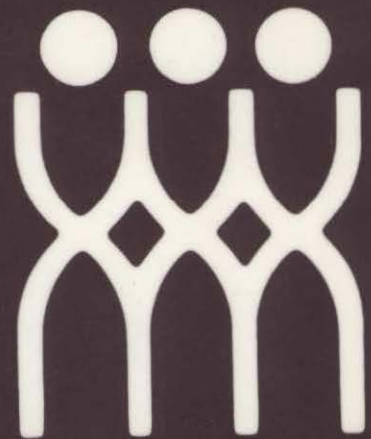


**Central
Community
College**



**The First Two
Decades
by
Oriol V. Kinley**

CENTRAL COMM COLL - GRAND ISLAND



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Central Community College

**The First Two
Decades**

PROPERTY OF
CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GRAND ISLAND CAMPUS

FORWARD

The writer, Oriel Kinley, is not a professional historian or a writer, but has kept records of college activities since the beginning of her career with the college.

In this document the writer follows the growth of the Hastings, Columbus and Grand Island Campuses to the present multi-campus institution in 1984. The writer has watched the college grow and change. The reader is brought from the early 1960's to the mid 1980's.

Each chapter, as it was drafted, was reviewed by Dr. Chester H. Gausman; and when all chapters were completed, the first draft was given to eight interested readers for review.

The document is divided into sixteen chapters. Some of these chapters are divided into parts for clarity.

The writing of this book is an honest attempt to preserve the history of the first two decades of the college. Due to time constraints, and in the interest of brevity, many aspects of the history were omitted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With great pleasure I acknowledge a debt of thanks to my many professional friends and colleagues who contributed so generously of their time and knowledge, to the writing of this history of Central Community College.

My grateful thanks go to Dr. Chester H. Gausman for his foresight in giving me this assignment and for his confidence in my abilities to write a history. A thank you also for his reading and advice as I wrote, and for his contribution of materials and ideas for the final chapter.

I especially wish to thank Dr. Joe Preusser for his many suggestions and for his contribution of the first chapter.

I also want to give a special thank you to Ron Logue for his professional guidance throughout the writing and publishing of this history.

Gratitude is expressed to Ken Wortman, Irv Schwartz, Verne Moseman and Dick Good for their time in reviewing the script and making suggestions.

Mostly, I am indebted to my husband, Bernard Kinley, for his support, for his ever present help and encouragement, for his discerning criticism and for his enthusiastic assistance.

I wish to thank my daughter, Christy Tisdale, for her professional assistance in the final editing of this history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oriel Kinley was employed as Secretary to the College President and began duties on July 1, 1966 at the Hastings Campus. When the Area Administration was chosen and an area office was established in 1973, she began her new duties in Grand Island as Executive Secretary to Dr. Chester H. Gausman, Area President of the College.

Prior to employment at the college, she was employed as an Administrative Secretary for the Hastings Public School Administration.

Kinley was named as the Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Association's "Employee Of The Year" in 1982 and was nominated in 1983 as the National Educational Office Personnel Employee of the Year. Kinley is a Life Member of the National Parent Teacher Association and Past President of the PTA Council. She is currently a member of the Women's Division of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, First Vice President of the Hastings Community Concert Association, and is a member of the National Educational Office Personnel Association and the Nebraska Educational Office Personnel Association, of which she is a past president.

At the April 23, 1984, meeting of the Board of Governors, Kinley was presented a plaque in appreciation and acknowledgement of her dedication and service to the Central Community College Board from July 1966 to November 1983. An Honorary Associate of Applied Science Degree from Central Community College was also bestowed upon her. Making the presentations were Dr. Chester Gausman, Dr. Joseph Preusser and Dr. William Doran.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE COLLEGE NOW

Central Community College operates a locally governed and locally supported two year college offering educational opportunities with major emphasis on occupational education. Central Community College is intended to be an independent, unique and vital segment of higher education in Nebraska, separate from the four-year institutions of higher education.

Approximately 295,000 residents are served by Central Community College which encompasses twenty-five counties in Central Nebraska covering fourteen thousand square miles. Central Community College, with its administrative office at Grand Island, is organized and governed as one single governmental and educational entity operating campuses at Hastings, Grand Island, and Columbus. Practical nursing programs are offered in Columbus and Kearney, and the community education program is offered in over sixty Central Nebraska communities.

The college is governed by an eleven member Board of Governors with two members elected from each of five voting districts and one member elected at large. The operational costs are financed by local property tax, state aid, tuition, some federal aid, and other sources. Central Community College serves approximately 20,000 persons each year, including recent high school graduates, young workers seeking new skills and career information, and older persons studying to enrich their lives, upgrade job skills, or prepare for new careers.

Central Community College, as a comprehensive institution, is organized in facilities and programs to make exploration and inquiry a natural part of learning. The college helps students find the area in which their interests and abilities coincide. The primary purpose of the college is to provide education for fulfilling employment needs in Central Nebraska. Well over seventy-five percent of the graduates have remained in the twenty-five counties the college serves, and ninety percent have stayed in Nebraska.

Central Community College is dedicated to employing high quality faculty, providing up-to-date equipment and facilities, and offering educational programs at the lowest possible cost to the students and the taxpayers. Both technical and academic courses are provided at levels determined by the individual needs of students and criteria drawn from the world of work. Completion of programs result in employment or transfer to a four-year college. The curriculum enables students to continue learning throughout their lifetime.

Because of different backgrounds, aspirations, and needs of students, and because of the variety of career opportunities available to qualified persons, the college has embraced educational practices which permit open admission and open exit. Perhaps the most unique characteristic of Central Community College is the individualized method of in-

struction. This instructional process is designed to alleviate time barriers existing in traditional systems, not only in initial enrollment but in flexibility throughout the process. This process allows students to "stop out" for periods of time without forfeiting achieved progress.

Flexibility is a key factor of programs offered by the college. Individualized instruction employs learning for mastery and utilizes audio tapes, module sound filmstrips, and other modern instructional techniques permitting students to proceed at a pace matching their abilities and ambition. Students have hands on experience with state-of-the-art equipment, one to one contact with faculty who are experts in their fields, career counseling services to help choose the right program, and placement services to help find employment. Two-year degrees, one-year diplomas, certificates, and awards, with major emphasis and first priority on occupational education, are offered as preparation for employment. Presently, 2,381 separate courses organized and integrated into forty-two career and transfer programs are available.

Central Community College personnel assist students to find a place in society which best suits their needs, interests, and abilities. All students are encouraged to excel and develop high performance levels, no matter what careers they have chosen. The college does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, handicap, color, or national or ethnic origin in administration of educational and admission policies, nor in its hiring practices. All rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally made available by the college are accorded to all students.

Over thirty-four advisory committees made up of representatives from business, industry and the various professions help guide Central Community College career programs. Because of this close association with business and industry, Central Community College is effective in assisting students to find work in the area of their choice.

There are 360 highly qualified full time staff members serving Central Community College students. The college's full time staff stands ready to assist students at any time. Students have a personal faculty advisor who helps them make choices in their areas of study and in planning an educational program. In addition, skilled counselors are available to assist each student in finding the solution to personal or career problems. Many scholarships are available for students who need financial assistance.

The Board of Governors of Central Community College is dedicated to the establishment and maintenance or expansion of instructional programs which reflect the needs of the community and students. Programs are constantly reviewed and revised to prepare individuals to better fulfill their roles as human beings and to provide them opportunities to gain a thorough understanding of the principles, methods, techniques and skills essential for both gainful employment and advancement in their chosen occupational areas.

Paved highways provide easy access to three attractive campuses located at Columbus, Grand Island, and Hastings. Plenty of parking is provided at each campus. The campuses include forty-four buildings which house administration, education, fine arts, fire, health, physical education, residence, student and vocational education centers and nine

additional storage buildings. The locations afford excellent access to recreational, entertainment, commercial, medical and religious facilities.

Central Community College is accredited by the Higher Education Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This commission is the same group accrediting four-year universities and colleges.

Thoughts, ideas and concepts that shaped the college to become what it is today began in the early 60's. This growth process is recorded in the following chapters.

CHAPTER TWO

LEGISLATION

Constitutionally, the federal government has supported the education of our youth. Numerous bills have been introduced in the legislature over the past years. It was the very early legislation that paved the way for the technical community college system of Nebraska.

In 1917, the Smith Hughs Act was passed by the United States Congress which provided for the creation of a Federal Board of Vocational Education. The original act provided for \$7 million annually to be granted to states in promotion of vocational education in agriculture, trades, and industrial education, and in home economics.

In 1937, The George Dean Act authorized an additional \$22 million to the money in the Smith Hughs Act. In addition to the areas included in the Smith Hughs Act, \$1.2 million was authorized annually for teacher training.

In 1945, federal aid was increased for vocational education and funds were provided for training in practical nursing education through the passage of the George Barden Act. The Vocational Act of 1963 provided for programs geared to labor market needs other than professional. This act enabled vocational technical schools of postsecondary nature to participate in receiving federal funds for offering occupational programs to persons of all levels of ability.

With the way paved by appropriate legislation to establish vocational technical schools, and with the need in Nebraska surfacing more each day for vocational technical education, it became apparent to a substantial number of citizens in Central Nebraska that the time was "now." A study committee was formed by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce to propose legislation to establish such an institution. Through the diligent efforts of this committee, LB 581 was proposed and introduced by M.A. Kramer, 34th District; Richard Marvel, 33rd District; Ira E. Paine, 35th District; H.C. Crandell, 46th District; and Richard Lysinger, 36th District, during the 75th session of the Legislature of Nebraska. It was read for the first time January 29, 1965, and was passed August 7, 1965. This bill provided for the establishment of area vocational schools, and for their government, operation and financing. This opened the door for the committee to enter into the next step. Much credit for the writing of this bill goes to DeWayne Wolf, Kearney, and the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce. It was under the terms of LB 581 that the campus at Hastings was initially begun.

Also in August, 1965, the Nebraska State Legislature approved LB 482, which provided for a state system of vocational technical schools that provided education for nonresident students, encouraged local participation, and provided for \$500,000, of which \$100,000 would be allocated to schools that contributed at least \$100,000 to their operation, this to be available in one biennium.

In 1966 the Duis Amendment was adopted, Article VIII, Section 1A of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. This section was first adopted in 1954 and amended in 1966 after Nebraska had adopted a sales and income tax. It provides that the state shall be prohibited from levying a property tax for state purposes. The amendment was commonly referred to as the Duis Amendment, by reason of the fact that Senator Herbert Duis was responsible for getting the amendment before the people and ultimately adopted. This is the basis of the college's local control.

In 1967, the constitutionality of LB 581 was challenged by five McCook taxpayers who contended there was a constitutional flaw in LB 581 in the method of replacing the original appointed directors of the schools with elected directors. The constitutionality of the 1965 State area trade school law was alternately attacked and praised before the Nebraska Supreme Court. Corrective legislation, LB 346, was passed with the emergency clause and went into effect June 14, 1967, when signed by the governor. In November 1967, it was ruled by the court that the Act was constitutional by the corrective legislation passed in 1967. An adverse ruling could have affected the entire state system.

In 1969, LB 573 was introduced which established a comprehensive community college system as the state's main postsecondary, subbaccalaureate educational system. This system was to be controlled by a State Board of Vocational Education and would eliminate local control. After a hard battle was fought to maintain local control, the bill never became law.

Also introduced in 1969 was LB 941, which would provide for some state financial support to area vocational technical schools. The vocational schools, by statute, were limited to a two mill levy upon the assessed valuation of taxable property within their own area; and with the removal of household goods taxation and the proposed homestead exemption, further reduction of tax income resulted. Therefore, it became evident some financial help from the state was necessary if the area vocational technical schools were to continue to grow. This bill was enacted, and the state agreed to pay each school fifty cents per student per class hour enrolled during the preceding quarter.

LB 942 and LB 943 were also passed by the Legislature in 1969. This was an active year for legislation for the area vocational technical schools. LB 942 would expand instruction in trade and industry, business and distribution, agriculture, home economics, health occupations, other occupations, and general and civic education in part-time, full-time, day, or evening classes. LB 943 revised the statutes to change the names of area vocational technical schools to depict the geographical location and changed "schools" to "colleges" to denote a postsecondary educational institution. This bill had an emergency clause making it effective at once. This bill also prescribed the time when newly elected members of the governing board would take office and allowed for the transfer of credits from technical colleges to other institutions.

The name of CNT officially became Central Nebraska Technical College. With this change, doors that had been closed to the college previously were opened, particularly in the process of accreditation. It also helped in the recruitment of students seeking the

status of a college. It paved the way for some forms of direct financial aid. Students attending technical colleges would now find themselves with the same draft status as was extended to the four-year institutions. Other advantages realized were pride of students in attending a "college" and an improved image in the eyes of the citizens of the service area. This change would overcome a social stigma that seemingly was attached to attending a trade school at that time.

Dr. Chester H. Gausman and DeWayne Wolf, looking to the future, became actively involved in writing recommendations for future legislation. In 1970, their recommendations were approved by the Nebraska Association of Vocational Education and the Central Board of Governors. The guidelines included all counties in the State of Nebraska. As proposed, a separate state-wide coordinating council for vocational education was created. However, a locally elected governing board as provided in existing statutes was to be retained. At this time, another feeble attempt made for state control failed.

Some fifteen or more bills were considered by legislators in March 1971. Among the most promising of these was LB 759, which was introduced by Senators Wayne Ziebarth, Terry Carpenter, and Richard Marvel. The bill provided a state-wide system of locally governed community colleges and was essentially a combination of several bills. When the bill was heard, there was general agreement with the concept, with one exception-McCook Junior College. The bill was held temporarily to prepare an amendment concerning the McCook issue.

LB 759 passed by the Legislature in 1971 was generally known as the Nebraska Technical Community College Area Act. It provided for a state-wide system of technical colleges which was to be an independent system of locally governed technical community colleges. Any county or portion of a county not established in an area by January 1, 1973, was to be assigned to an area by the 1973 session of the Legislature. This portion of the bill resulted in the Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area becoming a twenty-five county area. A State Board of Technical Community Colleges was created, which consisted of one member chosen from each area and one member chosen by the state board. Ken Wortman was chosen from the Central Area to represent Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area. An executive secretary, Robert Schleiger, was employed for the newly created state board in April 1972, and offices were established in Lincoln.

Section 4, (3) of LB 759 provided that, "Operation of any state vocational technical college, area vocational school, or junior college located within the geographical boundaries of a technical community college area shall be assumed by the technical community college area on July 1, 1973," and Section 4 (4), "...shall, after July 1, 1973, be operated as a technical community college with major emphasis on occupational education."

Following is a brief background of former postsecondary, non-baccalaureate, two year institutions that was incorporated into the technical community college system created by LB 759 as taken from Nebraska Reports, Volume 192:

"The traditional two year academic junior colleges were the first of the postsecondary, non-baccalaureate public educational institutions to be established in Nebraska. Two were established in 1926 at McCook and Scottsbluff. Norfolk followed in 1928, Fairbury in 1941, North Platte in 1965, and Columbus in 1969. These were local institutions, locally controlled and financed by local property taxes on the property within the local district, which in 1969 was usually one county. The first postsecondary state operated and state financed school to offer exclusive occupational or vocational programs was established in Milford in 1941, and a second state operated and state financed institution was established some twenty-five years later at Sidney. In 1965, the Legislature authorized the establishment of area vocational schools over multi-county areas. They were area controlled and financed by an area property tax levy. The first institution of this group to be established was at Hastings, followed later by North Platte and Norfolk.

Omaha and Lincoln were added by legislative action in 1967. In 1969, the names of these schools were changed to technical colleges. At the time of passage of the Act of 1971, all the schools and colleges designated above were placed into the statewide system provided for under the Act. Six junior colleges, five area vocational schools or colleges, and two state vocational institutions comprised the original thirteen institutions with which the new statewide independent system of technical community colleges commenced its operation under the Act."

In December of 1972, several western Nebraska counties filed a lawsuit regarding the constitutionality of LB 759. The originators of the lawsuit were from Banner County. They publicly stated that they were not trying to kill the bill but rather had some questions regarding the financial support of the bill. It was the intention of these county officials to seek 100% state funding and have it brought into the bill, and they directed the executive director of the Western County Officials' Association to pursue this matter with a lobbyist if necessary. They were attempting to remain outside of a college area. Sheridan County refused to pay the one mill levy prescribed by law and a lawsuit was filed against the State of Nebraska by Katie Tallon, County Treasurer of Sheridan County. The Supreme Court determined that the technical community colleges were controlled by the state since there was a state board and the state controlled the budgets, and therefore declared the property tax which was levied for the technical community colleges unconstitutional.

Again in January, 1973, a bill was introduced for one hundred percent state support, which was strongly opposed and didn't get off the ground.

LB 553 was probably the foremost bill passed in 1973 to affect the technical community college system. It provided for seven technical community college areas: 1) Western Nebraska Technical Community College Area, 2) Mid-Plains Nebraska Technical Com-

munity College Area, 3) Northeast Technical Community College Area, 4) Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area, 5) Southeastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area, 6) Eastern Nebraska Technical Community College Area, and 7) Omaha Technical Community College Area. Within thirty days after the effective date of the Act, the governor appointed a new technical community college board for each area. This bill also declared a one mill tax levy on all taxable property within each area.

The State Board was to have general supervision and control over the state system of technical community colleges. It would review budgets prepared by the area boards, establish guidelines for disbursement of funds, establish procedures for all capital construction, prepare a comprehensive plan for development of education, prepare procedures for recording and reporting of instructional hours, prepare standard admission policies, and exercise any other responsibilities necessary to carry out the purpose of the technical community college system in the State of Nebraska.

On February 22, 1974, the State Board of Technical Community Colleges sought intervention by a legal approach to become a party in the Western Nebraska lawsuit decision since the total system was affected by the result of the lawsuit. In the next session of the Legislature the Technical Community College Act was completely amended and LB 344 was adopted in 1975. This Act was taken to the Supreme Court in a second Tallon case, and the second time around the Supreme Court determined that the LB 344 law made the technical community colleges locally controlled. Therefore, the Duis Amendment was not violated and the court directed Sheridan County to pay the mill levy in support of Western Nebraska Technical Community College Area.

Senator Kremer introduced LB 344, which was passed and became operative on July 1, 1975. This bill did not provide for the State Board of Technical Community Colleges but created the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Technical Community Colleges. This commission of twelve members (one from each technical community college area, the University of Nebraska, the state colleges, private institutions of higher education, public elementary and secondary education schools, private elementary and secondary education schools, and the Commissioner of Education) was appointed by the governor. The commission was to make recommendations to boards for purposes of coordinating the areas and to request and receive reports from the various institutions on matters within the jurisdiction of the commission.

LB 344 provided for a locally-governed technical community college system with six areas. Full-time equivalent student enrollment (FTE) was to be used in determining the ratio for distribution of funds to the areas from the State Department of Administrative Services. On or before September 1, of each year, the area boards would certify to the county board of equalization of each county within its area a mill levy not to exceed two mills for the purpose of supporting operating expenditures of the area. The board could also certify a one mill levy for the purpose of establishing a capital improvement fund, a bond sinking fund, or for the retirement of general obligation bonds. The power to levy this tax was authorized only until June 30, 1980.

LB 756, passed by the Legislature in 1978, provided that each postsecondary institution in the State was to establish a role and mission statement. The bill defined general academic transfer programs, vocational technical programs, and continuing education for occupations and professions. The four-year institutions could not offer the associate degree, certificates, or less, and the two-year institutions could offer nothing above the associate degree level after September 1, 1980. General academic transfer programs were limited to the community college campuses at Fairbury-Beatrice, Columbus, McCook-North Platte, Norfolk and Scottsbluff. Each technical community college area in the State and each four-year institution adopted a role and mission statement following the passage of LB 756.

LB 281, passed in 1978, imposed a seven percent lid on budgets of postsecondary institutions. This bill became effective on January 1, 1979 and was to last five years, terminating December 31, 1984.

LB 363, passed by the 1979 session of the Nebraska Legislature, established a revised system for the distribution of state aid funds. To comply with this legislation, the College listed as the primary intent of the institution the classification of its academic transfer programs, vocational technical programs-Class I, and vocational technical programs-Class II. All community education courses offered for credit off-campus were a part of the non-declared major vocational technical program and were classified as vocational technical - Class I. All non-credit community education courses offered off-campus were not a part of a program and were classified avocational or recreational and were considered nonreimbursable.

The Legislature has passed many bills for the technical community college system in Nebraska. Some bills have been very beneficial in the progress of the system, some have minimized growth of the system, some have even been contested for constitutionality in the court system of Nebraska, and others have been amended. Not all bills affecting the community college system in Nebraska have been mentioned, just those considered to have the greatest impact on community colleges.

In 1978, LB 922 was passed that placed a restriction on new capital construction and, in 1981, an amendment was passed to LB 922 that increased the restriction on capital construction to \$200,000. Also in 1978 the Legislature declared a two mill levy for operational budget and a one-half mill levy for capital construction. The Legislature changed the levy from "mills" to "cents" and allowed seven cents per one-hundred dollars to be assessed effective July 1, 1981 (LB 187, 1979).

Many appropriation bills have been passed over the years affecting funding for the community college system. Most of these have set the formula for funding, while some have supplemented funding, i.e., LB 518 (1978), a personal property tax relief fund which replaced some of the revenue lost because of exemptions allowed in the taxing system.

During the 1984 session of the Nebraska Unicameral, legislation was passed having major impact on the state's technical community colleges.

LB 881 extended the authority for a technical community college area governing board to exceed the statutory levy limit of seven cents per \$100 of actual valuation for operation by 4.2 cents until June 30, 1988. In order for this exception to apply, the population of a technical community college area must be less than 150,000 and the governing board must vote by a two-thirds majority. LB 881 did not impact on Central Community College but was important to the Western Technical Community Area.

A new method of distributing state aid money to the technical community colleges and counting full-time-equivalent (FTE) students was contained in LB 890. The bill, which culminated some eighteen months of work by the presidents of the six technical community colleges and the Nebraska Technical Community College Association, was introduced and passed with no amendments. Several senators commented that having a bill pass with no amendments was nearly an unheard-of accomplishment. LB 890 defined how credit hours are to be determined and how full-time equivalent (FTE) students will be counted. Also defined is the application of reimbursable educational units (REU's) for funding. Under this legislation, the distribution of state aid to education funds appropriated by the Legislature is defined. Beginning in September 1984, fifty-eight percent of state aid appropriation is to be distributed equally among the six areas. The remaining forty-two percent is divided on the basis of FTE student population, and REU's.

The second session of the Eighty-eighth Legislature of Nebraska, in April 1984, passed Legislative Resolution 370 recognizing the many contributions of Dr. Chester H. Gausman to enhance quality education in Nebraska in general, and specifically the technical community colleges, through his leadership as President of Central Community College from July 1, 1966, to April 16, 1984. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Dr. Gausman at the April 23, 1984 meeting of the Board of Governors. Senator Howard Peterson from the Thirty-fifth District made the presentation. An additional copy was later presented to the college and hangs in the Board Room at Grand Island.

CHAPTER THREE

VERY EARLY PLANNING

During the early and mid 1960's, Nebraska was restructuring its economy, which had been mostly agriculture, to industry and agriculture. The mechanized farm procedures reduced on-the-farm employment and brought about increased farm size under single management, which contributed to a rural-to-urban movement of population. Many of these displaced farm workers or operators were unskilled for jobs in business and industry and were not qualified for securing and holding a job through which they could enjoy economic security.

There was a tragic lack in technical education opportunities in the State of Nebraska. A vocational school at Milford, Nebraska, operated by the State Department of Education, was hampered by limited enrollment and funding. A second school similar to Milford was approved in 1965 by the Legislature to be located at the deactivated U.S. Army Depot property at Sidney. This addition still did not meet the vocational educational needs and interests for the population in Central Nebraska. Legislative passage of LB 581 in 1965 made provisions for locally controlled and financed area vocational technical schools to be established. The concern of the Legislature was great enough that it made a provision that whenever the taxed area of a school provided at least \$100,000 per biennium in support of the school, the state would provide a like amount for one time only. This was especially significant in view of the fact that the State of Nebraska had been historically opposed to any form of state aid for schools.

In 1981, Stephen O. Gaines in his "A History: The First Eight Years," wrote: "In the early 1960's, John Bailey, a counselor at Grand Island Senior High School, became aware of the lack of opportunity for post-high school vocational and technical education in Central Nebraska. As his awareness of this void grew, he began a one-man crusade to build interest in and support for a new vocational school for Central Nebraska. Several presentations were made to civic groups by Bailey and it was soon evident that many persons felt as he did regarding this need. Groups such as the Kiwanis Club and the Education Committee of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce encouraged Bailey to continue his efforts; and as a result of this cooperation, he conducted a survey of business and industrial establishments in Central Nebraska. In this survey, he asked such questions as: Is an additional vocational school needed in Nebraska? Where should such an institution be located? Would the establishments responding be interested in employing trained personnel? Response to the survey indicated a great need for such an institution, that it should be located in Central Nebraska, and that many employers would employ graduates.*

"As a result of the efforts of John Bailey and others who had become interested, the Central Nebraska Vocational Education Committee was formed. Personnel making up this committee were appointed from the membership of the Tri-City Chambers of Com-

merce. It soon became obvious that interest in an institution of vocational-education was not confined to the tri-city area, and members representing other communities were brought into the committee. Additional communities represented were: Aurora, St. Paul, Hildreth, Minden and Superior. Dick McFeeley of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce was a leader during these efforts and did a great deal to further the effort as did the managers of the tri-city chambers - Dick Good of Grand Island, Pat Morris of Hastings, and Dick Hartley of Kearney.

"Interest grew rapidly and a proposal was made to the Legislature that a second state vocational school be established in Central Nebraska. Following this request, an interim study committee was appointed to review the need. The report of this group substantiated the need as determined by Bailey's survey but recommended that the second school be established west of Grand Island, probably at North Platte.

"The Central Vocational Education*Committee was dissatisfied with this result and decided to approach the problem from a new direction. After considerable research, study and discussion, the concept of locally supported area vocational schools was evolved. A preliminary draft of a bill was prepared by a subcommittee. During the 1965 Unicameral Session, LB 581, which was a refined edition of the committee's proposal, was passed and signed into law. This legislation permitted political subdivisions to join into areas to establish vocational schools and to levy property taxes to support such institutions. It also provided some state money on a one-time basis to assist in the establishment of a limited number of schools."

In reminiscing about activities of the very early planning, President Gausman said, "The first contact for the search for a superintendent of the school was when, as a team member from the University of Nebraska with Dr. Max Hanson, we were invited in April 1966 to Grand Island to consult with the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Island on the advisability of establishing a junior college for Hall County. After this meeting was over, Dick McFeeley, then an executive officer with the Chamber of Commerce, suggested that I visit the open house at the administrative complex of the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) in Hastings that was to be held just prior to an election determining the establishment of a proposed school at that site. He suggested that I might be interested in the possibilities of heading up the institution if the election was successful. I did visit the proposed site at the NAD and was impressed with the possibilities."

Gausman further reminisced, "After the election was established in May, a team representing the school visited with me in my office in the public school administration building in Lincoln. The team, as I recall, consisted of Verne Moseman of Grand Island, Dr. Lou Ninegar of Kearney, Ken Wortman of Aurora, and Paul Hohnstein of Hastings. I was invited to attend the next meeting of the board, to be held in Hastings at the Clarke Hotel, to discuss with them the possibility that I might accept the position as superintendent of the school if it was offered to me. I did attend that meeting and presented my ideas on individualized instruction and the long-term possibility of a community college and suggested to the committee that that was the direction the institution should take. The discussion lasted until early the next morning. At about 1:00 a.m., after deliberation

with the board, I was informed that the position was being offered to me. I suggested at that time that I would want the responsibility and authority to select my own staff. Then I suggested that Stephen Gaines from Grand Island should be named to head up the adult education functions of the school. This was agreed upon, and I took the position.

"I did not think the meeting would last as long as it did, so I had brought my son, Hal, who was about ten years old, with me as we intended to drive back to Lincoln that same night. However, since the meeting lasted so late, we stayed overnight and went back to Lincoln the next day. In the process, later that night, I called my wife, Mary, and asked if she would be interested in moving to Hastings. When we were in Hastings to attend the open house at the Depot, we looked around the city to see if suitable housing was available. While visiting the Naval Ammunition site, the Navy Commanding Officer's home had been pointed out to us, and we were advised that this would be the residence in which we would live if I accepted the position. It is interesting to note, however, that this property still is the property of the federal government and has never, to this point, become a possibility for the community college."

CHAPTER FOUR

PRE-PLANNING FOR CENTRAL NEBRASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL NUMBER ONE

An enormous amount of preparation was to be made prior to an election scheduled for May 10, 1966, which would determine if, in fact, there would be an area vocational technical school located in Hastings. Some of the factors to be looked at were availability of facilities for an area vocational technical school, local interest and attitudes, tax base of the area, proposed board of trustees, identification of educational service needs, and potential enrollments. All these and more were to be studied and noted.

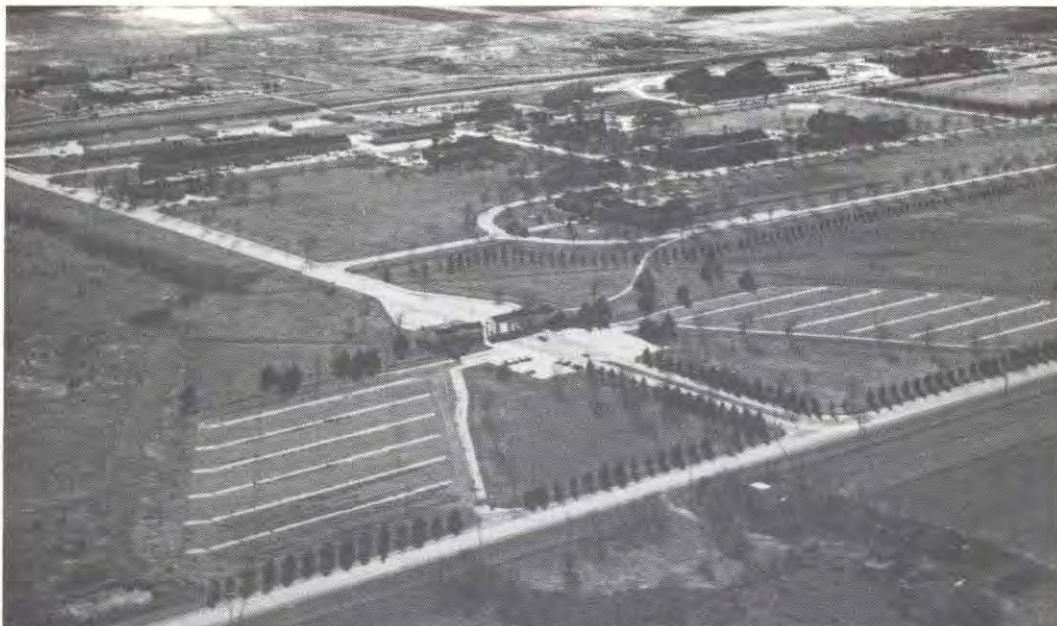
Members of the original committee that was formed were: Ken Wortman, Chairman, Aurora; Dr. Richard Short, Hastings; F.A. Curry, Kearney; James Clark, Central City; Kenneth Einsel, Hastings; Stephen Gaines, Grand Island; Paul Hohnstein, Hastings; Walter Holliman, Grand Island; Ted Kennedy, Hastings; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Dr. Louis Ninegar, Kearney; Richard Spelts, Grand Island; DeWayne Wolf, Kearney; Fred Bauermeister, Central City (later replaced by J. Clark, Central City); Pat Morris, Hastings; Richard Good, Grand Island; and Richard Hartley, Kearney. The latter three were ex officio members of the committee as Chamber of Commerce officials in the three cities.

The committee visited the Cornhusker Ordinance Plant in Grand Island and the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hastings. It was decided that the valuable facilities, land, and equipment at the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot, destined to be closed June 30, 1966, would be ideally suited for such a school.

The administrative complex of the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot, built of permanent type red brick structures and several buildings of less durable construction on 541 plus acres of land located three miles east of Hastings, was to be declared surplus property by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, to be converted to a public health or a public educational service by June 30, 1966. In comparison, the Cornhusker Ordinance Plant was a temporary wood type structure with no definite evacuation plans.

Local interest was evident with the passing of LB 581, and it was apparent that a very positive attitude existed for developing vocational training institutions. Within the space of four months, seventeen county boards had petitioned to form the area to be included in the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School. This response in so short a time, coupled with the knowledge that each county would be subject to a tax levy to support a school, was evidence of local support and interest in a proposed school.

The assessed valuation for tax purposes of the seventeen counties showing interest in a school was \$645,759,542 in 1965. This was far in excess of the required \$200 million required by LB 581.



An aerial view of the administration complex of the Naval Ammunition Depot east of Hastings as it appeared in 1943. The area in the picture became the campus of Central Nebraska Technical College in 1966.

The committee divided the seventeen county area into eight districts, and representatives for each district were designated, with an additional representative allowed from Hall and Howard Counties, and Adams and Webster Counties, as follows:

1. No. 1: Dawson County, George Keller, Executive Vice President of Lexington State Bank. A resident of Lexington since 1946.
2. No. 2: Buffalo County, Louis Ninegar, Ph.D., Professor of Education, Kearney State College. Lived in Kearney 22 years.
3. No. 3: Hall and Howard Counties, Verne Moseman, Certified Public Accountant, Senior Partner, Orin Contryman & Associates, Grand Island. Vice President, Nebraska Society of C.P.A.'s.
4. No. 3: Hall and Howard Counties, Edward G. Paulsen, owner, Paulsen Welding Company, St. Paul.
5. No. 4: Hamilton, Merrick, and Nance Counties, Ken Wortman, owner, Wortman Motor Company, Aurora.
6. No. 5: Gosper, Phelps and Kearney Counties, Richard C. Brown, Executive Secretary, State School Boards Association, Holdrege.

7. No. 6: Furnas and Franklin Counties, Irvin Schwartz, owner, Schwartz Implement Company, Hildreth.
8. No. 7: Adams and Webster Counties, Richard Ely, President of Ely Grain Company and farm operator, Guide Rock.
9. No. 7: Adams and Webster Counties, Paul Hohnstein, President, Hastings Irrigation and Pipe Company, Hastings. Native of Hastings.
10. No. 8: Clay and Nuckolls Counties, Minor Baird, President, Farmers State Bank, Superior. Lifetime resident of Superior.
11. No. 9: Platte County, James Holmberg, Vice President of Dale Electronics, Inc., Columbus. President of Optimist's Club. Member, Nebraska Bar Association.

In 1964, the identification of the educational services needed in the area were summarized by Robert Hegstrom, Hastings Chamber of Commerce, as follows: "A report on the need for Vocational Technical Schools in Nebraska was completed for the Nebraska Legislative Council Committee on Vocational Technical Education in November 1964 by James T. Horner, Consultant and Study Director and Associate Professor, Vocational Education, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. This report is available through our State Department of Education and is a report on needs for technicians and the availability of educational programs and facilities for training technicians in Nebraska. The report shows a serious lack of technical education opportunities for technicians coming at a time when the demand for technicians is rapidly increasing.

"One thousand eighty-five seniors, about twice the number currently enrolled at our one vocational technical school at Milford, plan to attend a vocational technical school if one were located in their area of the state. By state law, the Milford school is limited as to the types of courses to be taught, whereas the Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School can adjust its curriculum to serve the needs of our area."

The report continued that there were very few girls enrolled at Milford, but it was expected large numbers of girls would take advantage of business courses and medical and dental technology courses should these be offered by an area school. The report also mentioned that retraining for job opportunities would be necessary for adults.

Hegstrom further stated in his report, "The National Science Foundation, in a study, concluded that by 1970 the national need for technicians in industry alone would exceed 1,262,000. This figure, contrasted with the 630,000 employed in 1960 indicates that the supply must be doubled by 1970."

The proposed seventeen county area was the third fastest growing industrial and commercial region in the State of Nebraska. It was primarily an agricultural area; but with mechanized farming, the population was shifting from rural to urban and industry was

becoming more prevalent all the time. Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney all were ideally located on main lines of transportation for future industrial expansion. With the growth of industry comes a greater need for skilled help, which could be trained at a vocational technical school. In 1965, in Grand Island alone, 2,000 new jobs were predicted.

In a study made by Dr. Richard R. Short, Superintendent of Schools, Hastings, in December 1965, he stated, "The southern tier of counties would be characterized by a growth rate from two to four percent per year, while the tiers of counties closer to the valley would be higher, perhaps three to six percent per year. If this predicted growth rate holds, it stands to reason that student population will increase."

It was estimated that by 1970 there would be 1,200 to 1,500 students enrolled in the new facility and further projections anticipated an enrollment of more than 2,000 students.

In December 1965, the Defense Department allocated \$5,000 to the Hastings Chamber of Commerce for development of a plan concerning the use of facilities at the Naval Ammunition Depot for a vocational school. Pat Morris, Chamber Manager, said the information was given to Don Butler, Chairman of the Industrial Committee, and came as a "complete surprise." With this, the Chamber could employ a consultant and turned the matter over to the Area Committee on Vocational School Development. The committee met in Grand Island, December 16, 1965, and named Steve Gaines of Grand Island and Fred Bauermeister of Central City as consultants for a period of five days at the rate of \$50 a day. They were to compile a formal application to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Kansas City by January 15th that would justify each piece of equipment, every building, and every acre of land being requested for the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School.

Ken Wortman, Chairman of the Area Vocational Technical School Committee, said a petition would be submitted to the State Board of Vocational Education by December 31, 1965, following the provisions set forth by LB 581 that was passed earlier in 1965 and became effective July 1. This petition was a lengthy document supported by statistics, maps, listing of buildings, and other exhibits. Counties used in the petition were: Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Phelps and Webster. The seventeen counties had a combined (1960 census) population of 199,863 and an assessed valuation of \$596,551,964.

The Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Committee subdivided the seventeen county area into eight districts, using every effort to equalize the population of these districts on the basis of 20,000 population. The committee listed proposed board members from each area of the eight districts; all of this was included in the petition to the State Board of Vocational Education along with other information asked for in LB 581.

A public hearing on the petition by the State Board of Vocational Education was duly publicized following all the guidelines in LB 581. Representatives of the committee were

to attend a State Board meeting held January 11, 1966, to justify the request for the school. These representatives of the committee were: Ken Wortman, Aurora, Chairman of the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Committee; Dr. Richard Short, Superintendent of Hastings Public Schools; DeWayne Wolf, attorney from the law offices of Barlow, Nye and Wolf of Kearney; and officials from the Hastings, Kearney and Grand Island Chambers of Commerce. Wortman, Short, and Wolf presented the arguments in favor of the formation of the school district. The petition was approved at the hearing, and the voters were given an opportunity to accept or reject the proposal at the May 10, 1966, primary election.

On January 7, 1966, the Platte County Board of Supervisors decided to petition the State Board of Education to include Platte County in the vocational technical school district, which already included seventeen counties. Platte County had a population of 23,992 and an assessed valuation of \$67,199,622. Results of this petition were to be decided by the State Board at their January 11, 1966 meeting. The final petition, however, resulted in the inclusion of Platte County and the exclusion of Harlan County, still making a total of seventeen counties in the final stage of the petitioning for counties to be included in the area.

Wortman, Chairman of the Area Committee for the Technical School, said his committee expected to spend about \$8,000 in educating voters about the benefits of the technical school. Many groups and individuals indicated an interest in supporting the venture. Fred Duvan, Hastings Chamber of Commerce President, received an anonymous gift of \$3,800 from a group of interested Hastings citizens.

The planning committee, with Wortman as chairman, organized a publicity committee that put together a proposed schedule of events for promotion of an Area Vocational Technical School beginning February 1, 1966, and continued activities until the election on May 10. As a general policy, all news releases and background information were cleared through one individual, Maurice Lungren, a member of the Hastings College staff. This control was done for the sake of continuity, accuracy, and complete coverage. A slide presentation, "Winds of Change," was prepared by the committee, and a plan to speak to key groups in the area was made. Basically, the Grand Island Chamber covered Hall, Merrick, Hamilton, Howard, Nance, and Platte Counties. Hastings Chamber covered Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin and Kearney Counties. The Kearney Chamber was responsible for Buffalo, Dawson, Phelps, Gosper and Furnas Counties. Special committees were formed within each of these groups, and members of these committees were familiarized with all available information, including the showing of the slide presentation.

During the period from February, 1966 until the May 10 election, volunteers of numerous committees over the seventeen county area were busy speaking to clubs and groups, showing the film "Winds of Change," and answering questions regarding facilities, taxation, etc. Numerous news releases were made during this period of time, keeping the public informed of the progress of the Committee for Area Vocational Technical Training.

In early March, an article appeared in the local papers of the seventeen counties to answer questions concerning the new school. The article stressed the need in Central Nebraska for skilled labor to encourage expansion of local industry and introduction of new industries. Vocational technical training could provide training for, or contribute to, the skills of seventy-five percent of the total labor force in the Central Nebraska area.

Two open house activities were conducted on the Sundays of April 17, 1966, and April 24, 1966, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Naval Ammunition Depot, to provide an opportunity for voters to see the facilities that were to be used for the proposed school.

Representatives of the Hastings and Grand Island Chambers of Commerce were present to answer questions, and the film "Winds of Change" was shown to visitors to acquaint them further with facts about the proposed school. This film was later shown extensively in the seventeen county area to various clubs, organizations and small groups.

Donald Bradford, Director of the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, was one of the school's staunchest supporters and was very instrumental in the final acquisition of the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) property. In March, Bradford and representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Guard, and Army Reserve met to resolve any differences that might exist on how the property at the NAD would be utilized. Bradford was also accompanied by other officials in the OEA office, and final details of the plan to convert the NAD into full civilian use were discussed.

Others attending the meeting to plan the future use of NAD were: McCarthy Nowlin, Assistant to Bradford; Fred Duvan, President of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce; Ken Wortman of the Chamber's Vocational Technical School Committee; Steve Gaines, vocational teacher in Grand Island; Dick McFeely, Assistant Manager of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce; Fred Bauermeister, vocational teacher at Central City; Wallace Chaloupka, former President of the Hastings Chamber; Ken Einsel of the Hastings Chamber's committee on the proposed vocational technical school; Bob Hegstrom, Assistant Manager of the Chamber of Commerce at Hastings; and Pat Morris, Manager of the Hastings Chamber. Following this meeting, another meeting was held the next day at the NAD with Bradford, Nowlin, Commander Joseph Sperandio, and officials of the USDA, Army Reserve, and National Guard. This was the final session held before the group's departure for Washington, D.C. Plans were favorable for the facilities to be transferred to a school if the voters so desired at the May 10 election.

United States Senator Carl Curtis lauded the proposal for a vocational technical school at the Hastings NAD and said Nebraska needs an institution that will train Nebraskans and possibly keep them in Nebraska. He pointed out that Nebraska needs to get new industry and the best way to do it is to have trained workers readily available. The Senator also indicated that federal funds would be available for the school if it was approved by the voters on May 10. The best way to get the funds, he said, would be through already existing routes rather than to seek a direct appropriation. He cited the Manpower and Training Act and the Vocational Technical Training Act and said, "Existing aids to educa-

tion will be available once the school gets started."

An editorial in the May 2, 1966, Hastings Tribune stated, "...if the voters go to the polls and vote in favor of the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School District, it will bring a return far in excess of the cost. It is probably the biggest bargain in education the people of this area have ever seen or ever will be offered."

The following ballot appeared before the voters of seventeen counties on May 10, 1966:
"Shall a technical community college area be established for (one of the seventeen county names listed) County.

For _____

Against _____

The vocational technical school was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 40,143 for, and 8,448 against, nearly five to one in favor.

This tremendous vote of confidence culminated months of concentrated effort on the part of the Vocational Technical School Committee headed by Ken Wortman of Aurora, the Chamber of Commerce officials, and many volunteers of the tri-cities. The film "Winds of Change" was shown over 300 times throughout the area. The committee held over fifty meetings in these few months to promote the establishment of the school and to prepare the necessary formal petition to the State Board of Vocational Education and application for acquisition of facilities to the HEW in Kansas City.

Total vote by counties was as follows:

COUNTY	FOR	AGAINST	FAVORABLE %
Adams	6,724	593	91.9
Buffalo	4,187	1,238	77.0
Clay	1,634	230	87.6
Dawson	2,515	443	85.0
Franklin	1,137	316	78.2
Furnas	1,264	515	70.3
Gosper	605	111	84.5
Hall	6,035	913	86.8
Hamilton	1,818	229	88.8
Howard	1,153	261	81.5
Kearney	1,413	174	89.0
Merrick	1,296	263	83.1
Nance	838	744	52.9
Nuckolls	2,133	413	83.8
Phelps	1,615	234	87.3
Platte	4,343	1,555	73.6
Webster	1,433	216	87.0

It is interesting to note that Platte County not only was supporting construction of a Junior College in Columbus but the citizens of the county also voted to support the school to be located in Hastings.

CHAPTER FIVE

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND STAFFING PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1966, FOR CENTRAL NEBRASKA VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL NUMBER ONE

The proposed governing board, now a reality, met Wednesday, May 11, 1966, at 7: 30 p.m. at the Clarke Hotel in Hastings for an organizational meeting. Present at this meeting were Dick Brown, Holdrege; George Keller, Lexington; Ed Paulsen, St. Paul; Louis Ninegar, Kearney; Ken Wortman, Aurora; Dick Ely, Guide Rock; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Jim Holmberg, Columbus; and Irv Schwartz, Hildreth, from the governing board and Dr. Chester H. Gausman, Stephen Gaines, Pat Morris, manager of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce, and Larry Froschheuser, manager of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Ken Wortman, chairman of the area committee for the vocational technical school, called the first meeting of the governing board to order. The first transaction of business was election of officers. Ken Wortman was elected President of the governing board, Verne Moseman was elected Vice President, and Paul Hohnstein was elected Secretary. In the beginning of the school's history, the title structure was "president" of the board and "superintendent" of the school, but on March 25, 1968, these titles were changed respectively to "chairman" of the board and "president" of the college. The board moved to designate the administrative complex of the Naval Ammunition Depot at Hastings as the site for the primary facility of the Area Vocational Technical School Number One in accordance with the provisions of LB 581.

The governing board also adopted a resolution to submit an application to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for surplus property at the Naval Ammunition Depot of Hastings. DeWayne Wolf, Kearney, was selected as Legal Counsel for the period of one year. Wolf was to remain Legal Counsel for the board until his appointment as 12th District Judge in Buffalo County, which led to his resignation in January, 1976. Following recommendations of a selection committee, the board named Dr. Chester H. Gausman as Superintendent of Area Vocational Technical School Number One. Gausman was given the go-ahead to hire staff. His first request of the board was to place Stephen Gaines of Grand Island on the staff as the Community Services Director. The board agreed to this request, so on May 11, 1966, one day after the election, the board was formed as a working team and the first superintendent and one staff member were named. Gausman was placed on an out-of-pocket expense account plus ten cents a mile for use of his personal automobile for school purposes prior to July 1, 1966.

By statute, Chet Yost, Adams County Treasurer, became treasurer (ex officio) to the Board of Governors and was to collect tax funds from the counties of the area on a monthly basis. The staff always knew when the end of the month rolled around because the odor of Chet's cigar could be detected as soon as he entered the door. Cigar smoke would

waft throughout the administration building, reminding us all it would soon be pay day because Chet Yost was here to sign checks. Yost could not be legally paid as treasurer, so he was never on the payroll; but the board made arrangements to reimburse him for expenses occurred in performing duties for the board.

The first official act by Gausman, Superintendent of the newly organized Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Number One, was to negotiate final arrangements for the transferring of real estate and equipment at the NAD over to the school. Representatives of the school who met with officials of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in Kansas City were: Chester Gausman, Stephen Gaines, Fred Bauermeister, Walter Davis, and Pat Morris. This meeting was followed by many telephone calls to the General Services Administration (GSA) and the District HEW Office in Kansas City. On June 2, 1966, a formal request to the Regional HEW office in Kansas City, Missouri, was submitted for approximately fifteen million dollars worth of property and equipment. It wasn't until December 13, 1966, however, that a right-of-utilization permit was granted to the institution for use of the property. The Regional Office of HEW granted the permit after the property consisting of twenty-eight buildings and 541 acres of land was declared surplus by the GSA. With assurances from Frederic N. Brokaw of HEW Division of Surplus Property Utilization; optimistic conversations with Carl T. Curtis, United States Senator; and encouragement from Donald E. Bradford, Assistant in the U.S. Defense Department, the administrative offices of Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Number One were destined to open July 1, 1966.

Prior to the opening of the school, Superintendent Gausman, with a full-time position in Lincoln as head of the vocational and adult education programs for the Lincoln Public Schools, was spending Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays in Hastings attending board meetings or putting together a staff that could begin work by July 1. Hopes were to begin instruction in September. All this was to take time and much effort on his part. He planned to leave his position in Lincoln on June 30 to devote all his time to the new school.

A second meeting of the new board was held in Hastings on May 20, 1966, at 7:30 p.m., at the Clarke Hotel with Ken Wortman, Verne Moseman, Paul Hohnstein, Minor Baird, Dick Brown, Dick Ely, Jim Holmberg, George Keller, Ed Paulsen, and Irv Schwartz of the board present. Chester Gausman, DeWayne Wolf, and Pat Morris were also present. Election of the following administrators was made:

Edwin Minnick was named Director of General Education and Student Affairs with his contract effective as of July 18, 1966. Minnick was employed at that time as Principal of the Adult High School and Coordinator of Distributive Education for the Lincoln Public Schools and had previously been the Adult Education Director for the Kearney Public Schools.

Robert Harrington was named Director of Non-Industrial Occupations. He was an instructor of agriculture-related occupations in the Lincoln Public Schools and had served earlier as plant manager of HyGain Electronics in Lincoln. His contract with the new

school was effective July 1, 1966.

Claude Wingrove was offered a contract effective July 1, 1966, as Director of Industrial Occupations. Wingrove was a machine shop instructor in the Lincoln Public Schools.

Dr. Gausmañ asked that Larry Keller, a machinist employed in Lincoln and a graduate of the University of Nebraska, be considered as a possible machine technology instructor in Wingrove's department. The board voted to offer Keller a contract effective July 1, 1966, as the first instructor employed by the school.

Committees of the board were named to look into insurance and a retirement program for the staff. Policies were beginning to take shape, and the first tuition rates were set at \$84 per quarter for residents of the seventeen county area; \$126 per quarter for Nebraska students who lived outside the seventeen county area; and \$168 per quarter for students residing outside of the state of Nebraska.

The third meeting of the board was held May 27, with two more staff members hired. Henry Wendt was offered a contract as Building and Grounds Superintendent beginning July 1, 1966. He had worked at the NAD for fifteen years as an engineering technician in the Public Works Department. Alexis Johnson, a Kearney businessman and former Buffalo County Superintendent of Schools, was named business manager beginning July 1, 1966. In addition to several business experiences, he had served as Superintendent of Schools at Leigh, Stanton, Laurel and Walthill.

At the June 10 meeting of the board, all contracts previously passed on were ratified and contracts for the following were approved to begin employment July 1, 1966: Bernard Kinley, head of construction department; Donald Reed, head of electronics division; and Donald Rockafellow, drafting instructor.

On June 25, the following were offered contracts: Larry Carlson, head of business and office occupations (effective August 1); Dean Blaha, head of automotive technology (effective August 1); Robert Anderson, head of metal technology (effective July 15); and James Dutcher, instructor in electrical and electronics technology (effective July 1). Hired on a monthly basis to begin July 1 were: Gordon Neal, Burton Cook, Charles Miller, Arthur Stark, Larry Fox, Robert Spicknall, George Flagel, Vincent Krueger, Carl Wagner, Lyle Peterson, Harold Uhrich, Jacob Brunken, Jake Goedert, Oliver Burkland, Louis Brown, and Ira McAfoos, all in the custodial and maintenance division, most of whom had been employees of the Navy.

Also hired on a monthly basis to begin duties July 1 were Oriel Froschheuser, Marguerite Eggert, Gwen Springer, Phyllis Luth, Leone Troudt, Jim Cronin, Barbara Payne, and Charlotte Smith. Ten of all employees hired prior to July 1, 1966, were still employed by the college at the time of this writing in 1984.

Ed Burgett and Associates of Hastings were named as the architectural firm for needed remodeling of facilities. Plans for a cafeteria and a book store were discussed.

Major James Moffitt, Commander of the 625th Radar Squadron, during the June 25 meeting explained the fire protection agreement that the USAF would like to enter into.

Because of the urgency of hiring personnel for the fire station before the school opened on July 1, the board voted to hire the fire station personnel on a monthly salary and authorized the board chairman, Ken Wortman, to execute an agreement with the USAF.

On July 1, 1969, with the passage of LB 943, the official name of the Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Number One was changed to "Central Nebraska Technical College." This was the first official name change for the college. Other name changes have taken place during the historical period of this document.

CHAPTER SIX

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF PLATTE COLLEGE

In the fall of 1962, the Platte County Junior College Committee consisted of a group of volunteer citizens randomly selected to serve and investigate the educational possibilities and needs for higher education in the county. The committee identified five needs for advanced training in Platte County. First, advanced training facilities were necessary to handle the county's displaced agricultural workers. Second, there was a need for advanced training facilities in Platte County to handle the growing city population. Third, an institution of higher education would attract new industries to Nebraska and Platte County. Fourth, higher education was necessary in Platte County to save individual family income and build the county's economy. Fifth, advanced training was necessary to provide Platte County adults with educational opportunities not presently available to them locally.

The committee recommended that advanced training facilities in the form of a junior college or a vocational school were needed for all of the above reasons. In 1964, a junior vocational college survey was mailed to every box holder in Platte County (7,100). Of the respondents, eighty-five percent were interested in and were willing to support advanced training. Only eleven percent of the respondents were interested in a liberal arts program. Those interested in vocational training or combination programs represented fifty-six percent of the respondents.

In the spring of 1967, the University of Nebraska conducted a survey of the resources and needs for the proposed Platte County Junior College District. The survey team made recommendations as to curriculum and physical facility needs. The study also indicated that a college would draw somewhere around three hundred students the first year. Forty percent of the students to attend a college could be expected to transfer from Platte to a four-year institution.

On September 7, 1966, the Chamber of Commerce established a citizens' subcommittee composed of interested residents from both outside and within the metropolitan area of the community to study the feasibility of this endeavor. An organizational meeting was held September 26, 1966, with William Floyd, Larry Froschheuser, and Warren Rood. At this meeting the college committee members were selected. The first committee meeting was October 5, 1966, at Louies' Restaurant. The objective of this meeting was to determine the kind of college considered suitable for Columbus and Platte County.

After visitations were made to various colleges, the college committee met at the country club on February 23, 1967, and formally decided to pursue a junior college concept. March 13, 1967, a meeting was held at Club 81 for the election of the Platte College Committee. William Floyd and Paul Rupp were elected as co-chairmen and Larry Froschheuser was elected secretary-treasurer. The first petition was circulated for the establishment of a junior college; and on March 23, Bill Nelson and Bus Lohr (campaign committee) raised funds from

area businessmen for an election campaign.

The Platte Junior College Committee, Platte County Superintendent of Schools, and other area educators solicited the consultative assistance of the State Department of Education, University of Nebraska, and the State Higher Education Facilities Commission in the establishment of a junior college.

The entire junior college committee met on April 26, 1967, to hear a petition drive report and to review a survey report from the University of Nebraska. The preliminary feasibility study of the state-appointed survey committee indicated that a need was apparent in the county and that a two-year college to serve the needs of approximately five hundred students could be expected to be successful.

The junior college committee met and set the date for the election on June 20, 1967, to determine approval or disapproval by the Platte County voters. A county-wide meeting was held May 9, 1967, at the Columbus Senior High School to brief heads of all organizations on the junior college proposal. By May 10, petitions calling for a special election on the two-year college proposition were signed by 1,300 Platte County voters, and submitted to the county superintendent. Among the signatories were all members of each of the Boards of Education in the county that maintained high schools within their respective districts. Based on the legal petitions, an election on the proposal was formally called for on June 20, 1967. On June 16, 1967, an ad appeared in the newspaper urging voters to vote "FOR," on a \$3 million bond issue needed to finance construction of the college facility.

Voters of Platte County turned out for a vote of 3,508 for, and 495 against, which resulted in an eighty-three percent favorable vote for establishment of a junior college. In most of the county's thirty precincts, the vote carried by more than eighty percent. The college was to be financed by taxation and tuition. Some election officials noted the vote turnout was quite low but some attributed this to the fact that heavy rains fell on election Tuesday; and along with already hampered travel conditions around the county from recent rains, a low turnout was expected. It was necessary to have fifty-five percent in favor of the issue.

The next step toward establishment was for the county superintendent of schools to appoint six members to the junior college board. The county superintendent issued a legal notice to order that Platte Junior College District was established under LB 451. Six citizens were appointed June 29, 1967, to serve as an interim governing board until the November 8, 1968, general election. Appointed were: Warren Rood, William Floyd, Dale Luedtke, Laura Miller, William Simpson and Kenneth Torczon.

It was a tremendous undertaking by the people of Platte County to develop a college. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce Manager was quoted as saying that the region "recognized the need for a college for the entire county rather than just a college for Columbus." The first chairman of the Platte College board and former chairman of the Chamber's education committee added, "We would like to have gone one step further and established a district college, tying together the natural entities which exist in the

area, but the legislative action needed to make it a district college was almost prohibitive. We decided to make it a county school, with great hope for a district college in the future.'

The first junior college board meeting was held to elect a temporary chairman and to develop an operations budget on July 14, 1967. All board members officially agreed to assume responsibilities for developing Platte College and selected Warren Rood as temporary chairman. On August 1, Rood was officially elected President, and William Floyd was elected Vice President of the college Board of Education. The first act of this board was to authorize registration of the vacancy for a college president at various placement centers. J.P. Young was employed as the first staff member at the college and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the college district until June 30, 1969, when he accepted the position as superintendent of an area high school and resigned as board secretary.

CHAPTER SEVEN

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

PART 1: PLATTE CAMPUS

December 4, 1967, the Board of Education of Platte College announced the selection of Dr. Donald L. Newport as President of the new college at Columbus. Newport had served as Dean of Students in a Michigan college for two years prior to his move to Columbus.

On May 19, 1968, the board announced the hiring of its second professional staff member, Dr. Louis C. Whitmore, as Dean of Students. Dr. Whitmore had spent seven years in the military service where he was a non-commissioned officer in administrative and operations responsibilities dealing with classified communications work. Following military separation, he pursued his formal education and received his doctorate in 1967.

In June, the board announced selection of Dr. Vernon L. Taylor as the college's first Dean of Instruction. He had been employed as chairman of the communicative arts department at a college in Missouri. Taylor would be responsible for curriculum development, faculty recruitment, federal programs, and the new college's adult education program.

The third major staff member of the college was also hired in June, 1968. Marvin A. Kraenow was named as Director of the Media Center. He would supervise library and educational equipment supplies. His former position was at a Kansas college in the department of library science.

In June, 1969, selection of Bryce E. Tracy as the college's Dean of Administrative Services was announced. He was the last of the initial four major administrative staff members to be hired. His responsibility included the college's budgeting and accounting programs, purchasing, physical plant maintenance, food and book store services, fringe benefit programs, investment management, and the coordination of all state and federal grant applications.

Richard L. Peters was selected in February 1969 as the business division chairman. Peters taught business courses and directed programs of business, secretarial science, and agri-business when classes began in the fall of 1969.

Also in early 1969, two more chairmen were named. Chairman of the science and health division was Fred Koerwitz, who managed programs of biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics and physical education as well as career programs of engineering technology and licensed practical nursing. Evelyn Bruegger was employed as chairman of the communicative arts division. She taught English, and in addition, supervised programs of speech, foreign language, journalism, music, and art. Bruegger developed



The administrative team of Platte College, from left to right: Bryce E. Tracy, Dean of Administrative Services; Dr. Louis C. Whitmore, Dean of Students; Dr. Donald L. Newport, College President; and Dr. Vernon L. Taylor, Dean of Instruction.

career programs as well as curricula in continuing education and transfer education.

In the very early days J.P. Young was named Secretary of the college and continued in this capacity until January 6, 1970.

In July, 1971, Bryce Tracy, Dean of Administrative Services, resigned his position. Robert George was appointed Dean of Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board of Education to replace Tracy. George held this position until 1973 when a central administrative office was established in Grand Island. George became an assistant to the area president with responsibilities for purchasing, campus facilities and development.

Dr. Newport announced his resignation in August 1971. The Board of Education at their September 14, 1971, meeting appointed Dr. Vernon Taylor as the college's interim president. Taylor served in that position until December 1971, when the board named Dr. William E. Snead President of Platte Community College effective January 31, 1972. Snead held this position until January, 1973.

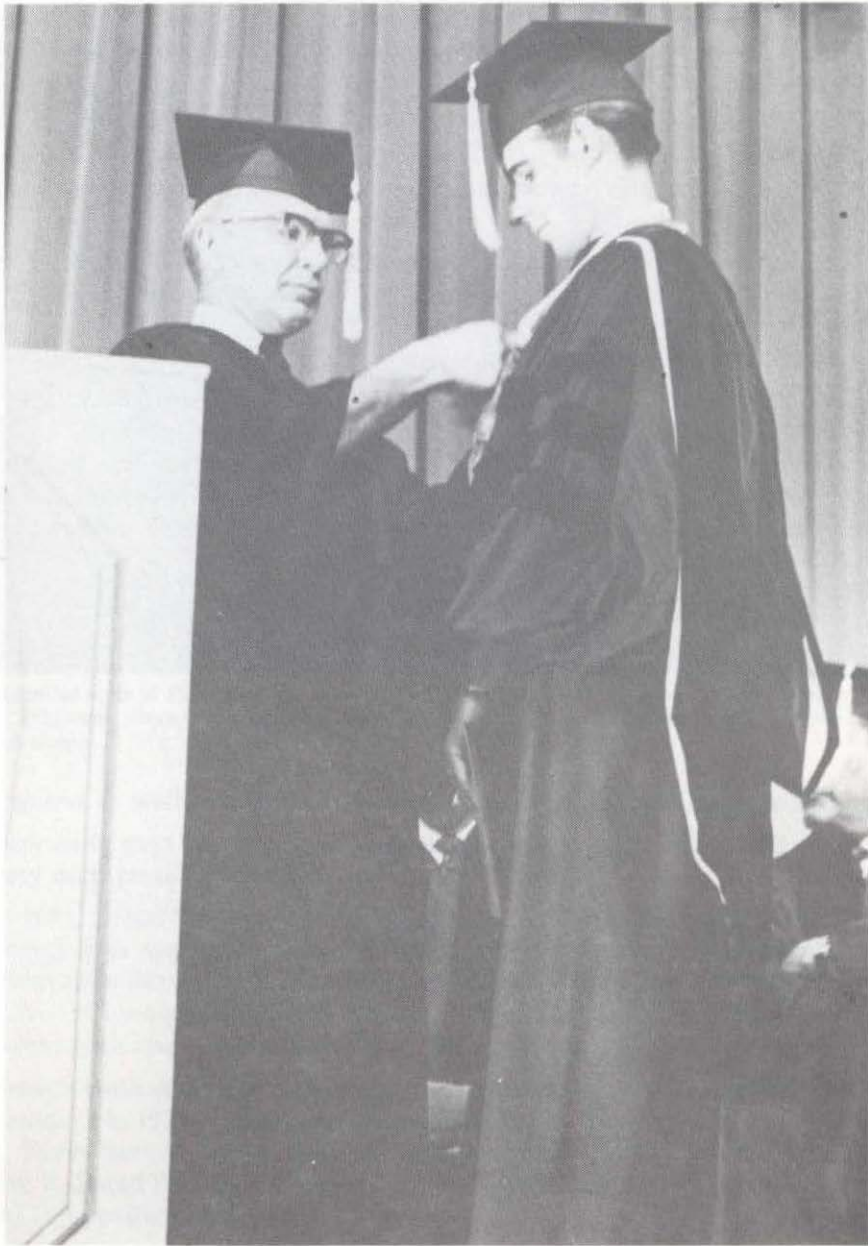
During Snead's tenure as president, the instructional division was reorganized into eight areas and an Associate Dean of Vocational Education position was established. The new structure was fully implemented by September, 1972 for the 1972-73 fiscal year. Administrative staff were: Robert George, Dean of Administrative Services; Dr. Jerry Lee,

Dean of Community Services; Robert Snow, Dean of Students; and Dr. Vernon Taylor, Dean of Faculty. There were forty-two full-time instructors and chairpersons on the staff at this time.

Dr. Jerry Lee became President of Platte Community College on January 31, 1973. Lee began duties at the college in July, 1970 as Coordinator of Community Relations. Lee taught educational philosophy while completing work on his doctoral degree, which was granted in August, 1970.

Dr. Vernon Taylor resigned as Dean of Faculty on January 8, 1973, and Joe Preusser was appointed as Dean of Faculty in March. Preusser was appointed as an instructor in the social science division of the college in May, 1971. Later, in 1971, Preusser was named as chairman of this division.

One of the first milestones for the new Platte College was held September 7, 1969 at the Columbus Senior High School. Faculty, friends and students gathered for the first academic convocation and presidential inauguration. The pageantry was brightened by the colorful hoods and regalia of tradition. Kenneth Torczon, President of the Board of Education of Platte College, was given charge of the inauguration of the President with Dr. Donald Newport accepting.



Kenneth Torczon of Columbus, President of the Board of Education of Platte College, conducts the formal inauguration for College President Dr. Donald L. Newport on September 7, 1969.

PART 2: HASTINGS CAMPUS

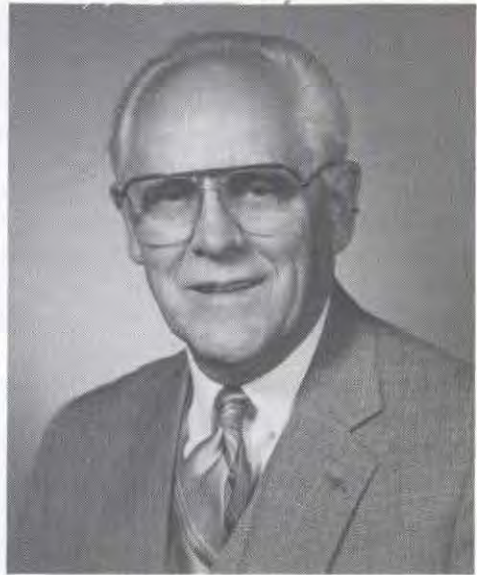
The Hastings Campus opened its doors on July 1, 1966, with twenty-four persons reporting for duty. The administrative personnel were: Dr. Chester H. Gausman, Stephen Gaines, Edwin Minnick, Robert Harrington, Claude Wingrove, Alexis Johnson, and Henry Wendt. Larry Keller, Bernard Kinley, Donald Reed, Donald Rockafellow, Larry Carlson, Dean Blaha, Robert Anderson, and James Dutcher were hired in the instructional area. Oriel Froschheuser, Marguerite Eggert, Gwen Springer, Phyllis Luth, Leone Troudt, James Cronin, Barbara Payne, and Charlotte Smith were all hired on a monthly basis. Two of the original administrators hired were still with the college in 1984. Four of the original instructional personnel were still in the college's employ, and three of the employees hired on a monthly basis were still employed by the college in 1984. Also hired on a monthly basis was the maintenance and custodial crew, with Vince Krueger being the only one still employed by the college in 1984.



The Central Nebraska Technical College Administration in 1966 from left to right standing: Henry Wendt, Building and Grounds Superintendent; Robert Harrington, Director of Non-Industrial Education; Edwin Minnick, Director of General Education; and Stephen Gaines, Director of Community Services. Seated are: Dr. Chester H. Gausman, Superintendent, and Alexis Johnson, Business Manager.

Dr. Chester H. Gausman, first President of the Area Vocational Technical School Number One, piloted the school through its early growing pains to become one of the model community colleges of the nation today. Gausman's greatest attributes to the college's growth and renown were that of a positive attitude and untiring aggressiveness. There was never a task too large for him to achieve. His past works speak for him.

Gausman created a non-traditional system for students, individualized instruction and an open door policy, whereby a student can enter college any day of the year and progress independently from other students. Visitors from all parts of the world have visited the Hastings Campus to see first hand how the system is working -- a method now hailed as the way to meet future educational demands.



Dr. Chester H. Gausman

In Gausman's eighteen years as President of the college, he was instrumental in the development of legislation governing the state's community colleges. His leadership and commitment to vocational education earned him the respect of educators across the United States. He is also internationally known as an expert on community colleges.

Gausman served as a member of the National Commission on Rural or Small Community Colleges of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges and was chairman of that commission in 1979 and 1980. He was a member of the Higher Education Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools until his retirement in 1984. He has given unselfishly of his time as consultor and evaluator for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools throughout the entire Midwest and as far away as Nome, Alaska. He has shared his expertise with the community colleges on an international level through his membership on the Executive Board of the Postsecondary International Network of Colleges, Canada, England, and the United States. He has made presentations in England and many times in Canada on the subjects of individualized instruction and curriculum comprehensiveness.

Among Gausman's experiences was his employment in 1983 for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Jordan as an expert and consultant for community colleges. His duties there were to help set up an entire system of community colleges in Jordan. In a short but intensive three-month period of time, the organization of twenty-eight colleges was finalized with extraordinarily successful results. Dr. Gausman conducted a Community College Conference in Jordan during his last week there. Seven main topics were addressed at the conference with Gausman authoring four of these: "Programs of Study of Community Colleges of Jordan,"

"Teacher Methods and Teacher Training of Community Colleges of Jordan," "Continuing Education and Community Services of Community Colleges of Jordan," and "Relationships Between Secondary Schools, Community Colleges and Universities of Jordan." This composite of papers is being disseminated not only in Jordan but in Arabia and the United States.

Dr. Gausman has given unstintingly of his time throughout his career in meeting challenges of the community colleges by serving on national and international levels as well as being a leader of technical community colleges in our own State of Nebraska. He served as President of the Nebraska Technical Community Colleges Association's Council of Presidents in 1972-73, 1977-81, and was President of the council in 1983-84. In 1970-72, he was President of the Nebraska Association of Technical Community Colleges. He served as chairman of the State Steering Committee Plan for the development of technical community colleges in 1973-74. He was state president of Nebraska Vocational Education Association in 1961-62 and president of Kansas Nebraska Vocational Education Association in 1978-79. There were many awards given to him for his leadership and his efforts were always for the good of the technical community college system. His untiring support has constantly remained positive.

Through good or bad times during the eighteen years of Gausman's presidency of the college, his wife, Mary deserves great praise for her loyal support. In the very early years she organized the women's division which supported the college in many ways. Mary has been the unsung and unseen force behind Central Community College's President for eighteen years.

Dr. Gausman served the college with two hats from August 30, 1971, when he was named as Acting President of Central Community College Area while still serving as President of Central Technical Community College at Hastings. In 1973 he was officially named as President of the college area and established an area office in Grand Island.

In 1984, Dr. Gausman retired from his position as President of the college and moved to Custer, South Dakota, where he entered into business with his sons, John and Hal, in the house building and landscaping business. He served as President Emeritus of the college until December, 1984.

Dr. Michael Paradise was employed as Vice President at the Hastings Campus on July 1, 1972. He worked closely with Gausman performing many presidential duties and took over the presidency of the Hastings Campus on July 1, 1973. Paradise resigned his position as President on February 19, 1979. During his tenure he reorganized the administrative structure on the campus.

On July 24, 1967, Dennis Tyson was hired as an instructor in the general education division. In December, 1972, Tyson was promoted to Coordinator of Instructional Design and continued in that role until January 13, 1975, when he was appointed Acting Dean of Instruction when Robert Harrington resigned that position. Tyson was named as the Dean of Instruction of the Hastings Campus on May 19, 1975. At the March 26, 1979,



Dr. Michael Paradise on the left became President of the Hastings Campus in 1973. Here he accepts a token of the office from Board of Governor's member Irv Schwartz of Hildreth and Area President Dr. Chester H. Gausman.

meeting of the Board of Governors, Tyson was appointed Acting President of the Hastings Campus following the resignation of Paradise the month before. On July 30, 1979, Dr. Hubert Reid was offered a contract as Vice President of Central Technical Community College Area and President of the Hastings Campus, to begin duties September 1, 1979. Tyson assumed his Dean of Instruction duties until April 27, 1981, when the Board of Governors reassigned him as interim Area Vice President/Region Three Chief Executive. Reid's retirement resignation was accepted by the board at the March 23, 1981, meeting. Retirement would be at the end of Reid's contract, November 20, 1981, but he relinquished his duties as of March 1981.

The Board of Governors adopted steps for a process to be used in selection of a president for the Hastings Campus at their June 22, 1981, meeting. After the personnel committee of the board completed all steps, which included advertising on national, state and local levels, they screened forty-four applicants and recommended to the board that Dennis Tyson be offered the position. Tyson was unanimously voted by the board to fill the position of Vice President/Region Three Campus President beginning January 1, 1982. On June 1, 1984 Tyson was appointed Vice President of Educational Services for Central Community College.

Stephen Gaines was the second person to be hired as an area administrator and was named as Director of Community Services at the May 11, 1966, meeting of the Board of Governors for the Area Vocational Technical School Number One. Gaines assisted in the implementation of individualized instructional materials in 1966-67 and started an adult education program off-campus that continues to be an important sector of the college's instruction. In 1973, Gaines moved from the Hastings Campus to head the area community education services at the area office located in Grand Island. He divided the Central Community College area into three regions and appointed a director for each region. Community education services offer instruction to the businessman or housewife who would never otherwise have the opportunity to attend a college.

Mr. Gaines took early retirement at the end of his contract on June 30, 1975. Gaines always wanted to write the history of the college but retirement found him "too busy" with other hobbies that he wanted to pursue. He did, however, find enough time to put together a pamphlet, "A History-The First Eight Years," for the fifteenth anniversary of the Hastings Campus of Central Community College. Gaines was unable to attend the anniversary dinner in Hastings, September 28, 1981, due to a sudden illness. Gaines passed away at a hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 27, 1981.

Edwin Minnick was employed by the board on May 20, 1966, as Director of General Education. On February 26, 1968, Minnick's status was changed from Director of Stu-



Dr. Gausman presents a retirement plaque to Stephen Gaines as he takes early retirement from the college in June 1975.



Longtime college employee Henry Wendt accepts his retirement plaque from College President Dr. Gausman in June 1975.

dent Affairs and General Education to Dean of Students and Personnel. In 1980, Minnick was named as Area Dean of Special Educational Services along with his duties as Dean of Students at the Hastings Campus. On June 1, 1984 he was appointed Acting Campus Director of the Hastings Campus. Hastings Campus owes much to Minnick for the many accomplishments he has achieved for the students at the Hastings Campus as well as for students of the area.

Alexis Johnson was employed as Business Manager for the college on May 26, 1966, and held that position until his retirement in June, 1973. Mr. Johnson was then employed on a temporary basis for twenty working days as field representative for the Central Nebraska Tech Foundation. On retiring, Johnson and his wife moved to Sun City, Arizona, where he could golf the year around. Johnson passed away in June, 1984 at Sun City, Arizona.

Robert Harrington was employed May 20, 1966, as Director of Non-Industrial Education, but was made Dean of all instruction for the college in February, 1967 with the resignation of the Director of Industrial Occupations and shifting of other duties.

Harrington devoted much time and thought to the development of instructional materials for use in the individualized instruction concept. In February, 1968, Harrington's status was changed from Director of Occupational Education to Dean of Instruction and held this position until January 1975, when he resigned to accept a position at Oklahoma City Community College in Oklahoma City.

Claude Wingrove was employed May 20, 1966, and resigned February 27, 1967, because of health reasons. Wingrove did much in the early months to make the Navy Ammunition Depot suitable for occupational instruction.

Henry Wendt was named as Building and Grounds Superintendent effective July 1, 1966. Wendt had an edge on everyone in that he had been employed by the Navy as "head of base public utilities" and had his office in the Hamilton laboratory. His knowledge of the Navy Depot was invaluable to the school throughout the early years. Wendt was named Manager of Facilities and Campus Development in June, 1970, after which he moved his office to the administrative building. In 1973, Wendt was named assistant to purchasing for the college at the area office and continued in that position until his resignation June 30, 1975. Wendt and his wife live in Hastings and still attend all college functions as strong supporters of the college.

PART 3: AREA ADMINISTRATION

With the passage of LB 759 and LB 533, it was essential that Central Nebraska Technical College and Platte College have a common administration with area coordination and local autonomy as long as it did not negate economy and effectiveness of the educational program serving all twenty-five counties. So it was that the College Area Administration Office was established at the First Federal Building on West Second Street in Grand Island in July of 1973 and continued there until 1977, when it was moved into a completed addition at the Grand Island Campus site. Administrative offices included: Area President, Dr. Chester H. Gausman; assistant for business and finance, James Underwood; assistant for purchasing, campus facilities and development, Robert George; assistant for community services, Stephen O. Gaines; assistant for research, federal and state reports and programs, and personnel, Glenn Wiseman; assistant to Robert George, Henry Wendt; and assistant to Stephen Gaines, Larry Keller.

James Underwood was hired November 24, 1969, as accountant and assistant to the comptroller at the Hastings Campus. In March 1970, Underwood was named as business manager for area finances. With restructuring of the Area Office in 1976, Underwood was named Vice President of Administrative Services and held that position until December, 1983, when he resigned to accept a similar position at Westark Community College in Arkansas. Underwood was a loyal and devoted employee with positive leadership qualities that made many things happen.

Robert George was hired in July, 1971 as Dean of Administrative Services and Treasurer of the Board of Education at Platte College. His new position at the Area Office was head of the purchasing department, but he resigned this position in October, 1973 to accept a position at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska.

Dan Kinney was hired in December, 1973 to fill the vacancy at the area office as Director of Purchasing until January 1977, when he transferred to the Hastings Campus. Larry Glazier was hired in March, 1977 to fill the vacancy. Glazier was named as Acting Vice President of Administrative Services in December, 1983.

Glenn Wiseman was employed as a food management instructor in August 1967 and was promoted to supervisor of the services division in July, 1968. In October, 1969, Wiseman was named Research Projects Director and Counselor and remained in that position until January, 1971, when he became the Coordinator of Counseling, Research and Governmental Programs. Wiseman was transferred to the area office as Director of Research and Personnel until July, 1978, when he retired. Wiseman wrote many grants for the college in his eleven years of employment. Doug Adler was employed to fill the vacancy of Area Personnel Manager.

Larry Keller was employed at the Area Office in 1973 to assist Steve Gaines with community services education. Keller was the first instructor hired for the Hastings Campus in 1966, on May 20. On July 13, 1970, Keller was named as Director of Field Services for

the community service division and continued in that position until 1973. With the retirement of Stephen Gaines, Keller was named as Vice President of Community Services beginning July 1, 1975. In February, 1976, Keller was named Area Vice President/Chief Administrator of Community Education, Region Two and Grand Island Community Education Center.

With reorganization of staff duties in 1982, Keller was named College Vice President of Occupational Education Services and Supportive Services and Campus President of Region Two. Combined with the duties of campus president in Grand Island, he was responsible for college-wide coordination of occupational education services and support services. This included development and implementation of plans and procedures to meet the needs of occupational education services and support services of the college.

Dr. Jerry Lee was made College Vice President for Community Education and Academic Transfer Education Services and Campus President for Region One. He also was given responsibility for college-wide coordination of activities along with the duties as Campus President of Region One at Columbus. Lee's responsibilities included the development and implementation of plans and procedures for college-wide community education and academic transfer education needs of the college.

On May 24, 1982, Dr. Jerry Lee, college vice president and Platte Campus president, resigned his position effective June 30, 1982, and assumed the position of President of Dutchess Community College in New York. Dr. Joseph Preusser was named Acting College Vice President for Community Education and Academic Transfer Education and Platte Campus President beginning July 1, 1982. The position of Dean of Instruction that Preusser had held was left vacant. In March, 1983, Preusser was officially designated as Platte Campus President and College Vice President.

Underwood was named Vice President of Administrative Services, which included college-wide responsibilities for budgeting, financial affairs, accounts, banking, purchasing, physical plant management, equipment inventory, personnel functions, policy and procedures manual, facility construction and audits.

Dennis Tyson was named College Vice President of Student Services and Region Three Campus President at Hastings. His responsibility was for the college-wide coordination of all student services activities.

Behind these administrators are many dedicated deans, associate deans, directors, coordinators, and support personnel, too numerous to be listed here, each one holding an essential position in the institution to insure its success. However, there are always exceptions to any rule, and Donald Ballard must be given his due credit as the college's director of accounting services, serving in this capacity since the area was established. He has handled the financial records efficiently, resulting in clean audits at the end of each fiscal year.

In 1968, Dr. Gausman established an office of public relations as an integral part of the college organization. Ron Logue is serving the college area in this capacity. His duties as a communications expert require a close relationship with the president's office. He assists

the president in matters relating to legislation, communicative activities, advisory councils, board matters, printed materials, speaking engagements and the list goes on.

Don Nelson was employed at the Hastings Campus in the general education division on July 28, 1969 as an instructor. In October 1970, he was named chairman of the general education division. He held this position until July 1, 1975, when he assumed a position at the Area Office as assistant for educational planning and development until July, 1982, when reorganization of administrative personnel was implemented. At that time, he was named as Administrative Assistant for Instruction in Region Two, Grand Island Campus.

Effective April 16, 1984, Dr. Joe Preusser became President of Central Community College. He assumed the position that had been held by Dr. Chester H. Gausman since the Hastings Campus and Platte Campus become one institution in 1973. The Board of Governors made the decision as a part of a special board meeting held April 2, 1984. Preusser is a native of Nebraska, received his doctorate in May, 1978 at the University of Nebraska. He served as Central Community College Vice President for Educational Planning, Academic Transfer Education, and Community Education as well as President of the Platte Campus prior to his appointment as President of the College Area.



Dr. Joseph W. Preusser

PART 4:
GRAND ISLAND CAMPUS

Larry Keller was named President of the Grand Island Campus in 1976. James Dutcher was transferred from the Hastings Campus to Grand Island to become chairman of the occupational division, and Joe Kranz, also a transferee from the Hastings Campus, was appointed as chairman of the general education department. In 1982, Don Nelson was appointed as Assistant to the President of the Grand Island Campus. Don Nelson was Assistant to the College President prior to his appointment on the Grand Island Campus. In 1983, Dr. Lynn Black was appointed as Dean of Students. Black served as business and office chairperson on the Hastings Campus prior to his appointment on the Grand Island Campus.

CHAPTER EIGHT

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

With the passage of LB 581 in 1965, provision for the establishment of area vocational technical schools, their government, operation, and financing were all prescribed within the law. A committee was created to evaluate the feasibility of a proposed school to be located at the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hastings. The committee, as prescribed with LB 581, submitted a petition to the State Board of Vocational Education for the establishment of an area vocational technical school. After the petition had been duly authorized by the State Board of Vocational Education, at a public hearing, the vote of the people of the seventeen counties petitioning was tested at a May 10, 1966, election. Initial members of the board that were listed in the petition were to become members of the Board of Governors for the new school, if the vote was affirmative. The committee had divided the seventeen counties into nine districts as equal in population as possible and designated the following from each district as a proposed board member: George Keller, District 1 with term to expire in 1970; Louis Ninegar, District 2, with term to expire in 1968; Verne Moseman, District 3, with term expiring in 1972; Edward Paulsen in District 3, term expiring in 1970; Ken Wortman, District 4, term expiration of 1968; Richard Brown, District 5, term expiration of 1972; Irvin Schwartz, District 6, term to expire in 1970; Richard Ely, District 7, term to expire in 1968; Paul Hohnstein, District 7, term to expire in 1972; Minor Baird, District 8, term to expire in 1970; and James Holmberg, District 9, term to expire in 1968.

The board became the official Board of Governors for the Central Nebraska Area Vocational School Number One with an affirmative vote of the people on May 10, 1966, to establish a new school. This board met the second and fourth Mondays of the month for the first six months and then established a regular meeting date on the fourth Monday of each month.

In January 1967, the first change in the original membership resulted when Richard Ely was appointed as Senator for the State Legislature and submitted his resignation to the board. On February 27, 1967, the board appointed Vernon Krueger, Red Cloud, to fill this vacancy until the next regular election in 1968.

The next resignation was in June, 1967 when Paul Hohnstein, Hastings, requested his release from the board because of personal business pressures. Hohnstein had given much of his time during the formative days of the college, and it was with regret that the board accepted his resignation. Harold Hatten of Hastings was appointed August 28, 1967, to fill the vacancy.

Election of officers was held on June 26, 1967, with the same officers reelected. Naming of board officials was correlated with the fiscal year of the college, July 1 to June 30. Ken Wortman remained as President, Verne Moseman, Vice President, and Paul Hohn-

stein, Secretary. Hatten was elected Secretary of the board to fulfill the position vacated by Hohnstein on September 25, 1967.

On January 23, 1967, with the inclusion of Sherman County into the area, the board appointed Robert F. Martin, an attorney from Loup City, to serve as a second member of the board from the Buffalo and Sherman Counties, District 2 area. The board operated with a twelve-man board until 1973 when the Legislature appointed a new board for the area concept.

A letter of resignation from Jim Holmberg was read to the board on May 27, 1968. Holmberg recommended that Bernard Friedrichsen from Columbus replace him on the board since Friedrichsen was the only nominee elected on the May primary ballot and obviously would be the individual representing District 9 following the November election. Again, the board accepted with regret a member's resignation and seated Bernard Friedrichsen at the June 24, 1968, board meeting.

At the July 31, 1968 board meeting, current officers were elected to serve another term of office. This slate of officers continued to serve until an election held May 25, 1970, when Verne Moseman was elected Chairman, George Keller as Vice Chairman, and Irv Schwartz as Secretary.



Board of Governors members in 1968, pictured from left to right standing are: Harold Hatten, of Hastings; Irv Schwartz of Hildreth; Bernard Friedrichsen of Columbus; Dr. Louis Ninegar of Kearney; and Robert Reiher of Red Cloud. Seated are: Board of Governors Legal Counsel, DeWayne Wolf, Kearney; Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; and George Keller of Lexington.

In August, 1968, another replacement was to be made on the board. The board received with great sorrow the news of the death of Richard Brown after an extended illness. Brown was one of the original board members. Schwartz and Ninegar were appointed by the president of the board to recommend a replacement for Brown of Holdrege. The committee, at the September 23, 1968, meeting, recommended three persons for consideration to fill the vacancy on the board for District 5 until the next general election. Bruce Hendrickson of Holdrege was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The first election of board members by the vote of the people was to be held at the general election in November, 1968. Board members who had been named to a two-year term in the beginning needed to file for reelection. Filing for reelection were: Robert Martin, Loup City, from District 2 for a two-year term; Louis Ninegar, Kearney, for a six-year term from District 2; from District 7, Harold Hatten, Hastings, for a four-year term; and Bernard Friedrichsen from Columbus filed from District 9 for a six-year term. Vernon Krueger chose not to file for reelection, and Robert Reiher from Red Cloud filed for the six-year term from this district. All those who filed, won the election. Krueger served on the board until December 16, 1968, at which time Reiher was seated on the board. Others winning the election were seated in January, 1969.

In the year 1969, there were no replacements on the board until November. At the June 23, 1969 board meeting, a letter of resignation was tendered by Robert Martin, stating he had accepted employment outside the counties he represented. A search committee was appointed with Moseman as chairman, assisted by Ed Paulsen. Robert Hendryckx,



Pictured are members of the Central Nebraska Technical College Board of Governors in November 1969. Standing from left to right are: Dr. Louis Ninegar, Kearney; Bruce Hendrickson, Holdrege; Minor Baird, Superior; Bernard Friedrichsen, Columbus; George Keller, Lexington; and Robert Heindryckx, Spalding. Seated from left are: Edward Paulsen, St. Paul; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; Harold Hatten, Hastings; and Legal Counsel, DeWayne Wolf of Kearney.

owner and manager of Bryan Milling Company in Spalding, was appointed in November 1969 to serve on the board to fill the unexpired term of Robert Martin from St. Paul. Heindryckx needed to file for the November, 1970 election. Heindryckx won the election in 1970 and served on the board until January, 1973. He was congratulated by the board at the time he retired from it for his perfect attendance at the meetings.

Minor Baird, a member of the board since the beginning in 1966, chose not to run for reelection in 1970 for District 8, but others who did run for election in 1970 were George Keller, District 1; Edward Paulsen, District 2; Robert Heindryckx, District 3; and Irv Schwartz, District 6 - all for a six-year term. Each person who filed was reelected in the 1970 general election. Since there were no names printed on the ballot in the general election for District 8, write-in votes were counted, and Ralph Kissinger, Jr., from Fairfield received 23 votes to win that seat. Members winning the election were seated on the board at the January, 1971 meeting, Kissinger was seated on the board at the February 28, 1971 board meeting after all legal eligibility aspects had been satisfied.

A nominating committee was appointed by the Board Chairman, Verne Moseman, at the April 27, 1970 board meeting, to present a slate of officers for 1970-71 at the May, 1970 meeting for election. Paulsen, chairman of the committee, and Dr. Ninegar and Heindryckx, who served on the committee, presented the names of Verne Moseman for Chairman, George Keller for Vice Chairman, and Irv Schwartz for Secretary for offices for 1970-71. A unanimous ballot was cast with no further nominations.

It was at the February 22, 1971 meeting that Moseman read a letter of resignation from Dr. Louis Ninegar, Kearney. The letter was prompted by advice from his doctor. Dr. Ninegar expressed his good wishes to the college he had helped develop from an idea to reality. In May, Moseman was authorized by the board to issue an invitation to Don Roberts of Kearney to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. Ninegar. Roberts, Plant Manager of Eaton, Inc., Kearney, was accepted as a board member at the May 27, 1971 meeting to fill the vacancy until the next general election.

1971 was a restless year for board members with the passage of LB 759 creating a statewide independent system of locally governed technical community colleges. At the August 30, 1971 meeting, the Central Nebraska Technical College Board of Governors organized as the Central Technical Community College Area Board, in addition to conducting the regular business for the Hastings Campus. Officers of the present board were elected as officers of the newly created area board, which would become responsible for the merging of efforts of two institutions in the area - Central Nebraska Technical College at Hastings and Platte College at Columbus, implementing LB 759. Officers were Verne Moseman, President; George Keller, Vice President; and Irv Schwartz, Secretary/Treasurer, serving until January, 1974.

Bernie Friedrichsen, representing Platte County on the Board of Governors, felt that a representative of the Platte College board should become an integral part of the CNTC board; in this way, the merging of governing functions could be more easily accomplished. He accordingly submitted his resignation to the board. In September, 1971, Kenneth



Members of the Central Nebraska Technical College Board of Governors in April 1971 are pictured. Standing from left to right are: Don Roberts, Kearney; Robert Heindryckx, Spalding; Robert Reiher, Red Cloud; Bruce Hendrickson, Holdrege; Bernard Friedrichsen, Columbus; Ralph Kissinger, Fairfield; and Harold Hatten, Hastings. Seated from left to right are: Edward Paulsen, St. Paul; George Keller, Lexington; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; and Irv Schwartz, Hildreth.

Torczon, President of the Platte College Board of Education, was appointed to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of Bernard Friedrichsen.

In January, 1972, Don Roberts was transferred to Arkansas by his firm and left a vacancy on the board. Dr. Lou Ninegar agreed to fill the vacancy until the general election in November of that year.

With the passage of LB 759 by the 1971 Legislature, the state was divided into eight technical community college areas; and in 1972 each of these areas elected members of the Board of Governors according to the regulation set by this Act. Central Area was redistricted from eight districts to five, with as equal population in each district as possible, and one member was elected at-large for the entire area. Two board members were elected for each district in the area with one member serving a two-year term and one serving a four-year term. The member-at-large served a two-year term the first election and after the two-year term was completed, all elections were for a four-year term.

The following were elected in the 1972 general election to serve on the Board of Governors; District 1, George Keller for a two-year term and Irv Schwartz for a four-year term;



Pictured here are members of the Central Nebraska Technical College Board of Governors in June 1972. Standing from left to right are: Harold Hatten, Hastings; Robert Heindryckx, Spalding; Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; Ralph Kissinger, Fairfield; Kenneth Torczon, Columbus; and Legal Counsel DeWayne Wolf, Kearney. Seated from left to right: Dr. Louis Ninegar, Kearney; George Keller, Lexington; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Irv Schwartz, Hildreth; and Edward Paulsen, St. Paul.

District 2, Chester Marshall for a four-year term and Margaret McMullen for a two-year term, both from Kearney; District 3, Verne Moseman for a four-year term and Edward Paulsen for a two-year term; District 4, Ralph Kissinger, Jr. for a four-year term and Robert Ray from Hastings for a two-year term; (Ray passed away just before the Governor named a new board in 1973); District 5, Jerry Norris from Columbus to serve a two-year term and Kenneth Torczon to serve a four-year term. Ken Wortman was elected member-at-large to serve for a two-year term and has been elected repeatedly to serve in that capacity on the board.

In June, 1973, Governor James Exon appointed new boards for Nebraska's then seven technical community college areas. Appointment of the new boards was required under legislation (LB 533) enacted during the previous session of the Legislature, which placed each of Nebraska's ninety-three counties in a technical community college area and reduced the number of boards from eight to seven.

Gubernatorial appointments for Central Nebraska Technical Community College were: Jerry Norris, Columbus; Ralph Kissinger, Jr., Fairfield; Chester O. Marshall,

Kearney; Irvin Schwartz, Hildreth; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Ken Wortman, Aurora; George V. Keller, Lexington; Margaret McMullen, Kearney; Ed Paulsen, St. Paul; Kenneth Torczon, Columbus; and G.P. Jacupke, Hastings. Jacupke was the only new appointment on the eleven member board. Election of officers was held in January, 1974 for this new board; and George Keller was elected Chairman, Irv Schwartz was elected Vice Chairman, Kenneth Torczon elected Secretary, and Ralph Kissinger was elected Treasurer. This appointed board served until January, 1975.

At the 1974 general election in November, the following board members were elected: Ralph Kissinger, Fairfield, for a two-year term from District 1; Jerry Jacupke, Hastings, for a four-year term from District 1. George Keller, Lexington, was elected from District 2 for a two-year term and Irv Schwartz, Hildreth, was elected to serve for a four-year term from District 2. Van Norman from Minden opposed Schwartz in District 2 but was unsuccessful. Margaret McMullen, incumbent from Kearney, and Kent Schroeder, Kearney, both from District 3, were seeking election for a two-year term on the board. The incumbent lost to Schroeder, an attorney from Kearney. Chester Marshall, Kearney, was reelected in District 3 for a four-year term. Verne Moseman and Robert Schnuelle, unopposed in District 4, were elected to a two-year and four-year term, respectively. William Callihan and Jerry Norris, both from District 5, Columbus, were elected to a two-year and four-year term, respectively.

Dale Watley, Hastings, opposed incumbent Ken Wortman for the at-large position on the board but was defeated.

During the January, 1975 board meeting, George Keller was reelected as Chairman, Irv Schwartz as Vice Chairman, Ralph Kissinger as Secretary, and Chester Marshall as Treasurer.

July 28, 1975, Irv Schwartz was elected Chairman, Ralph Kissinger, Vice Chairman, Chester Marshall, Secretary, and Robert Schnuelle, Treasurer of the board. LB 344, passed in 1975, required reorganization of the board in July, 1975 and the reestablishment of five election districts within the area with approximately equal population. In July, 1976, the board decided to keep the present officers until January, when elections would be held from this time on.

In January, 1976, DeWayne Wolf was appointed as Twelfth District Judge in Buffalo County, which resulted in his resignation as Legal Counsel for the college. Judge Wolf had served the college for ten years as Legal Counsel. Wolf wrote the legislation that created the area vocational schools. He also authored some of the later legislation for the community college system. Judge Wolf's replacement was made at the February, 1976 board meeting, with the hiring of the firm of Luebs, Tracy, Dowding, Beltzer, and Leininger of Grand Island, with Howard Tracy acting as contact representative for the firm. February 20, 1978, the board reaffirmed employment of The Legal Professional Corporation of Howard E. Tracy, beginning in March, 1978. Howard Tracy served as Legal Counsel for the board until January, 1984. Tracy had counseled the board over some rough waters. Upon his resignation, the board hired the firm of Whelan, Foote & Scherr of Hastings, with Gerald Whelan as the representative to the board, for the period from

January, 1984 to June 30, 1985.

In November, 1976, the two-year term of office was up for reelection for a four-year term. Persons holding those seats were Ralph Kissinger, George Keller, Kent Schroeder, Verne Moseman, William Callihan and Ken Wortman. Kissinger did not file for reelection in District 1. Gene Burmester of Clay Center and Robert Buckley of Hastings filed for the board seat being vacated by Kissinger with Buckley winning the election. Keller, an original member of the board who had served faithfully for eleven years, did not file for reelection. Dale Pohlmann of Lexington, the only candidate to file for the four-year term, was elected to the board for District 2. Dr. Glen Auble, Ord, replaced Schroeder as a board member for the four-year term for District 3. Verne Moseman, unopposed from Grand Island was reelected to serve District 4. Callihan, in District 5, made the decision not to file for reelection, and Carolyn Holmquist from Columbus was elected to a four-year term for that District. Ken Wortman was unopposed for the member at-large and was elected to serve as the representative of the entire area for a four-year term.



Six members are administered the oath of office in being seated on the Central Technical Community College Area Board of Governors in January 1977. From left to right they are: Carolyn Holmquist, Columbus; Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; Verne Moseman, Grand Island; Robert Buckley, Hastings; Dale Pohlmann, Lexington; and Dr. Glen Auble, Ord.

New board members were duly sworn in on January 6, 1977, and the following officers of the board were elected: Chester Marshall, Chairman; Robert Schnuelle, Vice Chairman; Jerry Norris, Secretary; and Ken Wortman for Treasurer. This slate of officers was also reelected in January, 1978 to serve for another term.

September 26, 1977, Carolyn Holmquist resigned from the board when she moved from Columbus to Omaha. Ron Krejci, Schuyler, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board created by Holmquist in District 5, and was seated on the board in December, 1977.

Dale Pohlmann resigned his position on the board on April 24, 1978. Pohlmann had accepted the presidency of a bank in Fort Lupton, Colorado. At the June, 1978 meeting of the board, Samuel Heltman, Manager of the Sperry New Holland Corporation in Lex-

ington, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board created by the resignation of Pohlman. Heltman was duly seated on the board at the July, 1978 meeting.

In 1978, board members whose term of office expired in January, 1979 were: Jerry Jacupke, District 1; Irv Schwartz, District 2; Chester Marshall, District 3; Robert Schnuelle, District 4; and Jerry Norris, District 5. Jacupke did not file for reelection in District 1, but Ralph Kissinger and Merle Anderson filed for the four-year term with Anderson winning the election by a small margin. In District 2, Schwartz filed for reelection and won the election over his opponent Donald Lohr from Holdrege. Marshall, incumbent for District 3, was reelected on the board. Two other Kearney residents, David Stubbs and Richard Kizzier, were also seeking election in District 3. Robert Schnuelle received a large majority of votes over his opponent, Gayle Binfield from Prosser, for his reelection in District 4. Jerry Norris did not seek reelection in District 5, but Charles Lowry, Jr., Columbus, and Robert Walgren, Columbus, sought election to the board. It was a close vote, with Walgren being elected to serve on the board in District 5.

Newly elected board members were administered the Oath of Office and were seated on the board on January 8, 1979. Election of officers was held with Ken Wortman elected Chairman; Robert Schnuelle, Vice Chairman; Ron Krejci, Secretary; and Sam Heltman, Treasurer.

Dr. Glenn Auble, District 3, announced his resignation at the November 26, 1979 board meeting. The 88 year-old former optometrist and band leader from Ord, Nebraska, had been active in vocational education since early planning and development of the Central Campus in Hastings prior to 1966. Auble cited travel as the major factor for his resignation. Dale Pohlmann, now President of the Ravenna Bank, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Auble through December, 1980. Pohlmann was sworn into office at the February, 1980 meeting.

The board, at their January 28, 1980 meeting, reelected the full slate of officers for 1980.

In 1980, Robert Buckley in District 1 did not file for reelection. Jack Crowley, Hastings, was the only person to file for this position on the board. Reelection races for three incumbent members were not contested. They were: Samuel Heltman of Lexington, District 2; Verne Moseman of Grand Island, District 4; and Ron Krejci of Schuyler, District 5. Ken Wortman, member at-large, was opposed by Kenneth Pittz, Hastings. Dale Pohlmann, Lexington, from District 3 was opposed by David Stubbs, Kearney. Ken Wortman again was reelected as member at-large and David Stubbs was elected to serve District 3.

Newly elected members were seated on the board at the January 26, 1981 board meeting. Election of officers was held with Robert Schnuelle being elected as Chairman; Ron Krejci as Vice Chairman; Samuel Heltman was elected Secretary; and Merle Anderson was elected Treasurer for 1981.

Election districts were reestablished in five districts in accordance with the 1980 census and approved by the board on April 27, 1981. On January 25, 1982, the resignation of

Verne Moseman from his position on the board was prompted by his residence changing from District 4 to District 1. Moseman was a charter member of the board and was instrumental in establishing the Hastings Campus in 1966. His enthusiasm and untiring support of the college never wavered, and his presence on the board was greatly missed. Irv Schwartz stated that Moseman's recognition dated back five years prior to 1966, which resulted in twenty years of serving the technical community college system and quoted the Greek philosopher who said, "The measure of one's life is the spending of his time."

Chairman of the board, Schnuelle, appointed Heltman as chairman, and Wortman, Marshall, Anderson and himself on a committee to assume the responsibility of finding a replacement for Moseman on the board. Nine applicants expressed a desire to serve on the Board of Governors. At the February 22, 1982 meeting, Reverend William Doran was appointed to fill the vacancy for District 4. The Oath of Office was administered to Doran, and he was seated on the board at the March 22, 1982 meeting.

Election of officers was held January 22, 1982 with Krejci elected Chairman; Heltman, Vice Chairman; Anderson, Secretary; and Crowley, Treasurer.

In 1982 the following board terms expired: Anderson, District 1; Schwartz, District 2; Marshall, District 3; Schnuelle, District 4; and Walgren, District 5. All five incumbents and one challenger filed for positions on the board. Walgren was challenged by Henry Rice, also of Columbus. In August, Walgren unexpectedly withdrew from the race, leaving Rice the only candidate for District 5.

Anderson, Schwartz, Marshall, Schnuelle and Rice were all seated on the board on January 6, 1983.

At the January 6, 1983 meeting, it was announced that Samuel Heltman had been appointed as Personnel Vice President for Sperry New Holland and was transferred to New Holland, Pennsylvania to the divisional offices. The board was happy for Heltman with this promotion in his business career but accepted his resignation on the board with regret. Marshall, Schwartz, Stubbs, Crowley, Gausman and Anderson were appointed on a special search committee to fill the Heltman vacancy. Virgil Meyer, Gothenburg, was appointed on February 21, 1983, by the board to fill the position for District 2 for the remainder of the term. The Oath of Office was administered at the March 28, 1983 meeting of the board.

At the January 24, 1983 meeting, the following board officials were elected: Anderson, Chairman; Crowley, Vice President; Stubbs, Secretary; and Doran, Treasurer.

On January 30, 1984, Crowley was elected Chairman of the Board; Doran, Vice Chairman; Stubbs, Secretary; and Marshall was elected Treasurer of the Board.

The 1984 primary election resulted in the following candidates for the November 1984 election. Crowley did not file for reelection in District 1. Ed Loutzenheizer and Paul Powers, both of Hastings, were on the ballot for District 1. Virgil Meyer, incumbent, was being opposed by David Cody and James Doyle, both of Lexington. David Stubbs,

Kearney, ran unopposed in District 3. Bill Doran, incumbent for District 4, was opposed by Elmer Jacobsen, Grand Island. Ron Krejci did not file for reelection in District 5. One candidate, Donald Mroczek, Columbus, was on the election ballot in District 5. Ken Wortman again filed for reelection for member-at-large and ran unopposed.

The following candidates won the 1984 general election for their respective district: Ed Loutzenheiser, District 1; James Doyle, District 2; David Stubbs, District 3; Bill Doran, District 4; Donald Mroczek, District 5; and Ken Wortman, at-large.

Officers of the board for 1985 were elected unanimously by fellow board members as follows: Bill Doran, Chairman; David Stubbs, Vice Chairman; Chester Marshall, Secretary; and Ken Wortman, Treasurer.



Members of the Central Technical Community College Area in 1985 are pictured here. Standing from left to right are: Irv Schwartz, Hildreth; David Stubbs, Kearney; Merle Anderson, Hastings; Donald Mroczek, Columbus; Henry Rice, Columbus; Ed Loutzenheiser, Hastings; and Chester Marshall, Kearney. Seated from left are: Kenneth Wortman, Aurora; James Doyle III, Lexington; William Doran, Grand Island; and Robert Schnuelle, Grand Island.



CHAPTER NINE

BOARD OF EDUCATION - PLATTE COLLEGE

A meeting of the first Board of Education of Platte Campus was held at the Behlen Manufacturing Company Auditorium in Columbus on August 1, 1967. Warren Rood was elected President and William Floyd was elected Vice President. Other members of the board were: Kenneth Torczon, Dale Luedtke, Laura Miller and William Simpson. Joe Young was hired as Secretary/Treasurer on August 14, 1967. James Holmberg was appointed as attorney for the college during the first year. By August 6, 1968, official records showed that Vance Leininger was board attorney.

At the first meeting, the Bedrock office, at 2415-23rd Street, was rented and set up as the college office and necessary equipment was purchased. College offices were to be maintained at this site until facilities at the college site were provided.

In March, 1968, three geographic districts were drawn up for Platte County in accordance with the Nebraska School Law #79-1607, 1965-66 edition. Board members filed for election in 1968 with two board members in each district. District 1 members who filed for election to the board were Luedtke for a two-year term, and Torczon for a four-year



The members of the first Platte College Board of Education are pictured here from left to right: Dr. Donald L. Newport, College President, Dale Luedtke, Warren Rood, Mrs. Laura Miller, William Floyd, Joe P. Young, William Simpson, and Kenneth Torczon.

term. District 2 candidates were Floyd for a six-year term and Simpson for a two-year term. District 3 candidates were Rood for a six-year term and Miller for a four-year term. Election was held November 5, 1968, with all candidates elected to serve on the Board of Education of Platte College.

At the December 5, 1968 meeting, the board elected the following officers for a two-year term: Torczon, President; and Luedtke, Vice President.

Beginning January 6, 1970, Bryce Tracy handled finances and Jan Dannelly, secretary to President Newport, kept minutes of board meetings. Joe Young resigned to assume duties elsewhere. On November 3, 1970, William Simpson, who had served as a member of the governing board of Platte College since June 29, 1967, retired from the board. His replacement was decided at the November election.

Sid Mason, District II, and Dale Luedtke, District I were successful candidates to the board in the November 3, 1970, election. (Luedtke was reelected and Mason replaced Simpson). On December 3, 1970, Torczon was reelected as President of the board and Luedtke was reelected as Vice President.

In January, 1972, Torczon and Luedtke were again reelected as President and Vice President, respectively, of the Board of Education for another two-year term. In September, 1971, Torczon was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Central Nebraska Technical College Area Board of Governors, which position he held after the Platte College Board of Education dissolved in August, 1973. Jerry Norris, also of Columbus, served on the Board of Governors for Central Nebraska Technical College Area.

CHAPTER TEN

GROWTH OF 17 COUNTIES TO 25 COUNTIES

Adams, Buffalo, Clay, Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Kearney, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Phelps, Platte and Webster were the seventeen counties with something in common - a vote to be included in the establishment of an area vocational technical school at the Naval Ammunition Depot at Hastings. This was a start but more was to happen.

As early as August, 1966, Sherman County expressed an interest in joining Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Number One. Sherman County followed with a petition to the Board of Governors of the Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School to join the area. On September 7, 1966, a petition was directed to the State Board of Vocational Education requesting that Sherman County wished to be included in the school.

At the regular meeting of the college board on September 26, 1966, they voted to endorse the inclusion of Sherman County into the area. Gausman, Johnson, Gaines, and college board member Paulsen presented a program in Loup City, at the gymnasium of the Loup City Central Catholic High School on November 1, 1966, answering questions concerning the new school. The county then published notice of an election to be held November 8, 1966, in Sherman County seeking the merger.

The hearing before the State Board of Vocational Education was held October 4, 1966 at 1:30 p.m. and Sherman County was given the green light. In the November 8, 1966, general election for Sherman County residents voted to join the Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Number One. The result was 1,379 votes for and 425 against merging Sherman County with the area. This constituted an affirmative plurality of 76.86 percent. The Nebraska Board of Vocational Education declared that Sherman County be included in the area effective July 1, 1967, according to the provisions of LB 581.

The board took action to attach Sherman County to Buffalo County for the purpose of representation on the governing board and increased the number of representatives from this election district from one to two. It was recommended that the representation of Sherman County be a temporary selection with an initial term expiration of 1970. The population of Sherman County was 5,378, with \$12,937,545 assessed valuation for tax purposes. Robert Martin, an attorney from Loup City, was named the Sherman County representative to serve on the schools' Board of Governors. The board now consisted of twelve members, representing eighteen counties.

March 1, 1968, the Greeley County Board of Commissioners made a request to the Board of Vocational Education to be included in the area established for the purpose of supporting the Central Nebraska Area Vocational Technical School Number One. A hearing was set for April 5, 1968. The Board of Governors, on March 25, 1968, approved the

application of Greeley County to be included in the area designated for operation of the school and the representation to be on the basis of sharing two seats on the board with Sherman County and Buffalo County residents. An election was held May 14, 1968, with 1,002 votes for and 338 votes against, constituting an affirmative plurality of 74.77 percent. The Nebraska State Board of Vocational Education declared Greeley County to be included in the area with the merger to be effective July 1, 1968, in accordance with provisions of the law. The population of Greeley County was 4,595, with assessed valuation for tax purposes of \$15,129,318. Greeley County was thus the nineteenth county to be included in the area.

Central Nebraska Technical College (note change of name to "college" enacted by LB 943, 1969) approved the petition of Valley County to join the college district on June 22, 1970. The Valley County Board of Supervisors, having met all legal requirements and given proper notices, submitted a petition to be included in the Central Nebraska Technical College Area. At a hearing October 2, 1970, the State Board of Vocational Education approved Valley County's petition with merger to become effective on July 1, 1971, if a favorable vote resulted at the November 3, 1970 election. Official results of the election were 1,297 for and 782 against, constituting an affirmative vote of 62.38 percent. Thus, Valley County became the twentieth county to join the area with a \$24,159,900 tax base and a population of 5,783. Valley County was placed in District 2, which had two members on the Board of Governors selected from the counties of Buffalo, Greeley, and Sherman.

In 1971, the Legislature passed LB 759 combining junior colleges, state technical colleges, and area technical colleges under one board for each area, designating eight areas in the state. Counties that did not presently belong to a specific area scrambled to make application to join the area of their choice. School Districts 29, 8, 91, 92, 93, and 95 of Dodge County petitioned on September 7, 1972, to become a part of the Central Nebraska District. March 20, 1973, the Board of Governors approved the petition of the southwest portion of Dodge County to join the area. However, the State Board of Vocational Education, which was in the process of placing boundaries on the vocational technical school areas in Nebraska, chose to place Dodge County within the area lying east of the central area.

Garfield County sent a committee to visit the campus site in Hastings in November, 1972. However, Garfield County did not petition to be included into the central area. The proximity of the Milford Campus was the deciding factor. Thayer County also showed some interest in joining the central area; but before action was taken, the Legislature assigned this county to an area east of the central area.

In 1972, the Legislature established eight Nebraska Technical Community College Areas with the enactment of LB 759. The areas in Eastern Nebraska changed later, but the Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area remained the same with twenty-five counties. Polk County did not express an interest for entry into any area, so the Legislature assigned Polk County to the central area. This was the only county received into the central area without the county's petitioning to do so.

A Boone County election was held in conjunction with the May 9, 1972 primary which resulted in a county-wide vote of 1,192 to 868 in favor of joining the central area. Later it was learned that counties would be allowed to split, and the six northern precincts of Boone County indicated a desire to join the northeast area. The remainder of Boone County expressed a desire to join the central area. When the Boone County Commissioners learned of this possibility, they asked the State Board to table their previous request and let them make further study of the plan. However, the State Board informed the commissioners that since it was determined that division of the counties would be permissible, and since they indicated a desire to reconsider the initial petition, no presentation was necessary. On September 7, 1972, the State Board of Vocational Education approved admission of the southern portion of Boone County to join the central area and the north portion to join the northeast area. Boone County became the only split county in the central area.

Harlan County, surrounded by the Central Nebraska Technical College Area, had been invited since 1967 to join the area. Now with legislation that made it mandatory for all counties to join a community college, Harlan County petitioned to join the Central Area in March. With all requirements of the law met, they were approved by the State Board of Education on April 7, 1972, for inclusion. Harlan County had a population of 4,357 with an assessed valuation of \$23,961,664. Harlan County was included in the area as of July 1, 1972. The county originally had not been too interested in joining the district when the Legislature created the eight technical community college areas because of its commitment to a hospital bonding issue. The county commissioners felt the county couldn't afford to support both a hospital and a college.

The Board of Governors, at its June 26, 1972 meeting, approved entrance of Butler County to the area. Butler County then petitioned the State Board of Education on September 7, 1972 and received approval to be included in the area, providing there was a favorable vote at the general election in November. The election proved affirmative, and Butler County was included in the area, effective July 1, 1973. Butler County's population was approximately 9,461 with an assessed valuation of \$54,402,258.

Colfax County petitioned, in April, 1972, to be included in the Central Nebraska Technical College Area. May 5, 1972, at a hearing, the State Department of Education gave Colfax County their approval to be included in the Central Area. At the May primary election, a positive vote was cast. Colfax County was included in the area, effective July 1, 1973. The county had a population of 9,498 and an assessed valuation of \$44,028,647.

In accordance with the provisions of LB 759, on July 1, 1973, twenty-five counties were included in the area which became known as Central Nebraska Technical Community College. This twenty-five county area comprised a population of 284,305, and area of 14,723 square miles, and an assessed valuation of \$64,191,863.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

FINANCES

PART 1: HASTINGS CAMPUS

Major revenue for the operation of the college comes from taxes collected by a levy on tangible property in the twenty-five county area. Other sources of income are tuition, state aid, and some federal funds.

In 1966, when the college began, the tax levy was restricted by law to a two mill levy in the seventeen-county area. There was an assessed valuation of \$749,879,000 and a population (1960 census) of 224,145. The budget for the first fiscal year of 1966-67 was \$1,127,240.00. Total expenditures for the school during the first fiscal year were \$993,619.62. The school only received seventy percent of the tax monies budgeted during the fiscal year. The second half of the property taxes were not due until September 1, 1967 and the school's fiscal year ended July 1, 1967. Late arrival of tax monies forced the school to use warrants to finance operations that were paid off as tax monies became available. In those early years, the capital improvement costs, including the increased demand for dormitory facilities, were a large portion of the budget. The remainder of the 1966-67 budget was generated by state and federal aid and tuition.

With the passage of LB 482 in 1965, the law provided for \$100,000 to be given to a school just organized. This was a one-time collection, and the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School received a check for \$100,000 in September 1966 from the State of Nebraska.

The 1967-68 budget was \$2,075,746.21. In early 1967, the Nebraska Legislature eliminated a portion of the personal property tax which was part of the Central Nebraska Technical College's tax base. Secondary schools and junior colleges were provided replacement monies from the sales income tax, but there were no provisions made for vocational technical schools. It was estimated the tax base for the school was decreased by \$15 million. Again, capital outlay was the largest item on the budget - about forty percent. A two mill levy limit was set by law, and the assessed valuation of property subject to this levy was \$749,879,352 for 1967-68. The valuations of individual counties ranged from \$101,269,722 in Hall County to Gosper's \$12,993,544. The school raised the mill levy from 1.24 in 1966-67 to a 2.00 mill levy for the 1967-68 budget. Increased student numbers forced a heavy dormitory building program, which accounted for the increase in the mill levy. Also, many courses had been added in the instructional curriculum requiring additional equipment and instructional personnel.

A budget in the amount of \$1,518,754.00 for 1968-69 was approved by the Board of Governors, which retained the two mill levy of assessed valuation. Again during this

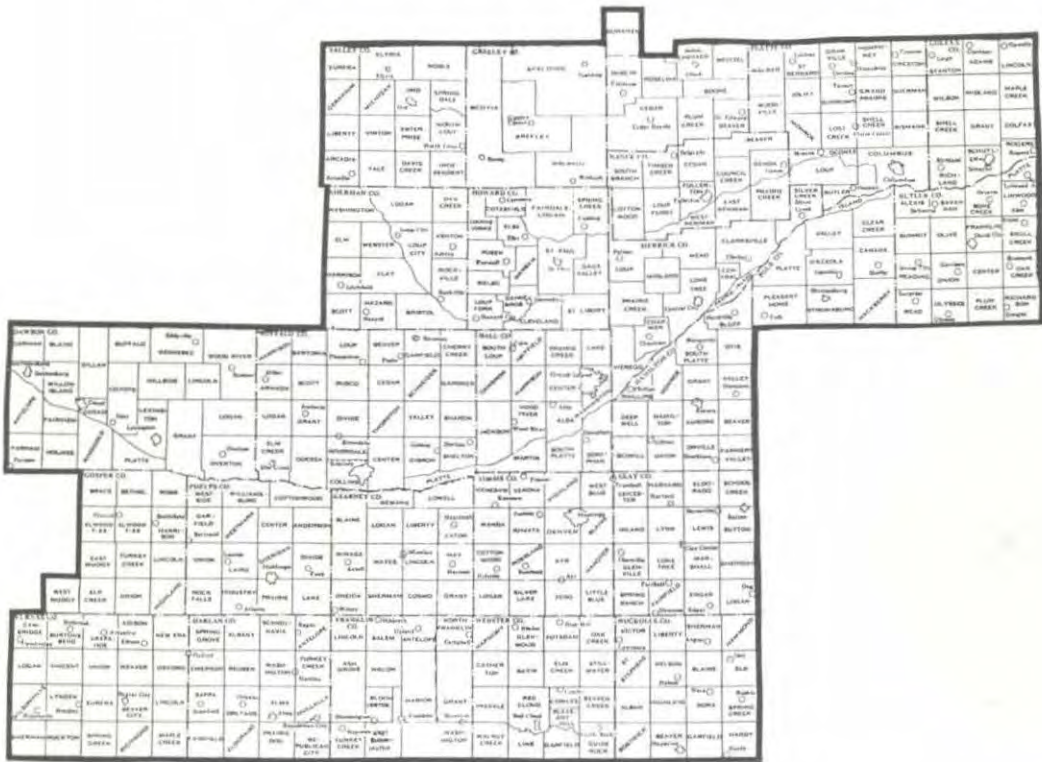
fiscal year, there was substantial student growth as well as a continuation of building renovation and other improvements of facilities.

The 1969-70 budget was adopted June 23, 1969, for \$1,842,954.79. The two mill levy was also approved by the board. Fixed charges went up because of increased insurance on buildings, income insurance, etc. In capital outlay the equipment was less and renovation was more because of the addition of enclosures to several warehouse docks. Operation of the physical plant increased because of added boilers, an increase in buildings, and the gas and utility consumption was greater. Salaries increased, partly because of the addition of four new instructors and two new assistant instructors and also partly due to the general increase in salaries.

In 1970, a public budget hearing was required by law; a budget was approved in the amount of \$2,361,016.77 for 1970-71, which necessitated a property tax requirement of \$1,531,681.94, including a one percent collection fee for the county treasurers which resulted in a 1.57 mill levy to be assessed against a nineteen-county area.

The 1971-72 budget was in the planning stages from September 1970 until its approval at the July 19, 1971, board meeting. Of the \$2,955,496.45 budget, local tax revenue was \$1,867,496.45, which included a one percent local tax collection fee. A tax refund of \$115,230.87 was paid to five counties in the area who had paid taxes in 1969 based on inflated valuations. The budget required a levy of 1.92 mills in nineteen counties and a 1.807 mill levy for Valley County, which joined the area in 1970, and was not to be assessed until July, 1971. The refund resulted from a ruling in 1970 by the Nebraska Supreme Court which set aside the state equalization board's action that raised 1969 real estate values in the five counties. Because the Supreme Court set aside that action, taxing authorities ruled that a refund was due those real estate owners who had paid taxes based on the inflated values, and the refund was to be paid by all property owners in the area, since they shared in the reduced levy which resulted from the inflated valuations. Valley County was not a part of the area when the inflated valuations were in effect, so its taxpayers did not share in the refunded payment. The 1971-72 enrollment showed a thirty-nine percent increase over the 1970-71 budget enrollment figures.

Work on the 1972-73 budget began in November, 1971 and was approved at the July 24, 1972 meeting of the board. The 1972-73 budget represented a twelve percent increase over the 1971-72 budget. Gausman announced that an increase of thirty percent enrollment was anticipated for 1972-73. In the 1971-72 fiscal year there were 153 staff members, and in 1972-73 there were approximately 170. Sixty-three percent of the budget was to be derived from taxes, twenty-five percent from state aid, nine percent from tuition, three percent from federal aid, and one percent from other sources. The budget represented a two mill levy for the twenty-five county area. The five counties that came into the area by July 1, 1973, would not be assessed for the 1972-73 budget. Total operating cost of the 1972-73 budget was \$3,312,930 --\$357,433.55 more than the 1971-72 budget. The twenty county assessed valuation was \$1,058,391,914 with a tax income of \$2,095,616.



This map shows the counties that are a part of the Central Technical Community College Area. This is the area created by the Nebraska legislature with the passage of LB 759 and remains the same in 1985.



PART 2: COLLEGE AREA

The passage of LB 759 divided the state into eight areas and set a one mill levy for local taxes. The Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area approved an area budget of \$4,989,401 for 1973-74, which was a combined budget for the two campuses at Hastings and Columbus. It represented a 3.7 percent increase over the 1972-73 combined total of budgets at both campuses. Revenue derived for the 1973-74 budget was fifty-one percent from local taxes of twenty-five counties; thirty-four percent state-aid (through LB 259); ten percent from tuition; three percent from federal funds; and from other cash funds, two percent. On July 1, 1973, the assessed valuation of the twenty-five counties was \$1,286,076,687.

No funds could be spent until July, 1973 of the 1973-74 budget by either Platte College or Central Nebraska Technical College. The one mill levy was assessed for only one year, 1972-73, under law existing at that time. A June, 1974 Nebraska Supreme Court decision, that the state property tax collected for the technical community colleges in 1972-73 was unconstitutional, necessitated a refund of the 1 mill levy collected and began the 1973-74 area budget with a zero budget. Thus, the early payments were made from the state's share of the technical college funding to make up for the revenue lost as a result of the court ruling. Changes were made in LB 759 at the suggestion of the court.

The Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area's operational budget proposal for 1974-75 was \$5,774,402. This represented \$3,732,349 for Central Technical Community College, Hastings; \$1,409,261 for Platte Technical Community College, Columbus; and \$632,792 for the area office and community services in Grand Island. The \$5,774,402 budget was the amount after the state board had cut it by \$160,012. This budget was presented to the Legislature and the Governor. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) recommended a still lower budget of \$5,240,802 with only \$2,047,762 coming from the state's general fund. Dr. Gausman, representatives of the local board, and representatives of the Hastings, Grand Island, and Kearney Chambers of Commerce appeared before the appropriations committee in Lincoln to protest the cuts. Approval was given for the 1974-75 budget in the amount of \$5,331,557, which included the bonded indebtedness payment for Platte Campüs of \$217,200. Due to the unconstitutionality of technical community college statutes, there was no certificate of tax for 1974.

The 1975-76 operations's budget was adopted by the Board of Governors with an amendment that fifteen percent of the operating levy was to be assigned as a reserve fund, that \$300,000 be allocated for new programs, and that the remainder of the amount in excess of the budget be placed in an emergency fund. A 1.88 mill levy was set for the operational budget. The capital improvement budget was passed with an amendment that the entire capital improvement fund levy of .26 mills be allocated to the capital improvement fund, the bond sinking fund, and the retirement of general obligation bonds. The 1975-76 budget was \$5,666,459.

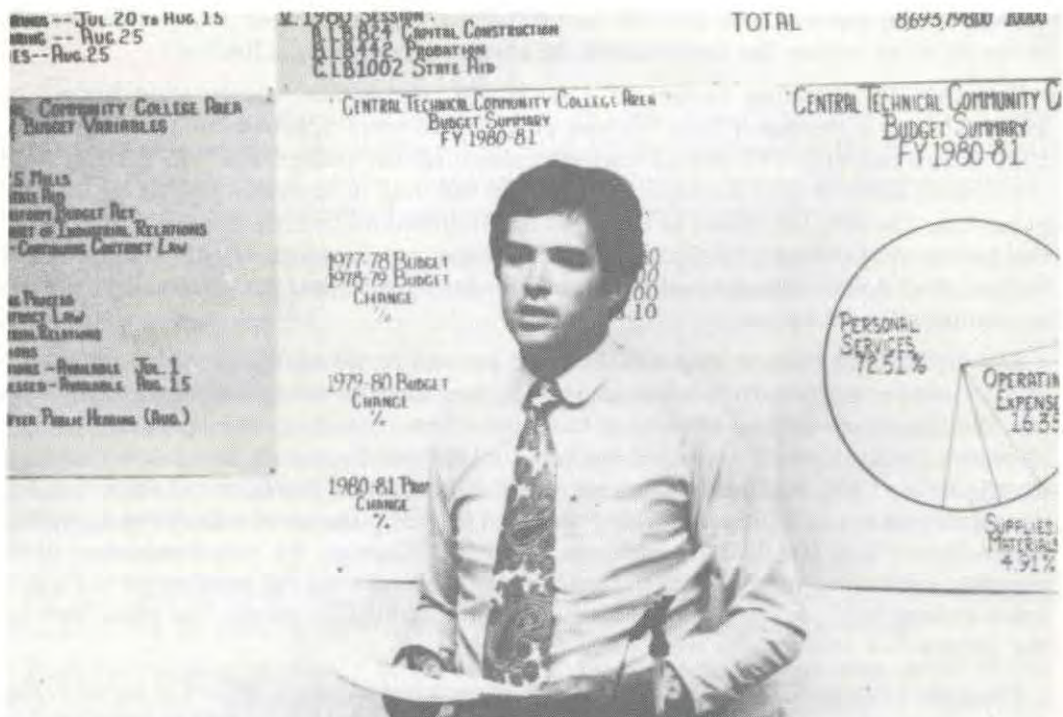
The 1976-77 budget was approved July 12, 1976, by the board with forty-seven percent local support, and forty percent state aid in the operational budget of \$6,327,842, which required a 1.60 mill levy. The capital improvement budget was \$1,045,084 and required a .85 mill levy. No levy was taxed for the capital outlay budget of \$292,035. The total budget was \$7,664,961, requiring a tax request of \$3,697,027. The assessed valuation of the twenty-five county area was \$1,591,662,584.

The 1977-78 budget was approved with a local tax of 51.92 percent, state aid 34.32 percent, federal aid 3.09 percent, tuition 9.22 percent, and other sources 1.45 percent. The general operational budget was \$7,064,228, capital improvement and capital outlay budget was \$1,026,741, with a total budget of \$8,090,969. \$4,200,615 in local taxes were to be collected with state aid payments to be \$2,777,184. Assessed valuation of the twenty-five counties was \$1,746,561,788 for 1977. A mill levy of 1.78 was passed for operation expenses and a .65 mill levy was approved for establishing a capital improvement fund, a bond sinking fund, or for retirement of general obligation bonds.

The 1978-79 budget was approved June 26, 1978, by the board. This budget marked the fourth year in a row that the levy set by the Central Technical Community College Area Board remained below the 2.5 levy limit set by state law. The 1978-79 budget totaled \$8,736,079 and was funded by 53.7 percent local property taxes, thirty-two percent state aid, nine percent tuition, and 4.9 percent federal aid and other revenue. A two mill levy was passed for operating expenses and a .20 mill levy was set for establishing a capital improvement fund, a bond sinking fund, or for retirement of general obligation bonds. Assessed valuation for the twenty-five county area was \$1,677,345,567.

In 1978, the State Board of Equalization ordered thirty-nine counties in Nebraska to decrease their property tax valuations and fourteen counties were ordered to increase theirs. This reevaluation was designed to equalize valuations at about seventy percent of actual value. Eleven counties in the CNTCC area were raised, and eight counties lowered valuations. The Attorney General ruled that the assessed valuations for 1978 should not include the exempt personal property values. In 1978, the Legislature passed LB 518 which established a "Personal Property Tax Relief Fund." The fund contained such amounts as appropriated by the Legislature from state sales and income taxes. This fund was used to replace some of the revenue lost because of exemptions allowed.

At the August 20, 1979 meeting of the Board of Governors, the mill levy for the twenty-five county area was reduced by thirty-five percent. The levy for the 1979-80 fiscal year was set at 1.35 mills per dollar of assessed valuation upon all taxable property within the area for the purpose of supporting operating expenditures and .06 mills for the purpose of building and grounds improvement and retirement of bond payments. This zero-based budget was established in view of a projected five percent increase in student enrollments for the 1979-80 fiscal year. \$8,693,798 represented the general operating fund. Of this budget, \$376,547 was allocated for operating expenses; \$6,383,489 for personal services; \$448,317 for supplies and materials; \$81,041 for travel; and \$404,304 for equipment and furniture. A total \$721,808 of the \$9,415,606 budget was allocated to a



James Underwood, Vice President of Administrative Services, explains the 1980-81 college budgets during a public hearing conducted by the Board of Governors in August 1980.

capital improvement budget. A dollar budget of expenditures was established before the assessed valuations were determined and Central Technical Community College Area's budget was under the 2.5 mill limit even though the property valuations had not been increased. As such, the board was able to reduce the levy from 2.20 mills to 1.43 mills. At the September 24, 1979, meeting of the Board of Governors, a recertification of the mill levy was made which reduced the mill levy by .02 mills for the general operating budget. The capital improvement levy was not changed and remained at .06 mills. The recertification was brought about by the fact that the certified assessed valuations of the counties in the area was 1.7 percent higher than originally estimated at the August meeting of the board. With this action, the board approved a budget of \$9,415,606 for 1979-80.

An operational levy of 1.48 mills and a capital improvement budget of .12 mills was needed to finance the 1980-81 \$9,878,567 budget, which represented a 6.9 percent increase over 1979-80. The capital facilities improvement plan of the area consisted of an expenditure of \$578,812 and \$70,837 in projects carried over from FY 1979-80. The general fund was \$9,299,755. Income for operations and capital expenses for FY 1980-81 consisted of 32.4 percent state aid, local taxes 48.7 percent, federal aid 2.1 percent, and 2.3 percent from other sources. The budget limit calculations reflected an anticipated

growth of 6.6 percent and \$60,156 in exclusions. The combined local and state tax revenues were within the limitation of the seven percent budget limit act.

The 1981-82 operating budget of \$10,025,436, the capital construction budget of \$543,333, and a necessary cash reserve of \$250,000 were approved at the August 24, 1981, board meeting. The overall budget increase for the college was 7.76 percent with .76 percent derived from exemptions to the lid bill, i.e., utility costs and social security payments. The levy was listed as cents per one hundred dollars of actual valuation effective July 1, 1981 (LB 187, 1979). The 1981-82 budget required a tax levy of 6.15 cents per one hundred dollars of actual valuation, well under the 8.8 cents per one hundred dollars maximum allowed by law.

The capital construction levy was .51 cents per one hundred dollars with a maximum of 1.8 cents per one hundred dollars allowed by law. The operating budget was 5.64 cents per one hundred dollars of actual valuation. The maximum for operating budget allowable by law was .07 cents per one hundred dollars. Beginning July 1, 1981, and ending June 30, 1982, the tax levy was set at \$00.0564 on each one hundred dollars on the actual valuation of all property within the area for the purpose of supporting operating expenditures; and \$00.0051 on each one hundred dollars on the actual valuation of all property within the area for the purpose of establishing a capital improvement fund, a bond sinking fund, or for the retirement of general obligation bonds. Tax valuations for the twenty-five county area were \$8,845,569,697.

The 1982-83 budget tax levy was \$00.0609 on each one hundred dollars of actual valuation for supporting the operations fund and \$.0061 for capital funds, \$.0110 cents per one hundred dollars under the levy limit of \$.088 per hundred dollars. Total revenue for the 1982-83 budget was \$10,797,394, a 7.7 percent increase over 1981-82. Local taxes and relief fund was fifty-five percent, state aid thirty-three percent, tuition ten percent, federal aid one percent, and other income sources one percent.

The 1982-83 capital improvement budget represented a 6.9 percent increase over the 1981-82 capital improvement budget of \$543,333. Broken down into specific areas, the budget called for \$221,400 in general obligation bonds, \$74,650 to remodel the student cafeteria and \$6,860 in general improvements at the Columbus Campus; \$11,000 to install a water line and \$91,140 to complete the automotive lab on the Grand Island campus; \$21,500 in renovation projects and \$70,000 for auto body and Phelps building additions on the Hastings campus.

The 1983-84 general operating fund in the amount of \$11,598,228 and the capital improvement fund in the amount of \$646,062 for a total budget of \$12,244,290 were approved at the August 22, 1983 Board meeting. Fifty-one percent of the budget came from local taxes, thirty-six percent from state aid, tuition ten percent, federal aid one percent and two percent from other sources. The 1983 actual valuation for the twenty-five counties was \$9,671,798,321. The 1983-84 budgets required 6.34 cents per one hundred dollars for operations and .56 cents per one hundred dollars for the capital improvement funds.

PART 3: PLATTE CAMPUS

With the original promotion of Platte College in 1966, it was estimated a two mill tax levy would be needed to operate the school. It was to be expected that the first few years would be expensive ones as the school spent considerable money for land acquisition, construction and the purchase of equipment and instructional materials.

In August, 1967, the Platte Junior College Board announced their first operative budget of \$161,600 and set a 2.2 mill levy as the first millage assessment on the newly created one county college district.

On February 8, 1968, the Platte Junior College Board authorized March 12, 1968 for a special election to levy \$2,900,000 of general obligation bonds to construct phase one and phase two of the college. Bonds were authorized to be sold by a seventy-eight percent favorable vote at the county wide election. The First Nebraska Securities Corporation of Omaha was chosen as the college's financial agent. On July 30, 1968, \$2,900,000 in general obligation bonds was sold to the First National Bank of Chicago at an average interest rate of 4.0579.

For the 1968-69 fiscal year, Platte College spent \$163,283 from its general fund and paid \$210,041 on building bonds. This was before the opening of the school.

With the opening of classes in October, the 1969-70 total budget was raised to the \$900,000 bracket. Approximately \$342,000 was used to pay off bonds and establish a sinking fund for future buildings, leaving an operating budget of \$558,000. Of this half-million dollars plus, seventy-four percent was earmarked for instruction and instructional salaries. The college changed the fiscal year to coincide with public school districts and other governmental subdivisions, so it was necessary to operate fourteen months on the 1969-70 budget. Ten percent of every operating budget went for administration. Five cents of every operating budget dollar went for fixed charges and two cents of every operating dollar went for maintenance, which was \$55,800 for administration, etc. Local Platte County taxes accounted for \$585,548 of the total overall budget of approximately \$900,000. The balance came from other sources, much of it federal aid. At this time \$769,720 in federal monies had been allocated for the development of Platte College. Applications for nearly \$300,000 were still pending in Washington D.C. for a total of more than a million dollars. Of the \$448,000 operating budget, forty-five percent came from the tax levy, another 17.5 percent was from tuition and fees, 13.5 percent from state aid, seven percent from federal aid and one percent from auxiliary enterprises such as bookstore and food services. Sixteen percent was from surplus funds and investments. Local taxes, besides paying the \$243,243 toward operational expenses, added another \$342,305 to the building and bond funds. One of the major factors to keep the levy lower was the fact that the sale of the major bond issue was only 4.0579 percent, the lowest of any such bond issue sold in that area in several years. The 1969-70 levy for operating expenses was 2.46, a levy of 2.49 to pay bonds and interest, and one mill for a special sinking fund for future construction.

A final review of the 1970-71 budget was made by members of the Board of Education of Platte College on July 7, 1970. The Board approved a request to be made from the county for \$481,000, with the option that any extra money be placed in the reserve fund to cover the operational 1970-71 budget. A one mill levy was set for the special building fund.

At the July 29, 1971 Platte Junior College Board of Education meeting, a \$930,800 budget was adopted. Local tax levy contributed \$912,900 of this budget, and \$17,900 was met by collection fees and delinquent tax allowance. The budget was set at an estimated mill levy of approximately 8.95 mills (6.95 mills for general fund and two mills for bond, interest and retirement fund. Sinking fund was not levied.) The actual mill levy for the 1971-72 budget was established by the county clerk and board of Platte County.

The Board of Education at its June 14, 1972 meeting gave tentative approval for the 1972-73 budget for \$934,300. If tax collections didn't keep pace with budget expenditures, the college administration was instructed to carry on financing by use of registered warrants with the understanding that local taxes collected after June of 1973 were to be used for retirement of these warrants. A resolution to transfer funds to the Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area Board was passed June 28, 1973. At a final meeting of the Board of Education on August 30, 1973, the board treasurer commented that the Platte College was fortunate in receiving monies at opportune times, which helped the college to enter the college merger on July 1, 1973, in sound financial condition. Dr. Chester Gausman expressed his appreciation to the Board of Education of Platte College for the efforts made by them and the administration of the Platte College for effective budgetary procedures and operation.

CHAPTER TWELVE

FACILITIES

PART 1 HASTINGS

An interim permit to utilize property, requested in an amended application dated June 2, 1966, became effective December 15, 1966, for 543.42 acres, more or less, of land and thirty-four buildings. An executed quitclaim deed, Contract No. SA-VI-3 (FY 1969), dated September 15, 1968, transferred approximately 543.92 acres of land and thirty-six buildings, identified as a portion of the U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, Nebraska, to Area Vocational Technical School Number One. A quitclaim deed dated September 16, 1968, was recorded in book 183 of deeds, page 469, in the office of the recorder of deeds in Adams County, Nebraska.

July and August of 1966 were months of furious planning and anticipation for the opening of the campus to students. So much had to be done to adapt the Navy facilities to an educational institution. Warehouses were remodeled for instructional purposes and the



An aerial view of the Central Nebraska Technical College campus east of Hastings in 1969. In this photograph looking to the southeast, Highway 6 is in the upper left and the main portion of the campus is in the center of the picture. Photograph was taken by college photographer Frank Piskorski.

various Navy maintenance areas were converted for instructional needs, dormitory space, a cafeteria for students living on campus, and administrative offices; all facets of remodeling were going on at the same time.

At a South Platte United Chamber of Commerce (SPUCC) meeting in early July, 1966 in Elwood, Dr. Gausman told those attending that the school was to have dormitory facilities for about one hundred men and forty women by September and space would be assigned on a first come, first served basis. He pointed out, however, that in future years dormitory space was to be added and accommodations were to be made for many more students. He said the old administration building was to be changed into a men's dorm and the old Army Reserve center was to be used for a women's dormitory and classrooms.



The Naval Ammunition Depot administration building under construction in 1943. This building would serve the college as a dormitory and classroom building.

In the beginning it was decided to use the Navy's Administration Building for a dormitory, and to use the Navy's Dispensary for the school's administrative building. The maintenance crew began to remodel the administration building into a men's dormitory. The lobby was painted and paneled, new furniture was ordered, new showers were installed, and, of course, carpeting was one of the last steps in preparation of a dormitory which would eventually house 110. Initially, however, one wing was used for mechanical drafting and business and office classes until other facilities could be readied.

It was down to the opening day of school when the furniture for the dormitory arrived in crates and needed to be assembled. Dr. Gausman held a staff meeting in the cafeteria and asked for staff volunteer help over the weekend to assemble furniture and finish getting the dormitory ready for occupancy. Bunks arrived unassembled and needed to be assembled with screws. Needless to say, a good number of wives and administrators



Navy Administration Building as it looked when received by Central Nebraska Technical College in 1966. The 17,948 square foot building was converted to a men's dormitory and classroom space for drafting and business and office courses in 1966. The artillery piece located in the front of the building was moved to the Hastings Museum.

showed up for duty and could be seen washing windows, scrubbing, hanging drapes, even helping put bunks together! By September 12, the dormitories, cafeteria, classrooms, working laboratories - yes, even the administrative offices - were organized to accept 196 students! Progress had begun for a new phase of education in Nebraska.

Dormitory space was adequate for a few days; but as enrollment grew each day it became urgent to add dormitory space, so the Navy's old civilian mess hall, a frame structure, was soon to be renovated to accommodate 220 male students. It was the intent to use this building temporarily until new facilities could be built. Now known as Dawson Hall, this dormitory for men was still being used in 1984. The Clay Dormitory, the former Navy Administration Building, was renovated for a women's dormitory.

As early as December, 1966, Dr. Gausman was hopeful of legislation that would legalize use of revenue bonds for the school to construct dormitories. He announced to the Board of Governors that Senator Maurice Kremer of Aurora, was intending to introduce legislation in the 55th Session of the Nebraska Legislature to authorize the school to issue revenue bonds for construction of dormitories. He explained that the bonds were to be paid off in dormitory rental fees and that there would be no cost to the taxpayers.

In December, 1966, Ed Burgett, an architect, presented blueprints for a dormitory that would be located just east of the old Navy dispensary, now known as Adams Administration. The dormitory was planned for 156 students at an approximate cost of \$378,240. Red brick and white stone were to be used to match the existing Williamsburg architec-

ture. No action was taken, but a committee was appointed to investigate plans for new dormitory construction. Dr. Ninegar was named chairman of the committee with Paul Hohnstein, Verne Moseman and Irv Schwartz on the committee to further study the possibility of new construction.

Construction plans were to continue for dormitories on campus that hopefully would be completed by Spring, 1967. The dormitory committee recommended to the board the remodeling of Building Number 55 to take care of immediate needs, instead of new construction, noting that it would be necessary to hold a clear title to property before bids could be accepted for new construction. The board, in earlier action, hired Ed Burgett as architect for the college; but on consideration of the amount of renovation to be done over the entire campus, they passed a resolution that the board remain flexible and hire architects for remodeling and construction of each project as the need arose. The committee informed Burgett of the decision.

Charles J. Vana of First Nebraska Securities Corporation was contacted to act as fiscal agent to issue revenue bonds for construction of the new dormitory complex, and Eugene Griffiths and Company was employed to proceed with working drawings for the first two buildings. In December, 1966, preliminary plans were presented to the board for construction of dormitories, each housing fifty-five students, with two occupants for each room, including housing for a counselor, and a lounge area at a cost of approximately fifteen dollars per square foot. Cost was approximately \$140,000 per building. The waters were clouded with a report from DeWayne Wolf that he had received word from Vana that revenue bonds could not be issued. Wolf did state, however, that there was a hearing pending as to the legality of revenue bond financing, and new hope and determination were aroused.

The board made a decision to remodel Building 55, the Navy mess hall, for suitable dormitory space and engaged Eugene Griffiths & Company of Hastings as the architectural firm. This building contained 27,300 square feet and was located a short distance south of the main campus and just north of Building 56, which was the enlisted men's recreation area.

Contracts were awarded for remodeling on March 27, 1967, with Kealy Construction Company of Hastings named general contractors for the project. Plumbing contract went to Stewart Plumbing and Heating for \$21,834; electrical contract to Guarantee Electric, Hastings, for \$22,537; and heating and air conditioning to Jones Metal Works, Hastings. The total cost of contracts, including architectural fees, was \$100,288. Remodeling began at once and completion was called for by the beginning of the fall quarter in September. Other things that needed to be done by fall were the removal of the tracks through the campus, placement of sidewalks to the men's dormitory, and the conversion of Clay Dormitory to a women's dormitory.

Work continued on Hall Dormitory and by August, 1967, it was opened for occupancy. It was remodeled at an approximate cost of \$154,000 to accommodate 220 students and the cost was reclaimed within five years through collection of rentals. Total estimated



This wooden building served as the Navy Mess Hall, building #55. After renovation by CNTC, the building served as a men's dormitory, Dawson Hall, until the spring of 1985. This photograph was taken in 1969.

cost with air conditioning and furniture was approximately \$235,000. It was intended that this building would be used until new dormitories were erected but was still in use at the time of this writing.

Clay Dorm, which had been the men's dormitory, was remodeled for women and was near the capacity occupancy of eighty-four by fall, 1967.

The individual concept of smaller buildings in quadrangle units for housing fifty-four students per unit was the choice of the board by November, 1967. This created an atmosphere more like a residential setting than most instructional housing does. Cost was estimated at less than \$3,000 per student. Fire rates and insurance were minimal for this type of construction. The site considered was east of the administration building and was in keeping with other campus structures. The board hoped to let contracts for construction in January, 1967, with actual construction to begin in March for a September 1, 1967 completion.

It was at this point in planning new construction of dormitories that DeWayne Wolf, Legal Counsel, suggested hiring a fiscal agent to advise the board in future financing of the new construction. Names of several firms were considered and Charles Vana, representing First Nebraska Securities, appeared before the board on February 28, 1967, requesting that his firm be hired; but because of pending legality of issuing bonds for new construction, the board decided to wait before employing a fiscal agent. Remodeling presently underway was paid for through monies raised with the mill levy.

A pressing need of two hundred extra beds for men, beginning the fall quarter, faced

the school and rental of facilities was investigated. The Carter Hotel in Hastings was willing to negotiate for exclusive occupancy of students for a period of not more than two years with an option to renew the contract at the end of the two years. This seemed to be the best solution at that time, and the board took action approving such a contract. The student personnel planning committee of the board was instructed to proceed with negotiations and report at the April, 1967 meeting of the board.

Negotiations with the owners of the hotel were nearly completed when in May, 1968 it became known that the Air Force would be vacating their men's barracks by September, making this facility available. With this information, the committee withdrew negotiations with the hotel for lease of housing. The owners of the hotel were quite upset with the decision, thinking they had a definite commitment for the hotel for the next two years.

While the board was seeking negotiations with a local hotel for dormitory space, the Air Force planned to vacate at NAD. The 625th Air Force Radar Squadron was served by approximately 140 men and a few civilians, most of whom lived in housing quarters formerly used by the Marines when the NAD was active. The Hastings Radar Station was scheduled for takeover by the Federal Aviation Administration and was to operate as an air traffic control center. Thus, in May, 1968, it was announced that the Air Force property was available. It was hoped that the main buildings west of Adams Administration would be available by September. CNTC earlier had applied for an early occupancy of this facility if it were to become available. Mr. Bradford was scheduled to be on campus in July to execute the transfer to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Due to the proximity of the property now owned by the college, Dr. Gausman wasted no time in negotiating for availability of approximately 102.68 acres and four buildings, expressing the school's need of the buildings, especially the men's barracks building number five. In a correspondence to Donald Bradford in May, Gausman asked that possession of the property be obtained by September. The Air Force was in the process of slowly deactivating, and it was hoped the cost of deactivation and reactivation could be avoided by a quick transfer arrangement to the school.

Bradford's response to Gausman, in August, 1968, was that the Air Force would probably not be declared excess until after September 1, 1968. However, oral right of entry would be granted through the Corps of Engineers as soon after August 15 as possible.

So it was that Dr. Gausman, in August, 1968, revised the application for property located at the former Naval Ammunition Depot at Hastings, and on August 30, 1968, immediate right of entry was granted by the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers for use by the college. Building Four (recreation building), building 604, and thirty-seven units of family housing were retained by SAC, and a lease agreement was negotiated on May 1, 1969, with GSA on terms of occupancy acceptable to both parties. The Air Force asked for a fair rental price of \$5,000 per year for the property used by Central Nebraska Technical College. The lease was drawn from September 1, 1968, through August 31, 1969, for rental of buildings number five, seven, sixteen, and forty-eight located on Air



Under construction in 1943 is building #5. This building would serve the Navy as a barracks, and later the college, first as a dormitory and classroom building and then as an instructional facility.

Force property. A check in the amount of \$5,000 was sent to the United States Treasury for the rent in May, 1969. A supplemental lease was entered into on the thirteenth day of August, 1969 by Central Nebraska Technical College and the Secretary of the Air Force, which voided the previous lease. The new lease accepted payment by the month in the amount of \$416.67 payable to the United States Treasury. The use of the former Marine barracks solved the pressing housing problem at the beginning of 1969.

August 1, 1969, Frederick Brokaw returned the application for property and requested that the application be revised to include four buildings and 95.65 acres instead of 102.68 acres. The new application was prepared in the name of Central Nebraska Technical College - the college's newly designated title by an act of the Legislature - and was resubmitted as requested on August 8, 1969.

Mr. Ruby of GSA said the property would soon go to HEW and then would be transferred to the college. Ruby visited the college campus on May 13, 1969, and was impressed with the use of the property. Right of Entry was expected by September 1969. Right of Entry to 95.65 acres of land and four structures was received September 2, 1969. This, added to what was received previously, amounted to nearly 640 acres in all.

A quitclaim deed transferring 95.65 acres of land and four buildings to Central Nebraska Technical College was received April 7, 1970.

In September, 1969, when housing was much needed, the acquisition of the men's barracks from the Air Force offered a temporary solution to the problem. It was suggested that this building, named Platte Building by the Board of Governors, would lend itself more favorably to lab space, so again Gausman was to consult with the dormitory ar-



Building #5, the Navy barracks, as it looked when acquired by the college. It became known as the Platte Building and continues to serve as an instructional facility today.

chitect and Wolf was to determine the legality of revenue bonds which was discussed earlier in this portion of the history.

The first floor, east wing of the building was renovated in 1969 to be occupied by the business and office labs. The west end of the building was remodeled for the dormitory counselor's quarters. The south wing was remodeled for a food service management laboratory and was named Cornhusker Food Lab, which name it still carries. This portion of the building was reroofed in 1979. New entrances were added, one leading to the Cornhusker Food Lab and another to the northeast for entrance to the business and office lab area. The top floor was used for dormitory space and housed 118 men.

Renovation on the first floor of the Platte Building included the conversion of the housemother's apartment to classroom facilities. This required the removal of some existing walls, and the construction of walls for a computer room, including a raised floor and an air conditioning unit specifically for the computer area. Restrooms had received only a minimum of work prior to this time, so the restrooms were also renovated. Remodeling of the first floor would provide 1,400 square feet of additional class room and related areas, 900 square feet for the computer room, 260 square feet of restrooms and 390 square feet of usable storage area.

In the basement of the old Navy barracks (Platte Building) there was an eight-cell brig. Each cell was surrounded with concrete and steel walls and was secured with bars at the front. The maintenance crew in 1969 undertook the task of removing the cell walls to make office space in this area. Using a jackhammer they worked for two weeks and only

removed one wall. They found the walls to be almost impenetrable so the remainder of the cell walls were left standing and only the bars were removed. It made an awkward office situation, but provided usable space. The print shop occupied the area in the early years before the community education offices were moved to this location. In 1984, the community education offices still occupied this space.

In August, 1970, air conditioning was added to the Platte Dormitory and lab and a suspended ceiling system was installed in the new lab area on the first floor, east wing, offices, lobby, and student lounge area of the west wing.

In 1969, the exterior of Hall Dormitory was replaced with new siding and storm windows. In 1970 a new glass and aluminum entrance was constructed on the north side of the building. It is interesting to note that some time in 1972, the names of the cafeteria and the men's dormitory were exchanged. These facilities are now named Hall Cafeteria and Dawson Resident Hall. The story goes that everyone was referring to the men's residence as "Hall Hall," but what the real reason was for the change is uncertain to the writer.

Dr. Gausman was requested in September of 1969 to consult with the dormitory architect regarding a land use plan and asked Wolf to determine legality of revenue bonds. In November, 1969, Wolf reported to the board that since the Supreme Court did not rule revenue bonds valid, it was unlikely that a bonding attorney would approve revenue bonds at this time; however, he would feel out a bonding attorney and see what position they would take. Griffith Architectural Firm was authorized by the board in November, 1969 to proceed with preliminaries for campus planning and dormitory construction.

At the January 26, 1970 meeting of the Board of Governors, George Keller, chairman of the student personnel planning committee, reported that dormitories must be built. At that precise time there were three ways to build: 1) revenue bonds, 2) general obligation bonds, and 3) lease method. Revenue bonds were contingent upon a Supreme Court ruling to be handed down, possibly by spring, 1970. General obligation bonds were not deemed feasible at that time and the lease method was restricted to seven percent interest, which was difficult to obtain. It was the decision of the board to wait for court action on revenue bonds. Meanwhile, plans for dormitories were approved and the architect was authorized to proceed with working plans for construction.

Having made a determined decision to continue with construction of new dormitories, Dr. Gausman was instructed to pursue the acquisition of a 1.78 acre plat for the construction of three dormitories. The property was located north and west of Clay Dormitory, thirty-two feet north of the existing street.

On March 5, 1970, Frederic N. Brokaw, Office of Surplus Property Utilization, informed Dr. Gausman that the General Services Administration had no objection to the abrogation of conditions subsequent on 1.78 acres of land as requested by him. The abrogation payment was \$676.40 and upon remitting this amount, the abrogation action was completed. On March 31, 1970, a check for \$676.40 was made out to the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare for the abrogation payment of 1.78 acres of land to gain

clear title to this property for the purpose of building dormitories. The release was signed on April 7, 1970, by the Regional Director of Region VI, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. A quitclaim deed was not received by the college until December, 1970, at which time it was properly recorded with the Adams County Registrar of Deeds.

By the end of 1970, a contract was entered into with Kirkpatrick, Pettis, Smith & Polian Company as Fiscal Agent for the sale of revenue bonds for the new dormitories. Progress was discussed with the architect and it was estimated it would take three to four weeks for a feasibility study by the fiscal agent. With a positive study, it would be mid-January before sale of bonds could be offered and construction bids could be completed.

It was at the January 25, 1971 board meeting that Mr. Glesburg, representative of Kirkpatrick, Pettis, Smith, and Polian, Inc., Fiscal Agents, reported on the feasibility of a bond issue to raise funds for construction of new dormitories. He reported findings of sixty percent occupancy for the calendar year in the present dormitories and recommended that until occupancy could be increased, and the college had more history, it would be advisable to wait until a future date to sell bonds for construction of dormitories. After hearing this report, the board took action to table plans for dormitories as presently discussed.

A special dormitory committee was appointed by the Chairman of the Board, Ken Wortman. This committee consisted of Irv Schwartz, George Keller and Dr. Louis Ninegar, Chairman. The committee met with Hadco Industries regarding the shortage of dormitory space. Hadco proposed to remodel some of their warehouses into dormitories for the school's use. The warehouses under consideration for remodeling were nearly one mile from the administration building, and consisted of twenty-two buildings of which the two south tiers (thirteen buildings) were the most suitable for the school's use. The cost of remodeling, including the furniture, was estimated at \$120,000 for each unit which would provide for fifty-two students. Hadco's tentative offer was to provide funds for this and amortized the cost at approximately six percent interest over twenty years. In addition, a suggested consideration of \$5,000 annual payment, for twenty years, would compensate Hadco adequately for the buildings. Total cost over the twenty year period, exclusive of maintenance, utilities, and insurance, would be approximately \$309,000. Expected rentals for nine months' full occupancy would yield about \$280,800 over the twenty years.

The school's architect indicated new facilities could be built for three thousand dollars per occupant, which was seventy percent of Hadco's tentative offer, excluding interest charges in both instances. Although the dormitory need for the ensuing year was serious, the members of the committee could not recommend the acceptance of the offer of Hadco. On economics alone they deemed it not feasible.

The committee was to continue to pursue other possibilities. Two legal questions complicated the issue, those of revenue bond legitimacy and the constitutionality of the legislation which created the school.

Never to admit defeat, Dr. Gausman, at the February, 1971 board meeting, suggested

the possibility of temporary housing using pre-fab mobile type homes that would be financed on a lease basis at no cost to taxpayers. A sixty-four foot by fourteen foot trailer house would provide space for eight students, renting from \$6.50 to \$7.00 per week. He also suggested a possibility of financial help from HUD. HUD would fund ten percent only if CNTC were accredited. Schwartz recommended that the board renew their efforts to secure a way to finance new dormitories. As a result, Wolf was asked to secure a written release from fiscal agents on the possibility of selling revenue bonds.

Central Nebraska Technical College Board of Governors, at the March 22, 1971 meeting, signed a letter of intent with two Omaha financial firms who were working together to explore possibilities for financing two new dormitories to house a total of 116 students. Chiles, Heider, and Company and Van Horne Investments, Inc., their legal counsel, and the Central Nebraska Technical College's legal counsel, met with the budget and finance committee of the board on April 14, 1971. Hendrickson, chairman of the committee, reported that members of the committee who were present, and who constituted the majority of the committee, were in agreement to recommend to the board the issuance of revenue bonds for financing of two new dormitories. Hendrickson stated that Mr. Dave Erickson, legal counsel for Chiles, Heider, and Company, was to issue CNTC an option in writing as to the legality of monies spent for dormitories. Friedrichsen, after hearing the report, moved that the dormitory proposal be tabled but the motion was lost for lack of a second. The board then made the decision to proceed with the financing of dormitories, as outlined and recommended in a letter dated April 26, 1971, from Chiles, Heider, and Company, with details to be worked out at a later date. They ordered necessary funds transferred into a construction fund, prior to delivery of the bonds, that payed for furniture, carpeting, drapes and other items necessary to furnish the two new dormitories. The bonds and interest were paid for by a pledge of all revenues from the operation of the new dormitories and the three existing dormitories. Bonds were dated June 15, 1971, with delivery on or before June 30, 1971. The bonds were subject to the unqualified opinion as to legality and tax exempt status by a bond counsel. Plans for the new dormitories and the financing plans were approved by the State Board of Vocational Education, as well as meeting all other compliances prior to the delivery of the bonds.

The administration was given authority to work with the legal counsel, and all necessary steps were taken to proceed with the sale of revenue bonds in accordance with the agreement.

On May 24, 1971, the board accepted the following low bids for construction of two dormitories with work to begin immediately. The general construction bid went to Carmichael Construction, Hastings, for \$271,409; the mechanical bid went to Stewart Plumbing, Hastings, for \$115,075; and the electrical bid went to Short McKelvie, Hastings, for \$37,307. The first dormitory was to be completed in nine months and the second one in eleven months.

The long-awaited event was about to take place, and ground breaking ceremonies for the new dormitories were scheduled for June 17, 1971.



It was June 17, 1971, and the first shovels of earth were turned for new dormitory facilities at the Hastings Campus. Those turning the first shovels are from left to right: Verne Moseman, Board of Governors member from Grand Island; John McGinley, First National Bank, Hastings; Hastings Mayor William Geltman; Shorty James, Carmickel Construction Co.; Ed Minnick, Campus Dean of Students; and College President, Dr. Chester H. Gausman.



Work continued throughout the winter on two dormitory buildings financed through the issuance of revenue bonds.

Work on the dormitories was steady and by September, 1971, the first-floor concrete and utility rough-in was completed for both buildings. In January, 1972, temporary electrical service enabled workmen to progress at a satisfactory pace and bids were accepted for carpeting, draperies and furniture. Estimated completion time for the east dormitory was set for April 15, 1972, and for the north dormitory about June 1, 1972; but actually it took until August, 1972 for completion of both. Carpeting was nearly completed by July in the east dormitory, but floors in the north dormitory needed some repair and smoothing before installation of carpeting. Furniture was almost in and draperies were ready. Outside, the sprinkler system was installed and sod was being laid. The State Fire Marshall inspected and approved the fire alarm system and all emergency exits on August 15, 1972.

Total construction costs of the two dormitories completed in 1971-72 was approximately \$525,000. This cost included the extension of existing facilities and utilities to the dorm site, sanitary sewer, gas, and water; these costs totaled \$20,000 and did not have to be repeated for the west unit. The board asked and received the consent of bond holders to amend the resolution dated June 15, 1971, authorizing the issuance of \$550,000 dormitory revenue bonds. Series 1971.

Small last minute changes of controls on air conditioning units and other miscellaneous details were being accomplished for the big moment to dedicate Valley Hall-East and Valley Hall-North. Dedication ceremonies were scheduled for August 20, 1972.

When the two new dormitories were completed in 1971-72, dormitory space was phased out of the second floor of the Platte Building for renovation into much needed student



Students enjoying the newly completed dormitory facilities in October 1972. The dormitories were named Valley Hall - East and Valley Hall - North by the Board of Governors.

laboratory space. In September, 1972, Gausman made an application to the Higher Education Facilities Commission, HEW, for a grant to remodel Nance Building and the second floor of the Platte Building. An architect was needed to assist in the project and Clayton Anderson and Associates of Grand Island were employed.

The low bid of Carmichael Construction Company of Hastings was accepted in the amount of \$283,351 for the renovation of the second floor of Platte Laboratory, and the contractor had men on the job by March 26, 1973.

The second floor area to be renovated consisted of 16,900 square feet which included 3,600 square feet of screened-in porches that were eleven feet wide and ran the length of the building on both sides. The porches were enclosed for usable space. Renovation plans provided for 13,368 square feet of open area lab space, a 344 square foot conference room, 324 square feet of broadcasting space, two restrooms totaling 726 square feet, and 380 square feet of storage area for a total of 15,142 square feet of additional lab area. Two additional stairways were required and an elevator was added for the physically handicapped.

The CNTC maintenance crew removed the porch screen walls and interior partition of the second floor prior to work done by the contractor. The contractor bricked in exterior openings that enclosed the former unusable screened-in porch area. By June, 1973, the renovation of the second floor had progressed well but was still not completed. The window frames and sashes had not arrived, causing the contractor to work to the window openings with interior work and leave the rest for finishing later. Paneling was completed, electrical conduit was roughed in, and sheet metal and duct work was mostly completed in June. While waiting for materials, the contractor worked on the first floor to provide classroom space for the summer session. The Platte Building was completed for full use by the 1973 fall session.

Construction of a third dormitory was proposed at the January 22, 1972 meeting of the board simultaneously with a proposal for the renovation of the second floor of the Platte Building for lab and classroom area. This would eliminate dormitory space in the Platte Building. The dormitory was to be the same type of construction as the other two new dormitories and was to be financed from an \$85,000 construction fund established in 1971 as guarantee payment for revenue bonds and also from a capital outlay fund. Revenue from this dormitory and the other dormitories was pledged for payment of bonds sold for all three dormitories.

Bids were let in February, 1972 with general construction going to Fast Construction; plumbing, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning going to Stewart Plumbing and Heating; electrical contract to ABC Electric; carpet bid to Saathoff Floor Covering; drapery to Sheppard's Business Interior of Omaha; and furniture bid to InterRoyal Corporation of Omaha. Total of bids let was \$306,681.07.

The site selected for the dormitory was west of the other two new dormitories. This dormitory would house sixty students and the gross area for two floors was 11,960 square feet. The structure consisted of seven eight-man suites and one four-man suite; each suite

had a private lounge, for a total area of 9,740 square feet. The remaining 2,220 square feet included a public lounge, boiler room, custodial room, storage rooms, stair hall, halls, game room and vending room.

Construction on the third new dormitory began March 9, 1973, with the contractor fighting rain and mud to get the footing and foundation in place. The last foundation walls were in place by April 13 and backfill and rough-in for sewer and electricity were completed April 27. The contractor planned on placing concrete for floors by April 30, but again the rains came. With a break in the weather after the first week in May, progress continued and by May 8 the brick masons moved onto the job. It was unlikely the dormitory would be finished by August 15 as was originally planned, because of time lost due to the weather, and the date for completion was set for September 1 to 15.



Colfax Hall shown here on the left was the third dormitory constructed at the Hastings Campus. Completed in the fall of 1973, Colfax Hall became a men's residence hall.

Along with the acquisition of the Air Force property in 1968, the college acquired the former Air Force Officers' Club and the adjacent recreation complex, which included a swimming pool and tennis courts. During the first few months the school only used the club for meetings, but full use of the building, including the pool and tennis courts, was expected by the summer of 1969.

Also acquired in 1969 was Building 16, named Nance Building by the college. This building was the former medical unit of the Radar Squadron, and was transferred into classrooms for business administration and general office courses. Nance is a smaller building located west of the Phelps Building. The Nance Building has served a variety of uses. It was used by counselors and as a placement office at one time. It was used as a student study lounge and a faculty media center. Part of the library was in the Nance Building at one time. A portion of it was used by the campus photographer and had



Building #48, the former Air Force Officers' Club, was acquired by the college in 1968. The facility was renamed the Greeley Recreation Building by the college.

darkroom accommodations. The building became too small as the library grew; and when the Nuckolls Building was remodeled in 1971, the library was moved to Nuckolls. The learning resource technician's office was also moved to the Nuckolls Building where it and the library were still located in 1984. Presently (1984) the Nance Building is the site of the Cooperative Educational Center and the Women's Resource Center.



The Nance Building has been used by the college for a number of purposes. As shown here, it houses the campus cooperative education center and women's resource center.

Building Number 7, also acquired from the Air Force, was located south of the Platte Building and was named Phelps Building. This building was first used by the college as a shipping and receiving center and for the electrical and refrigeration programs. A grant was received to remodel Phelps and Nuckolls Buildings in 1971. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems were renovated. The renovation included interior paneling, carpeting, suspended ceiling, restroom facilities, electrical work, and painting. Renovation of this building was in excess of \$37,000, including architectural fees. The west half of the building was occupied by the instructional area and the east half was designated for student services. A wall separated the two sections of the building. A printing shop went in as an instructional lab and the admissions and counseling personnel and Dean of Women used the east half. Presently (1984) the west part of the building is still used for printing instruction done by the college. The east portion houses the campus photographer's office and two dark rooms, along with the office of the Associate Dean of Instructional Resources.



The Navy laundry building under construction in 1943. When the building was received by the college, it was renamed the Phelps Building.

In February, 1967, the board named the buildings that were occupied by the school after the seventeen counties in the area it served. Each building was assigned the name of one of the counties; and as more counties and buildings were acquired, names were designated accordingly. Due to the residential type construction of three buildings (C-9, C-10, and C-11) located in the center of the campus, county names were not given to these buildings.

It might be interesting to pause here for a moment to note uses of the three small residential structures. These buildings had been farm homes that the Navy had moved to this location more than twenty years before the college acquired them. Being of frame



The Phelps Building as it appeared in 1970. The building has been remodeled since with an addition completed in 1984. The college's Printing Technology program, a production print shop, and an Instructional Development Center occupy the facility at the present.

construction, they really didn't blend with the surrounding brick and stone structures.

Very early on, when the committee was in the process of hiring Chet Gausmen, they promised him the Navy Commanding Officer's residence for use as his home. This was a large house with a spacious yard, off the beaten path of regular college activities and a rather acceptable place for a college president; but when the property was actually assigned to the school, this building was retained by the Air Force for their personnel. The Gausman's were leaving a new home in Lincoln which they had just finished building, and to move to Hastings, even into the Commanding Officer's home, would be a definite let-down for them.

So it was that at the very beginning the pioneer spirit of the Gausman family was tested. Instead of moving into the C.O.'s house, they moved into C-9 with 1,100 square feet of living space. The President and his family showed their venturesome spirit and moved into the east house right in the center of student traffic. Chet jokingly says, "Mary almost left and went back to Lincoln!" Surely Mary had second thoughts about accepting the position of President of a college when they moved their possessions from a large, new home to this! To enter the basement where laundry facilities were, one had to enter from an outside trap door, a real convenience! Boxes were left unpacked for lack of space and had to be stored in a warehouse along with their excess furniture and other belongings. On visitors' days it was quite common for strangers to walk right into the house to look around if the doors were not secured. The Gausman's later built a new home in Hastings to move into, but meanwhile they had gained great admiration and respect from

the students and the staff for being such good sports about the situation. Hal, their son, enjoyed living where he could wander around the area exploring. It would be safe to say he knew every inch of the campus while living there.

C-10, the north building, was used at the very beginning to house women students until 1967, when they were moved into Clay Dormitory and the men were housed in Hall Dormitory. When the women moved out, the building was occupied by counselors and was called Tech Central. Later on, about 1970, this building was relocated away from the center of the campus to a location west of the new dormitory complex, and would be used as a residence for employees of Kansas Nebraska Gas Company while they attended classes at CNTC. The building then became known as the KN House.

C-11, the west building, was used in the beginning by several male employees of the college who hadn't as yet relocated their families. C-11 was jokingly called the bachelors' quarters. In 1968, the interior was renovated to accommodate a facility for a women's charm lab.

C-11 and C-9 were put up for sale via sealed bids and were removed from campus in 1970.



CNTC acquired three houses with the campus from left: Building C11, C10, and C9. In 1970, shortly after this photograph was taken, C11 and C9 were removed from the campus.

The old Navy dispensary (now Adams Administration) was destined to become the school's administration building. Desks, files, cabinets and other office equipment were moved from the Navy administration building (now known as Clay Dormitory) to set up administrative offices in the beginning. Marguerite Eggert had been hired and was on duty in the receptionist area of this building prior to July 1, 1966, to answer the many calls coming in from vendors wishing to sell their wares, and from persons seeking employment, as well as from students who were either registering or seeking information. She remained the college's receptionist for several years. Marguerite claimed to be the first employee of the school on active duty, except for Dr. Gausman, who spent his weekends from May, 1966 until July 1, 1966 at the school.



Top, the Navy Dispensary under construction in 1943. Bottom, the same building in 1966 after the college took possession of the facilities. The building has continued to serve as the campus administration building since 1966.

Dr. Gausman, Johnson, Harrington, Minnick, Wingrove, and Gaines were the first administrators to locate their offices at the Adams Administration Building. Wendt established offices more closely to his respective department. The first few days, or even weeks, it was nothing to see furniture going in both directions in the hall with directors changing office locations. Finally everyone settled in, but only temporarily, as many moves were yet to be made. The superintendent's office was to move several times the first month, but it finally located into the northeast portion of the building where it is today.

There was a minimum amount of remodeling done the first year. Most of the work done was painting, carpeting and refurbishing the cooling and heating system. The first interior painting at the administration building will always be remembered by Dr. Gausman and others working there. Painting was nearly completed, changing the color

from a hospital white to a cheerful golden tone. An instructional chairman entered the building to see the Dean of Instruction. The minute he stepped into the building he was heard to exclaim loudly, "Who the hell picked this color?" Dr. Gausman, hearing him, stepped out of his office and said, "I did." Quickly the chairman responded, "It looks nice. It looks real nice."

In 1968, the ambulance port, located on the south side of the building, was enclosed and the admissions office was moved into this area. The first eighteen years the interior of Adams Administration was remodeled many, many times as needs dictated. About the only exterior changes made to the building during this time was the enclosing of the ambulance port, the addition of new front entrance doors, and the construction of a new entrance near the southwest corner. The later improvement was for students' easy access to the admissions office, which was moved to the west end of the building.

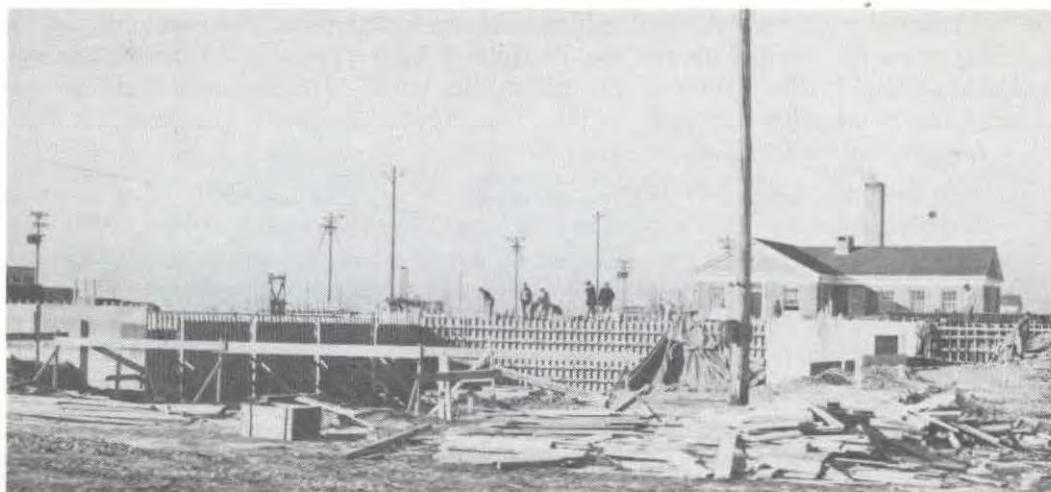
The Navy's chow hall was taken over by the students of the Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Number One on September 12, 1966. Three meals a day were provided by Professional Food Service Management, a business firm that then specialized in food service for colleges in Arkansas, Tennessee, Iowa, South Dakota, Mississippi and Nebraska. PFM was contracted in July, 1966 by the board to provide cafeteria service on a flat rate per student basis with a \$9,500 first year guarantee. The college was the second two-year college served by the PFM Company. Several hundred are now served by the firm.

Chuck Rock, a young, energetic manager, was sent by PFM to the campus to renovate the cafeteria for use. Even today, one only has to ask Chuck about the summer of 1966, and he can spin yards and yards of stories of the early days when he and his crew scraped, polished, repaired, and cleaned, getting the cafeteria ready for use.

The cafeteria was located in the old Navy cafeteria. All kitchen equipment was shipped out by the Navy when they no longer occupied the cafeteria, which required the school to rent and install temporary equipment. In July, 1967, new equipment, including stainless steel stoves and refrigerators, was received from Pegler and Company for \$33,970 and installed.

Three full-time cooks and six part-time helpers were needed to handle the cooking and scrubbing to feed 120 people a day. Students requiring a special diet were accommodated, and all meals were approved by the American Dietetic Association. The first breakfast served on September 12, 1966, had a menu of pancakes, eggs, juices, fresh fruit, and hot and cold cereal, along with toast and coffee. A five week rotation of foods was planned that would give the students a big variety, except for the favorites like roast beef and hamburgers and eggs for breakfast. Chuck said if the students had their own way they would eat only meat and potatoes; but included in the menus were such dishes as chop suey, spinach and soup.

Rock and PFM assisted the school in its culinary training program in the beginning, and a course of instruction in food preparation, diet, and food chemistry was planned for the future. Rock's qualifications for this role as a course advisor was a list of college food



The before and after of the Navy Cafeteria on the Hastings Campus. Top photograph shows the building under construction in 1943. In the background is the Navy Laundry building which became the Phelps Building when acquired by the college. The bottom photograph is how the Hall cafeteria looked in 1969, three years after the college had taken possession.

systems he had helped to establish.

The interior of the building over the years has had several face lifts but no structural changes except the remodeling of the basement in 1973, with a new entrance added to the east side of the building. A new stairway was added, making easy access to the drafting lab.

Drafting began in Clay Dorm and a short time later was moved to Kearney Lab, a warehouse, followed by another move to Franklin Lab, the gate house, and finally in 1973 it was moved to the newly remodeled basement of the cafeteria, where it is today (1984).

The south wing of the cafeteria was partitioned for use as a book store and has remained in that location throughout the years. The north end of the dining hall is now connected to an enclosed walkway to the student center, constructed in 1982.

The building most difficult to gain possession of was Building 13 (Nuckolls Lab), located east of Building 14 (Hamilton Lab). This building was occupied by the Army Reserve of the XVI U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and in July, 1966, word was received that the 9th Naval District had signed a new lease with the Army Engineers on Building 13, extending their occupancy time from July 1 to December 31, 1966. Negotiations were in progress for college occupancy of the building, and possession was hoped for by January 1, 1967, but this didn't come to pass.

Donald Bradford, Director Economic Adjustment, Office of the Secretary of Defense, of the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., was a visitor of CNTC on January 9 and 10, 1967, to discuss the possession of Building 13. The final agreement, at this time, was that the Army Reserve needed another building to move to if they were to vacate Building 13.



The Navy Supply Building (Building #13) as it appeared in 1966. At the time CNTC occupied the site, this building was under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers being used by the U.S. Army Reserve. This building would eventually be occupied by the college and later named the Nuckolls Lab.

Application for Building 113 (bag sewing plant) and Building 113A (storage structure), containing 10,504 square feet of space together with approximately ten acres of land, was made by the college on August 8, 1967. CNTC would satisfactorily renovate and repair

113 as a replacement facility for Building 13 for the U.S. Army Reserve at no cost to the government. It was estimated the remodeling cost would be \$25,000 to \$30,000, with work to be done by the maintenance department of the college and students of the construction program.

Donald Bradford advised waiting until the permit for 113 had been received before remodeling it. By August, 1967, an interim permit for 113 was approved as far as the Department of Defense and Education was concerned; but it was September before an interim permit and right of entry from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Kansas City, was received to utilize Building 113 and the surrounding land.

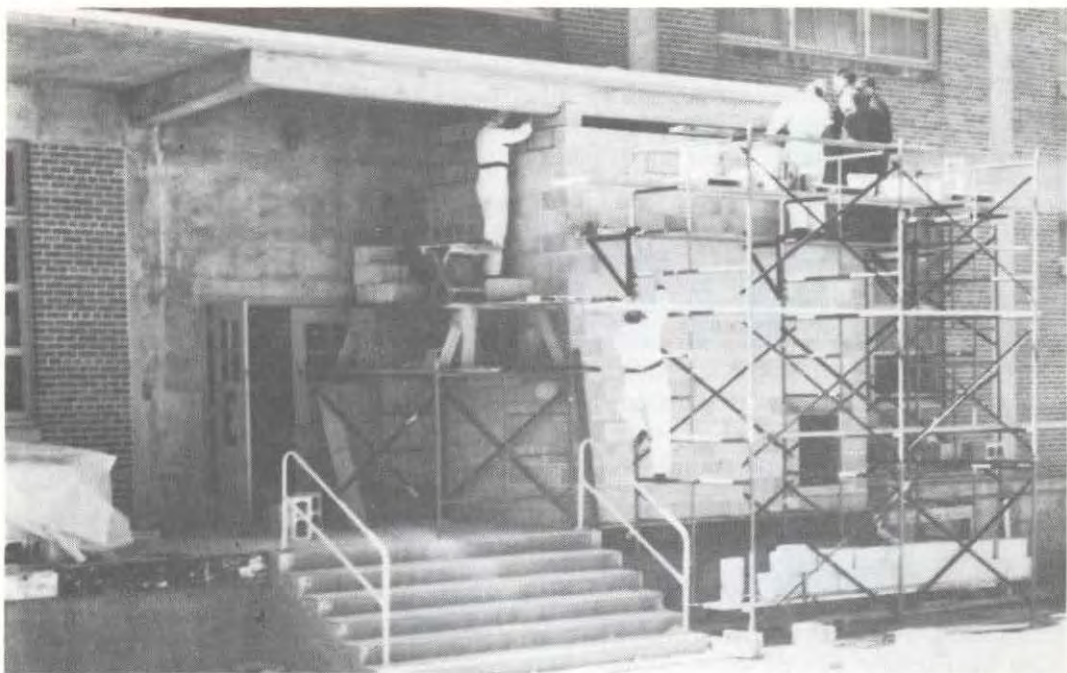
Agreement was entered into the 31st day of July, 1968, in regard to Buildings 13 and 113, which needed to be approved and signed by the Regional Office, Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Kansas City, and the XVI U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Omaha. If the agreement met with the approval of CNTC, it would then be submitted to offices in Washington, D.C. for necessary concurrences. As soon as all government regulations, agreements, and contracts were fulfilled by CNTC and approved by all branches involved, the deed to the property went to CNTC.

Progress was very slow in gaining possession of 13, but the renovation of 113 began as soon as agreement was reached with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Reserve Unit was called to active duty in May, 1968, and 13 was left still housing the Reserve offices. Entrance to 13 was gained, and renovation began in the west end of the building where the Reserves had no offices or equipment. It was hoped that 113 would be ready to house the Reserves when they returned. General remodeling and repair of 13 was completed by September, 1968 for the general education and related courses.

Upon completion of 113 in 1969, acceptance was made by representatives from Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and Fort Riley, Kansas, and they informed HEW and CNTC of the acceptance in writing. The Reserve Unit returned in September, 1969 from active duty and moved into 113.

CNTC has a quitclaim deed to this property and is still honoring its agreement with the government for use of Building 113.

In 1972, it was determined that a complete renovation was necessary for the entire interior of Building 13, which included dropped ceilings, lighting, new wall coverings, additional heating and air conditioning, and enclosure of the north dock. Dr. Gausman presented plans for the renovation to the Regional U.S. Office of Education in Kansas City, Missouri, for final approval for the renovation of Nuckolls Lab (13), and also for Phelps Lab under a grant. Gausman was authorized in April, 1972 to proceed with preparation of bids and awarding of contracts, providing the total bid did not exceed the amount of local funds budgeted for these projects, plus the amount of funds to be allocated by the Higher Education Facilities Commission of Nebraska. In May, 1972, notification of approval of the grant was received from Congressman Martin's office in Washington, D.C. for \$50,322. Final approval of plans and specifications were submitted to the Regional HEW Office.



Top photograph shows renovation by college staff underway on building #113. This work was completed by the college in order to gain occupancy to building #13 located in the campus area. Bottom picture shows building #113 in 1974 after the renovation was completed and the U.S. Army Reserve had moved to their new location.



As early as May, 1972, to assure completion of the building when needed, the college maintenance crew constructed the outside wall on the south dock of Nuckolls Lab getting it ready to receive the brick veneer as specified in the general contract. Maintenance personnel also demolished the original exterior south wall of the building and removed the old air handling units and duct work, along with the existing lighting in the building.

On June 26, 1972, bids were accepted for remodeling 13 with the general contractor bid going to Hahn and Huff Construction for \$66,618; mechanical bid to McElroy Company of Grand Island for \$75,156; electrical to Guarantee Electric in Hastings for \$24,926; carpet to Ray Building Products for \$8,037; and the architect and engineer fees of \$13,724.69.

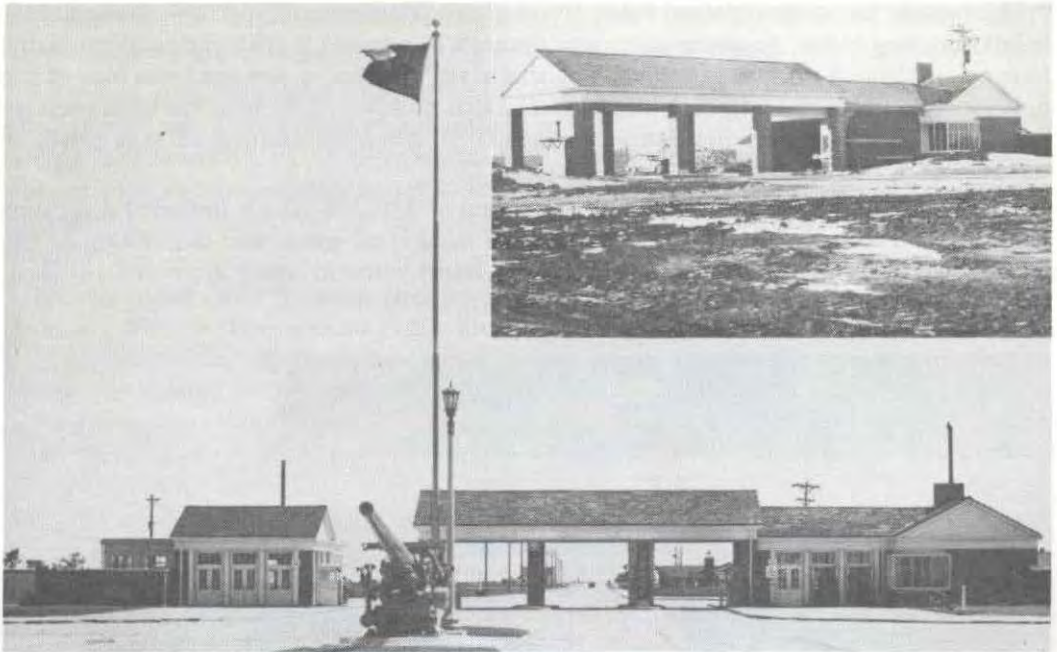
A special and separate construction account was established for this project by the college comptroller and was designated the "HEW Project," Account No. 3-7-00626-0 for payment of CNTC's share of a government assisted project. By July, 1972, all work was making good progress and completion of at least the west half of the building was expected before August, 1972.

During the first year, the college was under tight security by the Navy. Each employee was issued a Navy sticker which was affixed in the lower left hand corner of the car windshield to secure passage to and from the campus. There were stacks of valuable magnesium and lead that had not been disposed of, and until the Navy removed this from the campus, guards were stationed at the gate to check everyone in and out. Since each lead bar weighed approximately forty pounds, the guards often checked the trunks of cars leaving to assure that none were taken. With the removal of the magnesium and lead in 1967, the Navy phased out the guards at the gate.

As space became available and as dormitory space became critical, the drafting and business and office programs were moved from Clay Dormitory into other facilities. Drafting was moved to the east gate building, Franklin Lab A and B.

In April, 1970 the west gate building was renovated for a Community Service Center and was to consolidate the services of placement, public relations, and community services. A two-way intercom system was installed which would help visitors and students alike in finding what they needed. Gary Swanson, Director of Placement, was available to talk with students about job opportunities; Maurice Lungren, the Director of Public Relations had information available for handouts for visitors; and Director of Community Services, Stephen Gaines, had information available for adult education courses.

These offices remained in this location until 1974, when the building caught fire and was nearly destroyed. Historical records were destroyed at this time, along with the community service, placement, and adult education records housed there. Estimated damage was \$56,557. Permission was sought from HEW to further demolish the west gate building and the canopy which covered the three west lanes of a four-lane traffic thoroughfare at the main gate. It was interesting to note that on numerous occasions trucks entering into the industrial area would collide with the low overhead portions of the canopy damaging it.



Above is the main gate of the Naval Ammunition Depot as it appeared in 1948. The inset above was taken during construction of the gate area in 1943. Below is the main gate in 1966 when the college took possession of the facilities. CNTC named the buildings Franklin Lab A and B. Franklin Lab A is on the left in the photograph.



The canopy had been repaired many times at considerable cost and served no purpose if left standing alone, so permission was granted to remove it with the remains of the burned building. A portion of the building that wasn't too badly damaged was moved to a new location for use as a storage building. The east building at the gate has been used for Kansas-Nebraska instructional purposes since 1970, when the drafting lab was moved to the basement of Hall Cafeteria.

Improvements to the entrance were estimated at \$20,166 which included a campus identification sign, a campus map, planting of additional trees, and demolition of the damaged portion of the west building. These improvements were approved in April, 1977 by the board and completed by September, 1977.



For a number of years this was a common scene at the main gate to the campus. The college finally removed the canopy at the main entrance.

The Air Force had a fire station located in Building 11, Sherman Building, and it made an agreement with the college to staff the station, with the Air Force furnishing the fire equipment. When the guards were removed from the gate, the college hired them to take over the fire station. Robert Schmer, firefighter supervisor, and his staff of three attended fire-fighting school and returned as professional fire fighters. Until they returned, the Air Force manned the station and maintained the fire watch at a two-engine fire department. Roland Hamburger, Walter Holmes, and Chester Woodward assisted Schmer with the school fire responsibilities.

Shortly after the fire department became operational, Dr. Gausman was wondering just how effective our fire protection would be in case there was a real crisis - so he made a crisis by setting a wastepaper basket on fire and called the fire department. The fire truck came screaming up to the front door, firemen jumped off the truck, rolled out the hose, and pulled it into the building. It seemed to them that Dr. Gausman's office was a mile down the hall. One fireman stumbled over the hose, but in all the excitement of

their first run, the fire was reached and put out in short time. There hasn't been a "wolf" call since, for the fire department had proved their effectiveness.

Personnel who were named for fire-fighting responsibilities were also given the duty of campus security shortly after establishment of the fire department. They were on duty twenty-four hours a day. Of the original four men hired, Schmer and Woodward were still carrying out these duties in 1984. For a short period of time a professional security corporation was employed by the college until the duties were assumed by campus security.

General repairs and painting were required for Sherman Building located east of the Dawson Cafeteria. The exterior of this building remains the same as when it was originally built. In 1968, a school nurse, Audrey Jessee Long, was hired and a student health center was located in the east wing of the fire station.



The Navy Fire Station as it appeared around the time the college took possession. The building was turned over to the college with fire fighting equipment. The Sherman Building, as it is now known, remains essentially unchanged today and serves as the campus security office.

One of the major projects undertaken by the college maintenance crew and students was the renovation of the old Eratorium Building, No. 56. The Navy called this building Eratorium because it was used by the Employees Recreation Association at the ammunition depot. It had a regulation size basketball court. A four-lane bowling alley was located in the west wing of the building. The basketball court was ready for use by the college early in October, 1966 and the bowling lanes were ready for use by November. Many hours of recreational activities were spent in this area by staff and students alike.

In the process of remodeling, a sixty-foot bar was removed from the east wing of the building in the fireplace area, and was stored for several years. A large sign hung from the bar, "Beer 5 cents." The bar was sold at an auction held on campus to sell surplus furniture and equipment no longer useful to the college.

There was an olympic-sized swimming pool at this site, and students looked forward to using it in the coming summer of 1967. A possibility was even mentioned for use of the pool in swimming competition. The pool was never to be used by the college, however, for the price of repairing it was far too great. There was so much renovation to do and equipment to buy that the pool was filled with dirt.



An exterior of the Buffalo Corral taken in 1970. This building has undergone continuous renovation since being acquired by the college in 1966.

General education courses and public health courses began in the east wing of Buffalo Corral in December, 1966, utilizing a portion of this building until other quarters were provided. Keith Huth was hired as Recreation Director in 1967 and had his office in this building. Intramural basketball games were played in the gym, and school dances were held in the gymnasium. The first graduation was held in the gymnasium with an overflowing crowd. All future graduations and convocations were to be held here. Eventually, there was a snack bar installed, and pool tables, ping pong tables, etc., were put in for the students in the east wing. Yes, Buffalo Corral, Building 56, holds many memories for the students. The gymnasium at Buffalo Corral is still in use in 1984 for athletic practice and competitive home games for both men and women. In 1982 the east wing was remodeled and the Medical Assisting Lab was housed there. In 1984, the Nebraska State Patrol had an office in the area that used to be occupied by the snack bar. Community education classes were held in the west wing and the area by the fireplace was occasionally used for community education classes.

Dr. Gausman tells the story of how this building was named. Early in 1966, Dr. Gausman, along with several others, was inspecting the proposed site to be acquired for the college. They decided to look at Building 56 which was at the south edge of the campus. What they saw was not very impressive; the building was fenced in with a barbed



Remodeling of the east wing of the Buffalo Corral drastically changed the appearance as one can see in the before and after photograph above. Not only did the building exterior receive a facelift, so did the interior. The before and after photographs below show a drastic difference in the building.



wire fence and tall weeds surrounded it. The building itself looked run down and terribly neglected. Gausman and his party climbed over the fence, stomped over the weeds, and entered the building for inspection. When they left the building and started out of the area, they looked up to see buffalo coming toward them. Gausman said, "We began to run and crawled over the barbed wire fence just in time. I think some of us left some hide on the fence, we were in such a hurry! The buffalo were really moving, and so were we!" Right then and there it was decided that if the school were to become a reality and if this building was part of the parcel, it would be named Buffalo Corral. The mystery of the buffalo was solved when it was learned later that a private company had leased the area from the government and was pasturing buffalo within the confines of the barbed wire.

Henry Wendt worked for the Navy as head of base public utilities prior to his employment by the college. He had been headquartered in Building 14, Hamilton Laboratory, which housed the machine shop, carpentry shop, electrical shop, and blacksmith shop.

Upon employment by the college, Henry and his crew moved into the Navy's old paint, oil, and acid storage building Number 15, Howard Lab. The building had no electricity, and Henry and his crew were so busy remodeling facilities for others that they had no time to fix their own quarters. Maintenance and operations were in this building until November, 1970, when the building was to be renovated for instruction. Wendt moved his office to the administration building while the custodial crew and groundskeeping crew moved into the building south of Furnas Lab (12-E), now known as Polk Building. The maintenance crew moved into the radar site east of the main campus. The shipping and receiving department, sharing the Howard Building since 1969, moved to the west end of the Phelps Lab until a new metal shipping and receiving building was completed in 1972 for their occupancy.

After maintenance and operations and the shipping and receiving department moved from Howard Lab, it was completely renovated inside and new entrance doors were installed on the west side with emergency exit stairs. Other necessary repairs were made and the roof was restored before the electrical, heating, refrigeration, and air conditioning programs occupied the building in May, 1971; they are still in the building at this writing. In 1979 the building had a complete reroofing with roof insulation added.



Building 15, later to become the Howard Building, served for a number of years as the headquarters for the campus maintenance department. The photograph above was taken in January 1970. Later that year, the building was renovated for use as an instructional facility.

In 1969, the Webster Lab was renovated to accommodate the agri-chemical, field service, soils, horticulture, seed and grain classes of the agriculture-related program. The north and west docks were enclosed and a shop, laboratory and study area, greenhouse lab, and restrooms were constructed. Utilities were installed, including new lighting. The

exterior was repaired and painted and roof repairs were made for an approximate cost of \$38,921. In 1973, an additional 2,198 square feet was remodeled, adding heating and air conditioning, a drop ceiling, new light fixtures, and floor tile for a cost of approximately \$37,314. The covered dock was remodeled for a waste treatment lab and the wastewater treatment course was moved from the Hamilton Lab to the Webster Lab. In 1976, this course was moved to the new Gausman Building and the area vacated at the Webster Lab was again used by the agriculture-related program with a portion converted into greenhouse facilities. A new 22' x 100' greenhouse was built to the south side of the building in 1977 for the horticulture program at a cost of \$37,500.



This building, to be known as the Webster Building, was to be the location of the agricultural-related programs. Renovation of the building began in 1969, and included covering the loading dock to gain additional usable space.



The Webster Building following the renovation begun in 1969. The building has seen additional remodeling and is still used for the agricultural related programs today.

The east end of the Webster Lab houses a shop area and storage for farm machinery that is used by agriculture students to get practical experience in farming land that is owned by the college. All income from crops is used for seed, fertilizer, irrigation equipment, and instructional needs of the agriculture program. This affords students an opportunity to experience numerous operations of the farming process.

Kearney Lab (C-2), another Navy warehouse, was remodeled for classrooms with the addition of partitions and doors in the very early years and the electronics technology program was housed here. Until some of the other renovation was finished on campus, the marketing and management program was also housed in Kearney Lab in 1969. The north docks of Kearney Lab were enclosed in 1969-70 and a major renovation of the building was completed. The electronics technology program still occupies the building at this writing.



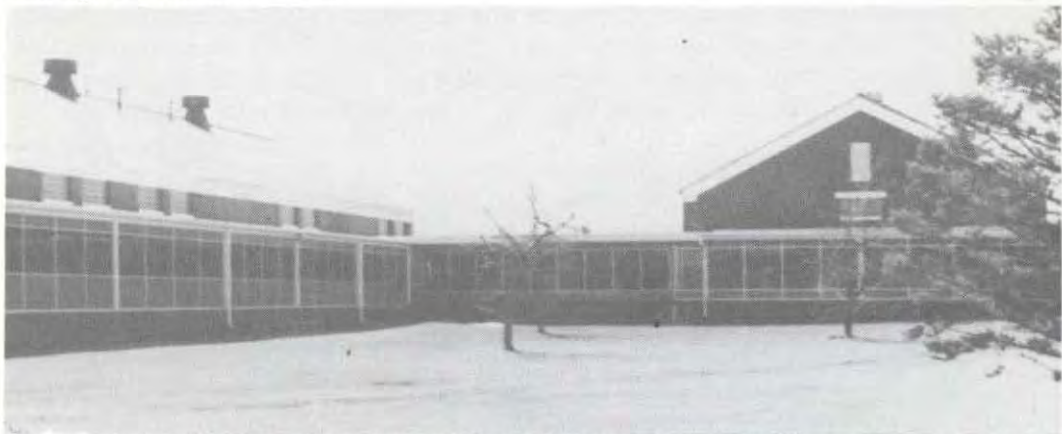
The Kearney Laboratory was renovated in 1969 and 1970. The electronics program was located in the facility and remains there today.

Merrick Lab (C-3) was remodeled for classrooms with the addition of water and sewer connections. Partitions and doors were added to meet the needs of the dental technology, dental assisting, secretarial courses, business administration, general office practice and data processing laboratories in the early years of 1966 to 1967. Records showed that marketing and management was housed here until they were moved to Kearney Lab on January 1, 1967, for a short period of time. Docks were enclosed on the north and east side in 1969-70. Business administration and general office practice moved to the Platte Lab in 1971. Merrick Lab houses the dental assisting, dental lab technology and mental health technology programs at the time of this writing.



The Merrick Building as it appeared following remodeling in 1970. Today the building houses dental assisting, dental laboratory and related classes.

A new restroom addition was built attaching Kearney Lab and Merrick Lab with a connecting corridor in 1969-70.



At the conclusion of the renovation project in 1970, the Kearney and Merrick buildings were connected as you can see in this photograph.

Furnas Lab was originally the transportation shop for the Navy and with minor renovations was used as the automotive lab in the beginning years. A smaller building west of Furnas Lab was used for storage by the automotive department and a building south of Furnas Lab was used for storage of Navy equipment. Like all buildings inherited from the Navy, Furnas Lab was renovated for classrooms, offices, restrooms, etc. Heat and air

conditioning was provided for offices and additional lighting was installed in lab areas. Painting of the interior and the exterior was completed. In 1968, a ventilated paint booth was installed.

In 1969, approval was received from General Service Administration in Kansas City to dismantle the building west of Furnas Lab. After the building was dismantled, the area was resurfaced for parking.

The north overhead doors of the Furnas Lab were removed, and the area was enclosed in 1970. New doors were installed on the south side of the building. Two media centers were constructed, a lounge area was renovated, and the parts room was relocated. Remodeling costs were approximately \$28,500. In 1971, the auto body paint shop was remodeled and modernized, including construction of a media center, a compressor room, and a paint locker addition. A make-up air unit was installed in the paint lab. In the east end of the building, four rooms were remodeled for offices, media, and lounge area. Total cost of remodeling, which began in 1971 and was completed in 1972, was approximately \$50,800. There have been many additions to Furnas Lab through the years to keep instruction current. In 1982, a new addition was built on the west end of the Furnas Lab for the auto body program.



Shown here is the south side of the Navy Transportation Shop, which became the Furnas Building on CNTCC. The 31,578 square foot building was equipped with automotive pits and a paintshop. Many hand tools and other equipment items were left by the Navy and utilized by the college.



In 1982, the auto body technology program was expanded with the addition of a frame and body straightening machine. The new equipment also caused an addition to be built on the Furnas Building. The addition, shown here, was constructed by college staff.

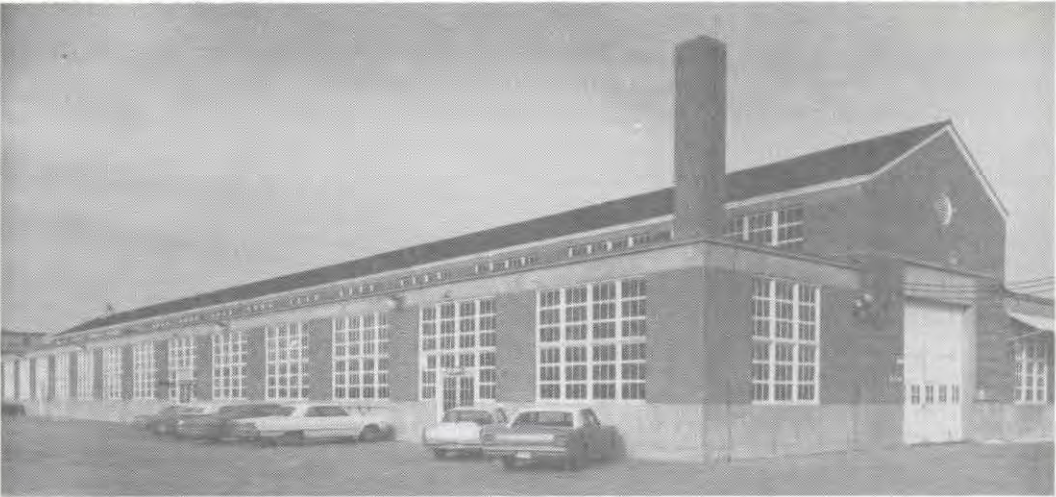
Polk Lab, located south of Furnas Lab, was first used for storage of the automotive department, but in 1970 the east half was renovated for an office area for the custodial and groundskeeping staff, also providing a lunch room and storage area for their use. An overhead door was installed at the west end to secure storage for the transportation lab. In 1978, the maintenance crew moved from the radar site to Polk Lab to share offices with the custodial staff.



The Polk Building as it appeared in January 1970, prior to being remodeled for use by the custodial staff. In 1978 additional remodeling was done to close the open areas shown to house maintenance personnel and shop area.



Above is the Navy machine and carpentry shop as it appeared in 1966 at the time the college took over. Building 14 was to become the Hamilton Building and house the machine shop technology program and the construction technology program. In the left of the picture stacks of lead bars left by the Navy. Below is the Hamilton Building in 1970. The building was later remodeled to close many of the windows and make the structure more energy efficient.



With 32,522 square feet, Hamilton Lab was probably the largest of the buildings acquired. The Navy used this as a machine shop and carpenter shop. The building has an assortment of machine tools including heavy presses costing approximately \$120,000 and 190 pieces of machine equipment, as well as an equipped woodworking shop including a sawdust blower system. The interior was equipped with a heavy-duty electric traveling overhead crane which was later sold and removed.



In March of 1970 work began to dismantle and remove the 5 ton overhead electric crane from the Hamilton Building. The college having no use for the traveling crane had sold the unit.

Carpentry, welding and machine technology programs were housed in this building from the first day the college began and it is still being used for this purpose. In the first renovation period, laboratory space, lighting, and restroom facilities were provided. Additional power was added in the welding lab. In 1969, new overhead doors were installed on the west, east and north side of the building for entrance to each lab in the building. In 1970, new welding booths were installed with proper ventilation. A waste water treatment lab was constructed in 1972 in the southwest portion of the building but was removed in 1973 to the Webster Building. In 1979, the building was completely reroofed and roof insulation was added.

Just south of Hamilton Building was a two-story building with another storage building east of it, which was used very early on for storage. With the overall renovation of the entire campus at this time, permission was sought from GSA to dismantle the storage building. Permission was received June 6, 1970, and the building was destroyed.

Early records show that the two-story building south of Hamilton was named Webster Lab, where masonry classes were located. By 1967, however, this building was known as



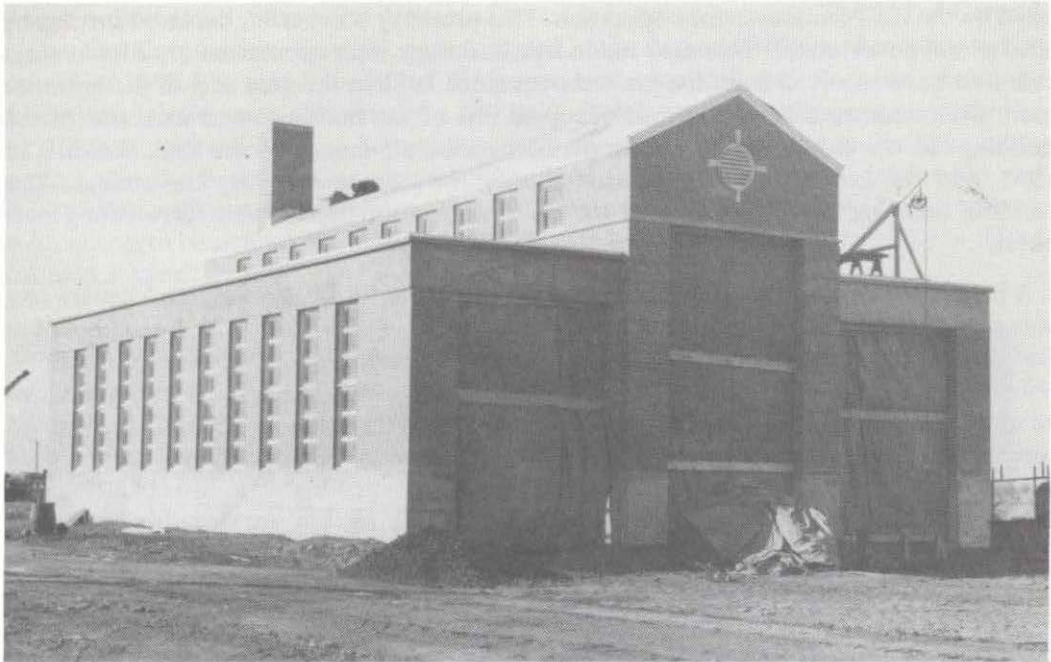
Pictured here is a wooden structure located south of the Hamilton Building. Originally known as the Webster Laboratory, it is the Butler Building today and still houses the masonry section of the college's construction technology program.

the Hamilton Annex, and the Navy's 7SH1 (C-1 Lab) located southeast of Nuckolls Lab was named Webster Lab. The Hamilton Annex is now known as Butler Lab. The ground floor is used for masonry instruction. The second floor was remodeled for an art department in 1971, which existed for approximately two years. At the present time, the second floor is occupied by health occupation offices.

The Gosper Laboratory is located south of the Phelps Building and was first used for diesel classes, heavy equipment classes, and civil technology classes. This building was formerly the Navy's locomotive maintenance round house, and it was necessary to renovate the entire north end of the building, putting in new floors. This building required gallons of paint to make it presentable for instructional programs. A new roof was installed in 1974. The building was approximately 14,496 square feet in size and was fully equipped with heavy cranes that could handle small locomotive equipment. It is now occupied by the diesel technology program. Civil engineering and heavy equipment are no longer part of the instructional program.

Across the street from Phelps Lab stands a coal tower with a four-directional siren affixed on top. The tower, at different times, has been a source of concern and at one time there was even a contest to see who could submit the best plan to beautify the tower. Today the tower still stands as a symbolic historical marker and is beautiful in its own right. The decision not to remove it was a wise one.

Just west of the Hamilton Building was a long, low storage building referred to as the Davis Building. The area between the Davis Building and the Hamilton Building was a junk dealer's delight, and in 1970 Gausman ordered the area cleaned up. In August, 1971, a bid for a 50' x 80' steel building was accepted for \$20,840, which was erected on this site for use as a stores, shipping and receiving building which was named Harlan Building. The Davis Building was painted, the roof was renovated, and the building is



Above is the Navy locomotive maintenance shop under construction in 1943. This building houses the diesel technology program today. Below is the building as it looked in 1970. In the left of the lower photograph the noted coal tower stands much as it does today. The tower, a conversation piece, remains today.



now being used as a lumber yard for the maintenance department and also stores lumber for use by students in the carpentry division.

At the June, 1973 board meeting, the board accepted from the federal government approximately 1.193 acres of land and improvements which adjoins present property that is

used by the CNTC maintenance operation. This property was earlier declared surplus by the federal government. This now made five buildings with approximately fifteen acres that had been received from the government since 1971 in the area east of the entrance road. Maintenance offices and staff occupied one of the buildings and used one of the buildings as a welding building. The maintenance staff moved to the Polk Building in 1978, and the buildings are now used mostly for storage areas by the college. The welding building is still being used by the maintenance department for welding purposes.

A health occupations building estimated at \$669,991 with fifteen thousand square feet was approved for construction at the Hastings Campus on April 26, 1976, by the Board of Governors. The construction would be of pre-stressed concrete and brick faced masonry. Solicitation of proposals from architects began in April, 1976. The administration reviewed qualifications of architects and narrowed the field to three firms. The final three firms were then interviewed by the facilities subcommittee of the Board of Governors on May 10 with the final selection at the May 24, 1976 board meeting. The firm of Friborg & Nispel & Associates, Hastings, was contracted for architectural services for the health



Construction of a health occupations building on the Hastings campus was approved in 1976 by the Board of Governors. Several months later groundbreaking was held. From left: Hal Friborg, architect; Ed Minnick, Dean of Students; Dennis Tyson, Dean of Instruction; Dr. Chester H. Gausman, Area President; Kathleen Mast (McPherson), Health Cluster Chairperson; Dr. Michael Paradise, Hastings Campus President; Ken Wortman, and Irv Schwartz, Board of Governors members; Vince Krueger, Director Physical Plant; and Don Nispel, architect.

science building and plans were presented at the July board meeting. The bid of Central Contracting Corporation, Kearney, was accepted at the August 1976 board meeting in the amount of \$559,424, which included the general, mechanical, and electrical contracts. Time of completion was estimated for 240 days. Furniture and equipment allocation of \$61,018 was approved at the September, 1976 meeting. It was also at the September meeting that the Board of Governors commended Dr. Gausman for his leadership and honored him with a standing ovation and the announcement that the new health science building was to be named The Gausman Building in his honor. Dedication of the building was held August 17, 1977.



The C.H. Gausman Health Sciences Building in May of 1977. The first occupants of the facility moved in in July and official dedication was held in August.

A new student center had been the dream of Ed Minnick, Dean of Students at the Hastings Campus since the day the Buffalo Corral was renovated for student use. Minnick dreamed of a student center in the middle of the campus with easy access for the students and each year, jokingly added the construction of his dream to his budget want list, knowing full well it would be scratched. In March, 1981 his dream was closer to becoming a reality when the board approved the sale of revenue bonds to finance construction of a student center at the Hastings Campus, a student center at the Grand Island Campus, and a dormitory at the Platte Campus. The services of Dick Stacy, Architect of Great Plains Engineering & Architecture, Incorporated of Kearney were employed for the student center at the Hastings Campus, and at the April board meeting preliminary design plans for a projected cost of \$800,000 were reviewed. The bid of Weaver Construction, Kearney, was accepted for \$728,500 and included all of the general, mechanical, and electrical construction necessary for the completion of the project.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in September, 1981. Dedication of the new student center at the Central Community College Hastings Campus was held Sunday, October 10, 1982, at 2:30 p.m. with a capacity crowd. The building was a beautiful addition to the campus, located between the Hall Cafeteria and Adams Administration. The

upper level boasted game rooms, a TV room and a snack bar while the lower level provided meeting rooms and an exercise room consisting of a total of 18,338 square feet of space. All areas were accessible to handicapped persons. A covered walkway connected the student center and the student cafeteria.



The Campus Center after completion, the facility has become the center of student activity and regularly serves as the focal point for activities conducted on the Hastings Campus.

On August 22, 1983, the board approved a landscape design plan donated to the college by Harold Gausman, landscape architect for the area west of the campus center. The road west of the center was closed and the landscaped park area began in 1984. Approximate cost of the construction was \$19,985, to be completed in two phases. Construction of phase one was underway in 1984. The park area will be a showplace of imaginative designing by a young architect who as a lad roamed the entire campus. During the very early years of campus renovation, Hal not only knew every inch of the campus but felt a special attachment for it.

At the same time the board authorized construction of student centers at the Hastings and Grand Island Campuses it also authorized construction of a dormitory at the Platte Campus.



The Hastings Campus as it appears in 1984. Many things have occurred since the college assumed the facilities in 1966.

PART 2: COLUMBUS

On September 5, 1967, interviewing and investigation of ten architectural firms began along with selection of a site for a junior college. On October 28, 1967, the college Board of Education engaged the services of Shaver & Company of Salina, Kansas, to assist in the development of educational specifications and architectural plans. Specifications were authorized for the awarding of a grading contract at the college, which was given to Thiesen Brothers of Osmond, Nebraska.

In December, 1967, a ninety-two acre campus site was purchased three miles northwest of Columbus at a cost of \$80,000. The site was at the top of a hillside which faced south looking toward Columbus. All there was on the site at the time was a windmill and an old granary sitting among the stubble of the past year's wheat crop. Visions of a new college campus were soon to become a reality on the windy hillside.

By October, 1968, bids were opened on phase one construction, and C & R Engineering of Beatrice, Nebraska, became the college's first building contractor. The first phase of the college was scheduled for completion for the first classes to begin in September, 1969. The second phase, in which construction was to begin in the spring of 1970, was to



The hillside northwest of Columbus purchased to be the site of Platte College, contained a lone windmill and barn in 1967. The windmill was later relocated on the campus and became a symbol of the campus. The serene view displayed here would later be transformed into the vital bustle of a college campus.

be completed for use in the following college year. The first phase would include the student center, business education and classrooms, science labs, and other classroom facilities. Also included in the first phase was the construction of a faculty and consultation area.

The campus was laid out in a circular complex with a smaller circular building in the center which was the faculty area. The second phase of the construction was to include the library and resource center. During the first year, library facilities were set up in the student center. Phase two also included the administration building, the fine arts building with classrooms, a little theatre, and a physical education structure.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the first phase on Thursday, October 17, 1968, despite the fact that the area had received more than five inches of rain in three days. The ceremonies were not held on the hill; instead, an estimated four hundred people watched President Newport, student advisory senate president Don Hegr, and Governor Norbert Tiemann break ground in a washtub filled with genuine Platte College site dirt at the Elks Country Club.



From left: Dr. Donald Newport, college president; student advisory senate president, Don Hegr, and Governor Norbert Tiemann officially break ground in an indoor ceremony for Platte College. On the right 100 of these plaques were presented to those who had contributed much to the beginning of Platte College.

On this day, the college board made presentations of one hundred plaques (a small shovel attached to a piece of the old granary that stood where the physical education center now stands) to communities, schools, education and state officials, and to area companies and individuals who were recognized for their contributions in the establishment of the college.

Bids for phase one, totaling more than one million dollars, were awarded to C & R Construction of Beatrice, general contractor, for \$493,656; Holdrege Electric of Holdrege, electrical contractor for \$116,537; and mechanical and furnishings to be selected at a later date.

On February 12, 1969, phase three was being considered for campus development, and by June 3 it was authorized for schematic design. In April, 1969, a bid to construct a water well, a prevention reservoir and a pump house was awarded to C & H Engineering for \$93,470.

Bids totaling over \$1,750,000 were awarded for phase two construction on July 1, 1969. Phase two began August 11, 1969.

On July 31, 1969, a Title I grant was requested for phase one development. Word of an



The serenity of the hillside northwest of Columbus shifted to the rumble of equipment as excavation and construction began for Platte College. Here we look to the north and east, the excavation in the center foreground of the photo is the location of the student center. The circular diggings to the left of the excavation are the footings for the west education center. The more defined diggings above and to the right of the student center are the footings for the east education center. In the upper right of the photo one can detect the beginning of the east entrance to the campus and the east parking lot. In the right of the photo one also sees the west entrance road and the circle beginning to develop.

\$82,221 Title I grant, authorized by HEW for phase three construction, was received June 3, 1970, by the college board.

By June of 1969, construction of a college was rapidly replacing a windmill, granary, and wheat field north of Columbus. The construction company had been working since November, 1968, and exterior work on most of phase one was enclosed and ready for interior finishing.



Construction work began in November 1968 with work progressing through the winter months. Here the campus begins to take shape. In the upper part of the photo the east education center has received the roof supports. In the foreground, construction progresses on the west education center and the student center.

A series of grants was approved for the Platte College construction, one of these being a grant to assist in sewer service for the college. By July, 1969, the grant was increased by \$2,150, from \$21,570 to \$23,720, by the Water Pollution Control Administration. The project for which the grant was made provided for construction of an interceptor sewer and lift station force main, which allowed for connection of the college sewer system to the Columbus sewer system and treatment facilities. Bids were opened in August and needed to be submitted to the State Health Department and then to the Federal Water Pollution Control Commission at Kansas City, Missouri, for approval. It was hoped the

project would be started by September 1 and completed by September 30, 1969.

In June of 1969, Congressman David Martin notified the college of a \$32,453 grant for phase two of construction. The grant was supplemental and was to assist in financing of construction of a library, administration building, fine arts building, and physical education complex. This grant brought a total of \$726,890 in federal grants to support the college.

With the completion of the three-phase construction, it was estimated the campus would result in a three million dollar community facility.

On May 17, 1970, an open house and dedication ceremonies for the new facility were held with approximately five thousand citizens attending. A painting by Dale Nichols, a Nebraska artist, of the Platte College campus site as it probably appeared to the Nebraska pioneer was unveiled by Ken Torczon during the afternoon ceremonies. A state flag was presented to the college by the Governor's office, and a charter class of nearly five hundred was recognized. The college was functioning despite dust and mud at the construction site, but the staff and students eagerly looked forward to the completion of an attractive hillside campus with grass and trees.

By July, 1970, design and development of the occupational education center was completed and working drawings were begun. By December 7, 1970, bids were accepted on the occupational center in the amount of \$463,000.

Before construction of the Platte Campus began, officials set up offices in the downtown business district. As soon as classrooms were available, the administrators crowded into a large classroom until the faculty center was completed in 1969.

The administrative center was occupied September 11, 1970. Nine thousand volumes of books for the library were moved to a permanent location in the resource center on November 12. The field house was dedicated on November 30.

Just after the turn of the year, on January 12, 1971, word was received by the college that a supplemental \$171,031 Title I grant was awarded the college for construction of phase three. For three consecutive weeks in January the college received word of grants awarded to it.

On June 15, 1971, the college learned of a \$93,730 Title I, construction grant awarded to them for phase four. The Board of Education, at their October 5, 1971 meeting, decided to request from Shaver and Company working drawings on phase four and to notify the architect and HEW that the phase four project was tabled. At its May 2, 1972 meeting, the Board of Education terminated Grant Agreement No. 3-7-00608-0 due to lack of matching funds, and federal monies were returned to the Nebraska Higher Education Facilities Commission for possible redistribution to other Nebraska projects.

On June 20, 1971, the college celebrated Founder's Day and dedicated phase two.

At the October 5, 1971 meeting of the Board of Education, the board accepted the construction work by Radek as of September 1 and permission was granted to occupy the in-

dustrial arts building. Final payment for phase three was approved on June 6, 1972.

On April 3, 1973 the Board of Education of Platte Junior College authorized the administration to request architectural and construction estimates on refinishing the basement of the resource center for individualized instruction and production of teaching materials and other printed matter. By May, 1973 a contract was awarded to Reed, Veach, Wurdeman & Associates for services in preparation of preliminary drawings, development of specifications, and completion of cost survey of interior finishing of the resource center basement.

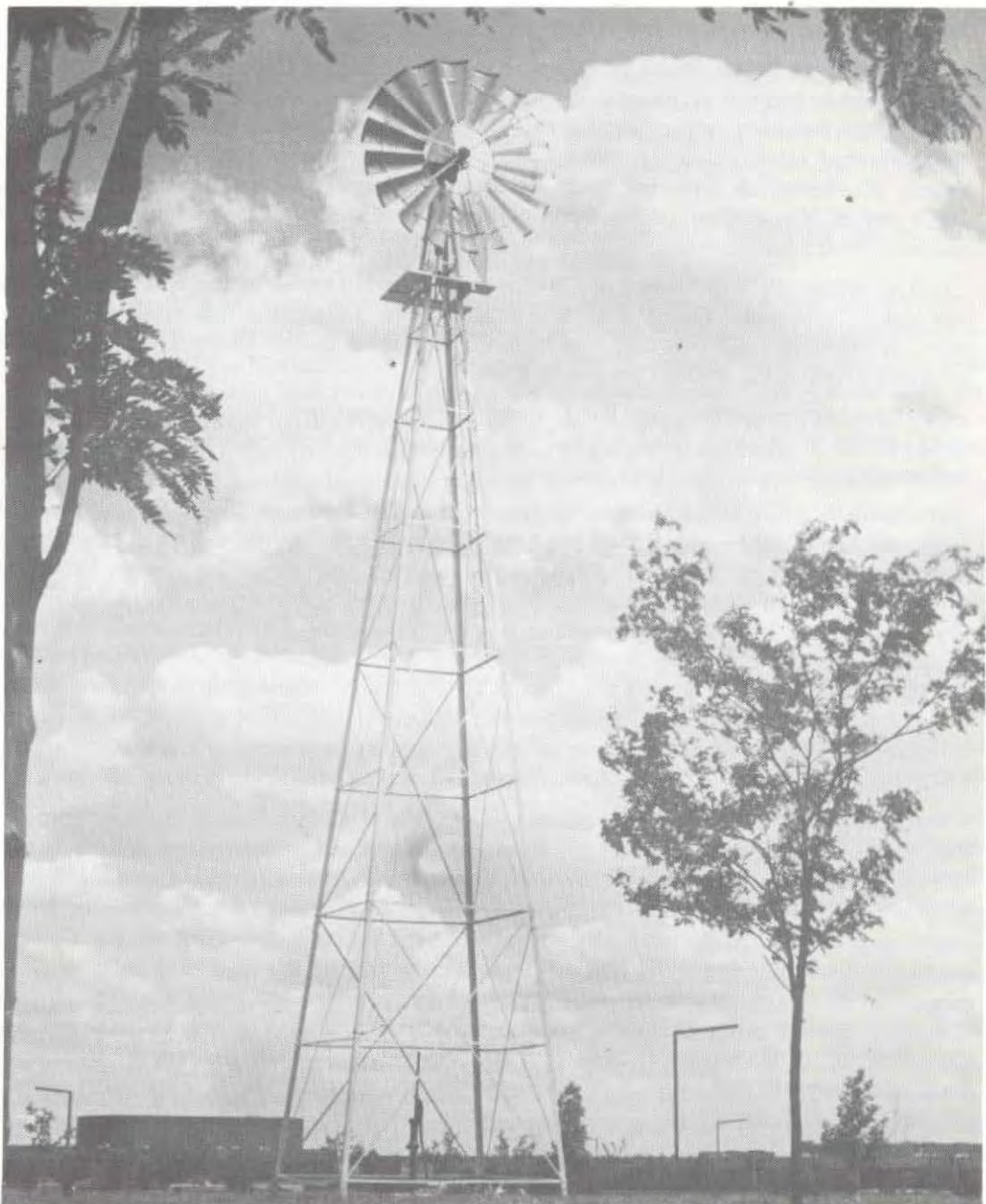
In September, 1975 the Board of Governors authorized construction of a 7,250 square foot rigid frame metal building for use of storage of institutional materials and equipment. A bid of \$61,027 was accepted from Chief Sales & Construction, Grand Island, to be constructed at the Platte Campus in Columbus.

The board accepted the bid of B & D Construction Company, Columbus, in the amount of \$46,502 to finish the ground floor of the student center building for a student cafeteria and snack bar area at the Platte Campus.

On April 26, 1976, an addition to the North Education Center at the Platte Campus was approved for an estimated cost of \$633,600. This construction would be of brick faced masonry to match existing buildings on the campus and would be twenty thousand square feet with an estimated beginning time for construction in April, 1977. The solicitation of proposals from architects was to begin immediately. The administration recommended three firms to the facilities subcommittee of the Board of Governors and on May 24, 1976, the board contracted the firm of Reed, Veach, Wurdeman and Associates of Columbus for architectural services for the industrial education addition. The bid of Busboom and Rauh, of Salina, Kansas was accepted for construction in the amount of \$542,600 on January 24, 1977. Time of completion was estimated for July of 1977.

Water drainage had been a problem for the Platte Campus since its construction. Possibilities for alleviation of the problem were discussed on numerous occasions and the college was threatened with a law suit, but no proposal or time frame was set for correction until August 20, 1979. The board approved a settlement proposal for the water drainage project and directed legal counsel, Howard Tracy, to negotiate final settlement based on an engineering study and subsequent construction. Hansen Excavating was approved as the low bidder on the storm and cooling water project. The \$26,409 bid by the Columbus firm was for excavating and storm sewer construction work that was completed by spring of 1980 to control storm and cooling water drainage from the Columbus Campus.

Dormitory space at the Platte Campus was a point of discussion since 1973 and was to become a reality when the Board of Governors in 1981 accepted bids of Johansen Construction Company of Columbus for the construction of a student residence in the amount of \$542,488. Architects for the project were The Clark Enersen Partners, Lincoln, and Reed, Veach, Wurdeman and Associates. A location was selected for convenient access to the learning resource center and the student center. It was to be 17,624



The windmill that occupied the site of the Platte Campus originally became a symbol for Platte College in the early years. The windmill remains today in a place of prominence on the campus near the west entrance.

square feet and would house a total of sixty-four students, with an apartment for the residence center manager on the upper level. The lower level would house thirty-two students, a student lounge, and a laundry room. Each suite would have two bedrooms and a bathroom, with four students living together in a suite. Two suites on the lower level were designed to accommodate handicapped students.

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place September 1, 1981, on the Platte Campus of Central Community College. The facility was financed by non-tax funds generated from the students use of the facility. The dormitory is of wood frame construction with some brick veneer, with the exterior appearance being similar to that of an apartment complex. Both levels of the structure have ground level access. This unique access is possible due to the lay of the ground where the structure is located.

On Sunday, October 17, 1982, the residence center dedication took place on the Platte Campus of Central Community College with Ken Wortman as keynote speaker. Wortman was an enthusiastic supporter for a dormitory at the Platte Campus from the first day this campus was merged into the area concept.

Reroofing bids were approved for a portion of the Platte Campus facility in the amount of \$51,350 on February 22, 1982. In December, 1983, reroofing was approved for the physical education center and east educational center. Bids were accepted at the March, 1984 board meeting to complete this project in the amount of approximately \$60,000.



The Platte Campus as it looked in 1984. The aerial photograph was taken looking to the west. In the left center of the picture the dormitory stands close to the student center and resource center. In approximately the center of the picture is the fine arts facility. To the right above center is the physical education building, flanked by tennis courts and a running track. In the right center of the photo is the North Education Complex, and in the foreground the physical plant, maintenance and storage facilities.

PART 3: GRAND ISLAND

With the passage of LB 759 and 533, it became necessary to operate the twenty-five county area as one technical community college with major emphasis on occupational education, with one board for the entire area and one president. Consolidation of major functions were implemented with the establishment of an area office in 1973.

As early as July 1, 1971, when an acting president of the area was named, an organized analysis of the needs of the area and of the administrative structure needed to accomplish the area concept was under study by a committee of staff members from the two colleges. This committee, after meeting for nearly sixteen months with administrative staff and faculties of the two colleges, presented a proposed area administrative organization to the Board of Governors. Included in the preparation of the recommendation was a review of multi-campus and multi-institution community college districts in other parts of the nation. It was agreed that a review of the experiences of these multi-campus districts would be of tremendous value to this area by learning from their mistakes and benefiting from their successes. Recommendations were reported to the Board of Governors on January 8, 1973. After reviewing advantages and disadvantages, it was recommended that an area office should be located in Grand Island. It was the consensus of the board that official action in designating a site would be taken at a later meeting, and the staff was directed to seek facilities in the City of Grand Island.

The administrative staff contacted the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Island, asking for assistance in the location of available space. Ten facilities were found available for lease, and it was quickly determined that it would not be economically feasible to consider leasing property as a permanent solution. Jerry Norris, Columbus; Ed Paulsen, St. Paul; and Ken Wortman, Aurora, who were members of the campus development committee of the Board of Governors, suggested that investigation should be made of the feasibility of new construction. A search was conducted for a building site, and eight of the ten possible sites were thoroughly investigated.

On May 31, 1973, Dick Good, Executive Secretary of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, indicated a belief that citizens of Grand Island would be very much interested in participating in the purchase of the land for the college. The following day, in a meeting called for the purpose, several leading citizens of the city made a commitment to assist in the project - through acquisition of land and/or building of a facility - to the extent of 100,000. An intensive drive headed by Dick Speltz and Dick Good netted the \$100,00 in two days! Fonner Park responded to the need with a donation of \$25,000.

Members of the realtors' group, who had been assisting the board committee and staff with preliminary investigations, then entered into purchase options with the owners of the property selected as best from among the eight sites. Options to purchase the property divided the site into two segments at the request of the owners. Purchase options were not completed until June 25, 1973, the same day set for the scheduled board meeting at

which a decision was made concerning land purchase.

The first official action of the Board of Governors was to designate a site for the area office, lease temporary facilities for instruction, purchase land, and authorize construction of a facility on the property. Action was taken at the June 25, 1973 meeting. It is of interest to note that in voting on the issue of establishing the central office in Grand Island, eight board members were in favor of the issue and one was against. On the issue of leasing facilities in Grand Island for temporary use by the area office and for a community service and continuing education center, five board members were in favor of the issue and four were against. The chairman of the board, who was from Grand Island, had a legal right to vote, but did not. One board member was absent from the meeting.

Funds for the purchase of the land were allocated from the capital improvement fund that was established in September of 1972. Two projects were constructed on the Hastings Campus using allocations from this fund. The projects included the remodeling of the Platte Building and construction of a new dormitory to house sixty-four men.

Funds for lease of space for a central office were included in the 1973-74 budget. This budget was submitted for approval to the State Board of Technical Community Colleges in August of 1972 and was approved by that body and transmitted to the Department of Administrative Services of the State of Nebraska.

On June 25, 1973, the Central Nebraska Technical College Board placed \$171,840 in escrow at Grand Island for the purchase of land. \$105,659 was raised for development of a facility in Hall County by the Grand Island Industrial Foundation and through the CNT Foundation this money was placed in a Hall County Trust Fund. In 1974, this trust fund was transferred to the college for future payments of the property.

The site chosen was at the south edge of Grand Island north from Stuhr Museum on Highway 34, and adjacent to property owned by the Grand Island Public Schools. The south 41.27 acres were purchased from the Becker Estate and the north 32.88 acres were purchased from Walter and Dorothy Becker. Using the contributions generated by the Grand Island Industrial Foundation, the CNT Foundation purchased over a ten year period the 74.15 acres with the last payment made in March 1983.

Action taken by the board to purchase land in Grand Island for a community service and continuing education center and a site for a central office landed the Central Nebraska Technical College Area in a lawsuit. Spurred by fears that a third campus would be built in Grand Island, thus robbing the campus at Hastings of potential students, a Hastings businessman sought to halt construction of the facilities by taking it to court on July 25, 1973. He contended the college board had illegally approved capital expansion without permission from the State Board of Technical Community Colleges or the State Board of Vocational Education. A temporary restraining order prevented the college from purchasing the land in 1973, but this action was dissolved in early January of 1974.

At the November 25, 1974 board meeting, approval was given the administration of the

college to enter into a contract with Mrs. Eva Webb to lease the building located at 507 West Third Street in Grand Island. This facility was set up in cooperation with the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) until space elsewhere became available. The lease was for \$700 per month for a period from December 1, 1974, to June 20, 1975, with extended options for two one-year periods of lease time. CETA operations moved to the new educational center on Highway 34 in 1976.



The first location of educational facilities in Grand Island was a building located at 407 West Third Street. The building had formerly been the home of Allen's Self Service and was leased from Mrs. Eva Webb for \$700 per month. The college occupied the building from December 1, 1974 until completion of the campus building in February 1976.

Great Plains Engineering and Architects Incorporated of Kearney was selected by the new board at their first meeting of 1974 to construct the Grand Island community services facility. At the June, 1974 board meeting, a transfer of funds from the area general fund to the capital improvement fund was approved. Dick Stacey of the Great Plains Engineering and Architectural Firm presented blueprints and a model of the proposed community service center to be built. He estimated the cost of the project at \$725,000 for approximately 16,500 square feet. The structure would be designed in two major modules, one for industrial occupations and the other for non-industrial occupations, with space for small workshops and seminars. Approval was given the plans and specifications, and authorization was granted to advertise for bids for construction of a



The first location for the administrative offices of Central Community College was on the top floor of the First Federal Building on West Second Street in Grand Island. The administrative offices occupied this location from 1973 until 1977 when office space was completed at the Grand Island Campus.

community services facility in Grand Island.

In January, 1974, bids were accepted for construction with the general contractor bid going to Kealy Construction Company of Hastings for a base bid of \$258,900. The site work and paving bid went to Diamond Engineering Company of Grand Island for \$149,693; the mechanical bid of Winfrey Plumbing & Heating, Grand Island, was approved for \$72,645; and the electrical bid of R.W. Kruse Electric Company, Grand Island, was accepted for \$77,840.

By March, 1975, site preparation earthwork was underway and the sewer line was installed to the site of the new education center in Grand Island.

The Education Center opened on February 16, 1976. An open house and dedication was held on May 16, 1976, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The new Education Center enabled Grand Island area residents to take technical community college adult education courses close to home. Pre-registration activities for classes at the twenty thousand square foot facility took place throughout the week of February 16 to 20 for the seventy-seven courses that were offered. Larry Keller, Vice President for Community Education was appointed by the Board of Governors to be in charge of the new Educational Center.



By October 1975, the majority of the initial exterior construction work was complete for the Grand Island facility. Shown here is the south frontage of the facility located on Highway 34 at the southwest edge of Grand Island. When completed this building allowed the college to vacate a facility being leased at 507 West Third in downtown Grand Island.

It wasn't until July 12, 1976, that the board approved plans for a ten-thousand square feet addition to the Grand Island Center for the area administration office, for a total estimated cost of \$293,194. In order to provide continuity of planning and cost with present construction, Great Plains Engineering and Architecture of Kearney was retained for the project. A general contract bid in August, in the amount of \$158,765, was accepted from Dick Looye Construction Company of Hastings with completion set for 180 days. The mechanical contract went to McElroy Company, Inc., of Grand Island, for \$27,791. The electrical contractor accepted was Van's Electric Company, Grand Island, for \$14,353.

Construction was completed and the administrative office moved from the First Federal Building to the south half of the new addition in May, 1977. The north half of the new addition was used for instructional purposes.

In January, 1981, the board approved construction of a student services addition and the addition of an automotive lab at the Grand Island Education Center. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new student activities center were held September 4, 1981, with expected completion in the fall of 1982. Cannon and Associates of Grand Island were selected as the architectural and engineering firm for the construction.

The automotive lab was constructed under the capital construction levy available to the college for a proposed estimate of \$100,000. The automotive lab was completed in two phases; the first phase did not include interior finishing. In May, 1982, the bid for completion of the automotive lab at the Grand Island Campus was approved for L.E.



The top photograph shows the Grand Island Center as it was then named near the time of initial operation. The college occupied the facility in February 1976, with a dedication ceremony and open house on May 16, 1976. In the center photograph work is underway for a 10,000 square foot addition at the Grand Island site. The addition was to become the home of the college administrative offices. The completed structure is shown in the bottom photo. The administrative offices occupy the south half of the structure today with instructional facilities located in the remainder of the facility.

Weaver Construction in the amount of \$75,979.

The student activity center's 12,392 square foot facility was funded by revenue bonds which will be paid by students as a portion of student educational costs. The facility houses a snackbar, restrooms, lounge, game room, study, and seminar areas which cost approximately \$411,000. The student service center, 2,432 square feet, houses the board room and admissions and student accounts offices, and was financed by the capital improvement fund at a cost of approximately \$109,500. The automotive lab, approximately \$103,000, was also financed with capital improvement funds.

A maintenance and storage building was constructed at the Grand Island Campus site. This construction was approved at the April 26, 1976 meeting of the board for a total estimated cost of \$52,500. On June 28, 1976, a bid was accepted from Chief Sales and Construction, Grand Island, in the amount of \$46,159 for the construction of a 3,750 square foot pre-fabricated steel building with a brick-faced front.

At the May 19, 1980 board meeting, the board approved the bid of Chief Sales and Construction of Grand Island for a six thousand square foot steel building with a brick-faced front to house the masonry and construction labs. Cost of the building construction was estimated at less than \$98,000. In July, 1980, this lab was available for use by the construction and masonry program.

The Grand Island Education Center received a substantial grant to provide training to disadvantaged students who qualified for assistance under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. This occurred in January of 1977 and caused a rapid increase in the student population and an increase in the number of programs and courses offered in Grand Island. With these increases came the need to expand the facilities as well as the faculty and staff.

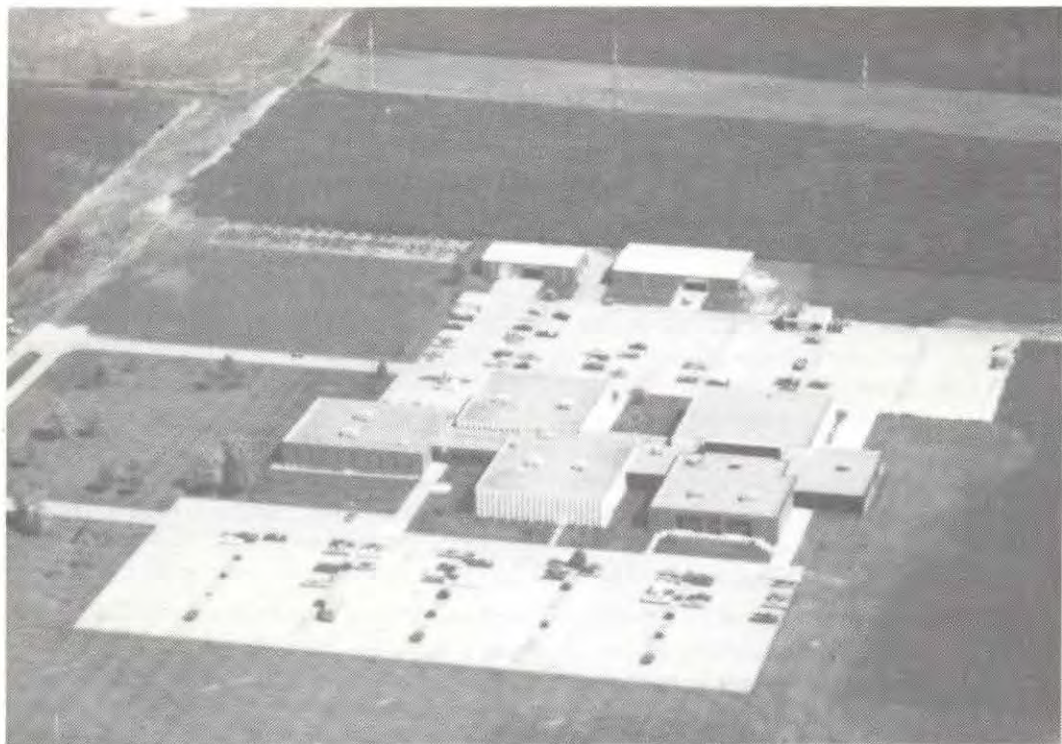
In March of 1977 a warehouse building was leased (known as Coachman Building). The building was converted to an instructional center called the "annex." The building was located at 2806 Old Highway 30 and was approximately twelve thousand square feet. This was the actual beginning of diploma programs in automotive technology, electrical technology, electronics technology, and environmental control technology. The annex was occupied by these programs until 1979, at which time all of the programs, except automotive technology, were moved to a downtown center, described below. The annex was leased until 1983, at which time the automotive technology program was moved into the new addition at the main campus.

On June 25, 1979, authorization was given the area president to negotiate and execute a lease agreement that would provide sufficient space in Grand Island to meet projected enrollment requirements of 1979-80 for the Grand Island Educational Center, within limitations of the budget. In September, 1979, the former Sears Building in downtown Grand Island was leased and remodeled. Initial occupancy of the leased building took place in November of 1979. The building added an additional twenty-eight thousand square feet of instructional space. The new complex housed the electronics, electrical, drafting, environmental control (heating, air conditioning and refrigeration), general

merchandising (sales and insurance), supervisory and administrative management, real estate, health occupations, and general education (math, science and social sciences) programs. Students attending classes at the downtown location had access to all services available to students at the Grand Island Education Center and at automotive classes at the annex. Programs offered at the Grand Island Education Center included accounting, secretarial, data processing, welding, construction, building maintenance, and general education (communications and personal development). All off-campus programs for Grand Island and Region II East of the central area are coordinated from the downtown location. With the completion of the automotive lab, the Coachman Building annex lease was not renewed, and in 1984, at the time of this writing, the Grand Island Campus is located at two sites, Highway 34 and the downtown center.



The former Sears building at the intersection of Third and Walnut streets in downtown Grand Island was leased and remodeled for educational offerings in the fall of 1979. The college occupied in anticipation of eventually locating all educational services at the campus site in three to five years.



This aerial view of the main site in Grand Island was taken in the summer of 1983. To the right of center is the latest expansion for the student center and the automotive instructional lab. In the upper part of the picture the maintenance building and the construction technology facilities appear from left to right. A temporary structure constructed by staff and students to demonstrate solar heating applications is to the right of the construction building.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

INSTRUCTION

PART 1: INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

In 1954, Dr. Chester H. Gausman was granted a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study the instructional programs and the operation of vocational technical programs in public schools and postsecondary institutions across a twenty-state region from the Midwest to the West Coast, for one year. This foundation grant offer included the completion of his doctorate at the University of Wyoming. In the process of visiting institutions and in developing a topic for this dissertation, he decided to write the dissertation on "Individualized Instruction In Electronics." His teaching field in the Lincoln Public Schools was electronics. This was the first dissertation, to his knowledge, written on individualized instruction in the United States. He completed his dissertation and received his doctorate from the University of Wyoming in 1955.

At his employment interview with the Board of Governors he indicated the need for individualized instruction and asked permission to implement this mode of instruction if he were chosen to head the new school in Hastings. One of the primary reasons that he did accept the position and move to Hastings and to Central Nebraska was the opportunity to set up a system of instruction that he felt was very important in the development of the vocational technical institution.

During the time Dr. Gausman toured the midwestern and western portions of the country under the Ford Foundation Fellowship, he was not only impressed with the way some schools were employing the individualized instruction concept in selective subjects, but he also noticed that none of these schools used this concept in the entire curriculum of instruction. Gausman visited with the administrators of CNTC and found them all to be enthusiastic and willing to use the individualized concept in all areas, but some potential problems were expressed. Given the advantage that Central Nebraska Technical College was a new institution, free of the inhibitions of custom and traditions, Gausman persuaded the governing board to "take the plunge and go for it."

An unusual challenge was presented to the staff of the Hastings Campus of Central Community College in September, 1966, when it opened its doors to 196 students for the first time. Ages of the students ranged from seventeen to sixty-five and educational backgrounds ranged from high school drop-outs to college graduates, with prior occupational experiences ranging from zero to many years. To meet the challenge of effective education for this unusual group of students, the college staff determined that the traditional teaching techniques and format would prohibit previously determined objectives the college hoped to achieve - objectives which dictated that we meet the needs of the student at the point in time that these needs are of the most importance.

Employment opportunities are available at any time during the year. One of the college's prime objective is to have students complete programs every week that the college is in session. Students may enroll at any time it is convenient for them. Considered were the needs of the veteran, the housewife who suddenly sees the need of additional education to supplement the family income, the four-year college student who drops mid-semester or quarter, and the employed person who wishes to up-grade his technical skills. How did the college go about meeting these needs?

What were the traditional obstacles to flexibility of enrollment and graduation and to allowing a student to progress at his or her own rate? The answer to this question was obvious. All forms of group instruction must be dispensed with, for in group instruction learning is expected to take place at a given date, for a given length of time, and at a given rate. A substitute for the lecture and group demonstration system was needed.

After a thorough study of all factors including cost, effectiveness, and feasibility, it was determined to secure the flexibility of the program by substituting a tape cassette for the lecture, and a Super 8mm film cartridge for the visual demonstration. It was at this point that a learner-oriented system of instruction was implemented. It was determined that a total commitment to this type of instruction would be needed in all occupational areas and in academic education as well. New staff members were selected on the basis of their commitment and ability to adjust to this system.

How does this system function? A student enrolls on any day the college is in session, completes the necessary enrollment procedures, then reports to the selected instructional area. Here the instructor provides each student with program materials that indicate to the student the objectives of the course, the necessary tapes or lectures to listen to, the references to read, and the demonstrations to observe on the film loops. Stating the objectives in measurable performance or behavioral terms insured uniformity to student learning outcomes for each course or educational program completed.

The instructor tells the student how to use the projector and the tape playback unit. The tapes and films in plastic cartridges are stored in convenient racks just above or near the study carrels. The student assumes his position in the carrel and from this point on becomes an actor in the learning process. The location of the carrels and reference materials is always within or adjacent to the lab area.

Very few films and tapes for this method of instruction were available from commercial sources and it soon became apparent that the college must produce its own. A technical specialist was employed to train instructors in the use of these techniques. Mediated individualized instruction began in 1966 for all occupational programs. This individualized electronically-assisted open learning system of instruction makes it possible for a student to enroll and start a program any day that the college is in session; to proceed through the program at a pace in line with the individual's capabilities; and to complete the program of studies at any day of the year.

Credit is given for work when completed without consideration of the time element involved. The instructor lecture and in the instructor demonstration are still being used; it

is only the manner of delivery that has been changed. A student proceeds through on his own, with the instructor being on duty at all times to answer individual questions as they arise.

The laboratory open plan centers are also equipped with all the necessary reference materials needed at this point in the instructional process. In this system, experiences that the students may have had in their chosen occupational area of training can be of value in accelerating their progress. It is also possible for students to test through any course if they have the needed background.

The use of the taped lectures and demonstration films changes the role of the instructors. They are now relieved of their daily tasks of preparing and presenting tedious lectures and demonstrations. They spend their time giving personal attention to individual students by answering questions that arise, and evaluating the student's work. The role of the instructor in this system is more that of a manager of an educational program than that of a disseminator of information. The instructor in this system has more time to make an evaluation of each student's work and progress. The learning packages are not only in use on the campus but are being distributed to community service centers throughout the twenty-five county area.

PART 2: HASTINGS CAMPUS

Only two months after the Navy turned the Ammunition Depot facilities over to Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Number One, classes began on September 12, 1966, with the first courses of instruction designed to meet the immediate areas need for technical training in machinist, automotive, building, agricultural, business and electrical vocations. Future courses of instruction were to become a reality as a result of the educational dream that Dr. Gausman and the rest of his staff held. In addition to expanded vocational curriculum, the school began a community services program that would provide off-campus instruction at other sites throughout the Central Nebraska area. Stephen Gaines was the first coordinator for this phase of education.

In 1966, Gausman predicted that instead of seven hundred or one thousand students in vocational education, Nebraska would have thirty thousand to forty thousand in the near future to satisfy the educational needs of a more and more technical world in which eighty percent of the population was engaged in nonprofessional occupations. Early on, Gausman explained that CNTC was not a trade school, not a junior college, but more of a community college.

In the instructional process, students were to receive two hours of related course instruction for every four hours of technical instruction. Related courses included English, math, public speaking, history and science. The college's aim was to provide students with a well-rounded education that would prepare them for gainful employment in the vocation of their choice. The college's entire program was based on individualized study from the beginning. Some students might skip one or two quarters of instruction to reach their levels while others would require extra instruction to comprehend the first quarter -this is where the individualized study courses proved a valuable tool for the students to proceed within individualized capabilities.

Evening classes began shortly after the opening of the college under the direction of Stephen Gaines. Courses were first offered on campus and paralleled the course of instruction offered to day students in business, agriculture, automotive, machines, electronics, drafting, and building trades. Beginning in 1967, classes were offered off-campus. A large portion of the off-campus students at this time were enrolled at the New Holland plant in Grand Island in various courses. The New Holland plant paid the employees' tuition.

Before instructional programs were offered at Hastings in 1966, programs of instruction were required to be approved by the State Department of Education. On July 22, 1966, correspondence was received from Cecil Stanley, Assistant Commissioner for Vocational Education, approving the following programs: drafting technology; building trades technology; metals technology, including machine shop, tool making, and tool and design; electrical and electronics technology; automotive technology; auto body and fender technology; diesel technology, which included heavy equipment services as a part of the program; marketing, and management and sales; business and office occupations;

and health occupations (excluding practical nursing as long as the Kearney practical nursing program continued under the public school system).

In December, 1966, the State Department of Education received correspondence from Walter Erdkamp, State Director of Trade and Industrial Education, that the dental assistance program, graphic arts, culinary arts, data processing, air conditioning and refrigeration, and the agriculture-related programs were approved. As each new program was added to the curriculum at the college, it was approved by the State Department of Education until 1973, when programs were approved by the State Board of Technical Community Colleges. In 1975, with the passage of legislation, the State Board of Technical Community Colleges no longer existed. At present, in 1984, whenever a new program is introduced to the curriculum, it needs only approval by the Board of Governors. Certified programs, such as the dental and nursing programs, must meet requirements of the state and national associations for accreditation.

In the beginning, non-industrial programs were programmed to teach whatever was not directly industry-related, such as accounting, secretarial, farm management, horticulture, and business machines. Programs expanded into the health-related field by December, 1966, when dental assisting and medical secretarial courses were offered. Culinary arts and graphic arts for advertising and business were scheduled to be offered in early 1967. Robert Harrington, director of the non-industrial division, stated in 1966 that the flexibility of different courses was a big advantage to the student. The non-industrial staff at the opening of school included: Larry Carlson, head of business education; Elmer Miller, head of off-farm agriculture; Marilyn Sachtelben, typing and shorthand; Gwen Springer, typing, sales, and marketing; Elizabeth Howell, data processing; and Nancy Huth, business machines.

An acute shortage of trained dental assistants prompted addition of the dental assistant course in December, 1966, with Irene Mills as the first instructor. The course received widespread attention and proved to be popular among women students. All planning for the course was closely coordinated with the Dental Assistant's Association, the American Dental Association, and local dentists to assure certification. The course included all dental assistant skills, from chairside manner to radiology. Students were required to work for one quarter during the program in an area dental office to gain clinical experience. All training was received on modern office equipment.

This field of study received wide support from the Southwest Nebraska Dental Association and, by March, 1968, it had received preliminary accreditation from the American Dental Association. Dr. Paul Holm, Dr. Wayne Ganow, Dr. Robert McPherson, all Hastings dentists, and Lillian Barth and Nita Bramble of Hastings, were on the original committee of the Adams County Dental Association that helped set up the dental assisting and dental technician programs.

Claude Wingrove, Director of Industrial Occupations, opened the industrial occupations area with a staff from the electronic, automotive, drafting, building trades, machine and manufacturing industries who were well qualified in skills needed for their respec-

tive industry. When a student finished a program at the school, they would have a good fundamental knowledge of their industrial area, and would be able to think for themselves and be able to become an excellent employee in industry, according to Wingrove in 1966. Wingrove was enthusiastic that some of his industrial staff had college degrees. They were all men who knew what shop foremen or supervisors wanted in employees because they had been shop foremen or supervisors themselves.

Navy surplus equipment provided machine tools, wood-working machinery and equipment for the automotive, diesel, building trades and machine shop. Descriptions of industrial programs offered are as follows:



Claude Wingrove and the vocational instructional staff in 1966. Seated from left to right: Wingrove, Bob Anderson, Verne Lundsford, Dean Blaha, Bernard Kinley, and Donald Rockafellow. Standing from left: Burdette Thomsen, Lester Oelschlager, Elmer Lykke, Bob Westwood, Jim Dutcher, Clarence Bell, and Larry Keller.

Dean Blaha, a former automotive service manager, was head of the automotive department with instructors Vernon Lunsford and Burdette Thomsen, automotive; Elmer Lykke, auto body; and Les Oelschlager, diesel.

Building trades included construction materials, concrete and masonry, rough and finish carpentry, blueprint reading and house construction. Bernard Kinley, recently an instructor of building trades at the Milford Vocational School and formerly an industrial building superintendent, headed the department with Clarence Bell as the carpentry instructor.

Basic electricity and basic electronics, the introduction to electronic data processing,

and refrigeration repair were handled by the electronics staff. Robert Westwood, who was an experienced electronic technician in the missile and telephone industries, headed this department. He was assisted by James Dutcher, who had eighteen years of working experience in television and electronics.

The metals technology program taught the five basic machines of the manufacturing industry: the lathe, milling machines, scraper and planer, drill press and grinders. Bob Anderson, a production supervisor and shop foreman for industry since 1933, headed the department and was assisted by Larry Keller. In January, 1967, Latham Mortensen was hired as the first instructor in the welding lab.

The drafting department provided basic drafting instruction for mechanical drafting with Donald Rockafellow as instructor.

At the February 27, 1967 board meeting, Mr. Wingrove's resignation to the board was accepted with regret, and he was commended for his help in the earlier months. Dr. Gausman named Robert Harrington to take over the entire occupational area. Ed Minnick, Dean of Students, was given the responsibility for the general education division.

Harrington, Director of Occupational Education, divided instruction into five occupational areas. Reassignment of staff duties were effective February 1, 1967 as follows: Dean Blaha, supervisor of transportation division; Larry Carlson, supervisor of business and office occupations division; James Dutcher, supervisor of electric and electronic occupations division; Elmer Miller, supervisor of service occupations division; Bernard Kinley, supervisor of fabrication occupations division; and Donald Reed, supervisor of the general education division.

Harrington reported there were twenty-one advisory committees on August 28, 1967, and four more were to be added in 1968. There were 111 members and twenty-one cities involved. Advisory committees met twice a year. This phase of the program was requested by the State Department of Education. Official capacity of these committees was strictly advisory.

By the spring of 1968, Harrington had assumed the administrative responsibility for the general education division which offered courses in basic English, technical writing, public speaking, general mathematics, business mathematics, slide rule, life science, plant science, physical science, physics, chemistry, personal health and first aid, economics, human relations, small business management, and business law.

Studies in the electronics occupations division included communications, electrical power, electric-mechanical, industrial electronics, and refrigeration technology.

The service occupations division offered instruction in horticulture service, agri-chemicals, feed and grain handling, field service management, soils science, dental assisting, dental laboratory and food service management.

Featured in the business and office division were programs in business administration, data processing, general office, medical secretary, sales technician and secretarial.

The fabrication division featured programs in building trades, architectural drafting,

mechanical drafting, machine shop and welding.

The transportation division included programs in automotive, civil surveying, auto body, diesel, heavy equipment operation, parts department counterman and management, and service station management.

By March, 1968, CNT had fifty-three instructors, an increase of twenty-six from the original twenty-seven. Due to limited funds, no new programs were added to the curriculum during 1968. A civil engineering program was added after the winter quarter. All programs offered during this period were designed to be full two-year programs; and upon completion, graduates were awarded an associate of applied arts degree.

Because of pressure from students, parents, and faculty to provide a structured defined program that would have goals that could be reached in one year as well as more than one year, the board, at their May, 1969 meeting, approved the two-year associate of applied arts degree and also approved for implementation of a one- and two-year diploma program and certificate of attendance beginning with the fall quarter in September, 1969. At the July meeting in 1969, the board revised their decision and approved an associate in applied science degree that would replace the associate of applied arts degree, which served the same purpose for students desiring full-time employment upon graduation. This was not a transfer degree but could be transferred in part. The Board of Governors also approved an associate in science degree for students desiring a transfer to a four-year institution with emphasis on a transfer to a technical teaching baccalaureate degree program or to a four-year technology program.

By August, 1969, enrollment in the drafting, data processing, and automotive areas had been filled. A survey released by Harrington, Dean of Instruction, showed the distribution of students to be as follows: transportation division, 26.69 percent; business and office division, 24.44 percent; fabrication division, 18.80 percent; service division, 15.02 percent; and electrical and electric division, 10.52 percent. General education accounted for 4.53 percent.

In December, 1968, the board authorized Harrington to submit an application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to seek approval for a frequency modulation (FM) station at the college. This afforded instructional opportunities in the broadcasting field. The FM station was approved by the FCC by October 29, 1969, and call letters of "KCNT" were assigned. The dial location was designated 88.1. The station operated on ten watts of power with a transmitting capability of three miles. Money was allocated for equipment on the 1970-71 budget to initiate the broadcasting program at CNTC.

On December 18, 1979, the board authorized the area president to make application to the Federal Communications Commission for an upgrading of the educational FM station operated on the Hastings Campus. The proposed upgrading would include an increase in the operational power from ten watts and a change in call letters from KCNT-FM to KCTC-FM. The station remained at the frequency of 88.1 MHz. This change was caused by a change in the FCC regulations. Official notification of the FCC's approval for con-

struction of a proposed 2300 watt (ERP) educational broadcast station was received April 16, 1981. According to construction plans, the tower which was donated to the college by KOLN-TV, and the transmitter which was purchased from KICS radio station in Hastings, were installed by July 1. Other necessary equipment was also installed at this time to improve the instruction and practical training in the broadcasting program of study.

In 1981, the National Weather Service Station in North Platte donated a 183 foot tower to the college. This increased power and allowed the CNTC station a maximum broadcast range of forty miles with increased practical application in broadcasting techniques for the students. These increased capabilities enabled the college to broadcast athletic events, various public announcements, and instructional programs according to public demand. It is the aim of the college that KCNT-FM will remain primarily a training program, allowing each student more air time and a broader broadcasting educational experience.

In 1968, a new computer was installed in the data processing program, adding a new dimension of proficiency in a rapidly growing field. The new computer allowed students to follow through on complete projects from basic planning operations through print-out of information needed to complete payrolls or invoicing. The new machine utilized a magnetic disk to carry information and permitted instruction in programming with the use of a symbolic language. The computer was installed on a lease agreement, which permitted exchange for newly developed equipment. Approximately sixty-five students were enrolled in the computer training program in the fall of 1968. Larry Carlson was chairman of the business and office division at this time with John Harris and Barry Failor as instructors of data processing.

At the November board meeting in 1970, Donald Nelson was named chairman of the general education division and curriculum coordinator for the college.

A plastics technology program was initiated in the fall of 1970 after Bernard Kinley did a survey and a study which indicated a need and interest for plastics technology in our twenty-five county area. A new plastics molding machine was purchased and installed; and at the November, 1970 meeting of the board, board members were given plastic ornaments to attach to key chains that were made by the students. The students made the molds for the ornaments in the machine technology mold and die course as part of the instructional process. This was another "first" for Central Nebraska Technical College.

1970 was an aggressive year in the instructional program of the college. At the March 23, 1970 board meeting, approval was given for expansion of the food management course to include hotel, motel, and restaurant management and Haskell Kirkland was offered a contract as instructor of the program. His students manage the Cornhusker Food Lab and serve a noon meal for the staff, giving students "hands-on" food preparation and service experience. In 1984 the program is still in operation under Kirkland's direction.

At the March 23, 1970 meeting, the board adopted a resolution to accept responsibility from the Kearney Public Schools for the operation of the practical nursing program. The

Board of Education of the Kearney Public Schools and the State Department of Vocational Education made the request to Central Nebraska Technical College to assume this responsibility. The college maintained an agreement with the Kearney School's Board of Education for rental of space for the program. This arrangement is still in effect with the college assuming all responsibilities of the practical nursing program located on the second floor of a Kearney elementary school building.

In March, when the college assumed the responsibility of the practical nursing program in Kearney, Eleanor Morrison was approved as the director of the program. Instructors were: Ardyth Wasson, Eileen Paine, Viola Gaer, Cynthia Carlson, Nancy George, Marion Melson, and Carole Jensen. Marilyn Carlson assumed directorship of the practical nursing program on September 2, 1970 and was still program supervisor in 1984 when this was written.

The dental programs and the health programs of the college need to meet national standards in order to receive accreditation from the state and national associations. In February, 1970, word was received from the American Dental Association that the dental lab technology program had been fully accredited. CNTC's dental lab program was one of seventeen accredited in the United States at that time.

One of the very unique programs offered at the Hastings Campus of Central Community College began in 1971 in cooperation with Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. Because of the individualized method of instruction, each K-N employee attending during any given week may be taking courses different from others attending. K-N pays educational, food, and housing costs for their employees to take training on the campus. Each K-N serviceman participates for one week each year in those areas which provide the greatest benefits. K-N pays the cost of developing any course material unique to the company's personnel training needs and provides the instructor, who prepares and teaches the courses. Curriculum is developed jointly by K-N and CCC and is continually updated to reflect the changing needs of the natural gas industry.

In 1974, with the use of the college's welding technology program, the Hastings Campus began training potential pipeline welders. Employees in the program are accepted by the college as students receiving credit for completed courses. The welding instructor evaluates K-N employees - screening those without the appropriate welding abilities and aiding others to the point of being able to pass the company's pipeline welder's standards.

In 1975, the Board of Governors approved the addition of a dietician technician course to the existing food management program. Elizabeth Ebmeier was hired as an instructor in July, 1978. At the present time, there are two programs - a two-year associate of applied science dietician technician program and a one-year certificate dietetic assistant program. Both programs were approved by the American Dietician's Association in June, 1979. The one-year certificate program is unique in that course work is done entirely off campus. Students work with a registered dietician in the institution of their employment. They then send their written work to the Central Community College instructor for

evaluation. This is the only dietetic assistant program in the nation operating with this concept.

In May, 1977, the administration recommended that the civil engineering program be discontinued at the Hastings Campus due to lack of interest and decreasing enrollment. The administration evaluated closely each program to determine current needs. Articulation of programs began at this time and by the time of this writing was considered ninety percent complete.

At the August, 1979 board meeting, the board approved a three-year lease purchase of a duplex printing press for the Hastings Campus. This press replaced a seven year old existing press used to reproduce instructional materials, books, forms, and resource materials for all three campus sites and off-campus programs. The cost, including trade-in of the existing press, was \$1,914 per month for three years with the press becoming the property of the college at the end of the three-year period.

In early 1980, the American Dental Association raised accreditation of the dental hygiene program on the Hastings Campus from "provisional approval" to "approval."

In August, 1981, the college was notified of the granting by the American Medical Association of initial accreditation for the medical assisting program at the Hastings Campus. This now means that all of the Hastings Campus programs qualify for state, regional, or national accreditation and are accredited by the respective accrediting agencies. Specific programs receiving accreditation included practical nursing, dental hygiene, dental lab technology, dental assisting, medical assisting, and dietetic technology.

On April 6, 1982, at the American Association of Community and Junior College's convention in St. Louis, Missouri, Dennis Tyson, President of the Hastings Campus, accepted a national award on behalf of the college and Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company of Hastings. Chester Gausman, Central Community College President, presented the Industry Cooperation Award to Richard McKenzie of Hastings, K-N's Director of Safety and Training at the April 28, 1982 board meeting. In addition to the plaque for the gas utility CCC received a similar plaque and a \$1,000 cash award from Media Systems Corporation of New York, New York. The award was given because of a ten-year cooperative program for training between the college and gas company. Only two other colleges out of the 1,500 member AACJC were recognized for outstanding programs.

College administration continually keeps an eye on each program offered and at the June 28, 1982 meeting of the board, the sanitation technology program offered at the Hastings Campus was deleted from the curriculum. The program had initially been established through a grant in cooperation with the state and federal government. It was anticipated that clean water legislation would be enacted which required a licensure and technical education requirement for plant operators. This did not occur, and enrollment decreased from a high in 1978-79 of 14.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) to one FTE, which did not justify its continuance as a full degree program.

PART 3 PLATTE CAMPUS

An article in the Occupational Education Bulletin on November 1, 1969, listed six significant career programs at Platte College in Columbus. These were listed as agri-business technology, drafting technology, secretarial science, business management and accounting, practical nursing, and teacher aide training. The teacher aide program, funded under an \$11,000 E.P.O.A. Grant, was the first of its kind available in Nebraska.

Platte College's admission policy was that all residents of the Platte area were eligible for admission to some educational program offered by the college provided that, in the view of the college administration, they would profit from further educational experiences. Any person not a high school graduate could apply for admission to a degree program at Platte if college officials believed him or her capable. Everyone had the right to try higher education.

In the beginning there were eleven varied programs of study that included: classroom aid, one year; secretarial science, one year; practical nursing, twelve months; engineering technology, two years; mid-management, two years; accounting, two years; agri-business, one year or two years; fire science, two years; police science, two years; drafting and executive secretary, two years.

The drafting courses were under the direction of Douglas Dobbs and were of special interest to the Columbus industrial people. The two-year course included drawing, chemistry, physics, design drafting and math through trigonometry.

Secretarial science was another sequence of studies of interest to Columbus business and industrial people. Twila Wallace was head of this department. In addition to typing and shorthand, other courses were psychology, public relations, business administration, journalism and office procedures, all offered in the executive secretary program. Data processing was not offered at this time. Students were given an outline at the beginning of the school year and were encouraged to work on their own to develop the skills they needed help with.

Agri-business was headed by a long-time Platte County resident, Louis Meissner. He had twenty-one students in March, 1970 who were studying water management, animal science, and agricultural economics. The first semester they studied field crops, soils, and farm accounting. Meissner was putting much of his instructional material on tape and slides and by March, 1970 most of his visual instruction was available for use. Meissner at that time was the only instructor in agri-business. Personnel was added as enrollment increased and more courses were implemented on farm machinery, horticulture, fertilizers, and animal science.

Officials met in June of 1968 to consider locating a practical nursing school at Platte College, which would be the first such college-coordinated LPN program in the state. A survey of other educational needs was also conducted in 1968 by Platte College administrators. By January, 1969, Platte College hired Mary Lou Holmberg as director of

the practical nursing program. She began February 1 to develop the courses of study for practical nursing, arranging the clinical facilities needed and recommending personnel for teaching on the college's nursing staff. She also interviewed interested prospective nursing students.

Practical nursing classes began September 22, 1969, under Holmberg's direction. The State Department of Education approved a second course in practical nursing to begin early in March, 1970 with twenty to twenty-five new candidates accepted in addition to the twenty-nine presently enrolled.

In August, 1969, a fall semester schedule of classes to begin September 22 listed eleven courses in the business and related areas; twenty courses in the communicative arts; eighteen in social sciences; and twenty-four courses in the science and health areas. Evening classes for credit also listed fourteen courses. Credit-free classes were not listed at this time.

In January, 1970, practical nurse students were honored at a capping ceremony at the St. Bonaventure social hall in Columbus. The capping marked the end of the first one-third of the practical nursing course which would be completed in September, 1970.



Installation of the Charter Faculty was part of the first convocation at Platte Campus held in conjunction with the inauguration of the president, September 7, 1969. Pictured here are the charter faculty from left to right: Front - Dr. Vernon Taylor, Diane Krowlikowski, Mary Ann Kucera, Mary Lou Holmberg, Evelyn Runyon, Margaret Baker. Center - Evelyn Bruegger, Twila Wallace, Charlotte Rike, Ruediger Lenhardí, Loyal Clarke, M.J. Cunningham, Richard Peters, William Irby. Back - Margaret Burkett, Larry Thompson, Douglas Dobbs, Fred Koerwitz, Ernest Bantam, Michael James, Richard Scott, Gene Torczon.

Students attended classes part-time and worked at St. Mary and Behlen Memorial Hospitals in Columbus. Dianne Krolikowski, a nursing instructor at the school, made the presentations. It was interesting to note there was one male student, John Bernt, a graduate from Scotus High school in 1967.

In September, 1970, there were graduation ceremonies and a reception to honor twenty-five women and one man who completed a twelve-month program of practical nursing training at Platte College. The graduates were eligible to take the state examination to become licensed practical nurses. Holmberg, director of the Platte College program, stated that all of the graduates had job offers.

Summer courses at Platte College were scheduled from June 1 through July 31 and were held in the afternoon and evenings. Dr. Taylor, Dean of Faculty, said that while allowing completion of a half-semester of studies during the two-month period, it permitted persons working either the day-time or evening shifts at local industries to attend classes. Course credit hours ranged from one hour for physical education up to five hours for general chemistry and lab. The fields and classes offered during the summer were: Communicative arts: English Composition I and II, public speaking, and introduction to literature. Business and related areas: Typing I and II, consumer economics, Accounting I, introduction to business, office machines, science and health, engineering drawing, descriptive geometry, general chemistry and lab, physical education, algebra-math, general biology and lab, and algebra-trig. Social sciences: Western Civilization I and II, sociology, and general psychology.

Platte College offered mostly academic instruction in the traditional manner in its first years. With merger to the area concept in 1973, the Platte Campus began implementing the individualized instruction concept in many of their courses.

At the September 22, 1980 board meeting, the board heard a report on an extended off-campus practical nursing program believed to be the first of its type in the country and a definite first in Nebraska. Nursing supervisor for the practical nursing program at Columbus, Mary Lou Holmberg, explained the program to the board calling it "a pioneering tactic by the college to enhance the opportunities in the nursing careers." This offered an opportunity for students unable to attend a campus program to take the first half of the practical nursing curriculum at an off-campus location and then move into the on-campus program. The pilot program received good cooperation from the State Board of Nursing.

PART 4: AREA

In 1973, with the passage of LB 533 creating the Central Technical Community College Area consisting of twenty-five counties, which included the Platte Campus and the Hastings Campus in the area, and with one Board of Governors and the implementation of one central area office, control of all instructional programs was to be under the State Board of Technical Community Colleges. Local boards would need to seek approval of new programs from the Technical Community College State Board.

The CTCCA board, in early 1973, sought and received approval from the TCC state board for the following programs of instruction: home economics-related occupations program at the Platte Campus; and dietician technician program, criminal justice program, medical laboratory technician, medical assistant, bio-medical equipment technician, lithographic technician, child care, media technician, dental hygiene, and civil technology programs all at the Hastings Campus. These programs were reapproved in 1975 by the Board of Governors and were implemented in 1976.

For the first time in three years, new courses were approved by the board for the three campuses of Central Technical Community College Area. The board, at the July 1975 meeting, authorized the expenditure of up to \$300,000 for new programs and options for the 1975-76 college year. After careful analysis of proposed programs and options with substantiating data by administration and staff of the area, by area advisory committees, and the curriculum subcommittee of the Board of Governors, the board approved the several new programs for implementation. Electronics technology at Platte Campus was to begin in February. A dental hygiene program was scheduled to begin as soon as an instructor was hired and building needs were supplied at the Hastings Campus. In January, 1976, a lithographic technician program was approved to begin at the Hastings Campus and was expected to be open to students in early March. The board also approved new options to existing programs and a health institution administration course at Platte Campus. Medical assisting was approved, to be offered at the Hastings Campus as soon as the health training facility was remodeled. Dietician technician, as well as an electronics bio-medical course, with preliminary work done in both courses, was approved for the Hastings Campus. Community education options in industrial technical occupations, business and office occupations, and related studies were all approved for Grand Island Campus.

The 1978-79 Nebraska Legislature passed LB 363, which established a revised system of state aid funds. To comply with LB 363, the college listed classification of its programs as follows: academic transfer programs; biological science, education, fine-performing arts, mathematics, physical education/recreation, physical sciences, preprofessional, psychology, and social sciences. The vocational technical programs Class I were: accounting, agriculture, art-commercial, building maintenance, commercial horticulture, dietetic technology, drafting occupations, general merchandising, health occupations, home economics and related occupations, hotel/motel/restaurant management, human

services, media/communications, medical assisting, real estate, sanitation technology, secretarial sciences, and supervision and management. The Class II vocational technical programs were: auto body, automotive technology, broadcasting, construction technology, data processing, dental assisting technology, dental hygiene, dental laboratory, diesel technology, electrical technology, electronics technology, environmental control (air conditioning and refrigeration), machine shop technology, parts counter-man and management, practical nursing, printing technology, and welding technology. All community education courses offered for credit were classified as vocational technical Class I. Non-credit courses were classified as avocational or recreational and were non-FTE reimbursable.

Central Technical Community College Area began upgrading their computer services and data processing instruction with an action of the board at their October, 1979 meeting. The board accepted a proposal of Prime Computer Inc. for a computer system to provide an integrated network throughout the central area. This system provided for data processing instruction to meet the ever-changing needs of business and industry in Central Nebraska. The changeover to the new system began taking place on January 1, 1980, with instruction scheduled to begin after July 1, 1980. The system accepted by the Board of Governors provided the equipment to instruct students in the use of the on-line computer system now available to the business and industry sector.

In August, 1981, Dean of Instruction, Dr. Joe Preusser of the Platte Campus, stated that more than two hundred people had registered for fall semester data processing courses and eleven class sections were added to the fall schedule because of the continuing demand for computer courses. Preusser gave credit for the increased interest in data processing courses to the new computer system installed in 1980. Until that time only five data processing courses were offered and those were mainly in support of business administration programs.

Previously, data was entered into the computer only through key punch cards. Now CRT (cathode ray tube) terminals and floppy disc entry systems were used. Courses were available in four programming languages: Basic, Cobol, Fortran and RPG II. In May, 1981, forty-five sections of data processing courses were listed and the fall semester class listing added thirteen more sections to the schedule.

At the July, 1984 meeting of the Board of Governors the board authorized the college administration to negotiate with computer vendor(s) for appropriate user friendly computer software and equipment and bring their recommendation to the board for consideration. This proposal was to upgrade the present college computer system.

PART 5: GRAND ISLAND CAMPUS

Instruction at Grand Island began on January 13, 1975, with twelve students. At that time it was called the Adult Community Education Center and was located at 507 West Third Street in Grand Island. It was totally funded by the Comprehensive Educational Training Act (CETA) and began with three programs and two general educational areas with a total of six instructors. Programs offered were building maintenance, secretarial, and sales and cashiering with support courses in communications and math. Enrollment grew to fifty-three students in the first six months.

Larry Keller was named President of the Grand Island Campus in 1976. James Dutcher was transferred from the Hastings Campus to Grand Island to become chairman of the occupational division, and Joe Kranz, also a transferee from the Hastings Campus, was appointed as chairman of the general education department. In 1981, Donald Nelson was appointed as Assistant to the President of the Grand Island Campus, and in 1983 Dr. Lynn Black was appointed as Dean of Students. Black transferred from the Hastings Campus and Nelson transferred from the area office.

By October, 1976, the Grand Island Education Center offered marketing and management, secretarial/clerical, accounting/bookkeeping, welding, electrical and building maintenance, all one-year diploma programs. In addition, twelve-quarter-hours of credit were offered in data processing and electronics. Construction offered a possible thirteen hours credit, mechanical drafting a possible seven hours credit, and a possible six quarter hours in environmental control. Related and academic supportive courses were offered for occupational areas. There was a total enrollment in the fall of 1976 of 533 students at Grand Island.

Facilities owned by the college for the Grand Island Campus were inadequate to serve the enrollment of the campus, and it was necessary to rent facilities, which was still being done in 1984. This philosophy was not all bad, except it brought a high profile to the Grand Island Campus because of inadequate facilities at one location to conduct educational services. This has probably motivated many staff members with a greater desire to succeed and made them aware of quality educational programs, but the fact remains that the college does not own enough facilities to support the Grand Island Campus.

PART 6: COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community education is the delivery system for providing educational programming throughout the twenty-five county area served by Central Community College. It is the broadest of the college's functions, embracing a variety of activities often defined in terms such as adult basic education, community based education, community services and continuing education. Central Community College has adopted the following definition: "Community education is the off-campus delivery of credit programs, avocational/recreational courses, and adult basic education." The primary emphasis of community education is the off-campus delivery of occupational education programs. Avocational and recreational non-credit courses are provided upon request. Fees charged for avocational/recreational offerings cover the direct cost of providing these courses, in accordance with state law.

During the 1982-83 fiscal year, the college offered courses in more than one hundred locations in seventy-eight communities. Sites included banks, churches, community centers, fire halls, hospitals, industrial plants, inns, libraries, nursing homes, and public schools. Community education offered 372 courses off-campus in 1982-83. The 372 courses accounted for 13,368 unduplicated headcount students or sixty-eight percent of the total students served by Central Community College. This equated to 351.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) students, which is slightly over ten percent of the total FTE production of the college. Credit courses ranged from mathematics in business to Oxyacetylene Welding I. There were 147 specialized credit workshops offered which were tailor-made offerings designed to meet specific needs identified in communities and business and industry.

Adult Basic Education (ABE) is funded by external resources, and administered by the college as a service to our constituents. A total of 871 people completed ABE classes offered by Central Community College during 1982-83. Funding is provided entirely by federal dollars channeled through the State Department of Education. The amount received by the college in 1984 declined and, as a result, volunteer help was used. The ABE Volunteers to Encourage Learning (VEL) program was established. Volunteers primarily help by tutoring adult students in ABE classes, but VEL help also is important in a variety of administrative duties including clerical tasks, publishing a quarterly newsletter, and public relations. In 1983-84 volunteers donated nearly four thousand hours of work to the program.

The community education staff in 1984 was headed by Dr. Joseph Preusser, Vice President of Community Education. Assisting him was Dr. Robert Smallfoot, Associate Dean of Educational Centers in Region One. Ronald Kluck was Coordinator of Region One. LaVern Franzen was Associate Dean of Educational Centers in Region Two-West, and Lester Weber was Coordinator of Educational Centers in Region Two-East. Bernard Kinley was Associate Dean of Educational Centers in Region Three, and Judith Cestaro was Coordinator of the Holdrege Education Center. Diann Muhlbach was Coordinator of Adult Basic Education.

PART 7: ARTICULATION OF PROGRAMS

As Central Community College began in 1966, and subsequently was developed into a multi-campus institution that brought together two diversely different institutions, in 1978 the decision was made by Dr. Chester H. Gausman, then College President, that if we were going to offer as a college an educational program at two campuses that had the same degree title, it ought to be, the same educational offering. The outgrowth of that decision was that a curriculum taught in auto mechanics, for example, at the Hastings Campus and at the Columbus Campus, ought to be identical if at all possible. If the similarity could not be brought into line, due to equipment or space restrictions, then the option should not be available at the other campus.

It was the outgrowth of this particular decision that led to what is referred to as articulation of programs. Very simply, articulation of programs is the putting together of curriculum across all sites (Platte Campus in Columbus, Grand Island Campus, and Hastings Campus), in the same form. So if Accounting 101, for example, is taught at all three campuses, the same competencies and the same general course is taught by all instructors.

The process of articulation in theory sounded very simple. It turned out to be a three-year long task that at times saw instructors raving at each other across the table, cluster chairmen screaming at their instructors, hot tempers, belligerent comments, and numerous other problems. Problems, however, were not insurmountable, there was no loss of life, nor limb, and the ultimate goal was achieved. Maybe we should say "is still being achieved" as of the writing of this book, as it has now been determined that articulation is an on-going project that may never be completed.

At this time we are striving for a ninety-five percent completion point. We have achieved a meeting of the minds, a sharing of ideas, an interactive development process that has brought forth a refined curriculum, a unified curriculum, and a curriculum that truly strives to meet the needs of students, as well as business and industry, in providing meaningful occupational and technical education to the residents of the twenty-five county area.

We now comfortably can say to students that if you start at one campus, you can finish at a different campus. We also believe, and can back this up, that a course offering taken at Lexington, Nebraska, with a number matching a course offering available on the campus, is the same course. The competencies are matching, the level of instruction is compatible, and the student benefits are equal.

Articulation probably, as we say, will never be complete but we have arrived at a point where all parties are sharing ideas, thoughts, and developmental prospects equally among each other, regardless of the campus location on which they work.

PART 8: ACCREDITATION

Central Technical Community College in Hastings and Platte Technical Community College in Columbus were in the process of seeking North Central Association Accreditation as separate institutions when the area was formed. Both gained membership - Platte Technical Community College in 1974 and Central Technical Community College in 1976. With the establishment in 1976 of the Grand Island Education Center in Grand Island, a positive integration of area programs and services was necessary to comply with state statutes enacted in 1973, 1975, and 1978. This provided the backdrop to the decision to proceed with North Central membership as a single institution rather than undergo a separate process for each of the major campuses of the area.

Effective June 20, 1983, Central Community College was accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The college offers programs leading to diplomas, certificates, and the associate's (arts and sciences curricula) degree. Programs are offered at campuses in Grand Island, Hastings, and Columbus, and at various education centers throughout the twenty-five county service area. Central Community College's most recent comprehensive evaluation occurred in 1979-80, and its next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 1987-88.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

STUDENTS

PART 1: PLATTE CAMPUS

By September 20, 1968, Platte College, no more than a downtown office, a graded ninety acre former wheat field four miles north of Columbus and an old windmill, already had a "student body." A twenty-four member Student Advisory Senate was organized consisting of leading high school seniors from twenty-four area high schools. The organization was unique in the midlands and perhaps in the nation. The student senate assisted the college board and faculty in planning such student functions as housing and commuting, admission requirements, scholarships, loans and student employment, clubs and organizations, and orientation programs. They met in September, 1968, to discuss activities, programs, and admission applications for the anticipated five hundred students expected in the fall of 1969, one year in the future. This planning was a chance for students to present ideas and to have a part in the organization of student affairs of the college they would attend.

Athletics, debate, and journalism were scheduled to be in the three top extra-curricular activities at Platte College. The new school would be competing athletically in the Nebraska Junior College Conference and interscholastic sports would be golf in the fall and basketball and track in the spring. Gene Torczon, athletic director, planned to add cross country, wrestling and tennis as soon as possible. The new gymnasium was scheduled for Phase II of the college building program, but until it was built, Platte teams used the Columbus Family Y for practices and the Scotus Central Catholic gymnasium for games. Richard Scott was chosen as debate coach and planned a schedule with some of the best debating schools in the midwest. Mrs. Evelyn Runyon, in journalism, was responsible for the school's newspaper.

In September, 1969, a charter class of 450 students (including full time and part time) was considered to be the largest in any two-year college in Nebraska. Charter members received a small brick on which a miniature trowel was affixed as an appropriate memento of the charter class at Platte College. Twenty-four faculty members were on the teaching staff for the start of the first academic year.

By November, 1969, student senate members were elected to serve on several committees including a student activity board, an all college judicial board, a publications advisory board, a student directory committee, and a dress code committee. Cheerleaders were chosen by a panel of students, faculty members, and board of education members. In February, 1970, the Platte College Board of Education approved an athletic grant-in-aid program which would give assistance to as many as thirty athletes. The program would provide tuition and fees for two athletes in cross country, twelve each in track and

basketball, and four in golf. Gene Torczon, the athletic director, completed an application to compete in the Nebraska Junior College Conference in the fall of 1970 in four sports.

Besides the athletic program, Platte College offered a fine arts program - music, art, and theatrical opportunities for students to express themselves. The business fraternity Phi Beta Lambda also offered students the opportunity for competition in extemporaneous speaking, typing, accounting, shorthand and other skills.

At the college's first annual recognition banquet held at the Elks Country Club in May, 1970, sixteen persons shared honors as the first graduates of Platte College and received certificates for completing one-year courses of study at the new college. The first classes were held at the Elks Country Club while construction was still underway on the campus.

Summer enrollment in 1970 was 218 students enrolled in thirteen different courses. Kenneth Lensing was hired to set up a vocational guidance and counseling program.

Platte College's fall classes brought 1,017 students to the campus and the college's off-campus service centers. For every man enrolled there was a woman taking classes at Platte College, showing a fifty-fifty ratio. Also, for every full-time student in the fall enrollment there was a part-time student enrolled, and a lifetime of sixty-three years separated the college's youngest student from the oldest student. Ninety-five percent of the students came from homes within thirty-five miles of the college, and only three students were from other states.

Enrollment for spring 1971 was 530 full-time students and 171 part-time students. The 1971 fall enrollment was 572 full-time and 197 part-time students for a total of 769. Fall enrollees for 1972 were 486 full-time and 226 part-time, and fifty-four LPN students for a total of 766.

PART 2: HASTINGS CAMPUS

On July 25, 1966, there were 174 student enrollment applications with 101 paid enrollments. Thirty-four male and four female students had indicated they wished to live in dormitories. By August 8, there were fifty-five male and six female students who expressed a desire to live in dormitories. Applications to enter school were signed by 215 students with 124 paid tuitions by August 8 and in another two weeks the count went up to 157 paid tuitions and sixty-three men in the dormitory.

Classes at Central Nebraska Technical College began operation on September 12, 1966, with 196 students enrolled, thirteen of whom were women. The NAD Administration Building was remodeled and refurbished for a men's dormitory while seven of the women took up residence in one of the three houses located in the center of the campus.

In correspondence on January 5, 1967, to Mr. E. Lyle Knight, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Division of Surplus Property Utilization in Kansas City and to Mr. Donald E. Bradford, Director of Economic Adjustment, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C., Dr. Gausman, Superintendent of Central Nebraska Tech expressed his gratitude for their efforts in the acquisition of facilities necessary for operation of the school. He wrote: "We began class instruction on



Here the first students arriving at the Hastings Campus in September 1966 were greeted by tight security. On the left, Dr. Gausman and a security guard talk with a student entering campus. On the right, a sticker is affixed to the student's windshield as Ed Minnick explains the procedures. The stickers from the days of the Navy were used to assist the students with entrance and exit from the campus.

September 12, 1966, with 196 students enrolled, nearly twice the number that we anticipated. Since that time our enrollment has increased to nearly 400 including about 150 evening students. We are expecting over 700 students by September 1967. This growth pattern was, and will be possible, only because of the facilities and equipment obtained through your offices." In 1966, students paid a quarterly tuition of \$84 while tuition for those outside the seventeen county area was \$126, and out-of-state students \$168 per quarter.



September 1966 marked the first orientation of students at the Hastings Campus. Here students are completing final registration forms and receiving final directions for the start of the term.

Student enrollment increased almost every day. By January 23, 1967, the spring enrollment was 246; summer enrollment 141; and the fall enrollment was 335 students. The total student body by December was over one thousand students.

By February 28, 1967, Stephen Gaines and Edwin Minnick reported that enrollment in March would total 556. Of these, 301 were enrolled in off-campus classes and 265 were on the campus. Gaines said the off-campus classes were "just scratching the surface" and indicated that enrollment could soar over 1,000 by next year. A large portion of the off-campus students were enrolled at the New Holland Plant in Grand Island. Gaines said

156 students were involved in the various courses being taught at the expense of New Holland.

By August of 1967, 557 students were enrolled and the remodeled dormitory, Building 55, was filled to capacity with 220 men. At this time approximately forty women had signed to stay in Clay Dormitory.

From September, 1967 until December 18, 1967, Mr. Gaines reported that fifty-eight schools had been visited through college and career night programs with approximately 565 students contacted. Approximately ten campus tours had been made by schools with 230 students involved in the visitation, making close to 800 students contacted at this point.

In November there were 595 day students to begin the fall quarter on December 4, 1967; fifty of these students were veterans. The school's reputation was spreading and we had enrolled twenty-two students from outside the seventeen county area. Enrollments included a student from Nigeria, Gladys Peterside, who was enrolled in the business and office department. Gladys graduated in 1967 with an Associate of Applied Arts Degree.



The first graduate of the Hastings Campus in 1967 is shown here at his job at the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant in Grand Island. Dean Ringlein is seated with (standing from left) Bill Stevens, Chester Gausman, and Gary Swanson.

Another "first" was the first graduate from Central Nebraska Technical College. Dean Ringlein graduated from the mechanical drafting department and received his Associate of Applied Arts Degree in December of 1967, and began his new position as a draftsman at Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant in Grand Island.

As was predicted, enrollments continued to increase from the original count of 196 full-time day students to the January 1, 1968 count of 561 full-time day, and 315 part-time students for a total of 876.

In December, 1966, Dr. Gausman sent a personal letter to every high school senior in the seventeen county area. His secretary typed each letter individually on an old manual Royal typewriter that had been acquired from the Navy. No new office equipment had been purchased at this time due to lack of funds. There were approximately 3,000 letters that were mailed to students in the area telling them of our open entry and individualized instruction concept and inviting them to visit the campus. At the time of the mailing of letters to seniors there was an enrollment of 230 students.



The first official graduation ceremonies at the Hastings Campus on May 24, 1968. Here the students listen to the graduation address given by Senator Carl T. Curtis.

The first graduating class of Central Nebraska Technical Community College in Hastings was addressed on May 24, 1968, by United States Senator, Carl T. Curtis. A crowd of nearly 400 parents and friends of the graduates came to witness the first ceremony. Dr. Chester Gausman presented special awards, one to an outstanding student in each of the five school divisions: transportation, fabrication, electronics, business and office, and service division. They were selected on the basis of scholarship, skill

development, leadership, citizenship, service to school and community, and character and personal qualifications. Students who completed training as dental assistants were capped. Mr. Wortman, Chairman of the Board of Governors, presented the diplomas to twenty women and ninety-one men. The ceremony was held in the Buffalo Corral with a reception following the ceremony at the student center. Central Technical Community College Wives Club hosted the reception.

An honorary degree was bestowed on Senator Carl Curtis during the ceremony. In Curtis' address he emphasized that hard work was one of the greatest rewards of life and without hard work there could have been no school on this site. He said, "Lazy people are no good to themselves or to society," and urged the graduates to become active in their communities and in politics to maintain good government.

In 1969, Governor Norbert Tiemann addressed the graduating class; Donald F. Bradford addressed the Class of 1970; Cecil Reid, 1971; and Cecil Stanley in 1972. In 1969, an honorary degree was given to Paul Hohnstein and in 1970 this honor was bestowed upon Ken Wortman.



Graduates of the Hastings Campus await the presentation of degrees, diplomas, and certificates during the 1969 graduation ceremonies.

With open entry and open exit, it became increasingly difficult for all graduates to return for the formal graduation activities. Attendance is still good at this event but not as good as it was in 1968!

The first student senate was organized in October 1967, under the leadership of Keith Huth, coordinator of social and recreational activities. The first president of the student

senate was Lee Anderson, Minden; Robert Lunn, vice president, Lexington; Barbara Hromodka, secretary, Hastings; Jean Harlowe, editor, Hastings. Others elected by the students to serve on the senate were: Ronald Elledge, Superior; Larry Smith, Scotia; Connie Allington, Hastings; Penny Pittman, Hastings; Miles Doyle, Hastings; Carlow Proctor, Aurora; and Dennis Spires, Clarks.



The first student senate was organized in 1967. Here Dr. Gausman and senate sponsor Keith Huth pose with the group prior to the first meeting.

PART 3: GRAND ISLAND CAMPUS

The Grand Island Campus began with the objective to serve the residents of Grand Island and Hall County with quality educational services. The first course offered, at the facility constructed on property that was purchased by a local fund drive, was an OSHA course on trench shoring. The course involved digging a trench with a backhoe and shoring it up to prevent cave in.

On April 1, 1976, the Grand Island Community Education Center offered credit courses and served 223 students. Most of the students served were part time students who were seeking new skills or upgrading skills for employment. Forty-one students were full-time students. The average age of the students was thirty-five years. As of March 31, 1984, the Grand Island campus enrollment had grown from the forty-one full-time students in 1976, to 310 full-time students. The March, 1984 enrollment was 1,283 full- and part-time students on campus and 3,700 students off campus who were taking credit courses.

Facilities and staff were added in 1982 to serve the increased student enrollment on campus. A new student service center was added to the existing structure; a snack bar, book store, and automotive lab were also added. In 1982, there was a full-time counselor, activities director, and a dean of students added to the staff to serve the needs of the students. However, in 1984 the campus still experienced the renting of facilities to accommodate its increasing student enrollment.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

ANTHOLOGY

PART 1: WOMEN'S DIVISION

Mary Gausman held a coffee in the board room on September 20, 1966, for wives of Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Number One campus personnel. It was at this meeting that the Faculty Wives Club was organized. The first officers were Mary Gausman, President; Babe Harrington, Vice President; Freida Wendt, Secretary; and Francheon Johnson, Treasurer. Through the years, the club has sponsored picnics, Christmas parties, and coffees for employees and families associated with the Hastings Campus. After each student graduation, the club has sponsored a reception. They have always been ready to help with campus functions whenever called upon to do so.

On March 27, 1968, new officers were installed. Audrey Wiseman, President; Sylvia Bell, Vice President; Phyllis Stevens, Secretary; and Alta Minnick, Treasurer. It was during the tenure of these officers that a reception was sponsored for the first graduating class, May 24, 1968.

The Women's Club met the first Monday of the month for a social and played cards. This club was very active the first ten years, but as other organizations at the college were established, there was less for them to do; and with a turnover of personnel on the campus, many of the original members were no longer with the group and interest lessened. However, the group is still in existence and sponsors a newsletter. Each year they sponsor a dinner dance for college personnel during the holiday season in December.

PART 2: CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

In the formative years of Platte College a Citizen's Advisory Council was formed to assist the Platte College Board of Education with decisions concerning a new college campus. The first meeting was held in May, 1968 with more than fifty persons attending. The Board of Education felt it was impossible for one person or for one group of five or six persons to have all the answers to everything; therefore, they were seeking advice and counsel from interested citizens. Meetings were scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month. At the third meeting of the Council, members toured the college site, discussed construction plans submitted by college officials, and viewed a model of the college campus.



The Citizen's Advisory Council for Platte College meeting with president Dr. Donald Newport on the site of the campus. The advisory council was formed in May 1968 to assist with planning for the campus.

PART 3: ANVILS

In the very early years, 1966-67, at Central Nebraska Vocational Technical School Number One, students from the machine technology program of the fabrication division made anvils from sections of rail from the NAD rail tracks that were no longer used by the college. This taught them several different machining processes. These anvils were presented to each board member and to special guests who visited the campus, such as Senator Carl Curtis, Donald Bradford, and visiting legislators. It was a very unique and much treasured gift commemorating the transition of the Navy Ammunition Depot to a college with meaningful techniques of the machine technology program.

At the September 29, 1970, board meeting, Dick McFeeley, Grand Island, was introduced to the board as "Father of Area Vocational Schools in Nebraska" and was presented an anvil and a certificate of appreciation by the board. This was probably the last anvil presentation to be made.



College president Dr. Chester H. Gausman makes the presentation of one of the anvils fabricated by students to longtime college supporter U.S. Senator Carl T. Curtis.



At least nine Nebraska State Senators have received anvils from Central Community College. From left: Senator Maurice Kremer, Aurora; Senator Leslie Robinson, Kearney; Senator Rudolf Kokes, Ord; Senator Don Elrod, Grand Island; Senator Herb Duis, Gothenburg; Senator Richard Marvel, Hastings; Senator Herb Nore, Genoa; Senator Wayne Ziebarth, Wilcox; Senator Theodore Wenzloff, Sutton.

PART 4: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

It was in November of 1969 that the first Alumni Association of Central Nebraska Technical College at Hastings was formed. The purpose of the organization was to maintain a spirit of loyalty and good fellowship among the graduates of CNTC and to keep all alumni informed on fellow students and changes at the college.

First officers elected were Herman Hoffmeyer, President; Penny Pittman Delay, Vice President; Barbara Hromadka Thieszen, Secretary; Roderick Waltmath, Treasurer; Rosalie Boudreau, News Reporter; and Lila Grummert, Corresponding Secretary. Other members of the twelve-member board of directors were Daniel Magner, William Shomshor, Richard Dowdy, James Franklin, George Miller and Glenda Shafer.



Alumni Association officers in May 1970 pictured here from left standing are: Richard Morse, Robert Lunn, Roderick Waltewath, Rosalie Boudreau, Lila Grummert, Glenda Shafer Whiting, Penny Pittman Delay, Alan Hartley, Gary Maul, and sponsor Ed Minnick. Seated from left: George Miller, Dan Magner, and Herman Hoffmeyer.

PART 5: UNUSUAL DONATIONS

The college, over the years, has received numerous donations from individuals and industry. One of the more unusual of these donations was in June, 1978, when the college received eight 1978 model cars from General Motors. The General Motors Corporation had sixteen cars that were soaked with water and mud in a flood that hit Kansas City in the fall of 1977. The cars were donated to the college in June 1978 for educational use in the automotive programs at the three campuses of Central Community College. The other eight flood-ruined cars went to five other educational institutions in Nebraska.



General Motors vehicles damaged in a flood were donated to the college for educational purposes. Here they await unloading at the Hastings Campus.

Another unusual donation was received in November, 1979 by Central Community College. It was the gift of a Chickering piano, which had been completely rebuilt and restored and has taken its place on the theatre stage in the Platte Campus Fine Arts Building at Columbus.

American pianos made by the firms of Baldwin, Sohmer, Steinway, and Chickering are well-known throughout the world. The Chickering donated to the college was the first piano in Columbus, undoubtedly transported there by a horse-drawn dray, and was owned by pioneer Charles A. Speice, a man who worked tirelessly to promote public education. It is not known whether Speice used the piano for music education for his students, nor is it known when the piano was delivered to Columbus, but it is known that the instrument was there in 1878. It was thought that the piano was later used in the old North Opera House in Columbus.

When Nebraska Public Power District took over the City Auditorium for offices in 1974, the Chickering had to be moved. It was debated long and hard as to what should be done with it. It was finally given to the Platte Campus with the stipulation that it would be restored and put to use by prominent artists. When it is not in use, it is stored backstage in a specially designed enclosure.



Platte Campus vocal music instructor John Putnam puts the Chickering piano through it's paces in preparation for a rehearsal. The piano was donated to the college.

The rebuilding of the piano cost around two thousand dollars, and to have it replaced new would have cost between fifteen and twenty thousand dollars. Some have valued the piano at twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars. The grand old piano, with its ivory keys, is the pride of the music department on the Platte Campus.

PART 6: RAM ROOT DAY

A "Ram Root day" is held each fall at the Hastings Campus. It is an annual competition among learning centers at the campus in such contests as watermelon eating races, sack races, dunking boards, and car stuffing. Highlights of the day's activities are a tug-of-war or a volleyball game played on a prepared "mud court." It is a fun day and a day when students and staff can get acquainted with one another.



Ram Root Day at the Hastings Campus always includes a volleyball game played on a mud court. It's great fun and usually includes someone in a not so popular position in the mud. Oh well, it is fun and everyone enjoys the opportunity to have a good time.

PART 7: PITCH-IN WEEK

Students and staff at the Hastings Campus participated in the "National College Pitch-In-Week" in the Southwestern Region. In 1976, the campus won the one thousand dollar first-place prize award from Anheuser-Busch for their efforts. In 1975, the Hastings Campus received honorable mention. In 1977, the college was awarded a five hundred dollar second-place prize in its region. In 1978, the college did it again and won first-place, receiving the one thousand dollar first-place award.

Pitch-In Week is an annual anti-litter campaign sponsored by Anheuser-Busch and the ABC Radio Network. Colleges across the nation compete for cash awards in their respective geographical regions. Prizes are awarded on the basis of quality and quantity of clean-up projects and also on the documentation of the projects. The award in 1978 was won by groundwork at the House of Yesterday in Hastings, painting and clean-up of Haven Home in Kenesaw, and a major clean-up at Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. The school also received a one hundred dollar scholarship check each year from the local Budweiser distributor, Les Lawless.

PART 8: PRACTICAL NURSING

On February 24, 1984, the largest nursing class ever to graduate from the Platte Campus practical nursing program received diplomas during commencement ceremonies. Program supervisor Mary Lou Holmberg said about thirty of the forty graduates began their studies on a part-time basis through extended curriculum programs offered on the Platte Campus and in Central City.

The extended curriculum program was the first such program in Nebraska, which allowed students to complete about one-half of the requirements for a practical nursing diploma by attending on a part-time basis before integrating with the regular full-time class on-campus.

Ken Wortman was the keynote speaker at the commencement ceremonies on February 24, 1984, in the Platte Campus Fine Arts Theatre, with Dr. Chester H. Gausman and Dr. Joseph W. Preusser assisting in presentation of diplomas.

In 1984, the practical nursing program located in Kearney graduated its fifty-second class at commencement ceremonies held in Kearney. At the same time, capping ceremonies were held for the fifty-fourth practical nursing class in Kearney.

PART 9: ALCOHOL PRODUCTION

The Grand Island Campus was loaned an alcohol still by a distributor in Hebron, Nebraska, in 1980. Marion Kinkade, instructor, and Jim Dutcher, industrial vocational department chairman, completed construction of the still. Workshops were then scheduled to begin in September of 1980. The college had constructed a still previously, and the original still helped train more than three hundred students. With the new plant, data was compiled about type of feedstock, enzymes, yeast, and overall efficiency of operation.

The college entered into an agreement with the Nebraska Gasohol Committee and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, to permit production of alcohol. College classes covered the actual production of alcohol under a controlled situation. The alcohol produced was demonstrated as a fuel in the running of various engines. This particular course at the college was unusual and became very popular in a farmland setting.

PART 10: CLEAN COMMUNITY

On September 14, 1984, the executive coordinator of the Grand Island-Hall County Clean Community System presented to Larry Keller, president of the Grand Island Campus, and to Bob Stroup, supervisor of the physical plant of the Grand Island Campus, the "Business and Industry Award" for September. *

The award is presented to a business or industry which greatly improves or continually maintains high standards in litter reduction, cleanliness, and beautification. Betty Curtis, the executive coordinator, stated that the Grand Island Campus had done an excellent job of landscaping the grounds and had worked very hard in keeping the grounds in good condition. The location of the campus makes it possible for thousands of people to admire the school and well groomed grounds.

The Grand Island-Hall County Clean Community System saluted Bob Stroup and his employees on their continual high standards of cleanliness and beautification.

PART 11: HONORARY DEGREE

An Honorary Associate of Applied Science Degree is one of the highest honors the college can bestow upon an individual. Over the years there have been only five such awards made. The first recipient of this award was United States Senator Carl T. Curtis in 1968. Senator Curtis addressed the first graduating class at the Hastings Campus. In 1969, Paul Hohnstein received this award at the graduation ceremonies on the Hastings Campus. Hohnstein was a charter member of the Board of Governors. In 1970 Ken Wortman, also a charter member of the board, was honored with this award. Wortman has served continuously on the board since its beginning and is still an active board member at the time of this writing. Dr. Chester H. Gausman received this honor at the 1984 graduation ceremonies held on the Hastings Campus. At the April, 1984 meeting of the Board of Governors this coveted award was given to Oriel Kinley who had served as Secretary for the Board of Governors and as Executive Secretary to the College President since the college began in 1966. Both Gausman and Kinley retired from their positions with the college in 1984.



In the photo on the left, author Oriel Kinley receives an Honorary Degree from Dr. Chester H. Gausman at the April 1984 Board of Governors meeting. Looking on is board member, Reverend William Doran. At the right, former Board of Governors member Paul Hohnstein receives his honorary degree from Dr. Gausman during graduation ceremonies at the Hastings Campus in 1969.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

FUTURE OF COLLEGE

A 1971 report prepared by a task force for the United States Department of Education and entitled, "The Need for New Ways of Going to College," is as pertinent today as it was in 1971. It points out the future of education, not only at the four-year level but also, and more importantly, at the two-year college level. The task force report listed six major items as being important in education.

Among those was the recommendation of the creation of a new educational enterprise, an enterprise that would first provide an educational format that was different from the traditional classroom lecture reading format that prevailed in education at that time and still does to this day in many areas.

Secondly, the task force called for a change in the admissions policies, and for instructional methods within educational institutions, primarily college level, which would allow students to drop in and out of college more easily as their needs dictated.

Thirdly, the task force asked for the inclusion in faculties of educational institutions of those practitioners who were outstanding in their jobs, as well as the traditional academician with the traditional teaching characteristics and credentials.

Fourth, the task force recommended that the college should adapt itself to the students, rather than forcing the students to adapt to the institution, and concurrently that the college education should be taken to the student, when feasible, not always requiring the students to come to the institution.

A fifth point of the task force indicated a reduction of the usual college drop-out rate, which has run as much as fifty percent. The aim was to bring that rate down to a bare minimum.

The sixth point of the task force was to bring the knowledge of occupations to a college campus. The task force felt that most young people in college really had no first-hand knowledge of any occupation, except for that of being a student, especially in the traditional student role.

At a convention of school administrators in Philadelphia in 1976, it was brought forward that Central Community College had indeed met many of these objectives. Also, the college had made great progress in meeting other objectives of the task force.

Central Community College uses, as you have read in this book earlier, media-assisted individualized instruction. The college is taking education to the students and we have tailored the college to the needs of the students. Those six objectives are as important today as guidelines for effective progress and will remain equally as important for the guidelines of effective growth and development of higher education in the future.

The post World War II baby boom days that colleges lived under in the 1960's and early 1970's are gone; a college can't simply open its doors and expect to be flooded with students. There has been a sharp decline in eighteen-year-old graduating high school seniors, the traditional student audience for a college. That will continue to occur over the period of time running to as far as 1992. Therefore, colleges, two and four-year alike, are going to have to change many of their perceptions of whom they are serving. Non-traditional students will become more and more important to all levels of educational institutions beyond the high school age. The ability to meet needs of students, be they forty years old, or professionals needing retraining or upgrading of skills, will continue to be of paramount importance to educational institutions of the future.

Central Community College, since 1966, has been extremely successful in meeting the needs of the non-traditional student and following the objectives set forth by that 1971 task force we mentioned earlier to change the traditional mold of an educational institution. The future of Central Community College will continue to rest upon those same objectives and the enhancement of the educational opportunities that the college has available. It will be more important in the years to come that non-traditional students be served. It will become more important that the college take education out to its students. It will become even more important that we allow students to drop-out; this does not refer to students who quit because they can't make the grade, but rather to dropping in and out as being able to come and go from the institution as educational needs and personal situations differ and change. The drop-in and drop-out of students will be of utmost importance to any and all educational institutions in the years to come, especially to institutions like Central Community College.

Some of the objectives that we have mentioned here will obviously be objectives requiring the addition of college facilities - not major comprehensive campuses, but locations with multi-purpose usage and smaller size that can be placed in several communities. These could include permanent facilities under the ownership of the college or they could include the utilization of a public school facility in a community to provide access to postsecondary education.

The future will very definitely require increased usage of media-assisted instruction allowing students to progress independently of each other. The media-assisted instruction also enables education to be taken to smaller groups of students with diverse needs some distance from a campus. The future will hold numerous other changes in the packaging of curriculum, the development of varied course offerings, and enhanced methods of teaching. Gone are the days of presenting each lecture only once in the course of a semester or college year. The future will demand the presentation of that lecture as many times as necessary to meet the needs of students.

Those are the basics on which individualized instruction has been built. Those are the basics upon which individualized instruction, in the years to come, will be the most important advancement to education. That position has been backed up by numerous people in the education field, nationwide, including Kay Patricia Cross, who has served as a

guest lecturer and guest professor in teachers' colleges and universities across this nation. In 1978, Cross said that some form of media-assisted, technologically advanced educational delivery system was going to be the only salvation for postsecondary education in the 80's and 90's in this country.

The future will see an increase in the percentage of jobs available that can be adequately handled by people with two-year degrees. Today some eighty percent of the jobs available can be held by people with two-year degrees.

The future for two-year colleges is bright across the country as well as at Central Community College. The amount of people that can be trained and the jobs that those people can receive will be an important factor in the availability, as well as in the enhancement, of education at Central Community College. The development of high technology in computers, robotics, and electronics is designed around the ability of two-year college trained people to handle these functions. That fact brightens the future for a community college. That future will only be as bright as the allocations and the expenditures to provide equipment, trained instructors, and the availability of those programs in the years to come. If a two-year college chooses to maintain the status quo, they, in fact, will not grow but will find themselves with diminishing enrollments and declining interests on the part of the public. The future holds many challenges. If those challenges for the two-year colleges are not met in an aggressive and eager manner, community college education may well have its problems.

It is a known fact that occupational and technical programs and those programs in high technology are expensive. The cost of equipment far outstrips the costs of a traditional academic style course offering. Today's business and industry, with the advent of highly sophisticated technology, demands that educational institutions, primarily those of the community and technical college ranks, strive for the offerings and the equipment necessary to meet the challenge of providing the job training that will build a greater country. If the necessary funds for facilities, equipment, and instruction are not available, then education is not there. Without education, this country as a whole, and Central Nebraska in particular, will be faced with many economic problems.

An additional need for the future is the development of and focus on innovative curriculum and methods of conveying instruction to students. The college cannot sit idly by and not explore such technological advances as television, video tape, and video disks, to find the most cost-effective method of streamlining instruction. One's imagination and one's willingness to adapt could lead to many more technological advances being utilized to assist qualified staff in education.

The only limitations in the future of Central Community College is the imagination and development abilities of the staff. The willingness of staff to explore new areas, new horizons, and new ideas has been and will continue to be the backbone by which community colleges have grown from obscure institutions to leaders in today's educational areas. Central Community College's willingness to work with industry and to adapt to the needs of business and industry have built a great past and will continue to influence

and enhance the future of this institution in the 1980's, 1990's and beyond the year 2000. What does education hold by the year 2000? One's imagination, is the limitation of where education can be in the year 2000 and beyond. What we now might pass off as pure science fiction might well be the reality of educational technologies of the future.

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