in 1937, the old pharmacy building was razed.



Old Pharmacy Building with Power House to Left and
Terrace Women's Dorm to Right

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Old Pharmacy Building - Classroom

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Old Pharmacy Building Classroom

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Campus Beautification

The senior classes of 1930 and 1931 also helped to beautify the campus with a joint gift of shrubbery and other plantings. A plan for landscaping the campus had been created some years earlier but had been set aside until the completion of Taft Gymnasium and Presser Hall. This document served as a guide for the class project. To memorialize their contribution, a large boulder was set in the middle of a triangle of sidewalks on the campus' front lawn. This bit of ONU history now lies on the north side of the large lake on west campus.



Campus Front Lawn in 1930's

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Library Moved to Brown

One on-campus improvement involved the university library. In his first address to the faculty, President Williams listed a new library as one of his objectives. Financial constraints, however, again proved a severe limitation. In 1930, the library was moved from the second floor of Lehr Memorial to Brown Hall. Brown had been used as a gym, but the opening of Taft Gymnasium the previous year offered the opportunity to relocate and enlarge the library.

Even so, as the Commission on Survey observed, the library was barely adequate for the needs of the institution. Only about 90 students could be seated in the reading room at any one time, and the collection of 15,465 volumes was deemed inadequate for a university. The budget for new materials for 1929-30 was \$1,460.98 for the undergraduate library and \$905.25 for law materials. The latter collection was housed in the Warren G. Harding College of Law

Some improvements were made to the law library in 1931. Book shelves were erected in the reading room, and the shelves in the stack room were re-arranged to permit some seating. By that fall, some 7,500 volumes were available to students, and the library was open afternoons and evenings.



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



When the library was moved into Brown Hall, the second floor of Lehr was converted into Alumnae Hall for the use of returning graduates.

View of the North End of The Hall

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Alumnae Hall Looking South
This area is currently, 2008, administrative
offices.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Dancing Allowed

Although the 1930s may have been a period of considerable financial hardship for Northern, President Williams was able to brighten the students' lives and at no cost to the institution. The ban on dances, long a feature of President Smith's administration, was gradually lifted. Previously, students had been prohibited from attending dances on or off campus. Violation of this rule was, under Smith, grounds for suspension or expulsion from the university. At the beginning of 1929-30, however, Williams interpreted the ban to apply only to "dances given in the name of any university organization. That is to say, no attempt will be made to control the activities of students in respect to dancing outside of these regulations."



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Sororities Return

Another change in student social policy came in 1930 when sororities were allowed back on campus. These organizations had been forced to close in 1922 when they failed to obtain the national affiliation required by Northern. In January 1930, the first sorority, Theta Phi Delta, was re-established with eight members. By the end of the month, three other groups, Xi Beta Chi, Phi Chi, and Tau Kappa Kappa, had also been organized. At that point, the university appears to have temporarily capped the number of sororities at four.

THE NORTHERN



THETA PHI DELTA

COLORES—Double Blue FLOWER—Azalea Phi

PATRONAE

MRS. GEORGE EDENBROUGH MRS. BEN. COSSAR MRS. JOHN YOUNG

HONORII

MRS. CLAUDE PETIT MRS. J. A. NEEDY MRS. CARL MCGUFFEY
EDNA HEMMONS MARGARET HUNE

SORORES IN UNIVERSITATE

ALICE BROWNELL LOIS JEAN JUDGINS THELMA PRATT
MARY GREEN ELIZABETH TEMPLETON LILLIE HILTY
MARY COMBS MARY JANE MILLER

OFFICERS

President—ALICE BROWNELL Secretary—MARY COMBS
Vice-President—LILLIE HILTY Treasurer—MARY GREEN

PLLEDGES

MARTHA GEISING BEENITA SHORT WILHELMONA ARBOGAST
EILEEN TORRE REILAH TUDOR MERIAM SMELL
ALBION YOUNG DOBOOTHY COMB EVELYN MEGINNIE
GRACE KILES EDNA PHILLIPS BOWENA SMILA
MARY FORREY



1931

Page One Hundred Thirteen

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Enrollment Expands

As the 1930s drew to a close, Ohio Northern was experiencing a modest recovery. From a low of 529 students in fall 1935, enrollment had inched up to 766 by 1939-40. As income increased, the depleted ranks of the faculty could be refilled. By 1939-40, 44 professors and instructors were listed, up from 32 in 1934. Several years were required to balance the university's operating budget. Despite substantial savings from austerity measures, tuition income in the early 30s had fallen even more rapidly, and fiscal order was not re-established until 1936. By the end of the decade, progress had even been made in reducing the university's overall debt.

Enrollment, 1929 - 1940



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



In September 1939, a hopeful Williams was interviewed by the student newspaper. The resulting article, in which he discussed the recent improvement in Ohio Northern's finances, was headed *President Sees Bright Future*. At the end of Williams' tenth year in office, conditions scarcely resembled the palmy days of the 1920s, but there were grounds for optimism. These views were justified as long as one overlooked Germany's invasion of Poland at the beginning of that month.

Like the nation as a whole, Northern and its students hoped that the United States could somehow remain neutral. In September 1938, the *Northern Review* staff polled the student body on the international situation and received replies from 77% of those enrolled. The survey revealed a strong neutralist vein along with a strong dose of pessimism with 375 out of 579 respondents expressing doubt that the country could remain neutral in the event of a protracted conflict. A similar survey, undertaken the next fall, showed an even stronger desire to avoid war when 521 students out of a total of 543 voted for neutrality. Events on December 7, 1941, subsequently demonstrated how quickly public opinion could change.

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Flight Training

Ohio Northern's first direct involvement with the approaching war came in early 1940 when 20 students began receiving flight training. The Army Air Corps, realizing that it could not begin to train enough pilots on its own, turned to the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA). The CAA first began working with civilian flying schools in the spring of 1939, but, as more pilots were needed, the program was extended to colleges and universities. This program probably benefitted from the imposition of the nation's first peace-time draft in October 1940. Faced with the prospect of induction, the ability to enter flight training and retain some measure of control over one's destiny must have been attractive. Indeed, Northern's quota of candidates doubled to 40 for 1940-41.



Flying Lessons at Lima Airport

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Ground School

As the international situation grew more threatening, a ground school was added to teach non-pilots the rudiments of various aviation-related subjects. The school, which was under the guidance of Prof. Frank Berger of the College of Engineering, received several pieces of equipment for training purposes. These included a radial aircraft engine, aircraft wing panels, and a modern aircraft radio. In September 1941, 10 students were enrolled in this program and receiving six hours of college credit for their work. By that time, an entire plane had been assigned to the campus as an aid to inspection and design classes.

As the war progressed, other military training programs were added. By April 1942, Northern had been approved by the Navy for officer training. Under the plan, students could enlist as apprentice seamen and then attend classes. Those volunteering for aviation remained on campus for two years while the balance would remain to complete a full course of study before going on active duty. That fall, 10 students were training as glider pilots at Northern. They took classes on campus and received flying instruction at the Lima municipal airport. A training program for radio technicians was also instituted.

FIRST ROW: Carl J. Graham, Columbus Grove, Robert E. Sims, Wapakoneta; Kenneth E. Volkmer, and Irvin S. Anderson, Columbus Grove.
BACK ROW: James R. O'Neil, Robert E. Dome, Lima; Floyd E. Porter, Cridersville, and Leslie R. Roby, Lima.



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration



Flight Cadets - 1943

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

As during the First World War, the federal government turned to schools such as Northern to provide engineering expertise. Anticipating war-time needs, the Federal Security Agency created a program to train non-students in war-related industries. In November 1940, Dean John A. Needy of the College of Engineering was named the program's regional adviser for Northwest Ohio. Congress appropriated \$9,000,000 "to train 30,000 students with technical backgrounds to meet future needs of both industry and government in carrying out the defense program."³⁸ Classes were held both on campus and in local factories.

Later in the war, this program was consolidated under the Engineering, Science, and Management War Training program (ESMWT). By mid-1943, the university was conducting ESMWT classes in 15 cities in the region. Between the program's beginning in January 1941 and its end on June 30, 1945, more than 5,400 individuals were enrolled in classes taught by Northern. Participating institutions such as Northern were paid for the cost of instruction, and, during a period of reduced enrollment, every bit helped. However, it did not compensate for the loss of tuition income.



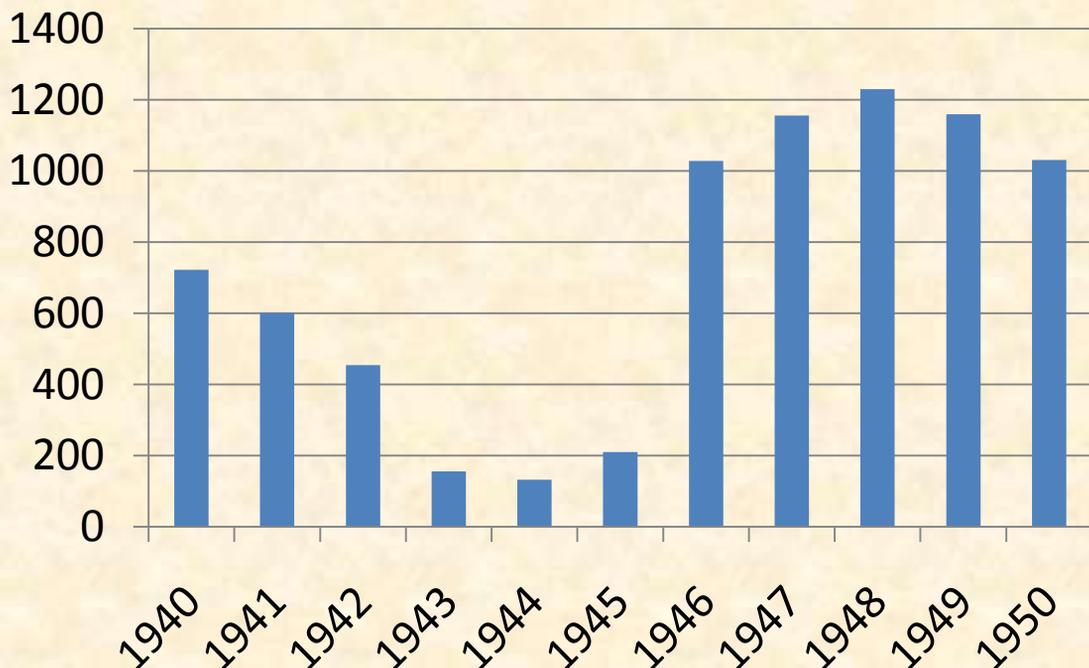
Training in Engineering Drawing

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

War Cuts Enrollment

Despite these efforts, the size of the student body dropped below the worst levels of the Depression. In the fall of 1940, immediately before selective service went into effect, 715 students were attending Northern. The following autumn, enrollment stood at 600. The 1942-43 academic year proved a disaster for Northern with a September 1942 enrollment of 452. Although 412 students were enrolled for the winter quarter, 33 officially withdrew to enter the armed forces and roughly the same number simply failed to return without notifying the university. That spring found only 288 students on campus - until a further 40 were called up for service. As the number of students continued to plummet, the customary enrollment figures were omitted from university publications and newspaper articles. It appears, however, that during the fall of 1943 only 156 students were enrolled.

Enrollment, 1940 - 1950



Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Emergency Measures

Various emergency measures were enacted to deal with the crisis. The school's yearbook, the *Northern*, ceased publication with the 1942 issue. Next year, the student newspaper, the *Northern Review*, closed. The last full-sized university catalog was printed for the 1942-43 academic year. Thereafter, 30-page pamphlets were issued. At least one building, Presser Hall, was closed for most of the war. A sure indication of the seriousness of the situation was the decision, in 1943, to cancel intercollegiate sports for the balance of the war. This was less of a hardship than it might appear since at least four of the schools Northern was scheduled to play against had already enacted similar measures. Several changes were made to the university's calendar to accommodate war-time requirements. Restrictions were lifted regarding when students could enter Northern to permit incoming students to begin during any quarter. Course offerings were increased for the summer session, thus making the university effectively a year-round institution.

Review of Reviews

As this is not only the last issue of the "Review" for this year but probably the last for the duration, the editor wishes to thank those who have assisted in its publication and to recall some of its achievements.

For many years the Review has maintained a high standard of excellence in the field of journalism, judged in comparison with papers published as often all over the state. Once as a weekly and once as a bi-weekly, it has been rated as best in the state, and many, many times has ranked second and third. This year, due to financial reasons, the "Review" was not entered in the state contest, but we like to feel that its standards have not fallen, even though we have not the opinion of impartial judges on the subject. The newspaper has been instrumental in making Ohio Northern known all over this part of the country, and is exceeded as a publicity medium only by a cham-

May 12, 1943 Editorial

Chapter 9 -1930 - 1943, Williams Administration

Williams Resigns

At this critical point, President Williams resigned, effective June 30, 1943. He announced his decision following the February 27 trustees' meeting despite a unanimous request from the board that he reconsider. When Williams' plans became known to the faculty, they circulated a petition among those who had served at Northern for more than a year asking that the president stay. All signed. Although he cited no specific reasons, his decision may well have been based on health considerations. Less than a year later, on June 18, 1944, President Williams died at his home in Van Wert, Ohio.

President Williams' administration lacked the drama and excitement of his predecessor's, A.E. Smith. Unlike Smith, who peppered the campus with new construction, Williams left behind no buildings to mark his passage. Unlike Smith, however, he and the trustees were able to place the university on a sounder financial footing, and do so under highly adverse conditions. Several needed revisions in the university's curriculum were undertaken, and, of course, Williams was a tireless optimist and promoter of Northern during troubled times. Perhaps his greatest contribution was that, in the end, there was a university to pass on to his successor

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Dr. Robert O. McClure was 56 when he became the university's fifth president. He assumed the post of acting president on June 30, 1943, and was made permanent president the following year. President McClure was a native of Kentucky and had received a B.A. and M.A. from Asbury College. He had also completed post-graduate work at Northwestern University and at Garrett Biblical Institute in Chicago. Since 1941, McClure had been serving as the Lima district superintendent of the Methodist Church. He was, more importantly, a member of the university's board of trustees and thus familiar with the institution under his charge

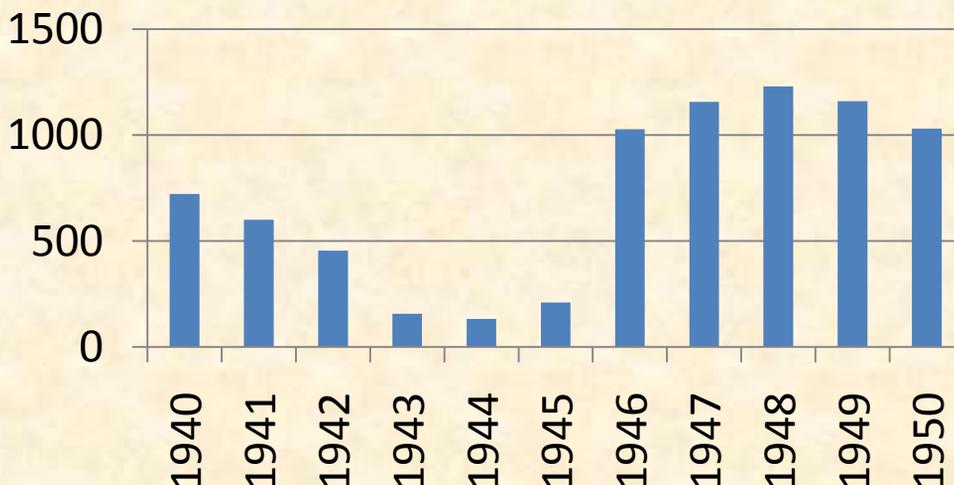
Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

A Bleak Outlook

To date, no president of Ohio Northern University has faced prospects at his inauguration as bleak as those which confronted McClure. At the same trustees' meeting at which he was selected as president, the members of the board seriously considered whether Northern should close the professional programs and continue exclusively as a liberal arts institution. By that fall, conditions were so desperate that the new president presented the stark alternatives to his much-reduced faculty. So uncertain did the situation become that on [the] Saturday preceding the opening day of the fall quarter of 1943 he gathered the faculty in a special session, related to them the critical situation, and confronted them with the question of whether to close or continue the operation of Ohio Northern University. The decision was ultimately made to keep the school open, and President McClure turned to the grueling task ahead.

The size of the university's staff had shrunk along with the student body. Northern began the decade with 44 professors, but by fall 1943, that number had dwindled to only 21. With fewer than 200 students to teach, this was hardly surprising. Some faculty had entered the armed forces, several had taken jobs elsewhere, and a few were on indefinite leaves of absence. Austin Potter, dean of men, served as treasurer, and Dean Harvey Huber of the College of Liberal Arts was pressed into service as registrar.

Enrollment, 1940 - 1950



Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

G.I. Bill of Rights

The following year brought the first good news that been heard on the Ada campus for several years. A potentially large number of soldiers eligible to enroll in colleges and universities was about to be discharged. Congress, which had been wrestling with the issue of veterans' educational benefits for the past two years, finally enacted the Serviceman's Readjustment Act of 1944, dubbed the "G.I. Bill of Rights." Under Title II of the act, qualifying veterans enrolled at a college or university could receive an amount "not in excess of \$500 per person for an ordinary school year for tuition and other fees which may include textbooks, equipment and supplies generally required for the successful completion of the course by other students in the institution." This promise of future income would be invaluable if, and this was a very big if, Northern could survive into 1945 when the returning servicemen arrived.

One factor which helped Northern to survive was the degree of financial support shown by alumni and others. In 1940, a program called the Loyalty Fund had been instituted. Its goal was to secure \$10,000 annually in small donations from alumni. Although the amount sought was modest and not always received, it was timely. Area residents also contributed \$10,000 during this period, and another \$7,000 was received from the Lima district of the Methodist Church.

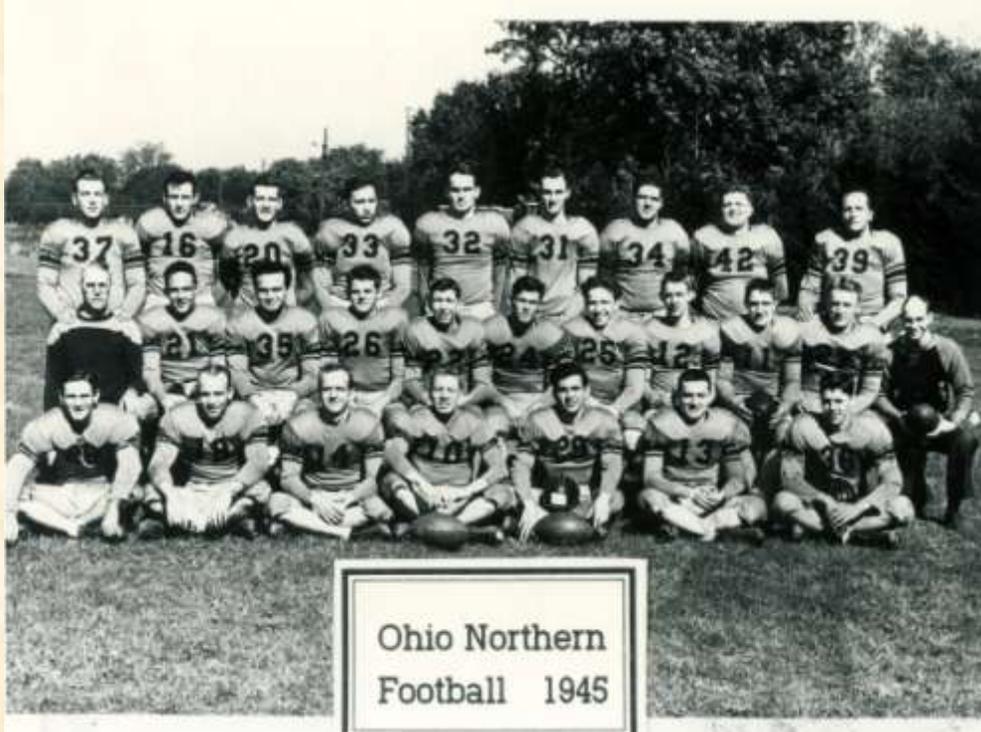


Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

Dedicated Service

The university was also fortunate to have a core of faculty and administrators who were dedicated to the university's survival. For his part, President McClure served his first year in office without pay. His example was followed by others on the faculty, some of whom served either without pay or at considerably reduced salaries.

Although the war was still being fought in both Europe and Asia, prospects had brightened perceptibly by the beginning of 1945. The first of what would later become a flood of returning veterans arrived on campus. Five were attending by spring quarter including one, Larry Archer, who had enrolled the previous quarter under provisions for veteran rehabilitation. In February the university administration felt confident enough to conduct a survey of Ada homes to determine what accommodations might be available for returning veterans. The survey was prompted, in part, by inquiries from men leaving the service, and it recognized the need for family as well as single housing.



Larry Archer, #18 in first row, Student and Future Dean
Of the College of Engineering

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

Flood of Students

The opening of fall quarter 1945 found the university trying to cope with a sudden influx of students. With peace only one month old, an initial group of 30 veterans had enrolled. By the beginning of spring quarter, an estimated 325 servicemen were on campus, and overall the enrollment for the following fall was projected to be 750. By winter quarter 1946, over 900 students were enrolled, and the fall 1948 class numbered 1,209.

Although a larger student body relieved the university's financial burdens, it also exacerbated an already critical housing shortage in Ada. One solution was to enlarge the stock of university-owned housing. Northern, like other educational institutions, was able to take advantage of the Surplus Property Act of 1944. This legislation provided for the sale of property "appropriate for school, classroom, or other educational use" to either public or private non-profit educational institutions. Northern acquired, courtesy of the federal government, an assortment of trailers and prefabricated dwellings. Given the inability of the local housing market to absorb the new students, this was a timely and substantial gift.



First Row: H. Wong, B. Cunningham, B. Rex, H. Grover, J. Wojciechowski, G. Griger.
Second Row: D. Ho, M. Walls, R. Welker, F. Baran, R. Bedolun, H. Hollinger, G. Hill, Dr. R. Hilliard.

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

Trailer Colonies

By the beginning of fall quarter 1946, the university had in place 114 trailers and five barrack-style dormitories for single men. Even so, the housing shortage delayed the beginning of classes that year by a week. These units were grouped in "colonies" around the campus. One, Vetsburg, consisted of 22 trailers on the south lawn of Presser Hall. The Vetsville colony contained another 28 units and was located on the athletic grounds near Taft Gymnasium. Contemporary photographs suggest that this war-surplus housing did little for the campus' aesthetic appeal. For married veterans, however, the \$15 monthly rent must have provided these homely dwellings with a charm all their own. Adopted as a temporary expedient, the Vetsville and Vetsburg trailers graced the campus until their removal in 1957. A third colony, Lehr Village, actually remained until the summer of 1964.

Some relief from the overcrowding was also obtained with the reopening of the fraternities. After a hiatus of 3 1/2 years, Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers reoccupied their house in December 1945. Twelve members were in residence, and 18 pledges had been secured. By February 1946, a total of five houses had been reopened, adding to the two fraternities which had operated through the war.



Trailers on South Lawn of Presser Hall

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Trailers West of Taft Gym (Future Site of Heterick Library)
1947

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Trailer Interior With Vexed Spouse, 1947

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

No "Kid Stuff"

Ohio Northern's post-war student body contained a high percentage of veterans, and, as incoming freshmen, they presented a unique challenge to the university. Most were older, more experienced and less malleable than the usual high school graduates. Freshman traditions such as wearing beanies vanished temporarily in the face of the former G.I.'s objections to what they perceived as "kid stuff." There is also evidence that they were, as a group, rather impatient with mandatory chapel services, and their reaction to the university's policies on alcoholic beverages can well be imagined.

From the standpoint of housing, they presented Northern with a problem, since a substantial number brought families to campus. The trailer colonies were, however, able to provide partial relief from overcrowding. The problems associated with the veterans lessened as they graduated and were replaced by younger students, but as late as fall quarter of 1949, the student body still contained roughly 50% former servicemen.



Note boardwalks,
A Partial Answer
To Drainage Problems

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Another Solution

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

The university also continued to suffer from a shortage of housing for single women. This had been a continuing concern of President McClure, even through the dark days of 1943-44. At war's end, however, it was finally possible for the university to seriously consider the problem. At their spring 1946 meeting, the trustees began discussion on a 100-room, \$250,000 women's dormitory, but more than three years were to elapse before the university acquired a building site on the southwest corner of Lehr and Union Streets. By that time another factor had entered the discussion.

Turner Hall Fire

The need for a women's dormitory was all the more pressing due to the loss of Turner Hall. In the early morning hours of February 3, 1949, fire swept through the wood-frame structure, but fortunately none of the 16 co-eds in residence was injured. It was possible to temporarily place the students in various houses in the village, and both the university and community responded generously to help replace their personal belongings. Turner Hall itself was a total loss, and the trustees may well have wondered about the safety of the other women's residence, the equally combustible Terrace.



Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

The academic buildings, long neglected because of financial hardship, were as great a problem to the university as was the lack of housing. Presser Hall, for instance, had been closed throughout most of the war and required extensive repairs to permit its use. Its opening in the spring of 1947 helped considerably to relieve classroom congestion.

The undergraduate library had been moved to the Warren G. Harding College of Law building in 1943 when its home in Brown Hall had been taken over for war-related work. This move probably inconvenienced few students if for no other reason than that there were so few attending during the war. Now, however, with enrollment on the rebound, it was time to relocate, and by 1948 the library was back in its former quarters



From Brown to Law
And Back to Brown

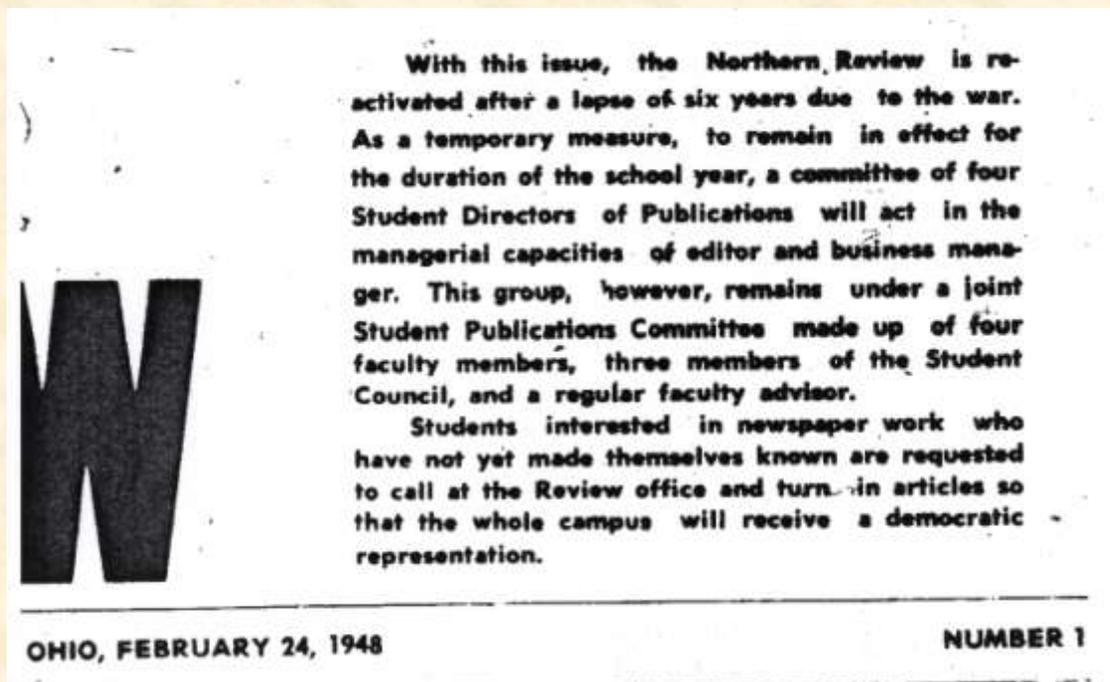


Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

Extra Curricular Activities Resume

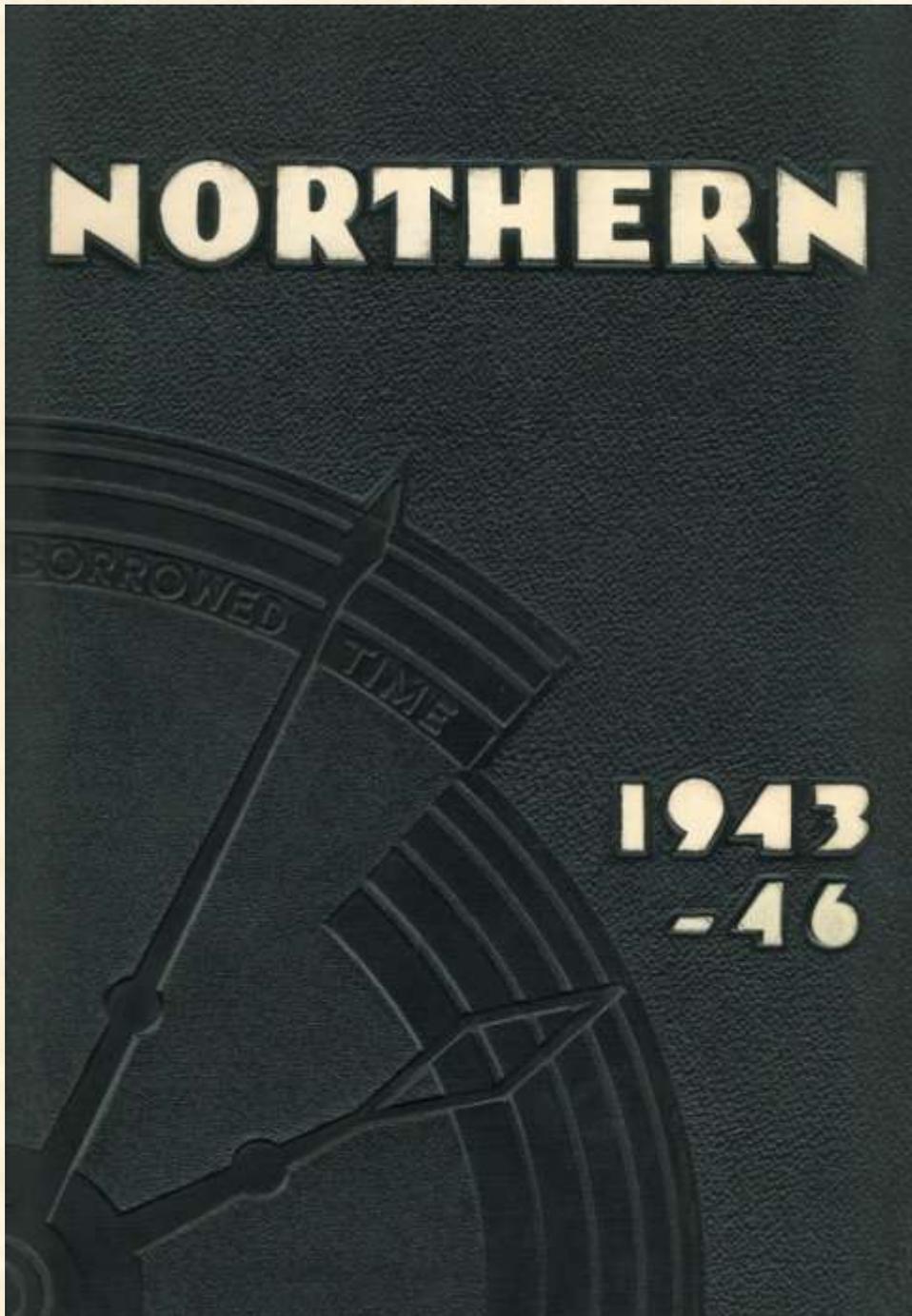
The return to pre-war conditions could be seen in a number of other ways. Intercollegiate athletics, dropped in 1943, were resumed. In February 1948, the *Northern Review* was again being published after a pause of almost five years. The school's yearbook, the *Northern*, was issued in 1946 with sections covering the war years.

The size of the faculty grew to keep pace with enrollment. In 1946-47, for example, there were 40 faculty members and 11 administrators. Several of the latter may have still had teaching responsibilities. In addition, there were 12 persons listed at a short-lived Lima branch program. By 1950-51, the university catalog showed 14 administrators and 51 teaching faculty



First Post-war Issue of the *Northern Review*

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Return of the Northern Yearbook

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration

Finances Improve

Two of President McClure's contributions to Ohio Northern lay in the area of university finances. When he became president, the university's indebtedness stood at \$343,648. This amount was paid off by liquidating low-yielding bonds that the university held, by making cash payments on the debt, and by soliciting gifts for debt retirement. With this burden lifted, it was possible to begin to increase endowment funds. At McClure's retirement, \$448,000 of a \$1,000,000 endowment campaign had been raised. These achievements should be measured against the fact that, at his inauguration, there was doubt that Ohio Northern would be able to remain open, let alone achieve financial stability.

As the decade closed, the strain of running the university began to tell on President McClure. In October 1948, he began an indefinite leave of absence, granted by the trustees, to regain his health. A four-month sojourn in Florida provided him with the strength to continue but only until the end of the academic year. On April 9, 1949, he tendered his resignation effective June 30, and the trustees chose as his successor, Dr. Frank Bringle McIntosh, at their spring 1949 meeting. President McClure retired to his home in Winter Park, Florida, where he died on June 1, 1952.

Overall Improvement

Like his predecessor's administration, that of President McClure was marked by toil, dedication, and a firm belief that Northern would continue. The significance of this period lies less in the buildings raised or the other external measures of success by which universities are judged but rather by the simple fact that Northern survived. The surprise was, that, after two decades of struggle, the institution was able to rebound so quickly.

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Campus May Cleanup,
Students Pitch In to
Maintain the Campus

Chapter 10 -1943 – 1949, McClure Administration



Campus Around 1950

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Ohio Northern University's sixth president, Frank Bringle McIntosh, was born May 26, 1895, on a farm near New Albany, Indiana. He received a B.A. from DePauw University and, in 1923, an STB degree from Boston University. As an ordained Methodist minister, his early exposure to higher education came through pastorates at Muskingum College, Denison University, and Otterbein College. When he assumed the presidency of Ohio Northern, Dr. McIntosh was serving as superintendent of the Toledo district of the Methodist Church, a post which he had held since 1944. He was also a member of the board of education of the Methodist Church, a member of the executive and advisory committee of that board, as well as secretary of the church's division of colleges and universities. In addition, he was also a trustee of Ohio Wesleyan University.



President McIntosh

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Although he assumed the duties of office on June 30, 1949, President McIntosh was not installed until October 9. For the first time in two decades, a president of the university was inaugurated without impending doom clouding the ceremony, and those arranging the event pulled out all the stops. A colorful procession of delegates from more than 140 institutions marched from Taft Gymnasium to Lehr Memorial. The auditorium in Lehr was filled to capacity, and the proceedings were broadcast by station WLOK, Lima.

Clark Hall

One piece of unfinished business left from the McClure administration was the matter of a dormitory for women. Shortly before President McClure's retirement, land had been purchased for a building, but discussion was still underway on the exact nature of the projected structure when McIntosh entered office. Ground breaking took place in November 1949, and, despite a shortage of construction materials, the building was ready for use for fall quarter 1950. At that year's homecoming ceremonies, the building was named for the president of the board of trustees, Dr. John Clark of Marion.



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

At its inception, the building's first floor was designated a student union, a facility for which there had been considerable agitation. The second floor was to house approximately 30 co-eds until a larger dormitory could be completed. At that point the second floor would be occupied by male students. As it turned out, the entire structure was designated a women's dormitory, and the student union was omitted. The change was prompted by the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950. As President McIntosh observed:

It soon became increasingly clear ... that the international situation was becoming increasingly serious, and that a girl's dormitory would not be a possibility in the immediate future. With the military situation becoming as tense as it has become, it also became evident that Ohio Northern must make every effort to increase her enrollment of young women at all costs.

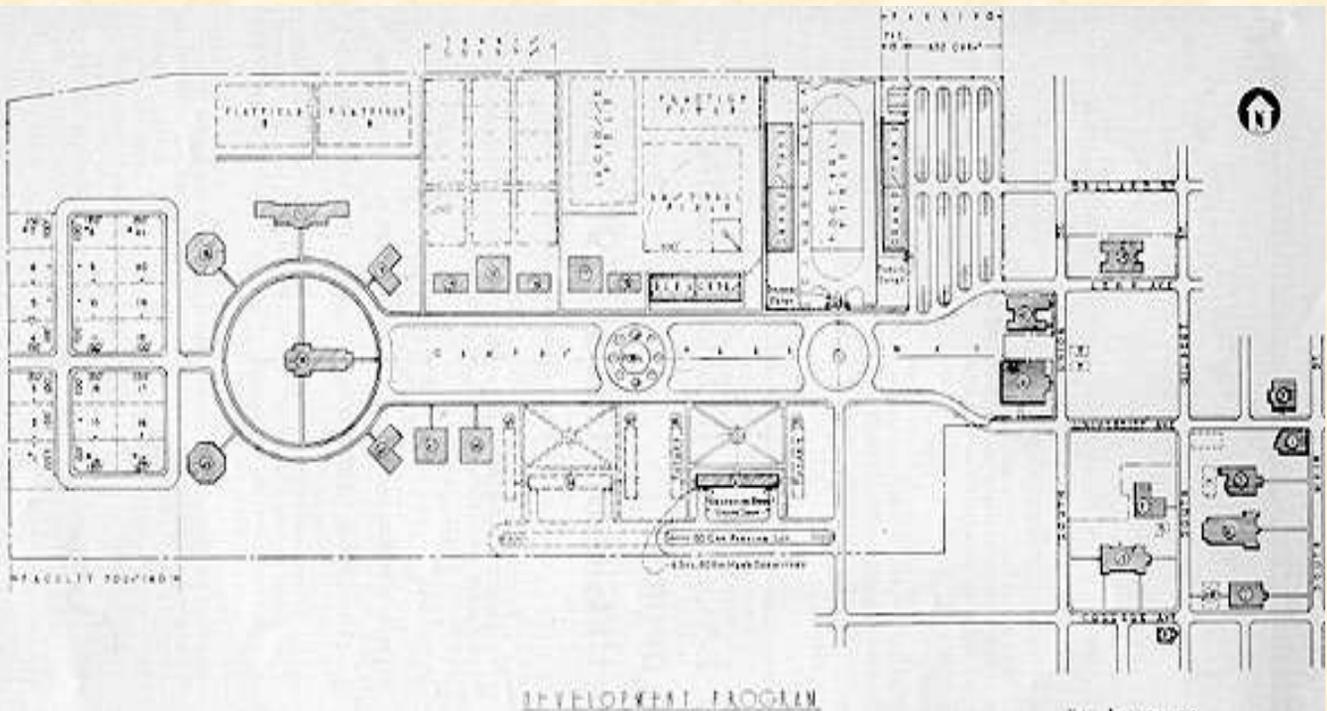
Faced with the possibility of many male students again being eligible for the draft, the need for a student union suddenly became less pressing.

Although some students were drafted, the nightmare of World War II was not repeated. Enrollment for fall quarter 1949 stood at 1,152; one year later this had dropped to approximately 950. By October 1951, roughly 850 students were on campus. The university attempted, as in the past, to mitigate these declines by instituting military training on campus. At Northern's request, a preliminary inspection of campus facilities was undertaken in February 1951 by the head of the air ROTC program at Ohio State University. Unfortunately, some 450 other institutions had the same idea, and in the end only 62 were chosen. Northern was not among the finalists. In any case, a truce in July 1953 had been signed, and selective service was no longer a concern.

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Future Planning

Ever since the College of Agriculture had vacated the university farm in the 1920s, the wide stretch of land west of the main campus had beckoned Northern's visionaries. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, the main concern of Ohio Northern had been survival, not expansion. However, as the tide of post-war prosperity washed over the university, Northern's planners again looked westward. What they saw for the area beyond Union Street was reflected in a campus plan printed in the October 1955 *Ohio Northern Alumnus*. It showed a boulevard running down the middle of the former farm with academic buildings on the north side and dormitories on the south.²³ The boulevard terminated in a traffic circle, around which academic buildings were arranged. Lots were platted to the west of the circle for faculty housing. With the exception of the placement of the boulevard, academic buildings around the circle, and faculty housing, this general scheme was followed from the 1950s though the '80s.



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Engineering Gains Space

Prior to seeking approval of its program, the College of Engineering also sought more adequate quarters. The college had occupied part of Hill Building since 1934 and had been using the university power plant for practical training. Clearly, more space was needed.

In January 1952, Northern was able to purchase the old Ada elementary school as a site for the College of Engineering. The price for the 18-room brick structure and surrounding land was \$18,500. The building, which was constructed in 1892, required and received extensive remodeling and new heating and sanitary systems. Even so, the building was ready for an open house in February 1953. The formal dedication took place that June. Four years later, it was necessary to convert the original school auditorium to classrooms and to replace the roof. While it offered the college considerably greater space, the structure was inconveniently located some seven blocks north of the main campus. Even with the costs of remodeling and upkeep, however, the building was a reasonable expedient until more permanent quarters could be secured.

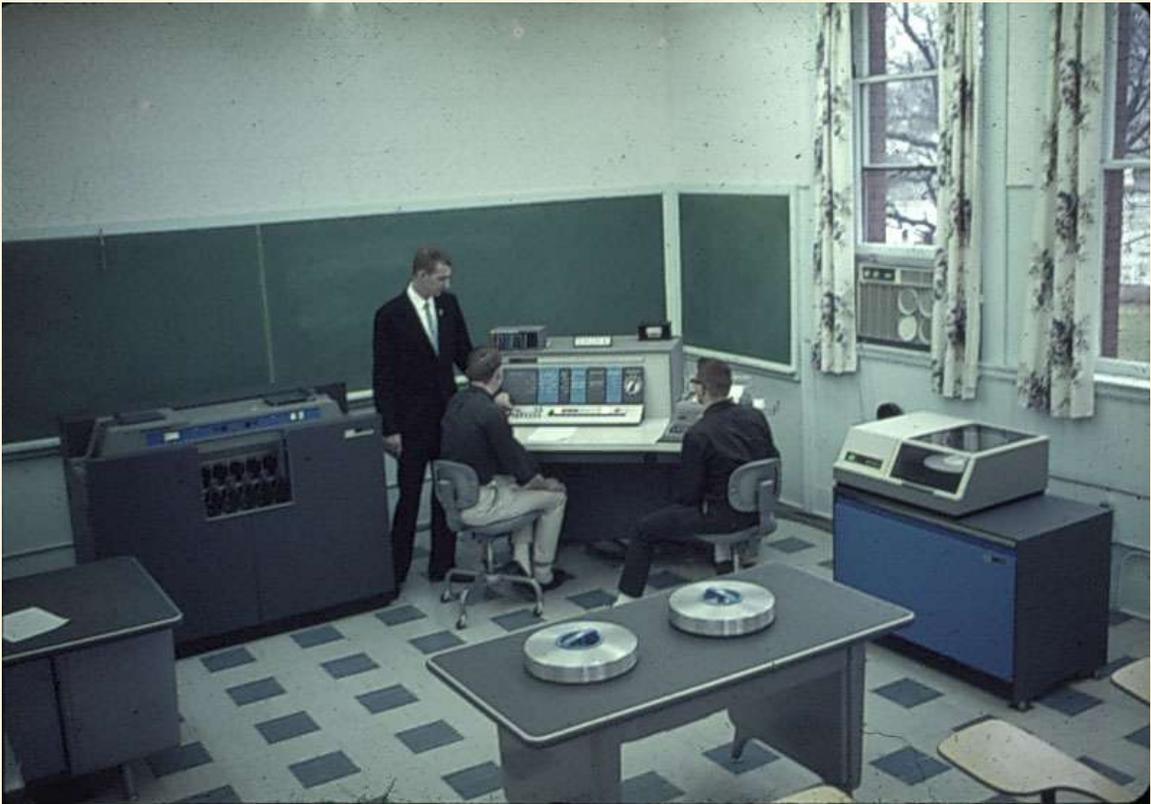


Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Main Hallway in Old Engineering Building

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



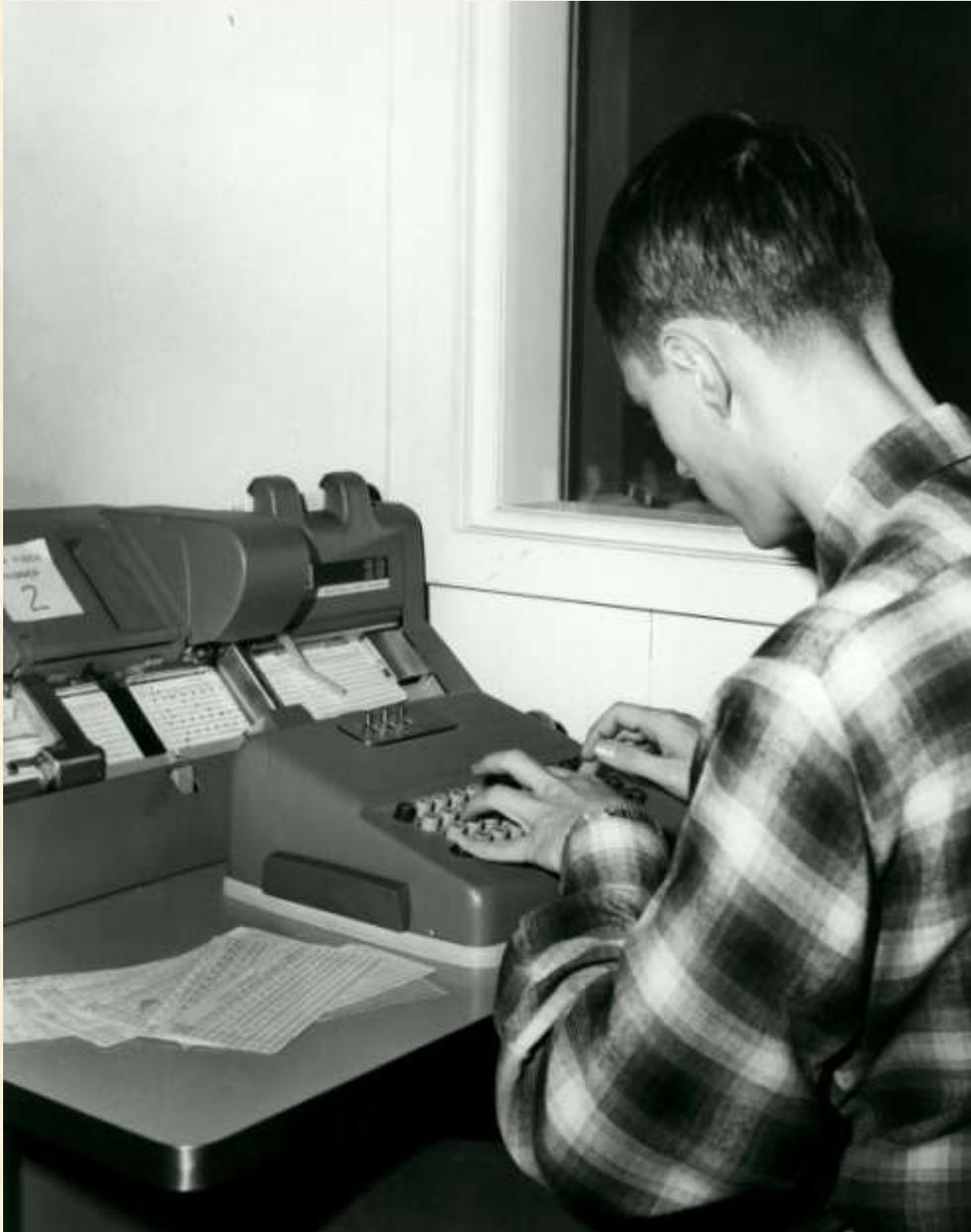
1964 – Computer Lab

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Ohio Northern's First Computer – IBM Model 1610

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Data Entry via Punch Card

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Electrical Engineering Lab

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Undergraduate Library Moves

The undergraduate library had been a concern to the university since at least 1931 when the Methodist Church's Commission on Survey had commented adversely on the matter. In 1952, another inspection body visited Northern, this time a team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. They, too, found the library deficient.

As a result, the trustees decided, in December 1952, to relocate the library from Brown to Presser Hall, which offered both increased seating space for patrons and more adequate shelving for the collection. During the summer of 1953 the sloping floor and orchestra pit in Presser's auditorium were filled with soil over which a level concrete floor was poured. The stage was removed, and a steel-framed, three-floor book stack was erected in its place. The auditorium was used as a reading room while the stack area housed the library's collections. The former practice rooms behind the first-floor stacks were removed. That space was converted into offices and an area for processing incoming materials. Moving the approximately 30,000-volume collection started on August 17, 1953, and the new facility was ready for use that fall quarter. At commencement ceremonies the following spring, the facility was named the Heterick Memorial Library after Dr. and Mrs. Robert Heterick for their generous support of the library over the years.



1950's – Students in Reading Room

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Former Willis Auditorium Converted to Reading Room
Currently (2008) Snyder Recital Hall

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Book Shelving in West End of Presser

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



The Schoonover Language Lab was also installed in Presser.

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

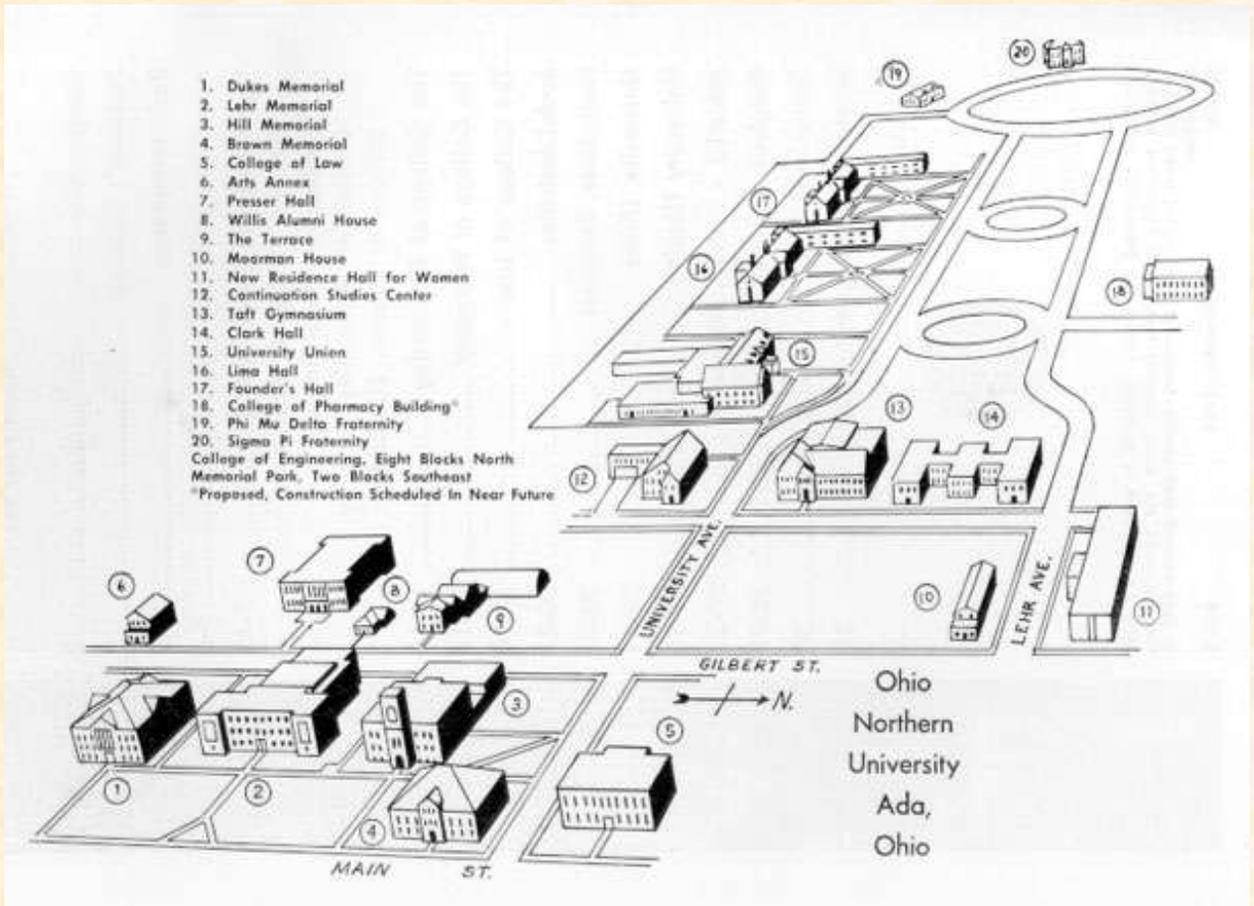
Study Center Built

The next academic building to be constructed was the Pharmacy Continuation Study Center. Ground was broken in June 1964 on a site south of Taft Gymnasium.³¹ The center was originally to be used to "provide conference rooms and added facilities for practicing pharmacists and other professional groups [as well as] serve as headquarters for the science center of which the pharmacy building [would] be the first unit constructed." Although the center was used for this purpose only briefly, the building has proven useful for housing a variety of student services including the admissions and financial aid offices



Currently (2008) Weber Hall, Home of Admissions Office

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Campus Map From 1964
 Note Boulevard Down Center of West Campus

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Aerial View in Early 1960's, Looking West

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Pharmacy Student in Dukes

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

New Pharmacy Building

Since 1934, the College of Pharmacy had occupied quarters in Dukes Memorial. Although this depression-era expedient had been acceptable in the past, by the 1960s more suitable facilities were clearly called for. At their spring 1964 meeting, the university's trustees approved a new pharmacy building, the first in the west-campus science complex. The ground breaking ceremony took place in October as part of that year's homecoming festivities. Despite the size and complexity of the project, the building was ready for occupancy at the beginning of spring quarter 1966. It was subsequently named for two Lehr-era pharmacy graduates, James D. Robertson and Thomas J. Evans, in recognition of their financial support of the College of Pharmacy.



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Terrace Become Student Union

Under President McIntosh, improvements were not limited just to academic buildings. Over the years, several attempts had been made to establish a student union on campus. As previously mentioned, the original plans for Clark Hall had called for a student center on the first floor with the top floor as a dormitory for women. This early concept was not carried out but, in the fall of 1953, the Student Council, Pan Hellenic Council, and Inter- Fraternity Council organized a petition drive for a union. Apparently, a significant number of students approved the measure, which also called for a five-dollar quarterly fee to pay for the project. The following spring, the trustees voted to add a temporary structure to the back of the Terrace. By May 1954, the contract for the union had been awarded at a cost of \$21,000. The Terrace Union was open the following fall with the facility's snack bar in service February 1955.



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Cafeteria Opened

As was noted at the outset, the Terrace Union was strictly a stop-gap measure. By 1960, Northern was in a position to construct a more permanent facility. There was also a definite need for such a structure since enrollment had climbed to 1,460 in the fall of 1960. The project proceeded in phases. In mid-1958, construction of the cafeteria began just to the east of the future Lima Hall on what had earlier been part of the University Farm. (At that time the only structures on west campus were three houses, two of which were owned by faculty members. The balance of the land was leased to an area farmer.) The cafeteria was completed for the opening of spring quarter 1959.



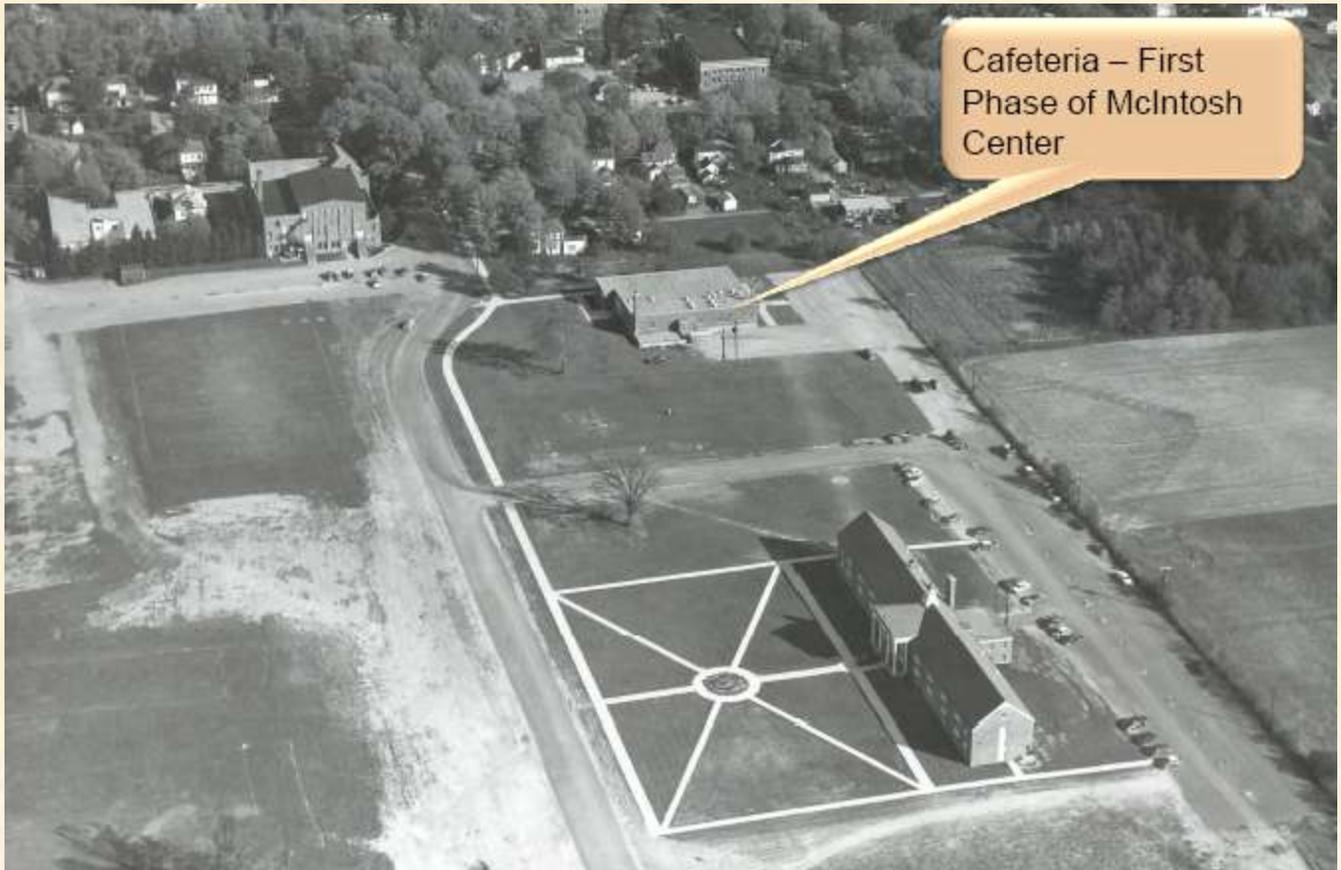
Future West Campus – Looking East

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

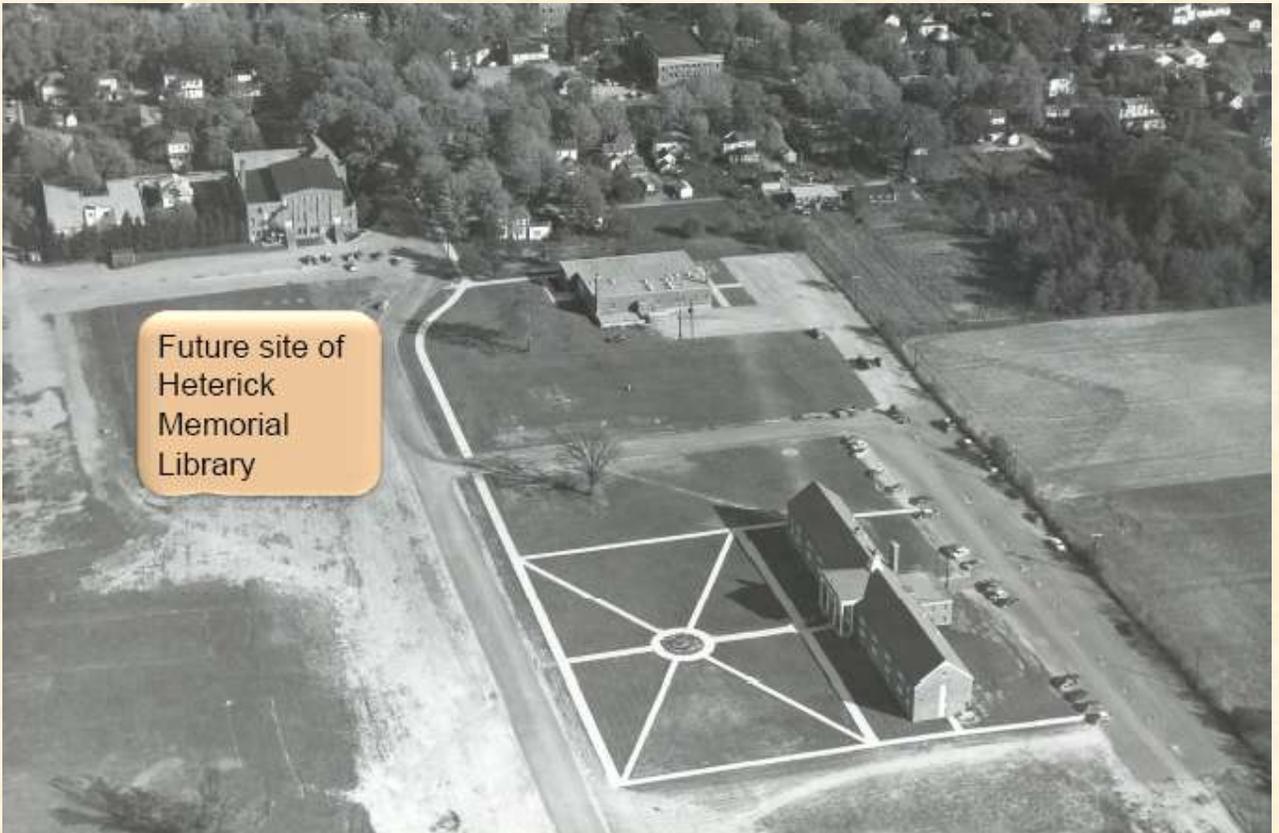


Looking West from Taft Gym Along West University Ave.
Future Site of McIntosh Center
Note WWII Trailers Have Been Removed

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



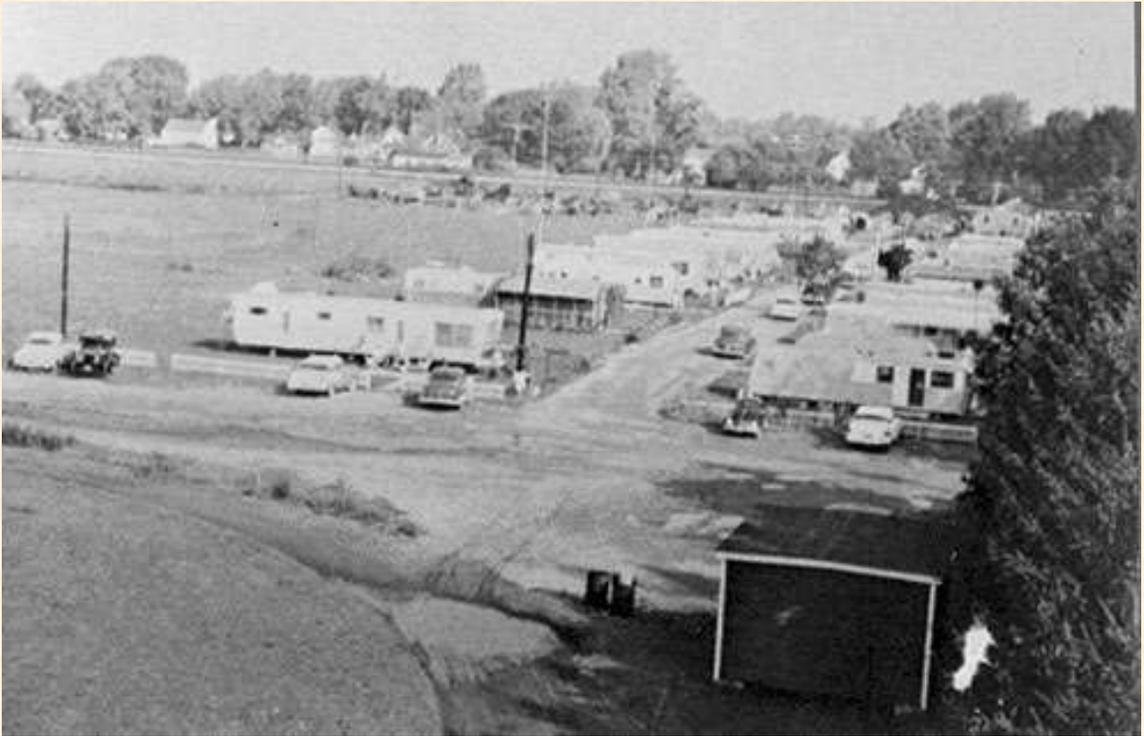
East Side of Cafeteria

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Farming West Campus Near Future Site of English Chapel
Note Last of WWII Trailers in Background

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Trailers from Clark Hall – Looking North

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

At their spring 1960 meeting, the trustees approved the construction of an addition to the cafeteria. It was not until early 1963, however, that a \$613,954 contract was awarded for the work. That spring, ground was broken for the union, and, by early April, the *Northern Review* was able to include a picture of the first walls being constructed. Though not all of the facilities were ready, the building was opened in January 1964.

Only a short time later, in the summer of 1966, work was begun to further enlarge the student union. This addition included the White Bear Inn, four more conference rooms on the building's second floor, an enlarged book store, and substantial additions to the cafeteria's dining and serving space. The \$522,000 project was completed in 1967. After President McIntosh's retirement, the union was named in his honor.



Looking West from Taft Gym – After 1968

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Residence Halls Added

Throughout the 1950s and 60s, the size of the student body grew, increasing the need for additional men's and women's dormitories. In September 1955, a fund-raising drive was initiated among Lima businessmen for the construction of a men's dormitory on the west campus. The contract for the project was awarded in the fall of 1957, and excavation began that December. Despite a winter start, construction proceeded rapidly, and the new building, designated Lima Hall in honor of donors from that city, was occupied on September 21, 1958.



Lima Hall Under Construction – Looking West

Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration



Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Work was also proceeding simultaneously on a women's dormitory. The building was erected on the site of Turner Hall on the northwest corner of Gilbert Street and Lehr Avenue. Like Lima Hall, it was open for business fall quarter of 1958 and later expanded. The structure was named after Avaneil C. Stambaugh, a member of the board of trustees.

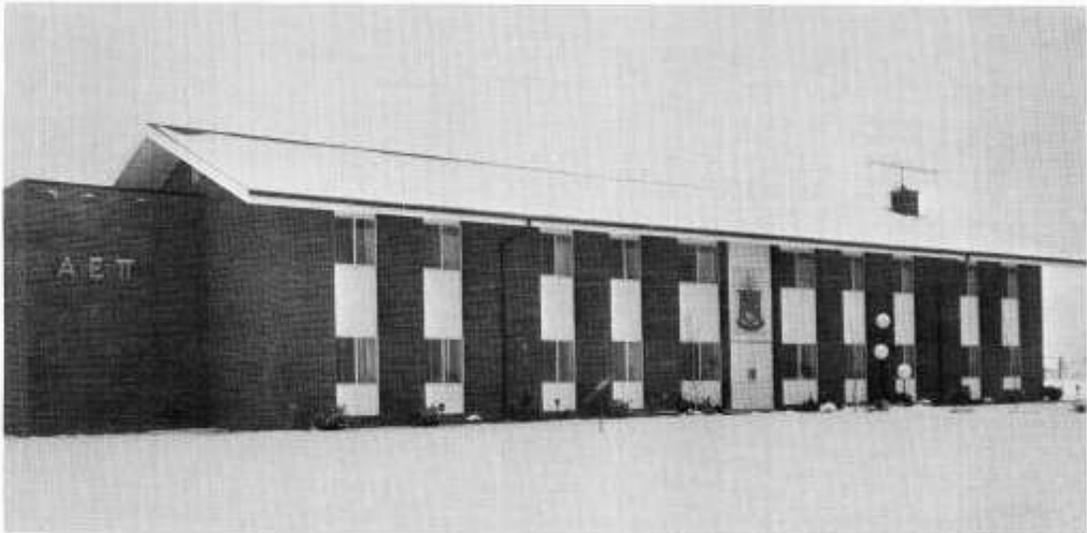


Chapter 11 -1950 – 1965, McIntosh Administration

Fraternity Circle

Not all of the residential buildings on west campus were dormitories. Three fraternities, Phi Mu Delta, Sigma Pi, and Delta Sigma Phi, chose to move onto campus during the McIntosh administration. Ground was broken for the Phi Mu Delta house in the fall of 1963, and the house was finished the following year. Delta Sigma Phi broke ground for their new house in 1964, and occupied their new home in January 1965. Alpha Epsilon Pi followed in 1965.

Alpha Epsilon Pi



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Phi Mu Delta



Delta Sigma Phi

1966-67

- Lima Hall
Complex
- Brookhart
 - Lima
 - Roberts



1966-67

- Founder's Hall
Complex
- Park
 - Founder's Hall
 - Maglott



1966-67

Delta Sigma
Phi



1966-67

Phi Mu
Delta



1966-67

Sigma
Pi



1966-67

Alpha Epsilon
Pi



1966-67

Future Site of Phi
Kappa Theta



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Ohio Northern University's seventh president, Dr. Samuel Lewis Meyer, was born on November 9, 1906, in Steinmetz, Missouri. He received a bachelor's degree from Central College in Fayette, Missouri in 1930, and was awarded a master of science degree from Vanderbilt in 1932. Dr. Meyer received his Ph. D. from the University of Virginia in 1940. He taught as an assistant professor of botany at the University of Tennessee between 1940 and 1945 and served as professor and department head from 1946 to 1951. His next teaching assignment was at Florida State University where he was head of the botany department from 1951 to 1955.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Dr. Meyer returned to his undergraduate alma mater in 1955 as dean of the college and remained there for the next three years. In 1958 he moved to Stockton, California, where he served as academic vice-president at the University of the Pacific, the position from which he was recruited as Northern's head. Unlike other post-Lehr presidents, President Meyer did not come to office through the Methodist Church. Indeed, he was the first president since Dr. Belt who was not an ordained Methodist minister.



Pres. Meyer, the Builder

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Campus Expands

As a result, the campus continued to expand and mature. This involved both the construction of numerous new facilities as well as the demolition of several older ones. During this period, the original campus along Main Street was connected to the west campus by the purchase and removal of numerous former residences.

New Pharmacy Building

In October 1966, just after entering office, it was President Meyer's happy duty to dedicate the Robertson-Evans Pharmacy Building. This structure had actually been started under President McIntosh but was not finished until March 1966, after his retirement. In addition to the current dean, Eugene Beltz, three former deans also attended the dedication ceremony. The group included Dr. Robert Fischelis, Dr. Albert Smith, and Dr. Rudolph Raabe. Raabe had led the college through good times and bad for the 34 years between 1917 and 1951.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Before Robertson-Evans
Pharmacy Class in Duker

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



South Main Stairs
Robertson-Evans

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Model Pharmacy

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Pharmacy Building in 1990's

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Heterick Library Opened

In addition to improving facilities for the College of Pharmacy, work was started on a new undergraduate library. The present Heterick Memorial Library was the first building to be both planned and executed under President Meyer. When the library was moved into Presser Hall in 1953, the collection was modest, and it served a student body of 760. By the mid-1960s the library housed some 70,000 volumes, and the population that it served had grown to 2,388. During summer 1965 a campus planning committee recommended to the trustees that a new undergraduate library be constructed on west campus.



Start of Construction – Looking South Toward Lima Hall

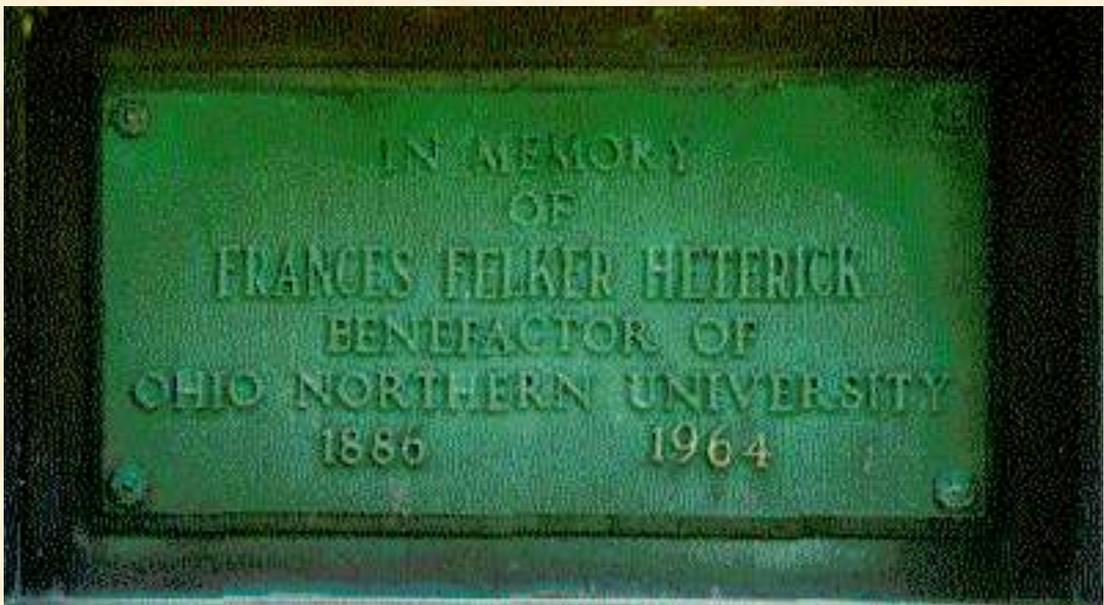
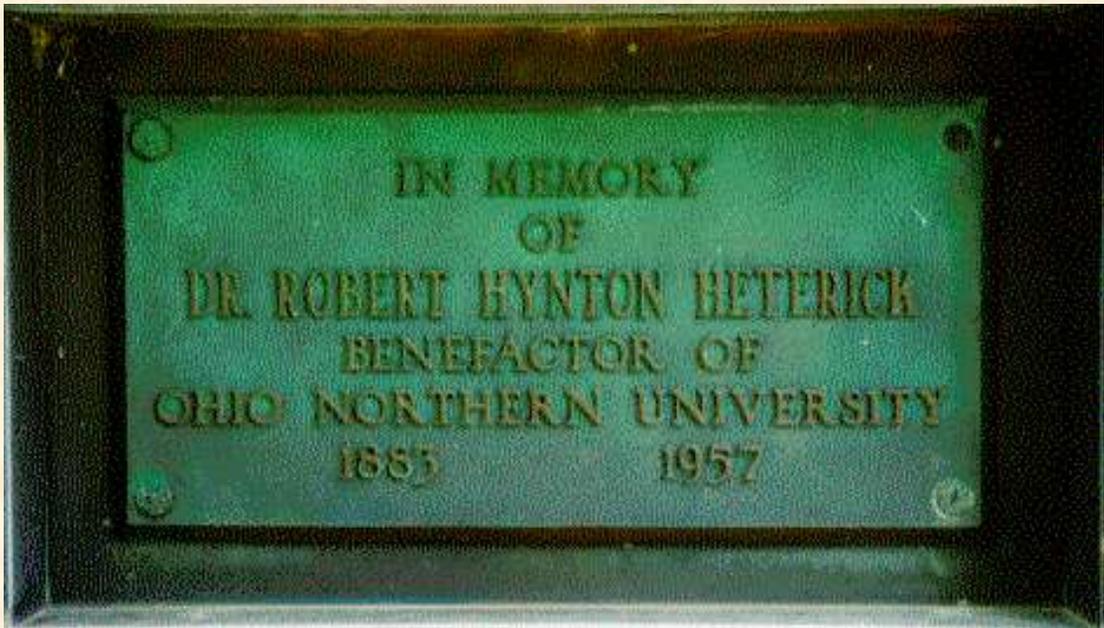
Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

By July 1966, the library project commenced with the awarding of a contract to the H.U. Tuttle Company of Lima. On August 27 ground was broken for the building behind Taft Gymnasium on the site of the former west campus football field. Construction of the 53,000 square foot structure was far enough advanced in the summer of 1967 to permit transfer of the ashes of the library's benefactors, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Heterick. They were taken from Presser Hall's lawn and placed in niches in the building's northwest corner. On Valentine's Day 1968, a human chain consisting of students, faculty and staff was organized to carry boxes of books from Presser Hall to Heterick, and, despite the scale of the move, the library was open and ready for business the following day. The actual dedication of the building was held on October 5, 1968.



Northwest Corner of Heterick with McIntosh Center in Rear

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Ashes of the Hetericks in the Library's N.W. Corner

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Winter 1968 – Just Before Opening

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Part of Student Book Brigade

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Carrying Books from Presser Hall to Heterick
February 1968

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Second Floor Periodicals Area – 1960's

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



West Campus, Ca. 1970
Looking East

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Religious Center Planned

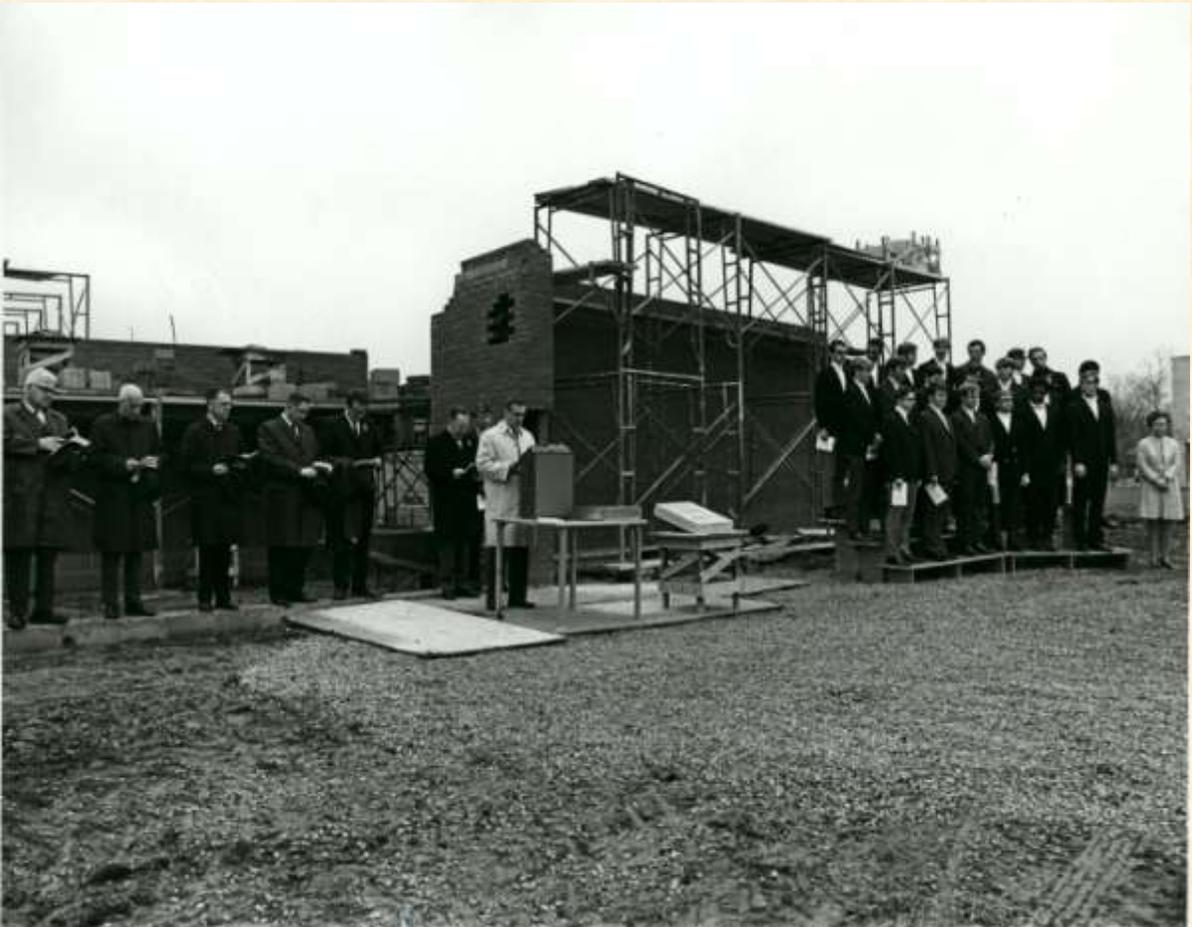
Less than three weeks later, the *Ada Herald* announced that plans were underway for a religious center to be located to the west of Heterick. In February 1969, the trustees approved plans for a center consisting of a chapel and a separate classroom building. They authorized detailed plans and specifications to be made with the expectation that construction would begin that summer and be completed in the summer of 1970. In April 1971 dual dedications were held for the English Chapel, named for ONU trustee Walter English, and the classroom building. Two years later, the latter structure was named for Dr. J. Otis Young, a member of the board of trustees since 1947.



Cornerstone Laying Ceremony
Looking S.E. to McIntosh Center

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

The chapel itself featured a 50 bell Schulmerich carillon, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter English. The device, which was dedicated on October 4, 1970, can be played either manually from a separate console or in a variety of automatic modes. It has marked the hours and half-hours over the years.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



President Meyer

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Basic Sciences Complex

The same month that Heterick Memorial Library opened, February 1968, the board of trustees ordered detailed drawings for a \$2.3 million basic science center. The center was to be located northwest of the pharmacy building. Funding for the project came from a mixture of numerous private and corporate contributions and a federal loan from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. On November 22, 1968, ground was broken, and it was dedicated on October 3, 1970. At its completion, the two-story center was the largest and most expensive building on campus. The structure was subsequently named the Samuel L. Meyer Hall of Science in honor of President Meyer.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

New Engineering Building

While construction was still underway on the basic science center, the trustees turned their attention to the needs of the College of Engineering. At that time, the college was still located in the former Ada elementary school, nine blocks north of the main campus. Early in 1969, the university received a \$572,786 federal construction grant, which covered roughly one-third of the building's projected cost. By summer of the following year, planning had been completed, and ground breaking took place on July 10, 1970. The building was available for use November 1971 and was formally dedicated on February 26, 1972. The structure was named after Robert W. Biggs, a 1930 graduate of Ohio Northern and president and chairman of the board of Brush-Wellman Manufacturing Company of Cleveland.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



West Campus in Early 1970's
Upper Right – Pharmacy and Meyer Hall Completed
Biggs Engineering Building Under Construction
Looking North

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Old Engineering Building in Ada High School, 1953 – 1971
Demolition by Village of Ada

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Calendar Change

While students and faculty were interested in the political and social questions of the day, Ohio Northern in the 1960's and 70's, saw little of the disruptions that marked other campuses. This is not to say that the university's president did not have his concerns.

It appears that in the early 1970's Pres Meyer decided to reduce the potential for riots by changing the traditional calendar. Up to that point, graduation had been in mid-June. Under the new scheme, commencement fell in mid to late May. This shortened the time for protests, and it also gave students a jump on obtaining summer employment.

One unintended consequence was that the annual May Day celebrations, held in early May, were squeezed out of the social calendar. May Day, with its parades, floats and other activities had been an important part of campus life since the end of WWII. May Day events were shifted to the annual Fall homecoming.



Parade at Intersection of South Main St. and University Ave.
1958

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Floats on South Main St. In Front of Lehr Memorial

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



May Day Parade, 1960 - The King and Queen Approach
South Main St. In Front of Lehr Memorial
Note Brown Hall to Left

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Cutting the Ribbon to Open the Parade, 1960

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Parade, 1960

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Athletic Facilities Expand

That same year, thought was given to updating Northern's athletic facilities. Since 1929, the university's indoor athletic needs had been served by Taft Gymnasium. By the early 1970s, however, this structure was sadly out of date. Taft suffered from, among other things, a lack of storage space and inadequate seating. A large crowd occasionally meant that basketball fans were obliged to sit on the edge of the court. Taft was also drafty, and the stiff winter winds prevalent in Ada apparently proved more than a match for the gym's furnace.



South Side of Taft Gym – Looking North
Across W. University Ave.

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Taft Gym Interior

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

King Gift Provides Facility

The need for a new athletic facility was being discussed when, in 1972, a timely gift from the estate of Mrs. Helen H. King gave the process a push. Mrs. King had led a reclusive life in Eaton, Ohio since her husband's death during WWII. While she may not have had a wide circle of friends, she did have a flair for picking investments. At her death, the university received \$1,800,000, most of which was in common stocks. Although she herself did not attend Northern, her brother, Fred Horn, was a 1911 alumnus of the College of Pharmacy. It was for Mrs. King, her husband, and her brother that the King-Horn Athletic-Convocation Center was subsequently named.

In September 1972, planning began in earnest with the formation of a building committee and the selection of an architect. At their winter 1973 meeting, the university trustees approved plans for the center to be located between the Biggs Engineering Building and Fraternity Circle. In April, contracts were awarded for the project and a ground breaking ceremony was held. After 17 months of construction, the new center was opened in time for fall quarter of 1974, though it was not totally completed. A dedication ceremony and open house took place on February 7, 1975.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



King-Horn – Looking North
Across Lake Neiheiser

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

The question then arose of what to do with Taft Gymnasium now that the King-Horn Center had rendered it redundant. In February 1974, the last basketball game was played in Taft against Ferris State. At their winter 1975 meeting, the trustees approved plans for a \$600,000 renovation of Taft to house the industrial arts department. The most apparent change came to the exterior of the building. The pitched roof was removed and replaced with a flat one. The floor plan was extensively reworked and the entrances enlarged. New classrooms and laboratories were built in cavity left by removal of the basketball court. What emerged for the March 1976 open house was a totally revamped and modern building.



Removal of Basketball Court

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Taft – Before and After

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Art Center and Gallery

The art department also benefitted from the Meyer-era construction boom. Over the years the department had led a nomadic existence, moving first from quarters in downtown Ada, then to the Wesleyan chapel south of Presser Hall. In 1963, the department was assigned the use of a room to the rear of the former Garver auto parts store on West Lincoln, and some classes were also taught in the old Terrace Union. These arrangements were clearly not conducive to the department or its students.

At their February 1976 meeting, the trustees approved the construction of a new art building between the law building and Presser Hall. This area had been occupied by two fraternities, the house of former governor Frank Willis and the Terrace Union. The Terrace, originally the home of S.M. Johnson, had served as, among other things, a dormitory for freshmen women and a student union. Many campus offices had been located there over the years, and its last tenant was the department of speech and theater.



Pres. Meyer at Cornerstone Laying

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Prior to the start of construction, the site was cleared of all these structures. The cornerstone was laid on May 22, 1976, and by that December work had progressed far enough to permit some classes to be held in the art building. At a ceremony in May 1977, the main part of the structure was named the Hoyt F. and Julia M. Wilson Art Center, founders of Kewpee Hamburgers restaurants. The attached art gallery was named for William O. Elzay, a 1925 alumnus and former member of the board of trustees.



North Side of Wilson Art Building

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Law Building

Construction of new facilities was not limited to the undergraduate colleges. The College of Law also received a new building in the 1970s. The college had moved into what is now Huber Building in 1924, but the growth in enrollment and in the size of the law library rendered the building obsolete. In March 1970 a ten-member committee consisting, of students, faculty and administrators, was appointed to plan for a new building.

The structure was erected in stages with ground being broken for the first section on a chilly, windy Sunday in early March 1972. This phase included the construction of the Taggart Law Library, student lounge, and offices. Meanwhile, classes continued to meet in the old building on Main Street. In the fall of 1972, the trustees approved construction of the second phase of the building. This section contained classrooms, offices, and the moot court room, and work was underway by January of 1973. The new law building was given a fitting dedication in October of that year Associate Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun as keynote speaker. Three years later, the facility was named in honor of Earle B. Tilton, a 1917 graduate, in recognition for a \$700,000 gift.

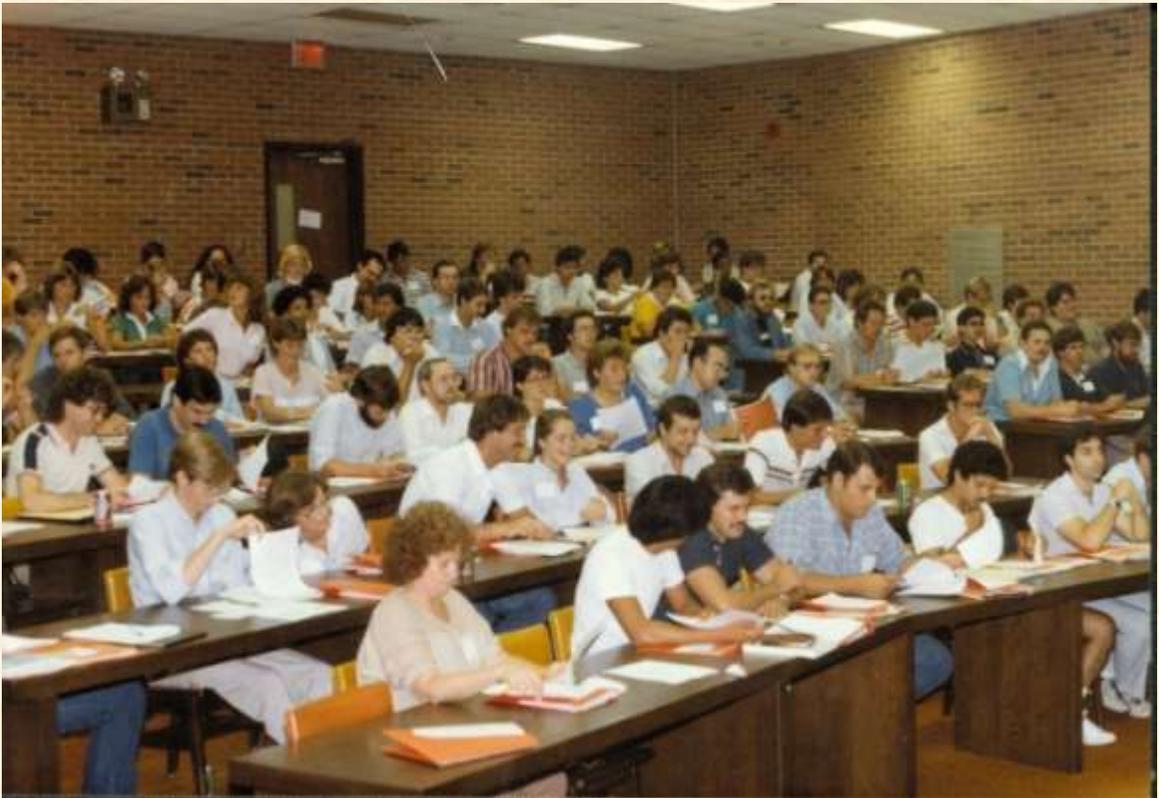


Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Student Lounge

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Moot Court Room

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

In addition to several academic buildings, two wings were added to Founders Hall. The east section was begun in spring 1966. In 1973, the wings were officially named. The east wing became Park Hall, named after John G. Park, one of the original proprietors of the school before its sale to the Methodist church. The west wing was named after Frederick and Eva Maglott. All three individuals served on Northern's faculty under President Lehr.



Construction of Park Hall
Pharmacy Building in Background

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Park Hall (L), Founder's Hall (C), Maglott Hall (R) Looking South
Note Remains of Central Campus Boulevard in Foreground

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

New Fraternity Houses

Two more fraternities moved onto campus during this period. In 1967, construction began on a new house for Alpha Sigma Phi which was located between the Delta Sigma Phi and Phi Mu Delta houses. The two-story structure was dedicated on April 21, 1968. In early October 1967, Phi Kappa Theta broke ground for an on-campus house which they occupied in January 1969.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Campus Beautification

Along with the new construction, several older and less functional structures on campus had to be demolished. In the fall of 1970, the former Wesleyan Chapel on the corner of Gilbert Street and College Avenue was razed. It had been used by the music department between 1910 and 1929, and then by the biology and botany department. At the time of its removal it had fallen into disrepair and was being used for storage.



Wesleyan Chapel at Corner of S. Gilbert St. and W. College Ave.

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Over the 1976 Labor Day weekend, the university also razed Brown Hall. Originally constructed as an auditorium, Brown served over the years as a gymnasium, cafeteria, library, and finally a general catch-all for departments awaiting new buildings. The industrial arts department was the last to use Brown. When the renovation of Taft was completed, Brown became superfluous. Because of problems placing the building at the time of its construction, Brown occupied an awkward location directly in front of Hill Building. Its removal both improved the appearance of the campus along Main Street as well as provided a clearer view of the newer structures to the west.



Brown Building As Seen From S. Main Street
Pre-1922

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



1976 – Demolition From In Front of Hill Building



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Demolition of Terrace and Former Snack Bar

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

East Campus and West Campus Unite

The process of building the campus culminated the year before President Meyer retired. On June 11, 1977, a ceremony uniting the east and west campus was held. As the west campus grew in the 1950s and '60s, it and the front campus along Main Street were separated by numerous private residences. As late as 1965, there were still 29 older houses between the two sections. Although some were still in private hands, others were owned by Northern and were being used for university purposes. By the time of the ceremony, all had been removed, and the university swept unbroken westward for almost a mile.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Centennial Celebration

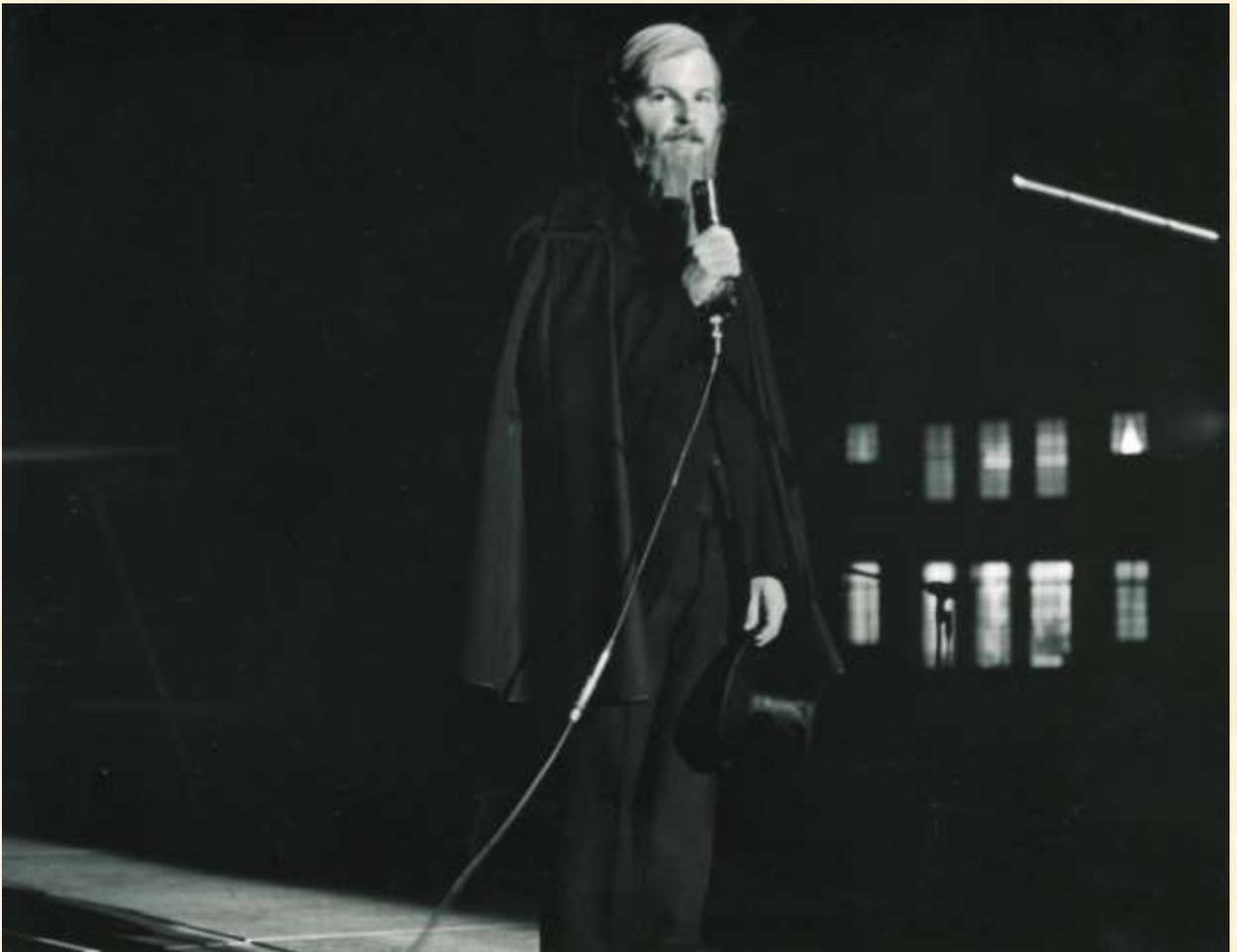
A considerable amount of the construction early in President Meyer's administration had been financed by a fund-raising campaign that was tied to the university's centennial celebration. The centennial year ran from August 14, 1970, to August 15, 1971, and the year before a planning committee of alumni, students, university personnel, and churchmen was organized.



Centennial Pageant

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

The committee arranged a year-long set of notable commemorative events. By act of Congress, a commemorative medal was struck, and a resolution congratulating Ohio Northern on its 100th anniversary was inserted in the *Congressional Record*. The *Ada Herald* published a handsome centennial edition, and in spring 1971 the Wesley Center was dedicated. The year was capped by an two and one-half hour historical pageant which was held on the evenings of June 5 and 12. The show, written and produced by Professor Ron Ladwig of the ONU speech and theater department, was staged in the area between Heterick and the Wesley Center.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaks

One of the more significant events of this period was the January 11, 1968 visit to Ohio Northern by Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King was induced to speak at Northern by Chaplain Richard Udy as part of that year's chapel series on Christian Faith and Contemporary Problems. Taft Gymnasium was used for the event, but it was necessary to run a public address connection to Lehr Memorial's auditorium where an overflow crowd was seated.

Chaplain Udy had accompanied King and his party during the flight from Cleveland to Lima and drove Dr. King to Ada. In his haste to arrive on time, Udy exceeded the speed limit and was stopped for speeding. Recounting the incident for the audience, King quipped that he'd admonished his host to slow down since he would prefer to be known as "Martin Luther King the late, rather than the late Martin Luther King."



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

In his 48-minute address, Dr. King touched on many of the problems facing America that year. He reviewed the progress made by the civil rights movement so far and commented on how it had managed to "subpoena the conscience ... of the nation."³⁹ He also discussed at length the continuing need for greater racial and economic justice in America. While strongly condemning the previous summer's riots, he also pointed out that riots were "the language of the unheard" and suggested that perhaps the "long hot summers" commonly referred to were due to "winters of delay." Although some in the audience may have disagreed with parts of his message, especially his increasingly critical views on Vietnam, he was given an attentive hearing and an enthusiastic ovation.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Distinctive Emblems

While the university's academic programs and extracurricular activities helped to foster a sense of institutional identity, Northern still lacked a set of distinctive emblems. At their February 4, 1967 meeting, the trustees moved to remedy the situation when they adopted as the university's official motto "Ex Diversitate Vires" or "From diversity strength." As was noted at the time:

The one feature which makes Ohio Northern different from most other small, church-related universities is the diversity of its program as represented by its four colleges: Liberal Arts, Engineering, Pharmacy, and Law. As a result, it provides invaluable opportunities for intellectual contacts among faculty members and students in widely divergent disciplines in a closely knit academic community. We believe this to be the unique strength of Ohio Northern.



Early ONU Seal

Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Although the institution had had an official seal for many years, it was confusingly similar to that of the state of Ohio. At the same February meeting, the trustees approved a banner for the university which was replicated for the seal. The significance of the banner and seal was explained as follows:

At the top it bears the name and motto of the University. Below, the banner [and seal] is divided into quadrants representing the appropriate colors and symbols of the four colleges arranged from left to right and then from right to left in the order of their founding: upper left - white for Liberal Arts (1871); upper right - orange for engineering (1882); lower right - olive green for Pharmacy (1884); and lower left - purple for Law (1885). The quadrants are separated by a broad scarlet band in the form of a cross which indicates the relationship of the University to the Church.

The name of the university and its new motto surrounded the quadrants.



Chapter 12 – 1966 – 1978 – Meyer Administration

Many Advances

As the 1970s drew to a close, President Meyer could review the accomplishments of his administration with considerable satisfaction. Not only had Ohio Northern avoided the disturbances common at some other institutions, but the university enjoyed a degree of financial prosperity not seen since President Smith's time. Enrollments increased throughout the period, and the university's benefactors helped greatly to underwrite a major building program. Seven buildings were added to the campus, Heterick Memorial Library, the Wesley Center, Meyer Hall of Science, the Biggs Engineering Building, Tilton Hall of Law, the King-Horn Center, and the Wilson Art Building. The former Taft Gymnasium was remodeled, and numerous older, less-functional structures and houses were removed. As an added benefit, the availability of gifts and grants allowed these projects to be completed without the university's becoming overly encumbered by debt. After twelve years in office, President Meyer announced his retirement to the board of trustees on May 22, 1976 effective August 31, 1977.



Pres. and Mrs. Meyer From Top of Pharmacy Building
Biggs Engineering building in Background

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

Dr. Ray B. Loeschner was born in McCordsville, Indiana, and grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He attended Grand Rapids Junior College where he earned an associate of arts degree in 1951. In 1953, he graduated from Albion College with a B.A. He completed his education by earning an M.A. and a Ph.D. in psychology-guidance and administration at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Before beginning his graduate studies, Loeschner served as an instructor and coach at Lake Forest College. While at Northwestern he served as an instructor in education and psychology, a residence hall counselor, and an assistant coach.

Dr. Loeschner began his post-graduate career by teaching as an assistant professor of education at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, from 1959-64. Between 1964 and 1966 he served as dean of student affairs and a professor of psychology and education at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. At Washburn, he also was a member of the president's cabinet. In that post he was responsible for Washburn's law and graduate schools.



Pres. Ray B. Loeschner

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

In 1966 Loeschner returned to Michigan, this time as assistant to the president at Eastern Michigan University. The following year he was also appointed vice president for administrative affairs at Eastern Michigan. This post included supervisory responsibilities for academic affairs, student affairs, public affairs, and off-campus education

President of Olivet College

In 1970, he was selected president of Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan. An article in the *Ada Herald* detailed the improvements to Olivet's campus that had been made under President Loeschner as well as changes to the curriculum. In terms of formal credentials, the incoming president appeared highly qualified for his new post. As Ohio Northern University's eighth president, Loeschner took charge of an institution which had enjoyed almost three decades of unbroken prosperity and growth. It appeared that enrollment could be increased almost at will. Ever-greater tuition income fueled the construction of numerous new buildings and the renovation of older ones. Yet even with the massive building program under presidents McIntosh and Meyer, the university's budget had been consistently balanced. True, there were a few Jeremiahs in the educational community suggesting that the seemingly endless supply of baby-boom college students was about to dry up. Northern, however, had basked in the glow of ever-rising enrollments, and nothing had been done to prepare for such an unpleasant possibility.

"Speedy Evolution"

Like all new university presidents, Dr. Loeschner brought certain plans and assumptions to his new post. He believed, correctly it turned out, that the pool of high school graduates would decline in the 1980s, especially for Ohio where Northern recruited most of its student body. He clearly announced this view to the faculty at their monthly meetings, to the Ada community via the local newspaper, and to alumni through the university's annual report. His solution was to change Northern, and his motto was "not revolution, but speedy evolution." The end result of his speedy evolution was to "graduate students into jobs, and not into oblivion."

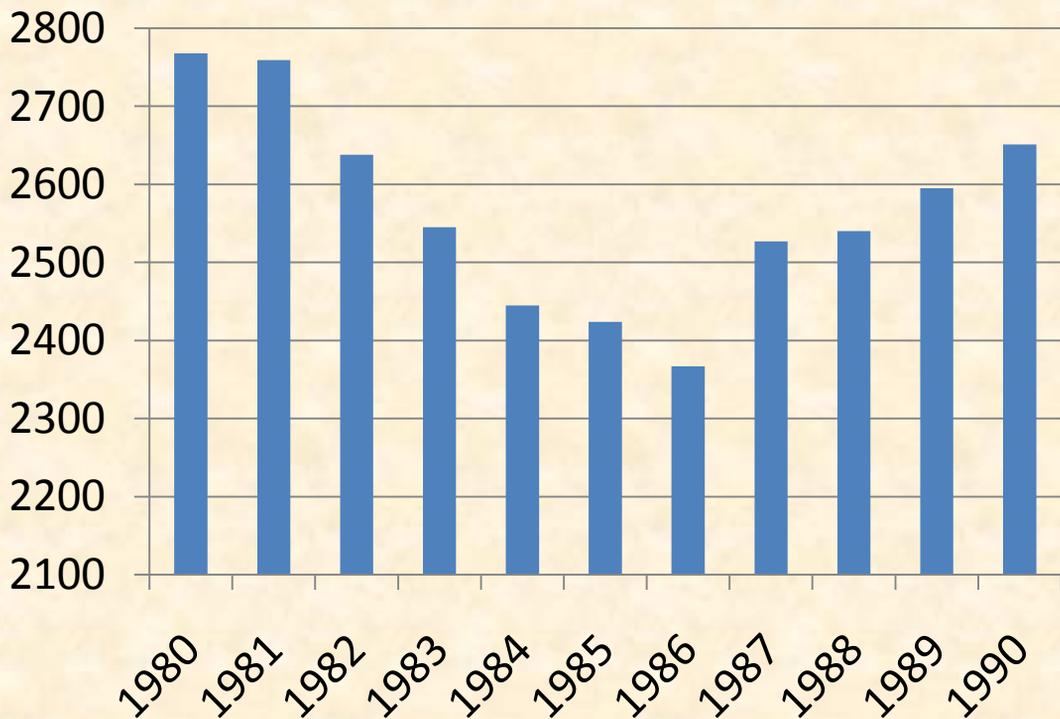
Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

Curricular Changes

President Loeschner reasoned, sensibly from his perspective, that if the university were to compete successfully for its share of the shrinking pool of potential students, it would have to institute major changes in the university's curriculum. Overall, more attention would need to be paid to graduating students with readily-marketable skills, skills which would not be those of the recent past.

As events were to show, President Loeschner was correct when it came to a looming drop in enrollment, but unfortunately, he did take the time to convince the faculty that his solutions were the correct ones. He also made a series of comments before local service organizations that were seen by faculty members as critical of themselves.

Enrollment 1980-1990



Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

"Meaningful Majors"

The solution, he said, was not to reduce the liberal arts but to revise them and combine them into "meaningful majors which reflect the kinds of job opportunities in the real world." Whatever the intrinsic merits of this program, it could have been more diplomatically explained. During the coming months, more than a few faculty members roused themselves from their cushioned stuffed chairs to take umbrage with the president.

Shortly after assuming office, President Loeschner announced the creation of a swim team and the resuscitation of the marching band. Under normal circumstances, neither would have likely occasioned much comment. Unfortunately, the president's recent remarks, coupled with the decision to cut the liberal arts faculty by two positions, meant that circumstances, in the view of many faculty members, were not at all normal. Little effort was made to prepare the campus for these changes, modest though they were.

Although President Loeschner created two additional programs, he was still concerned about overall staff numbers. If Northern were, in fact, to face a protracted reduction in tuition income, expenses would have to be commensurately reduced, and personnel costs were the biggest item in the budget. For both nonteaching staff and untenured faculty members, this was not a problem since both of these groups were on annual contracts. A significant drop in the number of majors for a given department could be met by reducing the number of non-tenured faculty. Those having tenure, however, presented ... difficulties.

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

Tenure System Discussed

At the December 6, 1977, faculty meeting, President Loeschner declared that ONU's tenure system constituted a "serious problem" and stated that he would not accept a tenure system similar to the one then in use. On February 2, 1978, he created the Tenure Review Committee to examine tenure policies. The group, consisting of seven senior faculty members, was given until May 1 to deliver its recommendations on tenure to the president. Some of the committee's suggestions were relatively non-controversial. Others, such as a department-by-department cap on the number of tenured faculty were less well received. Under this provision, the number of tenured positions allocated to a department would have been re-evaluated every three years and adjusted if necessary. Non-tenured faculty members in departments where the maximum number of tenured slots had been reached would be issued two-year contracts until they could be granted tenure. Given the growing distrust of Loeschner's motives, it is not surprising that some may have seen this as the first step in a wholesale purge of certain departments.

President Loeschner's criticism of tenure moved beyond the realm of policy when, in the spring of 1978, three senior faculty members were dismissed. All three appealed the decisions on the basis that the university had not followed the required procedures in such cases, and one was eventually reinstated. The merit or lack of merit in the dismissals aside, they merely served to add to the growing distrust of the president

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

New College Approved

At roughly the same time, President Loeschner recommended to the trustees that Northern institute a College of Business Administration.¹⁵ They, in turn, approved the plan at their February 1978 meeting. The new college was created by removing the department of business administration and economics from the College of Liberal Arts. To some, this step seemed an attempt to diminish the status of the liberal arts faculty while creating a rival organization with which the College of Liberal Arts might well have to compete for funds and staffing. Although the president was empowered to proceed in the matter with a minimum of faculty input, it was not prudent to do so. Irrespective of the merits of creating a fifth college, the manner in which it was done further clouded the campus atmosphere.



University Seal Revised to Accommodate The New College

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration



Huber Building – New Home of the
College of Business Administration

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

Quarter System

Considering the discontent already bubbling on campus, President Loeschner would have been well-advised to delay further policy changes. Unfortunately, he raised another sensitive issue. Northern had employed various forms of the quarter system since its inception. Although an increasing number of institutions were switching to a semester-based calendar, the quarter system enjoyed a fair amount of support on campus. By having three quarters plus a summer session, students could take more courses per academic year than they would be able to with only two semesters. Under a semester system, with fewer courses taught, the number of faculty might be reduced. President Loeschner's public pronouncements of the liberal arts led some to conclude that this was his ultimate goal.

Nevertheless, many faculty members did not reject out-of-hand the idea of switching to semesters. The Committee on Educational Policy (COEP), one of the university's governance bodies, had been studying the issue, and in January 1978, it issued a preliminary report. The committee discussed the possible advantages and disadvantages of such a move and recommended further study. Although there was considerable skepticism about the change, there was also widespread awareness of the disadvantages of the quarter calendar. Further study and discussion with those opposed was clearly advisable.



Computer Lab in Huber

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

President Decides

Unfortunately, further discussion was precisely what did not take place. Over the summer of 1978, the president's council decided that Northern would change to semesters beginning with the 1980-81 academic year.¹⁷ The council consisted of the president, vice presidents, and the academic deans. The faculty responded at their October 1978 meeting with a proposal which would have had the effect of delaying a final decision on the change. It was passed unanimously. At a subsequent meeting the faculty voted 65 to 44 for the undergraduate colleges to remain on the quarter system. President Loeschner stated that the decision to make the change was his prerogative and his decision stood.

During the summer, actions were taken which only worsened the situation. As previously mentioned, the president's council opted for a semester calendar without consulting the faculty. Work had also begun on an ornamental lake in the middle of fraternity circle. Although the cost was partially underwritten by a gift from a member of the board of trustees, in the increasingly hostile campus atmosphere, it became a symbol, to the less charitably inclined, of administrative ostentation. For his part, President Loeschner announced that during the 1978-79 academic year he was relinquishing the chairmanship of faculty meetings to the interim vice president for academic affairs. Loeschner's lack of communication with the faculty, real or imagined, had been the Leitmotif of the previous year, and this move merely served to inflame his critics.



Lake Neiheiser

Circa.
1978

Lake
Neiheiser



Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

"White Paper" Submitted

By the following January, relations between President Loeschner and his faculty had deteriorated to the point where they drafted a white paper for submission to the trustees at their winter 1979 meeting. The product of numerous meetings and much discussion, the paper was eventually signed by 75 faculty members, including Dean Bernard Linger of the College of Liberal Arts. According to the paper, the signers perceived Northern to be suffering from:

...serious problems of low morale (among faculty, staff, and students), a deteriorating image of our university in the eyes of various publics (including alumni, community people from nearby and throughout the state, and various businessmen) with whom our faculty come into contact, and a growing movement of good faculty members away from this university.

The white paper also noted:

... widespread agreement upon the perception that the following attributes of Dr. Loeschner either led to the problems above, or make it very unlikely that they can be solved while he remains as President: lack of leadership, his lack of managerial skills, his poor abilities of communication, and his loss of respect, credibility and confidence by the faculty.



Dean Bernard Linger, College of Liberal Arts

Chapter 13 – 1978 – 1979 – Loeschner Administration

Dean Linger an Issue

On April 4, Dean Linger, the only dean to sign the white paper, announced that the university would not renew his contract for the next year.²⁶ He, and many members of the faculty, assumed that this action was taken by President Loeschner in retaliation for the white paper incident. At their April 10 meeting, the members of the College of Liberal Arts voted to recommend that the trustees overturn the president's decision, and they also accorded their dean a standing ovation. In contrast, that evening a group of more than 150 students hanged President Loeschner in effigy from the campus flag pole.

President Resigns

The Linger firing was the last straw for many faculty members. Although the white paper was sharply critical of President Loeschner, it was just short of a formal vote of no confidence. The process for calling a special faculty meeting to conduct such a vote was started in early April, and, after several false starts, one was organized for April 26.²⁹ The meeting occurred, but the vote of no confidence was never taken. Earlier that same day President Loeschner had resigned effective July 31.

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Following President Loeschner's departure, Ohio Northern was in a position similar to the one it faced 74 years earlier when, after a turbulent administration, President Belt retired. The institution needed a period of calm and healing. In this, Northern was fortunate to secure the services of two men, the first of whom was Dr. Harold A. Bolz who served as interim president. He previously had served as dean of the College of Engineering and director of the Engineering Experiment Station at The Ohio State University from 1958 to 1976.

Dr. Bolz assumed office on August 1, 1979, under difficult circumstances. A residue of bad feelings remained from the previous administration, and negotiations were still underway with the faculty union. At the same time, as interim president, Dr. Bolz's powers to effect beneficial changes were limited. As it turned out, however, his optimism, tact, and low-key approach to campus issues went a long way to easing his successor's entry into office.



Interim President Bolz

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Freed Selected 9th President

Dr. Bolz was not required to fill his awkward post for long. A search committee was formed to choose a new president, and at a special meeting on September 15, 1979, the board of trustees selected Dr. DeBow Freed, 54, as Ohio Northern University's ninth president. President Freed was installed that October, and Dr. Bolz remained on campus until Christmas to assist his successor.

DeBow Freed was born August 26, 1925, in Hendersonville, Tennessee. He received a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1946 and served in the U.S. Army until 1969. During his last two years of service he taught physics at West Point. In 1961 he earned an M.S. from the University of Kansas and five years later a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico. In 1949, while on active duty, he married Catherine Carol Moore.

Dr. Freed served as dean of Mount Union College from 1969 to 1974 when he was selected as president of Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois. At Monmouth, the Freeds were active in campus and community activities. Under President Freed, enrollment stabilized, and an increased sense of community was evident. For her part, Mrs. Freed served as president of the local Community Concert Association for several years and was active in church affairs. Their departure was noted with regret, in the college's student newspaper, along with the improvements that occurred during his administration.



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Hanson Annex

At the same time that course offerings were expanded, new buildings were also added and existing ones renovated. The College of Law had received a new building in 1973; however, growth in the law library made an addition necessary. Regrettably, the original building was not designed to accept additional floors. At their October 10 and 11, 1979, meeting, the trustees approved preliminary plans for a one-story annex on the north-east side of the Tilton Hall of Law. Ground was broken for the project in December 1981, and the building was ready for use the following year.

The annex totaled 16,700 square feet of which 13,500 were dedicated to library purposes. In addition to book stacks, the annex contained faculty offices and space for student organizations. The structure was constructed to permit the erection of two additional floors if necessary. In May 1985, the addition was named in honor of Dr. Eugene N. Hanson, a faculty member and former dean of the college.



Looking N.W. From S. Gilbert St.
Lehr-Kennedy House (L) and Stambagh Hall

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Completed Hanson Annex from S. Gilbert St.

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Presser Renovated

Shortly after the Hanson Annex was named, work started on returning Presser Hall to its original function as a music facility. Although the library had been moved in 1968, little had been done to restore the building, and Presser, so splendid at its dedication, looked shabby indeed. The recital hall, formerly the library's main reading room, still had a flat floor, an arrangement quite unsuitable for performances. The original stage and office area behind the hall had been converted to book stacks and then back to offices, with the stage omitted. Even part of the third floor had been given over to other uses. The speech and theater department had a small experimental theater there, the aptly named "Black Box."



West Side of Presser Before Practice Room Addition

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

All of these earlier alterations were swept away beginning in June 1985. In the recital hall, the flat floor was pulled out and the earth fill, added in 1953, removed. The stage was restored, new offices and individual practice rooms were built, and a large practice room was added to the rear of the building. Special care was taken to ensure that it blended with the original building, and it was constructed to accommodate two additional floors in the future. For decoration, the historical stained-glass windows from Lehr auditorium were removed and placed in the practice room. Despite the magnitude of the project, work was completed in under a year, and the renovated Presser Hall was dedicated on May 23, 1986. In February 1992, the recital hall was named in honor of Dorothy and Lowell Snyder in recognition of their long-standing support of Northern's music program.



Groundbreaking For Presser Hall Renovation
President Freed With Shovel

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Practice Room on West End of Presser

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Snyder Recital Hall Stage

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

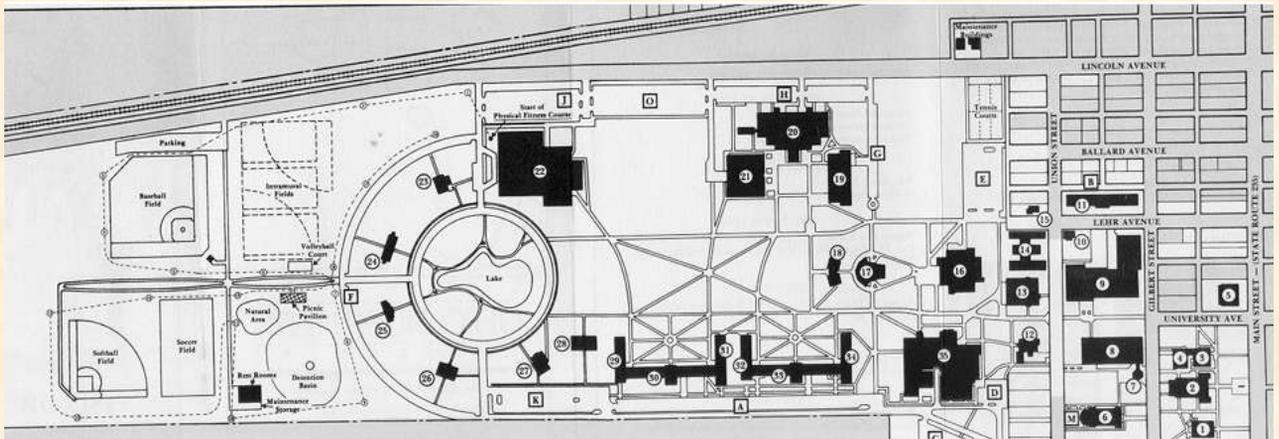


Snyder Recital Hall

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Music was not the only performing art to receive a new building. As early as fall 1978, improved facilities for the department of speech and theater, later communication arts, were being considered. At that time, the department was using the Lehr auditorium for performances, and one early plan envisioned expanding that facility. As late as September 1988, this scheme was still being actively considered, even though the congested nature of the front campus, along with a total lack of parking, were serious drawbacks for Lehr. In spring 1989, however, another option suddenly became available.

Since 1967, the southern boundary of west campus stopped just behind Lima and Founders Halls. For many years the university had been interested in purchasing additional property immediately to the south, and in 1989, 120 acres were finally acquired. This, in turn, offered an improved site for a new performing arts facility. The Lehr renovation scheme was abandoned post haste, and ground was broken for the new building on November 9, 1989.

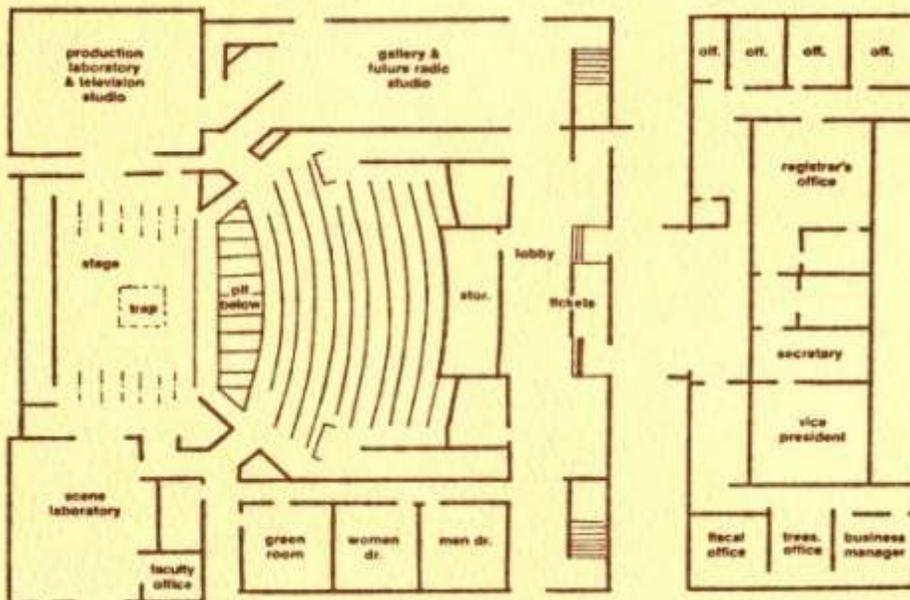


Campus Circa. 1986

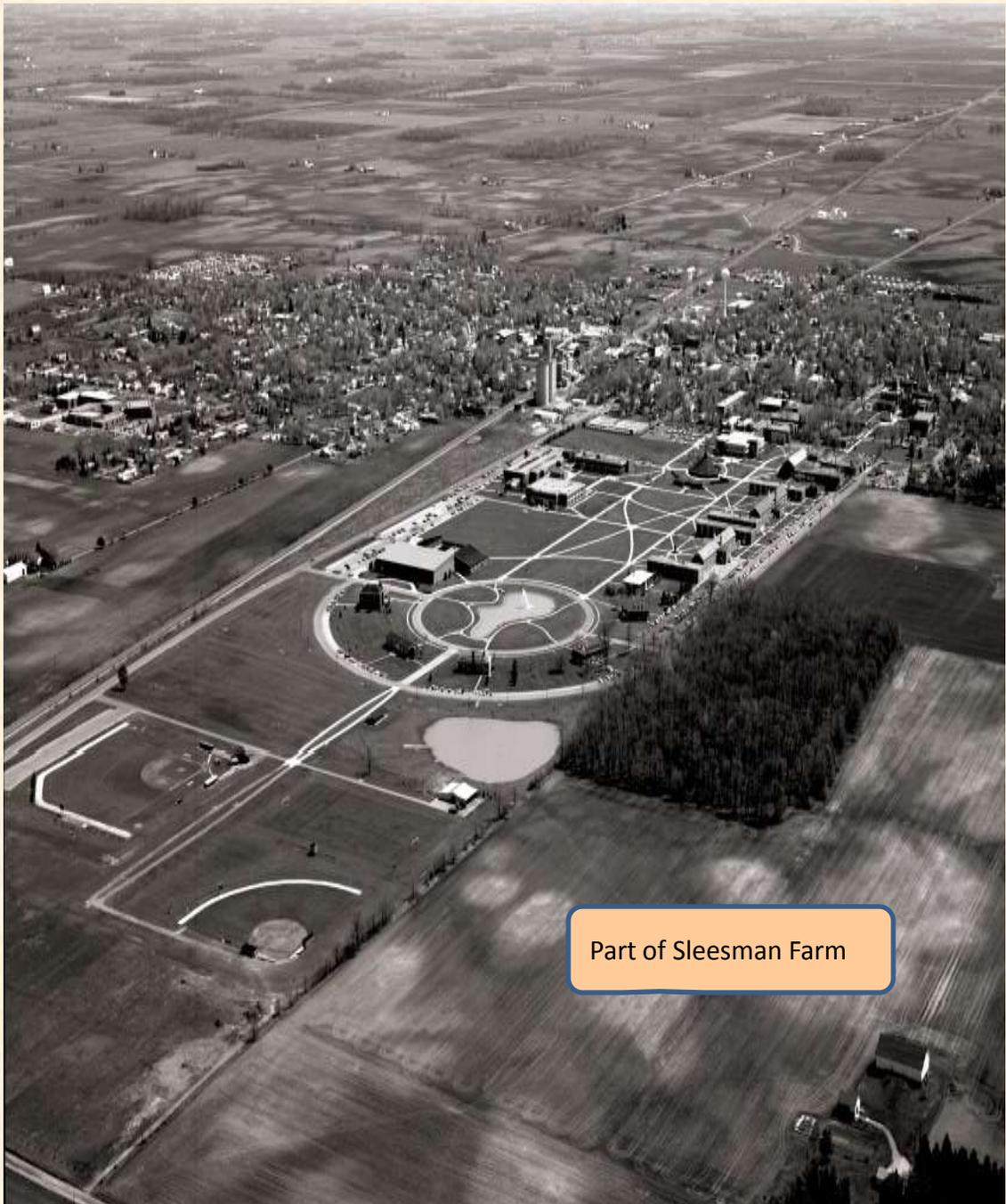
Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Proposed Lehr Theater Expansion – Subsequently Abandoned



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Campus Before Purchase of Sleseman Farm
Looking East in 1980's

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Campus Before Purchase of Sleseman Farm
Looking West in 1980's

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Performing Arts Center Groundbreaking, From L to R

- Unknown
- George Hassell, V.P. for Financial Affairs
- Michael Herrel, Chairman, Board of Trustees
- Pres. Freed
- Frank Wright, Architect
- Prof. Nils Riess, Chairman Dept. of Communication Arts

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Freed Center Construction Site in Upper Right - 1991

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Final plans for the performing arts center called for a 37,000-square-foot building with two main sections. The south part was designed as a classroom and office wing which could be operated separately from the balance of the center. A studio for WONB, the new campus radio station, was also included. The performing arts section contained a 550-seat main theater and a smaller studio theater. Support facilities, such as a scene shop, costume shop, and practice rooms, were also included. Despite initial weather-related delays, construction proceeded on schedule during 1990 and 1991. On September 11, 1990, a "topping off" ceremony was held to mark the conclusion of major construction on the center.



President Freed at Topping Off Ceremony

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Prof. Nils Riess, Chairman of
Communication Arts Dept.

Mrs. Freed Signing Last Piece of
Structural Steel to Be Lifted
Into Place



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Front of Freed Center

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Dedication of Station WONB FM, 1991



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Sports Center

Only a short time after ground was broken for the Freed Center, work began on an altogether different type of facility. On May 19, 1990, ground was broken for a 62,000-square-foot field house adjacent to the King-Horn Center. The structure included an six-lane, 200-meter indoor track and courts for tennis, volleyball, and basketball. Additional locker rooms were provided along with a fitness laboratory and a fitness center with improved exercise equipment. The center was dedicated on October 13, 1991.



Field House Site on East Side of King-Horn

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Field House Construction in Upper Center - 1990

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Construction Underway – Looking West
Through Field House Framework

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Field House Topping Off Ceremony
President Freed at Microphone

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Looking N.W. From Campus Mall

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Campus After Freed Center and Field House Completed
Looking West, 1991-92

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Outdoor Athletic Facilities

At roughly the same time, work was begun to improve the university's outdoor athletic facilities. Wander Field, a baseball diamond constructed to the west of King-Horn Center and dedicated in 1982, was joined in 1991 by an eight-lane, 400-meter running track. The track was constructed on the western edge of the campus on part of the recently-acquired land. This facility later received bleachers and a permanent press box. A two and one-half mile jogging path, starting at King-Horn and stretching along the perimeter of the west campus was also added in 1991.



Wander Field
Looking S.E. to Fraternity Circle and Lake Neiheiser

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



President Freed at Ground-Breaking for Outdoor Track, Known Locally as “ the Green Monster”

Track South of Freed Center Looking West – Apartment Dorms And Stadium Yet To be Built



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Business Administration Gets a Home

Several existing buildings were either renovated or received additions during the 1980s and '90s. Although the College of Business Administration had been established in 1978, it remained in Hill Building until fall 1986. That autumn, it exchanged locations with the department of psychology, sociology, and social work which had occupied quarters in Huber. New classrooms and offices were created within Huber, including a computer cluster on the first floor. On the second floor, the area which had once been the law library was divided into two large classrooms, one with tiered seating.



Huber Building – Former Home of College of Law

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Computer Lab



First Floor Hallway

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Dukes Addition

Several years later, one of the more venerable buildings on campus, Dukes Memorial, received a three-story, 5,000-square-foot addition on the rear of the building. Work commenced in May 1994 with the demolition of the former animal laboratory dating from 1951 when the College of Pharmacy had occupied Dukes. Given the high visibility of the annex and the historic nature of Dukes, special care was taken to ensure that the two structures blended architecturally. The addition provided three badly-needed classrooms and elevator access to Dukes. On April 1, 1995, the annex was dedicated in honor of Professor Childe Harold Freeman of the Ohio Northern University department of English.



Animal Laboratory in Foreground

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Original Dukes (R)
Freeman Annex (L)



West End of Freeman Annex

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Pharmacy Addition

In the fall of 1995, Northern witnessed the dedication of additions to two more buildings. The Pierstorf Annex to the College of Pharmacy was dedicated on October 13. A ribbon-cutting ceremony had been held on October 8, 1994, to mark the beginning of construction. Located on the east side of the pharmacy building, the two-story, 3,000-square-foot annex contained a pharmaceutical museum, a computer laboratory, and a student lounge. The project was made possible by Dr. and Mrs. Ervin W. Pierstorf, friends and generous supporters of the college. This annex had the additional benefit of improving access to the pharmacy building.



East Side of Robertson-Evans Pharmacy Building
Prior to Pierstorf Annex

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



View From third Floor of Heterick Library
Looking N.W.

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Completed Annex

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



President Freed
At Dedication



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Art Addition

The following morning, a 7,000-square-foot addition to the Wilson Art Building was dedicated. Construction had begun on May 22, and the building had only just been completed. New crafts, ceramics, and sculpture studios were added to the west end of Wilson. This, in turn, allowed a student lounge, a computer graphic arts laboratory, and a new classroom to be included in the original part of the building. A new lobby for the Elzay Gallery was also constructed, and the department gained much-needed storage space.



West Side of Wilson
Before Construction

Same Area with Construction
Underway



Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Display/ Lobby Connection Between
Wilson and the Elzay Gallery

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Pres. Freed at Podium
Prof. Bruce Chesser, Chmn. Of Art Dept. Seated

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Meyer-Biggs Annex

On October 11, 1996, ground was broken for a 20,000 square-foot, two-story addition to connect the Meyer Hall of Science with the Biggs engineering building. Still underway at the time of this writing, the project includes a new lecture hall, two classrooms, two seminar rooms, laboratories for physics, mathematics, and computer sciences and a greatly improved greenhouse. the projected completion date is Fall 1997.



Meyer-Biggs Annex at Start of Construction

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Annex Nearing Completion

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration



Dedication – Prof. Bob Hovis at Podium

Chapter 14 - 1979 – 1999 , Freed Administration

Another Law Library Addition

Although the Hanson Annex had been opened in 1985, its deficiencies as a library quickly became apparent. Its remote location at the north-east corner of the law building severely limited its expansion potential, nor was its modest size an asset. A memo from President Freed, dated January 20, 1992, initiated another round of planning for the law building.

At a January 20, 1992 meeting, a preliminary list of building needs was drawn up which dealt with the concerns of the law library and with projects elsewhere in the law building. This group, and smaller subcommittees, met occasionally over the next four years before a plan was finally ready for bids. In March 1997, construction began on a somewhat reduced project



North Side of Law Building Before Expansion

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Front Campus Landscaping

Along with improvements to academic buildings, a considerable amount of landscaping was carried out during the Freed Administration. The campus front lawn along Main Street received a complete facelift during the summer of 1983. Earlier decorations, including the two cannons which had graced that area for many years, were removed. In their place a plaza was constructed in front of Lehr Memorial. This new addition featured a four ton monument bearing the institution's name and seal. Three illuminated flag poles were later added.



View of Plaza Construction From Lehr Memorial

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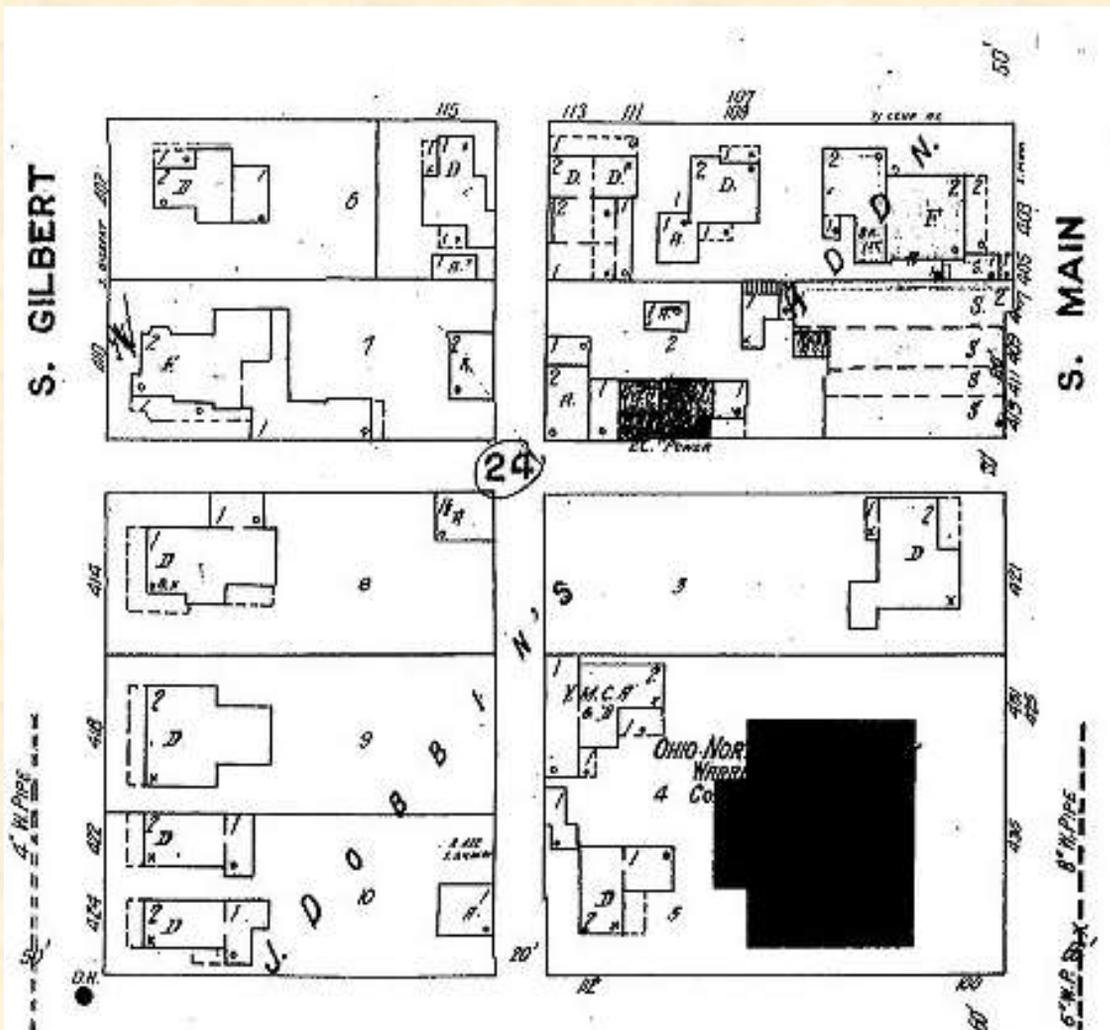


Completed Plaza

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Greenbelt Constructed

The block immediately to the north also underwent a dramatic transformation in the 1980s. Since the university's inception, the campus frontage along Main Street had been limited to slightly over one city block. To provide a more impressive view of the grounds, the university purchased and demolished all but one of the structures in the block fronting Main Street between Lehr and University avenues. These were a mixture of commercial properties, apartments, and private homes in varying states of repair. When the process was completed in the early 1990s, a wider view had been opened to the campus beyond Main Street. The process was rounded out along the north side of campus by the demolition of two houses behind Stambaugh Hall.



1939, Block bounded by W. University Ave., S. Main St., S. Gilbert St. and W. Lehr Ave. – Note Law College in Lower Right

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Buildings Along
S. Main St.,
Looking North -
June 1984

View from Corner
of S. Main St. and
Lehr Ave. – Looking
South



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Removal of Commercial Property on Future Site of
Dicke College of Business Administration

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The campus' southern boundary was defined by the construction of a four-lane boulevard on College Avenue. Northern had been purchasing houses along the south side of College Avenue for several years. These were gradually demolished and, during summer 1996, two additional lanes were laid on the resulting lots. The boulevard's median and south side were landscaped and the project capped by a decorative entrance at Main Street. This, along with the work on the east and north sides of campus provided a buffer between the village and university.



Looking East Along College Ave.

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Front and West Campus Merge

Farther to the west, additional improvements were carried out during summer 1986 in the area bounded by Presser Hall, the Wilson Art Building, and McIntosh Center. A two-block stretch of Union Street was removed between Lehr and College Avenues. In addition, a mall from Gilbert Street to the east side of McIntosh Center was added. A parking lot was constructed between the rear of Presser Hall and McIntosh, and the latter building was given an attractive side entrance with a portico.

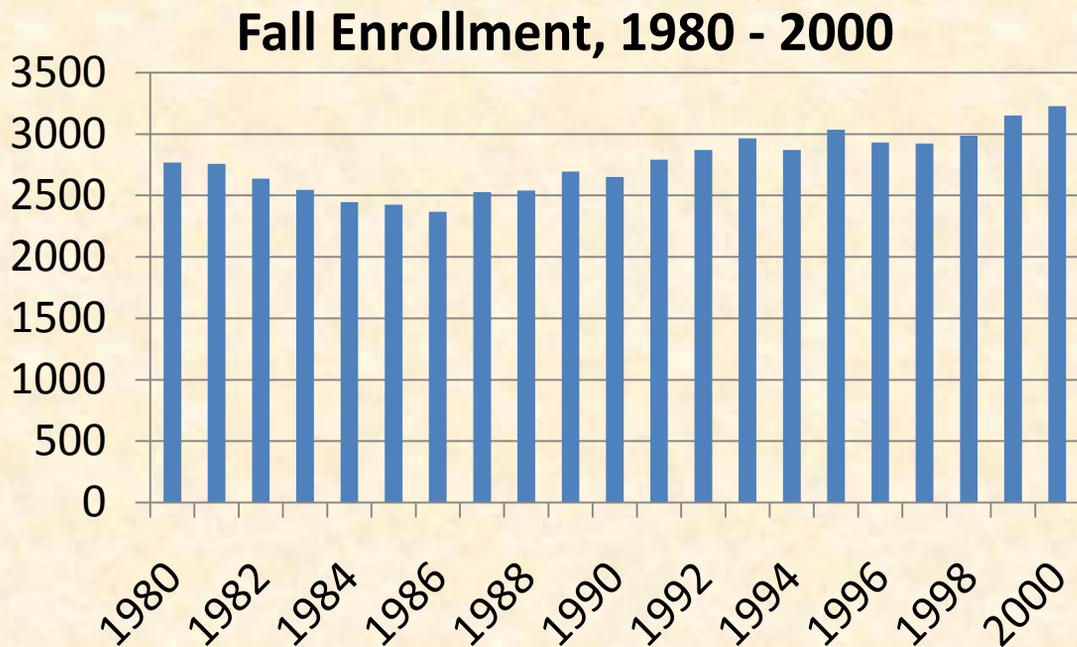


New Entrance and Fountain on East Side of McIntosh Center

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Enrollment Rebound

After the initial declines predicted by Pres. Loeschner, enrollment gradually increased during the balance of Pres. Freed's administration. From a low of less than 2,700, it had risen to over 3,100 by the time he left office.



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As the 1990's drew to a close, rumors circulated about President Freed's possible retirement. These were confirmed during the summer of 1998 when he officially announced his decision to step down at the end of the next academic year. An extensive recruiting committee was organized to seek a replacement, and in summer 1999 Dr. Kendall Baker, President of the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, N.D. was chosen to succeed President Freed starting September 1, 1999. As the 1998-99 academic year drew to a close, President and Mrs. Freed were honored at a picnic in April and, appropriately enough, a musical performance at the arts center named in their honor



Pres. and Mrs. Freed at Retirement Picnic