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May 45

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"Sunrise Over Harding"



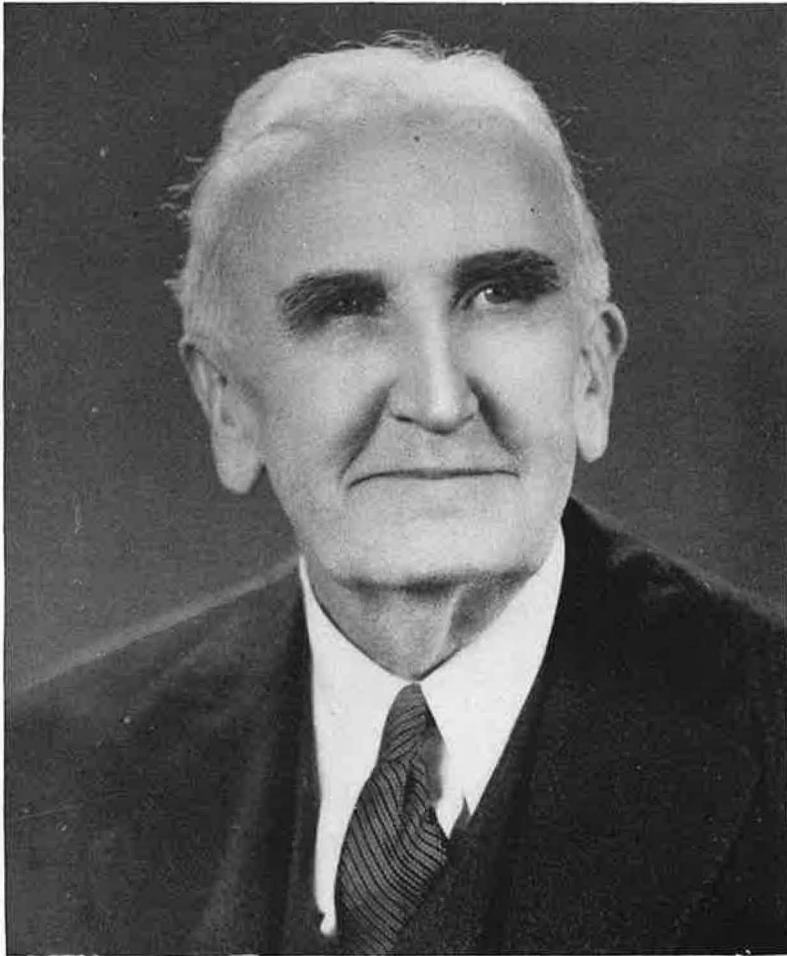
BULLETIN—HARDING COLLEGE

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Vol. XX

May 15, 1945

No. 24



J. N. ARMSTRONG

whose great spiritual leadership for thirty years laid the strong foundations and molded the character of Harding College for the years to come.



GEORGE S. BENSON

whose rare combination of Christian leadership and financial genius is expanding the facilities and service of Harding College into an institution of national scope.

Harding College Moves On!

The amazing growth of Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, must deepen men's faith in the power of human achievement and in the strength of Christian ideals. Even we who have watched it grow can account for it only by the unusual type of education it offers, its singular leadership, and the guidance of that "Divinity which shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will."

Before 1936 the roots of the institution had struck deep and reached far. Through the black years of depression, bank failures, unemployment, and bread lines, while other colleges were closing, the heroic devotion and inspiring

unselfishness of President J. N. Armstrong and his faculty had constantly increased the enrollment of Harding College until its students were scattered throughout America and even around the world.

The ideal of the institution was to develop in its students habits of careful work, devotion to Christian principles, and pride in independent achievement. So inspiring was its training that students readily found places in the world's service, and even during the depression every Harding graduate was employed.

A CALL TO SERVICE

Among those graduates who had learned well the thrill of unselfish service and hard work, was a boy from western Oklahoma, who upon graduation decided to devote his life to the mission field in China. Entering a country where no earlier worker had prepared the way, he gave himself with tireless energy, enthusiasm, and breadth of vision. Within ten years he had built two schools, trained an efficient group of native workers, established a number of churches, supervised translations into Chinese, and organized a far-reaching mission program. On the strength of this amazing achievement, he was invited, on the recommendation of President Armstrong, to succeed him as head of his Alma Mater. So in

1936 Dr. George S. Benson returned to become president of Harding College.

Perhaps there are no accidents in the pattern of human lives. How this Oklahoma boy first found his way to Harding College is strange. With the very qualities needed by the institution, how he was moved to change the plan of his life at the call of his Alma Mater is stranger still. He had "rough-hewn" his life for a service of sacrifice in a distant land, but God shaped the ends for greater things. To the deep faith, the inspiring, selfless idealism of President J. N. Armstrong and his faculty, was added a youthful vigor, uncanny business acumen, and aggressive executive skill which were to carry the college rapidly on.

FIRST FIVE-YEAR PLAN

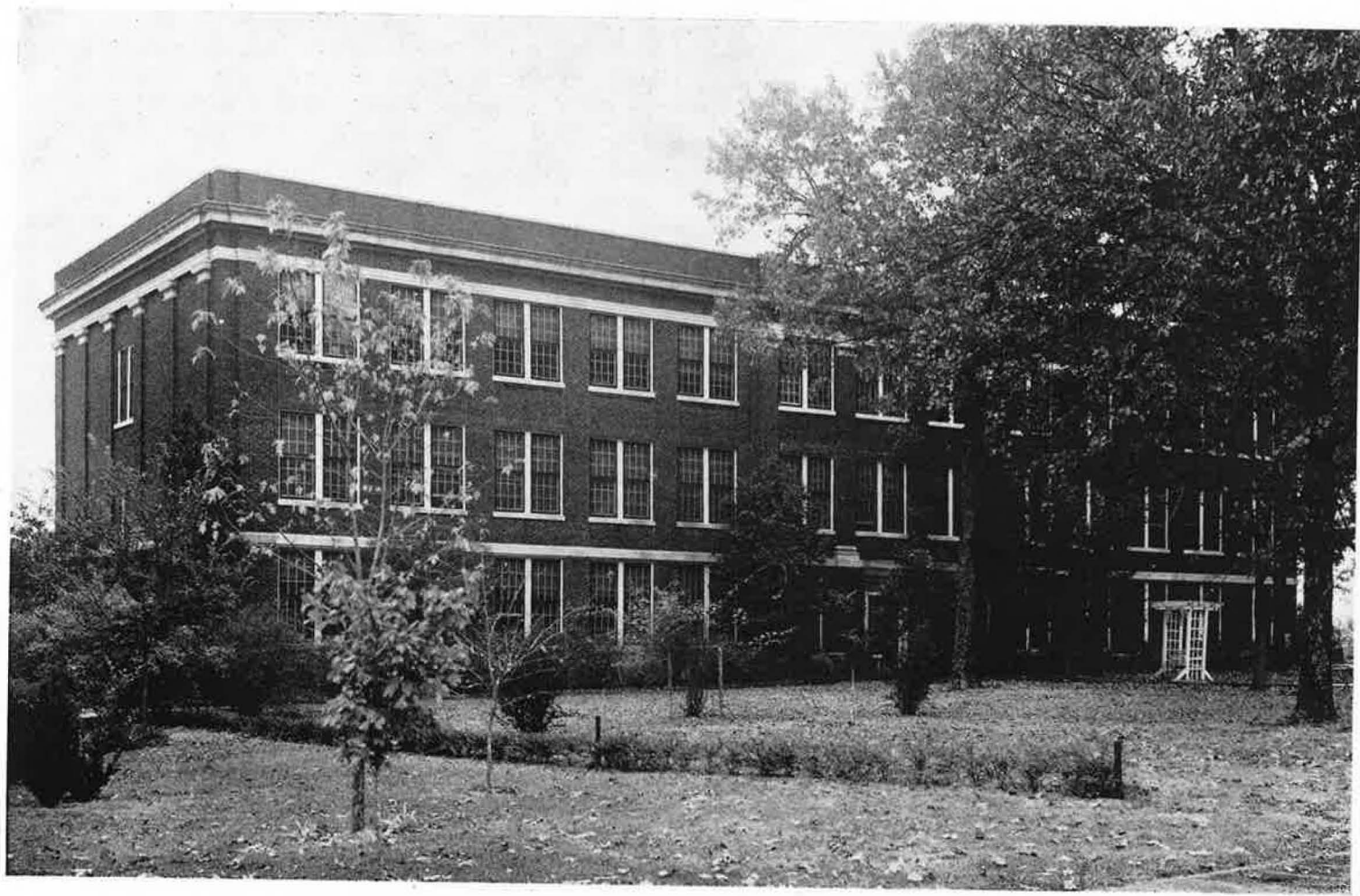
Characteristic of President Benson's quickness of decision was his first "Five-Year Plan," which he placed before an astonished and incredulous Board at their first meeting. With the country still suffering from financial depression, he proposed to pay off the \$76,000 debt against the school within five years, and when the Board, with secret misgivings

of long experience, voted approval, he talked as if it were already as good as done.

But to the greater astonishment of the Board, the plan came through. How? Nobody knows. It was an "impossibility," of course. Every obstacle opposed it. To be sure, the roots in the past had gone deep. But along with this, in an

almost miraculous way, friends rallied anew and obstacles turned to assets. Two whole years before the time allotted, the final gift arrived. On Thanksgiving day of 1939, President Benson announced the payment of the debt, and with a

simple and touching expression of gratitude presented the mortgage papers to President-Emeritus J. N. Armstrong, whose faith and long devotion had led the school through its darkest years.



SCIENCE HALL

With the construction of the new Administration Building all administrative offices will be removed from the Science Hall and its entire facilities will be devoted to science.

HORIZONS BROADEN

Even before the completion of the "Five-Year Plan," President Benson, with the amazing energy which makes him work far into the night and sometimes twenty-four hours a day, had launched upon the second phase of his program. This was destined to open unexpected horizons to his Alma Mater and bring her into national prominence.

To a man accustomed to cut the corners close, not only on the Oklahoma wheat farm, but in financing a large missionary program and running a college, the waste in government spending had become appalling. The red lights of increasing debt flashed warnings of national bankruptcy unless spending could be held below the national income. Something needed to be done—now or sooner! He obtained permission to address the Ways and Means Committee of Congress, where with an earnestness that compelled attention he outlined a plan that would reduce unnecessary government spending more than \$2,000,000,000 a year. The effect of his speech was electrifying. It made headlines in the largest newspapers and was printed in full by one of the most distinguished business journals in America. He was called to speak before the Senate Finance Committee. Finally

a joint Investigating Committee from the Senate and House was appointed with Senator Byrd as chairman, and its report followed closely President Benson's recommendations. Action had begun.

But President Benson is never one to be satisfied with talk. Returning from Washington, he called together the boys and girls who were receiving NYA aid, and showed them that demand for work at the college and in Searcy was sufficient to meet their needs with no government help. The students immediately gave up their NYA contracts, requesting Secretary Morgenthau to turn their allotment back to the federal treasury. Unexpectedly this simple act struck fire, and aroused a storm of criticism and praise that echoed even in Senate Halls. It brought Harding College and its training of young people for independent work and service sharply before the whole nation. President Benson received scores of invitations from civic clubs, schools, and chambers of commerce to proclaim this ideal of independent Americanism—which is after all only Christian integrity and unselfishness applied to community and national problems.

EDUCATION BY RADIO AND PRESS

As a result the new Division of Popular Education was established at Harding College. If civic leaders throughout the nation considered the ideal, which the College has always followed, so vital in this crisis of American history, the spirit of service demanded a response. In the two years since its establishment, service of the Division has grown until it now furnishes regular radio programs for more than fifty

stations weekly, supplies regular articles on current issues to more than 3,500 newspapers and special articles to many others, publishes numerous bulletins of information, and fills hundreds of speaking engagements before civic groups, colleges, schools, labor groups, and business organizations in all the states.

SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

But this is only the beginning of the nation-wide service which President Benson envisions for Harding College. Already he is well started on the "Second Five-Year Plan," which is the most ambitious program yet undertaken for Harding College. It has three aims.

First is the construction of an almost complete college plant in addition to the excellent one now in use. Reservations for this war year of 1945-46 are overflowing the dormi-

tories, and other services of the college demand more room. The immediate program calls for three new buildings, nine others to follow later.

1. **A Girls' Dormitory** for 115 girls to increase the present capacity of Pattie Cobb Hall is made necessary by the unparalleled reservations of girls. It is expected to be ready for use next winter. It is entirely fireproof. Each room has a connecting bath, two large closets, mastic tile floors and

other modern conveniences.

2. **The Student Center** will also be completed this winter. It will house the book store, post office, and college inn, and will contain music and reading rooms, banquet hall, kitchen, and recreation space.

3. **A Boys' Dormitory** will follow these two. It will accommodate 150 boys. Each room will have a connecting bath, mastic tile floors, and all modern conveniences.

4. **The Library Building** will be air conditioned and will contain spacious reading rooms, liberal stack room, sufficient for years to come, bindery and repair rooms, cataloging rooms, offices, and classrooms for the new Department of Library Science.

5. **A Hall of Religion and Speech** will contain a small auditorium, completely equipped radio and broadcasting studios, offices, and classrooms for Bible and Religious Education and Speech.

6. **The New Auditorium** will occupy the central position on the campus. It will seat approximately 1,000 and be provided with complete workshops for dramatics.

7. **A New Administration Building** at the entrance of the campus will house all main college offices and administrative units.

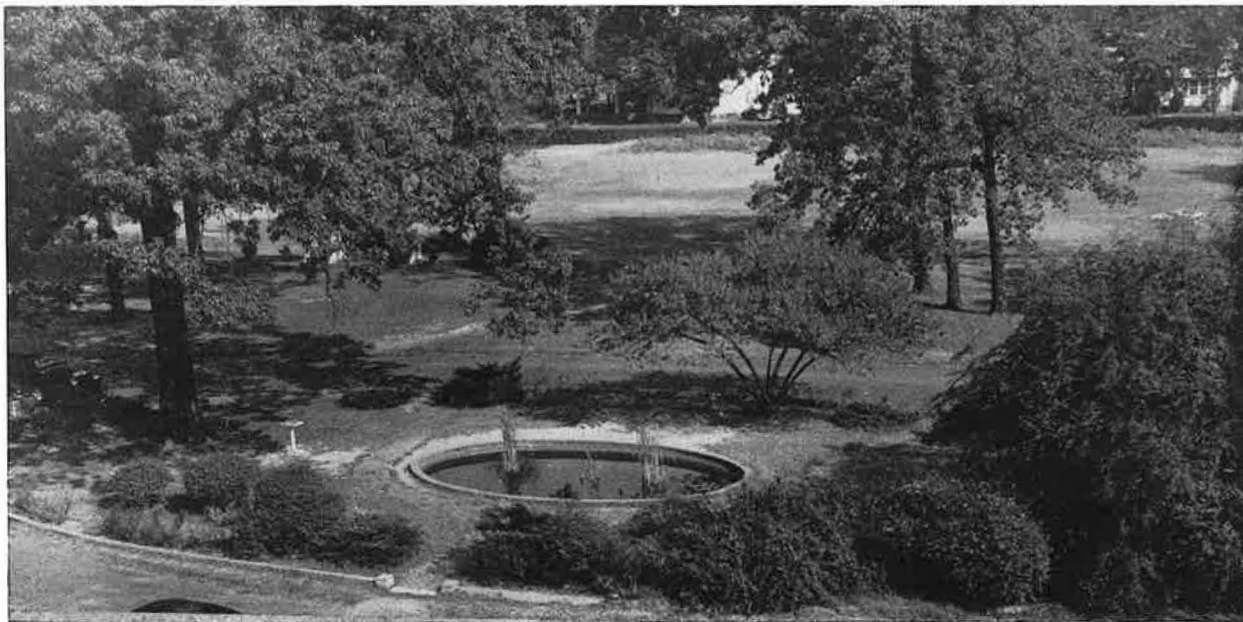
8. **The Fine Arts Building** will contain studios and class rooms for piano, voice, violin, band and orchestra and art. It will be connected with the auditorium.

9. **A Gymnasium** will be constructed large enough to meet the needs of a vigorous intramural physical education program.

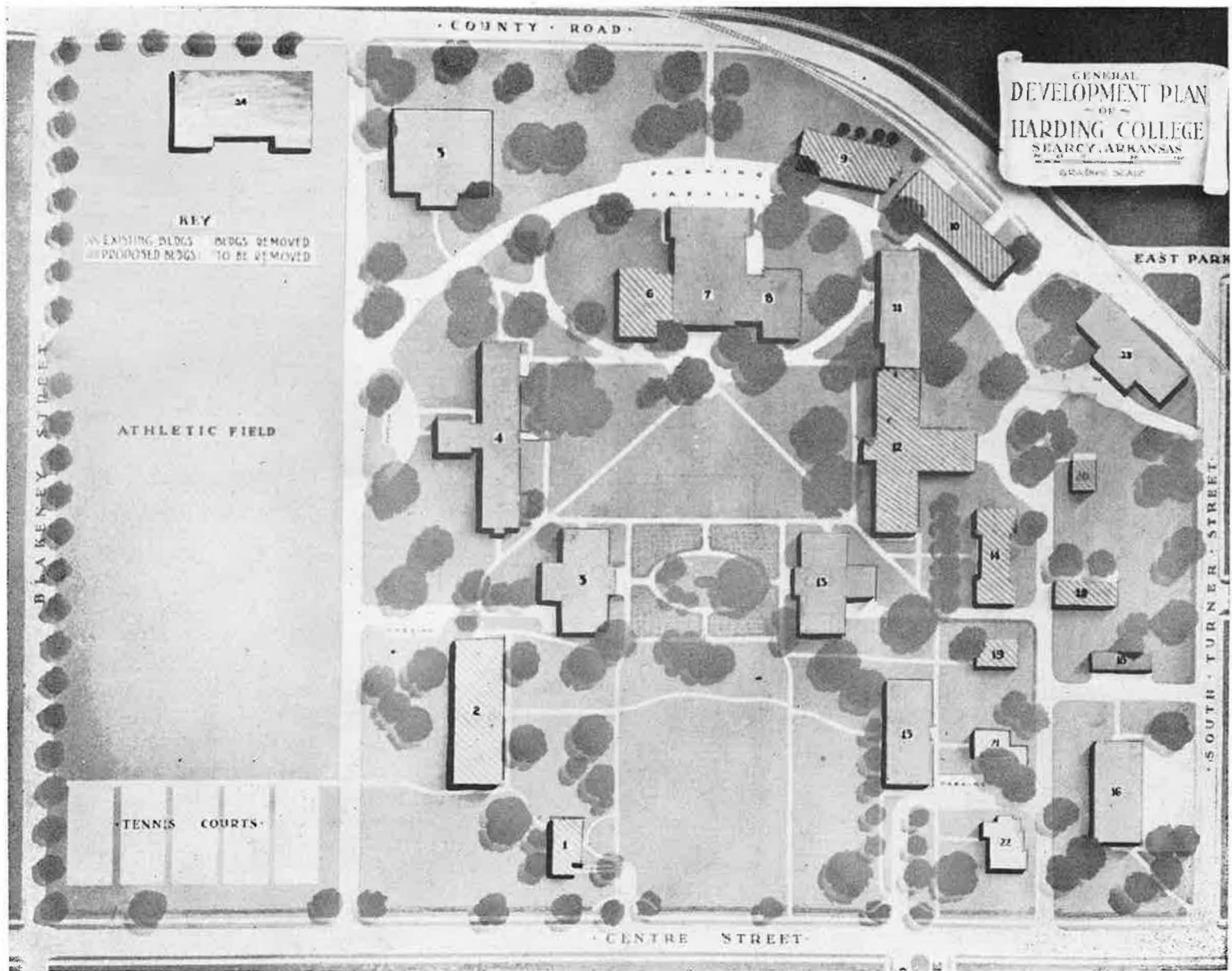
10. **An Industrial Arts Building** to cost approximately \$100,000 will have shops classrooms, and facilities for courses in automotive and airplane mechanics, metal and wood-working, and printing.

11. **The Training School** for high school students will be located apart from the college buildings on the campus and will have all modern conveniences and facilities for high school work.

12. **A Frozen Foods Locker** will be constructed this summer for Searcy and White County as well as for the service of the college itself.



This scene will form a lovely center between the Library and the Building for Religion and Speech, which will front upon it from the left and right.



ENGINEER'S DESIGN FOR THE CAMPUS

Buildings: 1. President's Home. 2. Science Hall. 3. Religion and Speech. 4. Boys' Dormitory. 5. Gymnasium. 6. Fine Arts. 7. Auditorium. 8. Student Center. 9. Swimming Pool. 10. Power House and Laundry. 11. New Girls' Dormitory. 12. Pattie Cobb Hall. 13. Library. 14. Training School. 15. Administration Building. 16. High School. 17. Shops. 18. Utility Building. 19. Dean's Home. 20, 21, 22, Teachers' Cottages. 23. Frozen Foods Locker. 24. Industrial Arts Building.

A GROWING FACULTY

Along with this building program, the "Second Five-Year Plan" calls for strengthening and enlarging the faculty. This has already begun with the creation of a system of leaves on pay for advanced study, and the selection and assisting of outstanding students in graduate training.

Already Dr. Frank Rhodes, Jr., who received his Ph.D. from the University of California in 1943, has returned to head the Department of History and Social Sciences. He succeeds his father, B. F. Rhodes, whose distinguished service as head of the department in this and other Christian schools covers thirty-eight years.

Dr. Joseph E. Pryor, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana in 1943, and who served as graduate and full time instructor there for several years, now heads the Department of Chemistry and Physical Sciences. He is the son of Professor L. E. Pryor who has served twelve years in the Department of Social Sciences.

Dr. Jack Wood Sears, who received the Ph.D. degree in biological sciences from the University of Texas in 1944, and who served as graduate instructor there four years, and as full-time instructor since, will return to head the Department of Biological Sciences this fall. He is the grandson of Presi-



The Girls' Dormitory now under construction is located at the left where the frame building now stands. It will be connected by lovely open air lounges with Pattie Cobb, while the present Grey Gables is moved into the background.

dent-Emeritus J. N. Armstrong, who has given such eminent service to Christian education, and great-grandson of J. A. Harding, founder of our first Christian College.

Thelma Dumas Bell, who has completed nearly all requirements for her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, has returned to head the Department of Home Economics.

Professor Neil B. Cope, who has completed much of the work toward his Ph.D. in Journalism in Northwestern University and served a year on the staff of the **Chicago Journal of Commerce**, is temporarily in the army, but will return to head the Department of Journalism and assist in the Division of Popular Education.

James D. Bales, who was added to the faculty last year,

is expected to complete work for his Ph.D. in the University of California this fall and will return to the Bible faculty of Harding in December.

Professor and Mrs. E. R. Stapleton on leave of absence in the University of Oklahoma will receive their Ph.D. degrees in Business and in English next year and will return in 1946.

This is only the beginning of faculty growth. Other outstanding graduates are in training. The faculty, already strong, is gaining strength as it retains the ideal and the inspiring aliveness which have carried the influence of the college already so far.

BUT WHAT OF ENDOWMENT?

The "Second Five-Year Plan" also calls for the completion of an endowment sufficient to meet the demands of the highest accrediting agencies. This means a minimum of \$500,000 or \$600,000.

So the ultimate aim of the "Second Five-Year Plan" is entrance into the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. The institution already meets the requirements in faculty, buildings, equipment, organization, and quality of

work. Its recognition throughout the country permits graduates unconditional entrance into the largest graduate schools, and a remarkably large percent are granted fellowships and instructorships in the universities, where they are making outstanding scholastic records. The "Second Five-Year Plan" will supply the one thing lacking—adequate endowment for entrance into the association.

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This is the goal by 1950. Can it be done? To compress into five years a gigantic program and the completion of an endowment is a stupendous task. But those who know the tireless energy and determination of the President of Harding College and the enthusiastic faith of its faculty and students have no doubt. Already the goal is closer than it was at the beginning of the first "Five Year Plan." Friends and support

have multiplied as men have seen the unique service which Harding is giving to the world.

The astonishing growth of enrollment, which is overflowing all present facilities, shows the faith of young and old in the type of training Harding gives—a training which makes men and women and prepares them for success in their chosen vocations.

A SUGGESTION

If you have been thrilled with this story of independent achievement, if you like the kind of training Harding is giving young people and the kind of service it is giving to our country, will you not do one or all of these three things?

1. Pass this bulletin on to somebody else.

2. Write a substantial check to help Harding College complete its "Second Five-Year Plan" and multiply the services of the school.
3. Include Harding College for a substantial bequest in your will, and thus assist generations yet to come.

FULL INFORMATION

Full information for students may be obtained by addressing Dean L. C. Sears.

Information about the services of the Division of Popular Education and about gifts, scholarships, and endowments may be obtained by addressing President George S. Benson.

HARDING COLLEGE

SEARCY, ARKANSAS



THE PRESENT BOYS' DORMITORY

which will be razed. The new boys' dormitory will be located on the right. The present location will be landscaped into a lovely quadrangle with the new auditorium in the center rear flanked by the Student Center and Fine Arts Building. Pattie Cobb Hall is on the left.



Entrance to Pattie Cobb

WRITE FOR RESERVATIONS NOW!

Even with the new dormitory completed we shall not be able to accommodate all who will apply.
Reservations should be made as early as possible.



THE ENTRANCE

which will bring you happy years and training for a successful life.