



Northwestern Michigan College

The First Twenty Years

Preston N. Tanis



NORTHWESTERN
MICHIGAN COLLEGE

The First Twenty Years
1951-1971

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President Emeritus

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BACKGROUND TO THE FOUNDING OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

It was 1950 and, since the end of World War II, the Traverse City area was experiencing one of its greatest growth periods. The returning veterans were starting new families and there were many new people moving into the area. New homes were being built and new businesses were being started. There was a demand for new occupational skills and an expansion of professional services. People were becoming aware of their community and its future possibilities. They began attending meetings called to study local problems and to discuss ways of bringing about civic improvements. Many needs were discovered, but none was greater than the need to expand educational facilities and services.

This was the climate for the establishment of a college in the Traverse City area.

There had been previous efforts to bring higher education to the region, but these had met with limited and short-lived success. There was Grand Traverse College in Benzonia, which struggled against financial odds for several years during the last half of the 1800s, only to be finally closed at the turn of the century because of the lack of support. The Needham Business College was established in Traverse City about 1910 to train students for office work and to offer a six-week program that qualified high school graduates to teach in rural schools. It was followed by the Dockery Business College and the Lewis-Chapin School for Business. However, without state assistance and with limited tuition and gifts as sources of income, these institutions were soon forced to discontinue operation. During World War I the state legislature recognized the need for more teacher training and approved the establishment

of a county normal school in Traverse City. However, it never became a reality because the legislature failed to vote the funds to operate it.

Several times during the 1930s and early 1940s the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce initiated studies regarding the possibilities of creating a college in the city. College planning committees were formed from time to time, composed of civic-minded leaders, but always there was the insoluble problem of finance. These were the years of the Great Depression and the very slow recovery which followed. A further obstacle was the Michigan law setting a minimum population base for the establishment of a two-year college. Traverse City did not qualify.

In 1940 the lack of higher education in the Traverse City area was recognized as the region's most pressing problem by a newly-formed Community Council. As a result the local public school board decided to take action. It began to make plans to provide a traditional junior college academic program for the youth of the area, using high school facilities after hours. But the plans again had to be shelved. World War II began, and people's major efforts were involved in winning the war.

It was not until the late 1940s that the community leaders were able to again do some planning for a college. They had many things going for them now. The city was growing, and this increase in population and business activity helped their cause. There was the unusual response to the adult education program initiated by Superintendent of Schools, Glenn Loomis. The program, which had started slowly in 1944, had an enrollment by 1950 of over 2,500 people in some 100 technical, avocational and cultural courses. There was the newly formed Chamber of Commerce Committee under the direction of auto dealer James Clune that began to promote a "talking-up" campaign for a college. There was the Grand Traverse Area Community

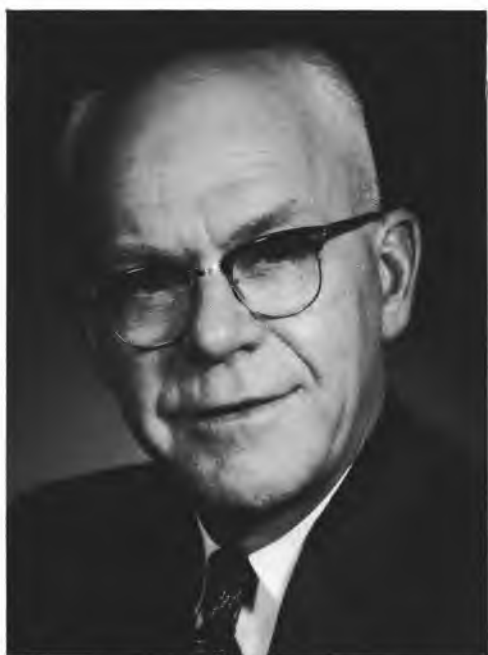
Service Program, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education with financial assistance from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, which selected as one of its major projects the promotion and development of a Traverse City area college.

And then there was Les Biederman, a native of Philadelphia, who came to Traverse City and began the operation of radio station WTCM in 1940. It was Biederman and his "Educational Fund, Incorporated" that gave the impetus and provided the leadership for the founding of the college.

In the fall of 1950 Mr. Biederman invited a group of community leaders to a dinner at the Park Place to discuss the needs for higher education in northwestern Michigan. He had facts and figures that were hard to dispute. He talked about the number of high school graduates who could not afford to go away to college and how those who could manage this expense generally did not come back to the area. He had a map of Michigan which showed the complete lack of higher education facilities in the northern part of the lower peninsula and the concentration of colleges and universities in the southern part of the state. He talked about the economic feasibility of establishing a college in Traverse City. His enthusiasm was unbounding and his arguments were convincing. The group decided that the time had arrived for action and further meetings were scheduled.



Dr. Glenn E. Loomis
General Superintendent of NMC 1951-1955



Preston N. Tanis
Director of NMC 1951-1967
President 1967-1970



Les Biederman
President of Educational Fund, Inc. 1951-57
Chairman of Board of Trustees 1955-1980

THE COLLEGE IS ESTABLISHED

Even though a great deal of enthusiasm was generated for the opening of a two-year college in Traverse City, the Michigan Junior College Law with its population restrictions still presented a barrier to making this possible. However, late in 1950 the newly inspired citizens' committee decided to take concrete action. Under the dynamic leadership of Les Biederman and with the legal counsel of Harry Running and legislative know-how of State Representative Arnell Engstrom, they presented their case to the Education Committee of the legislature. They not only asked that the population restrictions be lowered to 10,000 but also urged the adoption of a new concept of an area-type of institution as contrasted to the traditional thirteenth- and fourteenth-grade junior college. The result was the passage of Public Act 189 in the spring of 1951. With this law the legislature had created a new kind of institution to be known officially as a community college and which followed most of the recommendations of the Traverse City committee. It should be added that some members of this committee also argued in favor of making this college completely independent of the public school system. However, this idea was too new and untried in 1951, and it was not until the passage of the locally sponsored Act 188 in 1955 that it was made possible.

FOUNDERS' FUND

The first financial campaign to assist in launching the college was initiated on January 25, 1951 by the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce. It was on that day that representatives of the Northern Michigan Association of Life Underwriters announced that their members had agreed to undertake the job of canvassing for prospective donors. The goal of the campaign was set at \$100,000, and it was planned that the money collected would be used for construction of the first college building.

The campaign was known as the Founders' Fund Drive. Each contributor of \$100 or more was named a Founder of the College and given an appropriate plaque. The unusual and original design of the plaque was suggested by those involved in the drive. It portrays a hand with a burning taper lighting a lamp of learning to symbolize the Founder's contribution.

The campaign goal was not reached; perhaps it was too ambitious for a project so new and with a somewhat shaky future. Nevertheless, it did create interest and enthusiasm for the proposed institution, and nearly 400 area citizens contributed over \$40,000 by the time the drive ended in the fall of 1951. It is significant that twenty years later this plaque is being proudly displayed as original donors find themselves the envied Founders of a well-established and successful college.

EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

The story of the first five years of Northwestern Michigan College is closely related to the activities of Educational Fund, Inc. It was the brainchild of Les Biederman and was established officially by the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee. Its charter, which was approved by the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission on February 3, 1951, provided that the purpose of the Corporation was "to aid in the establishment of a college in northern Michigan" by "raising money, purchasing . . . property . . . , and in general encouraging such establishment."

Initially, members of the Corporation were chosen from the citizens' committee which had been active in promoting a college for Traverse City. Officers of the Board of Directors were: Les Biederman, President; James Clune, Vice President; Preston Tanis, Secretary; and Kenneth Watson, Treasurer. Other active directors included Peter Clancy, Arnell Engstrom, Glenn Loomis, and Merle Lutz. On March 17 of that first year the following regional and state representatives were added: Bruce Chrissman from Benzie County, Frank Anderson from Leelanau County, Orville Walker from Antrim County, Judge Elmer Sherwood from Kalkaska County, Pat Tremaine from Grand Traverse County, George Griffith from the State Conservation Commission, and Howard Estes from the Michigan House of Representatives. Later in 1951 George Altenburg, retired Dean of Highland Park Junior College living at Old Mission, and Truman Pemberton, a local insurance underwriter, were added to the Board. When Kenneth Watson moved to Saginaw late in the fall of 1951, Reed Chapin became the Corporation's treasurer.

From the very beginning Educational Fund, Inc. became deeply involved in policy decisions regarding the College. Legally this was the function of the

Traverse City Board of Education, which had established the College under Act No. 189 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1951. However, it was not easy to separate policy matters from financial support and, besides, efforts were being made soon after the establishment of the College to change the law so that the College could be independent of the local school system. Some conflict between Educational Fund, Inc. and the public school administration was inevitable, and a clarification of policy was necessary from time to time. While Northwestern Michigan College could not have been established as a part of the state system of two-year colleges without the involvement of the Traverse City Board of Education, it was generally agreed that neither would the College have become a reality without the activities of Educational Fund, Inc. Thus, the roles of the two boards were interdependent, and yet the credit for establishing the need for the College, for raising the money to make it possible, and even for leading the way toward achieving its broad program of education must be given to the members of the Corporation.

The constitution and bylaws of Educational Fund, Inc. were revised soon after its establishment in order to provide for representation from governing bodies and school districts of the area counties. Antrim County was represented by Floyd Gregory and A. G. McDaniels; Kalkaska by Orville Walker; Benzie by Beryl Abbott and George Petritz; Leelanau by Frank Anderson and John Bacon; Grand Traverse by George Altenburg, Arnell Engstrom, Les Biederman, and James Clune; and the City of Traverse City by Julius Sleder and Kent Wright. Selected at large were Reed Chapin, Mark Osterlin and Harry Running.

With the passage and implementation of the Community College Law (Act No. 188) in 1955, there was no reason for the continuation of the Corporation. The new law provided for an elected Board of Trustees, and it was to perform the functions previously handled by Educational Fund, Inc.

and the Traverse City Board of Education. Only two meetings were held in 1956 to take care of specific financial and property matters. The Corporation was officially dissolved at its last meeting on May 25, 1957, and at that time transferred all of its assets and liabilities to the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College.

THE NAMING OF THE COLLEGE

The naming of the College had been one of the first official acts of Educational Fund, Inc. The subject was discussed by the Founders even before the Corporation was formed. There were those who favored calling it the Traverse City Junior College. After all, they argued, there was Bay City Junior College, Jackson Junior College, and the other two-year colleges in Michigan using similar designations. Or, they would agree to the use of the word "community" as a substitute for "junior" since that term was beginning to be accepted in some other states. Others involved in the discussions thought the name should identify the College with the cherry industry or perhaps the two Grand Traverse Bays. The Board's President, however, argued that all this could have a limiting effect on the future of the College. Why imply that its services and support might be restricted to Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, or even the immediate area? Was it not possible that sometime in the future the College might be more than "junior" or even "community" in its offerings? "Northwestern Michigan College" was finally the choice of the Board at its meeting on February 10, 1951, and the name immediately received popular acceptance locally. However, at the time it did cause some concern among educational officials elsewhere. This was a break from the traditional name used by other two-year colleges in Michigan, and it seemed to suggest the possibility of a scope of operation beyond which was normally accepted for these colleges. It is significant, however, that within a few years following the opening of Northwestern Michigan College, the use of the word "junior" had all but been discarded by Michigan's two-year colleges, and regional titles were being adopted by several of the new ones as they were established.



Volunteers erecting a sign on the first home of the College

COLLEGE FACILITIES DURING EARLY YEARS

With the official establishment of Northwestern Michigan College in the spring of 1951, the decision was made to begin classes in September of that year. It now became imperative that a location be found. A discarded elementary school (former Oak Park building) was offered by the Board of Education, and there was also the possibility of using high school classrooms during late hours of the day. Neither suggestion, however, was popular with the College founders nor with prospective students. If this was to be a college there must be a clean break from the public school image and, to them, use of the high school facilities would suggest a thirteenth- and fourteenth-grade concept.

One day as Les Biederman was arriving at the local airport and his plane was circling for a landing, it suddenly occurred to him that the several vacant rooms in the city-owned terminal building might have possibilities for use as College classrooms. He rushed from the plane into the building, forced locks with his pocket knife and found several rooms which he decided could easily be converted into College use with only slight renovation and a good cleaning job. Later, the City Commission generously agreed to loan the two wings of the building to the College rent-free and with heat and utilities furnished at least for the first year. A call went out for volunteers to get the building ready for the September opening. Soon carpenters, electricians and painters were swarming about the building. Business firms donated materials. A hardware dealer sanded and refinished floors, people came to wash windows, and faculty members unpacked chairs and other furnishings. A special sign committee placed two large signs on the building which proudly announced to all incoming airline passengers that this was the home of Northwestern Michigan College. The job was finished just four days before the College opened, and the cost was \$34.



Traverse City Airport Building
First home of Northwestern Michigan College

This "temporary" location of the College lasted for four years. Construction on the new campus was started but, since much of its progress depended on voluntary contributions of materials and labor, it took a long time to complete. However, in spite of its many inconveniences, the airport site served the College well during those first four years. There were interruptions of classes because of noisy airport traffic, rooms and offices were small and often crowded, and a steel quonset hut had to make do as a student activities center during those years. Nevertheless, the process of education was carried on, and there were surprisingly few complaints from students and faculty.

THE OPENING OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

Northwestern Michigan College officially opened its doors to its first students on the morning of September 17, 1951. Sixty-five students assembled that first day in the only large room in the airport building, a room which was to also serve as the library and for student social events. Dr. Glenn E. Loomis, Superintendent of the Traverse City Public Schools and the acting head of the College, presided at this first assembly. He welcomed the students and emphasized the importance of their role in the pioneering of a new college. He told the background of the College and its plans for the future. Staff members were introduced and information was given about the courses which they would teach.

It was not surprising that 60 percent of the first-year students came from outside Traverse City; after all, the College was still an experiment and local high school graduates seemed to be aware of this more than others. Actually, 21 communities in the surrounding counties were represented in the enrollment. There were seven from Rapid City, and that was almost its entire 1951 high school graduating class. Five came from Kingsley, three from Cedar, and four from Benzonia. The students were pretty much representative of average high school senior graduates. Some came with outstanding scholastic records, some would have had difficulty meeting admission standards of other institutions, but most were just ordinary college freshmen anxious to try education beyond the high school level. A few were veterans of military service; there were two from the Coast Guard who found it especially convenient to attend college next door to their base. Most of the students were recent high school graduates. Those who were older were quickly accepted as part of the student body. These were the full-time day students; in addition, over 600 adults attended both credit and non-credit evening classes that first year.



Group of first students arriving at the College on the morning of September 17, 1951

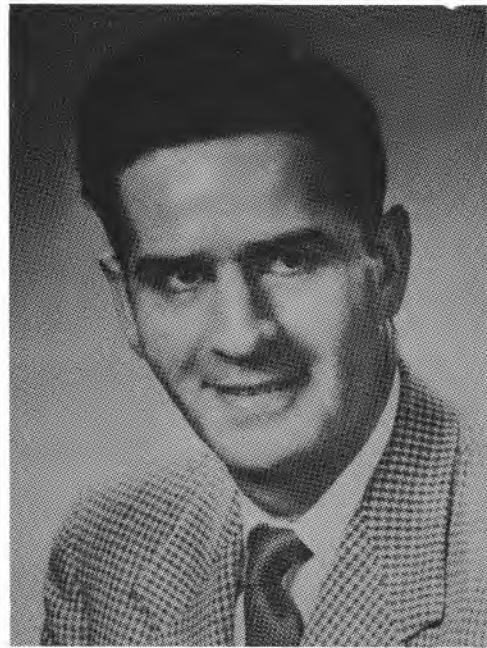
The staff consisted of only six full-time people in 1951. Preston N. Tanis, former public school adult education administrator, held the title as Director and was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the College. He had been a member of Educational Fund, Inc. and was active in the early planning for the institution. Ellis Wunsch was the first full-time instructor to be hired. He was an English major who had done some post-war teaching at the University of Michigan and also had been a Fulbright Scholar to France. His outstanding ability as a teacher and his high regard for "academic respectability" were to have enduring effects upon the successful development of Northwestern Michigan College. Walter Beardslee was a social science major, and this was his first full-time teaching position after training at Michigan State College (University) and the University of North Carolina. Mr. Beardslee was versatile in his abilities and was assigned to teach both the history and economic courses. Pauline Baver and Velma Brand came as full-time members of the staff after several years of successful teaching on the high school level. Miss Baver taught all of the business courses that first year and Mrs. Brand instructed both Spanish and biology courses. There was one other full-time employee--Wanda Beers. Mrs. Beers managed the College office and, in addition to her secretarial duties, she found time to sell textbooks, collect fees, and keep the students on some kind of orderly schedule.

A number of part-time instructors were used for special assignments. Dr. Marcus Sheffer, a psychiatrist from the Traverse City State Hospital, came in twice a week to teach classes in psychology; Lars Hockstad, a local high school teacher, taught mathematics, and George Altenburg, a former junior college dean and physics instructor, offered a popular course in astronomy. The library was supervised by Harry Strauss, an area school superintendent with a library science degree. Lila Wilkinson was added to the staff to teach English in the winter term and, in the following year, became a permanent full-time instructor. In addition to these part-time instructors, a large number

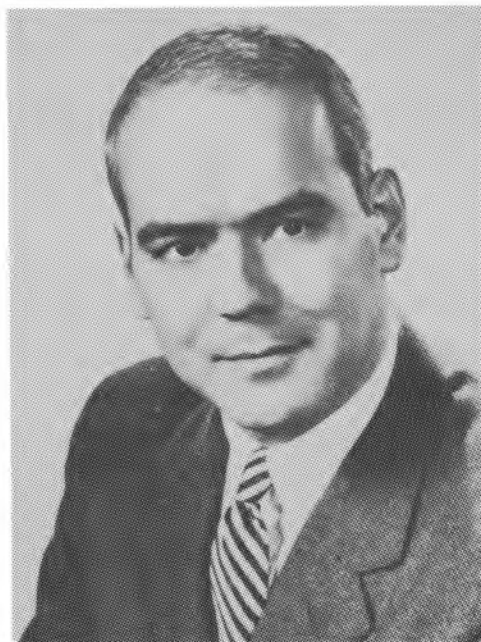
from the area who were specialists in certain fields taught classes in the adult evening school.



Walter Holland
Communications instructor



Dr. Marcus Sheffer
Psychology instructor



Ellis Wunsch
First English instructor at NMC



Lila Wilkinson
English instructor



Pauline Baver
First Business instructor



Walter Beardslee
First History and Economics instructor



Helen Core
Math instructor



Velma Brand
First Biology and Spanish instructor



Ernest Gaunt
Accounting instructor

EDITORIAL COMMENT REGARDING THE OPENING OF
NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

"An Experiment in Education"

From: *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, August 28, 1951

"Traverse City, already an important medical and distribution center for northern Michigan, will become the region's educational hub when the Northwestern Michigan College throws open its doors for the first time on September 17, the humble but determined beginning of what may well become an institution of great significance.

"All Michigan and many other states are watching this completely new method of establishing an institution of higher learning. It has never been attempted anywhere and may well be the forerunner of a new type of community college for the nation."

"'Grass Roots' College"

Editorial in *Grand Rapids Herald*, September 11, 1951

"Northwestern Michigan has shown its spirit again.

"Another dream of this region which has had its ups and downs ever since the first loggers and original settlers came to carve out their own way of life is coming true next Monday when Northwestern Michigan College opens its doors.

"That the "doors" are borrowed, since its own first building hasn't been built, matters not in the least.

"Somebody has said that a university, reduced to its essentials, consists of a great teacher sitting at one end of a log and a student sitting at the other.

"Northwestern Michigan College has more than that. It has the desire of the people behind it, and their support. It has their dimes and quarters and dollars. It has hundreds of people giving not only money, but time and work. It has, fortunately, a rent-free building to use for a year while construction is under way on its Traverse City campus.

"The College itself is an important addition to this 26-county area from Big Rapids and Mt. Pleasant to the Straits which has had no college at all.

"It should serve well the young people who do not find it easy or even possible to go to distant institutions of learning and serve all the people of the area by its planned off-the-campus programs.

"But the way in which northwestern Michigan went about getting a college for itself is equally significant. The people rejected the ideas of asking some existing institution to start a branch there. With no land grants or state appropriations, no large endowments or impressive gifts, they set about raising their own funds among their own people.

"Likewise, they determined to build a college suited for their own needs, to give their young people the traditional liberal arts courses and meet university requirements, of course, but also to provide practical terminal courses, plus short courses for those who have little time and perhaps cannot meet formal entrance requirements, plus special classes in town halls and little red schoolhouses.

"Northwestern Michigan, in the same fashion in which it turned from lumbering to cherry growing and resorting, is now seeking industry, is meeting the new challenge with characteristic energy and common sense.

"They are determined to keep the control of their institution, for they know what they want, and they recognize that the pattern of education for other regions may not meet their needs, and they obviously realize that should they go outside their own region for help they would surrender some of their autonomy.

"An independent spirit may well prove to be the most precious asset of this new Northwestern Michigan College opening next Monday in a wartime Navy building at Traverse City's Airport, remodeled for the purpose by volunteers using materials furnished at cost by dealers.

"Our Traverse City correspondent referred to the new school Sunday as a "grass roots" college, and it is, for the descendants of the first pioneers of the region are pioneering in the same spirit as their forefathers, seeing exactly what they want and going after it."

"A School is Born"

From: *Jackson Citizen Patriot*, September 16, 1951

"In these days of the big handout the story of Northwestern Michigan College is as refreshing as breeze off Grand Traverse Bay.

"For many years the people of northern Michigan have wanted a college. There was no institution of higher learning north of Ferris Institute and south of the Straits.

"Monday their College at Traverse City will open its doors. It is their College because they are financing it without land grants, without large capital appropriations, with no founding funds from churches or vast endowments.

"The school is being built on the dimes and dollars of the people of the region who will be served. It will open in a building at the Traverse City Municipal Airport and will move to its new campus between the Bays when the buildings are ready.

"It will be a 'grass roots' college, planned and financed by the ordinary people who will use it. Its courses will be tailored to the needs of the region. There will be a minimum of dictation from higher authority because no funds are coming from above.

"The pioneers of northern Michigan have pride in their College because it is their own. Their devotion to the cause should be an inspiration to those who cry out for federal funds to help them educate their young.

"The establishment of Northwestern Michigan College is evidence that the pioneering spirit is not dead. The descendants of the men who built their own schools of logs in the wilderness have not lost that precious ability to fill their own educational needs without help."

"A College Becomes a Reality"
From: *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, September 17, 1951

"When the time comes that the Northwestern Michigan College is housed in its permanent home, it might well carry above its door Lincoln's famous quotation, "by the people, of the people and for the people."

"No more democratic process can be imagined than that which made it possible for Northwestern Michigan College to open its doors today.

"This new institution of higher learning has come into being as the result of a demand from the people of northwestern Michigan for a college which would provide youths and adults of this area an opportunity to continue education beyond the high school level close to home.

"In every way the Northwestern Michigan College is a people's college. It was conceived in a regional desire for education and is being financed from the pockets of the poor and rich alike.

"It is truly 'by the people, of the people and for the people.'"

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE OBJECTIVES

The interest of the Founders in long-term goals for the College was demonstrated almost immediately upon the reorganization of Educational Fund, Inc. It was early in 1951 that the following statement was adopted as a preamble to the first set of bylaws prepared by the Corporation.

"We, the people of northwestern Michigan with faith in each other, in our children, their future, and that of this beautiful country; knowing that knowledge and education is necessary to the progress and happiness of mankind do hereby unite in joint effort in the formation of Northwestern Michigan College to serve the educational need of all our people regardless of age, race, creed and economic status; a college giving guidance and counseling for youth and adults, at the college or in their own homes and communities, creating a personal interest to improve themselves through their own efforts. It shall be a college with a curriculum adjusted to the individual needs of all, whether it be cultural, professional, vocational or technical training. There shall be academic courses for those who would continue formal education, and general education for all regardless of vocation, for no man lives onto himself alone. Conservation, forestry, craftsmanship, agriculture and manufacturing unique to the development of this area shall be especially encouraged.

The College will stress learning through experience here at home, that the individual learner may, through improved ability, be of greater value to his community. The kind and quality of education will be stressed to the extent of the students' time and ability to learn. It shall be a true community college, practicing the principles of American democracy with its program unrestricted in its scope and unfettered by tradition, free to meet new needs of the people as they may arise in this changing world.

All who will, may have a part in the development of Northwestern Michigan College, serving as committee members on curriculum, finance operation, community improvement or by personal interest and action.

We, the people, with a firm determination to make possible educational advantages near our homes, to enrich the lives and communities of all seeking a better way to further practical training in

life's work, to teach and practice a better understanding of the duties and privileges of good citizenship in our American democracy, do hereby establish Northwestern Michigan College."

These and other general objectives were the basis of several Board discussions during the months following the adoption of this statement. The matter of acquiring land to be used by students training in the fields of forestry, conservation and agriculture was debated many times. The problems of operating a college with two Boards, that of the Corporation and of the Public School, were discussed but never resolved. New and better ways to finance the College operation had to be found.

It was late in 1954 that a reorganized and expanded Corporation Board decided that the objectives of the College required a new study. Plans were well along to sponsor community college legislation in Lansing early in 1955. It became imperative that, if this bill was to succeed, the plans and objectives of the College had to be clearly stated. Dr. Mark Osterlin was selected as chairman of a special study committee, and to act with him he chose Julius Sleder and George Petritz from the Board, and William Milliken and Robert McCoy to represent the community. The committee made its recommendations to the Board, and the following revised aims and objectives were adopted on December 9, 1954.

1. Northwestern Michigan College, an area college, should be an educational institution designed to meet the needs of the area commonly described as northwestern Michigan.
2. Northwestern Michigan College should emphasize training to qualify students for employment in their home area.
3. Northwestern Michigan College should foster an atmosphere of cooperation among individuals and organizations in the area toward providing employment for those who receive training at the College.

4. Northwestern Michigan College should provide vocational guidance to students and prospective students.
5. Northwestern Michigan College should be separate from any existing school district.
6. Northwestern Michigan College should have its own governing board selected from the area it serves.
7. Northwestern Michigan College should cooperate with other organizations or groups dedicated to area development.
8. In general, Northwestern Michigan College should provide a general college program, including the following types of educational services: college parallel, terminal courses, adult education, and other educational needs that may arise, not otherwise provided for in the area.
9. Efforts should be made by the governing body of the College to finance the above general educational policies by such means as may be available, including the following: tuition, area tax, state aid, endowments, special gifts, college enterprises, and special fund drives.

While the basic aims have remained unchanged throughout the years, further refinement of the statement of objectives was made in a Board of Trustees resolution on June 10, 1959. The following has been the official College statement, with only slight variations, since that time.

The purpose of Northwestern Michigan College is to bring liberal and vocational studies on the college level to people of all ages in northwestern Michigan. Regionally controlled and supported, this institution is shaping its future around the needs of the area it serves. The College proposes to serve (1) students who wish to begin a liberal arts or pre-professional program, (2) students who wish to complete a two-year course combining liberal and vocational studies, (3) students who wish to develop particular skills or cultural interests without acquiring college credit in the process.

The purpose of the College is also to serve as an educational and cultural center. It carries out these aims by providing leadership, technical aid, and facilities for groups engaged in community service, research, or cultural development; by encouraging other Michigan

schools to operate college extension courses on its campus; and finally, by standing ready to offer its services at off-campus points throughout the region when such needs arise.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN RAISING MONEY FOR NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

The novel schemes of raising money for the new College were many. Not only in Traverse City, but throughout the surrounding area, P.T.A. groups, business clubs, lodges, social organizations and individuals participated in the drive for funds with almost a missionary zeal. A Child Study Club staged a College benefit dance in the Park Place grand ballroom, local service clubs sponsored a Michigan State College (University) Glee Club Concert with all proceeds donated to the College, and the Eagles Club Auxiliary served lunches at the National Cherry Festival to aid in the fund-raising campaign. There was the "fishing derby" at Jerry Oleson's trout pond with fishermen paying ten cents per inch for the brook trout they caught with all proceeds going into the College fund. A lady from Glen Lake, Mrs. Ralph Mueller, took one of her husband's shirts and lettered on it the words, "Patch me please!! I am on my way to College." Soon there were over one hundred patches, and under each was a dollar bill. The Independent Grocers Alliance placed jars on store counters and collected "Pennies for Knowledge." There was the community trout dinner staged at Batsakis Inn by the Greek-Bohemian Club. The brook trout were contributed by the Oleson Food Stores, and over six hundred persons were served by College Board members who acted as waiters. This event netted \$1,600. Even little children got into the act. The Girls' Little Theatre Group gave \$380 which they earned from their performance of "Peter and Wendy."

It might be expected that once the College was launched, these benefit events would end. But that is not true. They continued throughout the years, and, in fact, never really ended. Community groups seemed to want to outdo one another in staging bigger and better events for the support of their College. A Kiwanis-sponsored telethon brought in over \$2,000. In the spring



"Pennies for Knowledge"

of 1955 an affair billed as the "World's Biggest Smorgasbord" was staged to provide funds for both the Northwestern Michigan College and St. Francis School building programs. Over 3,000 local people attended, and each institution received \$3,097.92. The Zonta Club, early in 1957, held a pancake festival featuring the personal appearance of Aunt Jemima, and \$2,800 was raised. Orville Walker, a Kalkaska County agricultural agent and an enthusiastic booster of Northwestern Michigan College, wrote over one thousand letters to friends and acquaintances asking for a dollar donation to the College. Each letter began with: "Do you like young people? Would you like to participate in an experiment? Are you willing to risk \$1?" In a short length of time, Mr. Walker had received \$1,261 which he happily turned over to the College.

Throughout the years there have been many unusual schemes to raise money for the College. However, none have been greater or longer lasting than the College Barbecues which began in 1956 and still continue to provide a major benefit for the institution.



Fishing derby at Jerry Oleson's trout pond

THE FUND DRIVE OF 1953

The first campaign drive for funds to provide buildings for the new campus was proposed at a meeting of the directors of Educational Fund, Inc. held on May 5, 1952. The goal of \$230,000 which was set was later lowered to \$150,000, a figure which seemed more realistic to attain in light of the many demands being made on the community at that time. The Frederic Peter Hanley Associates, a fundraising firm from Princeton, New Jersey, was hired to conduct the campaign.

After preliminary work in the fall of 1952, the campaign was launched early in January of the following year. Paul Gustafson, manager of Cone Drive Gear in Traverse City, was named general chairman, and working with him were over 300 volunteers to solicit pledges. Dr. Lee M. Thurston, Superintendent of the Michigan Department of Public Instruction and an enthusiastic supporter of the College project, was the principal speaker at a kick-off dinner held at the Park Place on January 5, 1953. He cited the gathering of the men and women workers as an extraordinary demonstration of what is the very best in America. He spoke about the importance of trained intelligence and complimented the people of the Grand Traverse area for what they were doing to build a college for their sons and daughters.

The campaign was conducted during the month of January and, when completed, the reports showed a total of 2,739 individual pledges for the amount of \$105,181.33. While the goal of \$150,000 had not been reached, the campaign did prove that there was a large number of College supporters and that they wanted it to continue. This had been the first real test for the infant institution and failure at that time could have had disastrous results.

FINANCING THE OPERATION OF THE COLLEGE DURING THE EARLY YEARS

Income for operations simply did not match expenditures during the first five years of the College. In July of 1952 General Superintendent Glenn Loomis reported that for the first year's operation there was a deficit of \$9,131.96. The public schools, he explained, were temporarily borrowing from other funds to keep up with the payment of bills and payroll. He warned that this could not go on indefinitely. The Directors shared his concern but could make no promises about meeting the obligation. The deficit problem was destined to continue until the passage of state community college legislation in 1955.

Dr. Ferris Crawford from the Department of Public Instruction, writing in the *Michigan Education Journal* for October 1953, explained the dilemma which faced the founders of the new college. "Tuition charged could be increased, but this would probably become an insurmountable barrier to many potential students . . . The tax base of the Traverse City School District could be increased by school district reorganization, but if the boundaries of the district were to become coterminous with the service area of the College, the new district boundaries would embrace at least five counties. This would take several decades of promotional work even if it were practical, and there seems to be no one who believes that it would be practical for all educational purposes. The school districts could operate the College through the provisions of Section 493 of the General School Laws of 1952, and taxes could be levied in each of the districts for operational purposes. But there is no provision in the present law for delegating authority to a representative body. All board members of the cooperating districts would have to govern the College as a combined group. This governing body would be extremely cumbersome, as it would number well over 100 members if all eligible districts

in the area were to operate the College jointly." He concluded by emphasizing that "it will probably take additional state legislation" and that a plan had to be developed in Michigan to provide financial support and control for an entire service area in contrast to a local school district concept.

The deficits continued to climb. The second year the amount of \$17,269.32 was added, the third year another \$14,125.89, and finally, when the College was separated from the public schools in 1956, it totaled \$59,124.43.

Several years were to pass before the debt issue between the two Boards was finally settled. This was partly due to budget limitations, but there was also the feeling by some Trustees that this was not a debt of the College, but rather an obligation of the Board of Education since legally they were responsible for its operation during those early years. There was a payment of \$10,000 from the local tax receipts after Act 188 became effective in 1955, but then the matter was dropped for several months. The two Boards met jointly in January of 1958 to discuss the problem but no decision could be reached. The Board of Education still insisted on the payment of the remaining \$59,124.43, while the Trustees were not convinced that any amount should be paid. It was not until the spring of 1961 that the matter was finally settled. The Board of Education suggested a compromise, and at a meeting of the Trustees held on May 17, 1961 it was agreed that the College would pay the amount of \$18,000 in installments over a period of six years. The payments were made on schedule; the issue was finally settled.

ACQUISITION OF CAMPUS PROPERTY

The decision to locate the College at its present Front Street site was influenced primarily by the fact that the Traverse City Board of Education owned an adjacent vacant forty-acre piece of property which, it was hoped, might become available for future expansion. In addition, there were several other privately owned and undeveloped tracts of land in the immediate area, and it was conceivable that some of these might be added later if necessary. Finally, the site was beautifully wooded, easily accessible, and could be purchased at a reasonable price.

The Porter-Mulder Land Company of Muskegon owned the property where the present Campus Shopping Center is located and the north side of Front Street to the east for several hundred feet. They offered their entire holdings to the College early in 1951 for \$95,000. It was a tempting offer but, realizing that such a large purchase would be difficult to finance, if not impossible, the Corporation's Board decided on April 28, 1951, to buy only the 1,509 front feet (12 acres) between what is now known as Milliken Drive and College Drive. The price agreed upon was \$35,000, with payment of \$5,000 to be made annually. It should be added that there were three parcels of the frontage not included in the transaction at the time of this purchase. A 75-foot strip was deeded to the College by the Board of Education in 1958 as part of an agreement to construct a fence separating the two properties. A lot, owned by Gordon Pharo, was left to the College upon his death in 1969. The remaining parcel, owned by Edward Hulett, has not been acquired although there have been periodic negotiations for it since 1951.

A few months after the original land purchase, a 68-acre tract of wooded and swamp land, bordering on Eastern Avenue and joined at the northeastern corner of the Porter-Mulder purchase, became available. This property, later

to become the site for dormitories and other College buildings, was owned by Maude R. Levique of Detroit and, after brief negotiations, was purchased for \$7,500. No use was made of this land during the early years. When under pressure to meet a land contract payment to Porter-Mulder in 1956, the Board reluctantly agreed to sell an 11-acre portion of it on Eastern Avenue to the City of Traverse City for a water filtering plant. The \$5,000 received from the City seemed to be the only way to meet the obligation at that time; but later, as land values increased and new acquisitions were being made for expansion, this decision was regretted.

The following are land parcels acquired since 1951:

1. Eight lots (each 75' x 113', acreage 1.6) lying along the east side of College Drive between Front and Ottawa Streets. Purchased from the J. D. Corporation on October 15, 1959 for \$20,000.
2. A plot (230' x 550', acreage 2.9) located on the north side of Front Street opposite Wenonah Street. Purchased from Arie DeBruyn on January 31, 1965 for \$9,500.
3. A plot (295' x 440', acreage 3) located along the south side of Ottawa Street and east of Apache Pass. Purchased from Nick Sarris on March 1, 1965 for \$15,000.
4. Ten lots (70' x 112', acreage 1.8) lying along the south side of Ottawa Street east of College Drive. Purchased from the Francis Hotel System on July 23, 1965 for \$25,681.09.
5. One lot (50' x 165') located on the north side of Front Street immediately east of Wenonah Street. Purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Dale Beery on February 21, 1966 for \$3,000.
6. Technical Center property (7.5 acres) in the 700 block on East Front Street. Purchased from Cherry Growers on June 30, 1967 for \$350,000, including buildings.
7. A plot (383' x 647', acreage 5.7) west of East Bay Boulevard and south of Ottawa Street extended. Purchased from the Roman family on January 4, 1968 for \$40,000.

8. Two city lots (nos. 19 and 21 Birchwood) near Front Street. Purchased from the MacIntosh estate on August 1, 1969 for \$3,000.
9. Orchard property and house (56 acres) north of Eastern Avenue. Purchased from Herman, et al, on November 1, 1969 for \$165,000.
10. Home at 1140 Peninsula Drive for College President's residence. Purchased from Dr. K. M. Brownson on December 31, 1969 for \$75,000 (less gift of \$15,000).

TOTAL ACREAGE - Approximately 150

TOTAL COST - \$728,681

Off-Campus Property Gifts Made to Northwestern Michigan College:

1. Farm, 215 acres, located on M-37, Blair Township, Grand Traverse County. Gift of Gerald W. and Frances M. Oleson on January 2, 1953.
2. Lot 72 and the north 12.62 feet of Lot 73 in the town of Kingsley. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie C. Tremaine on April 15, 1959, subject to life lease.
3. Forest property, 120 acres, located in Bloomfield Township, Missaukee County. Gift of James McCurdy and Edwin Holmquist on March 22, 1960.
4. Forest property, 80 acres, located in Mayfield Township, Grand Traverse County. Gift of Maxine R. Gantner on August 19, 1960.
5. Forest property, 60 acres, located in Mayfield Township, Grand Traverse County. Gift of Gilbert and Nettie Valleau on November 4, 1960.

TOTAL - 475 acres

CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST CAMPUS BUILDING

It all began with an impressive ground-breaking ceremony held on the new campus on July 3, 1952. Quoting from the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*, we have this description of the event. "In a primeval setting, surrounded by a wall of dense woods, a colorful ceremony was held Thursday afternoon marking the turning of the first earth for Northwestern Michigan College. To the notes of the Star Spangled Banner played by a brass ensemble from the National Music Camp, the American flag was hoisted to the top of the new flagpole with the College pennant directly beneath." It should be noted that this pennant was made especially for the occasion by Mrs. Robert Detwiler and, because of the lack of official College colors at this early date, she chose to use blue and maroon. The flagpole used that day still is in use, and it remains in the same location as when it was originally erected.

Dr. Harlan Hatcher, President of the University of Michigan, "turned the first shovelful of earth to signal the start of construction" and in his address, ". . . likened the setting of the new regional educational institution to that of pioneer days of America and predicted that the next several years will see Northwestern Michigan College making contributions to the nation as a whole as well as this area."

Sometime before, the College had purchased four unused barracks buildings at the Traverse City Coast Guard Station. These frame structures had been built by the federal government during World War II at a cost of approximately \$180,000 and were made available to the College as surplus property at the nominal cost of \$300. It was proposed that the materials from these buildings be disassembled in panels and used in erecting one-story classroom buildings and other structures on the new campus. The cost of this

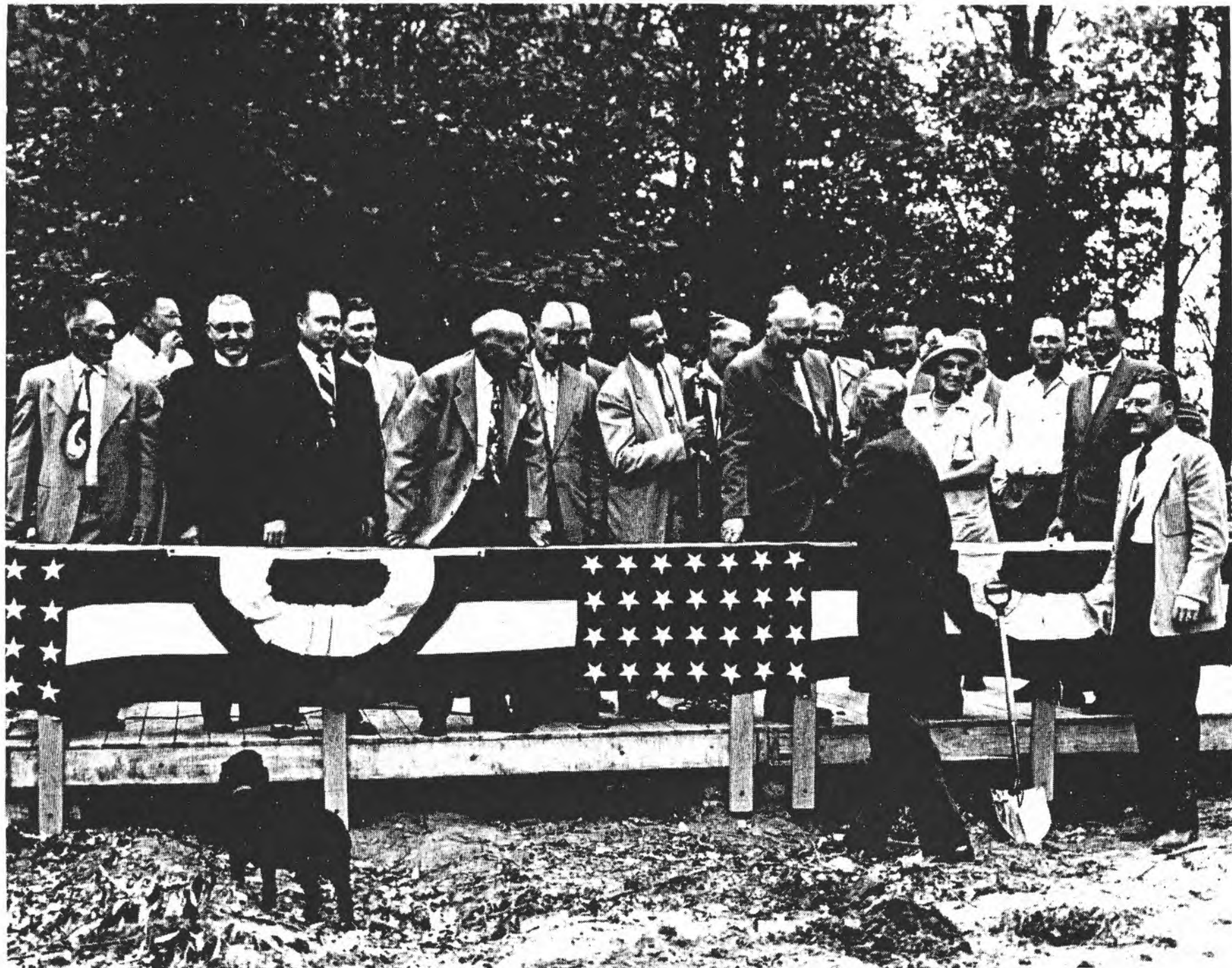
construction, for an estimated amount of \$100,000, would be considerably less than if new materials were used.

There was an impatience to begin construction at once, even though finances were lacking to see the project through. Some Board members objected to a proposal to put in footings and build cement block foundations because the cost of \$5,000 for this work would all but deplete the treasury. However, Board President Les Biederman argued that once there was tangible evidence of some kind of construction, the community would provide the money and the volunteer labor to see that the job was done. After much discussion the resistance faded and authorization was given for the expenditure. The foundations were completed that summer, and it was not long before the anticipated community support became available to continue the job.

There were delays and plans had to be revised frequently because of lack of finances. It was to be two more years before the building was ready for occupancy.

Originally it was planned that the structure would consist of three wings: a north classroom building; a south classroom building; and a larger central building for the library, dining facilities and offices, all to be connected by a long corridor. However, it was 1956 before the central wing could be built.

The two classroom wings and the corridor were erected and roughed in, and then construction came to an abrupt halt which lasted for several months. There was no more money. Meanwhile the College enrollment was growing, and it was realized that soon the airport terminal building would be inadequate. Something had to be done and appeals were made to the community for help. Two plumbing firms donated several hours of time of



Ground-breaking ceremony for NMC's first campus building

their employees, and several carpenters spent weekends on the job. A Suttons Bay manufacturer contributed 28 doors, and a power company searched its warehouses and found a supply of used light fixtures to give to the College.

There was the problem of providing heat for the building. A boiler house would cost \$20,000, and then there was the equipment to go into it. Financing this package seemed impossible but, again, there were gifts and volunteers. The Concrete Products Company of Cadillac donated the cement blocks, Pre-Cast Industries of Kalamazoo provided the roof beams, the steel fire door was given by the Red Mill Lumber Company, and Purvis Brothers, Inc. fabricated and erected the smoke stack. Men came to do the excavating with hand shovels and to pour the cement slabs. A combination boiler and stoker no longer being used by a Hillsdale hospital was purchased for \$750 and trucked to Traverse City without cost. Finally, when the heat was ready to turn on, less than \$2,000 in cash had been spent on the total project.

Most of the interior painting was done by staff members and students, but there were others who helped. Members of the Traverse City Lions Club met for their regular dinner session one Friday night and then adjourned to the campus to paint the 300-foot corridor. They had built a moveable scaffold and, with men riding on each side doing walls and others on top painting the ceiling, this ingenious structure never stopped until it had reached the end of the corridor. It was 11:00 p.m. and as the tired "painters" went back to inspect their work, they were dismayed to find that there had been a mix-up of paint colors along the way. The next morning they returned and did the job over.

It was early in March of 1955 that the building was finally ready. The students and staff were anxious to move, and the date was set. One of the students, in a weekly *Record-Eagle* column at that time, made these

observations. "Coming home to its campus marks an important milestone in the history of Northwestern Michigan College. It is an event that has been made possible by the contributions of time and materials of thousands of people of the Grand Traverse area. Northwestern Michigan College, whatever its future may be, will never be greater than the spirit which has made the new campus buildings possible."

FIRST COMMENCEMENT AT NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

The first commencement ceremony was a colorful event held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 1953. It marked the first milestone in the history of the new institution, and several educators from other parts of Michigan took part in the program. The large audience of nearly five hundred people were relatives of the graduates and supporters of the College whose contributions of effort and money had helped to make the school possible. It was an outdoor event and appropriately set in a tree-shaded corner of the new campus in the general area of what was later to become the intersection of College Drive and Ottawa Street.

State Representative Arnell Engstrom introduced the honored guests, who included a representative from the University of Michigan, Dr. Clyde Vroman; Thomas Ford from Michigan State College (University); J. D. Marcus from Central Michigan College (University); Representative Howard Estes of Birmingham from the state legislature; and Les Biederman, President of Educational Fund, Inc. All spoke briefly, expressing appreciation and commendation for the College.

Dr. Lee M. Thurston, Michigan's Superintendent of Public Instruction, had accepted the invitation to deliver the commencement address but became ill the last moment and was unable to attend. Dr. Clifford E. Erickson, Dean of the Basic College at Michigan State College, substituted for him and was able to arrive just in time for the ceremony. Dr. Erickson complimented the community for its pioneering spirit in establishing the College and lauded the leaders in taking the initiative to develop a unique program in community college education. In his speech he said that "man is solving the disease and literacy problems in America but little progress has been made in other

fields--eliminating war and ending man's inhumanity to man." These, he challenged, furnished a place for creative talent to work where past and present generations had failed.

The members of the graduating class were presented by Preston Tanis, the College Director, and the degrees were conferred by Glenn E. Loomis, General Superintendent. Music for the processional was furnished by the newly-formed Northwestern Michigan Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Pedro Paz from Olivet College; and the Northwestern Michigan College Choir, under the direction of James Leonard, sang two anthems as a part of the program.

Following is a list of those who graduated in 1953: Eleanor C. Brzezinski and Rozell W. Sattler from Cedar; Betty J. Fahler and Raymond R. Silva from Boyne City; James M. Wilcox from Detroit; Carol L. Poynor from Benzonia; Joanne R. Cook from Mancelona; H. Eugene Bisson from Ann Arbor; Peter C. Burfiend, Edward A. Schmidt and Joy L. Kyser from Maple City; Janet G. Harrigan from Buckley; Alexander J. Galligan from Kalkaska; Virginia L. Mariage, Joseph W. Mariage, Marjorie J. Underhill and Allen G. Scheck from Rapid City; Edmund L. Maynard from Freesoil; Alfred W. Weaver from Kingsley; and from Traverse City were George C. Comden, Forrest F. Manigold, Wendell C. Millberg, Ruth E. Morris, Alvin J. Zimmerman, Richard D. Taylor, Robert Palmer, Joanne E. Roman and Louis N. Rumanes.

The dedicatory statement in the yearbook of the class of '53 was significant. These first graduates were quick to recognize the part others had played to make their education possible. This recognition of community effort was a tribute to them.

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS 1953



Eleanor Brzezinski



Allen Scheck



Joanne Roman



Louis Rumanes



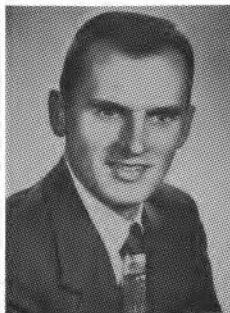
Raymond Silva



Richard Taylor



Robert Palmer



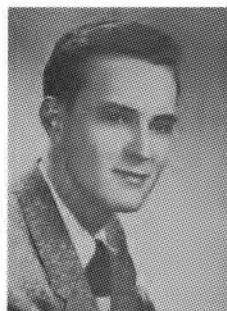
Peter Burfiend



Janet Harrigan



Alexander Galligan



Forrest Manigold



Virginia Mariage



Wendell Millberg



Betty Fahler



James Wilcox



Carol Poynor



Edward Schmidt



Joy Kyser



Rozell Sattler



George Comden



Joanne Cook



Eugene Bisson



Edmund Maynard



Ruth Morris



Joseph Mariage



Alvin Zimmerman



Marjorie Underhill



Alfred Weaver

"Lumber and nails, students and faculty, administrators and citizen board, all are needed for a college to be a college. In this respect NMC is rich in materials both human and physical. But, at the same time, these things do not set it apart from most American campuses.

"If the College can lay claim to an individuality, a unique something of its own, certainly this quality is the spirit surrounding its planning, its presence, and its future. This spirit, and the courage to breathe life into an ideal, has come from men and women of our region. Some have given money, some wisdom, but each has given a portion of himself to a great idea.

"To these citizens who have sensed the supporting role our infant College must play in unshackling the talents and securing the liberties of tomorrow's American, we dedicate this book."

MOVING TO THE CAMPUS

Moving from the airport building to the campus on March 11, 1955 was a milestone in the history of Northwestern Michigan College. Appropriately named "Operation M," it involved a work force of two hundred students, faculty members and friends of the College who volunteered their services and began the job promptly at 8:00 that morning.

A fleet of twelve trucks, donated to the College for the day, was used to haul desks, chairs, tables, 4,000 library books, office equipment and records. Planned by the students, the operation was efficiently organized. Volunteers were divided into teams and each was assigned to a special job. Donuts and coffee were available at "strategic spots" and, at noon, a group of students prepared lunch for everybody. Sally Case, a student responsible for the *Record-Eagle* column, "Roundabout Campus," recorded these observations at that time. "Operation M was termed a huge success by the tired, but happy, students who completed the job early Friday afternoon." They "were delighted with the spacious, prettily decorated rooms . . . the large typing and office machine rooms were appreciated by the business students who had suffered most from cramped conditions in the other (airport) building . . . an air of happy cooperation prevailed. Song fests, interspersed with hard work, kept spirits high, and when the job was finally done, everyone felt at home. They are after all a part of it, they've actually had a hand in making the long awaited event come true."

This frame building, constructed with second-hand materials, which was such a pleasant and expansive contrast to the "temporary airport facility" for the students in the mid-fifties, continues to serve for classrooms and faculty offices in the seventies. It still holds a sentimental attachment for older staff



Student volunteers for "Operation M"

members even though several newer buildings have gradually taken its place as "showplaces" of the College.

THE WIGWAM CLUB

The Wigwam Club was founded at a meeting of the Directors of Educational Fund, Inc. held on March 18, 1955. Recognizing that the College lacked a substantial alumni group, which is the mainstay of many older institutions, the Directors held this special meeting to discuss the feasibility of organizing a booster club.

Harold (Jack) Votey, Jr., an enthusiastic backer of the College, attended and played an important role in setting up the objectives of the organization. It was agreed that membership would provide affiliation with the College similar to membership in an alumni group and that, periodically, these members would receive bulletins on the progress of the College. A three-fold purpose was established: (1) to engage in fundraising projects for capital improvement, (2) to promote and publicize the institution, and (3) to assist in the recruitment of students for the College.

The name "Wigwam Club" was proposed by George Altenburg, board member of Old Mission and retired Dean of Highland Park Junior College. It was a popular choice since it symbolized the Club's primary purpose in "putting a roof over the College." Also, it was suggestive of the College's emphasis on functional rather than monumental buildings and was in keeping with the area's historical background.

A drive for membership was started a few days after the meeting, and by November of that first year nearly 600 persons had paid the five-dollar membership fee. Jack Votey was elected the first president of the Wigwam Club and Ernest Gaunt, a member of the College staff, was named secretary-treasurer. Later he was followed in this position by Jack McChrystal. The first board for the organization, in addition to Votey and Gaunt, was made up

of Stanley Steed, George Altenburg, Vincent Fochtman, Robert Kleiman, Carl Kobbins, Genevieve Steiger and Bea Brott.

Throughout the years since its founding, the Wigwam Club has been active in carrying out its original objectives. It has done much to popularize the College and has been instrumental in the support of College activities. However, its main contribution has been the management and promotion of the barbecues each May. It has made this one of the community's most successful annual events and thereby made possible several capital improvements for the College.

Wigwam Club presidents following Jack Votey were:

1958-59	Carl Kobbins
1960	James Beckett
1961	Genevieve Steiger
1962-63	A. H. (Red) Stults
1964	Dorothy Helms
1965	Arthur Whitelock
1966	Gretchen Votruba
1967	John McGuffin
1968	John Richardson
1969	Russell McNamara
1970	Lyle DeYoung
1971	Mort Forster
1972	Robert Bridges

CAMPUS DAYS

The Campus Day tradition had its beginning in the autumn of 1955. Actually, it was the success of "Operation M" in the spring of that year that sparked the idea. Students and faculty had cooperated in moving the College to its new campus, and not only had this saved the College a substantial outlay of money, but it had brought about an "esprit de corps" among the participants in the process. Now classes were being held in the first building, but little had been done to develop the surrounding campus. Situated in a heavily wooded area, the College had a unique problem. There were acres of underbrush to be cleared and hundreds of stumps and rotted logs and tree branches to be removed. Parking lots and paths needed to be built, and lawns and shrubs planted. Much of this work required a great deal of manpower and the Campus Day idea, combining work with fun, seemed to be at least part of the answer to the College's problem.

At first the event was held in the fall of the year. There were sunny, crisp days in late October and early November, and everyone seemed to enjoy the outdoor activities. There were rainy days, too, which were much less pleasant. But even then, the affair was held and much was accomplished by the students and faculty working together. In 1965 Campus Day became a spring event. It was reasoned that since it was barbecue and commencement time and many visitors would be on the campus, this was a more appropriate time for a general cleanup.

During the first Campus Days, tree stumps were generally removed by sheer manpower and gravel was spread with hand tools. Then the College acquired a huge bulldozer from government surplus, and it made its first appearance on Campus Day in the fall of 1957. It was quickly tagged "Ezmeralda" by the students, and when a particularly tough job came along,



Typical Campus Day activities

the cry was "Ezzie does it." Needless to add, trees and stumps were removed with greater dispatch with the advent of the bulldozer.

Community contributions to Campus Days were significant. There were trucks and other heavy equipment loaned by local business and industrial concerns; others contributed cement blocks, lumber, lawn seeding, and paint. Students brought their own rakes and shovels. There were contributions of food for the noon lunch and, one time, an area frozen pie producer furnished, without cost, all the pies for the dessert. Traditionally, the luncheon has been popular. Whether held as an outdoor picnic or served in the cafeteria on rainy days, it has featured a bountiful supply of food and always has been a happy occasion for the hungry Campus Day workers.

Tom Bailey, writing his "Roundabout Campus" column in 1955, described the first Campus Day as a "perfect example of unity and cooperation." He suggested that "more important than the material gains . . . were the traditions formed." He noted that "new friends were made, old acquaintances were strengthened, and a spirit of College loyalty and pride came forth in a way not previously observed." Further, he predicted that Campus Day "would become a traditional event at Northwestern Michigan College." His prediction has proven to be accurate. The event has become one of the unique traditions of the College and, over the years, it has made possible many improvements and one of the most beautiful campuses in Michigan. The remarkable thing is that all this has been done with little institutional cost and with much profit to student and faculty morale.

THE COLLEGE BARBECUES

The first College Barbecue was held Sunday, May 27, 1956, north of the classroom building in an area later to become a baseball field. The event, in spite of a blustery and overcast day, went far beyond the most optimistic expectations for attendance and general success. A total of 4,821 people were served and \$5,150 raised for the purchase of equipment for a new physics laboratory. Gerald and Frances Oleson of the Oleson's Food Stores donated all the food for the menu of barbecued steakettes, potato salad, baked beans, cole slaw, relishes, dessert and a choice of beverages. Preparation of the huge amount of food was under the supervision of Andrew Olson, Area 4-H Club Director, who had several years of experience in the feeding of large groups.

Careful planning and the efficiency of several committees contributed much to the success of the event. Jack Votey, Jr., Wigwam President, headed up the overall project. Hogan Helms was in charge of ticket sales and conducted an advance "T-Night" sale which netted over \$2,000. Ben I. Taylor was responsible for publicity and Jack McChrystal for the entertainment of guests. Paul Easling headed the committee on arrangements, and Jack Minderhout, the chairman of the Food Service committee, saw to it that the mechanics of the serving line moved along smoothly.

Business places, units of government, and many individuals and organizations cooperated. The ovens of Schall's Bakery and Munson Hospital kitchen facilities were used to prepare the large quantities of beef, the City Park Department provided picnic tables, and hot water was hauled from Ideal Dairy after the supply at the College heating plant became exhausted. Linens and aprons for the food handlers were furnished by the Royal Linen Service, soft drinks by the Coca Cola Bottling Company, and College girls provided a baby-sitting service. The City Street Department dispatched a special truck



Gerald and Frances Oleson, 1951

to Manistee for chloride to lay the dust in the picnic area. All workers for the preparation and service of the food were volunteers, and when waiting lines began to reach almost to Eastern Avenue, many of those who had come as guests rolled up their sleeves and helped with the serving.

The story of the first College Barbecue was widely publicized in Michigan newspapers and reported to be the largest and most successful fundraising project ever launched in behalf of a Michigan college. So encouraged and enthusiastic were members of the Wigwam Club that plans were made immediately to stage the event another year.

The second Barbecue was held in 1957 and others have followed each year. The event has now become a traditional community picnic. The pattern of operation, with special committees for ticket sales, publicity, serving arrangements, entertainment, and cleanup, has changed little from the first year. Volunteers are never lacking, and the enthusiasm to participate grows each year. There have been beautiful and sunny days for the event, others that were cold and dreary and, in 1967, it rained during the entire day. But always the crowds came; over 8,500 people were served on that rainy Sunday in 1967. They ate their meal in the library and classroom buildings. By the early '70s the affair had tripled in attendance, and there seemed no end to the aspirations of the Wigwam Club and the Olesons to make each year bigger and better than the one before.

An unusual added attraction at the College Barbecues has been the cake sales and cake walks. They began in 1957 when the Dromedary Company donated a thousand boxes of cake mix to be used for a huge College benefit cake sale. Hundreds of women, and even a number of men, were recruited in Traverse City and nearby communities to bake the 1,000 cakes. At the Empire Air Base, under the direction of one of its chief officers, 50 cakes



Andrew Olson and Gerald (Jerry) Oleson at the first NMC Barbecue



The first College Barbecue, May 27, 1956

were baked; wives of local Coast Guardsmen contributed a like number. A cake baked by the wife of Congressman Robert Griffin was flown from Washington and sold for \$14.70 at a special auction held during the Barbecue. Over the years hundreds of cakes have been contributed, and the cake walks have proved to be a popular attraction for the picnickers and their families.

Each year has seen physical changes and improvements in conducting the event in order to efficiently handle the ever-increasing numbers. Planners of the new heating plant made provisions for special outlets for steam, hot water, and electrical power just to meet Barbecue needs. In 1968 a barbecue pit was built by the Traverse City Jaycees and Technical Institute students. The engineer for the power plant, Stuart Long from Grand Rapids, was so impressed with the Barbecues that he presented and had mounted on the roof of the building a genuine steam whistle from a Rocky Mountain locomotive to herald every one-hundredth patron to clear the serving line.

One thing, however, has not changed--that is the contribution of Jerry Oleson and his family. Every year Jerry is the first to arrive and the last to leave; and, in between, he usually works on a job no one else wants. While the total cooperation of hundreds of community volunteers has done so much to make this event popular and profitable, it is the contribution of Jerry and Frances Oleson and their sons, Donald and Jerry, which top the list. For the 1971 Barbecue alone they furnished 15,000 steakettes, 15,000 buns, 100 bushels of potatoes for the potato salad, 2 tons of baked beans, 9,000 cartons of milk, 120 pounds of coffee, 13,000 servings of ice cream, and large quantities of relishes, vegetables and cole slaw. And that is not all--the Olesons provided all the paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic spoons, charcoal and even pay the printing bill for the tickets for the event. Finally, the day after each Barbecue the Olesons run a special newspaper ad to "thank everyone in the entire region" for attending and making the event successful.

after each Barbecue the Olesons run a special newspaper ad to "thank everyone in the entire region" for attending and making the event successful.

The Barbecues have prompted special editorial comments over the years and reflect pretty well the popular reaction of the people. In 1957 the observation was made that "It is great to live in Traverse City. Where else would a third of the population turn out on a cold, dreary Sunday to wait in line at a barbecue to aid the local College?" At another time it was noted that "It is doubtful that any other community in Michigan can boast of greater cooperative effort than that which Traverse City and the surrounding area displays annually in staging this College benefit."

Below are some facts about the 17 barbécues from 1956 through 1971:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Proceeds</u>	<u>Project</u>
1956	4,821	\$ 5,150	Equipment for physics department
1957	4,629	5,100	Equipment for chemistry department
1958	5,010	5,200	Building fund for 1957 building addition
1959	5,253	5,500	Cafeteria equipment
1960	6,123	7,000	Furnishings for the Mark Osterlin Library
1961	6,262	6,450	Launched Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program
1962	5,777	6,500	Furnishings & equipment for Science Building Lecture Room
1963	6,185	7,000	Equipment for biology department
1964	6,457	7,000	Digital computer
1965	8,084	9,000	Facilities for tennis and other recreational activities
1966	9,397	10,150	Equipment for Medical & Dental Assistants Program
1967	8,528	10,100	Language laboratory
1968	9,672	9,987	Equipment for Nick Rajkovich Physical Education Center
1969	11,709	12,500	Launching the Great Lakes Maritime Academy
1970	11,315	12,000	Equipment for Fine Arts Building

<u>Year</u>	<u>Served</u>	<u>Proceeds</u>	<u>Project</u>
1971	14,023	15,031	Landscaping and exterior work for the Fine Arts Building
1972	11,732	12,300	Two Dodge Sportsman Wagons

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION

Northwestern Michigan College was granted its first accreditation by the Michigan Commission on College Accreditation in the spring of 1957 following nearly a year of self-study, reports, and visitation. The announcement was made on June 11, 1957 by Russell A. Stevenson, Chairman of the Commission and one of the examiners who visited the College. Other members of the team to inspect the College were Dr. Eric J. Bradner, President of Schoolcraft College in Livonia, and Dr. Ferris N. Crawford from the Michigan Department of Education.

In its report the Commission listed the outstanding features and deficiencies of the College and included a number of recommendations. Notable excerpts from the "Findings" were:

"The teaching and administrative personnel constitute the strength of Northwestern Michigan College."

"Evidence was found of careful counseling of students. The student files and cumulative records were excellent, both from the standpoint of content and arrangement for efficient use."

"The physics laboratory seems well equipped for demonstration and experimentation in the usual elements of physics-mechanics, heat, light, sound, electricity and electronics."

"Even in cramped quarters and in the absence of a full-time librarian, a good job has been done in the acquisition of books and with circulations."

Under "Recommendations" the report stated in part:

"While the school is to be commended in its efficient and cheerful use of its limited resources, there is a need for more adequate financing."

"The educational program could be strengthened through the initiation of a continuous scientific study of the educational needs in the service area."

"Provision should be made for student activities and individual study. Long-term planning should include more adequate provisions for physical education."

In conclusion, the report stated that:

"A good spirit was evidenced between administration, faculty and students. The institution is to be commended for the many things that have been accomplished in a brief time. The spirit and pride of accomplishment was exhibited by everyone."

Late in 1958 the staff and administration of the College decided that an application should be made to the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities for national approval. Upon request, requirements regarding reports and a self-study were made available by the Association. Six committees made up of faculty members, students and administrators were established that winter to do an intensive study of institutional goals, resources, programs, faculty services, and student life on the campus. Members of the Board of Trustees contributed to the study as individuals and as a group on policy matters. A comprehensive report was written in the summer of 1959, and this was supplemented with additional information in 1960.

The College was inspected by representatives of the North Central Association in November of 1960. Dr. Peter Masiko, Executive Dean of Chicago City Junior College, acted as Chairman of the visiting team, and other members were Dr. J. Martin Klotsche, Provost of the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Albert Huegli, Academic Dean from Concordia Teachers College; and Dr. Edward C. Moore, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Idaho.

The recommendations of the visiting inspectors were presented to the North Central Association at its annual meeting in the spring of 1961, and on March 25, the announcement was made that Northwestern Michigan College had been granted full accreditation with no reservations.

The following are excerpts from the report which the examiners made to the College:

"The College has a stable source of income which permits sound planning. Budgeting procedures are simple but adequate and the administration has shown ingenuity in husbanding its resources. The administration of the College and the Board of Trustees should be commended for their vigorous leadership in getting financial support from the community for special projects such as scholarships, library collections, etc."

". . . all but one of the faculty members have a master's degree, and the faculty averages about eighteen months of graduate study beyond the bachelor's degree. This is a better overall record than the average of the community and junior colleges in the State of Michigan."

"The relationships between faculty and students were excellent. In talking with a fairly large number of students individually, they seem to feel that they are getting good instruction, that they are getting their money's worth, and that, on the basis of their talks with former students who had moved on to other four-year colleges and universities, the preparation at Northwestern Michigan College was excellent for these transfer students."

"Special mention should be made of the excellent condition of the facilities and the very fine maintenance which is provided with only two full-time maintenance personnel."

"Since the College has been in existence for not more than ten years there has not been too much opportunity to conduct follow-up studies. However, since the number of graduates has been increasing fairly rapidly in the last several years, the College should engage in very conscientious efforts to make the kinds of follow-up studies necessary to determine the effectiveness of its instruction program."

While not directly related to the accreditation process, it is significant that during this same time Northwestern Michigan College received additional recognition for its academic stature from another source. In an article appearing in the December 17, 1960 issue of the *National Review* magazine, Russell Kirk, well-known columnist and author of *The Conservative Mind*, questioned the proliferation of mediocre community colleges in Michigan. He wrote that the "average community college is an amorphous blend of 'thirteenth and fourteenth grades'--a mere prolongation of high school." However, he made an exception of Northwestern Michigan College, which he said was "a serious and useful liberal arts college." Dr. Kirk had had occasion to visit the local College as a lecturer and had become well acquainted with some of its staff members over a period of time.

In April of 1968 the College administration was informed by the North Central Association that the time had come for a review visit and that it was being planned for 1970. Coincidentally, a self-study had been started earlier that year under the direction of the faculty council. Therefore, it was a matter of simply continuing the examination with guidelines now being furnished by the Association.

The study and reports were completed in the fall of 1969 and representatives of the North Central Association made their inspection visit in May of 1970. The team members were Dr. O. T. Richardson (Chairman), Dean of Instructional Services from Ball State University; President Ervin S. French of Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado; and Charles E. Chapman, President of Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio. The report and recommendations of the visitors were presented to the Association officials in July and shortly after the College was notified of the continuation of its accreditation status.

THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

The idea of a College library was discussed for the first time at a meeting of the Directors of Educational Fund, Inc. held on July 14, 1951. Ellis Wunsch, newly appointed English instructor, attended this meeting to make a special appeal for these facilities. He emphasized the importance of books in the learning process and that the resources needed for college students generally would not be available in either the city or high school libraries. Mr. Wunsch was appointed chairman of a special committee to see what could be done, and through the efforts of its members, a trained librarian was later hired on a part-time basis. L. Harry Strauss, who held a graduate library degree from the University of Chicago and who was temporarily acting as Superintendent of the Rapid City Schools, agreed to come in on Saturdays and occasionally during the week to start the College library. Given a budget of \$3,000 and using Mohrhardt's "Books for Junior College Libraries" as a guide, he began immediately to assemble a list of basic books. He involved the faculty in suggesting titles and, in doing this, he set a tradition which has been continued throughout the years.

In the meantime Board Chairman, Les Biederman, made use of his radio broadcasting facilities to call upon regional citizens to search their attics for books and bring them to the College. The budget allotment for books had been a fair amount for the first year but, unfortunately, it had to be cut when the general funds became unbalanced. The appeal for books brought in hundreds of items, and while some did have value as College references, most of them were later distributed to area schools where they would have better use.

This first library was housed in a large second-floor room at the airport building which served as the "temporary" home of the College for four years. The fact that this room was used also for large classes, for student assemblies, and for weekend social affairs did little to enhance its library atmosphere. However, it must be remembered that these were pioneering days for the College.

Mr. Strauss left the area to accept another position at the end of the second year, and Water Beardslee was appointed to take his place. As a social science instructor Mr. Beardslee could give only part-time attention to this assignment. However, he had an unusual interest in college library resources and worked hard to bring growth and recognition to the library during his tenure.

When the College moved to its new campus in the spring of 1955 the library was located in a room in the south wing of the structure. Here space was at a premium and expansion was almost impossible until larger facilities could be built. In the fall of that year Florence Oakes was added to the staff, and part of her assignment was to assist Mr. Beardslee in the library. A short time later she was given the full responsibility and, despite her lack of professional training in the field and the cramped quarters in which she had to work, the basic library services were provided in an efficient manner under her management. It is a tribute to her that both the student assistant program and the Library Memorial Fund which she started have been continued throughout the years.

The library was now five years old; \$12,792 has been spent for books and periodicals, and there were approximately 4,000 volumes on the shelves. This was not adequate for a two-year college library, but, considering the financial position of the institution during those early years perhaps little more could



Construction of the Administration Building

be expected. However, now that the College was showing a rapid growth each year, both Mr. Beardslee and Mrs. Oakes strongly urged on several occasions that a full-time professional librarian be employed in order to provide proper guidance for the growth of the College library services.

The administration wing of the College was completed in 1957, and one-fourth of the space in the new structure was allocated to the library. It was at this time that Bernard C. Rink, a fully qualified librarian with previous experience at the University of Detroit library, was appointed to take full charge and, within a short time, the library began to assume its proper function as an important part of the College. The library budget was increased substantially and, with the additional space for books and the guidance of a professional librarian, the collection was increased to over 10,000 volumes during the next five years. But the "growing space" did not last. The College was adding new students each year, and the library as the center in the learning process soon was over-crowded and bulging with books. It was evident that consideration must be given to the construction of a College library building.

THE MARK OSTERLIN LIBRARY

It was the fall of 1957. This had been a significant year for Northwestern Michigan College. Nearly 500 students enrolled with the opening of classes in September. There were several new staff members, new programs, and a newly constructed west wing of the physical plant was being used for the first time. Earlier in the year the College had been accredited by the Michigan Commission on Accreditation, and in its report the Commission had noted the rapid increases in enrollment and pointed out that there was a "pressing need to build the facilities necessary for a complete program." To accomplish this it was suggested that there be "long-term planning for facilities."

College officials and Board members responded to the Commission's recommendation by establishing a Physical Plant Survey Committee to make the study. William Milliken was selected as chairman, and serving with him on the Committee were Dr. Mark Osterlin, Julius Sleder, Preston Tanis and Ellis Wunsch. The Committee met each week for several months studying the College objectives, enrollment trends and building needs. A detailed report of its findings was presented to the Board of Trustees in the spring of 1958 which emphasized the need for academic facilities and placed a high priority on a separate library building. However, because of financial problems, it was over a year later before the Trustees were able to act on this recommendation. In November of 1959 the architectural firm of Harford Field and Associates was selected to draw up preliminary plans for a library building, and Trustee Harold Votey was appointed chairman of a special committee to prepare a statement of needs, to seek finances, and work with the architect on the planning. Others serving on this Library Planning Committee were Almon R. Arnold, Dr. Harry L. Weitz and Jack W. Zimmerman from the community and Florence M. Oakes and Bernard C. Rink from the College staff. The report of this committee, basic to the future development of the NMC library, follows:

"Over a period of several hundred years one fact emerges from the record of American Colleges: An outstanding student body, faculty, administration, and physical plant cannot combine to form an exceptional school unless the library of the college is excellent. Since a library is the vital center of a college, its planning must be in keeping with the overall objectives of its parent institution.

"Many of these objectives are common to all colleges. Every college wishes to create a climate of inquiry in which its students are challenged, trained and intellectually matured. To this end most academic libraries therefore include among their holdings: (1) standard reference works; (2) basic and classic works in the subject fields taught; (3) materials which keep alive and extend the specialized knowledge of faculty members; (4) general materials which stimulate and partially

satisfy the awakening intellectual interests of students. This last point is not precise, but certainly a good college is a lively community of young people acquainting themselves with the accumulated wisdom of a world in which they are soon to provide a thoughtful, moral, and effective leadership.

"Northwestern Michigan College subscribes to these universal goals. It further recognizes specific objectives stemming from its regional responsibilities. First, the college feels it should serve as a research center for economic affairs prominent in or peculiar to the northwestern Michigan locale. In this connection the College library may stock holdings dealing with northern land use, resort management, conservation, fruit and cattle production, etc. Secondly, the College plans to function as a center preserving and encouraging the cultural traditions of its region. To accomplish this the College library may collect documents important to the historical record of the Grand Traverse area. It can extend its present holdings in art, crafts, music and the theater. Finally, the College wishes to provide facilities for the continuing self-education of intelligent and interested adults in northwestern Michigan. Since these people are generally unable to initiate or continue their formal education in college classrooms, it is the library which must enrich its holdings to fill their needs.

"In part, these educational ends can be achieved through a traditionally equipped college library. But many of the means to these ends are new, and a contemplated library plant should therefore be adapted to these new means. The time-honored holdings of books, bound periodicals, and newspapers can now be supplemented with audio-visual materials: microfilms, motion picture films, slides, film strips, recordings, sound tapes, teletypes, etc. This in turn means that the facilities of an efficient, present-day library must be planned to allow the best use of these new means to old ends. Listening posts, recording booths, microfilm reading stations, and small projection rooms all enter the picture as well as the mechanical equipment to properly equip these spaces. Moreover, since this equipment is not uniformly portable and since classrooms are not ordinarily nor economically constructed for audio-visual purposes, it is sensible to provide several special-use classrooms in close connection with the library's audio-visual center. The students and their instructor may then meet in such rooms from time to time when the requirements of a particular course call for audio-visual aids. This keeps the general classrooms inexpensive in construction and flexible in use.

"Accordingly, the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Michigan College and the Library Planning Citizen Committee recommend that a memorial library be solicited, that it be a separate building of approximately 14,000 square feet, that it house roughly 80,000 volumes, and that it include the spaces and facilities necessary for the additional services now properly located in a college library plant. This building, equipped, would, in the opinion of an architect member of the Committee, cost \$300,000, but could be constructed in two stages with a time interval between appropriate to the needs of the College and the donor. Stage one would cost \$200,000; stage two, \$100,000.

"Present policy of the State of Michigan is such that one-half of these amounts would be matched by the state from a recently created fund for capital improvement of public, two-year colleges.

"An endowed library of this sort would adequately serve the needs of the College and the region for a period of from ten to twenty years on the basis of current estimated enrollments."

While the original plans for the building provided for a concrete canopied entrance with some upper level rooms, these had to be abandoned because of the high cost of this type of construction. Agreement was reached early in 1960 on a more conservative plan without reducing available floor space, and that spring construction contracts were awarded for a total of approximately \$320,000. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on June 23 with Les Biederman manning a huge excavator supplied by the contractor for the occasion. The building was completed on schedule and ready for occupancy with the fall opening of the College in 1961.

Capital improvement tax millage, approved in 1960, matching funds from the State of Michigan, and voluntary contributions made possible the financing of the library construction. A campaign for special gifts was conducted under the leadership of Jack Votey, and over \$65,000 was donated by business organizations and individuals from the community and surrounding area to be used for the completion of this building and the early construction of the

science building. An appropriate tablet mounted in the lobby of the library gives recognition to all those who gave \$1,000 or more.

The library cornerstone was laid at a special evening ceremony held on September 20, 1961. Dr. Harry L. Weitz, member of the Board of Trustees, spoke briefly on the growth of the College and expressed appreciation to all those who had made this possible. Bernard Rink, the Librarian, and Robert Warner, the President of the College Council, placed several articles in the special metal container. Director Preston Tanis presided during the ceremony and briefly described the documents and other materials as they were deposited. Items preserved were sample memorabilia of Northwestern Michigan College and American life in the early sixties. There was a current list of students, a College catalog, a 1961 yearbook, and a copy of the *Nor'Wester*. Representative of the popular literature of the day were copies of *TV Guide*, *Time Magazine*, *The Hollywood Tattler*, *Playboy Magazine* and even a comic book. Other things included were an Eskimo carving from the first Eskimo Art Show held at the College, a picture of Dr. Mark Osterlin, and an audio tape on which Mr. Rink discussed the functions and aims of the College library in 1961.

In naming the library tribute was paid a man who had exerted a major influence in the shaping of the academic destiny of the College. Dr. Mark Osterlin was one of the original founders of the institution; he served as Chairman of the Liberal Arts Advisory Committee during the opening years; he became a Director of Educational Fund, Inc. in 1954 and was elected to the first Board of Trustees in 1955. Whether it had to do with curriculum, planning of buildings or establishing College objectives, Dr. Osterlin always was an advocate of high standards. He felt strongly about the importance of a good library as the hub of a college and, as a member of the Physical Plant



Dr. Mark Osterlin

Survey Committee, he was influential in the decision to make the library the first major addition on the College campus.

Dr. Osterlin was born in Norwalk, Ohio on December 21, 1903. He received his medical training at the University of Michigan and after receiving his degree, did special graduate work in pediatrics in Europe. He came to Traverse City in 1935 as the Medical Director of the Central Michigan Children's Clinic, and it was through his efforts that foundation funds became available to make possible the outstanding development of that institution. His active association with the National Music Camp at Interlochen as a trustee, his creative influence at Northwestern Michigan College, and his dedication to civic service, all led to his popular selection as the recipient of the community's Outstanding Citizenship Award in 1956. Dr. Osterlin died suddenly with a heart attack on January 29, 1960.

The library was formally dedicated with a ceremony held on December 3, 1961. Dr. Harry L. Weitz paid tribute to Dr. Osterlin for his achievements as a pediatrician and for his contributions to Northwestern Michigan College. A plaque was unveiled and placed in the lobby of the building inscribed with these words:

"This building is named in honor of Mark Osterlin who valued knowledge and worked to bring science and the arts to the people of this region."

Wilbur C. Munnecke, Vice President and General Manager of the *Chicago Daily News*, presented the dedication address. Mr. Munnecke, who was nationally known for his activities in the field of education, pointed out that an education requires access to the wisdom of the ages which can be found in books. He emphasized that the stronger the library, the stronger the



Wilbur Munnecke

college, and he praised the Trustees for electing to make a library the first major addition to the College campus.

Bernard Rink officially accepted the key to the library and the charge it symbolized. His statement of appreciation was included as a part of the dedication program for the occasion.

"In the Mark Osterlin Library here dedicated, the people of the Grand Traverse community have created a cultural center that is both a credit and a boon to them and the College. Therefore, from the citizens of this County whose tax monies helped build this library, from those on the fund-raising committee who worked tirelessly to obtain individual contributions for it, and from the many who have enriched its resources through gifts of money, books, and equipment, the Trustees, administration, faculty and students of Northwestern Michigan College eagerly and gratefully accept the challenge to preserve and enrich this legacy, and by so doing mirror their gratitude to all concerned."

The decade of the sixties was a period of substantial growth for the Mark Osterlin Library both quantitatively and in overall quality. The book collection tripled to over 30,000 volumes, which exceeded the minimum library standards for an institution the size of Northwestern Michigan College. The periodical collection more than doubled to over 300 titles, with 29 being regularly bound and another 43 being kept on microfilm. By early 1971 a total of 5,320 microfilm reels and 600 records were a part of the Library's resource collection. The Mark Osterlin Library has become one of the few unique centers in the nation for its collection and sales of genuine Eskimo art, and the profit from these annual sales has provided the College with a permanent art collection estimated to be worth \$25,000. For some time it has been microfilming historical documents of northwestern Michigan and the records of several local organizations. These archives are rapidly becoming a valuable historical resource of the area which is served by the College. In

1964 the Mark Osterlin Library was designated as a Depository of Government Publications, one of only two in the Ninth Congressional District.

Budgetary support for the Library was somewhat inadequate during the decade. In spite of intentions to allocate five percent of the College budget for the Library each year, the administration seldom reached this goal. Much credit for its growth during this period must be given to generous gifts of over \$50,000 and grants of \$27,500 made under the federal Higher Education Act. There were substantial individual gifts. Eugene Power, the founder and manager of University Microfilms, donated microfilm equipment and microfilmed American references valued at over \$18,000. There were valuable gifts from Wilbur C. Munnecke, Dr. Robert Herbst, Robert Batdorff, in addition to several contributions to the Library Memorial Fund.

The overall quality of the Mark Osterlin Library stands out when compared to other two-year college libraries in the state and nation. It rated well in a 1970 survey of Michigan community college libraries and has been highly commended by North Central Association examiners. Its long-range goals have been to provide the materials needed to fulfill the educational tasks of the institution and to constantly improve such concepts as library consciousness, opportunities for independent study, effective learning, the merging of classroom and library, and individual instruction. Its success and accomplishments during the first twenty years of the College would indicate that it has made unusual progress in reaching these goals.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES
1953 to 1972

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>GRADUATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
June 13, 1953	Dr. Clifford E. Erickson Michigan State University	28	N.E. of Adm. Bldg.
June 11, 1954	Dr. Stephen S. Nisbet, President Mich. State Board of Education	37	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 10, 1955	James A. Lewis, Vice President University of Michigan	35	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 15, 1956	Clair L. Taylor, Superintendent of Public Instruction	59	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 14, 1957	Dr. Durward B. Varner, Vice President, Michigan State University	73	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 13, 1958	Dr. Lynn M. Bartlett, Superin- tendent of Public Instruction	54	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 13, 1959	Dr. Jesse P. Bogue, Exec. Sec'y. American Ass'n. of Jr. Colleges	85	Woods west of Adm. Bldg.
June 10, 1960	Dr. Warner G. Rice, Chairman Department of English University of Michigan	73	High School Auditorium
June 11, 1961	Congressman Robert Griffin	83	Lawn S.W. of Adm. Bldg.
June 8, 1962	Dr. Ferris N. Crawford Dept. of Public Instruction	89	Mark Osterlin Library
June 14, 1963	G. Robert Harrington, Vice Pres. Michigan Bell Telephone Company	97	Mark Osterlin Library
June 12, 1964	Dr. Arthur M. Eastman Professor of English University of Michigan	93	Mark Osterlin Library
June 11, 1956	Lt. Gov. William G. Milliken	73	Front of Library



Les Biederman speaking at 1955 Commencement



Commencement 1955

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>GRADUATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
June 10, 1966	Dr. Don Irish, Researcher Dow Chemical Company	103	Front of Library
June 4, 1967	Congressman Guy Vander Jagt	220	Front of Library
June 2, 1968	Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hugh M. Behan Grand Rapids	225	Front of Library
June 8, 1969	Edgar L. Hardin, President Story Incorporated, Lansing	237	Front of Library
June 6, 1970	David Oberlin, Director St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation	231	Front of Library
June 5, 1971	Adm. Willard J. Smith, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant (Ret.)	340	Front of Library
June 4, 1972	John F. Porter, Superintendent of Public Instruction	384	Front of Library

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERSHIP

Act No. 188, Michigan's first Community College Law, was approved by the legislature in 1955 and became effective with Governor Mennen Williams' signature on June 14 of that year. It provided that "the community college district shall be directed and governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of nine or more members."

The first Board of Trustees for Northwestern Michigan College under the new law was organized on October 11, 1955 and members were as follows:

Mrs. Evelyn Heim, appointed by the Grand Traverse County Board of Education, pursuant to Act No. 188.

George Altenburg, appointed by the boards of education of fourth-class school districts, pursuant to Act No. 188.

Les Biederman, James Clune, Arnell Engstrom and Harry Running appointed by the Traverse City Board of Education. Act No. 188 provided that four members be selected by the boards of education of all first-, second-, and third-class school districts in the college district.

Julius Sleder, W. Reed Chapin and Dr. Mark Osterlin were selected at large by the first six members, pursuant to Act No. 188.

On August 14, 1957 W. Reed Chapin resigned and the members of the Board of Trustees appointed William Milliken to fill this vacancy.

In 1957 Act No. 182 was passed and approved by the Governor on June 4. This amended Act No. 188 (P.A. 1955) and provided that, "the community college district shall be directed and governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of six or more members elected on a non-partisan basis . . . If the community college district consists of one county, six members shall be elected . . . The Board of Trustees . . . may appoint . . . three additional members."

Since Act No. 182 provided that the first Board under this Act would be elected "at the first biennial spring election following the effective date of this Act," no election for Board members was held until April 6, 1959. At that time the following were elected and officially took office on July 1, 1959.

Les Biederman and Harold Votey for two-year terms
William Milliken and Julius Sleder for four-year terms
Andrew Olson and Dr. Mark Osterlin for six-year terms

No at-large appointment was made until January 11, 1961 at which time Dr. Warren Cline was selected.

Dr. Mark Osterlin died suddenly on January 28, 1960, and Dr. Harry Weitz was appointed on February 9 to fill this vacancy on the Board.

William Milliken was elected to the Michigan Senate in November of 1960, and when he resigned to take office on January 1, 1961, Jerry McCarthy was appointed to fill this opening.

In the spring election of 1961 the following were elected:

Jerry McCarthy for two years to complete the William Milliken term;
Dr. Harry Weitz for four years to complete the Dr. Mark Osterlin term; and
Les Biederman and Harold Votey for new terms of six years.

Harold Votey resigned on August 15, 1962, and James Beckett was appointed to take his place. In the spring election of 1963 the following were elected:

Dr. Warren Cline for four years to complete the Harold Votey term, and Jerry McCarthy and Julius Sleder for new terms of six years.

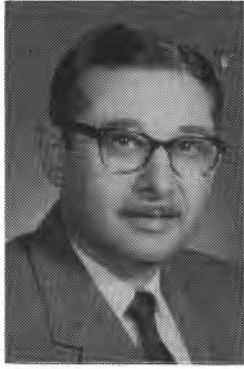
An Act (No. 331) to revise and consolidate the laws relating to community colleges was passed by the Michigan legislature of 1966 and approved by the Governor on July 19 of that year. It provided that "the community college district shall be directed and governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members elected at large in the proposed community college area on a non-partisan basis . . . Elections of the community college district shall be held on the same date as the general state elections."

The following elections have taken place under Act 331 (P.A. 1966). It should be noted that, to make an orderly change from spring elections in odd years, as provided by Act 182 (P.A. 1957), to fall elections in even years, as provided by Act 331 (P.A. 1966), terms of Board members were extended beyond the regular terms to which each member had been elected.

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>	<u>Expiration of Term</u>
Dr. Harry Weitz	1966	December 31, 1972
Andrew Olson	1966	December 31, 1972*
James Beckett	1966	December 31, 1972
Les Biederman	1968	December 31, 1974
Dr. Warren Cline	1968	December 31, 1974
Jerry McCarthy	1970	December 31, 1976
Julius Sleder	1970	December 31, 1976
George McManus, Jr.	1970	December 31, 1972*

*Andrew Olson resigned in 1970 and George McManus, Jr. was elected to fill his unexpired term.

Trustees



Harry Weitz



Julius Sleder



Evelyn Heim



James Beckett



George McManus



Jack Votey



Andy Olson



Arnell Engstrom



Les Beiderman



Jerry McCarthy



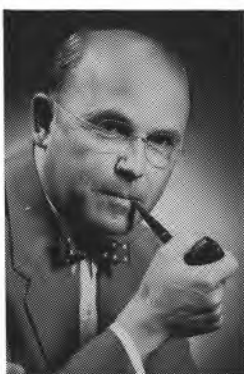
Bill Milliken



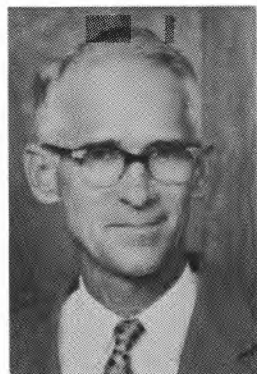
Warren Cline



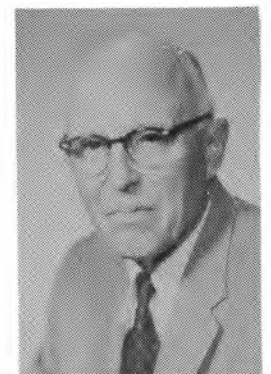
Harry Running



Mark Osterlin



James Clune



George Altenburg

TRUSTEES 1955 TO 1972

- Altenburg, George I. 1955-59. Dean Emeritus, Highland Park Junior College. Operator of cherry orchard during retirement.
- Beckett, James J. 1962- . Area Manager, Michigan Bell Telephone Company.
- Biederman, Les 1955- . President, Midwestern Broadcasting Company.
- Chapin, W. Reed 1955-57. Banker, People's State Bank (National Bank and Trust Company).
- Cline, Warren W. 1961- . M.D., Private practice in the specialty of Internal Medicine.
- Clune, James E. 1955-59. President, Grand Traverse Auto Company.
- Engstrom, Arnell G. 1955-59. Engstrom-Hicks Insurance Agency. Member of Michigan legislature.
- Heim, Evelyn 1955-59. Rural leader representing Grand Traverse Board of Education.
- McCarthy, Jerry W. 1961- . Owner, Grand Traverse Title Company.
- McManus, George A., Jr. 1970- . Director, Grand Traverse County Cooperative Extension Service.
- Milliken, William G. 1957-60. President, Milliken's Department Store. Resigned from Board of Trustees when elected to Michigan Senate. Later Lt. Governor and Governor of Michigan.
- Olson, Andrew L. 1959-70. Area Extension Agent, 4-H leader, resigned from Board of Trustees to accept position as Director of Community Services at Northwestern Michigan College.

Osterlin, Mark F. 1955-60. M.D., Director of Central Michigan Children's Clinic. Died January 29, 1960.

Running, Harry T. 1955-59. Attorney.

Sleder, Julius 1955- . Local business operator, member of Michigan Constitutional Convention 1961-62, owner and President of Grand Traverse Auto Company.

Votey, Harold 1959-62. Businessman from Acme. Resigned to move to California.

Weitz, Harry L. 1960-72. M.D., Chief of Radiology, Munson Medical Center.

FELLOWS OF NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

"In medieval times at Oxford and in the 17th century at Harvard, a "Fellow" was a member of the governing board of the university. Beyond that, his advice, his patronage and his contributions, both academic and financial, comprised an integral part of his fellowship."

Using these qualities of the Oxford and Harvard "Fellow" as a benchmark, the "Fellow of Northwestern Michigan College" was initiated and he was defined as:

"One who nurtures and supports the principles on which the College seeks to develop better informed men and women who will strive to make ultimately a better world. Such generous spirit, whether reflected in creative counsel, monetary donations, or community-spirited leadership was the measure of his fellowship. His dedication to humanity and the College function are indistinguishable; both exist to elevate the human spirit and human intellect."

The College had reached the point in 1963 where it felt the need for some symbolic act to be bestowed on people who had made, over the years, outstanding contributions to the College. A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Helmut Trepte, a staff member, was formed to study the matter and to make recommendations. The committee reported to the Board of Trustees on April 1, 1964, and its recommendation to establish the "Fellows" program was adopted at that time. It was further agreed that any of the following be used as criteria in the selection of those individuals to receive this award.

1. **Time devoted in the interest of the College.** While the individual contribution at any one time might not have been so outstanding, the College wanted to recognize an individual who had been loyal over a long period of years.

2. **Financial contribution.** The committee suggested that no particular limits be set, but the emphasis should be on an outstanding contribution. It was further inferred that the award not be used as an inducement for donations or monetary contributions.

3. **Desirable contacts.** This referred to contacts with outstanding people in public life, in scholarship, in the field of communications, etc., whom the College would like to keep interested in the work of the College over the years, and of whom the College might expect to keep open valuable lines of communication to the public.

4. **Academic recognition.** It was felt that some former administrators, teachers and trustees should be considered for this award, particularly if they continued an interest in helping the College. It was recommended that none such persons be made a "Fellow" while still holding their position with the College.

The first awards were made at the June commencement in 1964, and one or more "Fellows" have been honored each year since that time. Nominations for the honor are submitted by a special Board-faculty committee with the final choice made by the Trustees.

FELLOWS AND CITATIONS

JUNE 1964

Arnell G. Engstrom

"In grateful recognition of his dedicated and inspired leadership in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and his efforts in securing the passage of necessary enabling legislation by the State of Michigan."

Gerald and Frances Oleson

"In heartfelt gratitude for generous gifts and a continuing encouragement and support of Northwestern Michigan College from the time of its modest beginning and throughout the years as it expanded to bring higher education to more men and women. Their loyalty and unselfish efforts have stimulated others to greater enthusiasm and participation in the development of this institution."

Ferris J. Rennie

"In grateful recognition for his enthusiastic support in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and his generous contributions to student scholarship and loan funds."

Harold and Imogene Wise

"Of their generous support in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and for gifts to encourage student scholarship."

Ellis A. Wunsch

"For his fruitful efforts in stimulating interest and enthusiasm in the establishment of programs of study during the early development of Northwestern Michigan College, for his capable leadership in the nurturing of high academic standards, and for his continuing guidance and counsel."

JUNE 1965

George I. Altenburg

"Of his services as a board member of Educational Fund, Inc., as a Trustee, as a founder of the Wigwam Club, and as a dedicated teacher. His counsel and talent have contributed much to the professional dignity and strength of Northwestern Michigan College."

William G. Milliken

"His service as a citizen and as a member of the Board of Trustees in shaping the direction and goals of Northwestern Michigan College. As a distinguished public servant, his keen interest in educational excellence continues to inspire high achievement by others."

Leslie and Bernice Tremaine

"Of their outstanding support given to Northwestern Michigan College during its development. Their confidence in the future of the College has been an inspiration for others to share in its successful growth."

JUNE 1966

Wilbur C. Munnecke

"Of his contributions to Northwestern Michigan College as a resourceful adviser, a patron of the arts, and a benefactor of the Mark Osterlin Library."

JUNE 1967

Eugene B. Power

"Of his continuing contributions to Northwestern Michigan College as a patron of the arts, a resourceful adviser, a benefactor of the Mark Osterlin Library microfilm collection, and a friend whose enterprise and inspiration made possible the establishment of the Archives of Northwestern Michigan History."

JUNE 1968

Julius H. Beers

"Of his continuing efforts in behalf of Northwestern Michigan College as a faithful supporter of the Scholarship Program, as a resourceful financial counselor, and as a loyal advocate of the College in this community."

JUNE 1969

Corrine J. Naar

"For her generous contributions to the physical plant development of the College, for her assistance in making possible the first women's residence, and for her creation of a Scholarship Endowment Fund to encourage the study of mathematics. In all of this she has been motivated by a genuine interest in young people."

JUNE 1970

Harry T. Running

"For his contributions to Northwestern Michigan College as a resourceful Trustee who helped to shape its direction, as a competent adviser who generously contributed legal assistance during its early years, and as a true friend who stimulated interest among others for its support."

Mrs. Mark F. Osterlin

"For continuing interest in the affairs of Northwestern Michigan College and its young people, encouraging support by friends of the College, and identifying with excellence in education."

JUNE 1971

James E. Clune

"For his fruitful efforts as a Founder and Trustee of Northwestern Michigan College during its formative years, for his creative leadership as chairman of the first Scholarship Committee, for his continued commitment and contributions to academic grants initiated in that period, and for his enthusiastic support of the College in the Grand Traverse area."

Arthur G. Whitelock

"For his tireless efforts in working to the fullest extent in each of the annual barbecues since the inception of that event, for his leadership and inspiration as a president and board member of the Wigwam Club, and for epitomizing those hundreds of citizens who year in and year out strive without fanfare to achieve the greatest number of advantages for the greatest number of students."

JUNE 1972

Dorothy C. Hall

"In grateful recognition of her contributions to the College as a dedicated alumna, a tireless advocate of the College community, and a benefactor of the Mark Osterlin Library."

Preston N. Tanis

"In grateful recognition for his leadership of the College from its origins to maturity; for establishing a premium goal of quality in all aspects of curriculum that has become a hallmark of Northwestern Michigan College; for his continued involvement in and contributions to the progress of the principles of the College; for inspiring and instilling a deep sense of moral and professional integrity that has become the soul of the College community."

THE LEGACY OF HELMUT TREPTE

Northwestern Michigan College was fortunate to have a number of unusually capable and dedicated teachers on its staff during the early years. They came with excellent credentials and were devoted to high standards and a no-nonsense approach to education. They eagerly took part in academic policy decisions and exerted a strong influence in determining the direction of the College. They maintained an exceptionally high morale in spite of the inconveniences and growing pains of a new institution. One of these teachers was Helmut Trepte, who joined the faculty in 1955 to teach history and philosophy.

Dr. Trepte was born in Dresden, Germany, where he received his early education and his undergraduate degree. He attended universities in Innsbruck and Munich, was an exchange student to Wittenberg University in Ohio in 1930, and met his future wife while there. He returned to Germany to receive his doctorate from the University of Leipzig in 1932. His professional career included teaching in German schools, assignments with the Ministry of Education in his native country, and his position at Northwestern Michigan College. He died at the age of 57 on December 19, 1965 after a lengthy kidney ailment.

Teaching was Helmut Trepte's first love. However, World War II and the making of a new home in America did interrupt that career for a time. He was drafted into the German Navy in 1943 and served as a meteorologist in Italy. Near the end of the war he was captured by British forces and placed in a prison camp for several months. It was not until 1948 that he was able to rejoin his family in Springfield, Ohio. In later years he was reluctant to talk about his war experiences. One quickly sensed that, as a scholar and teacher, he had little time or enthusiasm for wars and dictators.

With his doctorate from the University of Leipzig he might easily have found a teaching position at an American university or college. However, he believed that to successfully teach students in this country he should first acquire citizenship. He waited out the time this took at the family summer home in Bellaire. He liked to work with wood and did odd jobs as a manual laborer. He bought an old sailboat, completely rebuilt it, and taught his family to sail. He was an excellent pianist and spent many hours playing the music of Beethoven and Mozart, his favorite composers.

Finally Dr. Trepte's wait was over, and when his family celebrated his status as an American citizen, half of Bellaire attended the affair. "You gave me friendship," he told them as he gratefully accepted their good wishes. He lost little time in making application at Northwestern Michigan College. He had watched it grow, and he liked what he saw. Also, teaching here would mean staying in an area of Michigan that he loved and being able to work in a college where he felt he would have an opportunity for professional growth. His appearance at the initial interview in a severe German-style suit was distracting only momentarily. His sincerity, enthusiasm and capability stood out and were far more impressive.

From the beginning he was a success. He was responsible for establishing the College's first philosophy curriculum only after the state Education Department agreed to an assessment made by the University of Michigan's philosophy department in lieu of documents proving his degree which had been destroyed during the war. His teaching assignment included History of Civilization and, on occasion, courses in German and religion. Dr. Trepte played a significant role in the formation of the Fellows Program to recognize those who had made an outstanding contribution to the College. He was influential in the development of the celebrity lecture series which included Dr. Harlow Shapely, Vance Packard, Richard Amour and Dr. Russell Kirt.

As a teacher Dr. Trepte was very demanding and a strict disciplinarian, but the students loved him. Likewise, he was popular and highly respected by his colleagues, and when he became ill they rushed to fill in for him. Faculty members and students joined to supply several pints of blood after he underwent one of the first kidney transplant operations in Cleveland. His death brought an outpouring of affection and admiration by students, colleagues and friends in the community, and they generously paid tribute for his outstanding influence and inspiration during those few years he was at Northwestern Michigan College. One of his admirers summed it up with, "Dr. Helmut Trepte was a renaissance man, one of a vanishing breed . . . he crammed more into a half a lifetime than many men are lucky enough to accomplish in a whole one."

THE NICK RAJKOVICH PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER

Planning for a campus physical education building began in 1967 with a special committee headed by James Beckett of the College Board of Trustees and the architectural firm of Field, Graheck, Bell and Kline. The construction of this facility was a part of the \$5 million College expansion program which had been approved by the Grand Traverse County voters in the millage election of August 1965. Actually, the funds for the building, approximately \$650,000, came from three sources: \$250,000 from local taxes, \$150,000 from a state appropriation, and \$250,000 from a United States Office of Education grant. Contracts were awarded late in 1968, and the building was completed and ready for use in the fall of 1969. Designed as a center to provide for physical education programs and intramural sports, it was never intended as a spectator type of gymnasium. Its large floor space, which was the first one available to the College, quickly became the center for student convocations, social affairs, and community programs.

In November of 1969 the building was officially named the Nick Rajkovich Physical Education Center by the College Board of Trustees. In making this announcement it was stated that, "Since the beginning of the College in the early fifties, Nick Rajkovich has been the symbol of athletics and physical education to the students, faculty and the community. He was an advocate of strong athletic and physical education programs for the students and, finally, he was one of those who strenuously urged that the physical education facility be a part of the building program and actively served on the planning committee to make it a reality. In addition to his interest in athletics, Nick Rajkovich was a leader on the campus both in faculty as well as in student affairs. He was an outstanding teacher and a department chairman. He was completely dedicated to the ideals of Northwestern Michigan College, and his performance always went far beyond what was expected of him."

Nick Rajkovich was born February 8, 1910 at Krispoje, Yugoslavia and came to the United States with his family in 1920 to settle at Ironwood in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where he spent his early life. After graduation from high school in 1929 he attended Michigan State University, earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in 1933 and 1935, and then returned to Ironwood to teach at Gogebic Community College. He joined the faculty at Northwestern Michigan College in 1952 as an instructor of political science and economics. In addition to his teaching he became active in the development of physical education for the students and was responsible for the establishment of the College's first basketball team.

Beyond his commitments to Northwestern Michigan College, Nick Rajkovich gave outstanding service in several other areas. In 1961 he was elected a delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention and took a year leave of absence from the College to help write a new constitution for the state. He served as a member of the City Commission of Traverse City for over three years and was a member of the Grand Traverse County Board of Supervisors from 1967 to 1969. He was the Mayor of Traverse City at the time of his death on November 11, 1969.

The Michigan legislature passed resolutions to pay tribute to Nick Rajkovich. As a colleague of several members of the legislature during the Constitutional Convention, his untimely death was mourned by them, and he was eulogized for his "tireless energy given without self-regard," his "devotion to numerous civic causes" and his "pervasive influence for good among Michigan youth."

At the College Nick Rajkovich was affectionately known by the students as "Mr. Rack." They loved him for his patience and dedication even though they sometimes disagreed with his position on an issue. They respected him

for his insistence upon quality and his relentless efforts to have them achieve their potential. Appropriately, the dedicatory plaque presented at the ceremony held in the new building on April 5, 1970 has engraved upon it these words:

"This building is named in memory of Nick J. Rajkovich who gave his best for others, expected the best from them and inspired the best in them."

There probably will never be another Nick Rajkovich at Northwestern Michigan College. Fortunately, he has left a legacy that will long endure.



Nick Rajkovich



First basketball team

Bottom row: Hein, Taylor, Kibby, Cook, Cilva, Tillie
Top row: Comden, Miller, Rumanes, Evans, Coach Wilson

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

From the beginning the sponsors of Northwestern Michigan College were dedicated to the idea that their College should serve the educational needs of post-secondary people within its service area. What kind of courses to meet these needs was the concern of the founders and administrators for several months before the College opened its doors.

A number of surveys were made in 1950 and early in 1951 of potential students to attempt to discover the degree of interest in various subject areas. There were community studies, queries made of several hundred adults attending evening classes, and interviews with high school seniors in eighteen area school districts.

Specialists in post high school education were consulted. The College administrators worked closely with Thomas Ford, Coordinator of Junior College Cooperation at Michigan State College (University), and with Dr. Algo Henderson, secretary of the Committee on College Relations at the University of Michigan. These men gave specific direction to curriculum planning and offered many worthwhile suggestions as to the procedures to be followed in determining community needs and interests. Dr. Homer Kempfer came from the U.S. Office of Education and helped in planning programs for adults. Other specialists who gave direction to early curriculum development were Dr. Paul R. Mort, a nationally known educator from Columbia University, Dr. W. W. Charters, former President of Stevens College in Missouri, and Dr. Jesse P. Bogue, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Junior Colleges and the well-known author of "The Community College."

By mid-summer of 1951 the College was ready to publish its first catalog setting forth its purposes and the needs which it hoped to meet. The slogan, "Community Centered, Community Serving" was stressed, and the following statement prefaced the curriculum to be offered:

"Today, in a changing world, the individual is searching for a pattern that will guide him toward meaningful existence in modern society. Forward looking educators are trying to meet this challenge. Great universities together with a scattering of state universities and colleges have discovered that the basic course, or general college concept, appears to be the answer.

"It has become increasingly apparent that every student needs a broad educational framework upon which to build a sound understanding of personal, family, vocational, and community problems. Every student will later become a specialist, and as such will be most effective only if he has some insight in relating his own field to the needs of society as a whole.

"Accordingly, the College proposes to require each student to do half of his work in basic, general college courses and the remainder in the field of his future interests. Although the basic course takes in an entire area of study, it concentrates on samplings widely selected to demonstrate principles, methods, and general philosophies. It digs out some content in the process. It does not seek primarily to pile up facts of interest only to the expert, but rather to give the student guidance in learning to do his own thinking, in learning to find his own values. Thus, the general college program is a beginning, not an end. It marks the first step in a process of self-education which, ideally, will continue throughout the graduate's life."

Visits to Selected Western Colleges

In November of 1951 a team of six people involved in the founding of Northwestern Michigan College made a trip to California and Colorado to visit a number of schools and colleges. The trip was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Instruction in cooperation with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and its purpose was to bring back additional knowledge about

how to develop a community college program which would meet the needs of the people in the area to be served by the College. Members of the group were Les Biederman, President of Educational Fund, Inc. and owner-manager of the Midwestern Broadcasting Company; Arnell Engstrom, State Representative, member of the College Board, and President of the Traverse City Board of Education; Dr. Glenn E. Loomis, Superintendent of the Traverse City Public Schools and general administrator of Northwestern Michigan College; Preston Tanis, Director of the College and Secretary of Educational Fund, Inc.; Orville Walker, a member of the College Board and the agricultural agent for Kalkaska County; and Ferris Crawford from the Michigan Department of Public Instruction.

Visits were made to California State Polytechnic College in San Luis Obispo, the Pierce School of Agriculture at Canoga Park, Mount San Antonio College at Pomona, and Pomona College at Claremont. In addition one member visited Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey. On the return trip a day was spent by the group at the Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver, Colorado. These colleges and schools were selected because their programs emphasized training for gainful occupations as well as the enrichment of the lives of the students and the communities which they served.

In summarizing their trip members of the group agreed that the following concepts which were observed should receive a high priority in future program planning for Northwestern Michigan College:

1. The training for life activities, which is common to all members of society regardless of specialization, is an important part of a college education.

2. The community college should place a strong emphasis upon training for occupational competency.
3. The "upside-down approach," permitting a student to leave at the end of any year with usable skills in the field for which he came, showed evidence of being a sound and practical educational method.
4. While training to meet the needs of the immediate community should receive priority, programs to prepare students for employment in a wider area should not be ruled out.
5. Community college programs should be designed to meet the needs of adults as well as college-age youth.
6. Minimum plant facilities can be given maximum use and there is convincing evidence that learning can take place in very modest and inexpensive physical settings.
7. A wide use of advisory committees provides invaluable suggestions for curricular development and, if properly used, they can bring community-wide support to the institution.
8. A successful community college is an integrated part of the community in which it is located.

One of the participants in the trip West noted that "the success or failure of this venture as a training device will be shown by what happens at Northwestern Michigan College in the years to come." Observing twenty years later, the wide offering of vocational programs, the excellent instruction still going on in the original frame classroom building, and the continued enthusiastic community participation in the affairs of the College, it seems logical to conclude that the trip in 1951 did influence the planners and did have some far-reaching effects upon the development of the institution.

A noteworthy effect was the immediate wider use of advisory committees as new programs were being considered. Many citizens of the area became involved in serving on vocational committees for agriculture, land use,

business, trades, and industry. A liberal arts advisory committee was formed in the second year to help plan academic offerings. These citizen groups exerted a strong influence on curriculum planning during those years. They wanted the vocational programs to be community centered and terminal in nature. For instance, the agricultural committee recommended that training in this field be geared specifically to local soil types, climate, and season. The trades committee felt that present and potential industrial workers in the area needed and wanted opportunities for technical training, and they pointed to the popularity of adult evening courses in these fields as evidence. The advisory committee for the business-secretarial department, made up of business executives, office employees, and educators, was unusually active. As a result new staff and several courses were added in the second year in this department, and a twenty-week evening program for supervisors in factories and business establishments received a surprising amount of acceptance.

There was a great deal of enthusiasm to implement the California ideas of "earn while you learn" and the "upside-down" approach. Two machine shop courses were offered in the second year in cooperation with the high school. A wide range of courses in agriculture was developed, and a farm for experimental purposes was acquired as a gift through the efforts of the agricultural advisory committee. In 1953 the College hired Dr. William Jewell, a University of Michigan graduate, to promote and develop new offerings in conservation and general land use. Later, special courses in forestry and land surveying were included as a part of this curriculum.

Evaluation of Early Curriculum Development

A review of curriculum development at the end of the first five years of the College revealed that some of the early ventures in the vocational area had had limited success. Technical shop offerings met with little response for

upgrading those involved in skilled trades and few of the college-age students were interested. Little was done with the farm other than to grow some Christmas trees. General conservation courses were popular as electives but the serious, career-minded students in this field or in forestry, land use, and agriculture went to the state university for training where specialized instruction and better laboratory facilities were available. A report of the examiners for state accreditation suggested that the limited resources and lack of finances had been a hindrance to vocational curriculum expansion at the College. In other words, it seemed likely that because the programs in shop training, agriculture, and others never were funded at a high enough level to do the job properly, they had been given little chance to succeed.

In spite of these disappointments there were successes also. The business-secretarial program expanded rapidly to meet local needs. The nearest business college was over 100 miles from Traverse City, and both terminal and associate degree programs in this field became popular with adults as well as with recent high school graduates. In addition the College discovered that there was an even greater demand for liberal arts programs than was originally expected. Approximately 60 percent of the students enrolled in the liberal arts program during those early years. No doubt this was due partly to geographical location. Also, the College staff, with strong curriculum committees and the help of a dedicated liberal arts advisory group, made special efforts to give this program "respectability" from the start. It was reasoned that to make the College attractive to students planning for higher degrees, credits for transfer must be of such quality that they would be readily acceptable by down-state universities. Ellis Wunsch, the first supervisor of curriculum, made this a primary goal and was influential in bringing to the College an outstanding academic instructional staff which helped make possible the achievement of this objective. He was followed in 1961 by John McChrystal, who continued to maintain these high standards.

Curriculum Self-Study

Beginning in 1959 in preparation for the North Central Association examination, the College made its first in-depth study of various phases of the institution and took a hard look at its instructional programs. In its final report the College had this to say about the origin of its curriculum:

"It seems safe to say that the curriculum is everybody's business. Comments and suggestions regarding it range from simple complaints to grandiose projects, and they come from all elements of the College itself--students, staff, and Board--and from the community at large. The College accepts this as not only inevitable but proper and would view with alarm a cessation of such manifest interest. At the same time it does pose problems, not the least of which is the diplomatic handling of such expressions of interest. While everyone is interested in the curriculum, everyone cannot be responsible for it. A balance must be struck between undue sensitivity to criticism and insensitivity to it; between obeisance to pressure interests and stubborn disregard of them. Suggestions need to be evaluated in the light of the College's goals and resources, and a consistent pattern must be wrought from heterogeneous and often contradictory demands and proposals.

"This is, by common consent and practice, the responsibility of the administration. It is, of course, responsible to the Board of Trustees and subject to its approval on broad objectives in the curriculum. And it enlists the advice and help of the faculty, recognizing them as intimately concerned with, and qualified in, curricular matters. A standing committee of faculty members, under the permanent chairmanship of the Dean of Academic Affairs, is appointed to attend to curriculum evaluation and to consider and make recommendations on proposed changes or additions."

In summarizing its overall curriculum development during the early years, the report stated that:

"It was evident from the beginning that a sound selection of liberal arts courses should be offered since the College is committed to the notion that every student when he terminates his higher education, should

have roughly half his work in liberal and half in vocational studies; the semi-professional would be the particular responsibility of the College.

"Trade studies are, for a variety of reasons, afforded limited attention. There is, first of all, little demand for them; the regional economy is largely based on merchandising, health and governmental services, tourist trade, and fruit farming, and little need as yet exists for mechanical and industrial trade skills.

"In addition to providing courses and programs for students beginning a liberal arts or pre-professional program and for students wishing to complete a two-year course combining general and vocational studies, the College recognizes its responsibility to part-time students who wish to develop particular skills or cultural interests. To facilitate attendance for these students, as well as for others who must work part-time, the College expects to provide an increasingly generous schedule of night classes and to offer during summer school sessions all courses which enrollments will support."

The North Central Association examiners found little fault with the curriculum policies of the College and approved its concentration on courses which paralleled those offered by the four-year institutions. They found in their examination that "the nature of the business life of the community and the absence of manufacturing and other similar industries indicates that trade and technical programs are only of limited interest in this area." They encouraged the College "to go forward in programs of medical technology and nursing" and felt that "the institution would do a fine job in these areas of instruction" and would, in this way, best meet the needs of the region which it was serving.

Nursing Education and Other Community-Centered Programs

The long and calculated planning which became a part of much of the curriculum development at Northwestern Michigan College is well exemplified in nursing education.

The Practical Nursing School had been established in 1948 by the Traverse City Public Schools with the help of the Kellogg Foundation and under the direction of the State Department of Vocational Education. The School was located in Munson Hospital and graduated its first class of five students in March of 1949. Later when more space was needed, quarters were furnished by the Traverse City State Hospital. With three excellent hospitals in which to affiliate students for practicing patient care, the program grew rapidly. An advisory committee of community people was established early in the program and was continued throughout the years to give guidance to the School. Mrs. Alice Drulard became the Director of the School on July 1, 1955, and it was designated as the North Central School of Practical Nursing at that time.

In February of 1960 the Traverse City Board of Education recommended that the program be transferred to the College. Public school officials felt that since over eighty percent of the students involved came from outside of Traverse City, the training program should be the responsibility of an agency serving a wider area than the City. The College Trustees and administrators studied the matter for some time before making a decision. Here was a program which would provide training beyond the College's accepted service area and, also, a program leading to a graduation certificate with no collegiate level academic courses required. The question as to whether this was a threat to the curriculum policy of the College was referred to a special committee under the chairmanship of William Milliken.

After considerable debate, the committee agreed that it was the responsibility of a community college to offer this kind of program and that it would not compromise the academic reputation of the institution. The North Central School of Practical Nursing became a department of the College in the summer of 1960 and was located in new quarters in the Grand Traverse Medical Care Facility when that building was completed. In 1967 it

was moved to the College campus in order to place all nursing training under one authority and to make the administration, teaching assignments, and use of special facilities more efficient. The program continues to thrive and, during its first 25 years of operation, it has provided well over 1,000 trained practical nurses for the area and the State of Michigan.

The proposal that the College train students for careers as registered nurses was made soon after it opened in 1951. However, it was not until 1956 that action was taken to establish a committee made up of twenty local people representing medicine, nursing, hospital administration, and education to study the matter. They undertook to make a survey of the nursing needs of northern Michigan and requested the assistance of the University of Michigan in conducting this inquiry. The University responded by arranging for and financing the visitation of a survey team from the National League of Nursing in 1958. The team found that such a program "was needed to serve the growing demands for nursing service in the large and rapidly expanding area in and around Traverse City and recommended that steps be taken to establish "an associate degree program in nursing at Northwestern Michigan College as soon as favorable conditions for excellent education of this type can be assured."

The associate degree program which prepared men and women for careers as registered nurses in 27 months was still new. The first one had started in New York in 1956. The skeptics pointed out that programs at hospital-affiliated nursing schools required three years of study, that university programs covered a four-year period, and that shortening the time for training would weaken the program. However, it did have the blessing of the Michigan Board of Nursing and had already been established successfully at three other community colleges in southern Michigan.

The local committee made a detailed report after a year and a half of study and meetings and recommended that the College proceed with the organization of the program. Because of the reservations of some people in the health professions regarding the shortened training period, the committee urged that the "Northwestern Michigan College associate curriculum be of a scope, rigor, and length to satisfy the concern" of those skeptical of this kind of program. The committee's cost study warned that there would be an operating deficit of \$30,000 to \$40,000 during the initial four years and that a minimum of \$50,000 would be required for capital outlay.

The Board of Trustees and administration accepted the recommendations and set the fall of 1961 as a target date for the opening of the program. The first major step was to find a director of nursing and to have this person available for some time in advance of the opening date to do the necessary organizational work. Mrs. Ernestine Johnson, an experienced nursing instructor trained at Michigan State and Western Reserve Universities, was selected and joined the College staff in the fall of 1960. By the following February, and working in close cooperation with area and state experts in the field, she had developed a program that was approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing. Later in the spring instructional staff members were selected and students were enrolled for the first class to be started in the fall.

Over five years had been spent in study, planning, and inspection of other nursing programs, and in numerous meetings of the advisory committee in order to make this possible. Many local people had contributed time and professional knowledge to insure that it would be a program of high quality and that it would meet area needs. The community proudly watched the first fifteen graduates receive their Associate Degree in Nursing in December of 1963. Deliberation and careful planning had overcome the obstacles, and the goal of the designers of the program had been realized.

There were other additions made to the College's curriculum during the late fifties and early sixties. The Medical Secretarial Program was organized in 1957 at the request of the Grand Traverse Medical Society. Law enforcement courses to meet local needs were developed with the cooperation of Michigan State University and with the advice and counsel of law enforcement agencies in the Grand Traverse region. Members of the College Business Department worked closely with representatives of the Resort District Dental Society to plan and start the associate program in Dental Assisting. In 1964 a special National Science Foundation Grant and the availability of qualified staff made possible the inauguration of training in data processing to meet the local demands brought about by automation in business and industry. The career pilot program came about in answer to requests for training to prepare for the license required of private pilots as well as for employment in various aviation-allied fields. Training in parks and recreational facilities management was an outgrowth of courses in conservation and other land use programs, and courses in food service management developed at the time when the College became involved in the feeding of large numbers of dormitory residents.

Other programs were attempted, such as television and radio production and chemical technology, only to later be discontinued because of a lack of demand or failure to meet specific needs in these fields. There were others such as the "floating college," printing, and journalism, which never went beyond the advisory committee stage. Needless to say, the College was making an effort to expand its services during these early years and, because much of this was part of a testing process, it had to expect that not all its curricular attempts would meet with equal acceptance.

Expansion of Administration and Facilities
for Vocational-Technical Education

Even though the College had made considerable progress in developing a curriculum related to special needs of the region it served and had the approval of the North Central Association in following its course of action, there was a general feeling in the community that it should be offering more opportunities in technical education for the less academically gifted student. How to do this and what specific training to offer were problems not easily solved. The College lacked laboratory facilities for technical education and had never employed a full-time vocational administrator to give leadership and knowledge in this field.

However, in 1964 a group of concerned people in the Grand Traverse region formed a vocational committee representing the College Board of Trustees and administration, the Traverse City School District, and the citizens of the area. Its purpose was to determine the feasibility of establishing vocational training and a technical facility on an area basis. The committee enlisted the help of experts from Michigan State University to make a detailed study to be funded by the College and surrounding school districts, along with matching state and federal contributions. The research was done by selected university staff members under the direction of Dr. Peter G. Haines of the Business and Distributive Education Department. After completing their study, they issued a report with recommendations late in the summer of 1965.

The researchers were enthusiastic about the opportunities to develop an outstanding program for vocational-technical education in the Grand Traverse area. They had found the citizenry vitally concerned with the need for this training and willing to support a workable program. The team of experts offered recommendations relating to each specialized area of training and an

overall plan of implementation. They recommended that a vocational-technical center be established as an integral part of Northwestern Michigan College and that it be so structured administratively to provide both collegiate level and non-collegiate level vocational programs. They noted that the College and regional high schools lacked specialized leadership to develop vocational programs and recommended that a vocational consultant be employed to properly coordinate these activities. They recommended that boards and administrators make wide use of advisory committees for specific training areas and that an overall vocational council be formed to evaluate and develop regional programs.

The study produced immediate results. The College hired a vocational director in 1966 and was able to open part of its technical center in 1967. New programs were started and others were expanded. Area citizens and school people became involved in planning and implementation.

The proposal that the College purchase the property of Cherry Growers, Inc. on East Front Street for use as a technical center was first made in March of 1966. While extensive renovations would be required to make it usable for laboratories and classrooms, the College Trustees agreed that the large amount of floor space, its desirable location, and a purchase price of only \$350,000 were strong points in its favor. The actual sale and transfer of the property was completed on June 30, 1967, and plans immediately were made to ready one of the buildings for use by that fall. The facility was officially named the Northwestern Michigan College Technical Institute by the Trustees and soon became the center for data processing technology, career pilot training and new programs in auto service technology, electronics and maritime training.

Of all the technical programs developed over the years at Northwestern Michigan College, without doubt the maritime school stands out as the most ambitious and unusual. The idea began with the chairman of the Board and was first suggested to the Trustees early in 1960. For some time previous to this, Mr. Biederman had been involved in a study of the availability and needs for maritime training in the United States and discovered that the Great Lakes area was not only completely lacking in such facilities, but actually required specialized training for people to serve effectively in these waters. However, it was not until the summer of 1967 that the College officially took action "to approve and support the idea of a maritime academy." The decision to establish such a school had to be determined by the Michigan State Board of Education, the Michigan legislature, and the National Maritime Administration in Washington. All this took time. In the meantime the College acquired the USS *Allegheny* from government surplus as a training vessel through the efforts of Les Biederman. On Sunday, March 16, 1969, the ship began its historic 3,500-mile voyage from Philadelphia to Grand Traverse Bay manned by a volunteer crew of Traverse City area residents and commanded by Captain Mike Hemmick, who had been appointed to head the maritime training program.

The Great Lakes Maritime Academy was officially established as a division of Northwestern Michigan College in July of 1969 by action of the Michigan legislature following the favorable recommendation of the State Department of Education. Federal approval and funding by the National Maritime Administration came later.

The Curriculum After Twenty Years

Northwestern Michigan College began in 1951 with the goal "to serve the educational needs of the people within its service area." Twenty years later almost forty percent of the students it enrolled came from outside the Grand Traverse area and, with one of its programs (the Maritime Academy), was providing training for students in the whole Great Lakes region. In its first year the College stated that to be approved for graduation a student must have completed at least "half of his work in basic general college courses." Twenty years later a number of students participated in the June commencement ceremony who had not enrolled in a single liberal arts course. Finally the College had come to realize that most students seek an education not only "to guide them toward meaningful existence in modern society," but also to provide them with ways of earning a living. All this represents not so much a change in curriculum policy during those twenty years, but rather a growth in maturity and a better understanding of the purposes of a community college.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOAN FUNDS

The Alvin M. Bentley Foundation Scholarship

Alvin M. Bentley, a former congressman from Owosso, Michigan, established a benevolent foundation some years ago and specified that a portion of the available funds be used "to help scholastically able and financially needy Michigan high school graduates who wished to attend Michigan colleges and universities." In 1962 Northwestern Michigan College was designated to share in this program and each year since a deserving student is selected to receive this grant of \$375.

Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship

The Beta Sigma Phi Scholarship was established in 1954. Several of the members of Beta Sigma Phi were former students at Northwestern Michigan College and, because of their personal interest in the College, they initiated this award which has been continued since that time. This scholarship is awarded to a deserving young woman student who has demonstrated qualities of good character, intellectual capacities and leadership.

The Carrie E. Smith Schuyler Scholarships

Mrs. Carrie E. Smith Schuyler, an elderly resident of Detroit, Michigan, died March 28, 1920 leaving a will dated October 14, 1919. Her will gave the residue of her estate to certain trustees and set up such trust to accomplish certain purposes.

Among other provisions, she requested that the trust "pay and defray the entrance fee into any institutional home for worthy elderly women upon the application of any worthy elderly woman desiring to enter such home." She asked also that \$50 be paid "on each Christmas Day to some worthy family having either an invalid father or mother." Of special interest, however, were her instructions that some of the earnings from the trust fund "pay for and give assistance to struggling girls who desire to obtain a mercantile business education or who desire to cultivate their voice strictly only as means of their livelihood and that they thereby may become self-supporting."

In 1956 the trustees to carry out this will were Edward F. Wunsch, Edward S. Wunsch and Albert D. Thomas, Jr., all of Grosse Point, Michigan. And, at this particular time, they were seeking ways of making the best use of funds which were now becoming available again after a long period of comparatively small earnings from the trust. Ellis Wunsch, a Northwestern Michigan College staff member and relative of the first two named trustees, convinced them that there were scholarship needs here and, as a result, over \$1,000 was made available that first year. The program has been continued since that time and four or more scholarship grants from \$150 to \$250 have been made each year to women students anticipating a career in either business or music. It should be noted that it was at the suggestion of the trustees of the fund that the broader interpretation was given to such terms as "struggling girls" and "mercantile business education."

The Corrine J. Naar Mathematics Scholarships

Mrs. Edward R. (Corrine J.) Naar was born in Quincy, Michigan in 1902. She lived in Detroit, later in Chicago after her marriage and came to Traverse City summers when her husband became involved with Burwood Products

Company. After her husband's death in 1955, Mrs. Naar was named the treasurer and a director of the company and held these offices until 1968.

Her interest in Northwestern Michigan College began in the summer of 1957. At that time a cooperative residence for women students was being started, and Mrs. Naar offered to provide the College with \$5,000 as a loan to be used for the refurnishing of the building. The offer was accepted, and it made possible an unusually pleasant home for twenty girls. While the College made annual payments plus interest on this debt and finally discharged it in 1964, Mrs. Naar in turn made gifts totaling \$7,000 to the Northwestern Michigan College Building Fund during those same years.

In 1964 Mrs. Naar indicated an interest in establishing an endowment to provide scholarship grants for worthy students who were majoring in mathematics. She selected mathematics because of her lifetime interest and aptitude for this area of study. Beginning in 1964 annual gifts were received by the College from her which finally totaled \$15,000, and the earnings from this sum are providing three yearly grants of \$250 each. When listing or giving publicity to the scholarship, Mrs. Naar modestly insisted that her name not be used, and it was not until 1968 that she reluctantly agreed to take the credit and have it called "The Corrine J. Naar Mathematics Scholarship."

Because of her interest in Northwestern Michigan College, Mrs. Naar was selected as a Fellow in 1969. The citation follows:

"In grateful recognition for her generous contributions to the physical plant development of the College, for her assistance in making possible the first women's residence, and for her creation of a Scholarship Endowment Fund to encourage the study of mathematics. In all this she has been motivated by a genuine interest in young people."

Corrine Naar paid her last visit to the Northwestern Michigan College campus in the fall of 1969. She expressed much satisfaction with its physical growth and the fact that she was able to make a contribution to this development. It was the establishment of the permanent Scholarship Endowment, however, which seemed to please her most. She realized that because of her gifts others who shared her fascination for the field of mathematics would be able to benefit in future years.

Mrs. Naar died on May 3, 1970 in Venice, Florida. Because of her thoughtfulness of others and because of her generosity, she will always be remembered at Northwestern Michigan College.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship

The local Phi chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national teachers' organization, made its first scholarship grant in 1954 and specified that it be given to a woman student at Northwestern Michigan College who had a teaching career as her professional objective. But for a few interruptions, this has been an annual award.

The Dorothy C. Hall Scholarships

For a number of years Mrs. Hall, wife of a local physician, has been generously contributing her time working in the Mark Osterlin Library on a regular daily schedule. While not on the College payroll, she carries out her assignments in a willing and efficient manner and has been accepted by the students and the faculty as a regular staff member.

It was in recognition of Mrs. Hall's unusual contribution that the Board of Trustees gratefully established and provided the money in 1967 for the Dorothy C. Hall Scholarships.

The Elk Rapids Rotary Club Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Elk Rapids established a scholarship grant in 1962 to be given each year to an Elk Rapids High School graduate who was attending Northwestern Michigan College. The Club has directed that the award be made on the basis of financial need, character, and scholastic achievement.

The Engstrom-Hicks Agency Scholarship

In June of 1964 Arnell G. Engstrom was appointed a Fellow of Northwestern Michigan College "in grateful recognition of his dedicated and inspired leadership in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and his efforts in securing the passage of necessary enabling legislation by the State of Michigan." That same year, upon his recommendation, the Engstrom-Hicks Insurance Agency established an annual scholarship grant for a student at Northwestern Michigan College who qualified academically and was in need of financial assistance.

The Grand Traverse Overall Supply Company Scholarships

This scholarship was established in 1965 by Paul Meeuwenberg, the operator of the Grand Traverse Overall Supply Company. While scholastic ability and financial need of recipients were considerations, he was interested especially in having the award be given to a student involved in a vocational program.

The Humanities Scholarships

Each year Mr. and Mrs Jerry McCarthy make a grant to the general fund of the College. The Trustees transfer this money to the scholarship fund and with it have established the Humanities Scholarships in recognition of the donors' deep interest in that area of study.

The Ideal Dairy Scholarships

The Fiebing family, owners and operators of the Ideal Dairy Company, established scholarship awards for students of Northwestern Michigan College in 1959. These have become annual grants and are given to financially needy students who have attained high scholastic averages and who have shown a seriousness in their goals.

The Imogene and Harold Wise Scholarships

It was in October of 1959 that Mr. and Mrs. Wise paid their first visit to the campus of Northwestern Michigan College. The Wises were glad to have this opportunity to see Northwestern Michigan College. For a number of years they had contributed and participated in activities at the University of Chicago and Cornell University. They had noted the lack of education beyond high school in this part of Michigan. They had even made frequent attempts to encourage young men from the area to go on with their education, but with little success, because opportunities were available only at some distance from home. They learned about the College and heard enthusiastic reports from Rapid City's Mariage family whose members were making use of its facilities and offerings. Now they were seeing an institution within commuting distance which could provide not only two years of academic work, but also training in occupational skills for those wishing to avail themselves of these opportunities.

Apparently they were pleased with their visit, because shortly before Christmas they returned to make a generous gift to the College's Building Fund. Other gifts followed, and during a four-year period their contributions, combined with matching state funds, provided \$45,000 toward the construction of the library and science building.

In the fall of 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Wise became interested in establishing a scholarship endowment fund which would provide annual financial grants to worthy students. A gift of \$5,000 was made that year, followed by like amounts each December through 1969 when the fund reached a total of \$35,000. Earnings from these endowment funds now provide for three \$600 Imogene and Harold Wise Scholarships and are awarded each year to students who have demonstrated scholastic ability, high standards of conduct, and a need for financial assistance in order to carry on their education.

In June of 1964 Harold and Imogene Wise were appointed Fellows of Northwestern Michigan College with the following citation:

"In grateful recognition of their generous support in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and for gifts to encourage student scholarship."

Harold J. Wise was born on March 20, 1883 in Wheeling, West Virginia and was graduated in engineering from Cornell University in 1906. Throughout his life, except while serving in World War I, he was connected with the steel industry as a fire brick salesman. Mrs. Wise was born on July 12, 1888 in Chicago, lived her early life there, and attended the University of Chicago. The Wises made their first visit to this part of Michigan in the summer of 1928, vacationing at Rex Terrace on Elk Lake. They liked the area and returned frequently. Upon Mr. Wise's retirement in 1936 they acquired an area of lakeside property, built a permanent home and

appropriately named it "Wiseacres." For several years the Wises have spent the winter months in extensive travel and living in Hawaii. Mr. Wise died at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu on August 21, 1969 at the age of 86. Mrs. Wise continues to call "Wiseacres" her home during much of the year while living at the "Ilikai" in Honolulu in the winter months. The philanthropic contributions so generously made by both of them while Mr. Wise was living are now being carried on by Mrs. Wise as she continues to give assistance to worthy causes.

The Julie Kennedy-Hill Scholarship

The Julie Kennedy-Hill Scholarship was established in 1965 by Robert J. Kennedy, the owner and operator of a Chicago electronics firm. In making his first gift of \$200 Mr. Kennedy expressed a wish to do this because of the kindness and consideration shown to his daughter, Julie Ann Kennedy, while she attended Northwestern Michigan College in 1959 and 1960. It was agreed that students receiving this grant will have demonstrated high standards of conduct and academic aptitude and a need for financial assistance.

The Karyl Tompkins Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Karyl Joan Tompkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Tompkins, was a student at Old Mission School, and she planned to be a nurse when she grew up. Karyl never became a nurse; she died when she was fourteen years old. A memorial scholarship established in her name by Mr. and Mrs. Garth Tompkins in 1966 provides \$100 per year for a second-year student in the Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program on the basis of scholarship, character, and financial need.

The Laura Olmsted Memorial Fund Scholarships

George E. Olmsted, a Consumers Power Company executive, established the Laura Olmsted Memorial Fund in memory of his deceased wife. On July 26, 1952 he gave 100 shares of Consumers Power Company common stock to Northwestern Michigan College with the understanding that the dividends earned each year from this stock would be used for scholarships to worthy students. Because of his wife's personal interest in the study of Spanish and French languages, Mr. Olmsted further specified that recipients of these grants would be students who had evidenced a "particular interest and ability in foreign languages."

Mr. Olmsted retired from Consumers Power Company in 1964 and later became active as an electrical engineering consultant in Nigeria. Throughout the years he has continued to be interested in Northwestern Michigan College and has been especially pleased to receive the letters of appreciation from the students who were recipients of the scholarships.

The original gift of 100 shares of stock has grown through stock splits and additions to 248 shares during a twenty-year period and during those years has provided forty grants amounting to a total of over \$8,000.

The Les and Ann Biederman Scholarship

These two scholarships were the first to be established at Northwestern Michigan College in 1951. It was Mr. Biederman, President of the Midwestern Broadcasting Company and of the College Board, who suggested that academic grants be established for students at the College and then became the first to carry out the suggestion. While other scholarships were established that year, these are the only ones which have been continued

uninterrupted during the past twenty years. During that time forty students who have shown scholastic aptitude, a financial need, and special talents have been beneficiaries.

The Munson Medical Center
Women's Auxiliary Scholarship

This award was first made by the Munson Hospital Women's Guild in 1959. Later in 1966 this organization became known as the Munson Medical Center Women's Auxiliary, and the name of the scholarship was changed accordingly.

Originally it was specified that this award should be given only to "a student interested in a hospital career such as laboratory technician, hospital administration, or occupational and physical therapist." Later it was agreed that students involved in nursing training also would qualify.

The Mutual Service Station Scholarships

In 1965 Mr. Gordon Grapes, owner and operator of the Mutual Service Stations in Traverse City, gave \$700 to Northwestern Michigan College for two \$350 scholarships to be awarded to academically qualified and financially needy students. Pleased with the appreciation which recipients have shown, Mr. Grapes continued the grants in 1966 and decided to make these awards annually.

The Northwestern Michigan College
Endowment Fund Scholarship

The Endowment Fund Scholarship was established in 1965 at the suggestion of the faculty. Income is provided from donations, memorial gifts, special events receipts, and miscellaneous sources when a particular use of the money has not been provided.

The Northwestern Michigan College Faculty Scholarships

In 1961 the faculty voted to contribute on a voluntary basis to a special scholarship fund for the recognition of students who had made outstanding academic achievements. A payroll deduction plan was put into effect that year, and grants of \$300 to \$350 are being made to three or four students annually.

The Perry Hannah Memorial Scholarship

The Honorable Perry Hannah is well known as the "father of Traverse City." Arriving here from Chicago in the early 1850s he formed a partnership to engage in the lumber trade. The Hannah and Lay Company thrived, and as the community grew its interests spread to railroading, real estate transaction, the milling of grain, merchandising, and many other commercial activities. Almost all of the business in the area was transacted through this firm, and in 1856 Perry Hannah established the Hannah and Lay Bank in his store, mainly to accommodate the people rather than for profit to the company. As its volume of business increased it was moved to a separate building, but it continued to operate as the only bank in Traverse City for almost thirty years. In 1892 it was incorporated under the state law and became the Traverse City State Bank.

Perry Hannah lived for over half a century in Traverse City and took a very active part in all the community affairs during these years. He served on the school board for 28 years, was a county supervisor, became the first president of the village, and was elected the first Mayor of Traverse City when it was incorporated. He served for two years as a member of the state legislature.

It was to honor this outstanding citizen and the founder of the Traverse City State Bank that its directors established the Perry Hannah Memorial Scholarship in 1955. This is an annual award and is given to students who have demonstrated both a need for financial assistance and exceptional scholastic aptitude.

The Rennie Oil Company Scholarships

In 1955 Ferris J. Rennie, owner and operator of the Rennie Oil Company, established two scholastic awards to be given each year to deserving students attending Northwestern Michigan College. The business was sold after Mr. Rennie's death. However, the new owners have not only continued these scholarships but have recently increased the awards to four each year.

The Traverse City District Practical Nurses Association Scholarship

The Traverse City District Practical Nurses Association awards a scholarship each year to a practical nursing student from the district which they represent, the Counties of Grand Traverse, Benzie and Leelanau.

The Traverse City High School P.T.A. Scholarship

The Traverse City High School P.T.A. established a scholastic award in 1962 for local graduates attending Northwestern Michigan College. This is given each year to a student who has demonstrated a need for financial assistance, good character, and scholastic ability.

The Traverse City Kiwanis Club Scholarships

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Andrew L. Doyle, former Extension Director in Traverse City for Michigan State University, a Kiwanis committee established three scholarships for Northwestern Michigan College students in 1953. The committee directed that these scholarships were to be made to students interested in teaching as a career, and that candidates should not be eliminated because of lack of financial need.

In 1969, upon recommendation of Gabor Vazsonyi, the Kiwanis Club added a fourth award to be made each year to a student at Northwestern Michigan College who was proficient in the field of languages. Again, it was specified that a lack of financial need on the part of the student not be a restriction in making a selection.

The Traverse City Lions Club Scholarships

Being interested in helping the physically handicapped, the Lions Club readily accepted the suggestion of one of their Board members, Larry Niemeier, to establish scholarship awards for Northwestern Michigan College students enrolled in health science programs. One scholarship was given in 1967, and later this was increased to two each year.

The Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital Scholarships

The Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital Scholarships were established in 1966 by the Hospital board and specified that two grants for \$200 each would be made each year to students training to be practical nurses. In the letter from the Hospital administrator informing the College of these awards, the request was made that candidates for these scholarships "be nominated by a selection committee composed of the President of Northwestern Michigan College, the Director of the Practical Nursing Center, and two members of the Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital Board of Trustees."

The Traverse City Rotary Club Endowment Funds Scholarship

The first award was made by the Traverse City Rotary Club in 1952, and since that time 25 scholarships have been given to students who have shown outstanding scholastic ability. The Rotary Club committee which initiated these grants recommended that a lack of demonstrated financial need by applicants not be a factor in choosing a recipient.

To provide the funds for their scholarships, Rotarians make a financial gift each year on their birthday. This money is placed in an endowment, the earnings of which now provide for two annual grants of \$150 each.

The Unitarian Fellowship Scholarship

In appreciation for the use of College facilities for its Sunday meetings, the Unitarian Fellowship established a scholarship award in 1966. This grant is made to a Northwestern Michigan College student who has demonstrated financial need and superior scholastic ability.

The Velma Marie Brand Scholarship

Velma Marie Brand was one of the original full-time staff members at the time the College first opened in 1951. Upon her retirement in June of 1961 she was presented with this citation:

"This is to honor a devoted teacher. Throughout the years of her service she has provided a priceless quality of instruction in her quiet and unpretentious manner. Her unusual modesty has served to enrich the significance of her work. She has discovered unexpected possibilities in the student unsure of himself; she has had an abiding faith in the fulfillment of his intellectual potential. Her enthusiastic interest and knowledge in the biological sciences have inspired many others to follow in her steps. To have achieved such inspiration is the greatest tribute that can be paid to a teacher.

"That teacher is being honored with the establishment of the VELMA MARIE BRAND SCHOLARSHIP by the Board of Trustees for Northwestern Michigan College. It is appropriate that this award recognizing student excellence be established in the name of one who has devoted her career to the enlightenment of young men and women."

The William James Potter and Mary Potter Memorial Scholarship Fund

William James Potter and his wife, Mary, were British immigrants to Canada, arriving there late in the last century. They established their home in Toronto where Mr. Potter was employed as a tinsmith, the trade he had learned while living in Worcester, England.

Two sons were born to the Potters, William Thomas on October 20, 1896 and Ralph on October 26, 1901. The boys spent their early life in their Canadian home, attended local schools, and as young men became apprentices

in the plumbing and metal trades. Their family life with loving and affectionate parents was a happy one.

In 1926 the two young men left Canada to work in the automobile plants of Detroit. They became experts at tool and die making, and because of their dependable and skillful workmanship, they always had steady employment even during depression years when layoffs were common. Though their weekly earnings were reduced substantially part of this time, their bankbooks revealed that a portion of these earnings were deposited in a savings account every payday. Neither of the men ever married, but lived together as bachelors in Detroit for almost 35 years. Vacations were spent together, usually on cross-country fishing trips. Throughout these years they remained devoted to their parents. Reunions were frequent, and letters and warm greeting cards were exchanged between parents and sons with regularity.

They retired to Traverse City in 1960, but spent most of the winter months in a trailer park at Fort Pierce, Florida. Both died there; William in November of 1968 and Ralph about a year later.

Their final will drawn up in 1965 with the assistance of their attorney, Harry T. Running of Traverse City, was both an expression of their deep devotion to their parents and also their high respect for the values of higher education. It provided that the major part of their estate of approximately \$156,000,* representing their lifetime savings, be given to Northwestern Michigan College and that this sum "be invested and the net income

* \$155,863.06 From cash residue of estate
\$105.60 From sale of possessions left to NMC

It should be noted that as of January 1, 1971 a set of diamond earrings and a stamp collection remain to be disposed of.

therefrom be employed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining" a fund at the College to be known as "The William James Potter and Mary Potter Memorial Scholarship Fund." The will specifies that this fund be held "in perpetuity in memory of my dear father and mother." The will further directs each "scholarship grant to be for a maximum sum of \$250 per year for not more than four years, for a total of not more than \$1,000 for each recipient." Their concern about the qualifications of the recipients reveals their high regard for their adopted country and for the welfare of the families of the working people. The will states that "to qualify as a recipient of such scholarship grants, the student must have attained high scholarship, be of good character with unswerving loyalty to the flag of this wonderful country and to the American concept of democracy, and who are sons or daughters of equally loyal wage earners and who, but for such a scholarship grant, would not have sufficient funds to enable them to attend college and achieve a good education."

And so two men, William and Ralph Potter, who never had the advantages of a college education for themselves, but who highly respected its values, will lighten the burden of many financial needy college students for years in the future.

The Woodland Roofing Company Scholarships

Established in 1965 by Mr. Edward Gibeau, owner and manager of the Woodland Roofing Company, these awards are given each year to students demonstrating scholastic aptitude and financial need.

Record of Other Scholarships Not Currently Active

Bellaire Lions Club	1951-59
E. C. Brown	1951
Traverse City Business and Professional Women's Club	1952-69
Fred A. Knorr	1951-54
Howard Black Cherry Company	1953-54
Dr. and Mrs. Earl L. Baker	1960-69
Friendly Garden Club	1952-54
Friendly Neighbor Club	1960
The Daisy Chain Club	1954-59
Archie Junior Women's Club	1964-68
Grand Traverse Auto Company	1951-64
Clune Leasing Company	1965-67
The Ed Arts	1966
Economics and Political Science/UAW-CIO	1955-57
Elks Club	1955
Karl Fisher Memorial	1956-57
Traverse City Exchange Club	1961-69
Traverse City Opti-Mrs. Club	1963-68
North Central District Hospital Council	1965
Sheffer Collet Company	1952
The Red Mill Lumber Company	1955-64
St. Francis P.T.A.	1960
Persons Harbor Women's Club	1960-62
John and Betty Parsons	1961-69
The Northern Michigan Jobber Group	1955-58
The Northern Michigan Auto Service Dealer	1960-67
The UAW Local 945	1961-63
Williamsburg Colonial	1960-65
Louise Kent Hale Memorial	1962-63
Charles S. and Minnie E. Porter Memorial	1964
Glenn E. Loomis Memorial	1965-69
Onekema Memorial Hospital	1964-69
LaSociete des 40 et 8	1965-66

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE LOAN FUNDS

The Waino Kangas Memorial Loan Fund

Waino Kangas was a skilled clay sculptor at the Ford Motor Company Design Center for a number of years. It was this man who created the galloping Mustang, the familiar emblem on Ford's Mustang automobile. Mr. Kangas also was widely known as a ski enthusiast. He was an instructor and active participant in the affairs of the central division of the United States Ski Association. It was skiing that brought him to the Grand Traverse area, and he was responsible for forming the first ski patrol at Sugar Loaf. He taught the fundamentals of skiing, toboggan handling, and first aid. His tutoring of the young was especially commendable. In 1967 he became a National Ski Patrolman and was awarded a plaque "for outstanding service" by the United States Ski Association.

Waino Kangas died in 1968. Because he was an outstanding person and had such a consuming interest in and influence on young people, his Detroit area friends wished to honor his memory with "a living memorial." They selected Northwestern Michigan College as the recipient for a student loan fund, and a number of individual contributions as well as matching funds from the Ford Motor Company were received by the College. This fund, which was established in 1969, provides short-term loans to students who are in financial need.

The Everett LaPlant Memorial Fund

Everett LaPlant was a member of the first class to enroll at Northwestern Michigan College in the fall of 1951. In spite of a serious physical handicap and the fact that he was beyond the normal college age level, he entered

enthusiastically into student activities. He was accepted wholeheartedly by the young groups who willingly gave him a helping hand when necessary. He died suddenly before the first year was completed.

A memorial fund was given to the College by his sister in appreciation for the kindness shown to her brother. Other contributions were added, and the first student loan fund was established at Northwestern Michigan College in March 1952.

The Independent Food Merchants Loan Fund

Richard Schall, former owner and manager of Schall's Tasty Baking Company, established this student loan fund in 1959. Rather than identify the name of the fund with his own firm, he unselfishly honored his business customers by designating it as "The Independent Food Merchants Loan Fund." Loans are made to students for both short and long terms.

The Omena Women's Club Fund

The Omena Women's Club invested in government bonds during World War II. In 1959 they cashed these bonds and established a student loan fund at Northwestern Michigan College recommending that loans to Leelanau County students be given preference.

The Rennie Oil Company Loan Fund

Just before Christmas in 1957 the Rennie Oil Company ran this ad in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*:

"Seasons' Greetings"

"This year instead of sending our usual Christmas remembrances, we are taking our initial step in the establishment of a Student Loan Fund by making a grant to Northwestern Michigan College for that purpose.

"Each year at Christmas time we will add to this fund, anticipating the financial assistance it will provide in making advanced education available to students at the College."

It was Ferris (Pete) Rennie, owner and general manager of the company, who initiated this loan fund and annual contributions of \$1,500 were made by the Rennie Oil Company until his untimely death in 1965. In 1964 Mr. Rennie was appointed a Fellow of Northwestern Michigan College "in grateful recognition for his enthusiastic support in the development of Northwestern Michigan College and his generous contributions to student scholarship and loan funds."

The George A. Schilling Practical Nursing Loan Fund

George A. Schilling of Glen Lake established this loan fund in 1969 in gratitude for the excellent care given him by practical nurses while he was a patient at the Munson Medical Center.

The Hortense Martinek Tannewitz Memorial Fund

The funds for short-term loans to needy and worthy students were provided by Mary M. Bosco of Boston and Dorothy D. Martinek of Cleveland as a memorial to their aunt, Hortense Martinek Tannewitz, a lifetime resident of Traverse City before her death. This loan fund was established in 1969.

The Wilson L. Brott Memorial Fund

Dr. Wilson L. Brott, osteopathic physician and surgeon, died in 1968 while saving the life of a drowning boy. His personal interest in the encouragement of practical nursing prompted members of his family and friends to establish this tuition loan fund for students enrolled in this program. It was recommended by the donors that recipients of the loans be from the Grand Traverse area.

The National Defense Student Loan Fund

Authorized by the enactment of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, this fund provides ninety percent of the money for loans to students who qualify. The other ten percent is provided by the institution making the loans. Repayment of borrowed funds can be made after students graduate. Provisions are made for liberal time payments and low interest rates.

The Practical Nursing Student Loan Fund

This fund was established by area service clubs and civic minded groups at the time the practical nursing program was first started by the public schools in 1948. Later it was transferred when the program became a part of the College offerings. Loans are made from this fund to students training to be practical nurses.

The Business and Professional Women's Club Loan Fund

For several years the Business and Professional Women's Club contributed funds to Northwestern Michigan College for scholarships. In 1969 they decided to support a student loan fund instead. This fund provides for loans

up to \$200 to women students who are in their second year of training to enter business or a profession.

The Elizabeth E. Schramm Student Nurse's Loan Fund

Established in 1967 by Dr. and Mrs. H. Earl Barlow, Elk Lake summer residents, this loan fund was named in memory of Elizabeth E. Schramm who was a librarian at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital.

Loans are available to students enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. The donors recommended that the borrowers be permitted to return the money in installments after graduation and that two percent interest be charged until the loan is repaid.

The Antoinette Brown Memorial Nursing Fund

Antoinette Brown planned to be a nurse but was killed in an automobile accident before she could begin her studies. The parents, Paul and Lydia Brown, established this nursing loan fund in 1970 as a memorial to her.

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