

## On Its Own

Just prior to the official separation of Upper Iowa University from Methodist Church patronage, President Van Horn resigned and Dr. Dickman was inaugurated in 1928 as the chief administrator for the second time. Dr. Dickman served in this capacity for three years, or until his death in 1931 — the only Upper Iowa president to die while in office.

The catalogue issued in 1929 announced that while separate fees had been charged in the past for various incidental costs at the University, now all were combined with the tuition.

All benefits heretofore included in fees are granted, such as paid subscription to the *Collegian*, tickets to L.P.A. entertainments and lecture courses, swimming, incidental gymnasium expenses, athletics and forensics, with free admission to all intercollegiate events. The only fees charged are for laboratory purposes.

Tuition for one semester in the Liberal Arts college was placed at \$80 for 12 to 15 hours of instruction. Laboratory fees ranged from \$1.50 for physics to \$8 for advanced chemistry.

Under the personal direction of Dr. Dickman, a development campaign was conducted in 1930 which resulted in pledges and gifts totaling over



\$360,000. But Dr. Dickman's health then began to fail and on August 22, 1931, he passed away. He had served Upper Iowa for over 50 years as a student, board member, treasurer, teacher, and president.

After President Dickman's untimely death, Dean William C. Mongold, A.M., LL.D., who had joined the faculty in 1916, was named acting president. He served until the formal inauguration of Arthur E. Bennett, A.M., Ph.D., three months later. Dr. Bennett had affiliated with the University in 1900 as dean of the Normal School.

The depression lay heavily on the Nation and on the campus, but enrollment held its own and things proceeded on a fairly normal course until February 16, 1933, when a major fire once again brought disaster. On that date the Chapel, erected in 1890, fell victim when fire broke out on the roof of the building about 1:30 p.m. The Departments of Chemistry, Physics, and Home Economics were located on the lower floor of the building, being moved there after the Science Hall fire in 1927. The equipment of these departments was saved by the firemen, students, and faculty fire-fighters.

Although the loss of the building was a heavy blow, President Bennett reorganized the allocation of classroom space, instituted some curriculum revisions, and academic work proceeded as usual.

In 1934 following a subscription campaign, a new Science Hall was erected on the stone first



story and basement of the burned Chapel. Daily chapel services were reduced to three times a week, although students were still required to attend.

The campus holdings were enlarged in 1935 when the Ladies' Professorship Association purchased the tract of land west of Fayette known as Robertson's Woods and turned the 51 acres over to Upper Iowa for use "as a recreation ground." The area was valuable because of its heavy growth of timber and the vast variety of flowers and other plants to be found in its depths, making it ideal for use as a botanical research laboratory.

Dean Mongold was again made acting president in 1936, following the resignation of Dr. Bennett. He served in this capacity for the next two years. During this period, due to the depression, a shift was made from teacher training to that of supplying the demand for college trained men for business placing. Dr. Mongold also announced that a series of student self-help projects would be instituted.

A broom factory, accordingly, was established in 1936, largely through Dr. Mongold's personal efforts. Frank Foffel of Oelwein was hired to direct the production. As skills developed three different grades of brooms were manufactured: The Peacock, The Peacock Standard, and The Peacock Special. From 6 to 12 students were employed each year; thus they were learning a trade



and at the same time helping to pay their way through college.

After making the brooms the students gained experience in selling by taking their products door-to-door. The first brooms were sold at Homecoming, October 24, 1936. The factory remained in operation about three years.

As another part of the "self-help" program the Upper Iowa University maintained a number of men's "cooperative" housing units. Students living in these houses paid a minimum for board and room. Each provided his own linen, blankets, and silverware and did his share of the work about the house. The college provided a woman to do the cooking and a manager to do the buying and to advise as to the operation of the home.

Some of the students received aid through government work in the National Youth Administration. Others found employment in homes and business places in town. The college itself provided employment in the library, and in office and campus work as well as in the broom factory and print shop. The bookstore was operated on a cost basis, with a stock of second hand books which could be rented for a nominal fee.

The print shop, located on the third floor of College Hall (Old Sem), consisted of a small power press and other equipment sufficient to print small bulletins, hand bills, cards, and the like. It was operated by the students under the supervi-



sion of the college and afforded work for three or four boys. The broom labels for the Peacock brooms were the first items printed by the shop.

These self-help programs had the three-fold purpose of permitting students to earn their way through college, learn a trade which they could later use for a livelihood if necessary, and to take the pressure off the teacher education and placement work.

The last point presented a most serious problem, according to Dr. Mongold: "Since the school prior to that time had been turning out graduates largely prepared for teaching with usually more than half the students finishing only two years of college, the prospect of the University being reduced to a junior college was imminent. Therefore long range plans were made for broadening the curriculum."

Tradition was broken in 1937 by having the commencement exercises before the final semester examinations. In previous years the greater part of the student body left school after "finals" and thus missed the graduation ceremonies unless they were receiving their degrees.

Two other changes were noted during this period: The Student Council was re-organized and listed as a full-fledged student organization, and a faculty counseling service was instituted. Under the latter program each student was placed in the charge of a faculty member "counselor" to whom



he might turn for advice and help on any personal problem, whether academic or otherwise. This custom of "personalized education" is still in practice at Upper Iowa today.

Thus, the ground work was laid for the coming of the new president, Vivian T. Smith, Ph.D., LL.D., in the fall of 1938; he served in this post for the next 14 years.

A campus radio station was installed on November 23, 1938, with broadcasts being made semiweekly over station WOI at Ames. The station also broadcast briefly over several other area stations, and from time to time it served almost every station in the state by sending them special groups and programs. By request of the alumni, the college bell was heard to ring at each of the programs.

A former residence, a large two-story home located a block south of the campus, was acquired by the University in 1939 and equipped to serve the institution as the Cole-Patridge Music Hall.

In 1940 the college leased an airport site on the Isaac Paul farm about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Fayette. Arrangements were made for courses to start in the spring semester of 1940-41 for a Civil Pilot training program. The ground school courses were offered by Dr. Clarence Black, and instruction in flying by Lt. Peter Klinik, by approval of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. Students who finished the primary course were granted



three hours of college credit. Upon completing the required flying hours and passing the final examination, the students were granted private pilot licenses. By June 1941, 10 boys had completed the course. The program was dropped following the outbreak of World War II.

An innovation, which later became a full-fledged tradition and is still observed on the campus, was the election of the first Homecoming Queen in October 1940. The *Collegian* reported that "Screaming sirens, beating drums, and cheering voices announced Helen Morgan, a senior from Stanley, as Upper Iowa University's first Homecoming Queen. She made her appearance at the football field in a blue and white carriage drawn by four members of the football squad and preceded by five attendants. She was accompanied by the band, which formed a 'U.I.U.' background."

With the outbreak of World War II the next year, Upper Iowa again rose to the demands of the times. President Smith, writing in the *Alumnus* for December 1941, stated that:

Already about 14% of our people have gone into active military service or into work governed by the war situation. We are in constant contact with national and state authorities regarding the kind of program that can be offered best on our campus. We are endeavoring to maintain the morale of our students and faculty and community by promoting intelligent understanding in the present world condition.



As the conflict over the world increased in intensity nearly all of the young men students and many of the young women entered the military service and the enrollment steadily decreased. By 1944, the enrollment had dropped to 65 students and the school operated on a total budget of only \$65,000. Chapel services, although still required, were held only once a week, with convocations being held at least once each semester. In July 1945, there were 514 stars in the service flag of Upper Iowa University which the girls of the campus had made and presented to the school.

Although occasional dances had been permitted on the campus almost from the beginning of Dr. Smith's administration, it was not until the meeting of the Board on October 24, 1946, that all restrictions on this type of social activity were eliminated.

At the end of the war, and with the passing of the "G.I. Bill," students, primarily veterans, once more flocked to the campus, and by the opening of the fall semester in 1947 enrollment had jumped to 448. Anticipating the influx of new students and despite the limitations caused by the war, the administration had completed a drive to raise \$100,000 to match a pledge of Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer. With this financial foundation, the college proceeded with plans for expansion.

Under provisions of the Lanham Act, arrangements were made for several war surplus build-



ings from two nearby military bases to be moved to the campus. Thirteen quonset huts were erected on the campus in 1946. They provided much-needed housing for married students.

The sudden growth in enrollment also created problems in finding classroom space. The Business Administration Department was moved to the second floor of what was then the John Deere building in downtown Fayette. This move was made necessary by the large classes enrolled in this department. The move also allowed room for expansion for the large typing and secretarial classes.

The social features for the campus were planned by a student committee composed of a representative from each class and the president of the Student Council. Their program, however, was subject to the approval of a faculty committee.

In 1947, a wooden army administration building was secured and moved to the campus to serve as a physics building. It was set up on the site formerly occupied by old North Hall. The basement served as a recreation center for the student body. The first floor of South Hall was remodeled also and a cafeteria was added to the structure in 1947. A modern kitchen was installed and facilities for food storage and refrigeration added.

When the World War II veterans appeared on the campus, eager, loud, and for the most part, earnest in effort, they had no time for many of the



school's traditions. Wearing of the blue "beanie," which had been required of all freshmen, was classified as "silly" and men who had but a short time before removed steel helmets and flight caps refused to wear them. And who among the upper-classmen felt like forcing them to do so? As a result, many of the traditions fell by the wayside or were made optional for veterans until the issue of smoking on campus arose.

Since the beginning of the school smoking on the campus had been forbidden and strictly enforced. The veterans, however, were accustomed to their cigarettes and the five minutes between classes presented an excellent opportunity to indulge. Indulge they did, despite administrative disapproval, which resulted in some being expelled or suspended from school.

The Faculty became divided on the question — some of them were veterans or even smoked themselves. Things seemed to reach a stalemate with the administration voicing disapproval, but with cigarette butts still appearing in large quantities around the doorways to buildings.

"One bright morning," the *Collegian* for January 15, 1947, announced, "when the usual group had collected for their usual smoke, low and behold — shades of the service bases — butt cans were liberally distributed around the campus." Smoking was at last recognized as a legal evil.

Although the veterans shattered a few tradi-



tions they also established some of their own. One of these still in effect is the annual awarding of the "Victory Bell" to the winner of the Upper Iowa-Wartburg College football game.

The bell, weighing over 400 pounds, was presented to the rivals by the Chicago Great Western Railroad Company, through the Oelwein Chamber of Commerce in 1948. Taken from an early locomotive, the "Victory Bell" began service in 1918 and had traveled well over a million miles. Upper Iowa was the first winner of the trophy. In the 16 games which have been played by the two teams Upper Iowa has won possession 10 times to 6 for Wartburg. One game ended in a tie.

The period of extensive improvements and readjustments continued in 1948. The general administrative offices were moved from the library back to College Hall and the former offices were made into a library reading room.

Starting in the 1949-1950 school year the compulsory chapel provision was dropped entirely and a voluntary Christian chapel service was substituted, which was held weekly under the guidance of a director of religious activities. Assembly or convocation, however, was conducted in the gymnasium for one hour each week. All students and faculty had to attend, and one credit hour per year was given for perfect attendance.

The outbreak of the Korean War again brought problems to Upper Iowa. In the Janu-



ary 1951 *Alumnus*, President Smith pointed out that the University was "joining efforts with other colleges throughout America in utilizing all facilities in the way of personnel and equipment to assist in the national defense effort."

In June 1951, after several years of intensive work by President Smith, the Board of Trustees, and members of the Faculty, the University was again accredited by the North Central Association. Despite re-accreditation, however, the enrollment started on the decline, following the graduation of all the World War II veterans. The institution again fell into heavy debt and many of the programs of the college had to be curtailed.

On March 4, 1952, President Smith submitted his resignation. Dean Mongold was appointed acting president for the third time. In September Eugene E. Garbee, M.A., Ed.D., then on the faculty of Drake University, was named to the presidency. Dr. Garbee, a self-styled "Ozark hillbilly," took over the operation of the school at a time when even the Trustees seemed ready to concede there was little chance for survival.

Enrollment was only 208; much of the endowment funds had been loaned to the University to pay current operating expenses; all of the buildings were in need of repair; and the University was over \$100,000 in debt. Certainly the prospects did not look bright for the young ex-coach who was assuming his first role as president.