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Harding Reflector and Alumni News



Armstrong tosses the Harding mortgage to the flames.

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ALUMNI BANQUET AND BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday evening, May 29, has been cataloged as the date for the annual Banquet and business meeting this year.

We are confidently looking forward to the largest attendance of Alumni and Ex-students ever gathered on Harding's Campus.

There are many things to be thankful for this year, two of which are (1) the lifting of the mortgage against the college plant and (2) the active support of the Alumni Association in formally opening the campaign for endowment by a gift of \$5,000 toward that end.

You are expected to be with us for the closing exercises of this year's work. You have been thinking about coming, planning to come some day. Why not make definite arrangements right now, to take your vacation the last week of May and spend it in association with classmates and fellow students?

We are looking forward with pleasure to your visit.

Things you will enjoy:

1. Lyceum Play — Tuesday, May 28,
8 p. m.
2. Final Chapel — Wednesday, May
29, 10 a. m.
3. Alumni Banquet — Wednesday,
May 29, 6 p. m.
4. Graduation Exercises — Thursday,
May 30, 10 a. m.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Last spring the officers of the Alumni Association began to formulate a plan which would insure a maximum participation of Alumni members with a minimum of expense to each. After some study the plan for an Alumni Endowment Fund was suggested as the solution. The idea was presented to Clinton Davidson, New York insurance man, for criticism from the business man's viewpoint. With his suggestions the plan was drafted into its final form and with the assistance of H. H. Dawson, Aetna agent of Searcy, the plan was submitted to the association at the annual business meeting in June.

Upon approval by the association, the officers immediately bought short term policies for \$6,500, endowment insurance in five policies for \$1,000 each, and one for \$1,500. These policies were to mature in five, ten, fifteen, and twenty years. A meeting of Alumni officers and College officials was called and the territory divided into districts. Alumni representatives were selected for each district. Each representative was furnished a list of the names of all alumni within his district, and the office force here followed with a general letter to all alumni. During the following months many of you were contacted personally and many more by personal letter. The staff was exceptionally well pleased with the favorable response. While the active participation has been somewhat disappointing, the general reception has been all that could be expected.

In November when the temporary policies expired we were able to take up \$5,000 of the original \$6,500 purchased.

Thanksgiving Day Dr. Benson announced that the college indebtedness had been paid. Amid the cheers and applause of 800 friends of the school, Dr. Benson presented the canceled mortgage to Dr. Armstrong.

We then assembled on the lawn and there witnessed the burning of the paper that had caused so much anxiety. When

the last flame had died, and the only material reminder of the debt was the smouldering heap of gray ashes, it was the privilege of your president to present to Dr. Benson, on behalf of the Alumni Association, your gift of \$5,000 toward a permanent Endowment Fund for our "ALMA MATER."

With this step two major things were accomplished; the drive for an Endowment was officially opened, and the Alumni Association was first to contribute to this worthy cause. In his acceptance speech Dr. Benson stated that "the next major step is the financial security assured by an endowment." He continued by saying that our work for security was not finished, but that we had merely reached a breathing place. He assured us that in the near future the campaign for an endowment would begin.

As the end of my term as your president approaches, I want to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who have so loyally labored with me to make our ideal a reality. We have made the start, and are justly proud of the effort and of the accomplishment.

However, we are not in any position to relax and count past victories. To do so would spell defeat for a worthy cause well begun. As worthy workmen, we can not now afford to see our efforts come to nothing for a lack of cooperation. Having begun, we must see it through.

Ahead of us lies a wonderful opportunity, definitely within our possibilities. No one of us alone could easily have accomplished what has been done, and alone no one of us could carry it on to a successful finish. As a group, it is not an impossible task to realize our goal of \$100,000 by the time many of us shall be in our prime. To reach this goal, may we urge each one to do his part by:

- (1) Continued support.
- (2) Enlisting as many alumni and ex-students as possible.
- (3) Encouraging people to attend Harding.
- (4) Being prompt and regular in remitting his \$5.00 each year.
- (5) Being HARDING COLLEGE conscious.

HARDING COLLEGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

By George S. Benson

Throughout its history Harding College has been a growing institution. Each passing year has found the college with a larger enrollment, with a stronger faculty and with better equipment. This record is continuing unabated.

During the past three years the college raised \$95,000 to liquidate its total indebtedness. Everything on the campus is now free of debt and there are no interest payments to be made each fall. The plant with its equipment is valued at \$641,000 and we have the satisfaction of walking across the campus with the knowledge that it is not mortgaged - that it is 100% our own.

Academically, Harding has the largest faculty in its history - a total of thirty-five members. Ph. D. degrees head the major departments and the faculty is considered well equipped for the work the institution is offering. The curriculum at the present time includes eighteen different majors; also pre-med, pre-dental, pre-engineering, and pre-nursing work. This gives opportunity for students to have a wide choice of curriculum. The Business Department is also strong and is a growing field. Harding Business Department has more calls for its graduates than it is able to supply.

Much work is being offered in the Fine Arts without special fees. We are hoping for the day when all work in the Fine Arts can be offered without special fees, so that each student may choose the courses he desires without finding it necessary to shy around those which call for special fees. We are today attaining this in a considerable measure. The two teachers in the speech field are on regular salary just as other teachers in the institution, and nearly all speech work is without extra fees. In the Music Department, all theory courses are likewise offered without special tuition. This allows any student who loves music to get a great deal of music without special fees. In the Band and Orchestra special

tuition is at a very low rate in order that students may enter those fields of work at very little additional cost.

Beginning last September Harding College discontinued all intercollegiate athletics in favor of a more aggressive program of intramural sports. We believe that the real goal in college athletics is to provide exercise for the students in order that the physical body may be developed in this respect. We now have twice as many young people going out for sports as we had last year. We consider that this abundantly justifies our move in abolishing inter-collegiate athletics in favor of a more aggressive program of intramural sports. These intramural sports include touch football, basketball, boxing, wrestling, badminton, track, field, baseball, swimming, horseshoes, etc.

We have also added a new sport this year in the form of horseback riding—a healthful, attractive sport which will evidently grow in favor with the student body.

The present enrollment has run past four hundred sixty-five for this year. This includes about forty students in the primary and intermediate department, and about thirty-five in the high school department, with the remainder in the college department. Students this year come from twenty-six different states. In spite of the growing size of the student body it still remains one huge family—the friendliest place to be found.

Our chief aim is to build Christian character, preparing young people for living in a competitive world, and for living in harmony with the will and purpose of God. Any one who is prepared to live in this competitive world and to live in harmony with the will and purpose of God is educated. No one who does not have this preparation is educated. Harding is trying to educate young people in the right way.

As we look into the future, we readily see much land yet to be conquered. The college plant will continually call for upkeep, for new equipment, for replacement of buildings, and for new buildings. A college plant cannot stand still. Deterioration is continuous. Consequently, repairs, replacements, and new developments are essential for any college with a vision for the future.

In keeping with the onward march of education a college faculty must likewise become stronger and stronger. The number of Ph.D. professors must be increased. The number of A.B. and M.A. instructors must be decreased. A teacher load should likewise be at a minimum to allow the greatest measure of efficiency. The library must grow and keep apace with the advancement of knowledge.

The curriculum must be adjusted to keep pace with changing conditions. New courses must be initiated. Vocational guidance must be emphasized. New educational methods must be recognized, and science laboratories must be equipped in keeping with the scientific progress.

Additional facilities should be provided for working students. The college now operates its own print shop, a laundry, a cleaning and pressing plant, and a small farm. All of these furnish opportunity for working students. Then, of course, the janitor work and most of the work in the boarding club is done by student help. Nevertheless, there is need for still other avenues for utilizing student labor and thus helping young men and women secure a college education in a safe environment. Several hundred acres of land could be added to the college farm at almost a nominal cost. This would give opportunity for more boys to help work their way in school and the farm would also probably show some profit to the college, in addition to paying the way of the boys who would work on it. Our present farm has shown a good profit for the past two years, and we believe that a larger farm would do likewise.

While there are probably no statistics adequate to justify a definite conclusion, it is nevertheless my personal opinion that more than half of the young people of church of Christ homes who go away to colleges other than our own Christian schools and who remain long enough to secure a Bachelor's degree lose that active faith in the Bible as the word of God, in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and lose that active interest in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly, it is imperative that fathers and mothers become better acquainted with the dangers which their own children face in acquiring a

college education in the average institution of higher learning today. Christian fathers and mothers should also have opportunity to become acquainted with the ideals of our Christian colleges, which are providing opportunity for an education of sound quality in a safe environment, under teachers who believe the Bible to be the word of God and who labor to inspire faith in the hearts of those in their classes.

It has always been the policy of Harding College to request each student to study the Bible daily. And as we look into the future we must maintain that same principle, expecting each student to sit in a Bible class daily, regardless of the major which he may have chosen.

The tuition and fees received from students in our Christian schools is inadequate to meet the operating expenses of these colleges. Accordingly, each is in need of additional gifts each year. This presents a fine opportunity for those who have been blessed with this world's goods to make annual gifts to our Christian schools or to place these institutions in their wills.

Several people have recently placed Harding College in their wills. In one case a farm and a piece of city property was promised. In another case, half of one's possessions were to go to the college upon the death of the testator.

There are many people today who would be glad to leave some part of their possessions to such work as Harding College is doing, and our former students will do a service in acquainting such people with these splendid possibilities for doing an important work.

As we look to the Harding College of tomorrow we want her to have more liberal support in order that she may keep pace with the growing needs of a new day. Accordingly, we are depending upon each of our beloved students to remember his Alma Mater—to remember her in his prayers to Almighty God, to remember her in directing young people of his acquaintances in choosing their college and to remember her in talking to friends who might make gifts or bequests to Harding.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In accordance with the promise made in our correspondence last summer and fall we are giving a complete list of those who have contributed to the Endowment Fund. If you have made any contribution, and your name is not in this list please notify the office immediately.

F. W. Mattox	\$5.00	Joseph Pryor	\$5.00
George S. Benson	5.00	M. E. Glaser	5.00
James McDaniels	5.00	Frances Colson	5.00
Elvin Berryhill	5.00	Mr. and Mrs. Wade	
Edwin Hughes	5.00	Ruby	5.00
Woodrow Whitten	5.00	Margaret Overton	5.00
Orie Melton	1.00	Marjorie Overton	5.00
Clifford Cronin, Jr.	5.00	Catherine and Lois	
A. B. Henderson	5.00	Bell	5.00
Mrs. A. B. Henderson	5.00	Mrs. George S. Benson	5.00
Joe Lewis Leslie	5.00	Mary Nelle Blackwell	5.00
Malcolm Harrison	5.00	Sherman LaNier	5.00
Nola Capps	5.00	Mrs. Sherman LaNier	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Vance		Tillman Terry	5.00
Greenway	5.00	Mrs. Tillman Terry	5.00
Pattie Puryear	5.00	Mrs. Martha Starnes	
Claudia Rosenbaum	5.00	Shanklin	5.00
Mrs. Floy Koph		Mary Gray	5.00
Manning	5.00	Loudine Guthrie	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. C.		Annie May Alston	5.00
Kingsley	5.00	R. T. Clark, Jr.	5.00
Gladys Cullum	5.00	J. V. Copeland, Jr.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Roy		Janis Neal	5.00
Whitfield	5.00	Argyll C. Allen	5.00
Doris Ruby	5.00	Coleman H. Weaver	5.00
M. E. Berryhill	5.00	Lois Maple	5.00
Rheba Stout Berryhill	5.00	Earl Benson	5.00
Geraldine Rhodes	5.00	J. Lewis Foster	5.00
Mrs. Florence Cathcart	5.00	Mrs. J. Lewis Foster	5.00
Walden Gardner	5.00	J. C. Shoemaker	5.00
		Joyce Shoemaker	5.00

THIRTY-THOUSAND DOLLAR GIFT FOR HARDING COLLEGE

Through the efforts of Clinton Davidson, a thirty-thousand dollar gift has been secured for Harding College. This gift is to come in the form of ten thousand dollars a year for three years and is to be used in the annual budget of the institution, for the particular purpose of increasing the salaries for instructors.

In the fall of 1936, President Benson undertook a campaign with the purpose of clearing off the indebtedness of the college by the close of 1939. For three years he lead that campaign enthusiastically and closed successfully, presenting the canceled mortgage against the plant to a record audience in the college auditorium on Thanksgiving Day. A total of more than \$95,000 was raised, covering the cost of the campaign, the interest, and the principal of the indebtedness. This set the entire campus free of debt.

President Benson then announced that his next objective was to increase salaries for professors and instructors in the college. This he hoped to do through the raising of endowment funds and through special gifts, made directly for operating expenses. This contribution of ten thousand dollars a year for the next three years makes it definitely possible for the salary schedule to be revised, beginning next September. President Benson reports that he is as much thrilled over being able to revise this salary schedule as he was over being able to pay off the mortgage against the college plant last November.

It is Dr. Benson's purpose now to launch a three year endowment campaign. We are confident that the alumni and other friends of the institution will whole-heartedly support this campaign, which has every promise of being successful.

GOOD NEWS

Do you like good news? Well who doesn't? Perhaps someone is saying right now, "There's a trick somewhere." There's no trick, my friends. Just read this and see.

As you all know, the association has been trying for the past several years to publish a quarterly magazine for the Alumni and Ex-students. This has not been accomplished because of the lack of sufficient funds, and it looked like the idea would die a death of debt.

Now for the good news:

Arrangements have been worked out for as long as may be necessary or wise, whereby the "Reflector" can be published quarterly and mailed free to every Alumni and ex-student whose correct address we have. In this way we can keep you posted on what is going on here and around here and around the world, with class-mates and fellow students.

The only thing we need now is the correct addresses of old friends and new acquaintances. If you have moved or are thinking of changing your location please let us have your last address and present address, in order that we may correct and bring to date our files. We want you to have the "Reflector" if you can go to the trouble of sending us your correct address, and your married name if you are an Alumna and have married since graduation.

Do it today! For your convenience we have prepared the following form. Fill it in, drop in the mail, address to the Alumni Office, Station "A", Searcy, Arkansas.

Name

Maiden name

Present address

Last address

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