

Petit
Jean

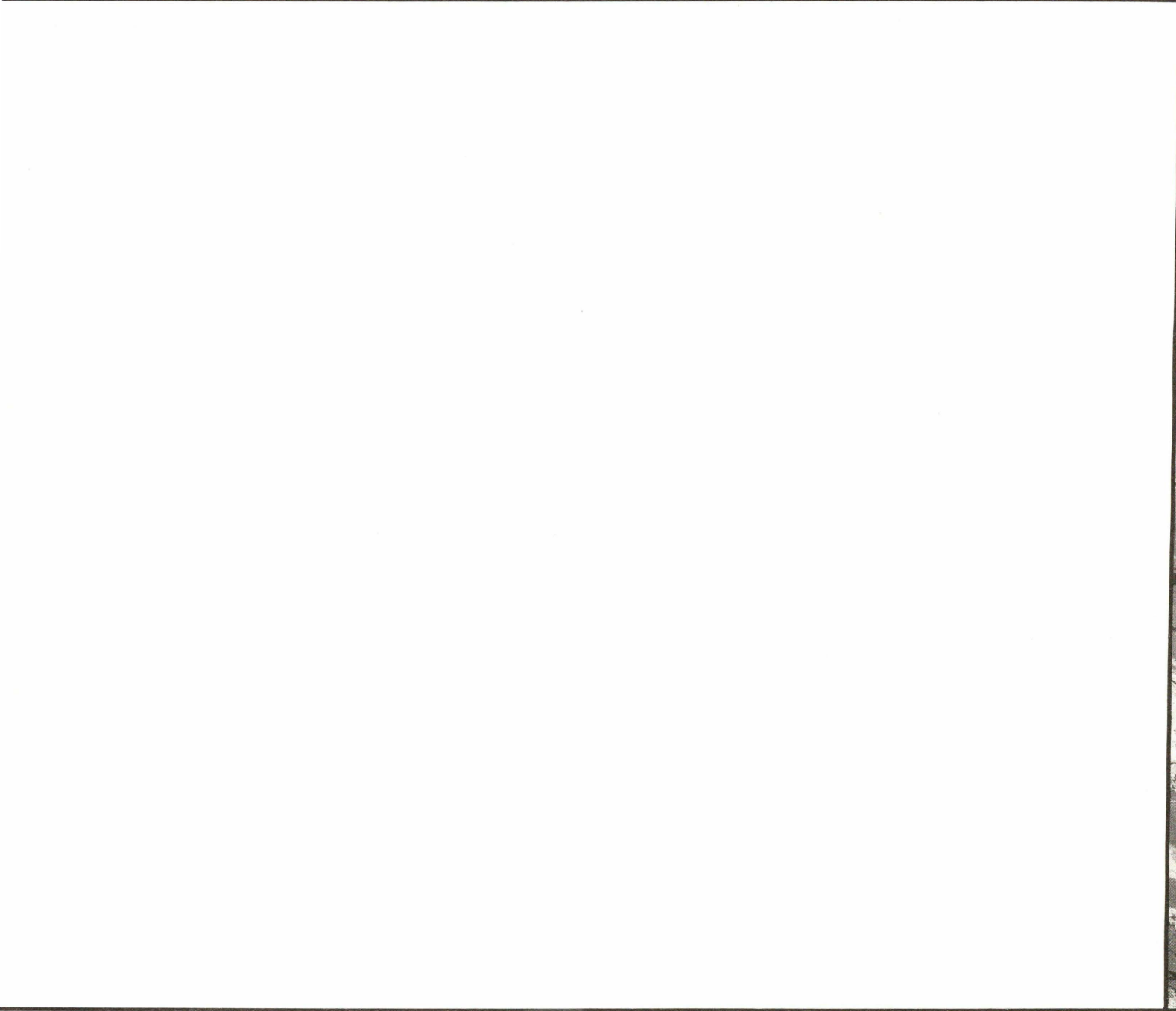
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FIRE

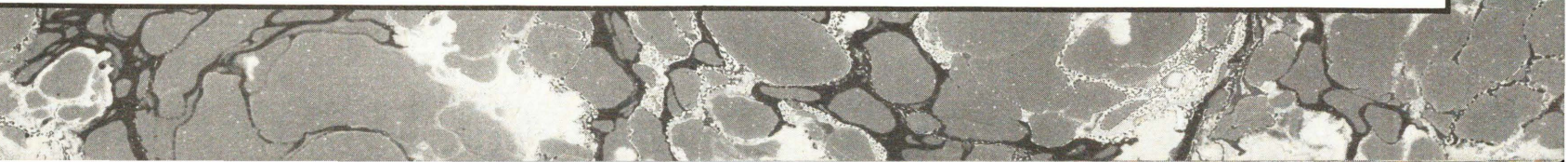
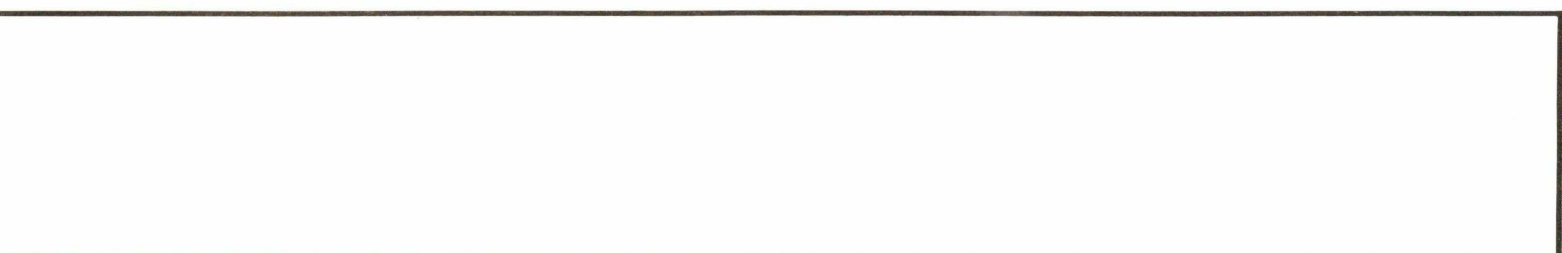
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Nineteen
Ninety
Two

PJ

Petit Jean

Harding University
Searcy, AR 72143
Volume 68

Photo by Brian Lovegrove.



BURNING BOLDLY. Student Impacters saw this fiery sight the last Monday night of August as campus leaders encouraged them to ignite a spiritual fire for the upcoming year. Opportunities to reflect and change are offered constantly at Harding, but this unique Harding experience allows students to see the cross of Christ blazing in all its glory. The burning of the cross at Camp Wyldewood has always been a special experience for Harding students.

Editor-in-Chief: Anissa Campbell
Head Photographer: Jeff Cash
Advisor: Kay Gowen

Harding University

A Blazing Beginning

As the year began, a fire, ignited by the spirit of love and fed by the warmth of fellowship, flickered inside each of us. We were motivated to grow, change, and prosper in light of the strong Christian influences that surrounded us. We came from 49 states and 33 countries to the hearth of a home that invited us to open our hearts and share socially, academically, and spiritually; but as individuals searching for knowledge and companionship under the influences of the traditions at Harding, we were compelled to unify ourselves in the shadow of the Cross. The leaders who conceived Harding no longer physically supported her growth, but their ideals remained and served as the kindling for the fiery torch each student offered to others in the name of Christ. The traditions and history that pervaded our daily activities ever reminded us that although the flame within each of us burned brighter every day, we didn't start the fire. ♦

—Anissa Campbell

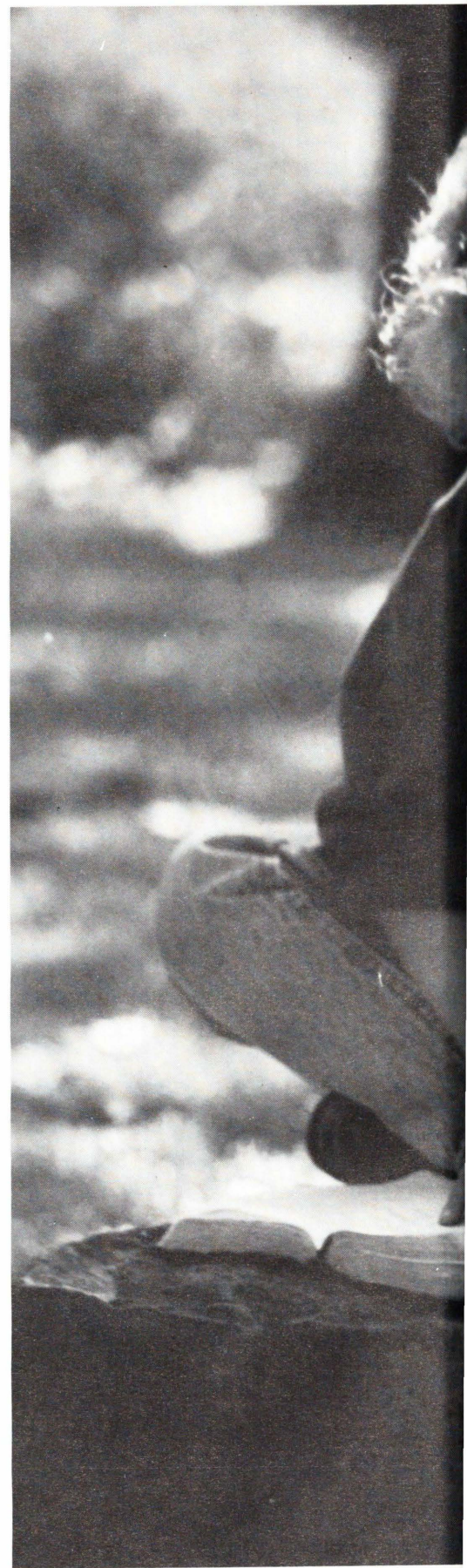


Photo by Jeff Cash.



GATHERING LEAVES. Senior elementary education major Donna Hill picks oak leaves for her science class project. Many education majors found their time taken by activities such as this one.



Photo by Jeff Cash.

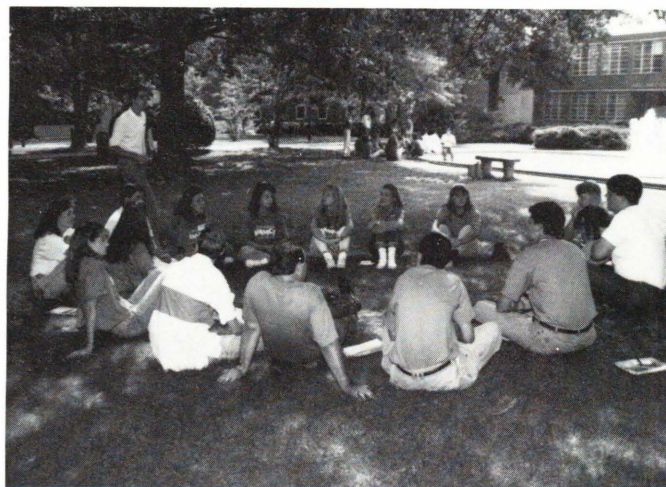


Photo by Jeff Montgomery.

GETTING ENERGIZED. Student Impact leader Scott Genry addresses his energy group during an afternoon rap session. Many freshmen found opportunities to meet other students during the activities of Impact.

ON THE FRONT LAWN. Diadra McGregor takes time out to read her Bible on the front lawn. Students often spent afternoons studying or relaxing on campus.

BACK TO BACK. Dr. John Ryan and senior Mark Merchant protect their "turf." Ryan always had a moment for laughter in his busy schedule.

THUMBS UP. Dr. Ryan shows his approval to a student outside the Ganus building. Ryan was a familiar face to many as a teacher and the director of Spring Sing.

Photo by Jeff Cash.

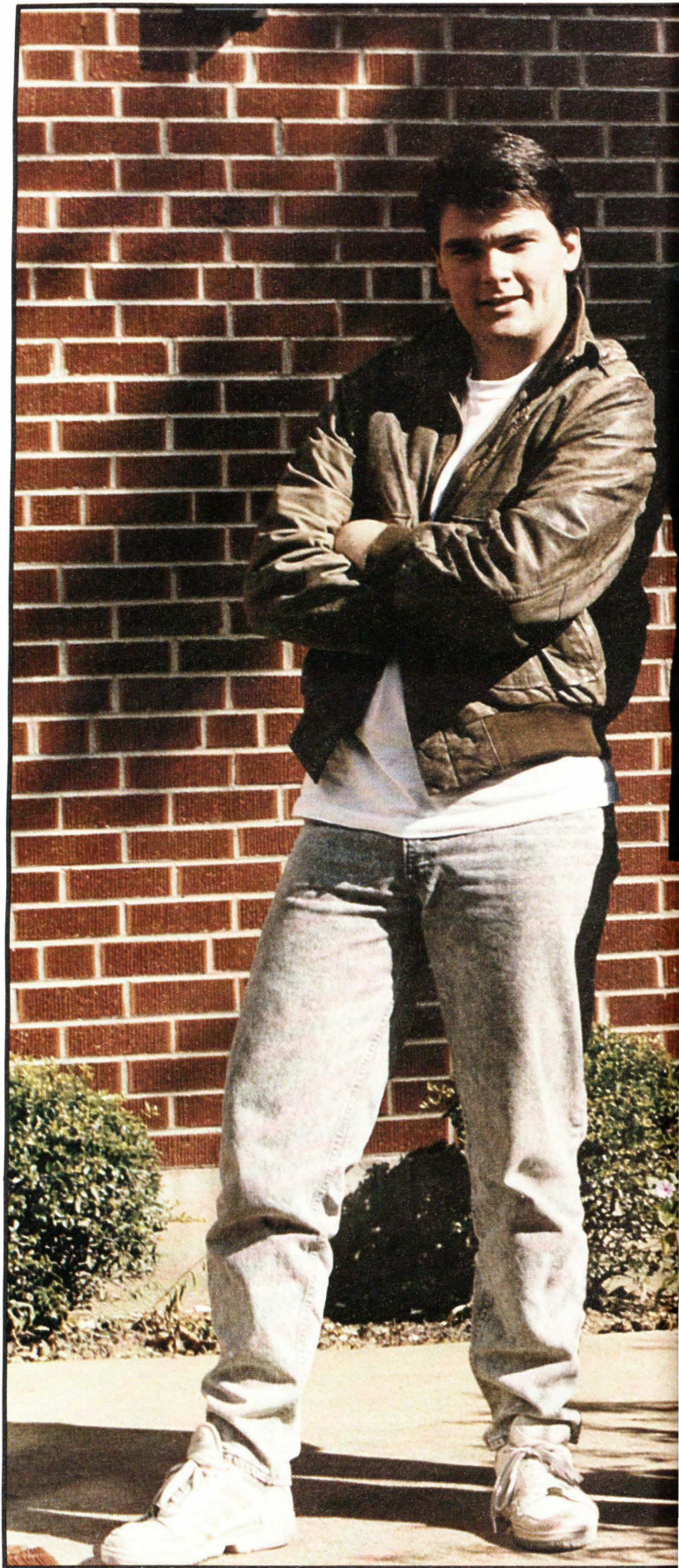


Photo by Jeff Cash.



STEPPIN' HIGH. Enjoying a cool autumn morning, Dr. Ryan walks back from chapel. Chapel, the cafeteria, and church assemblies were just a few of the places Ryan's influence reached.

Photo by Jeff Cash.



Dr. John H. Ryan

***After 31 years of service,
he's still carrying the torch.***

Before anyone can enjoy the warmth that radiates from a fire, he must ignite the flame. With the courage and dedication that only love can provide, he must nurture and tend the glowing embers if they are to ever flicker into the sparks that supply the protection, warmth, and light expected from a fire. Every day some person somewhere tries to kindle a flame; but rarely does an individual have the stamina to stand the heat of the blaze as well as the coolness of the ashes.

In September of 1961 one energetic fighter ignited the chain of events that have resulted in 31 years of service at Harding. With an unquenchable enthusiasm for life, a witty response for difficulties, and a strong grip on the Cross, he stood beside Harding when others walked away. When faced with adversity he fought, when confronted with decisions he chose, and when selected for responsibilities he graciously accepted. Individually, the significance of his life is no greater than that of any other Christian man dedicated to serving God through humanity, but when viewed in the scope of his influence through Harding, we clearly see that his gallantry and sophistication deserve no less than all the love and respect a student body can hold for one man. Because of the example he sets and the courage with which he daily feeds the Harding fire, the Petit Jean staff, on behalf of the senior class, proudly dedicates the 1992 Petit Jean to the man who best reminds us that even though we enjoy the warmth of Harding's hearth, we didn't start the fire. Thank you, Dr. John "Jack" Ryan. ♦

—Anissa Campbell



Harding University

Through The Years

FACE TO FACE. Student Association President David Burks presents the 1965 Petit Jean to Harding President George S. Benson in his last year as president. Burks succeeded Ganus as president in 1987.



Photo from Public Relations files.

The story of Harding University, is the history of a struggle, fueled by a deep desire to provide a special environment for higher education. Believing that eternal life and values were the only genuine reasons for living, a number of godly men and women pioneered the effort to make learning possible in an environment of people whose hearts were focused on eternity. Only a cause worth dying for was worth living for, and faculty and administrators sacrificed salary, security, and time to accomplish their worthy task.

The school grew out of the merger of two financially-failing junior colleges — Harper College in Harper, Kansas, and Arkansas Christian College in Morrilton, Arkansas. Although buildings had to be built, money had to be raised and the campus had to be maintained, the inner fire that ignited their energies centered around the unseen, the intangible, the eternal.

The school was named for James A. Harding, a pioneer Christian educator who, according to biographer Lloyd Cline Sears, had "a magnetic personality, a fire and tenderness, a dynamic

faith and childlike trust that gave him outstanding influence in his generation." Opening in Morrilton in 1924 with J. N. Armstrong as president, Harding College stressed its biblical principles and attitudes for 10 years "in the foothills of the Ozarks." When the 29-acre Galloway College campus in Searcy was purchased in 1934 and George S. Benson became president in 1936, Harding took her first strides toward security as a financially-stable, quality institution for Christian education.

In spite of great depression in the national economy, the mortgage against the campus property was paid off in November, 1939, and students and faculty gathered on Thanksgiving Day to watch it blaze in a ceremonious fire. That milestone marked the end of an era during which teachers worked at times with little or no pay. With the college on sound financial footing, the emphasis shifted toward achievement of academic goals. The culmination of this pursuit came in 1954 when Harding College was granted full acceptance into North Central Association, a recognition which brought immediate status and prestige.

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Photo from Petit Jean files.

HISTORICAL DAY. J. N. Armstrong places the mortgage in the fire at the ceremonious burning in November of 1939. This act marked financial independence for Harding College.



Photo from Public Relations' files.



Photo from Public Relations' files.

GODDEN HALL. Students help clear the debris from the destruction of Godden Hall. This landmark building, an original from the Galloway campus, was razed in 1951 to make room for the Administration building.

A DAY OF DEDICATION. Drs. L. C. Sears, Clifton Ganus, Jr., and George Benson gather for the dedication of Armstrong dormitory. Although recently renovated, Armstrong has remained as a functional dormitory for the past years.

HARDING ARCHES. The familiar Harding arch welcomes all students and visitors to the campus whenever they walk down the sidewalk. This historical landmark has stood since Harding moved to Searcy.

Photo from PR files.



Photo from PR files.





Photo from PR files.



FUN IN THE FIFTIES. Laughter and smiles fill hours of the day as students stroll about campus between classes. Fun in the fifties differs from the nineties, but Harding students had the same special memories regardless of when they were in college.

Harding University

Through The Years



Dr. Clifton L. Ganus, Jr., became president of Harding in 1965. His administration was characterized by his inaugural goal, the "pursuit of excellence." The institution's goal was captured in the slogan, "educating for eternity," as all who directed the program of education continued to reinforce its commitment to its eternal mission. Dr. David B. Burks took office in 1987 as the fourth president of what had grown to be Harding University. His commitment to continuing the traditions of Harding were formulated in his administration's motto, "integrating faith, learning and living." Burks continued the growth of academic excellence and improved physical facilities which Ganus had built upon.

When classes began in the fall of 1991, students from all over the world filtered onto a campus that differed greatly from the original Harding College of 1924. Building shad changed, course work had a new focus, and preparation for careers had increased. Harding had even grown from a sparse enrollment of 61 to a record-high of 3,391

students; but one key element remained the same — the inner fire that ignited the energies of those who gave themselves to the mission of Harding University was still engulfed in the concept of living and learning with eternity in view.

The Harding heritage, like that of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:10-12, has made possible a quality education in a special Christian environment which today's students have inherited from those who went before them. We, too, have been given "flourishing cities we did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things we did not provide, wells we did not dig" that we, too, should "be careful that we do not forget the Lord ..."

No, we didn't start the fire, ... but the commitment to a unique kind of atmosphere for education at Harding has burned through time for nearly seven decades and kept the coals of the Cross alive for future generations to enjoy, to love, and to share. ♦

— Kay Gowen

Photo from PR files.



TAKING A BREAK. Students gather on the front lawn by the Olen Hendrix building for class. Teachers often re-located to the sunshine when the spring weather enticed them out of doors.