

# **COME, ALL YE LOYAL**

**A HISTORY OF THE  
PARK COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
1882-1989**



**THE CLASS OF 1896 ON THE STEPS OF  
"OLD NUMBER ONE"**

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2003**

## INTRODUCTION

Park College, now Park University, was founded in 1875 by John A. McAfee and George S. Park under circumstances which dictated that a charter would be written if, after five years, the school was showing promise. George Park had allowed McAfee and his seventeen students to use his 1852 hotel and a few acres of land to make a start and by 1879, one year before the deadline, the first class was ready to graduate. The class of 1879 consisted of four people: Alma Morgan, Helen Hough, Susie Elrod and Winfield T. Scott. Two of them, Miss Elrod and Mr. Scott had been among the original seventeen students who arrived in Parkville in 1875. From this first small group of alumni has sprung an organization of many thousands, the Park University Alumni Association.

While this is by no means a full and complete history, it will give a fairly detailed overview of the leadership, the goals, the controversies and the contributions that have guided and driven this group for 120 years.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The title, "Come, All Ye Loyal" is the opening of a school song written by John S. Carlile, class of 1911. The title of the song is "Choo-Choo Rah! Rah!"

Although Park College became Park University in January, 2000, I have, at this time, chosen to use "Park College" throughout this history because the school was a college during the entire time period covered, 1882-1989.

This history has been compiled mainly from two major sources, Alumni Council minutes and the Alumniad. Some minutes are missing and, as with any volunteer organization, some secretaries went into more detail than others. **It is an informal document and still needs a great deal of work.**

There are also many articles that eventually will be included in an addenda.

This account ends at the date I was hired as Alumni Director in 1989. It is my opinion that it should be brought up to date by someone who can view all aspects of the alumni program during my tenure and those of the subsequent directors more objectively than I can.

The history is organized chronologically and according to the association's fiscal years. Thus each year begins with the annual meeting, held in May or June.

Carolyn McHenry Elwess,'71

# COME, ALL YE LOYAL A HISTORY OF THE PARK COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Although the first class, composed of three women and one man, had graduated from Park College in 1879, the idea of an alumni association was not discussed until June 1, 1882. On that day, twenty-three alumni who had come to Park for commencement conducted the business reported in the following minutes:

“Cheever Reading Room, P.C. June 1, '82

On the afternoon of commencement day all the graduates of Park College present were called together in Cheever Reading Room.

Mr. W.T. Scott having been elected chairman, the object of the meeting was stated by Mr. McLeod to be the organization of an Alumni Association. A motion to organize such an association was carried. Mr. Robert Watt was elected president, Miss Anna Dolley, vice president, Allie Morgan, secretary, Mr. L.A. McAfee, assistant secretary. Miss Mary Higgins, Mr. H.B. McAfee and Mr. W.M. Hindman were chosen as a committee to draft a constitution and perfect the organization. And the officers elect of the association were appointed an executive committee to arrange for the next meeting.

After the business meeting was declared at an end the company devoted themselves to the very tempting cakes kindly presented by Mrs. Root and Mrs. Palmer.

At this meeting, the following graduates were present.  
Mrs. G.B.[Susie Elrod] Wilson, Mr. W.T. Scott, Miss Allie Morgan of the class of '79. Miss Mary Higgins, Mrs. C.C.[Jennie Kipp] Carrico, Miss Effie Miller, Mr. Lowell McAfee, Mr. Howard McAfee, Mr. Robert Watt of the class of '80.

Miss Anna Dolley, Miss Ruth Price of the class of '81.  
Miss Maude Baker, Mr. J.J. Crosswhite, Miss Mary Dayton, Miss Mattie Dolley, Mr. S.S. Dolley, Mr. C.J. Godsman, Mr. E.V. Higgins, Mr. L.A. McAfee, Mr. Donald McLeod and Miss Anna Palmer of the class of '82.

Allie Morgan, sec.”

Like all college activities, this meeting was held in the original college building, a hotel built by George Park in 1850. Mr. Park had allowed Dr. McAfee to use the hotel rent-free when the college was founded in 1875 and then donated it to the college in 1879. This building became known as “Old Number One” until a renovation in 1893, when it was named “Woodward Hall.” The building stood east of the White Alloe Creek on the north side of the railroad tracks, an area which now (1999) is the site of the Parkville City Fountain. For several years, Old Number One was the

only college building and held classrooms, club meeting rooms, dormitory rooms, a chapel, dining room and kitchen among other necessary facilities. The first alumni meeting was held in the room used by the Cheever Literary Society.

The formation of literary societies is an important aspect of early Alumni history. In 1877, college students organized the Cheever Society, followed by the Park Society in 1878. The Bullard Society, originally for preparatory students, was formed in 1881. Bullard became a college club as well in 1886. (Literary Monthly , April, 1887).

Cheever was named for Dr. William M. Cheever, member of the board of trustees and pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. Park was named for George S. Park and Bullard, for Dr. Henry Bullard, a charter member of the board of trustees.

All three were coed and met in their own meeting rooms in Old Number One every Friday evening. Their programs consisted of devotional exercises, readings of poetry and essays, orations and debates. The clubs also worked to build their own libraries and practiced the use of Parliamentary Procedure.

For several years the societies issued club diplomas to their senior members, usually awarded at an "Exhibition" held before commencement. In some years the clubs would band together to hold "Union" or "Joint Exhibitions" which included speeches, choral selections and dramatic presentations. These combined programs offered the best performers from each club. Some of the printed programs are quite elegant.

In 1885, Park and Cheever created The Literary Monthly, which contained club news and original literary efforts. It was edited by the senior class. I believe this was the first student publication and it did carry some news of the alumni. The Literary Monthly ran out of steam in 1890.

As time went by, the societies became more and more competitive, decorating their halls and holding lively debates. They were, for some students, the highlight of college and for many years played a very important role in the intellectual and social life of the campus.

It is also important to provide a brief explanation of the Park College Family work program in this first entry because it also holds an important place in alumni history. One of the principles which college cofounder Dr. John A. McAfee maintained was that every student, no matter how poor, should have the opportunity to earn an education as long as he or she were willing to work. Beginning when Park was founded in 1875, students

of limited means took the place of hired labor, thereby lessening the costs of their educations. The very first job they undertook, described as an "Augean Task," was to clear the old hotel of debris and fashion it into workable space. In addition, they were forced to deal with the 1875 grasshopper plague that was decimating western Missouri.

They performed nearly every task necessary to sustain a family, from cooking and cleaning to farming and construction. Another aspect of the Family was that each member depended on the others; if one didn't perform his task, the others suffered. Labor was considered part of the educational ideal that Dr. McAfee held dear, that of educating the whole person. It was to this ideal that Dr. McAfee referred when he said, "Park College is a Peculiar Institution;" the word "Peculiar" meaning unique. In the beginning, work was a choice, later it became required for all who wanted to live on campus.

The Family was maintained separately from the college and was governed by rules that did not apply to the paying students. In the early days, most students were members of the Family – few could afford tuition, room and board. At one point, three different Families existed, based on the amount that a student could pay. It was a logistical and bookkeeping nightmare, but it attracted hundreds of students over its years of operation, 1875-1909. Dr. McAfee was the head of the Family until his death in 1890; he also headed the college and shared that responsibility with the board of trustees. He could not convince George Park to make the Family part of the college, even though the Family maintained the school.

George Park felt that the Family was too expensive and wanted Dr. McAfee to accept more paying students. He even created a separate department to accommodate them. After 1886, he and John McAfee often fought over these plans; some feel that the arguments hastened their deaths; they died one week apart in June of 1890. (see 1890)

The Park College Family work program, managed after 1890 by Howard B. McAfee, existed as a separate entity until 1909. Many, many alumni remembered the Family with fondness and it is evident that such work brought them closer together.

It should be noted, however, that the Family was not perfect. The ideal plan was compromised by those who were lazy and who had devised ways to do as little work as possible. I am sure that this caused the work supervisors to lose patience quite often. There were others who were physically incapable of carrying the load. More than one student left Park for that reason and one, R.D. Lewis, who attended in 1876, remembered that John A. McAfee regretted that he [R.D.] "was a stone unfit for the

building.” (Letter from R.D. Lewis to Dr. Walter F. Sanders, May 30, 1942). See 1909 for further details.

Another hardship in the early days was disease. Malaria and Typhoid were common ailments that debilitated many students and proved fatal to others. Five students died of Typhoid in 1881 alone. (McAfee, Mid-West Adventure in Education, p.120). Diphtheria, Measles, Pneumonia and Tuberculosis also took their toll. Vaccinations for those diseases were unknown in the early days.

Students were also governed by very strict rules concerning everything from smoking to dating. Romance was discouraged by the infamous “Rule Number Two” which prevented couples from even walking together. Although male and female students worked closely together, took meals together and attended classes together, pairing off was prohibited unless “Number Two” was officially suspended, which it sometimes was for special occasions. “Number Two is off” was a welcome expression for many, many years. Later in campus history, an area was cleared near a flowing spring where couples were allowed to stroll together but, again, only when Number Two was off. It quickly became known as “Dear Park.” The outdoor volleyball courts are located on this spot, across from Chesnut Hall.

Robert Watt, 1880, President (1882-1883)

#### 1883-1884

**The June 14, 1883 Park College Record reported that: “Wednesday afternoon, the ‘Society of the Alumni’ was organized and held its first annual banquet. Twenty-one members were present at the meeting and the feeling of each was that we were inaugurating an association that is to grow and expand and be an important factor in establishing Park College. While other, older colleges may boast of much larger numbers, none can claim a more devoted, loyal Alumni. Each alumnus looks back upon his Alma Mater not merely as such but more than that – as a home where many happy years were spent, where there were troubles and trials to be encountered but where there were always friends who, with a loving interest, guided and helped them over the rough places.”**

According to minutes of the meeting, a constitution had been prepared and was “placed in the hands of a committee who should have it printed.” A copy was to be sent to each graduate for criticism before “...a final action at the next meeting.” **Dues were set at one dollar per year**, and a decision was made to hold annual meetings during commencement each June. “Persons appointed to prepare any literary exercise should be notified six months in advance.”

The group also designated five of its members a "Board of Managers." This board was composed of local alumni and, although their duties were not spelled out, apparently carried out the wishes of the larger group, similar to today's Executive Council. After adjournment, the group "...repaired to the hotel (Old Number One) dining room and partook of an ample banquet."

The Park College Cookbook was printed by the student print force. According to the August 9, 1883 Record, "this is the first effort of the P.C. printing office which has aspired to the dignity of a bound volume." The book was compiled by George Park and his daughter, Ella to start an endowment fund for the Domestic Department of Park College. It is written in the form of a textbook and contains information about everything from Bible views on domestic labor to selecting the site for a house.

The book was begun in 1879 and some of it was typeset in 1880. The complete work was delayed due to "the failure in health of Miss Ella Park (now Mrs. Lawrence)," and the inexperience of student printers. George Park paid for the paper and the binding. The 250 page book sold for \$1.00 (muslin binding) and \$1.25 (oil cloth binding). The August 16 Record noted that 1450 copies had been printed and further states that "our matrons recommend this book as specially valuable to young housekeepers." Five copies are known to exist.

Edward Higgins, 1882, President. (1883-1884)

#### 1884-1885

There are no minutes of the meeting. The June 12, Park College Record carried this report:

"The Alumni meeting and banquet was a thoroughly enjoyable affair. Including this year's class (twelve members), there were twenty-one present. A constitution upon which much care and comparative study had been bestowed was adopted and other business transacted. [This first constitution has not been located yet.]

The Association undertook to furnish one room in the new dormitory. A committee was appointed to select the room and purchase the furniture as soon as it was ready."

The "new dormitory" was the original Copley Hall, a frame structure, the first college building constructed by student labor. It was named for Josiah Copley, an early benefactor. The dormitory stood just north of the present Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel.



In December, Dr. and Mrs. McAfee moved to a large home in Parkville, located on the northeast corner of Fifth and Main Streets. Mrs. McAfee had been ill and was under constant strain because she and her husband lived in Old Number One, side by side with most of the college community. Dr. McAfee thought she needed a home away from the bustle of college life. The house was large and well suited for the president's family. (Record, December 27, 1884)

Unfortunately, the house was torn down in the 1950s and a one-story ranch house was built on the site.

With the addition of the class of 1884, the alumni numbered fifty-one.

William Hindman, 1882, President. (1884-1885)

### 1885-1886

At the business meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the alumni decided to continue annual meetings at Commencement, holding a social meeting in even years and an oration in odd years, beginning with 1887. Another decision was to appoint secretaries for each class of graduates. All of these early meetings ended with a dinner or refreshments, usually at the new home of College President John A. McAfee.

The Copley Hall Reading Room Committee reported that the year before, a tax of \$2.00 per member was assessed to pay for furnishing the room. Instead of the \$86.00 expected from the 43 members only \$52 was received from twenty-six members. The assembled alumni decided to draw money from the treasury, which had a balance of \$16.25, to finish the job. It was noted that \$14.00 was owed in dues and moved and carried that the treasurer would notify all delinquent members who have not paid the annual fee – an unfortunate foreshadowing.

An announcement appeared in the November 28, 1885 Park College Record stating that the “reading room of Copley Hall is ready for papers, and if our friends will subscribe to any paper, secular or religious for this room it will be thankfully received and used. All should be sent to Copley Hall Reading Room.” Some of these books and papers are stored in the archives.

Another milestone in alumni history was the creation of The Park College Academy in September, 1885. The 1885-1886 catalogue describes it thusly: “Finding our building (Old Number One) far too small to accommodate the increasing number of students and recognizing that the less advanced classes needed a drill in the formation of habits of application of study, which could not be given them in the former crowded

position, the lower classes were removed from the college building and an Academy formed.”

Statistics provided by Dr. McAfee in the October 3, 1885 Record reveal that Park College “...is but 7 years old, and has already sent out 51 graduates and has today 11 Seniors, 17 Juniors, 28 Sophomores, 54 Freshmen or 110 Collegiate students, all pursuing the regular Classical course but with two single exceptions. Beside these Collegiate classes there is a Preparatory Department of 52 students and an Academy with its 148 students.” In all, 310 students of one level or another competed for classroom space.

At first, the college leased the Baptist Church, a brick building located on the north west corner of third and Main Streets as classroom space for academy students. Later, they held classes in “building number three” located on the northwest corner of Fifth and East Streets. This building was later named Barrett Hall. Academy classes were held in many different locations over the years depending on available space.

The Park College Academy eventually became what could be called the first high school in the area. Many alumni spent four years in the Academy followed by four years in the college. These people felt very strongly for Park and were grateful for the opportunity it gave them to gain an education. Some, like Tommie Powell, Acad.’10, who didn’t go on to Park College, still considered themselves alumni. The Academy’s final class was accepted in 1924 and it was phased out completely when that class graduated in 1928. The main reason was that Parkville had built a high school in 1927. The high school building, located at Twelfth and Main Streets, was converted into apartments in the late 1970s.

Lowell McAfee, 1880, President.(1885-1886)

#### 1886-1887

The minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting contain the final mention of the reading room equipment for the newly built Copley Hall. Apparently it had been furnished with bookshelves and space for newspapers, but nothing further had been done because no more money was available. The treasurer elect of the Alumni Association was instructed to balance the books and “...begin the account distinct from anything that had gone before.”

Construction on McCormick Chapel began in April, 1886. Mrs. Cyrus McCormick, wife of the great inventor, gave \$6000.00 to construct it. Some of the labor was done by students, but professional masons were hired to lay the rock and brick. (Record, April 8, 1886) This chapel was located slightly southeast of the present Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel.

The masons became frustrated with the inexperienced student workers and it wasn't until Dr. McAfee hired Charles Patrick Breen in August, 1886, that the chapel progressed rapidly.

Simeon Gobiet, 1884, President. (1886-1887)

### 1887-1888

The minutes from the June 8 annual meeting reveal very little. There was \$31.00 in the treasury and the recording secretary was instructed to prepare a roll of the alumni for the spring, 1888 college catalogue. The catalogue also lists the class secretaries and advises members to notify their secretaries with changes of address or occupation.

The chapel, though unfinished, was the site of the 1887 commencement.

The foundation for Mackay Hall was completed in time for commencement. Mackay Hall was begun after Duncan Mackay of Morrison, Illinois donated \$25,000.00 for a "new college building." Anna McAfee had met Mr. Mackay when she was spending time in Colorado, seeking relief from a respiratory condition. She heard him praying one night and, believing he was a devout man, resolved to seek him out and tell him about Park College. Anna McAfee was one of Park's finest ambassadors in the early days and she did, indeed, convince him that Park College was a worthy enterprise. (Souvenir view book, 1895) He was, undoubtedly, the largest contributor to Park in those early days.

The cornerstone for Mackay Hall was put in place on Commencement Day, June 9. Very little information exists concerning this event, including a list of items that may or may not have been placed inside the stone. Homer Mann, about whom you will hear more in this study, claimed in a 1947 interview that he had helped lay the stone and that he knew items were inside. When the cornerstone was replaced in 1993, nothing was found.

Lapsley Armstrong McAfee, 1882, President (1887-1888)

### 1888-1889

The annual meeting and banquet were held at Dr. McAfee's home on June 7. Four "papers" were read, followed by a vocal duet.

The alumni had a surplus of \$36.00 and voted to give it to the board of trustees to help make up a deficit in teacher salaries.

Robert Irwin, 1887, President (1888-1890)

### 1889-1890

The minutes for this meeting are printed. It is possible that the earlier minutes were printed, too, but the only copies I have located at this time are handwritten.

**This is the first time the name “Alumni Association of Park College” appears in the minutes of meetings. This name and “The Society of the Alumni” were often interchanged.**

The association decided to fund a gold medal for “Excellence in Mental and Moral Philosophy” to be given to the senior who stood highest in that subject. It was to cost \$15.00. A committee was named to figure out how to fund it and to give a report at the next annual meeting.

In addition, the group appointed a committee to prepare resolutions of congratulation, sympathy or gratitude. Many of these are printed in association minutes.

The class of 1889 “...will lay a class stone on Mackay Building foundation Commencement.” (Literary Monthly, April, 1889) This stone is on the southwest wing of Mackay at the top of the first story. It reads simply, “89.”

This class also published its own souvenir book entitled “Mementos of the Class of 1889, Containing the Exercises of Commencement Week and Other Interesting Data, with an Introduction by Prof. Wm H. Tibbals, PhD.” Within its pages is a lithograph showing the members of the class. It was compiled by Malcolm H. McCloud, a member of the class who was also head of the printing department.

The May 11, 1889 Record carried this note: “This little volume will be distributed at cost of publication (55 cents) to all manifesting sufficient interest in the class to order before any part of the work is issued.” The book is 125 pages, hardbound, and was printed by the Park College Press. It can be described as the first college publication similar to a yearbook. There are several copies of this in the archives.

Robert Irwin, 1887, President.

### 1890-1891

The minutes of the June 11, 1890 annual meeting contain a rather critical statement that reveals that there were problems even in the good old days:

**“The board of managers as requested by the association prepared a full literary and musical program which would have been very**

entertaining as well as profitable had it been carried out. The failure of some to accept the parts assigned, and the tardiness of others who had consented to take parts, disarranged and delayed the program till not only the board of managers but all interested were discouraged."

George Park died at his home in Illinois on June 6 at age 79. His body arrived in Parkville via railroad on Monday, June 9. That afternoon, the huge funeral was held in McCormick Chapel, presided over, in part, by Dr. John A. McAfee. Park was buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery, located north of Parkville on the east side of what is now called Highway 9.

The alumni drafted a resolution expressing their sympathy and sent it to Mrs. Park and her daughter Ella.

They also decided to fund a Greek Medal instead of the earlier Philosophy prize. The winner was Arthur Herr, 1892, who many years later, along with his sisters, Jane, Jessie C., '93 and Mabel, '98, donated the money for Herr House dormitory.

The treasurer reported total receipts of \$69.30, expenses of \$46.61 and a balance of \$22.69.

After the business meeting, the alumni were entertained at the home of college President John A. McAfee.

Shortly before midnight the very next evening, June 12, 1890, Dr. McAfee died of heart failure; he was 59 years old. He had spent his day presiding over commencement, attending a meeting of the trustees and settling a dispute at a Presbytery meeting. Apparently, he had been sick all day, but forced himself through the events. Dr. McAfee had suffered from heart trouble and "congestion of the brain" (diagnosis of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Dec 31, 1885) and in 1886, suffered a collapse brought on in part, many believed, as a result of constant criticism from George Park. Dr. McAfee was buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery, not far from Mr. Park, on June 16<sup>th</sup>. An alumni resolution concerning Dr. McAfee's death was composed and read at the funeral.

The deaths of the college founders, only one week apart, threw college officials into confusion; their main question was "what now?" Fears and concerns that the college would close were assuaged when it was resolved by the board of trustees that "John A. McAfee's Sons" would take over the management of the family and daily operations of the college. They did not appoint a new president. The five sons each had a role over the next several years although major decisions were left in the hands of their mother, Mrs. Anna McAfee. The sons were Lowell Mason McAfee, class of

1880; Howard Bailey McAfee, class of 1880; Lapsley Armstrong McAfee, class of 1882; Cleland Boyd McAfee, class of 1884 and Joseph Ernest McAfee, class of 1889.

Lowell was appointed Chairman of the Faculty; Howard (H.B.) became Superintendent of the Family and Business Manager of the college; Lapsley, an ordained minister, served as treasurer of the Family (until 1898); Cleland was a Philosophy teacher, musician and, with his brother Lapsley, co-pastor of the Parkville Presbyterian Church (pastor, until 1901) and Joseph Ernest was professor of Greek and Chaplain of the college until 1906.

The only daughter, Helen, was still in college. However, after she graduated in 1892, she served as "Supervisor of Young Women in their Home Life" a position to which we would now refer as Dean of Women. In 1904 she married George Shannon McCune, '01, and sailed for Pyeng Yang, Korea where she and her missionary husband were instrumental in developing the Korean educational system.

Founder's Day was celebrated for the first time on May 12, 1891. There was a parade through town led by Webster E. Browning, '91 and other members of the senior class. The college band played and the freshman class composed and sang "A Memorial Hymn in Honor of Dr. John A. McAfee." The rest of the program consisted of speeches and tributes, some delivered at Walnut Grove Cemetery where both founders were buried.

Charles F. Winchell, 1887, President. (1890-1896)

### 1891-1892

At the June 10, 1891 annual meeting it was revealed that the Board of Trustees invited the association to nominate an alumnus or alumna to serve as a trustee for a period of three years; at the end of that term the association would nominate a successor. The first alumni member was a female graduate, Dr. Jessie Bell Woodside, class of 1880. (Record, June 20, 1891) Jessie graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia in 1884 and spent three years in India as Park's first medical missionary. She returned to the United States because of health problems and worked at the college as a teacher of Physiology and Physical Culture. There is a wonderful picture of her with the "Ladies' Physical Culture Club" in the 1901 Narva.

A special issue of the Park College Record was mailed to friends and alumni to update them on the Park College Family and to help raise money to complete Mackay Hall. The page devoted to alumni stated that there were "145 alumni on the roll; all have been professing Christians

and all seem to be adapted for good work. The college is willing to be judged by its fruits – the alumni.” (Record, June 11, 1892)

In June 1891, the remains of George Park’s first wife, Eliza, and their two infant children were moved to Walnut Grove Cemetery from the old Parkville Cemetery (on the west side of the road); the large Park monument was erected in January, 1892. (Platte County Gazette, June 18, 1931)

The contrast between Park’s ostentatious monument and the smaller McAfee family stones speaks volumes about both the egos and the financial state of the respective families.

Founders Day was again held on May 12.

**Charles F. Winchell served as Alumni Association President until 1896.**

### **1892-1893**

The minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting reveal a disturbing trend in alumni participation. At this time there were 164 Park College alumni but only 64 of them had paid their dues. In addition, only four responded to a letter asking for opinions on continuing the Greek Prize. The treasurer’s report shows that after paying all bills, the Alumni Association treasury had a balance of only eighty-nine cents.

The board of managers was increased to five members.

The Alumni Association decided to raise money from members through payments and promissory notes for a tower clock to be placed in Mackay Hall. The original estimate for the clock and bell was \$900.00. Lowell McAfee was appointed to carry out all necessary correspondence. The records of all donations are in the archives.

Mackay Hall was occupied on March 13, 1893, and was formally dedicated on Founder’s Day, May 12. Although expert masons and carpenters were hired to do the most difficult work on the huge building, students had provided much of the labor during its seven years of construction. The building contained classrooms, offices and club meeting rooms.

The third floor held four large meeting rooms. Each of the literary societies had its own area and, again, they strove to outdo each other in decoration and event planning.

According to an article written by Frances Fishburn, "Each room had a stage or platform from which programs were presented. The furnishings, though not luxurious, were neat and attractive, and the clubrooms were decorated in the society colors, with draperies at the windows, velvet stage curtains and attractive wall decorations. The floors were hardwood, and were kept highly polished and glistening by the members themselves (no maintenance or janitor crew was responsible). When a special program was to be given, all able-bodied members converged upon the club room after classes or on Monday when there were no classes to clean and wax and polish. Also the clubs owned their own china."

The alumni were well on their way to securing the \$900.00 for the tower clock and bell when it was determined that a bell already in college possession could be used instead of a new one. This lowered the cost to \$609.70 and the clock was installed and started with great fanfare on May 2, 1893. The class of 1891 contributed the most money. A separate article on the "Alumni Clock" is attached. This is the first time the alumni showed their willingness to give large sums of money for a specific project. It was still difficult to collect dues.

#### 1893-1894

The alumni held their first meeting in Mackay Hall in Cheever Society Hall on June 7. The minutes of the annual meeting contain a long report on the story of the clock and finances. There were "unpaid subscriptions" amounting to \$95.00; the membership voted to place the surplus funds into a scholarship fund and appointed a committee to oversee it.

The meeting adjourned at lunch time "to the first floor of Mackay where the Board of Managers had prepared a repast to which all present did full justice." (minutes, June 7, 1893).

A new student newspaper, The Parkette, appeared in October, 1893 and carried some news of alumni.

#### 1894-1895

The June 27 annual meeting was held in the Park Literary Society Hall in Mackay and a great deal of business was conducted. The most important decision was to set the old constitution aside and adopt a new set of by-laws to replace it. The by-laws were printed and a preamble was added:

**"The object of this association shall be to sustain and advance the interests of Park College and to cherish feelings of brotherhood and friendship among its graduates."**

The four officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, were named an ex officio "Executive Committee" and a three-member "Board of



Managers" was continued to arrange for the annual banquet and to perform other duties as decided by the executive committee. I do not know why they decreased it from the five members of 1892 back to the original three of 1883. No term limits for officers appear in the document.

**By-law #1 states, "the name of this association shall be 'The Society of the Alumni of Park College.'"**

Membership in the association was restricted to graduates of the college and to those who had been elected to honorary membership.

One amendment was added which allowed those outside the society who received honorary degrees from Park College to be counted as honorary alumni.

Nickel Hall was completed and occupied on January 10, 1895. (Record, Dec. 29, 1894) The idea of this dormitory for women had been conceived by Dr. McAfee in 1887. His plan was to pay for the building by soliciting five-cent contributions from Sunday School children and others. He estimated that each brick would cost a nickel. The campaign was interrupted several times, but the idea held, and the cornerstone was placed in 1894. Nickel stood until 1968.

#### 1895-1896

At the June 26, 1895 annual meeting, members voted to send requests for pledges to increase the scholarship, by now named the "John A. McAfee and Anna B. McAfee Scholarship Fund," to all alumni. The fund had reached a total of \$487.45 in cash and pledges. A committee was set up to investigate incorporation of the Alumni Association and J.E. McAfee was appointed to "look into the advisability and feasibility of reorganizing the Alumni Association on a new basis of membership." (Minutes, June 26, 1895).

According to J. E. McAfee, by 1895, the literary societies had gotten a bit out of hand. Not only had rivalry among the groups become too intense, but the move to Mackay had created another problem. McAfee wrote, in College Pioneering:

" So long as the societies were centered in the same building which was used for social purposes (Old Number One), chaperoning and regulations were not a problem. But when the society halls were located remote from dormitory life and beyond the possibility of effective supervision by matrons and housemothers, the meetings degenerated into what collegians today (1938) might dub necking parties, and the societies lost

their original purposes.” Finally, the faculty had had enough and all the societies were abolished. The “Faculty Crime of 1895” forbade mixed meetings and actually forced each club to turn its property (furniture, etc,) over to the board of trustees. I doubt that this transfer of property actually took place, however.

This action caused a great deal of controversy and anger among the students and alumni. In order to mollify everyone, new rules were put into effect that allowed separate clubs for men and women.

These clubs were to meet on different days, but were allowed to hold joint meetings or events each month. The leaders of the original clubs began to reorganize and the members of old Cheever moved first. On January 10, 1896, the boys formed a new club, which they named Lowell, “...after our American author [James Russell Lowell].” (*Stylus*, November, 1898) The girls formed Lucerne, named to reflect “the little blue flower of the Swiss lands near Lake Lucerne,” on January 22. Naturally, they chose blue for their club color.

Later that month, boys from the other two clubs formed Parchevard, using syllables from Park, Cheever and Bullard to form the name. On January 25, another group of girls formed Calliopean, most likely named after the Greek Muse of Epic Poetry, Calliope. It is fun to note that the word “calliopean” is also an adjective that refers to the piercingly loud noise of a steam driven calliope. They chose gold as their color.

The separate societies soon paired up into brother sister clubs and became known as Lowell-Lucerne (LLC) and Parchevard-Calliopean (PCC). Colors were modified to dark and light blue for the former and purple and gold for the latter.

Club rooms were restored and club life proceeded.

The Stylus replaced The Parkette as the student newspaper and is still in publication (1999). The first issue of the Stylus was published in October, 1895 and contained essays, literary club news, alumni news and local happenings. It is a good source of information both about the college and about Parkville.

#### 1896-1897

There was a great deal of discussion about reorganizing the Alumni Association at the annual business meeting on June 24, 1896. Apparently, many people were not paying their dues but seemed willing to give for a specific purpose, most significantly, Mackay Clock. The growing scholarship fund is another example of that phenomenon.

A larger committee was appointed to look into the matter and was asked to spend another year corresponding with as many alumni as possible to get opinions on several suggestions recommended by the officers. One of their ideas was to lower the dues or abolish them altogether, another was to make membership voluntary. A third suggestion was that the society publish a yearbook which would "...display among other features a complete roll of the alumni, their addresses and possibly notes as to their occupations; a historical sketch of the year representing the work of the College and the Family and suitable illustrations." The rationale was that many alumni would want to be included in this publication and therefore may become more active. I wish they could have produced those yearbooks. The Narva was not established until 1901.

The committee on incorporation of the society had no report.

The Charles Smith Scott Observatory was completed in September, 1896. This beautiful building was constructed of stone quarried from college property and much of the labor was performed by students.

*[The unique building burned in January, 1999 and even though it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the administration decided to tear down the still solid stone walls. Scores of alumni considered this a crime of the greatest magnitude and were quite vocal about it].*

A diphtheria epidemic hit Parkville in September, 1896, and claimed the lives of many children, including two of Howard B. McAfee's little daughters, Helen, six, and Marie, three. Due to the danger of contagion, the funeral was private; only family members were allowed into the home, Gillette, which stood on the site of Shepherd Hall apartments. Howard's brother, Cleland, brought his choir to the garden of old Gillette where they sang, for the first time, the beautiful hymn "Near To the Heart of God", an anthem he had composed for communion service.

Alumni Association President Charles F. Winchell, class of 1887, who was also Professor of Greek at the college, died on August 12, 1896. He was on his way home by train to Parkville from New York when he became ill. Unbeknownst to college officials and his wife, Margaretta Best Winchell, '91, he had been hospitalized in Cincinnati, Ohio for several days. He was finally located after a flurry of telegrams was sent out to various railway stations along the route. Lowell McAfee traveled to Cincinnati to bring Winchell home; soon after their arrival, Charles died. The cause of his death is not mentioned in his obituary. He left his wife and two children.

Prof. Winchell had been reelected president of the Alumni Association for 1897-1898 and Cleland McAfee, '82, had been elected vice president. Although I can't find any written proof, Cleland may have filled out his term for 1896-1897.

#### 1897-1898

There are no minutes for this year and no mention of a meeting in the Record or Stylus. This may have been a result of Charles Winchell's death. Unfortunately, this gap stalled the momentum of the reorganization committee.

Again, I am not sure who served as president for 1897-1898, but it could have been Cleland McAfee or G.K. White McGee, class of 1889.

#### 1898-1899

The scholarship fund had grown to nearly \$1,500.00 due to donations and interest on invested funds. This was a significant amount of money and a committee was appointed to decide what to do with it. Someone suggested that the association raise another \$3000.00 to put with the scholarship funds in order to build a memorial building.

There was no report from the reorganization committee.

In September, 1898, Lapsley McAfee left Parkville for Arizona, a climate more suitable for his wife's health. Lapsley began serving his six-year pastorate of the Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, Arizona. (Record, August 14, 1898).

The 1898-99 catalogue lists 323 alumni.

G.K. White McGee, 1889, President. (1898-1900)

#### 1899-1900

At the June 28, 1899 annual meeting, the by-laws were amended to add three members to the Executive Committee which, since 1894, had consisted of the four officers. The new members were to be elected by the association. The seven-member committee was to make decisions about which matters should be referred to the general membership at the annual meeting. It had become too time consuming to discuss every single alumni concern at the annual gatherings. Regardless, it was made clear that any member of the Association could bring up any topic at the annual meeting.

The catalogue lists 348 alumni.

G.K. White McGee, 1889, President.

### 1900-1901

The alumni association met in Park Hall on June 27, 1900. A formal treasurer's report, covering the period July 12, 1899 to May 31, 1900, appeared with the minutes. Alumni who had donated to the scholarship fund had objected to combining this money with another fund in order to erect a building. At some time, a separate "Building Fund" had been created. Dues were placed in the "General Fund" and used to pay the normal expenses of the association. Balances in each were as follows:

General Fund: \$17.68. (\$124.20 had been collected in dues but most of it had been used for expenses)

Scholarship Fund: \$2083.70. (this principal had been invested by H.B. McAfee, business manager and head of the Family.) It had earned \$60.00 interest which was transferred to the Building Fund. The scholarships were for members of the Park College Family and according to the January 22, 1912 Park College Record, two \$1000 scholarships were, indeed, awarded.

Building Fund: \$353.25. This money was invested in the Parkville Milling Co., one of H.B. McAfee's enterprises. Apparently, the alumni had determined to erect an "Alumni Building" and had hired an architect, John Van Brunt, to make a drawing.

The meeting, which included a dress parade of the Park College Cadets (a semi-military drill team) was "seriously interfered with by a violent storm." From an account provided by Dean Richards, class of 1900, this drill team was begun as a way to keep students from running off to fight in the Spanish-American War. There is evidence that an attempt was made to form this group as a company in the Missouri Militia, but I am not sure it was successful.

Among other news of Park's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary events was the notice that Old Kate, the water cart mule so beloved by generations of students, lay down and died on the very day the new water works was put into service. (see addenda)

The first volume of the college yearbook, the Narva, covering the 1900-1901 school was published in May. The name was selected by Charles H. Crooks, '01, from a 26 page poem entitled "The Vision of Narva" written by William Paxton. Paxton was one of the earliest settlers of Platte County and set up a law practice in Platte City. He later became recorder of deeds, I think.

The poem, typical of amateur Victorian doggerel, related the story of a fictional Indian Chief, Narva, and his daughter, Morning, whose home was on the land that became Park College.

The story claims that Narva had several prophetic visions on his deathbed, right after he became a Christian and commanded all his people to read the Bible. He envisioned the coming of the white people, the railroad, the founding of Kansas City, the buildings of Park College and the two founders, Park and McAfee; it goes on forever. According to the poem, before Narva died he pronounced Morning and Alloe man and wife and named "White" Alloe chief of the tribe. Narva then instructed the tribe to move to Detroit, learn the white man's ways and become successful. After his death, the mournful tribe did just that. [No kidding]

This first Narva reveals that there were 348 alumni in 1900. A college flyer for the year 1900-1901 adds the 38 members of the class of 1900 to make 386. Ladies, 190; Gentlemen, 196; Ordained ministers, 92; foreign missionaries, 26; theological students, 21; teachers, 83; in home mission schools, 19; physicians, 16.

J. Hamilton Lawrence, 1895, President. (1900-1906)

### 1901-1902

At the June 26, 1901 annual meeting, the alumni voted to make a formal proposal to the board of trustees: "that the trustees be asked to provide a fund of \$10,000.00 at once for the erection of the [Alumni] building; and that in consideration of the provision made, the Association agree to pay into the treasury of the Board the amount thus provided in installments as may be found possible and that an annual interest of seven per cent be paid on that portion not refunded until the entire amount of \$10,000 shall be replaced in the treasury of the Board."

Further motions were passed that the Association would hold itself responsible only for simple interest on deferred payments and that the Association should surrender the title to the building to the trustees of the college while the control of the building should remain with the Association.

The trustees asked to see evidence of alumni determination to raise funds. The executive board went to work and mounted a major campaign by mail.

All of this excitement seems to have permanently squashed ideas of reorganization.

Cleland McAfee left Park College in early July to accept a call from First Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Cleland was a very popular member of the faculty and an excellent theologian and preacher. His loss was deeply felt.

**J. Hamilton Lawrence remained President of the Association until 1906.**

### **1902-1903**

June 25, 1902 was a momentous day for the alumni association. In those days, Commencement events took place over several days, beginning on Friday and ending the following Thursday. The alumni events took place on Wednesday.

Following exercises in the Chapel, "the alumni, the students by classes and many friends formed in procession and marched to the site of the building where the stone was formally laid. Here after reading of the long list of articles placed in the cavity cut into the stone and considerable class and college cheering and singing, 'How Firm a Foundation' was sung. Rev. Dr. C.B. McAfee, now of Chicago, led in the dedicatory prayer and the president of the Association, Professor J. Hamilton Lawrence, '95, trowel in hand, pronounced the stone a part of the building to be. The act of setting the stone in place was performed by members of the class of '02, the young women of that class heaping flowers upon the stone afterwards." (Record, July 6, 1902).

The building was located northwest of McCormick Chapel, on the site of the present Alumni Hall. The alumni paid \$2.00 for a tin box to be placed inside the stone and purchased a Bible for \$.50 to add to the contents. This box and its contents were found intact after the building burned in 1957 and are in the archives.

After a picnic lunch "on the hill" the alumni held their annual meeting. The minutes reveal that the alumni had raised \$1522.90 during the first year of the Alumni Hall campaign. This had been enough to convince the trustees that they were serious, and the Alumni Building proposal had been approved – they even lowered the interest rate to five per cent.

For the first time, the annual alumni gathering was referred to as "Alumni Day."

The college catalogue for 1902-03 lists 449 alumni and includes, for the first time, an alumni obituary section.

Mrs. Dr. McAfee, as she was called in college publications, died on February 6, 1903. Born Anna Waddell Bailey, she had married John A. McAfee in 1859 and bore him six children, five sons and one daughter. It was she who headed the family after her husband's death in 1890. She was much beloved by students and alumni and her funeral was attended by scores of people. [A recent graduate, Derek Mueller, '96, has researched Anna for a master's thesis. His take on her is fascinating and is, to my knowledge, the first such examination of her role at Park. I have assisted him with research and hope to be able to attach his paper to this tome]

Lowell Mason McAfee, class of 1880, was named President of the college. Since the death of his father in 1890, he had served as Chairman of the Faculty. Technically, until this year, the college had not had a president, but had been administered by John A. McAfee's Sons, as mentioned earlier.

#### 1903-1904

**At the annual meeting on June 24, 1903, association treasurer J.E. McAfee noted that dues-paying was slacking off and he also pointed out that all alumni must be serious about meeting the obligation of funding Alumni Hall. Only 178 of over 400 alumni were paying dues on time and some were slow in paying their pledges to the Alumni Building fund.**

One fourth of the \$10,000 building fund was paid up and the association began borrowing from the trustees according to plan.

Mention of the Scholarship Fund disappeared after this year. This may have been the year it was awarded to students.

The Alumni Association had been mailing minutes of annual meetings to all alumni for several years. This was the main expense paid for from the general (dues) fund.

The ladies of the faculty presented a set of silver to the alumni for use at their banquets. I do not know if this was a tea set or flatware. Ella Park Lawrence donated furniture and rugs for one of the parlors.

An amendment was approved to nominate alumni for the board of trustees and to mail ballots to the entire membership for election.

The 1903-04 catalogue lists 493 alumni.



### 1904-1905

There are no minutes for 1904. The June, 1904 Record mentions that the Alumni lost the Alumni-Undergraduate baseball game and that, for the first time, they held their meeting in the unfinished Alumni Building.

"The annual luncheon of the alumni could this year be served in the Alumni Building and the business meeting held in the auditorium of the new building, in which fact all felt deep gratification. The finishings of the building are not complete, but the use had of it on this occasion furnished some suggestion of the satisfaction which its use during the years to come will afford." (pewh!)

The first Alumni Hall was a beautiful structure and was the pride and joy of its builder, Charles Patrick Breen.

The 1904-05 catalogue lists 520 alumni. Men,260, Women,260.

### 1905-1906

At the June 28, 1905 annual meeting, the association unanimously ratified two constitutional amendments.

One stated that the President of the Association would be elected by the entire membership and would serve for one year. He would not immediately succeed himself unless there was a failure to elect a successor. The Executive Board was empowered to come up with a system to elect the president. The decision was to mail postcard ballots to each member just as they already did for trustee candidates (See 1903).

The second created the office of Chairman of the Executive Board. This officer would be elected by those attending the annual meeting and would conduct the ordinary business of the association. The suggested amendments had been mailed to all alumni with an explanation of the proposed change.

"Experience has shown that the Chairman of the Executive Board would always best be an Alumnus resident at or near the college. The President of the Association is now that chairman. Under the present arrangement it would never be feasible to pass the honor of the presidency of the association about among the non-resident members of the alumni. It will probably be agreed that the honor ought to be passed around.

It is probably understood by most or all of the alumni that the details of business are transacted by an Executive Board, and it is quite essential that the members of this board shall all be within easy reach of the college

that they shall be able to come together at frequent intervals throughout the year."

The Alumni meeting was held in the new Alumni Building for the second time. The building had an auditorium, guestrooms, parlors, a kitchen and a dining room. It also housed office space for the alumni office. The facility was fully utilized by students throughout the year as well.

**The corresponding secretary, Cleona Belle Matthews, 1886, described some of her correspondence. "The news is always desired here at the college. Park College is said to know its alumni better, and to follow them with closer interest, than any other institution, and not only is it desired that this reputation shall be maintained, but that it shall be the more fully justified each year. Each time an alumnus moves to a new address or his career is marked by any new development, the event becomes an item of interest to his Alma Mater and to his friends among his former college mates. Information of such events is often much more difficult to secure than many suppose, and the difficulties would be greatly lessened if each member of the alumni were more thoughtful to render assistance. Material is being collected which is of large immediate value, and which may in coming years be of a value now wholly incalculable. The Alumni headquarters aspires to be an increasingly complete news depository and distributing agency."**

The association was still paying all of its own costs from dues collected.

Dr. Eleanor Chesnut, class of 1888, was killed by an anti-foreign mob at her mission post in Lienchow, China On October 29, 1905. Her death had a major impact on the college community.

Eleanor had spent eight years at Park, four in the Academy and four in the college. She then attended medical school and earned her M.D. Her goal had been to become a medical missionary and she did, spending her life building a school and a hospital in Lienchow. She became the college martyr and an inspiration for students, many of whom joined the mission field as a result.

The 1906 Narva provided the following alumni statistics:  
556 Alumni: men, 276; women 280; ministers and theological students, 148; teachers in home mission schools, 24; teachers, 144; Physicians, 30; Lawyers, 13; Foreign Missionaries, 52.

### 1906-1907

Only a financial statement survives from this year. It listed all the expenditures on the Alumni Building. The association was able to make payments on the interest and the principal of the trustee loan but fell \$350.00 short of their self-assigned mark. An appeal for dues appears at the end of the report.

The June, 1906 issue of the Park College Record mentioned that the class of 1896 held a reunion and gave a "handsome door for the south entrance to Alumni Hall." The same Record carried this paragraph:

"Commencement is more and more a home coming time for our young people. Some of them are showing gray hairs or bald spots but they still are 'young people' when they get back here. The Alumni planned wisely when they decided to build 'Alumni Building.' It is headquarters for old students and will be increasingly useful in the coming years."

The cornerstone for a new Carnegie Library was laid after commencement exercises on June 28, 1906.

A huge cut-stone house, built in Parkville for President Lowell McAfee, was completed in June. The home, known to many alumni as Sunset Hall, still stands at 900 Main Street and was considered an outlandish extravagance by some critics. Notable among them was George Lawrence, husband of George Park's daughter, Ella. Both Lawrences were members of the Park College Board of Trustees. They were disturbed by the size of "the mansion" and felt it was too ostentatious. In addition, they were concerned that some of the funds spent to construct it were misappropriated. (Letter from George Lawrence to members of the board of trustees, June 29, 1906)

The Lawrences were also upset that H.B. McAfee had spent a great deal of money on a campus power plant and they claimed that he had not sought the approval of the entire board of trustees before erecting it. These two incidents were major reasons for the war which soon erupted between the Lawrences and H.B. McAfee. (H. B. McAfee, Sketch of Park College History with Correspondence and Argument, 1907)

Joseph Ernest McAfee left Park in July, 1906 to become Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions in New York City. (Record, First Letter of July, 1906)

### 1907-1908

No minutes exist, but a report of Alumni Day appeared in the Park College Record. Ella Taylor, '96 and some other local alumni organized "arrangements for the entertainment of the invited guests on the occasion

of the laying of the cornerstone of the new dormitory group, Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>." Ambitious plans had been made to begin construction of several dormitories to house 400 women and 600 men. Only one was constructed at this time, located on a hill north of the main campus. Stone for the dormitory was quarried on campus. Known for several years as "The New Dormitory", in 1914 it was officially named Eleanor Chesnut Memorial Dormitory in honor of Dr. Chesnut.

The local alumni women also organized an "Alumni House Party," which included lodging on campus and "a special dining room to entertain all visiting alumni in a sort of house party style."

The alumni business meeting was not reported but it was noted that "the matter of pledges to the Building and Scholarship funds was presented by the chairman, resulting in pledges to the two funds amounting to eleven hundred dollars." This was followed by a banquet and speeches.

After the meeting, alumni were invited to a reception at President Lowell McAfee's home. (Record, Fourth and Fifth Letters of June, 1906)

The Record also noted that Alumni around the world had begun to organize local groups, later to be called chapters. There were organizations in Chile, Alaska, Porto Rico(sic), Siam, Korea, China, Parkville, Kansas City and New York. Reports from the foreign groups, composed of missionaries and teachers, would appear once in a while in the Stylus. (Record, First Letter of August, 1907)

Membership in the Alumni Association had risen to 592.

In January, 1908 the trustees met with officials of the Burlington Railroad to consider the fate of Woodward Hall. The railroad's business had increased and they had leased rights to the Rock Island line to use the same track. Burlington needed to install double track to accommodate more trains. As a result, Burlington officials exercised their right to condemn the old hotel building. The trustees decided not to interfere with the railroad's plans and accepted an offer of \$15,000.00 for the building site in addition to being allowed to salvage stone from the old building. Many of the stones were used to construct "New Woodward" in a hollow north of the new women's dormitory. (Record, Fourth Letter of January, 1908)

Both New Woodward and The New Dormitory for women were completed by early June, 1908.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met in Kansas City and many alumni were among the attendees.

The Kansas City Alumni gave a banquet for the "Alumni Commissioners and other alumni visitors to the General Assembly" at the Coates House Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri on May 25<sup>th</sup>. One hundred twenty people attended, including alumni missionaries from all over the world. (Record, First Letter of June, 1908)

Rev. C. Boyd Beckes, '93, President. (1907-1908)

### 1908-1909

Again, no minutes exist; all information is from the Record.

The Alumni House Party was continued. Rooms were available in Alumni Hall and in the "New Dormitory."

Attendance at Commencement and Alumni Day was threatened by a flood that covered the railroad tracks. Trustees got to campus by "electric launch" and some alumni used boats, too.

The 1907-08 catalogue lists 621 alumni.

Arthur Dean, '98, President. (1908-1909)

### 1909-1910

The minutes from the June 23, 1909 annual meeting are handwritten and incomplete.

Apparently, there had been some controversy about producing an Alumni publication. There was a motion that discussion of a paper be postponed indefinitely, followed by a motion that anyone bringing up the subject for discussion again be fined \$5.00. A joke, perhaps? Most likely, the members present felt the association could not afford a magazine. Regardless, the Alumniad was published the next year.

A third motion required that, in addition to paying \$1.00 per year in dues, each individual who attends the alumni banquet should pay "a definite sum toward the expense of said banquet."

**The separate Park College Family came to an end in March, 1909 for a variety of reasons. The college had been turned down for funds by a few large foundations because it did not fit a standardized definition. Foundation officers believed that Park was either an industrial school or an eleemosynary institution and no amount of argument could change their minds. Trustees and faculty favored a more standardized approach to education**

and lobbied to abolish the Family. Additionally, the Family was a bookkeeping nightmare and good supervisors were hard to find.

As stated at the beginning of this history, the Family had always been separate from the college and required a great deal of care. While John A. McAfee was president, he served as head of the family and shared control of the college with the trustees. The separation was made necessary because George Park did not believe the Family would ever be economically viable.

George Park had done his best to eliminate the Family Work Program, but died before he could accomplish his goal. He had always felt that Park College should make a profit and believed that Dr. McAfee was wasting time on those who could not pay. Park's wealthy son-in-law, Illinois attorney George Lawrence, who replaced Mr. Park on the board of trustees, held the same opinion. Although less vocal, so did Park's daughter, Ella, who was a charter member of the board.

H.B. McAfee, who had managed the Family since his father's death in 1890, had fought long and hard to keep it intact. His brother, Lowell, who was college president, was torn between maintaining his father's ideals and pleasing the trustees and faculty. It was a horrible situation. H.B., finally realizing that he was in a hopeless predicament, finally gave up trying to institutionalize his father's plan. Frankly, it was so unique and so complicated that it could not even be described in a sensible fashion. Space will not permit all the details.

H.B. had served as a trustee, supervised the Family Work Program and held the position of college business manager since 1890. It was H.B. who pushed through all the building plans, including that of the President's Residence, or Sunset. Also in 1906, H.B. contracted for a central heat and light plant without getting the approval of the full board. (He did, however, have the approval of a majority) In addition, he, like his father before him, purchased land and houses in town to use as farmland and rental property, the income from which he used to support the institution. H.B. used his own credit to purchase property. (I think he used most of the income to support the Family because the trustees were not allowed to give it any funds) George Lawrence accused him and the majority of the trustees who had supported him of extravagance, violation of the charter and misappropriating funds. In 1905 George Lawrence, along with Ella and three other board members instituted a very complicated lawsuit over the true meaning of the college charter, in

particular, whether or not the trustees could use unrestricted gifts for current needs or whether such gifts had to be placed in the endowment and only the interest used for current needs. This was a direct result of the two buildings mentioned earlier, the president's home (Sunset) and the heat and light plant. Another bone of contention was that the majority of the board had allowed H.B. to invest unrestricted donations in income producing real property, believing that this property could be held as part of the endowment fund. George and Ella Park Lawrence along with some other trustees, disagreed with this belief and the legal battle they began carried on for years and eventually reached the Missouri Supreme Court.

The battle also became personal. The McAfees believed, and justifiably so, that their father had been the driving force in developing Park College and that Mr. Park and his family had provided very little support and a great deal of criticism. The Lawrences believed, again rightly so, that the college would not have been established without Park's generosity, including donation of the hotel. In one particular letter, George Lawrence reacted strongly to H.B.'s assertion that the hotel was a derelict mess when the first students arrived, even though it certainly was.

On May 31, 1910, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled against Lawrence, dismissed his suit and declared that the trustees had the right and duty to appropriate and use money as they had been.

Mr. Lawrence lost the legal battle, but won the war. By 1913, all of the McAfees were gone from campus and only H.B. remained as a trustee. On the basis of letters in the files, many alumni felt that the original court action and the constant criticism from George Lawrence had been a power move to get the McAfees out of Park.

H.B. McAfee stepped down as head of the Family in July, 1909 and he and his brothers officially turned the management of the Park College Family over to the trustees. After this, "John A. McAfee's Sons" no longer had any governing power at the college although H.B. remained as secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees, his brothers Cleland and Joseph Ernest remained on the board and Lowell remained as president of the college.

In a statement read to the trustees, the sons stated their belief that the two units should be consolidated and gave the trustees supervision of the entire work. They further stated they were ready to do this because they

were assured of the loyalty of the board to the great underlying principles of the institution.

- “1. A distinctly Christian atmosphere, charged with Scripture truth.
2. A thorough training by means of the cultural studies and by all those disciplines which aid in bringing every power under control of the student.
3. A provision by means of which men and women not able to pay their way through college may have all the advantages of the institution, securing a measure of self support through practical, profitable labor and maintaining a spirit of unselfish cooperation as an element in the educational process.” (John A. McAfee’s sons to Park College Board of Trustees, Minutes of Trustee Meeting, March 25, 1909)

**These carefully worded statements would come back to haunt the McAfees in 1912, when the board enacted several new policies.**

**H.B. McAfee moved his family into Kansas City, away from the campus where he had spent most of his life.**

**Ironically, the work program was not abolished, but was continued under the supervision of the trustees. In fact, the term “College Family” was used in the college catalogues until 1933 when the “Self Help Department” section was changed to a description of “Expenses.” Until 1960, every student who wished to live on campus was required to work a certain number of hours per week. Those who needed more financial help were allowed to request extra work hours. It remained as a selling point for Park College for many years even after advancing technology and different student attitudes forced changes in the types of jobs available.**

The new Carnegie Library was completed sometime during the summer of 1909. The library, renamed Norrington Center in 1988 in honor of Elmer Norrington, ’20, was built in two sections. The north end was constructed in 1909 and the south end in 1923. Both wings of the building were funded by the Carnegie Foundation.

The 1908-09 catalogue lists 666 alumni.

George Newell, ’04, President (1909-1910)

### **1910-1911**

The first Alumniad appeared in November, 1910 under the leadership of Alumni Association President Edwin R. Barrett, class of 1895. It was



published monthly, paid for by the Alumni Association and sent free to everyone who had paid the \$1.00 in dues. Before this publication appeared, alumni news had been printed in the Literary Monthly, the Parkette, the Stylus and the Park College Record. Mr. Barrett was the first Alumniad editor and the early issues were devoted to paying off Alumni Hall (the alumni still owed \$2000.00) and deciding on whether to have annual alumni reunions or hold them every five years. The alumni executive board decided to poll its constituents through the Alumniad and excited a great deal of interest. The annual reunions won out and continue to this day, each class holding their own anniversary reunions every five years.

It should be noted that Barrett was also the originator of the 1893 student newspaper, The Parkette, which was renamed The Stylus in 1895.

The first volume of the Alumniad is full of fascinating information about Alumni Hall and about the alumni. There is too much information to print here, but the bound issues are in the archives should any reader wish to peruse them.

It is possible that the Alumniad was also designed to save the cost of mailing association minutes to all Alumni. Beginning this year, the minutes of annual meetings were printed in the magazine as were the ballots for electing officers and other questionnaires.

The first volume of The Alumniad was printed in Kirksville, MO where Barrett was teaching at the time.

This note about the Alumniad appeared in the January, 1911 Stylus: "An alumni paper has long been needed in connection with Park College, and though the Stylus has always endeavored to keep in touch with the alumni the plan has not been as efficient as it is hoped a formal organ of the association will be. We wish the Alumniad, its editor and the Alumni Association success in their new undertaking."

Governing Board minutes from 1910 to 1921 have not been located as yet.

The 1909-1910 catalogue lists 699 alumni. As of early June, 1911, \$800 had been raised towards paying off Alumni Hall but 500 of the 699 alumni were still non-committal.

Edwin R. Barrett, '95, President and Alumniad Editor. (1910-1911)

## 1911-1912

At the June 28, 1911 business meeting, the Alumniad was adopted as the official publication of the Association. The cost for the first volume (eight issues) had been \$216.68 and postage was \$23.40. Money was borrowed from donations to the building fund to pay for it. (Alumniad, July, 1911)

The advent of the Alumniad was perhaps one of the most important events in Park Alumni history. For the first time, news from those who sent a postcard or a letter could be sent to one place and printed in a publication that was sent to all alumni. Even today, the class notes section is the first section people read. Additionally, news about the college could be easily distributed to everyone, funds could be solicited, and reunions could be widely advertised. In fact, Robert Buchannan,'01 waxed poetic about the periodical in the July 1911 issue. He stated that the gathering at commencement was the best ever (107 alumni were present) and gave all the credit to Edwin Barrett:

"It was Barrett and his Alumniad. Through all these past months we have been listening, through this medium, to the voices of old friends. We had forgotten them, perhaps, in the burden of many things until their voices sounded through the page, and we took down from the shelves of our memories many dust-covered bygones, brushed them carefully clean and behold, they blossomed into life. And in such a frame of mind the commencement season came upon us and these friends met us face to face. Is it any wonder that the heart leaped, the pulse beat faster, that the eye sparkled and the face shone, that joy was unconfined and fellowship was sweet? Yes, it was Barrett and his Alumniad."

Another tongue-in-cheek reference to Barrett and his Alumniad appeared in the same issue. "Last of all comes the printer's devil, the new ex president. He gave the constitutional powers of the chief executive the most powerful stretch in its history. He acted directly contrary to the oft-repeated and emphatically expressed wishes of the Association, lavishly squandering Alumni funds in printer's ink and postage stamps and escaped without being brought to trial. During the past year, what time he could spare from the Alumniad he has devoted to teaching English in the State Normal School at Kirksville." (Now Truman University)

An announcement was made at this meeting that Ella Park Lawrence had sent a check for \$500.00 to be cashed if the alumni raised the remainder of the \$2000.00 Alumni Hall debt by December 25, 1911. The campaign was extended to January 1, 1912 and alumni were urged to make two-year pledges if necessary; many did so.

An assistant, Addie B. Wyeth,'05, was hired to help the secretary-treasurer keep track of letters and receipts. She was paid \$500.00 by the association. (Record, July, 1911)

The 1910-1911 catalogue was the last to list all the alumni; there were 731.

The January, 1912 Alumniad reported that the alumni had come through with enough cash and pledges to fulfill the Lawrence agreement and the \$500.00 check was cashed. Among alumni officials, however, there were many complaints that only half the alumni had ever contributed to it. (See 1916)

The January 22 Record also reported the success by devoting most of the issue to the story. The article was full of praise for the alumni for finally promising to pay their debt.

Alumniad editor R.A. Buchannan,'01 noted that alumni in Siam had formed an informal chapter. [*This has always been the case when several alumni live in the same area*].

The Titanic sank on April 15; two Park alumni, Albert and Sylvia Harbaugh Caldwell,'09/'09 were second class passengers on the ship and, with their 10 month old baby, Alden, survived the disaster.

C. Curtis McIntyre,'01, President (1911-1912)  
Robert A. Buchannan,'01, Alumniad Editor

### 1912-1913

There was a discussion at the June 19, 1912 annual meeting about discontinuing the Alumniad as a separate publication and combining it with the Stylus. The idea was defeated.

**J. H. Lawrence, class of 1895, secretary-treasurer, noted his two biggest disappointments: lack of dues paying alumni and slow payments on pledges for the alumni building. Things were getting tight, financially.**

Addie B. Wyeth,'05, left Park in June to attend graduate school at K.U. Her position as secretary to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Alumni Association and to the editor of the Alumniad was filled by Susie Holt Playter, '00. Susie was paid \$350.00 by the association.

Waverly Hospital, located on the hill north of Labor Hall, was completed on September 2, 1912. [*Most alumni remember it as the Health Center. It is now leased to Synergy House and has been since 1972.*]

At their October 12, 1912 meeting, the board of trustees adopted a lengthy resolution concerning changes in college policy. Included were definite rules for daily chapel, student work and even theater productions. One of the new requirements was that the president of the college must preside over each daily chapel service. Each member of the Academy and College faculty and all students were required to attend all daily and Sabbath chapel services. Daily chapel meetings that had often had speakers on a variety of subjects, now had to be devoted entirely to religious pursuits. Students and faculty were essentially forbidden to travel by train on Sunday "...except when occasioned by some act of Providence." Another recommendation was that expenses for decorations at student or literary society banquets be kept at a minimum "and that nothing be done to embarrass or discourage the humblest of the student body." (A rather pointed reference to poor students being offered an opportunity, I believe).

One of the most controversial changes was "that the main objective of the teaching organization must be to furnish an environment for, and to direct the growth of the student, and that its [the faculty's] responsibility must extend to the manual labor department."

Finally, the board charged the president and the faculty "... with the duty of a hearty cooperation in a continuous and faithful execution of the resolution." (Board Minutes, October 9, 1912). There were many other edicts, all couched in the language that the resolution was in keeping with the McAfee Sons' statement delivered when they gave up control of the Family in 1909. (See 1909)

Lowell McAfee tried his best to convince the trustees to soften the resolution somewhat, but the trustees were adamant. President McAfee believed that the above rules, along with several others, put a great deal of unnecessary pressure on the faculty, not to mention on him. The trustees had placed him in an untenable situation whether they intended to or not. Many alumni believed that this was done on purpose.

A committee composed of Homer Mann, G.P. Baity, W.C. Ralston,'93, James H. Speer,'93, and Frank S. Arnold was appointed to "...look to the rigid enforcement in letter and spirit of the resolution adopted, reaffirming the ideals and purposes of Park College."

Lowell McAfee's wife, Carrie Canfield McAfee, class of 1885, died after a long, painful illness on November 1, 1912.

**College President Lowell McAfee was forced to resign from office on March 12, 1913 and Prof. Arthur Wolfe was appointed to serve**

as interim president and college dean. (Alumniad, Vol. III, No. XI, July, 1913),

According to Lowell's account as printed in the above Alumniad, a meeting of a majority of the board was called on February 13, 1913 from which the McAfee brothers Lowell, Howard, Joseph and Cleland, along with known supporter trustee Robert Buchannan,'01, were excluded. A resolution was passed calling for Lowell's resignation as president. This resolution was handed to him at a called meeting of the board on February 14, 1913. Lowell refused to resign and asked each member to express his views concerning his administration.

Based on materials available at this writing, it does not seem as if Lowell received a fair hearing and did not have an opportunity to answer the charges against him. The official reasons given for his forced departure were that the trustees were "dissatisfied with his inspirational, spiritual and business managerial leadership."

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Lowell was again asked to resign and again refused. The trustees present voted to declare the presidency vacant and Lowell was given until June 30, 1913 to leave the office. Twelve trustees, including five alumni voted for the decision.

Lowell was invited to remain on the board of trustees, but declined.

Lowell's brother Dr. Cleland B. McAfee, class of 1884, also resigned his seat on the board of trustees.

Joseph Ernest McAfee, class of 1889 and youngest of the McAfee brothers, was offered the presidency. Joseph later wrote that he believed the trustees knew he never could have accepted; if so, he would have been tacitly agreeing with the methods used to oust Lowell. He later wrote that the resolutions he would have had to enforce were designed for failure. He declined and resigned from the board of trustees.

H.B. McAfee remained on the board until 1915, although he moved to Chicago and had nothing to do with daily Park College operations.

This was the first major controversy to which the alumni responded and it was covered extensively in the Alumniad. The McAfee family was highly regarded, especially among the older

alumni; many of them felt that the board of trustees was not communicating the real reason for Lowell's dismissal.

There were comments like "who runs this college, anyway?" The Alumni Association took a semi-neutral stance. Alumni president Fred McCluskey, class of 1889, expressed disappointment in the way the trustees had handled the matter but urged alumni to remain loyal to Park and to await the policies of the new administration. He summed it up thusly: "Boards and Presidents may come and go but Park will go on forever." (Alumniad, July, 1913)

I believe this caused many alumni to stop paying on their pledges for Alumni Hall.

Having been associated with Park from its beginning, Lowell had seen the college develop from one dilapidated hotel into a campus of many buildings. During his nine years as president, several buildings were added including Alumni Hall, Chesnut I, New Woodward Hall, The President's Residence or Sunset, the on-campus power plant and the Parkville waterworks. Enrollment had grown rapidly and the college was moving forward. In fact, he had just completed a \$250,000.00 fund drive.

Lowell left campus on June 30, 1913 and accepted a call to become president of Parsons College in Iowa. The President's home, Sunset Hall, was put to use as a dormitory for women. He was the only Park College President to have lived in the "President's Residence."

As a side note, On May 1, 1913, the trustees abolished the position of "Dean of Women" then held by Clara Malden Haynie, class of 1894. She was offered a position on the faculty but declined. Six months later, Miss Haynie and Lowell McAfee were married, November 12, 1913.

Fred W. McCluskey, 1889, President (1912-1913)  
R. A. Buchannan, Alumniad Editor.

#### 1913-1914

At the June 18, 1913 annual meeting treasurer J.H. Lawrence again noted that "the payment of dues has been very unsatisfactory. It was hoped that the dues would pay the salary of the office assistant and the cost of the Alumniad. This has not been so." They had to dip into the building fund to make ends meet. As a consequence, the alumni were

behind in paying off their loan on the Alumni Building. (Alumniad, July, 1913).

Susie Holt Playter, '00 continued as Alumni Secretary.

The editor of the Alumniad again noted the lack of financial support provided by the alumni. Many appeals for funds had gone out but few were able to respond. After all, the college was founded to train "Christian Workers" and that is what it did. The majority of graduates went into service professions like the ministry and teaching. Many others became missionaries. The women were, for the most part, homemakers with no incomes. Although more research needs to be done, it is safe to assume that the McAfee sons had to expend most of their energies in keeping the Park College Family Work Program going and had little time to cultivate major donors.

**The first Alumni Directory was published as a college bulletin in August, 1913. Prior to that, names, addresses and occupations of all known alumni were printed in the college catalogues. I assume this was beginning to take up too much room, so separate publications were used from then on. The 1913 directory provides the following statistics:**

"The Alumni Association is composed of eight hundred and forty-two members, residing in forty-one states of the Union and the following countries: Japan, Chile, Cuba, Africa, Bulgaria, Germany, Siam, Mexico, Laos, China, Persia, Alaska, Korea, Bohemia, India, Canada, Austria and Bolivia. The roll shows:

	Men	Women	Total
Roll	411	431	842
Dead	14	29	43
Ministers and Theological Students	190		190
Foreign Missionaries	44	47	91
Physicians and Medical Students	25	7	32
Lawyers and Law Students	28		28
In Home Mission Schools			21
Teachers			200
Y.M.C.A, Y.W.C.A. and Pastoral Assistants	11	3	14

**A disclaimer in the front of the directory mentions that "the effort to get facts directly from the alumni was only partly successful"**

which may explain why the occupations of 223 alumni are not listed in the table.

The March, 1914 Alumniad noted that there were several "local branch associations" with officers who share news of their members with the Parkville group. There were organized associations in New York City, New York State, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oklahoma and Siam.

A new brother-sister club was formed this year. As enrollment grew, so did membership in the two older clubs and efficient work was impossible. Several girls withdrew from the existing clubs and formed Aurora. The following explanation appears in the 1914 Narva:

"Aurora, Goddess of the dawn, was agreed upon as a most fitting patron for the infant organization, as being symbolic of the day of a new era in the society ideals of the college. The Egyptian scarab beetle for immortality was adopted as her emblem. The colors green and buff typify the barren sands, lightened by an oasis of hope."

A group of boys formed the Orion club and OAC was born. Their meeting room was located in the northeast corner of third floor Mackay. The club logo was painted on the transom over the door and later, worked into the oak flooring. Both are still there (1999).

Cameron L.Orr,'02, President. (1913-1914)  
J.H.Lawrence,'95, Alumniad Editor.

### 1914-1915

The annual business meeting was held on June 10, 1914. Pansy Manchester,'13,had been selected as the paid alumni secretary in January. This arrangement had worked out well, although her yearly salary took \$375 of association funds.

Money was again borrowed from the building fund to pay for the Alumniad and the secretary, among other expenses. There was a great deal of discussion about this, some members taking exception at using the building funds for the general expenses of the association. The alumni present finally voted to allow this borrowing with the proviso that strict accounts be kept and that the appropriated funds be considered a loan to be paid back as general funds allowed. (Alumniad, July, 1914)  
Only \$547.10 in dues had been sent in. The Association was now \$579.79 in debt to the building fund.



The college and the alumni held a celebration on the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the college. Founder's Day, on May 12, 1915 consisted of speeches and the decoration of the founders' graves.

Walter Gresham, '08, President. (1914-1915)  
J.H. Lawrence, '95, Alumniad Editor.

### 1915-1916

At the annual business meeting on June 9, 1915, J.H. Lawrence, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, reported that indifference about paying dues was becoming worse despite the addition of many new alumni each year. His detailed report expressed his great disappointment:

**"I have enjoyed the work in a measure but cannot say that I have entered into it with much enthusiasm this year. I felt that there were a large number of the Alumni who were not enthusiastic and that rather dampened my own ardor."**

**Efforts had been made to cut down on expenses, including shortening the Alumniad and using cheaper paper, but the financial outlook was still grim. Many alumni leaders were feeling guilty about the pledges on the Alumni Building, especially since the trustees had loaned the money with the belief that the alumni were serious about paying it back. The matter of a paid secretary would be reviewed. He added," The alumni have not only not attempted any new projects but they have not even contributed anything to the building."**

**The treasurer also noted that a "considerable amount" of alumni money was being contributed to the college, which, even though necessary, was keeping money out of the alumni association treasury. No action, other than accepting the report, was taken on this issue. (Alumniad, July 1915) *This is a good example of the problem created by dues vs. alumni giving in general.***

Dr. Frederick William Hawley was installed as the third president of Park College on September 27, 1915.

**"The installation of Dr. Hawley, at Parkville yesterday, took place in true college style. There was a public demonstration by the 450 students. The college band and glee club performed with spirit. Many alumni of the school took part in the installation ceremonies. A banquet was served to**

the new president, board of trustees, members of the faculty and visiting alumni. [I cannot find any type of program for this event] (Platte County Gazette, quoted in the Alumniad, October 10, 1915)

Dr. Hawley held A.B. and A.M. degrees from Carthage College in Carthage, Illinois and a D.D. from Centre College in Danville Kentucky; he was also an ordained Presbyterian minister. He had served pulpits in Oklahoma City and Bloomington Illinois and had served as Superintendent of Missions for the Oklahoma and Indian territory for ten years, 1896-1906. He had most recently served as President of Henry Kendall College in Oklahoma (now the University of Tulsa).

Dr. Hawley immediately set forth an ambitious development plan including a one million dollar endowment and building fund. He was an excellent fund-raiser and a strict disciplinarian. He and his wife, Pauline Aston Hawley had two sons, Frederick Jr., '19, and Herrick, "Chick," x'20.

Pauline (Polly) Hawley was a dynamic woman who exerted a great deal of influence over campus life, architecture and décor. She became well known for her newsy, charming articles in the Record.

The Hawleys expected to take up residence in early December.

At the February 10, 1916 meeting of the trustees, the Lawrences announced a gift of land as the site of the new President's Home. This gift brought their gift total for the home to \$10,000. This beautiful house was occupied by the Hawleys in February, 1917. They had tried to come up with a suitable name for the structure but the students had already named it "The White House." The home has been available for use by college presidents ever since.

Thomas A. Brown, '10, President. (1915-1916)  
Walter Gresham, '08, Alumniad Editor.

### 1916-1917

The annual meeting was held on June 7, 1916. By far, the liveliest discussion was on the topic of finances. Less than half of the alumni had paid their dues and only 270 of 800 alumni had returned their ballots for election of officers. In addition, association members were failing to pay on their pledges to the building fund. Five years earlier, Ella Park Lawrence had promised a \$500 check if the alumni could raise the \$2000 they still owed on the building.

"Some of the pledges ran for a number of years; the makers of some had become disgruntled or indifferent because of local conditions and had not

paid. [the “local conditions” were probably the controversies that arose over the removal of Lowell McAfee as president] In the meantime, the income from the dues had not been enough to pay current expenses and on order of the Association the treasurer had paid bills out of any or all funds in his hands.” The debt was still unpaid.

Dr. Hawley proposed that the debt would become part of his campus reorganization plan if the alumni agreed to raise \$7500.00 towards his million- dollar plan. The money would be used to pay off the debt and renovate the Alumni Hall building. (Alumniad, June 10, 1916.)

*[I can't find proof that this money was ever raised; the advent of World War I probably stalled the momentum of the campaign.]*

On commencement day, June 8, George and Ella Park Lawrence announced that they would donate funds to build a new president's home on the campus. Mrs. Hawley thought that Sunset was too large and too far away from the campus to be a suitable president's home. After it was completed in 1917, the new home became known as “The White House.” Sunset was permanently set aside as a dormitory.

In the July 10 Alumniad the alumni officers noted that the magazine was being mailed to all alumni who had good addresses even though only half of those paid the one dollar dues each year. They set a deadline of January 1, 1917 for those folks to pay up or they would be stricken from the list. “We are going to cut out the dead-heads from our mailing list.” No official follow-up has yet been found.

Roy V. Magers, '96 compiled a “Park College Song Book” and offered it to alumni through the Alumniad for the price of 75 cents. We have a few copies in the archives. Singing and music had always been important aspects of college life and the books sold well. Profits went to the association.

In April, 1917 the Alumniad announced that Mrs. Mary C. Thaw had given \$40,000 to erect a new men's dormitory to be named for her father, Josiah Copley and her husband, William Thaw. The gift was the result of a long friendship between her father, Josiah Copley and John A. McAfee. Copley had been a trustee at Highland University in Kansas and had supported McAfee's efforts there. Mr. Copley had earlier given the money for the erection of the original Copley Hall, built in 1884-1885.

William Thaw, who died in 1889, had been a vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and had amassed a fortune.

As an interesting sidelight -- Mary and William Thaw were the parents of the infamous Harry K. Thaw, the man who shot architect Stanford White

in a jealous rage over his wife, the beautiful Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, in 1906 at Madison Square Garden.

Charles M. Pipkin,'01, President. (1916-1917)  
Walter J. Gresham,'08, Alumniad Editor.

### 1917-1918

Because so many male students were planning to enlist to help win World War I, Commencement Day was moved forward from June 7 to May 31, 1917. As a result, the Alumni Association annual business meeting was cancelled and a date was to be announced later. It was hoped that a fall meeting would coincide with Dr. Hawley's inauguration, as well.  
(Alumniad, May 10, 1917)

In October, 1917, the college began building a new power plant near the railroad tracks in Parkville. The land on which the new plant was built had been deeded to Park College in 1916 by Ella and George Lawrence who also contributed the initial funding to construct the building. The total value of their gift was \$15,000. In the deed was a clause that should the college change its original charter, the land and building would revert to George Park's heirs. The clause was a throwback to the McAfee-Lawrence charter war that began in 1905. Even though the McAfees were gone, the Lawrences were still trying to make sure the charter would never be changed; they used the college's acceptance of their gift as more leverage. [Note: the charter was amended in the 1940s, thus negating the college's ownership of the plant. This didn't become a factor until 1993 when, after the plant was flooded, the college decided to sell it. A Platte County judge upheld the deed and Paul and Sylvia Gault,'65/'60 took on the task of locating George Park's heirs. It took two years for them to complete the search and obtain signed quit-claim deeds.]

The annual meeting was held on November 16, 1917 at the Hotel Muehlbach and coincided with the Missouri State Teacher's Association meeting which was held in Kansas City that year. No doubt the time of year resulted in a low attendance. Regardless, holding some type of meeting when the teachers were in town was continued off and on through the years. *[It isn't a bad idea today, particularly since so many alumni are teachers.]*

The minutes note that the trustees felt that this was an unsuitable time for a presidential inauguration, probably because of the war.

Again, the lack of alumni interest was the main topic of the meeting. Giving was down, dues were down and only 208 of 900 presidential ballots had been returned. The officers hoped that

emphasis on a McAfee memorial would stimulate gifts to that cause and also increase payment of ordinary dues. Although World War I was raging in Europe and surely had an impact on donations, this downward trend in alumni giving was nothing new. (Alumniad, December, 1917)

During 1916 and 1917 Dr. Hawley and Homer Mann, president of the board of trustees, had spent a great deal of effort to interest Kansas City businessmen in Park College. There were several dinner meetings, rousing speeches and pledges of support. They sought \$100,000 from the area business leaders for immediate campus improvements. I don't think the money was raised because of the war. Plans to build a dormitory, science hall and power plant were eventually carried out, but all three were begun with large gifts from individuals.

Dr. and Mrs. Hawley invited Kansas City Alumni to visit campus, have dinner at their home and see what was going on. Forty people responded.

Dr. Hawley asked the alumni to consider assuming the responsibility to raise \$75,000 for the proposed "McAfee Hall of Science."

The Alumni Association prepared eight hundred questionnaires regarding the Hawley proposition, included post paid return envelopes, and mailed them to the alumni. Only 10 percent responded and the majority of those felt that it would be inappropriate to name a science building after the McAfees because their main goal at Park had been to build Christian character. They felt that a science building would not express in any way the McAfee's spirit or ideals. The campaign did not go over at this point. (Alumniad, March, 1918)

Walter Gresham,'08, stepped down as editor of the Alumniad in March and Albert Orr,'08 took over. Albert described his editorial policy as follows: "A soldier returning from the fighting front made mention that the only true and great fraternalism was that of the soldiers on the firing line, which would never cease to bind long years after the war is over. But close akin to this must be the association of college mates in the intimate life that was lived at Park, and the loyalty that every alumnus feels toward those who shared those days with him. This is the spirit back of the Alumniad, and which really inspired this editor in this pleasant task of keeping in touch with each other." (Alumniad, March, 1918)

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wakefield (Lenore Easter,'05) pledged \$35,000 for the science building if a like amount could be raised in a year. Mr. Wakefield had made a fortune in the Alaska Salmon business. (Alumniad, April, 1918)

Ernest H. Wilson,'02, President. (1917-1918)

W.J. Gresham passed editorship of the Alumniad to Albert Orr,'08 in March, 1918.

### 1918-1919

The annual business meeting was held on June 5, 1918. Very little business was conducted. The alumni expressed hearty support of the Wakefield gift and pledged to help raise the matching \$35,000.00. (Alumniad, June, 1918).

J. Hamilton Lawrence,'95 resigned his teaching position during the summer of 1918 to accept a job at the State Normal School at Emporia. He had been an instructor and professor of English and Public Speaking at Park College since 1898 and was revered by generations of students. In addition, he had been involved in alumni activities since his graduation and served as president of the association from 1900-1906. In 1907, he was elected corresponding secretary and treasurer, positions he held until 1919. He also served as editor of the Alumniad from 1912-1914. (Alumniad, September, 1918)

Professor Lawrence probably knew more about the alumni than anyone else because, in addition to teaching and serving as an alumni officer, he compiled the first alumni directory in 1913.

One wonders why he left Park, perhaps he did not agree with Dr. Hawley or he was perceived as a threat because of his numerous alumni contacts. Maybe he was just worn out. He taught at Emporia until he succumbed to heart disease in February, 1935. He was married to Martha White,'84.

Work was progressing on new Copley, but was stalled when World War I caused inflation and labor shortages. Many students left school to join the Army and the government began a branch of the Student Army Training Corps on campus. Every man 18 or older had the opportunity to enlist in the SATC while still in college. They were in the Army, but could continue schooling until called up by the President of the United States. They were paid by the government and took military courses, performed two hours of drill per day and if they weren't too tired, could elect to take Park College courses. (Record, August 31-September 7, 1918) The men were housed, barracks style, in the unfinished Copley-Thaw dormitory.

The SATC had been on campus a little more than two months when the war ended. Many of the students did stay to finish their Park degrees.

Over three hundred Park College men participated in the war, either as soldiers, chaplains or YMCA personnel. Ten died in service; some were killed in battle, others died of sickness in camps or hospitals. No doubt the influenza epidemic claimed a few. Those who died were: Lloyd R. Boutwell,'11 [a room was named in his memory in the Science Hall], Myrtis Cargill, ex'16 Academy, Edgar C. Fisher, ex'16, James Hamilton, Acad.'21, Laurie Leck, Acad.'15, Lynn Murray, ex'20, Carl Rinderly,'18, Irwin Shaw, ex'17, Albert A. Thomas,'13 and Howard Votaw, ex'12.

One of our men who survived the war, George S. Robb,'12, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first alumnus in Park's history so honored. (*Alumniad*, February, 1919)

Giving had been down in part because of calls to donate to the war effort, but the alumni association helped to launch a big campaign to raise the money for the science hall. Two special editions of the *Alumniad* were published in April to kick off the effort.

A dam was built across the White Alloe creek above the dairy barn. The lake that formed would become a water reservoir for the campus. It was named Hawley Lake, the forerunner of Riss Lake. Since 1900, water had been pumped to campus from the Missouri River. The water plant had the power to pump the water, but the river often shifted, sometimes necessitating extending many feet of pipe to its banks. In addition, the pipes often filled with sand and were difficult to maintain. The reservoir idea solved many problems; water flowed through pipes by gravity and was stored in a reservoir near the old observatory road. (*Record*, May 24 and 31, 1919)

Hunter Davis,'12, President. (1918-1919)  
Albert Orr,'08, *Alumniad* Editor.

### 1919-1920

There are no minutes for the 1919 annual meeting. Many issues of Volume 9 of the *Alumniad* are missing. (September 1918 to August, 1919)

In June, Howard Dean,'97, was appointed to complete Ola Christine Orr's,'08 term as secretary-treasurer of the Alumni Association.

The class of 1919 paid for concrete steps in front of Mackay Hall. (*Alumniad*, September, 1919) For the next few years, alumni classes continued to pay for stairs and sidewalks. That is why class year dates are in the concrete at various places around campus. The numbers in front of Mackay were removed when the sidewalk was replaced in 1993. They are in the archives. (*Alumniad*, September, 1919)

Copley-Thaw Hall was completed and dedicated on October 21, 1919.

Twenty-five alumni formed a chapter in New York City and pledged to raise \$2,500 for the science building. (Alumniad, December, 1919)

The science building campaign reached its goal in cash and pledges but Dr. Hawley stated that another \$30,000 would be needed to furnish the building. (Alumniad, January, 1920)

The campaign for the science building had renewed interest among the alumni. Dues payers rose from 251 to 404 out of a total of 1121 alumni. An article in the January Alumniad by W.A. Myers, '08, the alumni member of the trustees, revealed that this increase in alumni interest had changed the attitudes that President Hawley and the board of trustees had towards the alumni. Apparently things hadn't been too cordial, probably still a hold over from the McAfee purge.

(A letter recently found in an old file reveals quite a bit about Homer Mann's feelings toward some alumni during the Hawley years. See 1943.)

Dr. John L. Myers, '01, President. (1919-1920)  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor

### 1920-1921

The annual meeting was held during commencement week, May 30 to June 3, 1920. The week was packed with events, including laying the cornerstone for the Wakefield Science Hall.

At the June 2 meeting, the association voted to amend the constitution: 1) seniors would be considered members of the association as soon as the faculty recommended them for graduation. 2) former students of one year and those who marry alumni would be considered associate members. Associate members had no vote, however. (Alumniad, May-June 1920).

Another addition concerning the Alumniad appears in Section 5. "The Association shall publish an alumni paper which shall constitute the official organ, and to be known as the Park Alumniad. The editor thereof to be elected at the annual meeting of the association and shall hold office for a period of three years." The editor was also made a member of the Executive Board.

Other revisions included the repeal of Amendments I and II regarding the presidency and the chairman of the executive board. It is possible that



this “co-presidency” caused disagreements and confusion. Finally, the constitution was revised to allow all officers to serve for three years.

**Howard Dean,'96, was elected secretary-treasurer of the alumni association.**

In October, Dr. Hawley hired Frederick J. Tower,'93, as financial secretary of the college. He had worked fourteen years as a Presbyterian minister before leading a branch of the Anti-Saloon League in New York State. I believe his position at Park included fund raising. By all reports he was a “live wire.”

The Rev. Dr. Samuel L. McAfee, brother of co founder, John A. McAfee died on November 11, 1920. “Uncle Sam” and his wife, “Aunt Manie” had been associated with the college since 1889 when he accepted a call to head George Park's New Department. Aunt Manie taught music for many years and both were revered by faculty and students.

Isadore Samuels,'12, President. (1920-1921)  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor

#### 1921-1922

At the June 1 business meeting, the members present voted to raise dues to \$2.00 per year. (Alumniad, June, 1921).

For many years, the graduating classes had been welcomed into the alumni association rather informally, usually introduced at the business meeting or at the banquet. This year, according to the June Alumniad, a more fitting ceremony was initiated by Roy Magers,'96. The induction took place on June 1, the day before commencement and included class yells, school songs, a procession down Mackay steps to the Alumni Building and speeches by the college president and the association president after which everyone recited the Alumni Pledge and sang the “Alumni Memory Song.” The 47 seniors wore academic attire for this event. *Copy of the article attached. Also add songs.*

198 people attended the Alumni Day Banquet at \$1.00 per plate.

The college received \$150,000 for the endowment and \$7,500 for teacher's salaries from the Rockefeller Foundation. This seems to justify the big change of 1913.

According to the September 17 Park College Record, the college had a chance to gain \$300,000 if it could raise \$250,000 by March 31, 1922. If the challenge was met, The Presbyterian General Board of Education

would give \$150,000 to the endowment plus pay 5% of all monies received by that date. The Lawrences would add \$135,000 to that.

The governing board of the Alumni Association ("governing board" and "executive board" were often interchanged; they refer to the same group of officers) decided not to launch this campaign through the Alumni Association but they endorsed it and agreed to let the college use space in the Alumniad.

In January, Homer Mann, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, brought 24 influential businessmen to campus so that they could see what was going on. By all reports, they were impressed.

The college had paid to redecorate the Alumni Hall auditorium and the Association paid to paint the exterior woodwork and stucco on the building. Interior work began in January.

Work on the Science Hall had not begun due to extremely high labor costs. The stone, however, had been quarried. (I don't know where it came from) Another stalled project was the south addition to the library. Money for this had been given by the Carnegie Foundation in order to expand the north wing it had funded in 1909. (Alumniad, February, 1922)

The challenge gift date was not met by March 31, 1922 and the date was extended to June 1. Only \$125,000 had been raised and a further condition, that of eliminating a \$33,000 deficit was added. There are no follow-up articles in the Record or in the Alumniad. I will have to dig very deep to find the answer.

In April, Fred Tower, '93, stepped in to help with the Alumniad when Albert Orr became ill.

Isadore Samuels, '12, President. (1921-1923)  
Albert Orr, Editor.

### 1922-1923

The annual meeting was held in Alumni Hall on May 31, 1922. The hall had recently been redecorated by Polly Hawley and was "handsomely rejuvenated." Little business was conducted at the gathering other than voting to use association funds to paint the exterior woodwork on Alumni Hall.

The banquet was attended by 193 people. "Music was furnished by a Victrola and by a Ladies Quartet of the College. At the close of the program the Victrola was presented to Prof. And Mrs. Findlay on behalf of the association." (Alumniad, June, 1922) The Alumni Association had

purchased the \$150 Victrola to present to Dr. and Mrs. Findlay in honor of their thirty years service to Park. (Alumniad, June, 1922)

The December, 1922 Alumniad was devoted entirely to alumni poetry.

A second alumni directory was published in January, 1923, listing information about 1168 graduates. Statistics showed: 134 ministers (all but four Presbyterian), four theological students, 100 foreign and home missionaries, 312 educators (including 3 college presidents), 19 lawyers, 42 physicians and medical students and 318 in other professions ranging from business to farming.

At their January meeting, the Executive Board agreed with Dr. Hawley's plan to rearrange Commencement events. The plan for commencement week was changed. Previously, activities took place from Friday to the next Thursday. Alumni Day was held on Wednesday and Graduation was Thursday. The new plan covered four days beginning with a musical program on Friday evening, holding all alumni events on Saturday and ending with Baccalaureate on Sunday and Commencement on Monday. This is the beginning of weekend instead of weekday celebrations and probably helped to increase attendance.

\$10,247.00 in unpaid pledges remained for the Science Hall as of February.

In May, Kansas City lumberman A.O. Thompson gave Park College a \$50,000.00 interest in the Densmore Hotel, located at 9<sup>th</sup> and Locust in Kansas City. The income from that share went to Park. The gift was in memory of his son, Philip Bruce Thompson, who had been killed en route to military training in 1918. The money was used for scholarships for young men who planned to enter the ministry. Mr. Thompson invited all the likely candidates to an annual dinner for several years. (Alumniad, May, 1923).

Isadore Samuels,'12, President  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor

#### 1923-1924

Again, very little business was conducted at the annual meeting, held on June 2. Proposed constitutional revisions were tabled until the following year.

The Alumni Hall dining room was filled to capacity by 225 banquet guests. The tables were removed and the meal was served cafeteria style; people ate from trays held in their laps. The trays had been borrowed from the Kansas City Ararat Temple. (Alumniad, June, 1923)

At the banquet, the Association presented Howard A. Dean with a 23-jewel gold Hamilton watch for his 25 years service as a faculty member.

Class reunions had been strongly advertised in the Alumniad and six classes were successful: 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913 and 1918.

The new south wing of the Carnegie Library, which included the entry hall, opened in September.

By October, the unpaid Science Hall pledges stood at \$2,494.00.

The "Alumni Pledge" was printed on the front cover of the October, 1923 Alumniad:

"With a deep sense of my obligation to my alma mater, I pledge myself, as a member of the Alumni Association of Park College, to strive to the best of my ability to exemplify the high ideals for which our college stands, and to cooperate heartily with my fellow alumni and with the officers of the college in every earnest effort that may be made for her firmer establishment and the enlargement of her usefulness to the world."

Ella Park Lawrence died on March 17, 1924. She was thoroughly eulogized in all college publications.

Roy V. Magers, '96, President. (1923-1926)  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor.

#### 1924-1925

The annual business meeting was held on May 31, 1924. The association voted to present Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Wolfe with a Victrola in honor of his thirty-five years' service to Park. Constitutional amendments were discussed and referred back to the committee for recommended changes. The committee members were asked to present the complete document at the 1925 annual meeting. 176 people attended the alumni banquet. (Annual meeting minutes)

The new constitution was printed in the October 1924 Alumniad so that alumni could study it and suggest revisions.

Planning began for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Park College to be held in June of 1925. A large alumni committee was appointed and the Alumniad carried news of the upcoming event including constant reminders to attend. There were worries that so many might attend that there would not be enough room in the college dining halls to accommodate everyone.

The Science Hall was nearing completion but \$10,000 in equipment was still needed. Even so, the science departments moved into the new building in March. (Alumniad, March, 1925)

Alumni President Roy Mager, '96, appealed to alumni to help raise funds for redecorating Mackay Hall. He hopefully suggested that each class may want to adopt a part of the building. (Alumniad, April, 1925)

Orion and Aurora were granted charters in the national literary societies Webster and Eurodelphian, respectively. No reasons for the change were given in the Stylus.

Roy V. Magers, '96, President.  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor.

### 1925-1926

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, held during commencement weekend May 30 to June 2 was a huge success. The program included speeches about the founders, the dedication of the Wakefield Science Hall, a 5-act play entitled Sherwood performed on the lawn of the White House, Baccalaureate services, breakfast in the woods, the annual business meeting, alumni chapel, a "box luncheon" banquet in the woods (concerns about not enough indoor space proved correct), and, among other events, a musical program. Prominent speakers included the mayor of Kansas City, Albert I. Beach; a former president of the University of Missouri and the head of the Physics department from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Hawley invited Joseph E. McAfee, 1889, to speak and to receive an honorary doctorate. He and several other McAfees returned, which surprised many. I am sure that the Hawleys realized the importance of cultivating this family; I think they knew how many loyal alumni had written Park College off because of the way the McAfees had been treated.

The annual meeting was held on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The constitution was thoroughly examined and again referred to the committee for revisions. The alumni association had raised \$3000.00 to help redecorate Mackay Hall and voted to continue the effort.

The faculty wives completed a memorial for Ella Park Lawrence. They planted 67 evergreen trees around the campus, one for each year of her life, and erected the stone bench that still sits at the edge of the chapel lawn. (Alumniad, June, 1925)

The basement and first floor of Mackay were remodeled during the summer. The space in the basement once occupied by the science laboratories was converted into classrooms and offices. The first floor received new oak flooring, stairways, doors and stained glass windows.

Dr, Findlay's first floor classroom was converted into offices for the president and the dean. (Alumniad, November, 1925)

Roy V. Magers, '96, President  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor.

### 1926-1927

At the annual meeting on May 24, 1926, the alumni approved several revisions to the Constitution and voted to adopt them. First, the document was arranged more formally with clearly enumerated articles, sections and by-laws. Membership categories were more fully explained regarding voting. The older constitutions neglected to state whether honorary members could vote – this document clearly states that they did not have the right. Another major change was that “no person would be eligible to hold elective office unless he shall have been a member of the Association for three years.” Only graduates could be full members, therefore, only graduates could vote and only graduates could run for office.

Associate members were asked to pay one dollar in dues and a second dollar if they wanted the Alumniad – they still could not vote or run for office.

Article IV required that the Alumniad be published monthly and provided that the editor “may be allowed such annual compensation as may be voted at the annual meeting or fixed by the Executive Board.” The article also stated that the Association could vote that the Secretary-Treasurer could serve as the editor of the publication.

Although the offices of secretary-treasurer are listed separately, they had been combined for many years. This was the most difficult office to hold as it entailed keeping minutes of annual meetings and executive board meetings, attending to all correspondence, keeping a correct roll of all names and addresses of members, printing the minutes and making sure they were produced in the Alumniad. The treasurer paid all bills, collected all dues and kept records of such and produced an annual report. Adding editor to this position would make it a full time job. Howard Dean, '97, had been secretary-treasurer since 1920.

The Executive board had decided to try a new arrangement for visiting alumni. Attendance was growing for alumni day and they decided to make a downtown hotel, Hotel Kupper at 11<sup>th</sup> and Magee Streets, the headquarters for the alumni. A bus ran back and forth every two hours. I can't find any follow up reports on this plan but I know it wasn't repeated.

A recommendation was made to investigate life memberships in the Association. This was to be decided at the next annual meeting.

The alumni voted to pay the secretary treasurer \$200 for his work during 1925-1926.

**The Executive Board was instructed to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning a paid secretary of the Alumni Association.**  
(Alumniad, June 1926)

Frank W. Bible, '01, President. (1926-1929)  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor.

### 1927-1928

By this year the number of alumni had grown to 1400 and it was decided to poll the membership about hiring a paid alumni secretary. The response was positive, but everyone knew the association could not afford to pay a decent salary. Therefore, an agreement was made with the board of trustees that the board would fund half the salary and the alumni the other half, each paying \$1500. This was justified by appointing Howard Dean, class of 1897, who would divide his time equally between teaching Chemistry and handling alumni business; he was to conduct correspondence, edit the Alumniad and serve as treasurer. This was to be tried for one year. After "an immediate and highly spirited discussion," the association voted to approve the proposal at the May 30<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. (Alumniad, June, 1927)

The other major decision was to provide life memberships in the Alumni Association at a cost of \$35.00. These memberships were to become an endowment fund, only the interest of which would be used for current expenses. The membership could be paid in full or in five installments of \$5.00 each. A short discussion of this in the October Alumniad pointed out that annual dues were a bother to many people and this may be an option to those who could afford it. It was also noted that the annual \$2.00 dues would remain in effect for those who could not come up with the larger sum. The only other incentive given was, "Why not take steps to make the record clear for all time and thus put yourself in the best possible position to enjoy the benefits of your investment as well as help pass a good thing along?"

Margaret Kerns Greenlee, '22, was the first to pay a life membership in full. Fred Shepherd, '00, whose estate later provided the money for Shepherd Hall, was the second. Many others took the payment route.

Herr House, a dormitory for 103 women and Thompson Commons, a dining hall that could accommodate 600 students, were dedicated in November and the greenhouses, which stood on the site of the present Parkville Post Office, were completed.

Herr House was the result of a \$100,000 gift from Arthur Herr, class of 1892, and his sisters, Mabel, '98, Jesse, '93 and Jane. The gift was made in memory of their brother, Donald Davis Herr, who had been killed in an earthquake in Japan in 1924.

Thompson Commons was made possible by a \$75,000 gift from Kansas City lumberman A. O. Thompson, in memory of his son, Philip Bruce Thompson.

The completion of a central dining hall forced a drastic change in the work program. Students were no longer needed to prepare food, set tables, wash dishes or deliver foodstuffs to the various dormitories that had kitchens and dining halls. These were Alumni Hall, which could feed 150 students; Nickel, 100; Chesnut Hall I, 80 and Sunset, 80. Although students still worked in Commons, a much smaller staff was required.

Alumni Hall, freed from use as a dormitory and dining hall, was converted to other purposes. The Home Economics department moved to the basement dining room, the kitchen became a laundry, the third floor banquet hall became the art department and the dormitory rooms at the north end of the second floor were kept as guest rooms for visitors.

Howard Dean, '97, who was still serving as secretary-treasurer, became editor of the Alumniad and sought advice on how to improve it. The Executive Board appointed two "advisory editors", Charles Pipkin, '01 and Fred Kenower, '25. They also decided to appoint regional correspondents in hopes of providing more coverage. (*Alumniad*, September, 1927) *I will point out here that Howard Dean's job was already complicated and I can't see how this plan would have lessened his load – too many cooks.*

**The Alumni Association Executive Board, noting that only 15% of the alumni (253 out of a total of 1600) had paid their dues, had to recommend that the secretary position be eliminated but asked for reactions from alumni at large. They published a long report of Howard Dean's work during the past year to show just how necessary he was. Also, Howard Dean was about to retire from teaching and would be able to devote much more time to alumni work. (*Alumniad*, March, 1928)**

Frank W. Bible, '01, President.  
Howard Dean, '97, Editor



### 1928-1929

In June, the association decided to keep Howard Dean on but could only guarantee \$500.00 toward a salary with hopes of making it \$1,000 if enough dues came in. The Association passed a resolution directing a committee of the Board of Governors to approach the trustees for more help. "This action is taken in view of the conviction that the best interests of the College and of the Alumni Association are so closely related that the Board of Trustees will be more than justified in such cooperation." (Alumniad, June, 1928). The committee was composed of Paul Homer Dry,'18 and Effie Blair Orr,'02.

Howard Dean had been handling all mailings, address lists, correspondence, class letters and life membership payments. He was still serving as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association as well as Alumniad Editor. He was also working on the 1929 Alumni Directory which was to be printed and circulated as a college bulletin.

Howard Dean reported that there were 1,553 living Alumni "of whom less than a hundred are lost."

Meanwhile, the college was also asking alumni for money for a student loan fund, paved roads for the campus, (Governing Board Minutes, April 30, 1928) a gymnasium and a new chapel. Even so, the administration would not pay Dean's salary.

Bus service to and from Kansas City was provided for locals who wanted to attend Alumni Day. Women were lodged in Alumni Hall and the men in Waverly Hospital. Again, I don't know how well this worked.

The constitution was amended to allow the ex-presidents to remain ex-officio members of the Executive Board for three years and to increase the board by one member whenever the office of secretary-treasurer and editor of the Alumniad were combined.

The Alumni Banquet was held in Thompson Commons for the first time.

The Park College Academy graduated its last class.

Dr. Lowell McAfee, class of 1880, son of founder John A. McAfee and former president of the college, died on January 11, 1929.

In the May, 1929 Alumniad, the special committee reported that the board of trustees would not provide funds for the alumni

secretary because they did not feel his duties could be combined with college duties. Even so, Howard Dean continued to work, volunteering most of his time. Again, this seems to show that the trustees did not consider alumni work worthy of support.

The alumni governing board began to push strongly for life memberships and payment of dues. The expenses of the Alumniad, the secretary and all other necessities were barely being covered.

A third Alumni Directory was published and mailed out in May as a college bulletin showing addresses and occupations of 1556 alumni. Statistics showed 149 ministers, 99 missionaries, 270 teachers, 21 lawyers, 42 physicians, 390 housewives and 128 unclassified-- hardly a wealthy group.

Frank W. Bible, '01, President  
Howard Dean, '97, Editor.

### 1929-1930

At the June 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting, the Association approved a Student Rotary Loan Fund of \$150,000 which was proposed by the college. Needy students would be able to borrow from this fund at six percent interest and pay it back after graduation. (Record, Jan. 19, 1929) I do not think the alumni were asked to contribute, but the Association gave \$25.00 in 1930.

The governing board recommended that the present combination of the office of Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the Alumniad be continued for another year. There was no mention of salary.

Alice Wilson Oldroyd and Alton H. Skinner were elected to honorary membership in the Association. Alice was one of the daughters of Susie Elrod Wilson, one of the "Original Seventeen."

In May, President Dry reported that "on account of the litigation in regard to the interpretation of the college charter it was advised that no representative from the Alumni Association be nominated to succeed Elizabeth Scott, '94 whose term had expired. The association was asked to make recommendations to the college administration for such a position to the board." (Governing Board Minutes, May 14, 1930). This was a major shock, especially since the Alumni Association had elected one of its own since 1891. It wasn't until a year later that the trustees shared the exact legal interpretation.

The governing board also reluctantly decided to discontinue the tradition of inviting the senior class to the annual alumni banquet as guests because it was becoming too expensive.

Paul Homer Dry, '18, President. (1929-1931)  
Howard Dean, '97, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor.

### 1930-1931

The annual business meeting was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1930. President Dry reported the alumni trustee situation to the membership and the group voted that Elizabeth Scott, '93, continue as the alumni trustee until the charter litigation was settled. (Alumniad, June, 1930)

McCormick Chapel was torn down during the summer to make way for Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel. For most of the alumni, this was a sad affair. McCormick has been the hub of college life since 1886; all but sixty living alumni had graduated from there. Some people, even C.P. Breen, the builder of the old chapel, did not see why it had to go. The new chapel was the gift of Miss Mary G. Tyler in memory of her father. (Alumniad, September, 1930)

The new chapel rose rapidly due to a very mild fall and winter. By January, 1931, the walls were up and the roof was on. A new road was built connecting the highway with Mackay [this was approximately where the chapel lawn sidewalk is today] and major grading and of the terraces changed the campus dramatically. All hoped that it could be ready for commencement (Alumniad, January, 1931)

Main Street in Parkville was paved. (Alumniad, Sept. 1930)

Paul Homer Dry, '18, President  
Howard Dean, '97, Editor.

### 1931-1932

The agenda of the June 6, 1931 annual meeting was based on items discussed in Governing Board meetings which had been held during the previous year. These items were presented to the association for approval or rejection.

It was decided to designate the third Friday of January of each year as "World Wide Alumni Day" and that all Alumni groups be urged to hold a meeting on that day. It was hoped that a college program could be broadcast over the radio on that day and that motion pictures of the campus could be distributed for showing at those chapter meetings.

The association also voted to authorize the Secretary to place floral tributes on the Founders' graves each Decoration Day.

Members also approved raising the cost of a life membership to \$50.00 and to secure the services of a trust officer to invest the funds from the life memberships

College Trustee W.A. Myers, '08 had approached the Executive Board, asking to take over the Alumni Banquet and use it as an occasion for celebrating the completion of Graham Tyler Chapel. He sweetened the deal by stating that all alumni would be guests of the trustees. The Board also decided to allow the college to use the Alumni Banquet to commemorate the Hawley's 15 years of service to Park and to begin an alumni campaign to raise \$3500.00 for the pews. (Executive Board Minutes, June 3, 1931).

Again, money was slow coming in and by October the alumni payments and pledges were \$1081.00 short of meeting the goal for the pews.

The resolutions committee, which had, from the beginning, prepared resolutions of sympathy or congratulations for presentation during alumni day, was abolished and a brief memorial service was established to take the place of these lengthy "whereas and be it resolved" reports.

A decision was made to upgrade Alumniad to a magazine-type format consisting of eight pages and a "respectable front cover on which a different picture could be printed each issue." Issues were cut from ten to six per year to pay for the changes.

Newly elected president Paul Aurell, '23, noted in the June, 1931 Alumniad that although he was proud to be elected President, he was sad that only 113 out of 2,000 alumni bothered to vote. He urged alumni to participate and to advertise Park College.

Graham Tyler Chapel was dedicated as planned on June 6 during commencement weekend. There were several services in the new building along with a dedicatory organ concert by the instrument's designer, Dr. William H. Barnes. The new Kimball Pipe Organ was a focal point of the building and was another gift from the Herr family in memory of their mother, Annette Herr. (Attach Coleberd Article)

The class of 1931 held their final chapel service in the new building and established a precedent, "Kathryn Houghton, acting class president, presented Clifford Backstrom, president of the junior class with the McCormick Gavel. This token of superiority, which will rest in the hands of the Senior Class every year, was carved from a portion of the wood of

old McCormick Chapel and thus carries with it a double significance.” (Alumniad, June, 1931). NOTE: That gavel ended up with George Sweet, '33, who returned it to the Alumni office in 1991. It is unknown how long this tradition carried on. The gavel is now in the Archives.

The banquet that evening was a huge success, attended by 500 people. "With Mr. Homer B. Mann as master of ceremonies, the program was a lively round of wit and wisdom from the beginning at seven o'clock to the finish sometime after the clock struck twelve." (Alumniad, June 1931). The sidewalk in front of the chapel was the gift of the class of 1931.

This same Alumniad carried the minutes of the annual meeting concerning the alumni trustee situation. The minutes, as printed, contain an error. The decision to abolish the alumni-chosen trustee was not made by the court, it was based on the opinion of an attorney. The June 17, 1931 minutes of the Executive Board carry this correction:

"The Secretary reported to the [Executive] Board a communication from Mr. D.M. Knight, Sec. and Bus. Manager of the College in regard to the status of the Alumni member to the Board of Trustees, in explanation of the fact that no election of a Board Member occurred at the annual meeting in June 1931; but also in correction of the minutes of the annual meeting as published in the Alumniad. The election was not held because of an attorney's opinion on the interpretation of the charter and not because of a court ruling.

The following is quoted from an opinion of Johnson, Lucas, Landon and Graves, attorneys, regarding sect's 1,2,&3 of Article I of the By-laws of the Board of Trustees of Park College:

Subsection a of Section 2 is void for the reason that it permits one Alumni trustee to be nominated by the Alumni Association of the college to Serve for a term of three years. The corporation under the charter cannot delegate the power to choose trustees to any other person, persons or body."

It is difficult to understand why the trustees were so willing to alienate the alumni. First, they had refused to help pay for an alumni secretary and now changed the 1891 alumni trustee rules based on the opinion of an attorney. More research needs to be done because these decisions caused a great deal of damage, as will be seen later.

By September, the Alumni had managed to raise only \$400.00 toward the chapel pews and the Executive Board voted to discontinue the effort.

Orion and Aurora severed their connections with the national Webster and Eurodelphian Societies and reverted to their original names. For several years, the brother- sister clubs had been evolving from literary societies into social and athletic organizations. Other clubs within the school had taken over the literary magazine and historical publications and, with the addition of several honor societies, were serving the original functions of the older organizations. Intramural athletics was all the rage and competition was fierce among OAC, PCC and LLC. Sports were beginning to eclipse oratory as the main competitive activity.

The first "World Wide Park College Day," January 18, 1932, was reported as a success. Alumni groups met in Kansas City (where they heard a WDAF radio broadcast starring President Hawley, the glee club, Prof. Rader on violin, vocal solo by Roseann Carr, and piano solo by L.R. Frank), Boston, Omaha, Denver, Cleveland, Escuela, Arizona, Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago, Tulsa, Central Kansas, Huron, South Dakota and San Francisco. The radio program was heard as far as Asheville, North Carolina.

The new Alumniad format appeared in February, 1932.

The old brother- sister clubs were reportedly dying out. Lowell-Lucerne, Orion-Aurora and Parchevard-Calliopean were no longer drawing a large number of students. I think this happened periodically because the clubs were in existence in some form or other until 1969. (With the exception of LLC, which was disbanded for a few years: 1954-1961). Alumniad, February, 1932)

The Executive Board planned and presented a chapel program at which they highlighted the achievements of nine outstanding alumni. (no date given in article) The alumni chosen were Robert McCullough Dick,'99, Rev. John L. Caughey,'89, Dr. Victoria MacArthur,'94, Dr. John E. Calfee,'05, Dr. John Morris Gillette,'92, Rose Ann Carr,'22, Dr. Ernest Minor Patterson,'02, Frank W. Bible,'01 and Dr. Cleland B. McAfee,'84. Kansas City alumni gave speeches about their achievements. The program was extremely well received. Most of these are profiled in the 120 Alumni Book. (Alumniad, April, 1932)

The local Alumni also participated in a Founder's Day celebration on May 12, 1932. The day included decoration of the graves, followed by speeches. On May 27, 1932, the board of trustees voted to create a music department. Although music had been a large part of Park life since the founding, there had never been a department or a major. (Board minutes, May 27, 1932)

Paul Aurell,'23, President. (1931-1933)  
Howard Dean,'97, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor.

### 1932-1933

At the May 28, 1932 business meeting, the constitution was revised to allow for election of a President-Elect each year to be "trained" in his duties. Presidents elected at annual meetings were to take office the next year. They were to serve one consecutive term as president, a change from the three year terms allowed in the 1920 constitution.

Although the office of Vice President was abolished, the President-Elect served the same function. The Presidents were still elected by ballot, but all other officers were selected by the Executive Board. "The secretary-treasurer may be reelected indefinitely at the discretion of the board and shall receive such compensation as determined by the Board." Another change was that no person could run for elective office unless he had been a member for five years (changed from three). Members were still graduates, only. (Alumniad, June, 1932)

Albert Orr,'08 was made editor of the Alumniad to free Howard Dean for his other responsibilities as secretary and treasurer.

**The majority of the alumni were not paying their dues. The Depression undoubtedly affected giving, but it did not cause the problem.**

The class of 1932 gave a gift of a new sidewalk which stretched from the east end of Mackay to Commons. It was built by the students, hence the class numbers in the walkway. (Alumniad, June, 1932)

Howard Dean was still being paid \$500.00.

Dr. Charles Griffith was hired as head of the new music department and began his duties at the opening of the fall semester. He was an accomplished organist and choir director.

It was noted in the December, 1932 Alumniad that some present day students objected to the alumni smoking when they were on campus. The students were not allowed to use tobacco.

World-Wide Park College Day was again a success, mainly because of the radio broadcast. Fourteen chapters met the same night, January 20.

On January 21, the college chapel hour was turned over to the Alumni Association which presented a program on five outstanding alumni, Henry

Weiman,'07, Lester M. Wilson,'06, Isabella MacRae Findlay,'87, William R. Galbreath,'10 and Clayton C. Wylie,'08. There were no awards, just speeches.

Paul Aurell,'23, President  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor.

### 1933-1934

The annual meeting was held on May 27, 1933. Very little business was conducted other than passing a motion to form a committee to begin collecting books written by alumni. The books were to be presented to the library and kept in a separate collection.

The alumni also approved the purchase of a gift for Doctor Findlay. The annual banquet was devoted to honoring Prof. M.C. Findlay and Mrs. Findlay for their 40 years service to Park. The alumni presented them with a carved marble lamp that depicts a shepherd boy reading a book. It sat on the library circulation desk for many years until it was moved to the archives for safety. (Alumniad, June, 1933)

The June Alumniad carried an appeal for dues written by Dr. B.L. Myers,'06, a member of the trustees.

His appeal fell on deaf ears because later in the year, The Alumniad was cut from six issues to four to save money. Even so, copy had to be cut because of lack of money. (Alumniad, October, 1933)

Questionnaires were sent out to alumni requesting biographical information. These, as well as pictures of alumni and the campus were to be kept on file.

**A plan was created to award banners to classes: One for the class having the largest percentage of members with dues paid by next commencement and one for the class with the largest number of members paying dues. This enabled both small and large classes to compete. *Not a bad idea for awarding the Alumni Weekend trophy, although it would be difficult to determine how many living members classes have.* (Alumniad, October, 1933)**

Major emphasis was placed on World Wide Alumni Day. Publicity of the event was combined with a call for support. The depression had hit everyone and the college was hurting for funds. The program was broadcast again on WDAF radio. (Alumniad, January and April, 1934)

Ralph Waggoner,'07, President. (1933-1934)  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor.



### 1934-1935

At the business meeting on May 26, 1934, the alumni present approved recommendations presented by The Executive Board:

That the Alumniad be standardized in size for binding purposes as the volumes are desired for the library and other purposes.

That for the present, the Alumniad be maintained at 8 pages, quarterly.

That all cuts (pictures) for the printing of college scenes or faces be preserved in the Alumni Association files.

That the records on "Who's Who Among the Alumni" be preserved in files by classes.

That a committee on "History of Park College" be appointed for the gathering of records on personnel and material for publication purposes.

This should include a "Who's Who" of the faculty.

That a committee should be appointed to establish, if possible, a program of greater economy during the present period of financial depression.

The history committee headed by Joseph Ernest McAfee, class of 1889 and son of founder John A. McAfee, was named the Parkana Committee.

Interest in this project was intense and probably helped renew interest in the college among the alumni.

The alumni banquet was attended by 239 people and the banners for dues-paying classes were given out. The classes of 1879 and 1887 tied for the percentage and the class of 1928, led, no doubt by Bill and Mary Lou Tipton, '28/'28, won for most members.

The alumni treasury was in the red despite major budget cuts, including Howard Dean's salary, which was reduced to \$15.00 per month. The depression was hitting hard.

Association president Whiting Wolfe, '11, noted that alumni support had been declining steadily for several years. He attributed it to "the emotional confusion of World War I." He believed that the tide was turning, pointing out that the class of 1932 had more dues paying members than all the other classes. Even so, only 175 of 2000 alumni were paying dues. (Alumniad, June, 1934)

Dr. Hawley took a big salary cut before making reductions in the college budget.

George A. Lawrence, husband of Ella Park Lawrence died on September 21, 1934. He, too, was thoroughly eulogized.

Much of the January, 1935 Alumniad was devoted to the newly formed Parkana Committee. J.E. McAfee,'88 wrote a long article urging alumni, especially the older ones to write down their memories of Park, its faculty and its social life.

World Wide Alumni Day was held on January 18.

Lapsley McAfee,'82, died while on a trip to the Philippines on January 18.

J.H. Lawrence, former secretary of the Alumni Association, died on February 18.

Arthur Whiting Wolfe,'11, President. (1934-1935)  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor.

### 1935-1936

The Governing Board presented a long report at the May 25 annual meeting. They made the following recommendations: that all uninvested funds be invested in a savings account until such time as a suitable investment can be found, that the board be authorized to borrow from uninvested endowment funds up to \$100 for a short time to meet current expense, that honorary membership be conferred on Dr. M.C. Findlay and Professor Matthew Hale Wilson and that the Governing Board seek some form of coalition organization with the college for their mutual benefit.

Howard Dean reported that the financial response of the alumni had been slight and while all bills had been paid to date, "the treasury would not stand the payment of any salary to the Editor of the Alumniad or to the Secretary-Treasurer." (Minutes of Annual Meeting, May 25, 1935) He further stated that he felt the decline in dues was based on the economic conditions, not to lack of loyalty.

. Howard Dean's salary had previously been cut from \$50.00 to \$15.00 per month. Now he was receiving nothing. An all-out appeal was made yet again for all alumni to pay their \$2.00 annual dues.

President Benjamin L. Myers,'06, addressed the alumni in the January, 1936 Alumniad and presented some statistics about alumni giving. "It might be helpful and impressive to look ourselves squarely in the face, financially speaking, to observe illustrations of what takes place class-by-class. I have a summation for the year 1933. I regret that it is not for the year just past. The record shows that in 1933 we had 1751 living alumni. Of these, 127 held life memberships, 247 paid annual dues, leaving 1377 who carried no financial responsibility in behalf of the organization."

He went on to say that the class of 1901 (37 members) held 14 life memberships, while 10 of its members paid annual dues. Theirs was the best class average per member in the association. The classes of 1918, 1908, 1012 and 1913 were also singled out as good givers. He continued, however, by saying that one class of 64 members paid no annual dues and only one in that group had a life membership. "What would await a community that pays its taxes by such a law of averages?"

Alumni dues paying increased in January and one alumnus F. Dean McCluskey,'89, issued a challenge to 49 others to give \$10.00 each.

World Wide Alumni Day was renamed World Wide Park College Day again included a radio broadcast and a chapel service held on January 17<sup>th</sup> 1936.

By April, 452 alumni paid their dues -- up from only 175 in the previous year. It is quite possible that the appeal from the Parkana Committee had awakened nostalgic interest in the college. (Alumniad, April, 1936)

**The April, 1936 Alumniad carried news of President Hawley's retirement, to take place on September 1, 1937, after 20 years as president. He had brought about many improvements including Thompson Commons, Herr House, Graham Tyler Chapel, "new" Copley Hall, the downtown power plant, the Science Hall and the Meetin' House.**

Dr. Hawley and his wife, Pauline, or "Polly" had presided over one of the most productive periods of college growth. Mrs. Hawley was extremely active in student life and also was the driving force behind the architecture and decoration of the buildings. She was also remembered by some as a bit pushy, particularly when she expected the faculty to dress in costume each year for a "Colonial Party" and insisted that students participate in maypole dances and costumed May Day events.

Dr. Hawley, as stated earlier, was a superb fundraiser and very strict disciplinarian. Many students were expelled for using tobacco, (even off campus), for profane language or for breaking one of many draconian rules. Some alumni from that period also remembered that he was somewhat intolerant. A letter from alumnus Charles Schermerhorn,'24, relates that Dr. Hawley once refused to allow a black choir that had performed on campus to eat dinner in the Commons. They had missed their train and had to find food and lodging in the black community on West Street. One should remember, though, that the attitudes of 1936 were decidedly different from those of today. He may have been forced to do that because of concern that Parkvillians would react negatively.

The same Alumniad announced the selection of Dr. William Lindsay Young as the next president of the college. He had most recently been connected with the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education in the department of religion in higher education. He was a graduate of Carroll College and had attended the University of Montana. He held two honorary doctorates: one from Carroll and one from Waynesburg College. Until Dr. Hawley's retirement, he was to serve as executive vice president.

The governing Board clarified its stand on reorganizing the association in a report dated April 7, 1936.

"Inasmuch as there are today many colleges and their Alumni which have a cooperative organization to promote their common interests and, Inasmuch that changing economic conditions have made it necessary for both colleges and alumni associations to institute every possible method of achieving their ends with every possible saving,

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION BE AUTHORIZED, (1.) TO CONFER WITH DR. HAWLEY REGARDING PLANS OF COORDINATING THE WORK OF THIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE COLLEGE ALONG LINES COMMONLY EMPLOYED BY OTHER ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR ALMA MATERS: AND (2.) IF FEASIBLE AND WORKABLE PLANS CAN BE INSTITUTED, THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BE AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO SUCH PLANS AS SHALL, IN THE JUDGEMENT OF THE BOARD, BE FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE COLLEGE."

Ben L. Myers,'06, President. (1935-1936)  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor.

### 1936-1937

The Executive Board again presented a lengthy report at the June 6, 1936 annual meeting. One important item referred to the Alumni-College relationship. The board had met with Dr. Hawley and discussed the subject at length. However, they stated that certain matters of reorganization and personnel would require more time. "The matter is not dismissed and will have further attention." (Report of Executive Board, June 6, 1936).

The association approved a committee to draft revisions to the constitution, and voted to move World Wide Park College Day to "a more seasonable time of the year." And last, they conferred honorary membership on Mrs. Arthur Wolfe and Dean Walter Sanders.

Executive Council Continued to discuss reorganizing the Alumni Association because it was all too obvious that the alumni were not paying enough dues to maintain operations. They were looking into questions such as: 1. Should it remain self-sustaining? 2. Should the college share expenses with the association? 3. Should the college sustain the group entirely? Executive Board member Ben Myers, '06, did research among local colleges and presented his findings in the October 1936 Alumniad. Of the 16 alumni groups he contacted, 7 were self sustaining, 2 shared expenses and 7 were completely supported by their colleges.

A supplement of this issue announced that every member who paid his dues would receive, free, a copy of A Midwest Adventure in Education. A second volume, College Pioneering, was published a bit later. *[It is interesting to note that Bill and Mary Lou Tipton used this same idea in 1990, sending a copy of their book, A Chronicle of Memories to each alumnus/alumna who gave money during that year. The book was compiled, printed and mailed at their own expense].*

A long article in this supplement by W.A. Myers, '08 demanded to know if college officials were serious about having alumni serve on the board of trustees. "No man can talk Park College so well as the one who has lived Park College on the campus." Since 1930, the association had been unable to get a definitive answer concerning the alumni designee and people were beginning to believe the college didn't think that the alumni were important. Those who resented this treatment were beginning to become vocal, probably because the Hawley administration had ended.

Attendance at the Alumni Day banquet remained constant at 200.

Business during the early part of the year was mostly routine. World Wide Alumni Day was held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and again was broadcast by WDAF radio

Robert A. Williams, '97 President. (1936-1937)  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor.

### 1937-1938

At the annual meeting on June 5, the association decided to observe World Wide Alumni Day hereafter on May 12. Very little other business was conducted.

Dr. Hawley had come to the executive board with a proposal for an alumni office employee, but discussion was tabled because of the change in administration. (Annual Report of the Executive Board, June 5, 1937)

The executive board contemplated a revision of the 1928 constitution and planned to present the changes at the 1938 annual meeting. The task was taken on by a committee composed of B.L. Myers, Harrison Metheney and Ola C. Orr.

Dr. William Lindsay Young took office as president of Park College on June 7, 1937 and was formally inaugurated on October 29, 1937.

In November, President Young offered to allow the Park College Press to print the Alumniad for the next year; the cost would be \$60.00 per issue. The previous printer was charging over \$90.00 per issue. The association would also pay for postage, for cuts (photos) used in the publication and would keep the mailing list up to date. The first issue printed by the college press was December, 1937.

Howard Dean was again paid \$20.00 a month by the association. Albert Orr was paid \$35.00 per issue of the Alumniad.

Graham Tyler Chapel burned on Christmas night, 1937; it was a total loss. Plans were immediately made to rebuild it using insurance money and donations.

Dr. Young created a controversy when he decided to allow smoking and dancing on campus. College social rules were horribly outdated and he sought to relax rules a bit to increase enrollment. (Alumniad, February, 1938) Although he had sought counsel from faculty, trustees, alumni president Ralph Waggoner and students and, although he had waited one year before doing anything about the old rules, Dr. Young was soundly criticized by some alumni. Alumni Association officers decided to stay out of it as an organization but many individuals complained loudly.

Years later, Dr. Young referred to this in a letter to Dean Sanders: "A few weeks ago I destroyed literally hundreds of letters and documents relating to the major issues of my term of service at Park College. Many of the letters were from "old timers" blistering me for change in policy. A few of the letters stated that the burning of the chapel was God's punishment for the evil of my ways." (Young to Sanders, November 26, 1956). It is unfortunate that these letters were destroyed.

The April, 1938 Alumniad carried a special section about the Parkana Committee. J.E. McAfee hoped to add future volumes to the two books already published. This was never completed.

World Wide Park College Day was celebrated on May 12 and included a 4 o'clock convocation and a 10:30 P.M. radio program

Frank W. Bible,'01, had been elected President but became ill and died on November 15, 1937. He was replaced by Ralph A. Waggoner,'07. Albert Orr continued to edit the Alumniad.

### 1938-1939

At the May 28 annual meeting, the constitutional committee presented a very wordy, complicated document for approval at the annual meeting. After due discussion, it was accepted.

Several articles and sections were reworted and many were added. One change was to raise life memberships from \$35.00 to \$50.00. Several new articles were added including an article regarding chapters, and an article creating four standing committees: 1) College-Alumni Welfare. 2) Placement (an employment service). 3) Editorial. 4) Finance. Their functions are spelled out in the document.

Membership criteria were changed to Active, Life and Honorary. The category of associate member was abolished.

Active members now included all graduates, all who had attended Park College or the academy for one year and all who were married to alumni. The latter two groups had to "make formal application to the council" and were required to pay dues. They could also vote, but not run for office – that was for graduates, only.

Life membership could be conferred on any active member and was divided into four categories: 1. Those who paid \$50.00; 2. Those who have paid dues annually for 35 years; 3. Those who had been alumni for 50 years and 4. Any graduate who in the opinion of the Executive Council, was a chronic invalid. Life members could vote, but didn't have to pay dues.

Honorary members were just that- honorary – no dues, no vote, no running for office.

**The title "Executive Board" was changed to "Executive Council."** Membership on the Council was increased and guidelines for this group were more clearly spelled out. Since 1899, the Council had consisted of the

four officers plus three Councilmen. The new group was to be composed of the President, President-Elect, Past President and six Councilmen. The Secretary and Treasurer and Editor of the Alumniad were to be ex-officio members without the right to vote. (I do not understand that one). Only those who were graduates and who had been association members for five years could run for office.

The term of office for Alumni Association President was still one year.

Two regular meetings were required: one on the Thursday preceding Alumni Day and one on the third Thursday of January. Others could be called by the president. Councilmen who had two unexcused absences were replaced by appointees who then would be brought up for approval at the annual meeting. Finally, the Executive Council was forbidden to acquire indebtedness. The available minutes do not reveal the reasons for these changes.

It is obvious that a great deal of work went into the new constitution, but it was amended within two years.

World Wide Alumni Day was moved to May and joined with a celebration of Founder's Day. As they had been for many years, the graves of the founders were decorated with flowers.

Joseph Ernest "J.E." McAfee began sending a series of ten letters that were highly critical of the college administration and the board of trustees. The letters were obviously carefully planned and were mailed in the following pattern: September and November, 1938, January, March and May, 1939; September and November, 1939, January, March and May, 1940. He mailed these to the board of trustees, and to selected alumni and administrators. I believe he saw an opportunity to make a difference because of Dr. Hawley's retirement and Dr. Young's new administration. The letters discussed everything from the makeup of the board of trustees to the administration of the work program. He did not send them to alumni in the Kansas City area, hoping to avoid creating a local controversy and getting local alumni into trouble. (his reasoning)

J.E. did, however, create enough controversy to force some changes in the status quo.

He believed that the trustees, one of whom, Homer B. Mann, had voted to oust Lowell in 1913, were narrow minded and set in their ways. Mr. Mann had been a trustee since 1910 and president of the board since 1915. At the time, trustees were allowed to serve for life and McAfee felt that term limits should be imposed. In addition, 15 of the 20 board members lived in Kansas City or Parkville. Two lived out of state, one in



Washington State and another in Colorado. None were from east of the Mississippi. "This reveals an in-breeding and restricted perspective palpably inimical to the vision and breadth of outlook characterizing Park's aims, spirit and traditions."

His main complaint was the lack of alumni influence in college decisions. J.E. also believed, with good reason, that the college had made little effort to help with alumni affairs. [The alumni association had been paying for all of its efforts including the Alumniad, since its organization in 1882 and although alumni support was undeniably important, the trustees had not continued to help pay Howard Dean when he retired from teaching in 1928.] He further asserted that alumni were kept in the dark because current alumni officers would not allow "controversial topics" to be printed in the Alumniad. For example, he claimed that alumni did not know the truth of college finances.

"Ignorance of college affairs must no longer be justified by negligence in administration and by broken down alumni executive machinery. Analysis of the present situation reveals first the superficial fact that there is and had been for years inadequate alumni executive and information services. The "... cause has been the indifference and lack of cooperation in the college administration. Only in colleges where such cooperation is constant and hearty are alumni conditions satisfactory, or are the alumni a potent benefit to the institution."

J.E. advocated open councils in alumni and college affairs and suggested that the Alumniad have a section presenting free discussion of issues. He further advocated a reorganization of the alumni executive council and a reexamination of its purpose.

J.E. believed that alumni should not be judged on their ability to give money alone, but that each person had a right to express an opinion and should have some way to do so.

He listed many examples of methods other colleges used to involve their alumni and gave many suggestions for improving the situation. He also referred to the trustees' 1930 decision to discontinue the practice of the alumni association electing one of its own to the board. He believed this decision was due to a technical legal barrier that could have been overturned had the board wished to do so. (As stated earlier, the decision was based on an attorney's opinion, not a court ruling.)

In November, 1938, President Emeritus Dr. F.W. Hawley wrote a lengthy response to these letters which the college mailed to all the alumni. He clearly stated that he believed most of McAfee's comments were

unfounded and he made sure to say that J.E. had not even been on campus since 1925.

Regarding the fact that most of the trustees were from the local area he stated, "Never in the history of the college has it been otherwise. The main reason is evident, the necessity of a Board that could attend to the business of the college and be present at its meetings."

Finally, he mentioned that five of the present alumni trustees were members who had been originally nominated by the alumni association: Dr. Wilson Alex Myers,'08, Dr. William C. Ralston,'93, Elizabeth B. Scott,'94, William C. Templeton,'88 and Dr. Robert A. Williams,'97. [Note: their class years do not appear in the flyer} "To be sure, most of them live in Kansas City, but their vision and sympathies are world wide."

Dr. Young and Homer Mann met with the Alumni Council on November 14, 1938 to discuss the first two McAfee letters. They asked the Alumni Council for recommendations. "After discussion a motion by J. Warner Brown,'13, was made and carried unanimously that the Council recommend that the Board (trustees) take no action in regard to the letters of J.E.McAfee, especially as far as entering into personalities was concerned." The trustees accepted the recommendation at their November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

As a response to McAfee's call to action, the Council also voted that three trustees and three alumni be selected to serve as a committee "...to consider matters of mutual interest and make recommendations to each body." The purpose of this committee was to share information between alumni and trustees so that each would know the other's concerns.

The council's final recommendation was that the trustees should make statements from time to time in the Alumniad "...of such matters of Board action as may be of interest to the Alumni."

The trustees invited the Alumni Council to suggest names of alumni for membership on the board of trustees.

These decisions had an immediate impact. The very next issue of the Alumniad, December, 1938, carried this same news and also included some information J.E had asked for. It is a remarkable departure from earlier issues. There is a letter from Dr. Young, stressing a more democratic approach to college affairs, describing the above mentioned committee and encouraging communication. This issue also includes a statement of college finances.

Another lengthy letter by association president Waggoner reports the same story with a plea for open discussions regarding Park. He also stressed that attacks on individuals should not be part of such discussions.

In January, college business manager David M. Knight sent one of J.E.'s letters to the college attorney, Frank M. Tyler. Mr. Tyler wrote to J.E., explaining that the present board believed life membership was in keeping with the original college charter and was the wish of George Park and John A. McAfee. Tyler felt the system was legal, but did admit that the trustees could vote to change it. He further stated, "It would seem the nature of the attacks on the Board, the President and the officers of the alumni association are such that they could hardly hope to do anything but harm to the college and that of the few alumni who seem inclined to support them it is obvious the majority did so without any reasonably complete information of the facts."

There is evidence that the trustees investigated suing J.E. for libel.

Alumni president Ralph Waggoner,'07 wrote another column for the February, 1939 Alumniad in which he again alluded to the McAfee situation. Thirty-one letters, both critical and complimentary, had been written to the administration and to trustees; many of these were from alumni who were college presidents, professors and corporate executives. Of the 20 I have found, none are vicious – all are thoughtful reactions to J.E.'s letters.

Waggoner wrote: "Such letters are quite within the province of the alumni to write as individuals, and we feel should be welcomed by those guiding the policies of Park College. However, as the council represents the Association as a whole, it has felt that it is not within its province to take sides with any individual alumnus in his criticism or commendation. Nor do we take sides in differences among trustees, or trustees and individual alumni. All the council feels it has a right to do in its representation of the whole is to promote harmony and good fellowship among its members of the Association and to help Park as an institution in such ways as it can. We feel there is a distinction between what one may do as an individual and as one who represents a constituency. This may seem to some a wishy-washy position, but believe me, the councilmen are not such, either individually or in a group."

In the same issue, Alumniad editor Albert Orr,'08, also expressed his opinion about the 31 alumni letters. "The council recognizes the right of any alumnus thus to express himself, and that all such inquiries are entitled to acknowledgement."

Another letter by Dr. Young, in this same Alumniad, revealed that he had taken the counsel of several alumni who responded to a question about raising tuition and that he had decided to leave it the same. He then issued a challenge to the alumni to make up the difference between income and expenses.

R.A. Waggoner,'07, President. (1938-1939)  
Albert Orr,'08, Editor.

### 1939-1940

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Homer Mann, president of the board of trustees gave a long address at the Alumni Association annual business meeting. It was later printed in the Alumniad and rather forcefully presented several truths about the board of trustees, the college charter and the alumni association. He was particularly direct about alumni support. Mr. Mann stated that the college was carrying \$168,000 in student notes; debts owed by a total of 240 alumni. Of 2210 living alumni of the college only 355 or 16.06% were dues paying members of the association.

He challenged the alumni to support their officers and come forth with material gifts and hard work. "Appeals from Rip Van Winkle alumni somnambulists to alumni mob sentimentality do not suffice." I can't imagine that this went over very well but I haven't located any reactions. A copy of the address is in the addenda. (See 1943)

Homer Mann retired as president of the board of trustees on November 21, 1939. He was thoroughly lauded in all campus publications and honored at a testimonial dinner. In addition, he was awarded an honorary degree at commencement, a move that upset several alumni, including the Myers brothers, one of whom stated that the degree was "like pouring perfume on a skunk." (Dr. John Myers,'01 to H.B. McAfee, June 2, 1938).

Mr. Mann was to remain a member of the board until 1943. True to what J.E. McAfee had suggested, a younger man, John Coleman Long, was elected president of the board. Thus, it seems that J.E.'s views did make a difference. Other changes that he advocated came later.

Very little business was conducted at the May 27 annual meeting.

Howard Dean, '97, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alumni Association suffered a stroke in early July. Donald D. Parker was appointed acting secretary.

In September, Kinglsey Given, '26, was named head of the Speech Department, Director of Public Relations and Executive Vice President of the Alumni Association. He took over responsibilities of Howard Dean and embarked on a nation wide tour to meet with all chapters. He was the second Alumni Secretary paid by the college. The college had not helped to pay an alumni secretary since 1927-28 when Howard Dean served in that position. This is another bow to J.E.

In October, the college launched a \$100,000.00 stabilization fund drive to meet reduced income from endowment. \$50,000.00 was raised in cash and pledges by December.

World Wide Alumni Day included radio broadcasts over WDAF, Short Wave and Ham networks. This was again combined with Founders' Day, May 13.

College President William Lindsay Young was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the highest office in the denomination, on May 23, 1940. This was a great honor to him and brought national attention to Park College.

Jacob E. Wyatt, '13, President.  
Albert Orr, '08, Editor

#### 1940-1941

The alumni association passed the following motion at the June 1 annual meeting:

**"That we abolish dues; automatically receive into membership anyone who has been a student at Park College or Academy for one year or more; and establish and set up an Alumni Foundation Fund; all contributions to this fund to be placed in the college treasury with the understanding that the college will, from this fund, carry the expense of the alumni office and the publishing of the Alumniad; and that any surplus be at the direction of the Alumni Association."**

This was done after much research and communication with other colleges. It was determined that dues were nearly impossible to collect and that constant reminders about dues

ultimately hurt other forms of giving because almost all communication from college to alumni asked them for money. Obviously, the alumni had not responded well to paying dues for many years, no matter what incentives were created. This change in alumni funds was also endorsed by a group called the American Alumni Council. Park's 58 years of funding alumni activities through dues had not worked well. Many people had labored long and hard for no pay and the stress of constantly soliciting dues was terrible.

All association expenses were to be paid from this fund and disbursed by the treasurer of the college. This plan ended the Association's existence as a separate entity, and continues to this day, although the Association no longer directs the disbursement of any surplus funds. I don't think there ever were any left over monies, anyway.

An important aspect of this plan was that "all moneys received in the past from the payment of Life Membership shall be kept in a separate account known as the Endowment Fund and such shall be the permanent property of the Association and no part of which shall be used for general, operating or current expenses of the Association. However, the interest from the Endowment Fund shall be used as directed by the Executive Council." (1940 Alumni Association Constitution) This fund amounted to \$5175; no more was added to it because dues and life membership fees had been abolished. The money was invested in savings bonds and treasury bonds. T. Bruce Robb, '12, our Congressional Medal winner, was named treasurer of the Alumni Endowment Fund.

Parts of the constitution were streamlined. Those married to alumni were dropped from active membership, life members were dropped and all the language concerning written applications was dropped. The President of Park College and his wife were included as ex-officio honorary members of the Association.

In addition, the new Executive Vice President was added as a member of the Executive Council and Article I, section 4 was added: "An Executive Vice-President shall be appointed each year jointly by the Executive Council and by the President of Park College."

The first issue of the Alumniad paid for by the college appeared in October, 1940.

The main question about the new plan concerned locating the new members of the association, namely, those who attended school for only one year.

The official records of the Alumni Association were moved from Alumni Hall to Room 15, Mackay and Kingsley Given became the custodian of the records and furnishings. (Executive Council minutes, June 2, 1940) *This is undoubtedly the reason that so much has survived – it could have burned with Alumni Hall in 1957.*

The first semi-annual report of the new Alumni Fund was printed in the March, 1941 Alumniad. \$2047.92 had been received during the first six months. Competition between classes was encouraged.

Many chapters were functioning well; nineteen around the nation. Kingsley Given had made an effort to visit them all.

Charles C. Shedd, '14, President

Albert Orr, '08, Editor. Albert resigned in June to allow Kingsley Given to take over.

#### 1941-1942

The annual meeting was held on May 31, 1941. Kingsley Given announced that he had helped to form 11 more alumni chapters and the association voted to commend him and his wife for their "splendid" work.

The Alumni Fund report stated that \$3293.42 had been received in the alumni office as of May 21, 1941. [The total received during the first year (July 1, 1940 to July 1, 1941) of the alumni fund campaign was \$3400.00, given by 20% of the alumni.] President Metheney noted that he had been skeptical when the Alumni Fund idea was adopted but now saw the value of the idea. (Annual Meeting Minutes, May 27, 1941)

One of the alumni chapters had suggested the need for an alumni directory, but the Executive Council decided that it would be impractical to publish one at the time because of constant address changes and a lack of funds, personnel and equipment. (Executive Council Minutes, September 17, 1941)

It was noted that maintaining alumni addresses was very difficult because alumni were not sending changes to the office. Attendance records had not been adequately kept over the years and it was nearly impossible to find out who had attended the college or academy for one year. Correcting this became a priority and hopes were high when a secretary was hired to help Kingsley Given.

A second color was added to the Alumniad and its format became more like a magazine. Students still did most of the printing work, supervised by George Grattan,'16. The press was still located in the old Westcott Building.

The format of the Alumniad was changed because the advent of World War II caused budget cuts. It was printed in tabloid form, rather than magazine style and the second color was dropped. This change took place in January, 1942. The "Honor Roll of Givers" was revived and printed in this same issue.

Dr. Charles Wesley Cannom, Dean of Men, submitted an article to the May, 1942 Alumniad in which he described "A Park Professor's Dream" for the college. He advocated the return to reasonable self-sufficiency in order to hedge inflation and reduce costs. His plan included growing food, raising chickens, beef and hogs and reestablishing the orchard.

This created a great deal of response from alumni and, no doubt, fury from the administration and trustees. Dean Cannom had asked to remain anonymous and although he had discussed his ideas with Dr. Young, he did not alert the president that he was going to publish his ideas. [This is probably a good story.] He was on leave of absence after the issue went to press but remained on the staff until 1945. His article reminded alumni that the work program, so dear to their hearts, was not the same; it stirred up some of the same people who had supported J.E. McAfee's letter campaign of 1938-1940.

For the first time in its history, Park offered summer classes as a part of its new, accelerated program. "The college believes that it makes the greatest contribution when provision is made for the most effective training for young men before they are called to military service. Park College is adopting an accelerated program whereby students may complete the normal four year course in three years. By extending the regular college course to include summer sessions, it will be possible for students to meet the requirements for degrees on three years, in some cases less time." (Undated pamphlet, "The Accelerated Program at Park College in the National Emergency") The college began holding graduations in February, June and October.

Harrison Metheney,'14, President.

Kingsley Given,'21, Executive Vice President and Alumniad Editor.

#### 1942-1943

Very little business was conducted at the May 23, 1942 annual meeting. The minutes simply state that several reports were read but they are not included in them.



**In August, Dr. Young accepted nine Nisei students from the internment camps on the West Coast. This courageous act caused a great deal of controversy. (See "The Battle of Parkville" by Dr. Harold Smith in the addenda)**

World War II brought about rationing and other woes but the alumni fund grew. From July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1942, \$5,200.00 was contributed by 31% of the alumni. (Alumniad, September, 1942)

**On November 15, 1942, Kingsley Given resigned his post to accept a similar one at Case Western Reserve University. The council decided that the position should be continued. Dr. Young stated at this point it would not be necessary for the new executive to also teach but, "if the war continued and it was necessary to make changes, this individual chosen should have qualifications for teaching." It was hoped to fill the position by the first of the year. (Board Minutes, November 17, 1942).**

The November, 1942 Alumniad carries a full explanation of "The Battle of Parkville" that ensued after Dr. Young admitted the nine Nisei students to the college.

At the November 17, 1942 executive council meeting George Grattan, '16, was appointed Alumni Recorder with the responsibility of keeping alumni addresses up-to-date. At the time, George was also Superintendent of the Park College Press.

Alumni around the nation wrote to support Dr. Young for his stand in "The Battle of Parkville." Of course, if anyone disagreed, the letters weren't published. His insistence to accept the nine Nisei students had caused an uproar in Parkville, but he won the battle and these students attended Park until they graduated. Many became people of outstanding achievements.

A list of all know Park men and women who were serving in military services was printed in the January, 1943 Alumniad along with a long list of alumni sons and daughters who were attending Park.

The alumni council voted to budget \$3500 from the new alumni fund for the next year's alumni operations.

**An announcement that Giles Theilman, '27, had been appointed Professor of Education, Director of Public Relations and Alumni Secretary appeared in the May, 1943 Alumniad.**

Homer B. Mann, 33-year member and president of the board of trustees for more than a quarter of a century, retired from the board in May. Correspondence between him and Dr. Young reveals that Mann believed some alumni had always caused trouble. Apparently, Dr. Young had confided that he had been under attack by some influential graduates (I have no proof of this). Mr. Mann replied on March 23, 1943:

"What you told me was in the nature of a rather unpleasant shock. Of course, I have known for years that I was the target of the three Myers boys (Dr. John Meyers,'01, Dr. Ben Myers,'06 and Dr. Wilson Alex Meyers,'08), the remnants of the McAfee family and three or four of their clackers; but after I delivered that address to the alumni association some three years ago, I received scores of letters from members of the alumni association all over the United States that were so commendatory in their tone that I thought the 'Anvil Chorus' had subsided. I knew that the same little cliques were still taking pokes at you personally, but I had not noticed that you were diminished in stature, especially as to your efficiency, as a result of it.

However, if my thirty-three years of service, be it ever so trifling, is to be weighed against the carping criticism of this disgruntled bunch, who always have and always will fight anybody in power at Park College unless his name is McAfee, then I want to step aside as quickly as possible.

Now, just one little word of suggestion to your good self. This very same clique started to undercut you before you ever reached Park College, and don't you think for a minute that they have ever let up on it. They would oust you or any other man from that institution if they had the power (which they have not and never will have) and it behooves you to keep your eyes and ears open all the time. Dr. Hawley will tell you that I stood guard for him for twenty-one years, and, believe it or not, I have done a fairly good job of standing guard for you."

I notice one of that clique is working back into the good graces of the school again as he was on the college program twice last week. What is that narrative about warming a snake in your bosom?" (I think he may be referring to Dr. John L. Myers,'01, who had been elected to the alumni council.)

There was no mention of Mann's leaving the board in the Alumniad and only a small paragraph in the Record. He had been honored when he stepped down as president of the board in 1939.

Homer Mann was hated by some, including C.P. Breen, and viewed with coolness by others. H.B. McAfee wrote, "I think Homer would say we have never been wholly congenial. I certainly never admired his bombast and conceited assumption of superiority. Anyone who knows Homer knows he

would defame the dead and then turn traitor to all decency to gain a little advantage for himself." (letter to Alex Myers, October 30, 1936)

*Homer Mann made many claims that have yet to be verified. In letters to H.B. McAfee and others he described that he was the one who discovered the fire in the Rock House in 1883 and raised the alarm; that he was foreman of the printing office in 1890; that he was the one who put items inside the Mackay cornerstone; that he was the one Anna McAfee called when John A. was dying and that Dr. McAfee died in his (Homer's) arms. .*

The truth of Homer Mann's motives during his tenure on the board is elusive. I am not sure it can ever be determined.

Howard Y. McCluskey,'21, President  
Kingsley Given, Editor, followed by Ruth Linder Hauetter'22.

#### 1943-1944

There are no minutes of the annual meeting and no information about it appears in the Alumniad.

The Navy V-12 students arrived on campus in July, 1943. Accommodations, food service and some rules were changed to provide for them. V-12 was an officer training program for enlisted men who were college students.

A total of 825 of these men came to campus during the last two years of the war. (Record, March 1945) There were questions from the alumni about possible negative influences these men may have on Park's civilian students.

Frances Fishburn,'21, was appointed head librarian. (Alumniad, November, 1943)

In November, William Lindsay Young resigned as president of the college as of January 1, 1944 and Dr. Hawley stepped in as interim president. I have heard that Dr. Young believed that the trustees would never agree with him, although I have no proof. (I am not sure what this was about – perhaps the smoking and dancing and the Nisei students – perhaps the fore-mentioned alumni clique wore on him, too. Unfortunately, he destroyed much of his own correspondence). Dr. Young went on to head the Pennsylvania office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He had brought Park into national prominence both for his stand on the Nisei and his role as the leader of the Presbyterian Church.

**Dr. Young's resignation was a serious blow to the college because his forceful and thoughtful leadership was needed at the end of the war more than ever before. It took fifteen months to secure a new president.**

Alumni were asked to recommend candidates for a new college president.

Albert Orr,'08, who had been elected Alumni President in May, 1943, died on January 21, 1944. Floyd Filson,'18, stepped in to replace him.

Dr. Cleland B. McAfee, one of the sons of John A. McAfee, died on February 4, 1944.

All alumni events: Founder's Day, World Wide Park College Day and the regular Alumni Day activities were combined on May 12<sup>th</sup>. War restrictions and the presence of the Navy on the campus limited the affair to one day because there was no space for people to stay.

The speeches and musical productions given on Founder's Day were recorded onto 78 rpm records and distributed to any chapter that requested them.

The fourth alumni fund garnered \$5593.16 from 466 alumni.

Floyd Filson,'18, President.

Giles Theilmann,'27, Executive Vice President and Editor.

#### **1944-1945**

Again, very little business was conducted at the annual meeting held on May 13, 1944.

**The college began to look ahead to the post-war years, realizing that changes must be made to adapt to the new type of students, particularly those who had served in the war. There was concern that the college's antiquated rules, curriculum and work program would not attract these students who were accustomed to much more freedom. A questionnaire was prepared to secure opinions of the alumni. (Alumniad, March, 1945) Many of these exist in alumni files and are very interesting. I do not know how much weight alumni opinion carried, but most I have read were strongly in favor of required work, feeling that it had helped make them successful because of their respect for labor and their ability to organize time. Many spoke of Park as educating the whole person, not just the brain.**

President Filson announced in the March 1945 Alumniad that "the Office of Defense Transportation bans conventions of more than fifty and discourages any convention that can be postponed or cancelled. This means that it will not be possible for the Alumni Association to plan and promote such an annual meeting as we hold in normal times." He hoped, however, that the Executive Council could meet and conduct some of the necessary business.

**Dr. George Irwin Rohrbough was elected fifth president of Park College. He had a BA from West Virginia Wesleyan College (1923) and an MA from Harvard (1928). His doctorate was an honorary degree from West Virginia Wesleyan. He had been president of Monticello College in Alton, Illinois for 10 years. He was attracted to Park's religious program and work-study plan. He was to assume his duties on July 1, 1945. (Alumniad, May, 1945)**

The V-12 program ended on July 1, 1945.

The fifth alumni fund garnered \$8716.81 from 712 givers.

Floyd Filson, President  
Giles Theilmann, Executive Secretary and Editor

#### **1945-1946**

Dr. Rohrbough announced his intentions to bring the college into the future by improving facilities, faculty and curriculum. He stressed the fact that a great deal of money would be needed to accomplish these plans. (Alumniad, September, 1945.)

The Alumniad returned to magazine format in November, 1945.

Nineteen Park Men had been killed in World War II. See Jan 1946 Alumniad.

Giles Theilmann was promoted to Dean of Men and he asked to be relieved of his alumni secretary duties. Miss Dorothy Studdard,'33, was selected to replace him. She was also secretary to Dr. Rohrbough which caused some comment about the president's secretary working for the alumni as well. This was an interim position and Dorothy was well qualified, having served on the Executive Council since 1941.

The board of trustees instituted several changes, the most controversial being the faculty retirement system. All faculty members over the age of 65 were to be retired as of July 1, 1946.

This seems to have been done on the recommendation of Dr. Rohrbough who had heard some students complain about the level of instruction. A report submitted by one of the V-12 administrators corroborated that, too. Dr. Rohrbough had also conducted a study, the results of which led him to believe the school was stuck in a rut and that instruction was mediocre.

Dr. Rohrbough had a difficult task ahead of him. Some professors may have been past their prime but most who were 65 or over were long-term, beloved staff members. The first to go were Dean Walter Sanders, who had been at Park since 1916, David Mack Knight, business manager since 1916, and Constantine Bila professor of Spanish since 1933. Dr. James W. Teener, who had been head of the Bible department since 1920, was also hastened out. Six other faculty members resigned to go elsewhere, some in protest of the methods used. (In all, a total of 20 faculty were retired or resigned). This, along with plans for more student recreational facilities and changes in curriculum caused a great deal of turmoil among the alumni.

That same year, Theilmann resigned from the college to take a position in the Topeka Public School System. Other resignations included Norman Fielder, director of the industrial program; the Rev. Carlyle Adams, college chaplain and Carl Dallinger,'34, speech professor and alumnus. Theilmann and Dallinger resigned in protest; I am not sure about the others.

Much of the bad feeling among the alumni was generated by a letter sent out in March by some students at McCormick Theological Seminary to selected alumni. Many alumni began to press for Rohrbough's dismissal.

Wilbur Ennis,'26, President.  
Giles Theilmann,'27, Editor, etc.

#### 1946-1947

There doesn't appear to have been an annual alumni association meeting during commencement. The only minutes are from the Executive Council which held its meeting on May 25, 1946.

The executive council was informed at this meeting that many of the statements in the letter were half-truths. Both trustee Warren Cooksey, x'20 and Dr. R. A. Rogers, a twenty-year member of the faculty, told the council that this letter had done a great deal of damage to the college.

The council decided to do everything possible to combat the rumors going around the country and "throw their influence and support to the college." They also sent a message of sympathy to Dr. Rohrbough, "... expressing confidence in his direction of the college and offering any assistance the alumni could render."

At the July 29, 1946 council meeting, Dr. R.A. Rogers and a student, George Sommerville, gave reports on the college from their viewpoints. Later in the meeting, Giles Theilmann addressed the group after asking that Rogers, Sommerville and Miss Studdard leave the room. Unfortunately, none of the remarks are recorded. Whether or not the council maintained a supportive attitude throughout the next few months is unknown at this time.

The methods Dr. Rohrbough employed in retiring or dismissing faculty and staff were apparently brutal and quick. In addition, several students who opposed Rohrbough's methods were refused readmission because they "did not conform to the Park College Spirit." Some of them had also written to alumni.

The news of turmoil was reported in the August 20, 1946 Kansas City Star and in several Presbyterian publications. It became strident enough to cause Dr. Paul C. Payne, class of 1913, who was also executive secretary of the Presbyterian Church Board of Christian Education to attend a trustee meeting to investigate the matter and try to quiet the situation.

The Alumni Executive Board and 25 prominent alumni also attended this meeting on October 1, 1946. It was at this meeting that Dr. Rohrbough resigned, effective June 30, 1947.

After this episode, to my knowledge, only one person who had been dismissed, Dean Walter Sanders, continued his involvement with the college. In fact, the trustees had voted unanimously on October 10, 1946 that "...persons resigning or being separated from the College in the last twelve months were not to be re-employed." (Porter to Cooksey, October 11, 1946). I believe Sanders was kept on because of his remarkable career and his encyclopedic knowledge of Park.

The trustees realized that they needed to appease the alumni in some way.

The president of the board of trustees, Joseph F. Porter attended the November council meeting and stated that he would recommend to the trustees that the president of the alumni association be

appointed a revolving member of the board so that the Alumni Association would have a close tie with the trustees.

Despite the fact that the Executive Council had stayed out of the fray, Porter also stated that the faculty was in an uproar because some of them believed that the alumni organization was trying to become responsible for on-campus administration instead of the board of trustees.

Council members wanted to have a luncheon for the faculty to smooth out the differences but Porter thought the timing was wrong. As a result, the Executive Council agreed that any communication they wished addressed to the faculty or administration would be taken up first with the trustees. The tone of the minutes is positive and it doesn't seem as if anyone was angry. (Council minutes November 5, 1946)  
(See "The Rohrbough Controversy" in the addenda)

The alumni council was asked for suggestions for a new college president.

On September 21, 1946, the new student recreational center, housed in the basement of the gymnasium, opened to rave reviews from students. The center, named the "Jolly Roger" had four bowling alleys, a soda fountain, a grill and a dance floor. Dr. Rohrbough had seen the need for a recreational center as both an encouragement for students to come to Park and as a way to retain students. The trustees agreed and provided \$8000.00 for the project.

The Jolly Roger was run as a non-profit business by students and was the first of the "Student Industries." The students did all the bookkeeping, purchasing, staffing and management. This change in the work program expanded over the next several years.

George Grattan, '16, took over as alumni secretary and Alumniad editor as Miss Studdard moved on to work with Rohrbough in Boston.

The sixth alumni fund total was \$8108.00 from 501 givers. Alumni Association expenses were reimbursed by the college from the alumni fund.

Two new brother-sister clubs were created to meet the demands of increased enrollment: Anthony-Cleopatra and Lancelot-Elaine. Members were taken from the original clubs by pulling names out of a box. As usual, all clubs participated in a "Rush Week" but not in the sense of other colleges. Each club gave a party to which all Freshmen were invited, then the Freshmen chose the group they wanted to join, not the other way around. In addition, all Freshmen were included in some organization unless they specifically requested to remain independent. There was no such thing as "blackballing." (Stylus, September 27, 1946)



Dyer Hall, a modified army barracks building was constructed to house 24 male students. It was built through cooperation with the US Government. Dyer stood between Nickel Hall and Labor Hall. It was razed in 1968. (Alumniad, January 1947)

Three Quonset huts which had been converted into dormitories were dedicated on January 28, 1947. Each was named for a Park Graduate who had been killed in World War II: Chester L. Nelson,'42, Leonard H. Phillips,'38 and David S. Thomas,ex'45. The quonsets were located above Labor Hall, slightly north east of the Science Hall. These buildings were used for many purposes over the years; the last of them was torn down in 1990. (Alumniad, March, 1947)

**Dr. James L. Zwingle was named president of Park College. He had been in charge of all USO work in the U.S. He had held a variety of educational positions before that and had received his doctorate in philosophy from Cornell University. He was to assume his duties on June 30, 1947. (Alumniad, March, 1947)**

Once again, class reunions were strongly recruited through the Alumniad. Janet Pollock,'41, was on the class reunion committee.

Joseph Ernest McAfee died on March 14, 1947.

**On May 29, 1947, the board of trustees amended its by laws:**

**“Article I, Section 2. The President of the Alumni Association of Park College shall be ex-officio member of the board of trustees beginning at the date upon which he takes office as president of the Alumni Association and ending on a date at which his successor as president of such association takes office.”**

*As far as I can tell, this has been in effect since then, but I would have to do a lot more research to find out for sure. I also believe that the association president does have a vote now.*

**The President-Elect of the Alumni Association was to be invited as a visitor to trustee meetings so he or she could become acquainted with board members and procedures. This is a direct result of the Rohrbough situation.**

Douglas V. Magers,'24, President. (1946-1947)  
Dorothy Studdard,'33, Editor.

### 1947-1948

The annual meeting was held on May 31, 1947 and was dominated by revisions the Alumni Association Constitution. Most were small language changes but two articles were stricken: one which allowed all alumni to vote but allowed only graduates to hold office and one which allowed only those who had been alumni for five years to hold office. Also, the title Executive Vice President was changed to Executive Secretary, still to be appointed each year jointly by the president of the college and by the Executive Council.

Also, trustee Warren Cooksey announced that a recording of eight "best loved" hymns had been made by Rose Ann Carr Millsap, '25, wife of trustee Marvin Millsap. The couple bore all expenses of the albums and offered them to the college to sell to raise money. The Association advertised them in the September Alumniad: "The album of eight hymns in a handsome container with a photograph of Graham Tyler Memorial Chapel on its cover has been priced at \$10.00. All profits over and above the cost of the album and the records will go to the Park Alumni Fund." Several of these 78RPM albums are in the archives. As of October, 1947, forty of the albums had been sold.

Alumni Weekend was well attended; banquet attendance was estimated at three hundred. The song that is now referred to as the "Alma Mater" was introduced at this banquet. "Hail, Hail Park College" was written by David Lueker, '47 and sung by the senior class after their induction into the Alumni Association.

Spencer Cave died on June 21, 1947. The Alumni Association had wanted to pay his \$225.00 funeral expenses but the "Y" (I assume this refers to the YMCA on campus) had already done so.

Spencer, the son of former slaves, had worked for Park College since 1875 and was beloved by scores of Parkites. In his later years he served as groundskeeper, dispensing friendship, wisdom and a philosophy of racial harmony that made an impression on nearly everyone who knew him. Spencer is buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Parkville Cemetery.

Howard Dean died on June 28, 1947. He had been an active member of the alumni association since 1901 and had served as alumni secretary (paid by the college and alumni association) from 1927 until he became ill in 1939. Howard Dean was also a member of the Park College faculty from 1897 to 1928 and had served as Mayor of Parkville.

Soon after Dr. Zwingle took office in July, some students and alumni had asked him about Park's policy on Negro enrollment. Dr. Zwingle was not against Negro enrollment, but he knew that the college had just survived a severe conflict and felt it unwise to begin what would certainly become

another. He answered the questions by stating there was no stated policy although there had been a long established practice not to admit them. Although under pressure, Zwingle insisted on delaying consideration of the subject. (Zwingle letter to Alumni, March 19, 1951) The potential consequences of accepting Negro students were enormous.

Mrs. Lucille Douglass wrote to Dr. Zwingle in December with a proposal to teach Negro History at Park. Zwingle replied that the student body was too small to justify adding such a course, but he was willing to talk to her about it. Mrs. Douglass was a new, but influential member of Parkville's Black community. She is still involved in many civic projects.

The seventh alumni fund brought in only \$4715.00, perhaps as a result of the Rohrbough turmoil. (Alumniad, September, 1947)

The Alumniad was full of much more alumni news notes and chapter reports.

Nickel Dormitory was converted into a residence for men; it had been a women's dormitory since it was built in 1895. The men of Nickel thus began a tradition that continued until 1968.

The Rev. Charles Andrus, '37, was appointed executive secretary of the alumni association. He was to work two days a week in that capacity and had an office in Room 7, Mackay Hall. (Alumniad, November, 1947) This was a strange arrangement because Charles was a minister at Butler, Missouri, at least 60 miles south of Parkville. In addition to alumni work, he seems to have served as an admissions representative and liaison between Park and many Presbyterian pastorates. His tenure was extremely short.

He had been appointed at a September meeting of the Executive Council which approved a budget of \$2,800 for the operation of the Alumni Office. The Rev. Andrus was to receive \$100 per month. The budget for the Alumniad was set at \$1,570.00.

Ralph Jennings, '26, President (1947-1948)

Dorothy Studdard, '33 Editor until January, followed by George Grattan, '16 until November, finally Charles E. Andrus, '37.

In January, twenty-six alumni were appointed to form a nation-wide alumni fund committee. For the first time, an organized effort was made to raise \$20,000 from 1000 alumni donors. Each person was expected to solicit all the alumni within his or her geographical area. Wilbur Ennis, '26, was the campaign chairman. (Alumniad, January, 1948)

Bill and Mary Lou Tipton,'28/'28, organized an alumni chapter in Houston, Texas. This brought the chapter total to 21.

Alumni were asked to help recruit students.

### 1948-1949

Alumni Day, June 5, 1948 continued as usual during commencement and had the same one-day program.

At the business meeting, Ralph Jennings announced that he had attended the trustee meeting as a non-voting member.

The eighth alumni fund garnered \$16,650 from 670 givers (out of approximately 3,000 total alumni). Alumni were still encouraged to designate gifts if they wished.

Many reports were read, but none are attached to the minutes.

At the September, 1948 Executive Council meeting, plans were made for a three-year \$150,000.00 fund raising campaign called the "Diamond Jubilee" fund. A goal of \$50,000 per year was set. The first part of it was to be used to spruce up the campus for the 1950 Diamond Jubilee celebration. George R. Sweet,'33, was the campaign leader.

George Sweet planned an elaborate campaign notable for the number of solicitations and for his insistence on follow-up information. Alumni received letters from the college, from their class presidents and from the alumni agent in their geographical area.

### **THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CLASS AGENT SYSTEM WAS USED.**

Class agents were volunteers from each class who were asked to write letters concerning college news, letters which would then be mailed to their classmates. Requests for donations were included. The theory was that graduates would respond better to one of their own classmates rather than to a college official they had never met. For many years, classes had secretaries who helped to organize class reunions. However, some classes were more active than others. I do not know if the class agent system has an unbroken history, but the system is in use today (2001).

In October, the college YMCA organization asked permission to sponsor a program entitled "Should Negroes be allowed at Park?" (Stylus, October 29, 1948). Dr. Zwingle, already aware that this was a deep concern to many people, allowed them to proceed. The officers of the Y wanted to poll

student opinion. They approached the topic carefully, which Zwingle had asked them to do, and determined that there were four immediate problems involved with any proposed open door admissions policy. First, the effect on future donations, second, the reaction of incoming freshmen and their parents, third, the general attitude of the Parkville community and fourth, the effect on forces outside of Kansas City or Park. The meeting ended when a motion was made suggesting that a poll of the student body be taken and if it was in the affirmative to accept Negroes at Park, that a poll be taken of parents and alumni. The students voted overwhelmingly to accept Black students. I do not think they polled parents and alumni, however because Dr. Zwingle and his administrative staff sought to avoid publicity. This was the beginning of a situation that would show Dr. Zwingle's tact, wisdom and strength of character to be close that of William Lindsay Young.

Harold Smith,'44 was working at Park as Admissions Counselor and came to the Alumni Council to explain the enrollment program. Apparently, the college had tried to set up a committee, similar to the Diamond Jubilee Committee, to help with admissions work; the results had been disappointing. It was decided to set up a subcommittee of the alumni council to work with Smitty. Very detailed plans for this work were laid out at the March 10, 1949 council meeting.

By March, 1949, 633 pledges had been made to the Diamond Jubilee Fund totaling \$43,226.95 of which \$10,619.35 had been received.

Ernest Esch,'30, President  
Charles Andrus,'37, Editor.

#### 1949-1950

The June 4, 1949 annual meeting was dominated by three topics: the alumni directory, the outstanding alumni awards and the Parkana Committee. The directory will be dealt with a bit later. The awards committee explained the award and the process for choosing the honorees. They had decided to award the first ones this year without association approval to get the ball rolling. Following discussion, the members present voted to go ahead with the annual award and set up a committee to finalize the plan. By far, the most important aspect was that the award winners were to be selected by the alumni, not the administration.

The first "Outstanding Alumni Awards" were given to Mary R. Harrison,'20 and Dr. John I. Myers,'01. The name was later changed to "Distinguished Alumni Award." The early awards were framed certificates.

Frances Fishburn, 21, gave a lengthy report on the Parkana Committee and concluded by saying that all materials collected were stored in a file cabinet in the college vault.

Names of alumni who had died during the year were read at the alumni chapel service.

Howard B. McAfee, class of 1880, died on July 19, 1949.

Hell Week and the Goons made their debut in the fall of 1949. Freshmen had gone through some type of initiation for several years. They were at the mercy of the upperclassmen who could require them to perform stunts. "Wearing canary and wine ribbons, beanies and almost any kind of a get-up, Freshmen can be seen carrying upperclassmen's books, buttoning (holding the button on the top of the beanie and curtseying) and diving for the floor upon the now familiar cry of "Air Raid!" (Stylus, September 17, 1947). The week ended with a tug of war and Freshman Court at which the newcomers were tried for their "offenses" and punished with egg shampoos and buckets of water. The Goons were carefully selected from upperclassmen and, dressed in outlandish costumes, took the place of the other upperclassmen in harassing the freshmen.

Dangerous hazing was never tolerated by college officials. Hell Week was suspended at least twice between 1949 and 1967 but returned after each hiatus because the students wanted it. The tradition died out in the mid 1970's. A full study should be done because although some hated it, hundreds of alumni recall their respective Hell Week experiences fondly.

According to the executive board minutes of September 22, 1949, three thousand questionnaires had been sent out to begin a new alumni directory. Also, Janet Pollock,'41 had been selected to chair a committee composed of George Grattan,'16, and Sarah Osborne,'28.

Because Sarah Osborne had done most of the groundwork on the directory, she was paid \$100.00 by the association and was to be paid 75 cents per hour for future work. She was paid from interest on the life membership endowment fund.

The directory was to be mailed to all alumni, even to those who had not contributed to the Diamond Jubilee campaign. Those who had given would receive a thank you card and those who hadn't would receive a pledge card. The directory was paid for from the Diamond Jubilee fund; the total cost including printing, Sarah's salary and mailing was \$2923.00.

The Reverend Andrus apparently gave up his alumni position sometime during the year and the Alumni Association again had no Executive Secretary. All the correspondence was handled by George Grattan and Catherine Armagnac, public relations director for the college. Apparently Rev. Andrus had found his college duties too time consuming.

Dr. Zwingle announced that he hoped to have a place in the college budget for alumni work within two years. I am not sure what happened to the plan of paying someone with money from the alumni fund to do this work. (Executive Council Minutes, October 27, 1949)

By November, 1949, 1076 alumni pledged \$57,233.39 and had paid \$23,545.60 in cash. The money was put to immediate use repairing and redecorating buildings.

Total cash received by March, 1950 for the Diamond Jubilee Fund was \$32,383.60 out of \$59,839.58 in pledges. 1143 alumni had contributed.

Plans were made for the largest alumni day in history in honor of the school's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Rooms were made available in the dormitories for those who wished to stay. Janet Pollock was put in charge of organizing class reunions and class secretaries were appointed to mobilize their classmates.

In June, Dr. Zwingle revealed to the trustees that two Black students had applied to Park College. After a great deal of discussion, the board voted to allow him to proceed at his discretion. Zwingle decided to wait another year while examining all aspects of the situation.

Blanche Kisling Wyatt, '13, President. (1949-1950)

No one was listed as editor, but I imagine it was George Grattan and Catherine Armagnac.

### 1950-1951

The annual business meeting was held on June 3, 1950. Little business was conducted but many announcements were made. The most important from George Sweet, Chair of the Diamond Jubilee Fund, revealed that as of June 3, 1200 pledges had been made for more than \$63,000 and that more than \$40,000 actually paid in. This represented a 40% response from the alumni, the highest in recent memory. He attributed the success to the class secretary system.

T. Bruce Robb, '12 reported that the Alumni Endowment fund, composed of life membership dues, had reached \$8,200 due to wise investments.

Members of the McAfee family held a special reunion that included a service at the family graves in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

A special Diamond Jubilee issue of the Alumniad was produced which provided information on the college's history and a view into its future.

**The alumni award was officially designated "Distinguished Alumni Award" and was forever to be presented by the alumni, not by the college. It was also decided that the award would not be given to anyone who already had an honorary doctorate. See "Alumni Awards" in addenda.**

Six hundred people attended the Diamond Jubilee banquet on June 3 after a long day of other events. Alumni were urged to stay for the entire commencement weekend and many did.

The senior class was invited to the banquet and later, they received an association membership card and letter of welcome.

For the first time, the 50 - year class (1900) were guests of the college. I don't know if this has an unbroken history, but the 50 - year class has traditionally paid no money, except for the banquet.

Recordings were made of the musical presentations given during commencement.

Howard Dean's collection of glass plate negatives made between 1883 and 1909 was given to the college by Miss Anna Palmer, his niece. They form the basis of today's archival collection of photographs. (Alumniad, November, 1950).

Alumni were invited to attend the fall convocation, the public celebration of the 75th anniversary. Over 1000 people attended; there is no record of how many were alumni.

Jenkin David was hired as director of admissions.

Two more Black students applied to Park and after conferring with the trustees in June and receiving unanimous approval from them, Dr. Zwingle admitted the students for the fall of 1950. The two young men transferred from Lincoln Junior College into the Junior class. They were not housed in the dormitories for the first semester, but after a unanimous vote of the men in two of the dorms and unanimous votes by the faculty and the Executive Committee of the trustees, the two moved into one of the residence halls.



Response from some alumni was decidedly negative and in one letter, Dr. Zwingle referred to some "unpleasantness" in Parkville. He was fully aware that Platte County had a long and turbulent history regarding race relations. The county had been decimated by the border wars of the 1850s and also by the Civil War. Slavery had been an institution in Platte County since it was organized in 1838. The very first recorded sale in the county was that of a slave on May 11, 1839. (Gatewood, p.580) There were strong feelings on both sides of the integration issue but Parkville was still quite segregated. Few of the downtown businesses, especially the eating establishments, would allow blacks to patronize them. No doubt there were incidents.

Dr. Zwingle wrote a letter to the Kansas City area alumni that eloquently explained the situation and made sure to state that the decision was not his alone, but rather, a democratic one. Some had spread rumors that Zwingle had ordered integration of the campus without consulting anyone. Among other negative comments were those that the college was promoting social equality instead of equal opportunity. One set of parents was horrified that their daughter had danced with one of the young men and that he had signed her yearbook "with love."

Although Zwingle opposed discrimination, he knew that he could not make strong denunciations without creating a major incident. It was a very ticklish situation compounded by the fact that many students and some alumni wanted Zwingle to take a public stance similar to Dr. Young's during the Nisei incident in 1942. There was pressure, also, from Presbyterian Church officials.

Since the 1880s, Park had readily accepted students from many foreign countries. Among them were Japan, China, Korea, Bulgaria, Turkey, and Colombia, South America. Native Americans from various tribes were also welcomed over the years. In fact, at least two were among the "Original Seventeen" who arrived with Dr. McAfee in 1875. As a result, some critics believed that Park was openly hypocritical in not accepting Negro students.

After mentioning that the United States Supreme Court was rendering "decision after decision requiring state universities to admit Negro students under certain conditions," Zwingle went on to say, "Thus every church related college was placed in the position of choosing whether to continue an undemocratic practice while at the same time proclaiming a special responsibility for promulgating a Christian view of life."

In answer to those criticizing the lack of publicity Zwingle added, "After consulting with a number of people and reviewing my own experience during the war, I concluded that there should be the least possible

publicity. ... the policy had been declared but we wished to make the step quietly so as to create the least possible discomfort both on the part of the Negro students and of those who might feel required to oppose the move if a great public noise were made about it." (Zwingle to Alumni, March 19, 1951)

President Zwingle worked closely with the alumni association, at least according to the minutes of meetings. He seemed to be very cognizant of the special feeling that many alumni had for the college and made every effort to see that the alumni were happy. He was also grateful for the big increase in alumni support. He attended many Alumni Day planning meetings. I do not know if he wanted to control things or just see how he and the alumni could cooperate. It is possible that he wanted to be available to explain the college policy on race relations should the subject arise.

Strangely, no discussion on the subject of Negro enrollment appears in minutes of the executive council or in the Alumniad. This may have been the result of Dr. Zwingle's wish for very little publicity.

After much study, college Dean E. McClung Fleming had to recommend that one of the African American students leave Park at the end of the second semester because of low grades.

George Sweet, '33, President (1950-1951)  
No Editor's name listed.

### 1951-1952

Two items of business were voted on at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting.

A new award was introduced: "Outstanding Mother of a Park Student" and was awarded to Mrs. H.V.S. Peeke, mother of four sons, three daughters and seventeen grandchildren, many of whom were Park Alumni.

A decision was made to expand the council membership from six to twelve and to include members from out of the Kansas City area to insure wider geographical representation. They were to be kept informed by mail if they could not attend meetings.

At the banquet, the trustees proposed a new campaign called the Sustaining Fund. They sought to raise \$300,000.00 in three years from major donors and corporations. Bill Dunseth, '42, president-elect of the alumni association was asked to meet with a committee to determine how alumni might help; the committee decided to solicit names of prospective donors from the alumni.

The Diamond Jubilee Fund was to close on December 31. Payments on \$65,000.00 in pledges had reached \$55,000.00. It was doubted that the \$10,000.00 would come in. Alumniad, November, 1951.

The 1951 flood hit Parkville in July and did about \$10,000.00 damage to college property including the loss of crops in the bottomlands and some damage to the power plant. (Alumniad, September, 1951)

The September Alumniad carried an article about an aspect of the work program that had been in development for five years. The program was called "Student Industries;" students managed the bookstore, the greenhouses, the theater, the Jolly Roger, and the laundry. Student Industries also supervised the janitorial staff. These were run as small businesses managed by students. Students worked their way up into Industry positions by their sophomore or junior years by showing evidence of leadership in previous assignments.

The same issue carried a report of an Alumni work day spent painting Alumni Hall. The volunteers were members of the Heart of America Chapter.

Park students planned and carried out the first November Homecoming. No details have been found on the number of alumni who attended although the students had sent letters to folks in six surrounding states. The first homecoming queen was Nadine Bynum, x'54.

A new campaign called the "Alumni Continuing Fund" was created and kicked off in a novel way. President Zwingle appeared on a Kansas City TV program around which were planned 10 alumni TV parties at various homes. Pledge cards were distributed, returned to a central location and tallied that evening. Elmer Norrington, '20 was the fund chairman. The pledges made during this event amounted to \$1500.00 annually. (Alumniad, January 1952)

All money donated to the Continuing Fund was placed in the college account of the Executive Council. The total expenses of the Alumni Office were paid from the fund and the Council decided where the remainder would be used. Most was designated for campus improvements as suggested by President Zwingle. The Executive Council did not really control any of the money even though they raised it.

One of the goals of the Continuing Fund was to get as many alumni as possible to contribute, even if they gave only one dollar. Giving statistics of the alumni were very important when convincing foundations and

major donors to give. Their question was "How many Alumni support their college?" not necessarily "How much do they give?"

Money for the first year of the Continuing Fund was given to the general operating fund of the college.

An alumni survey was sent out with the January Alumniad to help gather biographical information on alumni and to solicit feelings about how well the college prepared the alumni for their careers and daily lives.

**Bill Dunseth,'42, was named dean of men and assistant to the president in alumni and fund raising areas. He attempted to resign as president-elect of the alumni association but the council did not accept it. (Executive Council Minutes, January 21, 1952)**

World-Wide Park College Day had not been celebrated since 1943 because of World War II. A committee was asked to examine reviving it.

Marvin Brooks became the first African American to graduate from Park College June 2, 1952. Marvin went on to become an outstanding Kansas City educator and school principal.

Malcolm Magers,'20, President. (1951-1952)  
Again, no editor listed.

### 1952-1953

Again, many announcements and little business were the order of the day at the May 31, 1952 annual meeting. Much had been accomplished in Executive Council meetings during the year including a decision to subsidize the banquet. Alumni were paying \$1.50 for the dinner but that wasn't enough to provide a quality meal for all the extra guests: trustees, faculty, seniors, the 50 year class and special guests. The banquets were held in Commons.

George Robb,'12, treasurer of the alumni endowment fund reported that it had grown to \$10,135.00 after having been moved out of government securities into high-grade stock. Interest from this fund was used to subsidize some alumni events, in particular, the annual banquets. There are no Executive Council minutes from Oct. 6, 1952-Nov. 13, 1953.

At the council meeting of June 27, 1952, Bill Dunseth reported on the cost of alumni day : \$439.36 had been spent on printing costs and subsidizing the Alumni Banquet; the bills were paid with interest from the life membership funds.

Nine African-American students were admitted to Park in the fall, four men and five women. By the end of the school year, several had left. One new problem was described as "limited opportunities for close companionship. The problem of dating frequently came up." (Fleming to Zwingle, May 27, 1953)

Another situation arose when two of the African American girls were denied service at Hauber's soda fountain in Parkville and were humiliated. Although not described in detail, there was "an incident." Apparently, some faculty members and students wanted to organize a boycott of the store. College Dean E. McClung Fleming responded in writing that, "community attitudes are not improved by the deliberate creation of incidents which challenge those attitudes." (Fleming to Fewson, May 8, 1953). He strongly urged, with Zwingle's hearty approval, that cool heads prevail and he won.

The school continued to move forward and opened the pool for use by the local Negro Boy Scout Troop.

**N.B. The folder containing these letters has no documents after 1953. Much more research needs to be done. If there was a large disturbance among the alumni, I have no evidence of it.**

The second homecoming was held on October 17 and 50 alumni attended. An article in the Alumniad pointed out that attendance was up from the previous year.

Jenkin David created a singing group named the Park Singers. The Singers entertained at various functions in Kansas City, especially in VA hospitals. (Alumniad, December, 1952) The early groups were trios, named "the blonde trio" and "the redheads)

The Park Singers became a semi-professional group and represented the cream of the crop of those with musical abilities. Auditions were rigorous and performing schedules required travel to alumni meetings, corporate meetings and public gatherings. The group was excellent for public relations and was in existence until 1975. Many Singers alumni remember their experience with tremendous nostalgia and some have participated in recent reunions.

On April 1, 1953, the college sold Hawley Lake and 500 acres to Richard Riss, owner of a North Kanas City trucking company, stating that the school could not afford to repair the dam or to develop the land. Mr. Riss wanted to develop lakeside lodges for corporate guests and also home sites. (Alumniad, April, 1953) This was not done until 1987.

The sale upset many alumni, in particular, members of the class of 1950 who had just completed a shelter house at the lake.

Bill Dunseth, '42, President. (1952-1953)  
No Editor listed.

#### 1953-1954

There are no minutes of the annual meeting, nor is there a report in the Alumniad. Alumni Day was held on May 30, 1953.

Chuck Edwards, '42, was elected for a three-year term on the Associate Council at the May 30 annual meeting. (Alumniad, June, 1953).

A budget of \$7890.00 was proposed for the Alumni Association for 1953-54. (Council Minutes, June 28, 1953)

There was much discussion at council meetings about revitalizing alumni chapters. No reason was given for their weakness. The council decided to use World Wide Park College Day to encourage chapter meetings. The date was set as January 29, 1954 and since the date was between semesters, college officials would be free to travel to the various larger meetings. (Council Minutes, November 13, 1953)

The council also discussed methods of recruiting students; Jenkin David had lately become an assistant to President Zwingle and before that had served as admissions director. Park had never had an organized admissions department before his tenure because relatives, ministers and alumni had always recommended Park to prospective students. It was hoped that alumni chapters would help in this effort. (Minutes, Nov. 13, 1953)

World- Wide Alumni Day was successful – at least twelve meetings were held around the nation and college representatives attended each one.

President Emeritus Hawley died on July 29, 1953 and alumni wanted to erect a suitable memorial. It was decided to build a dormitory in memory of both Dr. and Mrs. Hawley and all funds donated to the continuing fund for the next two years would be donated to it. (Alumniad, December, 1953) The remainder of the cost would be made up by foundations and corporations. Gifts to the 1952-1953 Continuing Fund totaled \$12,454.92, given to the General Operating Fund.

**Bill Dunseth, '42, was named vice president of the college; his main responsibility was public relations, alumni office work and fund raising. (Alumniad, December, 1953)**

Parkville assisted in Homecoming, hosting a parade and encouraging store window displays. There was no mention of how many alumni attended.

**The executive council appointed a committee to review the purposes of the Alumni Association. THIS SHOULD BE DONE AGAIN; IT IS LONG OVERDUE. The committee was asked "to study the purposes, organization, constitution and by-laws, traditions and finances of the Alumni Association of Park and of colleges of a similar calibre. The Association needs to compare itself with others to see how it can improve, and to review its own past history in order to discover where it has been effectual, in what areas it has fallen down and what its present status is."**  
(Council minutes, Feb. 2, 1954)

The interest from the alumni endowment fund had grown to \$3000.00. The council voted to divide it equally among the three academic divisions of the college. The alumni felt it was necessary to help raise faculty morale. To my knowledge, that was their entire income. This had also been done back in 1888 to help pay teacher salaries. (Council minutes, March 1, 1954)

The Park College Student Council created "The Little Hoover Commission" to investigate all aspects of college life and their relationship to student government. One of Little Hoover's main tasks was to evaluate the status and function of the brother-sister clubs.

Arthur Shaw, '25, President. (1953-1954)  
No Editor listed.

### 1954-1955

The annual business meeting was held on May 29, 1954. The chief item of business was an amendment to the constitution regarding the disposition of the Alumni Endowment Fund. The amendment clarified the status of the alumni endowment fund. It was renamed "Alumni Fund of the Park College Alumni Association." The fund became capital and the interest ordinary income. The ordinary income could, after a vote by the council, be used for expenses. The entire fund was to be placed in the hands of a custodian who would see that the capital was properly invested and who would spend the ordinary income as directed. T. Bruce Robb, '12, continued as custodian.

The council's proposal to give the \$3000 interest from the endowment fund to the college was approved by the association. \$1000 was to be given to each of the three academic divisions: humanities, natural science and social science. College Dean E. McClung Fleming thanked the association

for this great boost to academics and for the moral support. (Alumniad, June, 1954)

Donna Spellman Merrill, '53 was chosen executive secretary of the alumni association, the first in many years. Her responsibilities were the Alumniad and the operation of the Alumni office. This was due to Vice-President Dunseth, who had been working hard to assemble a Public Relations staff. The office was divided into four bases, Development, alumni, promotion of special events and publicity. This was the first time the college made a commitment to these fields and was probably the result of the study initiated by Dr. Zwingle. I do not know how much the various people were paid. (Alumniad, June, 1954)

A committee was proposed to study the Alumniad regarding size, content and general policy. They were given a deadline of August to come up with firm suggestions regarding the size and scope of the publication. If there is no report by that time, the council decided to continue the Alumniad as is.

Continuing Fund donations were placed in the Hawley Memorial Dormitory fund. As of June, 1954, \$14,133.89 had been pledged but only \$7,763.59 had been paid. There are no follow-up figures. (Both items from Council Minutes, June 23, 1954) Note: There are no further council minutes until November. I can find no mention of the Alumniad.

Jenkin David resigned his position in September.

**Dr. Zwingle had sought advice concerning the lack of good public relations at the college. One of the recommendations was that the college should hire someone to assume charge of the alumni office, the continuing fund and the sustaining fund. There was strong feeling that the choice should be an alumna or alumnus.**

There are no figures regarding the trustees' Sustaining Fund total. I don't know if they raised the \$300,000 as planned.

At the November Council Meeting, committees were established for Chapter Organization, Finance, World Wide Park College Day, Alumni Day and Alumni Awards. Chapters were not doing well. The council had mailed questionnaires to the twenty-six chapters on record and discovered that only twenty were still functioning and those, not very well. The chapter presidents listed several reasons in the December, 1954 Alumniad.

Foremost was the feeling that the only reason the college was interested in maintaining chapters was to raise money. Other reasons noted were



difficulty in entertaining a broad span of generations at meetings, geographical limitations and lack of local leadership. Most highly motivated alumni, those who would make good chapter leaders, were also deeply involved in their communities and other organizations. They didn't have the time to "stir up group interest." The hope was that the Chapter Organization Committee could come up with some answers.

In April, the campus "Little Hoover Commission" (I don't know where the name originated, perhaps from J. Edgar?) completed its study of school activities. At the time, five brother-sister clubs existed (LLC, PCC, OAC, LEC and ACC) and a decision was made to eliminate one of them because the student body of 500 was too small to sustain all five. This was to be done by a vote of the students, each of whom would indicate a first, second and third choice of clubs. Only the three men's and three women's clubs receiving the highest number of votes would continue to operate. It didn't work exactly as planned.

The voting was in support of four brother-sister clubs instead of three, and so it stood. LLC was dropped because of lagging membership and lack of initiative. Although LLC members vigorously protested, they could not prevail. Regardless, they did win one concession, that the club would be suspended, not abolished. The October, 1954 Alumniad carried an entire column on the subject, leading with this paragraph:

"A poignant note in the rushing on campus this fall was the conspicuous absence of the Lowell-Lucerne banner and colors. An inscription on a Parchevard-Calliopean poster – 'the oldest club on campus' – would have been hotly contested a year ago but this fall it aroused little comment. Where there were five, now there are four social clubs; the sound and fury have died away and students have become reconciled to the temporary discontinuance of the LLCs last spring."

Required chapel had been replaced with voluntary attendance, a policy that failed. This year attendance was required every other Sunday. This new approach required students to hand in attendance slips.

Pauline Hawley died December 3, 1954 and was suitably eulogized.

Alumni were urged to help recruit students for Park by hosting receptions for high school graduates and participating in college fairs. The Kansas City Chapter had hosted a reception on campus for 22 high school students, and the St. Louis and Chicago chapters had held parties for prospective students. (Council Minutes, January, 1955)

**On January 18, 1955, Dr. Zwingle announced his resignation, effective July 1, 1955. He had been asked to serve as vice-**

president of Cornell University, a position too good to turn down. An editorial about him appeared in the January 20 Kansas City Times and reads, in part:

**“In his seven years as president of Park College, Dr. Zwingle has demonstrated what can be accomplished by the tactful but firm application of high principles.**

**He took over administration of a small college which had just passed through an internal crisis. The immediate prospect was bleak. He will leave Park at the end of the academic year with perhaps the brightest outlook that institution has had in its entire history, as a result of efforts that have provided harmony at all levels.”**

Most of the remaining council meetings were taken up with event planning, and no reports appear from the committees on the Alumniad or on the Alumni Association in general.

David J. Dixon, '46, President. (1954-1955)

#### **1955-1956**

The annual meeting was held on May 28, 1955. The association voted to appropriate \$800.00 of ordinary income to fund a history of Park College to be compiled by former college dean Walter Sanders. No other business was conducted, just many announcements.

Much of the Alumniad during the previous year was devoted to reporting on Park's academic programs and the campus. A particularly interesting article regarding the academic program appears in the June, 1955 issue. It reveals that the extensive educational planning undertaken by Dean Sanders before World War II had been considerably interrupted by the Navy V-12 program. Post war planning had suffered from the Rohrbough controversy and one of Dr. Zwingle's first priorities when he took office in 1947 had been to give clear direction to the academic program. A two-year curriculum study had been inaugurated in 1949 that culminated in "The Park College Plan." The plan consisted of an integrated curriculum aimed at educating the "whole man."

The 1955 catalogue explains it thusly: "It is not only fitting but also essential for a liberal arts college to aim at education of the whole man. Although the development of the intellectual powers may be the distinguishing function of an academic institution as against other institutions as the family and the church, it is both possible and desirable for the residential college itself to constitute a community. Thus it should represent many of the interests and demands typical of society in general,

and it should provide ways of continuing the work begun by the family and the home church. The more a college accepts this conclusion, the less danger of its becoming an ivory tower, or of its encouraging a harmful departmentalization of life."

Requirements were strengthened but fewer courses were offered to insure quality over quantity. The article firmly states that "... the curriculum should not be changed continually to reflect passing fads and that there should be firm resistance to the temptation to compete with the state universities."

The trustees named W.E. Phifer, board member and minister of Central Presbyterian Church in Kansas City as acting president. (Alumniad, June 1955)

Constant reporting on fund raising was eliminated from the Alumniad, at least for the time being.

Chesnut Hall burned on October 19, 1955. The male students who had lived there were moved to Stephens Cottage on the hill above Commons. Stephens had been hastily built in the 1940s to provide housing during the post war attendance boom. The Women of Stephens were moved to fourth floor Hawley. This may have been the time that the Chesnut social club was born. The men wanted to retain their identity and perpetuate the name of their former home. No official notice of the club's creation has been found at this writing.

An article in the October, 1955 Alumniad about the Alumni Council included the following objectives for 1955-56: to encourage each alumnus to introduce prospective students to Park; to encourage each alumnus to exhibit an active pride in Park; to encourage each alumnus to make some contribution to the Continuing Fund.

This same Alumniad carried a convocation speech delivered by Dr. Robert E. Long on September 19. Curiously, the issue contains no announcement that he had been selected as the new president of the college, nor did it contain any biographical information on him. The executive council minutes do not mention him, either, and it does not appear that he came to any meetings.

A lengthy article in the December, 1955 Alumniad described a long range development plan which was recommended by a joint committee of trustees and faculty. (attached)

**The plan reported that the college continued to reach out to foundations and corporations as well as alumni for financial**

support. Once again, it was duly noted that these two entities would first ask, "How many alumni contribute to the college?" not "How much do they give?" Only 15% to 18% of the alumni had been contributing on an annual basis. Apparently, emphasis on the Continuing Fund hadn't helped very much.

The report ended with an admonition that more alumni support was needed and that "the future of Park College is waiting on its alumni."

World Wide Park College Day was held on February 10 and consisted of chapter meetings. Dr. Long was to attend in Boston, New Jersey and Philadelphia and Bill Dunseth was to travel to Minneapolis. The programs consisted of recordings made by the choir, college officials and students.

**Dr. Robert E. Long was inaugurated president of Park College on April 11, 1956. The April Alumniad carried a full description of the inaugural festivities but still did not provide a biography of him. Ground was broken for Hawley Dormitory on inauguration day.**

One of Long's first acts as president had been to increase faculty salaries by 20%, an amount unheard of in those days. (Alumniad, February, 1956)

Frances Holloway Dunn, x'44 was appointed Alumni Secretary. I think she was also a secretary to Dr. Long. One of her duties was editing the Alumniad.

Robert P. Corbett, '38, President (1955-1956)

#### 1956-1957

The annual meeting was held on May 26, 1956. The association voted to allocate \$700.00 to Dean Sanders for his history project and to set up a committee to help him. College Vice President Bill Dunseth reported that Hawley Dormitory was underway, there were plans for a home economics building and practice house to be erected north of the science hall and that five new faculty houses would be built in the area of the apple cellar near Alfalfa Point.

The association passed a resolution that the proposed new library be named for the McAfee family. A group of older alumni had been agitated for years that there was no sort of memorial to the McAfees. It is possible that naming the new dormitory for Dr. Hawley had spurred them to make a statement.

Miss Ethel Lyon was honored for her 39 years of service to Park. Ethel had been chair of the English Department for many years and was credited with developing an excellent program.

A group of influential alumni, headed by Robert Gibson,'25 and Frederick Hawley,Jr., '19, met in Chicago on September 21 to discuss the situation at the college. President Long attended along with the president of the board of trustees, Robert W. Long. Both Longs explained the poor financial picture and stressed the fact that alumni needed to give more to support Park. It was noted that Park had yet to decide what type of school it was to become. The old philosophy of providing a college education, through work, to those who could not afford it elsewhere was still in effect, but was putting the college budget in the red. The work program was not the help that it once was. In order to continue providing a high quality education at low cost, Park would require an endowment and outside support far in excess of what could be anticipated.

Changes in the work program were controversial because, for many of the older alumni, it had been the only means of earning a college degree. The required work program was also viewed as a means of building character, one which gave Park graduates a "can do" attitude and produced citizens who were not afraid of work. These generalizations were firm beliefs of many alumni, and those same folks were very vocal and made vehement objections when any changes were made.

On the other hand, by 1956, the country was enjoying a post war boom and times were good. Some present at the Chicago meeting felt that required work may even be a deterrent to enrollment. Others believed that abandonment of the work program, even if it remained as a voluntary program, would mean the loss of Park's uniqueness. Finally, it was a well-known fact that if the work program were suddenly abolished, costs would rise because of the need to hire people to take the students' places. It was a very complicated problem.

Conclusions were that the college needed to reach out to inform alumni; that chapters needed to help recruit students; that regional meetings, such as this one should take place more often and that more alumni should be invited to the campus more often. Another conclusion was that alumni needed to increase giving and that the class agent system should be strengthened. Those present felt that \$100,000.00 per year was a realistic goal.

Reports of the meeting appeared in the October, 1956 Alumniad and were followed in subsequent issues by appeals for money. The financial situation was clearly spelled out and the alumni executive council endorsed the project.

Total giving to the Continuing fund for 1955-1956 was \$15,878.19.

The effort to revitalize chapters seemed to work; at least 15 were active.

The Alumni Council appointed several Alumni to the Parkana Committee.

Dr. John Schnabel, director of admissions, chastised the alumni for not sending their children to Park. He had been director of admissions for two years as well as a professor in the education department. (Council Minutes, October 2, 1956)

Jean Curl,'50 headed the Alumni Association Admissions Committee that planned to bring high school students to campus in small groups during weekends. She and classmate Bobbie Gray encouraged many high school students to attend Park including at least two who became Alumni Association Presidents, Rosemary Fry Plakas,'63 and Deanna Medlin Armstrong,'70.

The Cornerstone for Hawley Dormitory was laid on October 27, 1956. (Alumniad, December, 1956)

The Executive Council had not established formal criteria for the Distinguished Alumni Award when the honor was created in 1949 and the following statement of principle was adopted at their November 5, 1956 meeting:

#### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

**"The Park College Catalogue contains the following as a statement of its objectives for its students:**

**'Park College aims to develop within each student his highest potential for a richly rewarding and responsible life. It seeks to educate men and women who will not only satisfy their own highest aspirations, but who will interpret their whole college experience ..... as an obligation to the society which made this experience possible ..... an obligation to be discharged in service through whatever life work they may choose.**

**The social contribution of the liberal arts college is the education of leaders ..... Park College believes that its aims and objectives remain demonstrably realistic and responsive to the demands for leadership in our society today.'**

**Through the institution of the Distinguished Alumni Award the Alumni Association wishes to acknowledge its continued belief in the validity of these objectives for the college as well as to honor**

those of its members who have most notably evidenced in their lives the results of their experiences at Park.

More specifically, the award should go to those alumni who have records of leadership demonstrated by outstanding vocational achievement, community service, church activity and service to Park. The degree of leadership will vary but it is hoped that it will be present in each area to some degree.

A condition of the award is that the recipient must be present to receive it." Forms for nominations were printed in the Alumniad, a committee established to select five candidates and the selections were made by the Executive Council.

Hawley dormitory for women was opened on January 21.

In April, Bill Dunseth announced his resignation, effective July 1, 1957. He left to take a position as Director of Public Relations at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. (Alumniad, April, 1957)

Alumni Hall burned beyond repair on May 6, 1957. Within one month, more than \$192,000.00 had been raised toward the estimated \$225,000.00 needed to replace the building. \$26,182.09 of this was contributed by the alumni.

The largest alumni gift for the new building was \$40,900.00 from Marvin and Rose Ann Carr Millsap, x'27/'25, designated for a large home economics department in memory of their mothers.

Alva King, '12, President (1956-1957)  
Frances Dunn, Editor

#### 1957-1958

The annual meeting was held on June 1, 1957. Little business was conducted but there were several reports. The Parkana Committee had drafted the history of Park from 1873-1913 and the association voted to give them an additional \$700 to continue their work.

Dr. W.A. Myers offered to raise money for a bronze plaque in memory of Joseph Ernest McAfee to be placed in the new alumni hall. The association approved.

Dr. Long reported on the statue of the continuing fund and the alumni hall fund. The alumni had contributed \$30,324.47 to the continuing fund and \$23,353.09 to alumni hall.

Plans for the new alumni building appeared in the June, 1957 Record and the accompanying description stated that the original stone walls would be retained and that the stone arches would be placed in the lobby. The building resembled a large, brick box.

On August 2, the cornerstone of the original Alumni Hall and its contents were removed. The tin box that held items from 1902 survived the fire. The box and its contents are in the archives.

By September, the cost for the new building had risen because the old stone walls were judged unsafe and were torn down.

During the fiscal year 1956-1957, the alumni gave \$31,021.83 to the Continuing Fund, in addition to the Alumni Hall contributions, and \$9,202.05 to restricted projects. The grand total was \$63,021.83 from 34% of the alumni. (Alumniad, Nov.1957).

President Long made many speeches in which he mentioned his respect for the alumni and his gratitude for all they had done. Later in the year, however, he found himself defending changes at the college. Apparently, alumni had been questioning the work program, the religious program and other aspects of college life.

The cornerstone for new Alumni Hall was set in place on January 17 and the building was under construction most of the year. The kindest word used to describe its plain, angular appearance was "austere." Although not described in the Alumniad or in the council minutes, alumni reaction was decidedly negative when they learned that their beautiful hall was to be replaced with a "box." I know this from my long acquaintance with older alumni who often mentioned their disappointment.

Alumni gave \$25,404.00 in unrestricted funds during 1957-1958 but raised restricted giving by 17%. (Alumniad, February, 1959). This could have been a reaction to the ugly building or simply the result of double contributions during the previous year.

J. Warner Brown,'13, President (1957-1958)  
Frances Dunn, Editor

#### 1958-1959

The annual meeting was held on June 6, 1958 in the Community Presbyterian Church in the church's basement meeting hall after a breakfast served by the ladies of the church.

Funding was continued for Dean Sanders' history project and paid from the alumni endowment fund interest. The endowment fund had earned



\$1,307.82 that year. Dr. T. Bruce Robb, '12, resigned as manager of the fund and plans were made to ask Bob Corbett, '38 to become manager. Dr. Robb had served since the fund was created in 1940.

Three bronze plaques were presented to the college: A list of the "Original Seventeen," paid for by their descendants, a plaque honoring Charles Patrick Breen, paid for by his descendants and a plaque honoring Joseph Ernest McAfee, paid for by funds raised by John Meyers, '01. They were to be permanently displayed in the new Alumni Hall. Today the Breen plaque is in Mackay, the McAfee plaque is in the archives and the Original Seventeen plaque is in Alumni Hall.

Harrison Meteheny, '14 made a gavel of wood from old Alumni Hall and presented it to the Alumni Association. (Annual Meeting Minutes, June 6, 1958) It is in the archives.

Alumni Hall, although unfinished, was dedicated during Alumni Weekend.

**Chuck Edwards, '42, was hired by the college as Alumni Secretary and Public Relations Director on September 8, 1958.**

The Executive Council considered, then rejected an idea to allow advertising in the Alumniad. (Council Minutes, October 6, 1958)

**President Long resigned unexpectedly on October 21 and was replaced by Marion Stooker, a former member and former president of the board of trustees. Dr. Long stated that he had an honest difference of opinion with the board – apparently they felt he had been more of a counselor than a strong leader. (Alumniad, November, 1958)**

**Dr. Long had no administrative experience when he was hired – only teaching. His most recent employment had been with the State Department in Paris. Perhaps this is why so little background information was printed about him. He also stated that "the things which have been maliciously said about me and my administration are not accepted by the trustees as the basis for our differences of opinion." This rather Clintonesque statement may have been made because there had been gossip about him and a secretary.**

Chuck Edwards began to spend a great deal of his time organizing new alumni chapters and reorganizing the older ones.

Alumni Hall was finished and in use sometime during the second semester, 1959. The Alumni Office was once more moved to Alumni Hall and the furnishings paid for by the Class of 1907. (Alumniad, February, 1959)

**Dr. Paul Hampton Morrill was selected as President of the college. His degrees were in English Literature, but he had served as a public relations man and fundraiser for Wooster College. The announcement was made at a press conference at the Hotel Muelhbach on May 29, 1959. (Alumniad, July, 1959)**

Joseph Sefcik,'43, President (1958-1959)  
Chuck Edwards,'42, Editor after November.

### 1959-1960

The annual meeting on May 30 was again held in Whipple Hall at the Parkville Community Church. Dr. Morrill was introduced and "made a short talk."

Chuck Edwards reported a total of 27 active chapters. Chuck had also prepared a chapter organization handbook to assist in forming new alumni chapters. In addition, he aggressively pursued planned giving and encouraged alumni to remember Park in their wills. Another improvement was the organization of the alumni files. Files were created for each alumnus/alumna for whom there was information. This forms the basis of the alumni files we have today.

The association voted to allocate another \$700 to Dean Sanders for his work on the history of Park.

Former college president William Lindsay Young died on July 22, 1959 at his home in Los Angeles of an apparent heart attack. He was 66 years old.

Three major decisions were made at the October 6 Executive Council meeting:

1. The Executive Council decided to print Alumni Day information in the February issue of the Alumniad and then place the full schedule of events in the April issue. This is still done, or should be.
2. Dean Sanders had decided to end the Park History with the administration of the last president "not now living," William Lindsay Young. He and Dr. Morrill believed that one "can't write objectively about the administrations of presently living presidents.

3. The alumni office was moved from new alumni hall to Mackay so that better communication could exist between the president and the alumni association. The furniture given by the class of 1907 was also moved to the roomier quarters.

The Alumni Council was still handling most of the planning of Harvest Festival, Founder's Day and Alumni Day.

Chuck began to work with the Park Singers as a public relations draw, taking them on trips and distributing Park literature at every stop. It is obvious that the college was making a financial commitment to alumni work.

A new alumni directory was planned for 1960 at the cost of \$5000. Dr. Morrill wanted to send it free to all alumni.

Presbyterian Ministers were asked to mention Park College to their congregations. There was much discussion about this that was not recorded.

Chuck began to collect 8x10 photos of all past alumni association presidents and hung them in the alumni office. We still have these.

Alumni reunion activities were still planned during commencement weekend. All alumni were invited to attend commencement and baccalaureate ceremonies on Sunday. Friday was usually a dinner for the 50 year class and Saturday was still called "Alumni Day." Other events were scheduled such as student concerts, but Saturday was the day for class reunion luncheons, annual business meeting and the banquet. In addition, Alumni festivities were combined with Dr. Morrill's inauguration.

World Wide Park College Day was planned to celebrated at chapter meetings to take place during January, 1959. The meetings were held on different dates to allow Chuck to attend some of them. (Council Minutes, December 16, 1958) The event was losing steam and was nothing like the earlier celebrations.

Chuck Edwards continued to increase the number of chapters. He prepared another chapter handbook and list of pertinent facts to be sent to all chapter leaders and prospective organizers. (Alumniad, February, 1960)

The designation "Alumni Weekend" first appeared in the Alumniad and other publications.

Jean Curl,'50, was honored for her devotion to alumni work and her concentration on recruiting students for the college. (Alumniad, May, 1960)

Sarah Osborne,'28, was appointed alumni recorder. She and Janet Pollock worked to locate lost alumni and to find those former students who qualified as alumni (having attended one year in college or academy.) Sarah had already been doing this for years.

A great deal of the Alumniad was taken up with chapter reports during 1958-59.

Dean Walter Sanders completed his Park history up to 1943. As planned, it ended with the administration of Dr. William Lindsay Young. There was some discussion about this at the May 3 Executive Council meeting. Bruce Robb suggested that the Parkana Committee had no real responsibility for further disposition of the manuscript [meaning, I think, paying to publish it] and Dr. Morrill stated that there were no funds in the college budget to publish it. The alumni association had paid for the work since 1956. The council decided to appoint a committee to decide the future course. This idea would be presented at the annual meeting.

Jean Curl,'50, President (1959-1960)  
Chuck Edwards,'42 Editor.

#### 1960-1961

The annual meeting was held on June 4, 1960. This year, the breakfast was held in Commons, not at the Presbyterian Church, and the meeting was held immediately afterwards.

Outgoing President Curl announced that the Continuing Fund had fallen short of its goal of \$45,000; to date \$26,000 had been received. The alumni Council recommended a goal of \$50,00 for the coming year and the association approved it.

Surprisingly, the association voted to move World Wide Park College Day and Founders Day to April 12. This was done to allow more faculty and student participation.

Dean Sanders' Park History was accepted for publication and the association thanked him profusely for his work. Frances Fishburn moved to abolish the Parkana Committee as it was mainly a support group for Sanders. Motion carried.

Another committee was formed to investigate publishing the history and possibly continuing it. They were asked to give a report at the next annual meeting.

Finally, Chuck Edwards reported that the emphasis on chapters had resulted in an increase in giving. He and President Morrill had traveled to many meetings and he believed that keeping the alumni well informed was one of the best ways to maintain alumni interest. Further, he recommended that reunion classes elect a class secretary who could help members keep in touch. The meeting ended with the singing of Park songs led by Jim Cariddi,'49. (Annual Meeting Minutes, June 4, 1960)

After the annual meeting, preliminary plans were drawn up for The Friends of the Library. The organization was officially inaugurated on November 30, 1960. S.A.M. King, ex acad.'20 was the first president, English professor Elizabeth Campbell was vice president and Frances Fishburn,'21, was treasurer.

The largest freshman class since 1948 enrolled in the fall, 183 from 23 states and 5 foreign countries.

Fall enrollment was 400, up from 320. As a result, the Student Council voted to allow a fifth brother-sister club and Lowell-Lucerne was reinstated in April of 1961. The membership practices and initiations were strictly governed by the Inter Club Council, or ICC.

The college created the English Language Institute (ELI). To help foreign students adjust to life and school in the United States.

In October, the Council recommended that Chuck develop an Alumni Association Membership Card.

In November, Jean Curl,'50 and Bob Corbett,'38 were appointed to review and revise the Alumni Association By-Laws and prepare a report for the annual meeting.

An amphitheater was designed for Dear Park and a set of arches from old Alumni Hall were placed in the park as an entryway. Dear Park was an area across from Dearing and Chesnut and was once a tree-filled garden spot. It was named Dear Park in the early 1900s because it was once the only place that male and female students could stroll together unchaperoned. The class of 1917 paid for the construction as a memorial to Laurence Hurley,'17. (Alumniad, November, 1961) These same arches were moved to the underground campus in the 1980s and now stand outside the library. I am not sure if the amphitheater was ever finished.

The Park Singers made an extensive tour of the east coast and performed 10 engagements for alumni, church and high school gatherings. The trip was a great success and resulted in many requests for admissions materials.

The cornerstone for Dearing Hall, a dormitory for 103 men, was laid on April 29, 1961. Dearing was built on the site of old Chesnut Hall and was dedicated on October 20, 1961. There is a file on this in the archives.

At the March Council meeting, Bill Tipton,'28, suggested that the Heart of America Chapter be revived by including local alumni in Harvest Festival and Spring Festival activities. This was tried again in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 with dubious success. I will have to check the numbers, but I know the 1995 alumni turnout was dismal.

Also in March, the council voted to ask the college to supply more money for the Alumniad so that it could be expanded to cover all the activity generated by Chuck. In addition, they noted that this increase in alumni activity had also increased giving. The effort was unsuccessful; no more money was allocated that year.

The council was still meeting monthly, usually at someone's home.

There is no information about World Wide Park College Day in the minutes or in the Alumniad. Founders Day was celebrated on May 12 by the Heart of America Chapter in Kansas City. (Alumniad, July, 1961) It seems as if the April 12 date hadn't gone over very well.

Helen Peterson White,'30, President (1960-1961)  
Chuck Edwards,'42, Editor.

### 1961-1962

The annual meeting, June 3, was opened with community singing, followed by "Mr. George Parks,'21, who played selections on his trombone, accompanied by his twin sister, Ermine,'21."

The alumni endowment fund was valued at \$34,668.24. The fund began with life membership dues at about \$5000; the increase was due to judicious investments made by T. Bruce Robb.

The revised constitution and by-laws were approved at the annual meeting. Among the major changes :

Active membership was allowed for those who were registered students in college or Academy for one semester or more instead of one year.

Six Associate Councilmen were added to the Executive Council. They were from all over the country and it was hoped that they would assist in their geographical areas. They were not allowed to vote, however.

The title "Executive Secretary" was changed to "Director of Alumni Affairs."

A section was added to the constitution requiring the Council to meet each month, holding regular meetings October through June instead of holding only two regular meetings.

Nominations for officers and councilmen could be signed by five members instead of fifteen.

Article VI was amended to include several more standing committees: Continuing Fund, Chapter Organization, World-Wide Park College Day and Founders Day, Alumni Awards, Alumni Day, Admissions Committee, Publicity, Class Agents, Harvest Festival and Spring Festival.

The By Laws were amended to include the Director of Alumni Affairs and list his duties: Conduct the general correspondence of the Association, keep all the required records, files, data and rosters and furnish secretarial assistance to the Association.

The Executive Council still had the responsibility to authorize annual appeals for funds for the college and to maintain full authority over the contents of the Alumniad. Removed was the right to administer any extra money in the Alumni Fund of the college if any remained after paying the expenses of the office and of the Alumniad.

Alumni giving, both restricted and unrestricted was \$41,022.75 for the year 1960-1961. A motion was made and passed that the goal for the 1961-1962 continuing fund be \$55,000 with \$30,000 unrestricted.

The Parkana Committee gave a lengthy report concerning the Sanders History. Four copies of the mimeographed text were to be bound and placed in the library and the committee suggested that pictures and other graphics be selected for placement in the published history. They also requested that income from the alumni fund be used to publish the finished book. All suggestions were approved.

Finally, the president of the newly reactivated Lowell-Lucerne Clubs, Edna Jones, was introduced.

Alumni Weekend events included three dedications: The Park House Museum, Dearing dormitory and the Dear Park Ampitheater.

World Wide Park College Day was moved to April 12 and Founder's Day moved back to May 12.

Dean Walter Sanders died on September 17, 1961. Dean Sanders had been associated with Park College since 1911 and was beloved by generations of alumni. He had been instrumental in obtaining accreditation for the college; had won approval for the school from the American Association of University Women; had created a rigorous honors work program; had instituted comprehensive examinations for all seniors; had established the Alpha Delta honorary scholastic society and had lived to see six former students become college presidents. In retirement, as stated earlier, he served as college historian and compiled a history of the college covering the years 1875-1943.

At the October 12, 1961 Executive Council meeting, Alumni President Paul Kamitsuka, '49, asked what the purpose of the Alumni Association should be and whether it would be wise to elect an outstanding alumnus/alumna as president to conduct two special meetings with a presiding officer conducting the rest. Dr. Morrill felt that the council representation should be composed of "strong personalities from the entire nation and that alumni should have strong representation on the board of trustees."

Paul Kamitsuka felt that future alumni presidents could live out of state and should be individuals who could become members of the board of trustees once their presidential year was up. He also felt the Alumni Director should sit in on board meetings especially since Chuck was doing so much traveling and meeting alumni all over the country. Apparently, although I cannot prove this, some alumni felt that the alumni in general were not considered part of the college decision making process. Paul was also concerned that key staff members have the same fringe benefits as the faculty. (These were not spelled out). It was decided to bring these subjects up at the annual meeting in June.

The Findlay Chair of Science was inaugurated on November 25, 1961. Money had been given by the Findlay children and was augmented by alumni gifts. The gifts made during the two- year campaign amounted to \$72,273.89. (Alumniad, February, 1962)

A Capital Campaign with a goal of \$2,500,000 to be reached by 1965 was unveiled at the December council meeting. The alumni quota was \$500,000 and would be solicited by the Alumni Office and the Development office. Eight geographic areas were designated and key alumni were to be selected to lead the drive in each.



A trimester plan was planned to go into effect in September, 1962. The plan consisted of three 15-week semesters that would allow students to graduate in two years and nine months instead of four. (Alumniad, February, 1962) Student opinion, which appeared in the Stylus, was decidedly negative.

The newspaper also reported many instances of vandalism: broken mirrors, stolen street signs, spray painted walls and excessive litter – in particular, beer cans.

Bill Tipton, '28, offered to use his one month vacation to work on organizing the capital campaign. (Council Minutes, February 2, 1962)

The alumni recruiting effort had paid off. There were 110 students who were relatives of alumni attending the college, one fifth of the student body. A photo of them appears in the February, 1962 Alumniad.

A resolution to have the alumni council be custodian for all Park College historical materials “now collected and those collected in the future” was drawn up at the March council meeting and was to be presented at the annual business meeting. The Parkana Committee had collected enough items to fill the Park House; the old home of George Park had been set up as a museum. The museum remained there until 1992 or 1993 when, for security purposes, all was moved to the Fishburn Archives in the underground library. This move was paid for by the Historical Society. The ownership of these materials needs to be discussed again.

Bobbie Gray was having trouble organizing the Heart of America Chapter – she couldn't get anyone to agree to serve as officers.

Paul Kamitsuka, '49, President (1961-1962)  
Chuck Edwards, '42, Editor

### 1962-1963

Bob Corbett, '38, was authorized to invest the alumni endowment funds and to use his judgement in shifting the money to increase income. This is a notarized statement contained in the June 2 annual meeting minutes.

At the annual meeting, Paul Kamitsuka, '49, urged the alumni to carefully select their leaders; be proud of their school; strive to make Park the best; bring pressure in areas where the Park Family feels strongly about some college action and stand for what they believe in.

The text of the alumni banquet program was printed in its entirety in the July, 1962 Alumniad. Plans for Park's future were outlined and the three-

year capital campaign was explained. It is worth reading and is attached. The program included speeches by some of our most important and enthusiastic alumni, Elmer Norrington,'20, Bill Tipton,'28 and Dr. Paul Wolfe,x'18.

The speeches amounted to a pep rally for the \$2,000,000 growth program and brought the audience to its feet several times. The banquet speeches were recorded and broadcast over WDAF and by direct hook-up to the San Francisco Chapter. The banquet in Commons was attended by 450 people.

The \$500,000 raised from alumni contributors during the capital campaign was to be used to erect a new library, to be named for the McAfee family. The leaders of the eight geographic areas included some of our most noted alumni including Bill Tipton,'28, Bob Gibson,'25, Herbert Wolfe,'18, Donald Magers,'24, Warren Cooksey,'21, Frank Westfall,'25, W. Ward Davis,'14, and Paul Kamitsuka,'49 as division chairmen; Duncan Findlay,'22 as national chair; Carol McAfee Appleby,'21, as honorary chair; Elmer Norrington,'20, president of the board of trustees and Louise Mitchell Bird,'33, President of the association. Each was expected to visit with as many chapters as possible and all were given complete training materials in order to sell the ideas. It was an extremely well organized plan, the alumni portion of which was the creation and responsibility of Chuck Edwards,'42. All of this is explained in the November, 1962 Alumniad.

The President's cup for highest class reunion attendance was first awarded; it was won by the classes of 1917 and 1922 – a tie. The cup was Chuck's idea and quickly became a coveted item. This cup is now in the trophy case in Mackay Hall and should be protected. Actually, it belongs in the alumni office.

The "Challenge Curriculum", a demanding liberal arts program, was instituted in the fall of 1962. Alumni reaction was mixed.

Marvin,x'28 and Rose Ann Carr Millsap,'25, who had given \$49,000.00 to furnish equipment and furnishings for the home economics department were incensed because the entire department was dropped from the curriculum. To my knowledge, it took many years to bring the Millsaps back into the fold.

Proposed buildings were a new student union and an addition to the science hall.

Chuck Edwards stated that space was needed in the new library for all the historical material collected by Dean Sanders and the Parkana committee over the years. The class of 1912 would try to raise money to

build a special room for college memorabilia. (Council minutes, October 5, 1962) This was the beginning of our archives – not completed until 1989.

**Chuck reported that in general the alumni were responsive at various chapter meetings but he still fielded questions about the trimester and challenge curriculum programs which many believed to be “experimental.” (Council minutes, November 2, 1962)**

The chapter slowest to respond was the local Heart of America chapter that Bobbie had so much trouble organizing. It is still the hardest group to mobilize, possibly because they live right here and see no need to become involved, thinking they already know all they need to know. Another reason may be that they see and hear about the college all the time and don't feel the need to attend another meeting to see and hear the same things.

The degree completion program (DCP) for military students was initiated in the fall and placed in the charge of Col. Robert L. Snyder. (Alumniad, November, 1962)

A map of campus growth plans was printed in the February, 1963 Alumniad.

A meeting of the Heart of America group was held on February 15. A questionnaire covering various aspects of the college was handed out and the results discussed at a March Council meeting. Only 25 people attended the meeting, which was held at a church. It is no surprise that they placed strong emphasis on the religious aspect of Park and some were a bit angry at changes that had been made.

Dr. E.L. McQuiddy, '14 created the Distinguished Alumni Medallion. It was to be a permanent award and was first given, along with the traditional certificate, on June 15, 1963. (April, 1963 Alumniad)

Louise Mitchell Bird, '33, President (1962-1963)  
Chuck Edwards, '42, Editor

#### **1963-1964**

The annual business meeting was held on June 15, 1963. Frances Fishburn, '21, having retired as librarian, was appointed college historian and, as of September 1, 1963, was paid \$100.00 per month by the Alumni Association. She had never signed up for the college pension plan and I assume her only income was social security. She may have had some savings interest, but I am not sure.

Other business concerned the Parkana Committee and their recommendations about the Sanders History and the Parkana collection. There was still no decision reached about publishing the book. Many alumni had been sending memorabilia to the college and these were now housed in the Historian's office on the second floor of the library.

18% of the goal of the capital campaign had been reached by June—total from all sources \$354,470.05.

Total giving from alumni for 1962-1963 was \$113,899.17.

For the first time, alumni reunions did not take place during commencement weekend. The trimester program allowed students to complete two semesters of work within 30 weeks and graduation was held on April 22, 1963. Therefore, 1963 was the first year for Alumni Weekend as we know it. It was also the first year for the alumni college program.

Alumni Weekend had mixed reactions. When it was held, the third trimester was in session and there was a Presbyterian Youth Conference on campus. It must have been a real complicated mess and nearly overtaxed the capabilities of Louise Lake, director of Commons. At this time and for many more years, all meals, including the banquet were served on campus. Attendance was very good (no exact number) but there were complaints about Alumni College and the length of speeches at the banquet.

Some council members felt that the goals for Alumni College were unclear. A decision was made to limit award presenters to two minutes and award recipients to five minutes. (Council minutes, June 21, 1963)

The McAfee Memorial Library fund stood at \$176,581.41 in cash and pledges by August, 1963.

In November, 1963, the college cut its advertising budget by \$8,000 and the Alumniad was severely affected. It was changed from a twenty page magazine format to a four-page tabloid type publication. Copy was very limited.

The Alumni Council voted to pay any expenses involved in binding historical materials. (Council minutes, March 1, 1963.)

The Executive Council decided to host the graduating seniors at a banquet arranged by the Heart of America Chapter. The dinner was held on April 16 at the Gold Buffet restaurant in North Kansas City and included a program to welcome the seniors into the alumni association. Remember, Park was still on the trimester program and graduation would be in April. The banquet was judged a success – 60 seniors were present. The event cost \$256.00.

Students formed the Student Union Development Committee (SUDC) to help raise money for a new student union building. They held a carnival and auction on February 28 and 29 and raised \$200.00. (Alumniad, April, 1964)

Bill Tipton, '28, President (1963-1964)  
Chuck Edwards, '42, Editor

### 1964-1965

The annual meeting was held on June 13, 1964. Two motions were passes: that the Heart of America continue to sponsor banquets for graduating seniors and that the secretary and treasurer terms be extended to two years.

Alumni Weekend was successful, over 200 attended. Pete Jackson was awarded a citation from the alumni for his 38 years of service to the college. It was duly noted that he had created Jackson Park and "given" it to the students. The small park was west of the old Westcott building and contained tables and a bridge over the White Alloe, all built by Pete. It is now filled in.

Some alumni had objected to people smoking at the head table and girls walking around campus in shorts. It was again noted that banquet speeches were too long; despite the new time limit of two minutes for presenters and five minutes for recipients, many went over. (Council minutes, June 19, 1964)

Total Alumni giving for 1963-1964 was \$74,060.47. \$50,437.91 for the McAfee Library, \$14,499.50 for the Continuing Fund and \$9,123.06 restricted.

**Dr. Morrill resigned as president of Park College. The announcement was made in the August, 1964 Alumniad but no reasons were given. Milton Mohler, who had served the college as business manager, consultant and member of the board of trustees, was appointed acting president. Morrill had notified the trustees of his decision sometime in January but no announcement was made until May.**

The official reason given in a letter to alumni from Elmer Norrington, '20, president of the board of trustees, was as follows: "In resigning, Dr. Morrill said, 'In the last year I have been disappointed in my inability to win complete support for the financial development and long-range program I have envisioned for Park College. I have been disappointed also in the response of Alumni in the Capital Gifts Campaign for the new library.'"

Enrollment did go up during his term of office (327 in 1959 to 607 in 1964), however, many students transferred when majors were dropped, and because of the trimester plan and the challenge curriculum. That, coupled with big development plans which fizzled, may have been factors in his resignation. Note: at some time during his administration a photo of him smoking a pipe was printed in a college publication. This caused a furor among some alumni. I have also found notes that large sums were borrowed from the endowment during his tenure; I don't know who wrote the notes. On the surface it seems strange that he didn't stay to see the end of the campaign that had gotten off to such a wonderful start. Surprisingly, there was no student reaction in the Stylus. That may have been avoided by the timing of his resignation. More research needs to be done.

Harold Smith, '44, joined the college staff as head librarian in the fall.

The original energy created by the capital campaign died out. Development plans were scaled down and the trustees applied for a loan from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency to enlarge and renovate Commons and build a new dormitory. The library was to be "expanded." There was no mention of the McAfee Library or how the money raised would be used.

The trimester program was phased out and a regular two- semester calendar was to resume in the fall of 1965. The 1965 summer term was cut to one class, as it was losing a great deal of money. Room fees were not matching operating expenses; at least 100 students needed to live on campus to break even. Of 78 enrolled in the summer term, only 37 planned to live on campus. (Alumniad, April, 1965)

Dr. Thom H. Hunter, '42, President  
Chuck Edwards, '42 Editor

### 1965-1966

The annual business meeting was held on June 12, 1965. The association voted to continue paying Frances Fishburn \$100 per month for her

services as historian and receptionist at the Park House Museum. In addition, she was allowed \$300 per year for expenses as long as she kept accurate expense records.

Dr. Donald Mackenzie had been selected to direct a self study of Park College to help determine a direction for the future; his appointment was announced at the annual business meeting. Dr. Mackenzie had worked for educational foundations for years and was an excellent choice. He was to examine all phases of the college program. There was also a lively question and answer period. Many questions were about the McAfee Library and when it would be started. Chuck answered as best he could that the decision was in the hands of the board of trustees. Some of the older alumni were very upset and felt the campaign had been misleading.

Chuck also reported that between June, 1962 and May, 1965, Alumni had given a total from all sources of \$241,379.42 but noted that this came from only one third of our known alumni.

Alumni money paid to the McAfee Library fund was \$144,939.77; 142 pledges were still out amounting to \$26,5004.50 for a total of \$171,442.27. In answer to a question, Ken Hougland, '49, college business manager, reported that this money was not invested, therefore, was not earning any interest. Actually, as would be revealed later, the trustees borrowed money from the McAfee Library Fund for operating expenses and were paying 4% interest on it.

*Giving numbers from the years 1962-1965 are very hard to understand. Each time they appear they are different. I suggest having someone like Paul Gault, '65 or Dorla Watkins, '80, try to get to the bottom of all alumni giving records.*

Eighteen of the forty-one active chapters had met that year.

An article explaining the self-study was printed in a supplement to the November, 1965 Alumniad. The first question was the most difficult, "What is the purpose of Park College?" The article is attached. Once again, Park officials realized that changes had to be made in order to exist in an increasingly secular society. Small, church related private colleges had to make a name for themselves somehow.

In May of 1965, officers of the Heart of America Chapter had agreed to help fund a visiting professor, Dr. Samatha, by underwriting his wife's travel expenses. \$1500 was allocated for this purpose – a \$2.00 donation from each member. Chuck's report on this effort, given at the October 7, 1965 council meeting revealed that membership response had been poor; they eventually collected only \$438.00. An individual gave \$500 and the

college picked up the rest. This was yet another example of poor response by local alumni.

**It was decided to consider both graduates and former students for the Distinguished Alumni Awards.**

Many alumni had written to Chuck Edwards complaining that the college should have a president and that nothing seemed to be done about it. There was a great deal of concern about the future of the college. Dr. Mackenzie and Chuck had compiled a list of 140 alumni who had demonstrated a continuing interest in Park and letters were sent to them asking for help in the Mackenzie study. (Council Minutes, October 7, 1965)

Controversy did not seem to affect enrollment; 629 students were on campus in September, 1965. Even so, one of the brother-sister clubs, Lancelot-Elaine was disbanded due to lack of enthusiasm and leadership.

In January, the executive council discussed revisions to the constitution and bylaws of 1961. Some felt that many standing committees should be abolished because the Alumni Director had assumed many of the responsibilities. They continued to work on the changes during the rest of the year.

**Dr. Donald M. Mackenzie was named ninth president of Park College at the May trustee meeting. Both he and his wife, Ruth Yoakum Mackenzie were alumni, class of 1933. Dr. Mackenzie brought with him a wealth of educational experience, having served as a college professor, dean, registrar as well as working for North Central Association of Colleges and the Danforth Commission on Church Related Colleges and Universities. He, as already mentioned, had spent a year studying all aspects of Park. Ruth was very interested in the arts and took an active role in the community as president of the Parkville Fine Arts Association. The campus felt the effects, too, and many high quality cultural and artistic events took place during the Mackenzie years. She was a very involved first lady and both Mackenzies had a keen interest in students. I attended many events at the White House during my school days (1967-1971). One of their goals was to make Park College the cultural center for the northland.**

G.A. Niles, '36, President (1965-1966)  
Chuck Edwards, '42, Editor



### 1966-1967

The annual meeting was held on June 11, 1966. The association again voted to continue the senior banquet at the Gold Buffet in North Kansas City.

The majority of the meeting was filled with questions about the McAfee Library Fund. Many alumni were upset about Hoagland's statement the previous year that the money was not earning any interest. Chuck Edwards stated that the money was in a current restricted account and was earning four- percent interest. Dr. Alva King asked why the campaign, which started out so well, simply disappeared. The answer was that college officials had decided that other buildings were needed first and that the library would follow a dormitory and student union.

There was a great deal of discussion about how to improve alumni weekend at the follow up council meeting on June 16. One problem, again, was long acceptance speeches. Although people were given a time limit, they often ignored it. Other problems were conflicting events and poor service at the banquet.

In November, the Alumniad returned to a magazine size format. It was still published quarterly and included the usual class notes, campus events, historical pieces and alumni association business. In addition, from time to time, articles about "basic issues of our times" written by one of the alumni, a faculty member, a student or an "outsider" were included. Also, in order to free Chuck Edwards for more development work, Marlowe Sherwood, '63 was asked to serve as Alumniad editor. She began that work with the November, 1966 issue.

The Heart of America Chapter had died out again and new officers were chosen to try to revive it.

Alumni giving for 1966-1967 totaled \$66,873.58: \$52,362.37 for the continuing fund, \$10,550.69 restricted and \$3960.52 for the McAfee Library fund.

The first photo of Chesnut men in their signature sweatshirts appeared in the 1966-67 Narva. By this time they were housed in Dyer Apartments, a building that stood above Labor Hall. The site is now a parking lot.

In April, 1966, some of the male students at Woodward formed a new "fraternal" organization, the "Hermits." This group was followed in September by TIKI, another male social club. Both caused controversy because their fraternal nature was exclusive, unlike the campus-wide brother sister clubs. Regardless, they gained in popularity and were the beginning of the end for the older clubs.

Although I haven't yet found confirmation, I think the Wallflowers club for women was created this year, as well. A photo of the club members appears in the 1966-67 Narva.

The Anthony-Cleopatra brother-sister club was disbanded in January, 1967 after the members failed to elect officers for the spring term.

The new Alumniad was more expensive to produce and the Alumni Council wrestled with the idea of asking alumni to contribute \$1.00 or \$2.00 to help defray the costs. This was voted down, as the council felt the college should be willing to pay the cost and that alumni would respond negatively if required to pay. (Council Minutes, March 11, 1967)

In April, ground was broken for "New Dorm" now called Chesnut II. It was built as a coed dormitory with men in one wing and women in the other. The rooms were arranged in suites: two rooms connected by a shower/toilet. Each room had its own sink. The coed dormitory idea upset some alumni.

Bill Sims, '35, President  
Chuck Edwards, '42, Editor

### 1967-1968

The annual meeting was held on June 10, 1967. The revisions to the constitution, which had been printed in the April Alumniad, were approved.

The six associate councilmen were removed.

The Alumni Director was made an officer of the Association and was given authority to call special meetings of the council.

The provision for monthly meetings was abolished and meeting times were left up to the President or the Alumni Director.

Founder's Day and World Wide Park College Day were combined on May 12.

The by laws were amended as follows.

The treasurer's position was combined with the custodian of the Alumni Fund of the Association.

The section which allowed the Association to recommend disbursement of extra Alumni Fund money disappeared.

All standing committees were abolished because this work was now the responsibility of the Alumni Director. Committees could be appointed by the Council, however, if deemed necessary. Committee reports were dropped from the annual meeting.

The quality of food served in Commons during Alumni Weekend was poor and there were many complaints. Ed Barth said he would look into it. It was horrible during the school year, also; students were up in arms and held several demonstrations.

Chuck Edwards was doing less traveling but was contacting particular alumni about planned giving.

The council had voted to allow Encyclopedia Britannica to solicit alumni for purchases. Envelopes were addressed by the alumni office staff so the company did not have access to the list of alumni. They agreed to pay the alumni association a fee for each sale made. Several alumni questioned the wisdom of allowing a commercial operation to solicit alumni in any fashion. From the treasurer's reports of 1967 and 1968 it appears that 27 sets of books were sold generating \$10 per set for the association.

Alumni Weekend was held in conjunction with the Parkville Fine Arts Festival. Art works were displayed on Mackay and White House lawns and musical programs were held in the chapel. Every effort was made to see that it did not conflict with alumni activities. Ruth Mackenzie organized the festival. It proved to be a very hectic weekend for alumni who had obligations to both groups.

The council voted to limit spending of the interest income to \$1500 per year and place any extra back into the principal. (Council minutes, June 15, 1967)

**There was a great deal of discussion about the purpose of the Alumni Association and the importance of giving. The council was asked to review the importance of chapters and the value of the executive council to the college. Elmer Norrington questioned the continuing fund as an impetus to give money to the college. Some felt that alumni would give to a tangible project as they had in the past rather than to the operating fund. Another comment concerned educating students about their responsibilities as alumni while they were still in school.**

The chapter system was questioned, as well. There seemed to be no purpose and no follow up on the meetings. Speaking from experience, I imagine this was due to lack of staff and lack of

money. The council felt that chapters could be helpful in recruiting students.

The class agent system was also questioned—in particular, what role they could serve best.

Ed Barth was hired by the college as vice-president for institutional planning and development. Chuck Edwards was relieved of these duties to concentrate on alumni work and wills and bequests. (Council minutes, November and December 1967)

Alumni Association officers were nominated by the council and voted on at the annual meeting. Regardless, ballots were still sent out with the Alumni Weekend reservation card.

The Executive Council approved the sale of chairs to the alumni. The chairs were traditional, with the college seal painted on the back. An armchair cost \$36.00 and a Boston rocker, \$31.00.

The college entrance was changed to make way for the widening of Missouri HWY 45 which ran along the river from Parkville to North Kansas City. When completed, the new road was named Missouri HWY 9. The Park House was moved from its original location east of the chapel to its present site at the entrance to the college.

A short news note in the November Alumniad described the Parkville Committee on Human rights, formed after a local barber refused to cut a black student's hair. Students wore black armbands and walked into Parkville as a form of protest and the barber eventually closed his business. Reaction among alumni was and still is mixed. The sixties had arrived at Park College – control such as Dr. Zwingle wielded in the 1950s was not in evidence. Marlowe Sherwood, '63 was the first chairman of the human rights committee and explained the situation to the executive council.

Dr. Mackenzie was faced with many dilemmas. He knew full well that some aspects of Park would have to change, especially in regards to student life and curriculum. The Sixties came later to Park than to other schools and although there were no huge or violent demonstrations, tension was evident. The new Dean, Richard Meeth, upset many alumni, most notably, Elmer Norrington, '20, former trustee and president of the Alumni Association. Dean Meeth appointed students as voting members of the curriculum, academic standards and admissions committees. Norrington was strictly opposed to students being involved with policy and was further annoyed that students were making negative comments to the Kansas City Star. (Council minutes, February 5, 1968)

Required chapel was dropped in November. According to Dr. Mackenzie, "for a number of years [since 1954] only Freshmen and Sophomores have been required to attend Sunday service and then only every other Sunday." Although alumni reaction does not appear in the minutes, I know it was strongly negative from letters in the alumni files. Ruth Mackenzie addressed many of these concerns in her Alumniad column, "From the White House."

This was only the beginning of alumni discontent.

In December, 1967, Nickel Hall was damaged beyond repair by a thoughtless college prank and the men of the "Honor Dorm" had to move to fourth floor Hawley. Both Nickel and Hilltop were razed during the summer of 1968.

The old brother sister clubs were dying out as a result of interest in the fraternal organizations. After this year there are no further mentions of OAC, LLC or PCC in the Park College Stylus or Narva.

Although national sororities and fraternities were never considered a possibility at Park, the Hermits and other clubs filled the void. Students were more interested in banding together as a unit and even lobbied to be housed together. Sadly, there are no major Stylus articles about the old clubs, and their passing went almost unnoticed.

Few alumni had purchased the college chairs and it was decided to discontinue them. The objection was that they were too expensive. In the future the council hoped to develop merchandise that was less expensive.

Chuck Edwards and Marlowe had created a "Club 65" newsletter designed to maintain interest of alumni who were age 65 and over. It was a big success. Many older alumni contributed their memories and sent photos.

At the April 29 Executive Council meeting, Chuck announced that ballots for officers would no longer be included in Alumni Weekend reservation materials. The names of association officer candidates would be printed in the Alumniad, but all voting was to be done at the annual meeting. (Actually, the names were sent out in a letter) This is in contrast to Article V of the constitution, approved at the June, 1967 annual meeting, which clearly states that "all voting shall be by ballot." I suspect the ballot system was a logistical nightmare and had been for years. Regardless, the nominees were elected at the June 8, 1968 meeting.

The college printed a "ten most wanted list" in the April Alumniad. Included were pipe organ repairs, typewriters, bleachers for the gym, and

the performing artist series. During Alumni weekend, it was announced that Dr. Warren Cooksey, x'21, would give \$25,000 toward the fulfillment of the list. He had been bequeathed a sum of money to be given to his favorite charity; he chose Park College.

**At their May 27 meeting, the council discussed problems that occurred during the last Alumni Weekend and hoped to avoid them in 1968. Some council members complained that the formal Friday evening Friends of the Library meeting kept alumni from visiting with each other during Alumni Weekend. The thought was that alumni who traveled hundreds of miles to see each other should not be faced with a huge schedule of events. For some reason, many alumni thought they had to attend everything, an attitude that defeated the purpose of reunions.**

At the same meeting, Chuck Edwards announced that he would be leaving Park to take a similar position at Culver Stockton College. "Some questions were asked about Chuck's leaving and about the administrative organization at the college which did not seem to have answers.

Elmer Norrington,'20, President (1967-1968)  
Marlowe Sherwood,'63 Editor

### **1968-1969**

The annual business meeting was held on June 8, 1968.

Chuck Edwards was given a big send-off for his ten-year service to the college and the alumni. Among his tokens of appreciation were four silver goblets from the college, a certificate of commendation from the alumni association and a cash gift. Elmer Norrington, '20, recommended that \$500 from interest on alumni funds be used as a basis for gifts from other alumni who wished to thank Chuck. By July, the thank you fund had reached a total of \$2150. (August, 1968 Alumniad)

**A committee was created to study policies governing relations between the college and the association. Members were: Ted Oltman,'23, Russell McAfee,'24, Malcolm Magers,'20, Connie Vulliamy,'33, Harold Smith,'44, and Joyce Stewart,'58. The committee was to examine the feasibility of separating the alumni association from the college, raising its own funds and hiring its own alumni director.**

Lafe Williams was hired on as coordinator of public relations and publications.

The faculty formed a union.

Dean Meeth and Dr. Mackenzie probably began to see the error of allowing students to sit on administrative committees. It was not well planned; naturally, some decisions had to be made without student input. Some students agreed, realizing that they were too inexperienced – others raised hell. It was a real mess, particularly when Meeth began suggesting ideas like “classes in dorms.” In addition, someone was sending the Stylus to the Kansas City Star and the Star was having fun with the stories. Alumni were aware of student unrest and were very critical of the administration. As a student during those days, I recall being amused because the Star made a mountain out of a molehill and often misquoted students and administrators. For me it was a tempest in a teapot, but I can understand why some folks got upset.

**Marlowe Sherwood,'63, was appointed acting alumni director while the college sought a permanent director. (At least they said they were looking)**

Enrollment was up, due to heavy recruiting. This was the era of the large East Coast student population. Although not stated officially, enrollment was also up because of the Vietnam War – many male students were postponing the draft as long as they could with student deferments.

Several council meetings were devoted to bettering relations between the college and the alumni. Ed Barth listed some ideas: including separating fund raising from the alumni association; keeping requests for money separate from alumni communications and changing the name of the continuing fund to “Park Fund.”

**In October, the college adopted a new policy concerning alcoholic beverages. Students who were 21 were allowed to possess and consume alcohol in their dormitory rooms only (at least that's what was written) and all Missouri laws concerning underage drinking would be enforced.**

**The older alumni went wild. The topic was discussed at meetings, and scores of older alumni wrote scathing letters to the college administration. There was a file of these letters in the alumni office – I will try to locate it.**

The alumni council passed this resolution: “In view of the confusion caused by the announcement of the policy of the college in dealing with alcoholic beverages on the campus, the Executive Council of the Alumni Association hereby requests the Board of Trustees to appoint a committee

to confer with a representative number of alumni to study and offer a constructive educational program on such beverages to the students."

News of the potential for student dissent over the Vietnam War was printed in the Kansas City Star. It was noted, however, that Park was working with students to try to head off any demands or demonstrations.

Total alumni gifts for 1968: \$62,185 in regular giving and \$321,516.39 from three estates.

The board of trustees began selling college-owned rental properties in Parkville. It had become too expensive to maintain them; to my knowledge, the newest residential building in town that had been constructed by the college was Sunset, built in 1906. Others were as old as 1885. In addition, many rents went unpaid and management was a problem. Some local alumni still refer to this event as "The Great Parkville Land Grab."

Council meetings were not held regularly as a result of the 1967 constitutional change. The first of this year was in February, the second, in May; no others seem to have been held. The constitution allowed the President or Alumni Director to call meetings when necessary. Even if monthly meetings had become inconvenient for most council members, the 1967 change was disastrous. Very little business could be conducted. These two meetings may have been arranged to coincide with trustee meetings.

Four alumni were selected to serve on the alcohol committee: Dot Hawkins,'21 who was housemother at Hawley at the time, Frank McDowell,'38, Bill Ketcham,'41 and Pat McDaniel,'58. A fifth member was to be chosen from the last two graduating classes. Warren Thompson,'69, was selected.

The Executive council asked about the racial situation on campus. Black students on campus had formed the Association of Black Collegians, later named the Association for Black Collegiality, or ABC. The organizers were Lesley Davis,'70, McArthur Buggs,'71, Jell Ford,'72, and Felton Butler,'72. Their goal was to challenge racism, foster black pride and identity and enrich humanity through presentation of ideas to the black race. They believed that a separate group for black students was necessary and that interested white students should work to erase racism amongst themselves.

There ensued a variety of strongly worded columns in the Stylus that labeled many campus groups as racist. These became more strident after poor attendance at programs during "Aspects in Black Week."



The ABC was probably one of the most community conscious groups on campus. They volunteered their time in many service projects for the black communities of both Parkville and Kansas City. They contributed a great deal, also, to the cultural life of the college although their separatist attitude discouraged many white students from participating in their activities. An excellent article describing the ABC appeared in the May, 1969 Alumniad.

**Marlowe Sherwood,'63, was appointed Alumni Director, effective May 1, 1969**

The alcohol committee voted to offer a constructive program on alcohol awareness to students.

W. Russell Malan,'22, President (1968-1969)  
Marlowe Sherwood,'63, Editor.

### **1969-1970**

The annual meeting was held on June 21, 1969. Several reports were given: Parkana Committee, Friends of the Library and the Alumni – College Relations Committee.

Bob Corbett,'38, was named chairman of the Park Fund for 1969-70.

The executive council had decided to revise the constitution, and their recommendation was approved at the June 21 annual meeting. A committee was formed and charged with reporting the changes at the next annual meeting.

**The Alumni- College relations committee gave its report at the annual meeting. Their main decision was as follows: That there be no structural change between the college and the Alumni Association; that an alumni advisory group be appointed to improve communications with the college administration. Members could be from the executive council or appointed by the president of the association.**

**The committee recommends that the Alumni Director be an alumnus of the college if possible. If an alumnus is not available for the post, a qualified non-alum would need to be considered. The latter alternative could be brought before the advisory group in order that alumni would be fully informed of the situation.**

**The committee recommends that key alumni in different parts of the country be asked to set up interviews with alumni and potential friends of Park for the alumni director who would then spend several weeks in a given area keeping appointments**

made for him by an alumnus who would know alumni who are successful and who could assist Park.”

In essence, the alumni realized that they could not afford to be separate from the college but even though the college funded their director and the Alumniad among other things, they wanted to be a part of decision making and damage control. They also wanted to be sure that the alumni director would be an alumnus or alumna if at all possible.

The report was approved by the membership present.

As best as I can determine now, this was the first year that the “Park Sing” was an official part of Alumni Weekend. The Sing was scheduled for 9:00 pm, Friday evening on Mackay steps but was later moved to the White House.

This first organized Sing featured Carol McAfee Appleby, '21, at the piano and Dr. Alonzo “Lonnie” Peeke, '24 on the violin. This pair played together for many, many more Park Sings. Parkites were always singers and I'm sure alumni had gathered informally in past years to enjoy the old songs. The event was held in the White House for several more years before moving to the Meetin' House.

The handsome Park College lectern, decorated with the college seal and featuring a height adjustment, was given to the college by D. Irvine Walker, x32 and his wife, Marie Hubbard Walker, '34. It is still in use today.

In October, 1969 dormitory hours for all upper-class girls were abolished and they received keys to the dormitories. Freshman hours were extended until midnight on week days and they also received keys for weekends. Hours for Freshmen women were abolished during the second semester.

At their January 21 meeting, the executive council decided to discontinue the Park Mother award. There were no consistent criteria and more were excluded than were honored.

The alumni council was aware of a student protest concerning the bombing of Cambodia and asked Marlowe for a report at the May 22 Executive Council meeting. The protest had been well planned and quiet and had caused little disruption – only forty students were involved.

There was also a question about the benediction prayer at Honors Day Convocation. Senior Rickard Lee's prayer was highly critical of everyone

from President Nixon to the college administration and many people got up and walked out while he was reading it. Alumni were aware of this because association president Hugh McAfee had been the speaker at the convocation.

The final question concerned the largest protest on campus – 150 students protested the dismissal of Dr. Ira London, a popular psychology professor. Students were told that they had no say in faculty retention matters and the administration prevailed. The council did not spend too much time discussing student unrest, but there was concern that something may happen that would be embarrassing to the college. (Council minutes, May 22, 1970).

Hugh B. McAfee,'41, President (1969-1970)  
Marlowe Sherwood,'63, Editor.

### 1970-1971

Alumni Weekend was simple and successful. The June 20 annual business meeting minutes, however, cover almost three pages of the Alumniad. There was much discussion on the alcohol education committee that had made only a recommendation. The committee was revived and enlarged with Frank McDowell,'38 as chair. Marlowe reported that the office of co-curriculum on campus was planning seminars on drugs, alcohol and personal responsibility to take place in the fall.

Constitutional revisions were presented and passed at the annual meeting, including the one regarding election of officers: One nominee for each office would be selected by the executive council and then presented to the Association at its annual meeting for a vote. The names of all nominees were to be published in the Alumniad prior to the annual meeting. Ballots were permanently and officially discarded.

The six associate councilmen were reinstated.

Committee reports were again required at the annual meeting.

The alumni council voted to raise Miss Fishburn's stipend to \$125.00 per month effective December 1, 1970.

**Bonnie Tidball Larson,'58, began to work part time in the Alumni office; she also worked for Mr. Prins. (Alumniad, Fall, 1970)**

Robert Prins, vice president for development announced that the trustees had approved placing all fund raising efforts under one umbrella – the Park Fund – to avoid duplicate giving and confusion. Unrestricted giving for 1969-70 was \$149,229 with only \$40,000 from alumni. A goal was set for \$321,000 in unrestricted giving for 1970-71. Hugh McAfee, '41 agreed to lead the alumni portion of the campaign with the help of 12 strategically located alumni. (Council minutes, September 18, 1970)

The old McAfee Library funds had been identified and although borrowed upon, interest was accruing (according to Bob Prins). A three- man committee, one trustee and two alumni, was to be appointed to supervise the funds and to make a decision for their ultimate use if not spent on a library.

Alumni were informed of a new study-action program that would allow students, if they chose to, to earn credits while working as off campus interns in their major field. This was a tremendous innovation and gained positive publicity for Park.

Inter-visitation between male and female students was a hot topic for students and alumni. At first, each floor decided on its own hours, but later in the year (I can't pin it down) 24-hour inter-visitation took over. In a few cases, students were living together (illegally) in New Dorm.

Dean Meeth resigned, effective in June. Dr. John Patton became acting dean. (Stylus, March 19, 1970)

Many items were announced and discussed at the February 26 meeting of the alumni council:

Maude Vining, granddaughter of Duncan Mackay, left over \$100,000 to the college to be used in improvements to Mackay Hall.

The Alumni Association account investments stood at \$29,407 and the income account contained \$1158.57. The council voted to transfer some stock into an income fund.

The senior party funded by the alumni was continued but it was noted that it was becoming very expensive, particularly since the income fund was so low.

Carol McAfee Appleby, '21 petitioned the board of trustees to allow the Alumni Association to nominate three alumni for consideration as board members. Although this had been deemed unadvisable in 1930, the trustees agreed. This was done to increase alumni participation in the

affairs of the college. At that time, there were only four alumni trustees out of a total of twenty-five: Dr. Mackenzie,'33 (College President), Carol McAfee Appleby,'21 (Association President). John Calfee,'32 and Robert Gibson,'25. Bob was retiring from the board and Carol wanted him replaced with an alumnus/alumna. The trustees agreed and nominations were call for in the April, 1970 Alumniad)

The trustees also decided that the junior and senior classes of the college could nominate three graduating seniors to be considered as three- year members of the board of trustees.

The trustees also voted to open their meetings to the public and to allow questions from the floor. Executive sessions involving personnel, salaries and preliminary policy discussions would remain closed.

The Alumni Council decided that the Associate Council Membership should become more national. Representatives were to be selected from both coasts as well as from the Mid West. It was hoped that these members could be flown to campus for some meetings. The regular council would still be made up of local alumni who could more easily conduct the business of the association.

In January, Elmer Norrington,'20, proposed to give a challenge gift of \$32,500 if the alumni would contribute \$70,000 to the college by July 1, 1971 (not including his challenge gift). Trustees and community supporters were also challenged to contribute \$70,000. The challenge included raising a total of \$325,000 which would include Elmer's gift. (Alumniad, Winter, 1971)

The May council meeting was disrupted by a tornado warning.

The senior party took place at the Old Pike Country Club. In addition, each senior received a welcome card and a college key chain from the Alumni Association. The class of 1971 was the largest in college history at that time -137 graduates.

Three students were nominated by the junior and senior classes for a position on the board of trustees. They were Kathy Elser,'71, Dick Davis,'71 and Carolyn McHenry,'71. Kathy Elser was subsequently chosen by the board. She was the first alumna in college history to be selected according to that particular plan.

Carol Shedd McMasters,'45, Bill Dunseth,'42 and Christena Aiken,'28 were nominated by the Alumni Association for membership on the board of trustees. Carol McMasters was chosen.

A new Alumni Directory was published.

Connie Vulliamy,'33, retired after 38 years in the business office and Arnold Frizzle retired after 20 years of teaching despite protests from students. He was made an honorary alumnus.

In the Spring 1971 Alumniad, Dr. Mackenzie announced that the college was in financial trouble, with a deficit of \$300,000. Much of this had occurred due to inter fund borrowing, such as with the McAfee Library fund. He also added that support from the Presbyterian Church had dwindled from \$50,000 to \$3,500 over the past several years. Forty-six other church related colleges were also affected. He made sure to stress that Park College had never been owned by the church but that the relationship had been strong.

It should be noted that the entire country was in a financial bind with recession in force and Nixon's salary freezes affecting everyone.

**Many serious budget cuts were made including the elimination of the wonderful cultural programs.**

**In addition, Marlowe Sherwood was put on leave as of October 31 but continued to serve on the council and work just about as hard as ever. Bob Prins and Lafe Williams took over her duties helped, also, by Bonnie Larson.**

Carol McAfee Appleby,'21, President (1970-1971)  
Marlowe Sherwood,'63, Editor.

### 1971-1972

At the June 19 annual meeting many alumni raised questions about the maintenance and use of the Alumni Association Fund. A committee was appointed to evaluate its investment and use.

The usual reports were given but little business was conducted. Alumni giving was \$10,000 short of the Norrington challenge and trustee giving was also down.

The final total for 1970-71: unrestricted alumni giving from 1,282 donors was \$70,586, reached after Elmer extended the campaign until July 15. With the addition of his gift, alumni giving reached \$103,136. The total for all gifts and grants was \$321,000 achieving the goal set in the previous year.

In November, the balance in the Alumni Association Income Fund was only \$50.00. Paul Gault,'65, Bob Prins and Marlowe Sherwood were

appointed and empowered to make any changes necessary in the investments, acting in the best interests of the Alumni Association.

Some alumni wanted to move alumni weekend back to commencement weekend so alumni could have more contact with students. Others objected, saying that many alumni who were teachers or had children in school could not attend a May reunion. It was decided to keep Alumni Weekend the third week of June for 1972. A committee was set up to review the problem.

I can't find records of any alumni council meetings held between November, 1971 and March, 1972. All other information is from the Alumniad. This is probably because Marlowe had been put on leave.

The winter Alumniad contained a column by Dr. Mackenzie describing administrative changes. Bob Prins left in January to go to the College of Emporia—he was replaced as vice president for development by Bob Stellar. Stellar had been business manager and Paul Gault,'65, assistant business manager. Paul's duties were increased but his title remained the same. Bonnie Larson continued to work for the development and alumni offices.

In March, the Alumni Council decided to continue the senior banquet despite the state of the income fund. The alumni office (I assume this meant the college) would contribute \$300 to help pay for it.

Paul Gault,'65, as treasurer of the Alumni Association, was authorized to investigate the Alumni Association Fund and make changes.

Founder's Day, May 12, was set to coincide with reactivating the Heart of America Chapter which had not met for some time.

Dr. Mackenzie announced his wish to leave the college presidency in the 1972 Spring Alumniad. He had asked the Trustees to relieve him of his duties no later than June 30, 1973. His published reasons were that since the college was facing major changes, it was an opportune time for new leadership and that he was weary after six years in office. He also mentioned, "living on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week, provides little escape from the constant flow of problems incident to running a college."

There can be no doubt that he was exhausted. After all, he had the sorry task to be president in a time of great social and financial upheaval, a time which had seen the loss of traditions he held dear and he had nearly seen the closing of his beloved alma

mater. Dr. Mackenzie had labored long and hard and saw clearly the need for change. He had made a difficult, yet prudent decision.

In his final President's Report, printed in the 1972 Summer Alumniad, he stated that "Park College is at a critical point. I do not believe it will survive if it decides to carry on as usual. Along with 800 other colleges like us we face the competition of the community college and the state university. Parents and students have to consider whether what we have been offering is worth the cost, especially when the same education can be obtained at much lower cost in public institutions."

John O. Wells, Jr. '55, President (1971-1972)  
Marlowe Sherwood, '63 Editor.

### 1972-1973

At the annual meeting, the Alumni Association Fund committee reported that the fund should be retained by the Alumni Association and not be given to the college. It was the only income available to pay the two biggest expenses, the stipend for Miss Fishburn and the senior party. It was moved that some of the income be placed in a scholarship fund to help a deserving student. (This was presented at the banquet as the Mackenzie Scholarship.)

The "Park Athenaeum" was established to collect and preserve the theses, dissertations, published writings, scientific and artistic works of alumni, faculty and former students. The idea had been proposed by Bob McFadden, '59 and had been approved by the Alumni Association and by the Board of Trustees. A ten member Board of overseers was set up consisting of three alumni, the president of the college, a trustee, a faculty member from each of the three divisions, the president of the student senate and the Alumni President. Materials were to be submitted to Harold Smith, Librarian. (Alumniad, Fall, 1972) The only other mention I can find is in the very next issue of the Alumniad. Considering the amount of turmoil at the time, I am guessing that the idea died of its own weight. More research should be done. I believe some of this collection is in the archives.

The Alumni Weekend banquet was full of tributes for the Mackenzies due to a reunion of the "Early Thirties" led by Irv Walker, '32. The Alumni Association announced the establishment of the Mackenzie Scholarship Award to be granted for the first time in 1973. Criteria for the scholarship were: 1. First consideration should be given to the child of an alumnus or alumna who is completing the freshman, sophomore or junior year. 2. Grade point average of 3.0 or better. 3. Financial need. The



scholarship committee consisted of the Dean, the Alumni Director and the financial aid officer. The amount of the award was \$400.00, to be funded by interest from the Alumni Association Fund.

The Alumni Fund for 1971-1972, under the leadership of Alan Woods, 'x67, reached a total of \$80,861.

**On August 16, 1972 press releases revealed that Kenneth G. Beyer had been elected tenth president of Park College and would assume his duties on October 1, 1973. Mr. Beyer was Vice Chancellor of Claremont University Center in Claremont, California, had served as assistant to the president of Pomona College, as Director of Alumni Relations at Whittier College and as Director of Personnel at General Dynamics Corporation. He had also served as Mayor of Claremont and was described as committed to quality private education. He and his wife had four children.**

In December, 1972, President Beyer launched the School for Community Education that offered weekend and evening classes to adults. Beyer saw the opportunity to increase enrollment by drawing from the Kansas City area and acted upon it.

In addition, an agreement was reached with the Air Force to take over an external degree program from Parsons College (which had closed). Eight military centers were involved with enrollment at 852.

Radio Station KGSP began broadcasting in February, 1973 – the first radio station in Platte County. (Alumniad, Fall, 1972)

Bonnie Larson proposed changing the format of the Alumniad from magazine to tabloid. That would have allowed eight issues per year instead of four. She was concerned about better communication with the alumni. The council left the decision up to her; she apparently decided not to do it or did not have an adequate budget.

At the March meeting, the council picked Jean Curl to serve on a centennial planning committee.

There was discussion on involving more alumni in the senior party.

Bonnie announced problems with planning Alumni Weekend – mainly that there was a possibility that New Dorm would not be available for use. It was, indeed, closed for remodeling and the alumni stayed in motels off campus.

**Lyle Kraft was hired as Director of Admissions in February, 1973. His new approach to recruiting was to concentrate on the Midwest instead of the east coast, opening the campus to visiting high school students and aggressively following up on applications.**

Renovations in Mackay included installation of firewalls in the hallways, re-wiring and the remodeling of a second floor conference room - the Vining Room – all paid for by Maude Vining's bequest.

Leo Janos,'55, President (1972-1973)

Lafe Williams, Editor until September followed by Bonnie Larson,'58.

#### **1973-1974**

The business meeting was held on June 16, 1973 and consisted mainly of reports. Paul Gault reported that the permanent fund of the association was worth \$29,141.94 and that the income account was \$8,020.96. President Beyer reported that alumni giving to the Park Fund was \$75,509.00 and that giving from all sources, including estates amounted to \$860,000.

Alumni Weekend was held in conjunction with "Parkville: Main Street" an art festival which featured Gale Stockwell's famous painting of Main Street. Duncan Findlay had arranged to have the painting, which had hung in the White House and was owned by the National Gallery of Art, shipped to Parkville for this event. Alumni attendance was low and there were many logistical problems. This was the first year that the banquet was held off campus; it was at the Continental Hotel in Kansas City.

**Bonnie Larson,'58, left the alumni office in June; her husband, Allen Larson,'59, had accepted a position at Webster College in Webster Groves, MO. Al is still at Webster where he conducts the symphony and is professor of music. Bonnie died of cancer on March 31, 1991.**

Alumni President Bob Martin,'50, felt that alumni needed more information about the college – something other than nostalgia or requests for money. Most likely, no funds were available for Public Relations.

**T. Michael Murphey was hired as director of development. (Alumniad, Summer, 1973)**

Lyle Kraft's new admissions policies had paid off – over 250 new students came to Park, including the largest freshman class since 1967. (Alumniad, Fall, 1973.)

There are no Alumni Council minutes for 1974; all information for this year has been taken from the Alumniad. Bonnie had left, Marlowe was on leave and the Alumni Association President lived in Virginia, all of which may explain the lack of meetings.

Park opened the School for Community Education at Crown Center, a new hotel and retail complex located across the street from Kansas City's Union Station. Many alumni did not understand this radical addition and resisted the fact, although it had been clearly explained in the Alumniad, that the college was beginning to move away from its entirely traditional approach. (Alumniad, Fall, 1973)

Robert E. Martin, '50, President (1973-1974)

Bonnie Larson, '58, Editor until June, followed by Christine Kovach.

#### 1974-1975

There are no minutes for the June 15 annual meeting. A short description in the Summer 1974 Alumniad reveals that there were committee reports followed by an Open Forum. On the panel were President Beyer, Provost and Vice President Larry Fedewa and Dr. Stanley Urban. Topics discussed were the limestone project (the announcement of this project, to excavate limestone and use the resulting space for businesses and storage, was also in this issue of the Alumniad), Summertree Stables, the Crown Center Campus, the budget, faculty and staff changes and religion on campus.

Joe Hatcher, newly hired director of development, (apparently, Mr. Murphey had moved over to the Admissions Office) contributed an article to the Summer, 1974 Alumniad explaining many of the staff changes.

**Dick Dolan was hired as Alumni Director on August 15, 1974; Marlowe Sherwood was hired at one-half time as Alumni Consultant. Dolan had previously served as Alumni Director at Huron College in South Dakota. (Sometime between the fall and winter editions of the Alumniad, Dolan left the college) Robert McDowell had been appointed Director of Public Affairs on May 28.**

**None of these people (except Marlowe, of course) had any prior connection with Park College.**

Plans were underway for Park's centennial celebration. Ken Eggleston, DCP, '69, was in charge. He edited a college history booklet named "Centennial Sketches." Unfortunately, it contains many inaccuracies.

President Beyer reported that Park College ranked very high in the percentage of graduates who went on to earn doctorates. An article in the August 9, 1974 issue of Science presented the results of a study of 295 baccalaureate institutions. Two time periods were studied; 1920 to 1939 and 1950-1961. Park ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the first group and 10<sup>th</sup> in the second.

Park officials had decided to reach out to influential and knowledgeable alumni to gain advice on reviving alumni interest. Chuck Edwards,'42, Bill Dunseth,'42 and Bill and Mary Lou Tipton,'28/28 were invited to campus to discuss a variety of topics with President Beyer, Dick Dolan and Joe Hatcher. (Alumniad, Fall, 1974)

Park's centennial year also brought the biggest controversy in its history to the attention of the alumni. The Winter, 1974-75 Alumniad (curiously also labeled March) dropped a bombshell. After receiving news that the Presbyterian Church would be ending its affiliation with Park College, President Beyer began negotiating with Graceland College (owned by the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints) regarding keeping Park College alive.

An oft-used comparison was that the RLDS Saints were to the Mormons as Lutherans were to Catholics. The RLDS Church had been formed by a group of Mormons who had disagreed with some of the tenets of the Mormon Church. The reorganized sect had chosen Independence, MO as their headquarters. The college that they owned, however, was and is located in Lamoni, Iowa.

In essence, the Park College / RLDS arrangement created a group of managing directors who would oversee the running of the school for a transition period of four to five years. There would be twelve members, nine of whom would be appointed by the Graceland Trustees. The three Park people were Elmer Norrington,'20, Hugh McAfee,'41 and trustee Paul Bowman. If the college were on sound financial footing after the transition period, the educational campus would become property of the managers. If the managers suspended educational operations anytime during those years, the property would automatically revert to the Park trustees.

It was hoped that RLDS students from the Independence area would enroll at Park. To my knowledge, this did not happen in large numbers.

Despite explanations to the contrary, a great many alumni believed that Park had been sold to the Utah Mormons by the Presbyterians. (They were mistaken on two counts, the Presbyterian Church never owned Park College and couldn't have sold it if they wanted to; the RLDS were not Mormons and had no interest in buying the college.) No amount of well-crafted persuasion could convince them otherwise. Even during my tenure in the Alumni Office (1989-1995) angry letters would arrive stating, among other things, "I am not giving any money to a school that is owned by people who believe in polygamy." It was a hard pill to swallow and many alumni refused to see the difference between the Utah Mormons and the RLDS.

To complicate matters, the Kansas City Star printed articles claiming that Park was about to close. Hundreds of alumni were horrified at the thought. The college demanded retractions from the newspaper and things apparently got vicious. This caused a rift with the Star that lasted for a number of years.

President Beyer announced his resignation, to take place by July first. He had literally "worked himself out of a job." His administration should be remembered for his courage in the face of great turmoil and his ability to strike a deal with the RLDS to save Park College. In addition, he was, by all accounts, an affable man and one who believed in allowing the alumni to have the fun they wanted during reunions. He knew that if they had a good time and were well informed they would think well of Park and perhaps, give more. Finally, he should receive the credit for initiating the Community Education Program, the Military Site Program and the mining venture.

The college was administered by Dr. Gerald Knudson, who served as president of both Graceland and Park, and by Dr. Harold Condit, who was named Executive Vice President of Park.

Marlowe's name appeared as Alumniad editor in the March, 1975 issue.

Oleva Morrison Myers, '32, President (1974-1975)  
Mike Marder, '72, Editor followed by Robert MacDowell.

#### 1975-1976

Regardless of the controversy, the Centennial Alumni Weekend was a huge success. Over 700 alumni attended. (average attendance was 200-300 people.) There was a three-way tie for the attendance trophy – classes of 1930, 1950 and 1971, each with 24 members present.

Among the Centennial Souvenirs offered to alumni were a medallion encased in Lucite, a Centennial Narva and the above-mentioned "Centennial Sketches." The Narva is particularly interesting.

The annual business meeting was followed by a panel discussion concerning the agreement with the RLDS church. It was very lively and Alumni Hall was packed. Many people were angry and still did not understand the details.

Six Distinguished Alumni Awards were given at the banquet (attended by 519 people). I hope this never happens again – it was way too many awards and speeches. I was there and remember it seemed endless.

I cannot locate any Council minutes that refer to the weekend.

Many staff changes were announced in the October Alumniad. Most of the people appointed were members of the RLDS Church who had lately been employed at Graceland College. One of these, James B. Hannah, was named Director of Public Affairs.

**Paul Gault,'65, was named Assistant Business Manager and Marlowe Sherwood was named Alumni Secretary – a title that had not been used for many years. She still was only half-time-devoting half her time to alumni work and half to helping husband Paul at the Park College Press. Sarah Osborne,'28, still functioned as alumni recorder and kept track of deaths and address changes.**

Fall enrollment was 850 but only 250 lived on campus. The new administration abolished drinking on campus and restricted smoking. Dormitories were locked at 11:00 PM but all students had keys. Inter-visitation was limited to certain hours. Students hated the changes and many of that generation still resent their experience under the new rules. (Alumniad, October, 1975)

Association President Irv Walker,'32, was quoted as saying alumni unrestricted giving was up, but no figures were printed in the Alumniad.

Tommie Powell, Acad.'10, started a campaign to relocate the Mackay tower bell. The large bell was unused and the tower itself was becoming too weak to support it. The potential for disaster was enormous and it was removed sometime this year.

The only council minutes which exist are from February 28, 1976. All other information will be from the Alumniad.

The Alumni Council decided on \$2500.00 for the Mackay bell project and agreed to help raise the money. A group of alumni, led by Tommie Powell, Acad.'10, worked with college officials and decided to re roof the Meetin' House, build a larger cupola and mount the bell inside. The group called themselves the "Ding Dong Task Group." (Alumniad, Spring, 1976)

**Joe Hatcher left the college and Lyle Kraft, director of admissions since 1973, took over the duties in development, alumni and public affairs. (Alumniad, February, 1976)**

The continuing education programs at Crown Center and on military bases were growing rapidly.

The college and the alumni both realized that increasing the population of residential students was crucial. Irv Walker felt that they would be the future lifeblood of the alumni association and was concerned that Park would turn into another community college. He also stressed reviving chapter meetings.

Alumni support of the college was at a very low point – no figure was printed in the Alumniad and the minutes are missing.

D. Irvine Walker, '32, President (1975-1976)  
James B. Hannah, Editor.

### 1976-1977

The business meeting was held on June 26, 1976. Again, it consisted mainly of announcements and reports. Several people were named Honorary Alumni: Harold and Georgianna Condit, Dr. John Hamilton, Dr. Jerzy Hauptmann and Dr. Stanley Urban.

Treasurer Randy Fehr, '64 announced two large gifts of land; one from Kate Shornden and the other from Rebecca Lawrence Lowrie, granddaughter of George Park. The two estates amounted to \$2,560,000 which was added to the endowment.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly relocated Mackay Bell was held during Alumni Weekend and the bell was rung to sound a call for each day's events. Each "Ding Donger" also had a chance to pull the rope. Tommie Powell, Acad.'10 had achieved her goal. The bell remains on top of the Meetin' House and is rung occasionally.

The President's Report was printed in the Fall, 1976 Alumniad.

**Dr. Harold Condit, who had been serving as Executive Vice President since 1975, was named president of Park College. He had previously been an administrator at Graceland College and had served as Dean of the College, Dean of the Faculty and Dean of Academic Services. He had also been a teacher and a superintendent of schools. The announcement appeared in the February, 1977 Alumniad.**

There were still many questions about the Saints and Park College and several articles appeared in the Alumniad to explain the transition. Many alumni believed that The Book of Mormon would become required along with chapel services. This never happened, nor was it contemplated.

**Lyle Kraft left Park to be editor of a college admissions magazine. Bill Tipton,'28 was brought in to head the development office and Lafe Williams,'73 returned part time as director of the annual fund. (Alumniad, Spring, 1977)**

**Bill immediately began to revive alumni giving, spending countless hours traveling, talking and writing. He also revived the class agent system. Bill and his wife, Mary Lou gave unselfishly of their time and resources and through their Herculean efforts, began to turn the alumni around.**

The RLDS church and Graceland College purchased the Scarritt building in downtown Kansas City for \$60,000 and leased it to the college as the new home of the community education center. The program, which by now included the Portfolio plan, was a success. Portfolio was a concentrated, custom tailored B.A. degree program in personal majors. In addition, Park was then the second largest military resident center program in the United States. Degrees in seven different majors were offered at 25 military bases in 16 states. (Alumniad, Spring, 1977)

Bill Tipton organized a nation-wide telecommunications effort to re-establish communication and explain the situation of the college as it was at that time. A major purpose of the conversations was to put rumors to rest with one-on-one calls from alumni to alumni. Fund-raising was a part, but not the whole reason for the calls.

During the 1976-77 fiscal year only 785 alumni contributed \$44,435.37 – a total of 11.2% of the 7,000 living alumni. Bill Tipton's goal was to reach 25% of the alumni in order to interest corporations and foundations in the college.

The Friends of the Library restored the stained glass window in the library.



Jonathan P. Hawley,'61, President (1976-1977)  
James B. Hannah, Editor.

### 1977-1978

The business meeting, held on May 21, again consisted of reports and announcements. No business was conducted.

Alumni Weekend was held during the May commencement (another return to the olden days) and was attended by 220 people. Bill Tipton held seminars to help train alumni leaders. The alumni council decided to better advertise the May dates and try commencement weekend again for 1978.

Pete Jackson died on June 22. Pete was a highly respected black employee whose tenure at Park began in 1906. Two years later he struck out on his own but returned to the campus in 1912 for good. Pete held nearly every maintenance job possible and, although he sometimes worked elsewhere, he devoted his spare time to Park. As years passed, college officials depended on his memory of long forgotten steam tunnels and water lines in order to make repairs. In 1961, he cleared a spot of land near the White Alloe Creek as a picnic area for students. He built a bridge there and maintained "Jackson Park" for many years. (The site was destroyed during one of Dr. Breckon's development projects.) He was known as the "man who never retired" and had been honored by the alumni in 1972. He had worked at Park for nearly 70 years.

In October, Bill and Mary Lou Tipton set out on a month-long, 5,600 mile trip during which they visited with 20 alumni groups in the south and eastern United States. They renewed contact with hundreds of alumni and again sought to dispel the rumors.

More articles were printed in the Alumniad explaining the history of the RLDS church.

Ed Lyle,'25 and Bob Corbett,'38 volunteered to head up the 1978 Alumni Fund. Both were bankers and loyal Parkites. Bill Tipton's philosophy included turning the older alumni into givers again. They were the most upset about the transition and needed a lot of stroking. There were to be nine regional vice-chairs, fifty state chairs and eight metro-plex chairs. Personal calls were to be made in areas where five or more alumni were located. (Alumniad, Winter, 1978)

Clara Knotter Barnes,'23, President (1977-1978)  
James B. Hannah, Editor.

### 1978-1979

Once again, the May 20 business meeting was filled with announcements and reports. No business was conducted.

Ed Lyle announced that the Park Fund campaign was a great success – at the time, \$62,000 had been received and he expected more.

300 people attended Alumni Weekend, mostly from the older classes. The banquet was held on campus.

The August Alumniad carried reports of several gifts and the final figures for the Park Fund. The Magers family began a fund to restore the organ and stimulate the music department. They donated \$5,000 to start it moving. Again, this would have appealed to older alumni. Roy Magers graduated from Park in 1896 and was a professor and director of the glee club and choir for 45 years. All of their children were graduates of Park: Malcolm,'20, twins Donald and Douglas,'24 and Rhoda,'33. Two grandsons, Roy V. Magers II,'58 and Malcolm Bruce Magers, Jr.,x'48 were also Parkites.

F. Dean McCluskey,'17 donated \$1,000 to the Friends of the Library to set up the Howard Dean memorial book fund. He further pledged to match any and all gifts up to \$1000.00. This fund is still going strong.

The class of 1928, led by Bill and Mary Lou, raised \$28,000 for a scholarship fund as their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift.

The Alumni Fund drive garnered \$72,857.37 from 1,542 alumni – 18.9 percent of the living alumni; the previous year had brought \$44,435 from only 785 alumni -- this was a major comeback. Ed Lyle volunteered to head the 1978-79 fund drive and kept the same plan of concentrated effort.

Woodward Hall burned on December 1. The fire was caused when students who were partying there had built a fire to keep warm. The fire got away from them and gutted the center section of the building. The students were not prosecuted, but many people know who they were and may never forgive them.

Again, the minutes for the beginning of the year are missing. They pick up again in August, after Alumni Weekend, 1979.

The formal transition from affiliation with the Presbyterian Church to the RLDS Church took place on March 16. The Management Committee was disbanded and control of the college reverted to the Park Board of Trustees. The title for the Scarritt building was transferred to Park.

Hugh McAfee,'41 became chairman of the Park Trustees. I am not sure how well this fit in with the original agreement.

Mackay Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 6, 1979.

Bill and Mary Lou continued their travels around the country.

J. Giles Theilmann,'27, President (1978-1979)  
James B. Hanna, Editor, followed by Jean Hurshman.

### **1979-1980**

Alumni Weekend was again held in May and the banquet was in Commons. There was no total number recorded.

The total in alumni giving for 1978-79 was \$105,895.36 from 1,724 alumni. It was 266 people short of the elusive 25% mark.

The class agent system was intensified. Bob Corbett,'38 and Irv Walker,'32 agreed to head the 1979-80 fund drive.

Harold Condit was formally invested with the presidency. He preferred "Investiture" to "Inauguration" because the latter seemed too formal. The ceremony was held on October 19, 1979.

**Chuck Edwards returned as Vice President for College Relations in August, 1979.**

Bob Corbett,'38, related a definition of organizational structure he had heard once. "There are the wishbones who spend their time wishing that someone else would do the work. Then there are the jawbones, who do all the talking but very little else. Next there are the knucklebones, who knock everything anyone else tries to do. And finally, there are the backbones who get under the load and do all the work." It has become one of my favorite definitions.

Bob used this to describe the previous year's givers and urged all the backbones to help enroll others in the Backbone Club. His goal was \$125,895 from 2001 alumni.

Schuyler Hoslett,'40 gave \$20,000 to be used for road repairs, hence the name Hoslett Road (in front of Mackay)

Again, most council minutes are missing.

Duncan Findlay, '22, presented \$15,000 from the Noyes Foundation to help restore the McAfee Library Fund. He further pledged \$20,000 of his own money to be followed by \$65,000 if alumni and other sources could not be persuaded to give. The intention at the time was to expand the library by extending it to the Science Hall. The board of trustees restored this fund on May 10, 1980 using capital gains from endowment funds.

The alumni fund reached the \$125,895 minimum goal on June 2. The total received for the year was \$142,821.93 from 1,971 alumni. This did include Schuyler Hoslett and Duncan Findlay's gifts. Giving was not broken down into restricted and unrestricted.

The alumni council voted to send the Alumniad only to those who gave at least \$10.00 each year. This caused an uproar from some folks and eventually resulted in a great many uneducated alumni.

The alumni council also voted to install a plaque, listing all recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award, in Mackay Hall. Sadly, this plaque and two others listing alumni accomplishments have been removed and will be replaced with substitutes.

The council also voted to investigate increasing the return on alumni fund investments. The committee discovered that the funds were in CDs and that they provided a back up factor for student loans and that the college would have to deposit funds in the same amounts to insure that student loans would be available. (I need help with this one--I'll have to check when this was done)

Alumni Weekend was scheduled for June this year. The council feared it would be too hot to have the banquet in Commons, so plans were made to seek a hotel banquet room.

**I.J. Smith joined the staff as Chuck's secretary sometime during 1980. I.J.(Ida Jean) remained in this position until 1996 when she and other long-time, devoted employees were dismissed from the college. At the time, she was working part-time, but in the years she worked in the alumni office, she gained encyclopedic knowledge about hundreds of alumni. She is still regarded by many as the true heart of the office.**

Kenneth MacDonald, '33, President (1979-1980)  
Jean Hurshman, Editor.

### 1980-1981

The annual meeting was held on June 21, 1980. Chuck Edwards had been working with Jeanette Robbins, widow of long term professor Leon Robbins to raise money for a new set of chimes for Mackay tower. Parkville American Legion Post 318 which was founded by Prof. Robbins presented a check for \$200 as their contribution to the project. The Legion also donated a new American Flag to the college.

Several announcements were made, including the newly ordered plaques and the "No \$10, no Alumniad" decision.

Vincent Campanella was named an honorary alumnus – I believe he later turned it down.

Mary Lou Tipton volunteered to reinstate the Park College Record and serve as its editor. It was begun again in December, 1980.

Jim Cariddi,'49, President (1980-1981)  
Jean Hurshman, Editor.

### 1981-1982

The business meeting was held on June 20, 1981. The new plaques, listing the names of all Distinguished Alumni and the names of those alumni who received honorary degrees, were displayed on the stage.

Chuck Edwards presented the first "Volunteer of the Year" award to Janet Pollock,'41. I believe this became the outstanding service to Park Award in following years.

Bill Tipton announced that the Development fund drive had gone over the top with \$166,683.14.

340 people attended Alumni Weekend. There were many complaints about the dirty condition of the dormitories where alumni were housed.

The Summer, 1981 Alumniad carried news of the "Our Time in History" capital campaign. It was planned for three years in pledging in four sections. Alumni, Trustees/Former Trustees, Faculty/Staff/Administrators and the Greater Kansas City Area.

Duncan Findlay was the General Chairman, Irv Walker,'32 was the Alumni Chairman, Jerzy Hauptmann chaired the Faculty/Staff/Administration portion with the help of Dean Barbara Higdon, Paul Gault,'65, and Chuck Edwards,'42, respectively. The minimum goal was \$1,900,000 in three year pledges from all sectors and the challenge goal was \$3,400,000. The alumni portion was \$500,000

minimum and \$750,000 challenge. The money was to be used for the library, the science hall, academic enrichment and scholarship funding. The campaign at this point was being organized.

The council discussed the Alumni Association Fund at length at their October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The fund, as was seen earlier, was made up of lifetime memberships from many years ago and had not grown significantly for several years. Only the interest income could be used for association business and it was scant. Total assets were \$24,997.70 – income was \$2028.70 and expenses, most notably including the \$1650.00 Fishburn Honorarium, amounted to \$1,950. The association had no money to spend. After some discussion, Ed Lyle recommended for consideration the policy of allowing the Alumni Association Fund to retain \$1.00 from the annual contribution of each alumnus. This was to be added to the principal. The idea was to be presented to the board of trustees in January, 1982.

Rich McGaughey, '73, association president, began to stress the need to revitalize the Kansas City Chapter. Plans were made to involve them in helping during Alumni Weekend.

The total for the 1980-81 alumni fund was \$183,759.64.

By the fall, 12 vice-chairpersons had volunteered to solicit the alumni of their particular generations. Deanna Medlin Armstrong, '70 was the vice chair for classes 66-70.

**The trustees approved the Lyle resolution in January but the council requested that it be amended so that the money could be used for current projects rather than be placed in the principal. This was eventually clarified and as far as I know, it still being done. Is it? I believe it should be raised to at least \$2.00.**

Sarah Osborne, '28, who had served as alumni recorder for 35 years, died on March 6, 1982. Sarah was an exceptionally loyal alumna. Her work included keeping track of address changes and deaths. Not only did she note such events, but also "...thoughtfully handled correspondence with families of deceased alumni, compiled the "In Memoriam" column for the Alumniad and the annual necrology list for reading at the annual Alumni Chapel Service. In 1962 she received the Distinguished Alumna Award. She was also a resident authority on Park people and was working at her desk on March 2 when she became ill. We record with sadness the loss of our friend and co-worker." (Alumniad, March, 1982).

The college still relied heavily on alumni to raise funds. Alumni were involved in the "Our Time in History" campaign at every level and had a great deal of input.

Dr. Condit reported that limestone mining would begin soon. The first area was the location of the present Mabee learning center. Ground was officially broken on May 8, 1982.

A violent storm caused a great deal of damage on campus on June 7. Many trees were blown down and the west tower of Mackay was ripped off the building. The tower was replaced with an exact replica and was reinforced with steel.

Paul Gault,'65, was named Vice President for Business Affairs.  
(Alumniad, Spring, 1982)

Rich McGaughey,'73, President (1981-1982)  
Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor.

### 1982-1983

The business meeting was held on June 19, 1982. The only item of business was a vote to rename "New Dorm" "Eleanor Chesnut Dormitory."

Alumni Weekend was reported as successful, but no numbers appear in the Alumniad.

The Park Fund reached \$274,403.41 from 1,904 alumni or 31.98 percent of those living.

Former President Beyer died on November 1, 1982.

I cannot find any minutes of council meetings for the rest of 1982 (June-December) or for January through September of 1983. The next full minutes are dated October 6, 1983.

Betty James Eason,'33, President, (1982-1983)  
Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor.

### 1983-1984

Several constitutional revisions were passed at the June 18 annual meeting including:

The requirement for active membership was changed again, requiring members to have been registered students in the Academy or College for one year.

By laws were amended to read “ Distribution of the Alumniad shall be to all members who contribute at least \$10.00 annually.”

No minutes or programs can be found for this Alumni Weekend and the article in the Alumniad is very condensed. Apparently, the weekend had been a great success. I believe this was the first year that Alumni College was revived and the alumni liked it. **Even so, it was generally agreed that returning alumni were most interested in knowing what is happening on campus, wanted and needed to look around and especially to visit with one another. (Council minutes, October 6, 1983)**

The Alumni Council and several volunteers worked to make the dormitories more comfortable for alumni weekend by adding tissues, hangers and other amenities. They also purchased a Park College flag that was flown from the main flagpole.

Bill Tipton was named Dean Emeritus of Alumni Relations and at the September convocation, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. His contribution to the college and that of Mary Lou were unprecedented in the history of the college and will probably never be equaled. It was Bill who came to the rescue and renewed alumni giving and alumni spirit. His citations appear in the September, 1983 Alumniad.

Several things must have happened since June of 1982. Apparently, Frances Fishburn was no longer able to serve as historian but no replacement was chosen. Harold Smith, I know, kept track of things and managed to do her work as well as his own.

Regardless, a motion was made and carried at the October 6, 1983 council meeting that Miss Fishburn's stipend be increased from \$125.00 to \$200.00 per month. In addition, she would continue to receive a Christmas bonus of \$250.00.

The council also voted to increase the Mackenzie scholarship from \$400 to \$500.

It was noted that Marlowe had a very small office and needed more room.

Bill Tipton and others began to raise funds for the McAfee Library by encouraging alumni to furnish “rooms” that could be named as memorials and to supply furniture – all of which would be noted by commemorative plaques.



Alumni giving totaled \$250,248.71 from 1,452 alumni.

Dorla Watkins,'80 joined the alumni council as treasurer.

At their January 26, 1984 meeting, the Alumni Council approved a plan to allow Harris Publishing Company to produce an Alumni Directory. It would not cost the college anything but would entail some labor.

President Ralph Blackman,'31, also reported that the Association donated funds for a new scoreboard but no figure was given.

Another action was the approval of Harold Smith's plan for a Park College Historical Society. It would replace the older Parkana Committee.

Bill Tipton and others felt that Founder's Day needed a change. For many years, flowers had been placed at the graves of the founders in Walnut Grove Cemetery and in some years, a World-Wide Alumni Day event was held in conjunction with founder's day. Bill suggested that the college try a "per plate" dinner. The first one was held on May 10, 1984 at Westin Crown Center Hotel. To my knowledge the event has been held there ever since, on or near Founder's Day, May 12.

During this final year of the OTIH campaign, the college received a \$250,000 challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation that would be used to complete the underground library. The college had to raise double that amount by December 31, 1984 in order to receive the grant. A new push was on.

Alumni giving for 1983-1984 was \$279,692.90. In addition, nearly \$600,000 was contributed or pledged to the Mabee Challenge and the deadline was met. The Mabee foundation had stipulated that the donors be new givers or, if previous donors, give more than they had in the past. Janet Pollock was the alumni fund chairman.

Former Dean L. Richard Meeth died on June 14, 1984.

Ralph Blackman,'31, President (1983-1984)  
Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor.

### 1984-1985

Recommendations made at council meetings were approved at the June 16 annual meeting: the Fishburn Honorarium, the Mackenzie Scholarship and the Park College Historical Society.

Alumni Weekend attendance was estimated at 350. The schedule was packed with events which limited attendance at many. This was again discussed at the October 11 council meeting. Too many events, not enough time to visit with old friends.

Ralph Blackman,'31, also made several suggestions concerning improving the Alumniad. It had been a quarterly magazine style publication for several years. Its most recent editor, with assistance from Marlowe, had been Jean Hurshman. Ralph came up with the following ideas: do not use "fillers" i.e. baccalaureate speeches or fund raising material. Have more human interest stories. Tell more campus events. Set publication dates to provide adequate lead time for advertising major events like Alumni Weekend.

**The January meeting included a discussion of the upcoming Alumni Weekend. Again, the suggestion was made not to include too many activities because people want time to wander the campus and visit with each other.**

Harold Smith, who had been organizing the Park College Historical Society for the past two years, reported that the first meeting would be held during Alumni Weekend. He stressed that the Society was formed to perform a service and that the college should provide funds for the effort.

**Chuck Edwards announced that Marlowe Sherwood would be retiring on April 30, 1985. Even so, she would work through Alumni Weekend. Marlowe had worked in the alumni office since 1966 and had a variety of titles; Alumniad Editor, Alumni Secretary, Director of Alumni Affairs and Director of Alumni Relations. She had also served on the Alumni Council and continues to do so today. She has devoted a great deal of her life to serving the alumni of the college; she surpassed Howard Dean in years of service. (Marlowe died on May 3, 2002. Related materials are in the addenda)**

**Marlowe was replaced by Marie Gorton,'87, who also served as director of Public Relations. She was a very busy woman.**

The Millsap Foyer and the underground library were under construction but construction delays hindered rapid progress. Nevertheless, crushed rock from the mining effort was used to upgrade parking lots for both the college and the City of Parkville.

Allen Van Cleve,'41, President (1984-1985)  
Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor.

### 1985-1986

Little business was conducted at the June 15 annual meeting.

Chuck Edwards reported that all goals set three years before for the Our Time in History campaign had been exceeded in addition to the alumni meeting the Mabee Challenge.

Alumni weekend was attended by 400 people, according to the Alumniad. It should be noted here that Alumni Weekend attendance is based on the enthusiasm of the reunion classes for that particular year. Some classes were closer as students than others. The closeness or lack thereof is based on a variety of factors, involving everything from changes in social mores to administrative decisions to whether or not the college food was good or bad. Some classes are still close after fifty or sixty years.

Several alumni commissioned Vincent Campanella to do a charcoal sketch of Marlowe Sherwood as a parting gift from the association. (Alumniad, Fall, 1985)

Gifts to the alumni fund totaled \$291,684.61, the highest yet but a disappointment to Janet Pollock, "41, fund chairman. She had hoped to break the \$300,000.00 mark.

The Millsap Foyer was dedicated on October 11, 1985. Marvin Millsap, '26, had funded the construction as a memorial to his wife, Rose Ann Carr Millsap, '25, and the Carr – Millsap families. He also commissioned nine original watercolors of campus buildings from artist Jim Hamil. Somehow, despite his hard feelings about the 1962 abandonment of the Home Economics Department, he had been persuaded to fund the foyer which forms the above ground entrance to the underground library. Marvin gave the dedicatory address. Later, oil portraits of both Millsaps were hung in the foyer.

At the time of dedication, the rock façade of the new structure had not been constructed due to weather conditions. This was completed later by R.B. Aker, '38, who used stones from Woodward Hall. Some of those same stones were remnants of "Old Number One," the original college building. Someday we should put a bronze plaque describing that on the entrance.

Several items were discussed at the January 9 1986 council meeting. The Alumni Association was still providing a stipend for Frances Fishburn: \$250.00 per month plus a \$300.00 Christmas bonus. Other expenses were \$500 for Alumni Weekend, \$500.00 for Mackenzie Scholarship and a possible \$500 to the athletic department if any team needed to travel to a national play-off game. (October 10, 1985 council minutes)

Total income from investments the previous year was \$3,923 of which \$3000.00 had been spent. The budget for 1985-86 was set at \$4950.

Bill Tipton and others continued to raise funds for the new library by encouraging alumni to fund "rooms" and help purchase equipment.

Completion of the new library had been stalled by inflation.

The college began a Weekend and Evening College program, geared toward helping working adults earn degrees.

Marie Gorton was working to include foreign and military students on mailing lists. Alumni records were in the process of being computerized, so she hoped this would facilitate gathering and amending the information.

Pete Kale,'71, a member of the Executive Council, was searching for some money- making projects to swell alumni coffers. He concerned himself with seeking merchandise that alumni could purchase at a profit to the Association. He was not satisfied with cheap items – he sought something with class.

Janet Pollock,'41, reported that alumni giving was down for the current year and most council members felt it was because the college was between fund raising campaigns. Pete Kale suggested a list of 10 most wanted smaller expense items to entice givers.

Dorsey Woods died on May 5, 1986. Dorsey was one of Park's most revered African American employees. He was born in Parkville and came to work at the college in 1943. He left to spend two years in the Army (1954-1956) but returned to Park and remained here until his death. As did many long-term employees, Dorsey held a variety of jobs during his tenure. He worked in the maintenance department, the food service, the grounds keeping crew and in the mailroom. He had the remarkable ability to remember names of alumni, even if they hadn't been on campus for years. Shortly before his death, the students named him "Man of the Year." Dorsey endeavored to make friends with students, professors, administrators and fellow workers and is fondly remembered by hundreds of alumni and friends. Pallbearers at his funeral in the college chapel included a vice president, a professor and four alumni of the college.

Sarah Niemann Rhodes,'48, President (1985-1986)  
Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor.

## 1986-1987

Alumni Weekend continued the Alumni College sessions, the Park Sing, Friends of the Library and Historical Society meetings. Attendance was good, although no number was given. The business meeting on June 21 was filled with reports and announcements – no business was conducted.

**Jim Cariddi,'49, was hired as Associate for Alumni Development and Corporate Giving, effective September 2.**

The Alumni Fund reached a total of \$210,876.39 for 1985-86. (Alumniad, Fall, 1986)

The science hall was officially renamed "Findlay-Wakefield" in honor of Dr. Merlin C. Findlay, who taught science at Park for fifty-four years. His five children, all of whom graduated from the college, had endowed a chair of science in their father's name several years before. Although no one could deny the contributions made by Dr. Findlay and his family, some alumni have been known to wonder if any seemingly permanent gifts to the college would really be permanent. After all, the Wakefields had given \$35,000 in 1919, a lot of money, to get the building started. Some folks thought the building should have remained in their name only. This, again, I know from conversations with alumni. Regardless, it is a fine tribute to a very loyal Park Family. (Alumniad, Winter, 1986)

Early in the year, Dr. Condit announced his resignation, to take effect on June 30, 1987. He had served Park for twelve years. During his administration the Millsap Foyer was completed and construction of the Mabee Learning Center and the McAfee Library was begun. He added and revitalized many academic majors and established the Graduate School of Public Affairs and the Graduate School of Religion. He also began the Weekend College program and the Associate Degree Nursing program. Another major achievement was the expansion of the Military Resident Center Degree Program, from six bases to twenty-one. Harold Condit was also a minister in the RLDS Church and a member of the World Church's Higher Education Advisory Board. He was an amiable, personable man and made many friends among the alumni. Two of his children graduated from Park: Randy in 1987 and Lorna, in 1990.

At the February 5, 1987 Council meeting, Pete Kale presented a marketing plan consisting of selling chairs and perhaps creating a school tie. Traditionally styled hardwood chairs and rockers were advertised in the Alumniad. Each chair had a bronze Park College seal embedded in the back. The prices were \$235 for a rocker and \$220 for the captain's chair. The association was to receive \$40.00 per chair after the cost of casting the seal was paid for (if I understand it correctly). They were

shipped C.O.D. at a cost of between \$30-\$60. I am not sure how many were sold – they were very expensive. Compare these prices to the chairs of a few years earlier! The board of trustees bought twenty-five (I think) for the Morden Board Room.

There was a great deal of discussion about including the military graduates in alumni activities. A motion to create a military distinguished alumni award was defeated, although the military grads were never disqualified from the traditional award.

A suggestion was made to elect a military grad to the alumni council. This was the beginning of a council effort to involve the military alumni in association business. For various reasons, the efforts were never hugely successful. I know that there is a file on this compiled by Bill Tipton, but I can't find it. For at least one year, he had produced a newsletter, called "The Eagle" which he sent to every military graduate. After having tried this and receiving little response, he wrote out his judgement. As I recall, he mentioned the fact that the majority of these alumni would never be significant donors because they had no attachment to the campus and even after his special effort, did not respond. He also stressed that their constant address changes were impossible to monitor and that mailings to the folks on active duty would likely never reach them. In addition, all the mailings and subsequent returns were very expensive.

Regardless, he and others knew that some of these grads were very grateful to Park for providing them a way to complete their educations. One suggestion, from John Sutton, was to seek out the retired officers and encourage them to participate in alumni activities.

I spoke with many other alumni directors who dealt with the same types of constituencies and they all concurred. It is a very difficult problem and very worrisome because we have so much untapped potential out there. I believe it will take a second alumni director to handle the problem. The traditional alumni, on whom we have depended for over one hundred years, still require the most attention right now.

The Alumni Council decided to add an attendance policy (for council meetings) to the constitution. I believe that members who missed two meetings were to be given the option of resigning.

Jim Cariddi introduced the Park College MasterCard program and the Memory Book which was to be a record of all memorial gifts to the college.

I'm not sure how far back it goes. It has recently been moved to Mackay Hall.

Harry and Betty Turner were chairs of the alumni fund drive and stressed that Alumni give before the Tax Reform Act went into effect. (Do you know what that was?) They, with Chuck's help were successful in getting many people to give before the deadline of January 1, 1987.

Hans Brisch,'64, President (1986-1987)

Jean Hurshman,'81, Editor, followed by Marie Gorton,'83, in September.

### 1987-1988

The annual business meeting was held on June 20, 1987. Treasurer Dorla Watkins,'80, reported that overall giving was down which lowered the \$1.00 per gift amount that was put into the treasury. The association was \$70.56 in the hole.

Hans Brisch praised the past leadership of Harold Condit.

**Dr. Donald J. Breckon became president of Park College as of July 1, 1987. He had most recently been acting dean of graduate studies and associate vice provost for research at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. He held a B.S. in Health, Recreation and Physical Education, an M.P.H. in Public Health Education and a Ph.D. in adult and continuing education with emphasis in administration of higher education from Central Michigan University and Michigan State, respectively. He was active in the RLDS church and had served as mayor of Mount Pleasant. Among other attributes listed in the June, 1987 Alumniad were references to his writing and service with volunteer health organizations. He had also taught health and computer courses. He was then 47 years old. He and his wife Sandy, had four daughters.**

**He introduced himself to the alumni at the June 20 business meeting by means of a video tape.**

The 1986-87 Alumni Fund Total was \$285,273.47, the effort was led by Harry and Betty Turner.

Dr. Breckon announced to the council that he was pleased with the number of alumni who were dedicated to Park. His list of needed improvements included computerization of the campus and the 24 military sites. His main goals were to complete the library and develop the rest of the space, get out of debt and repair, restore and renovate campus buildings.

Chuck Edwards reported that a search was on for a 5<sup>th</sup> vice president – VP for Institutional Advancement (Development). This would free him to concentrate on wills, estates and other types of deferred giving.

The Carnegie Library was to be renamed Norrington Center. Elmer Norrington,'20, had left a considerable amount of money to the college – over 2 million dollars for the endowment. (Council minutes October 8, 1987)

By spring, excavation was finished for the new library, floors had been poured and utilities were being installed. Plans were underway to have a sneak preview of the facility during alumni weekend and to formally dedicate the McAfee Library in the fall of 1989.

The college received an endowment challenge grant from the federal government. If Park could raise \$500,000, the government would add one million dollars to the endowment. Bill Tipton went to work.

**Changes occurred in the development office. Dan Chegwidien was hired as Vice President for Institutional Advancement. He was responsible for Alumni Relations, Fund Raising, Marketing/Public Relations and Special Projects. Chuck Edwards remained as Vice President for College Relations and concentrated on wills, bequests and deferred giving. Jim Cariddi,'49, was named Director of Alumni Relations and Marie Gorton became full time Public Relations Director. Judie Greer was named coordinator of special projects, Rosemary Shipman took over typesetting, I.J. Smith remained as secretary and Jean Curl,'50, worked as part-time bookkeeper. (Alumniad, Fall, 1988) Janet Lowe Pollock,'41, President (1987-1988) Marie Gorton,'87, Editor.**

### 1988-1989

The June 18, 1988 annual meeting was dominated by Dr. Breckon' state of the college report. This report also appeared in the Fall, 1988 Alumniad.

Alumni Weekend included tours of the unfinished library led by Dr. Breckon, the dedication of the Findlay-Wakefield Science Hall and several successful reunions, including one for the Women of Stephens. The council opted to reinstate Alumni College the next year.

Many items of business were covered at the October 13 Council meeting. It was noted that the alumni office had run out of the special medallions presented to Distinguished Alumni. Instead of having new ones made, the



office (probably a money decision, I don't know) had been giving award recipients a Park College Medallion of some type, something that was not special. The original medallions were much coveted and were the gift of Dr. E. Lynn MacQuiddy, '14 back in 1963.

A decision was made to move Alumni Weekend 1990 to the third weekend in June to allow alumni who were teachers or who had children in school could attend. Many schools, particularly those on the East Coast, were in session until mid June.

Several things had happened on campus; Dearing was leased to UPS as a management training center (it had been empty for a while – I don't know how long); home campus enrollment held its own while all other programs increased enrollment; the college opened a campus in Independence in November.

The Alumni Fund reached an all-time high of \$306,107.64. Harry and Betty Turner were the co-chairs.

Jim Cariddi found a company that could reproduce the Distinguished Alumni medallions and had determined that eight alumni had not received the MacQuiddy version. I recall that there was a file concerning this in the alumni office – not sure where it is now.

The alumni council reviewed the practice of sending the Alumniad only to those who gave at least \$10.00 to the college each year. The publication was being sent to only 3,200 of the 13,000 alumni whose addresses were on file. Dan Chegwiddden recommended that the format be changed to tabloid size, substantially lowering the cost so that the Alumniad could be sent to all active addresses. The idea was accepted and the group proposed amending the constitution to legalize it. I believe this was a very important move. I know I was aggravated by the ten dollar rule because in those days, I rarely had ten dollars to spare for any reason. At any rate, the Alumniad did not seem to be providing a reason to give money and thousands of alumni were not receiving their newsmagazine.

I was on the council at this time and also have a recollection that the alumni office was not soliciting funds from grads until they had been out of school for five years. I thought that was a great idea, if it were true.

The Alumni Office was contracting with Harris Publishing to create another Alumni Directory. There was discussion about the high cost of the books and Harris came up with a payment plan. Obviously, they had

sold enough books in 1985 to pay their expenses and were willing to give us another go.

The McAfee Library was opened for business on November 7, 1988. The official dedication was held on January 28, 1989. Some graduates of the 1930's complained about the January date and wanted the dedication to take place at Alumni Weekend because they had given money for the large circulation desk. The library was re-dedicated during Alumni Weekend.

The council approved constitutional changes to be voted on during Alumni Weekend.

At the January council meeting, Harry and Betty Turner,'33/'31, Chuck Edwards,'42, Hugh McAfee,'41 and Bill Tipton,'28, all spoke about the challenge grant and the current Alumni Fund. \$335,000 had been received and \$90,000 in pledges had been accounted for. Chuck stated that the rest of the \$500,000 must be raised by June 17 in order to receive the one million dollars from the government. Bill Tipton also stressed the importance of this challenge.

Betty Turner stressed the need for giving to the Alumni Fund for day to day operations. As of January 26, \$120,036 had been received. There was discussion about two campaigns going on at once, but there was no way to avoid it. There was also discussion about using association funds to make up the balance if necessary. The council agreed, providing they would be reimbursed. (This didn't become necessary).

Rosemary Pipkin Janas,'86, was the first military grad to be elected to the executive council. She served a full three- year term (1988-1991).

Jim Cariddi had completed the medallion project and was getting ready to send them to the distinguished alumni who had not received one. The Alumni Council paid for them (\$450.00). I think this should be looked into again.

Jim had managed to organize several alumni gatherings in K.C., Omaha and Washington, D.C. Response was good. He really wanted to revive the chapters but I am sure he didn't have much of a budget and I know he didn't have much staff to help him.

Phil Gurney,'42, suggested that the council consider adding a statement of purpose, or preamble, to the Association Constitution. For some reason, the original preamble had been dropped in 1940. I cannot find out why; it probably was an oversight. He also questioned having council meetings always coincide with trustee meetings and asked for a review of meeting

procedures. The main reason that council meetings coincided with trustee meetings was to be sure that the Alumni Association president, who also sat on the board during his or her tenure, could attend both, particularly if travel were involved.

**Jim Cariddi abruptly resigned as Alumni Director in March. Marlowe Sherwood was asked to serve as interim director. She was the one who put alumni weekend together.**

I do not know exactly why Jim quit. I do know that he was very reluctant to participate in alumni activities from that day until after Dr. Breckon retired. Jim is now active again. He has always been an extremely loyal alumnus and loves the college.

The first nation-wide phone campaign netted \$21,500 from alumni.

Wilford "Pete" Kale,'71, President (1988-1989)  
Marie Gorton,'87, Editor.

### 1989-1990

Changes were made to the constitution at the annual meeting on June 17, 1989:

In an effort to include as many military in the association as possible, the membership requirement was changed to read "shall consist of persons who attended Park College or Academy for at least one year in degree granting programs."

The President was now authorized to fill vacancies in the council if such occurred between council meetings. Previously, the entire council had to be involved.

The "send \$10.00 or lose the Alumniad" rule was officially rescinded.

The name of the endowment fund was changed to "Park College Alumni Association Fund"

Chuck Edwards reported that the goal of \$500.00 for the Endowment Challenge Grant had been reached on May 30. As a result, Park College received one million dollars for its endowment. A large plaque memorializing this spectacular event hangs today across from the library. I believe Bill Tipton paid for the plaque himself.

Alumni Weekend was reasonably well attended and featured a picnic in English Landing Park as a Saturday lunch option. It was a popular

addition but a logistical nightmare. People changed their minds at the last minute and food nearly ran out. In addition, the park is often hot and/or flooded that time of year and can be impassable. Transportation was also a problem.

This weekend also featured the bus tour of Kansas City for the first time. It was a big hit. Traditional events were the Sing and the FOL and Historical Society meetings.

At their June follow-up meeting, the Executive Council discussed events that would attract younger alumni. A trip on the River Queen excursion boat was suggested.

There was also a great deal of discussion about involving military graduates in the Alumni Association. Refer to explanation above.

Giving to the regular Alumni Fund totaled \$267,016.61, another amazing feat.

Carolyn McHenry, '71, was hired as Director of Alumni Relations on September 25, 1989. She served in that capacity until June, 1995, when she was transferred to the library.

Nancy Welborn was hired the same day as Director of Public Relations.

Donovan Smith, '56, President. (1989-1990)  
Carolyn McHenry, '71 and Nancy Welborn, Alumniad Editors.

### **Alumni Association Presidents 1989-2002**

Donovan N. Smith, '56	(1989-1990)
Dorla Watkins Strang, '80	(1990-1992)
Rosemary Fry Plakas, '63	(1992-1994)
George C. Stewart III, '58	(1994-1996)
Bob McGowan, '56	(1996-1998)
Deanna Medlin Armstrong, '70	(1998-2000)
Peter C. Sturner, '73	(2000- 2002)
Dr. Roger Bell, '78	(2002-?)