



1961

## History of Moorhead State College

Joseph Kise  
*Moorhead State College*

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HISTORY OF MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE

by

Dr. Joseph Kise

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MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE  
Moorhead, Minnesota

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The state Normal Schools were redesignated as State Teachers Colleges in 1921 when they were authorized to grant the bachelor's degree. Recognizing that the State Teachers Colleges in effect had functioned in the 1930's as general purpose colleges, the State Teachers College Board in 1946 authorized the colleges to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees, as well as the Bachelor of Science degrees which had been designated for teachers. The next step came in 1953 when it was recognized that a fifth year of college work was needed for public school teachers and the Master of Science in Education degree was authorized.

The official step toward recognizing the multi-purpose function of the colleges came in 1957 when the State Legislature redesignated them as State Colleges. Moorhead State College had embarked on a broader curricular pattern in 1946, a trend which has continued with all programs now anchored to the broad foundation of the liberal arts. The Legislature in 1963 authorized the State Colleges to establish Master of Arts programs, and new Master's programs added recently include English, History, Music, Biology, Chemistry and Guidance and Counseling. These are in addition to the Master of Science programs in Elementary Education, Elementary Administration and Supervision and Secondary Education. The Legislature this year authorized the State College Board, after 1957, to approve selected programs for the Ph. D. degree.

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(A summary history written c. 1969 for general publicity purposes.)

HISTORY OF MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE  
By  
Dr. Joseph King

*AKW*

**MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE**

Moorhead, Minnesota

June, 1967

H I S T O R Y

Opened for instruction in 1888 as a normal school to educate public school teachers, Moorhead State College in its 80 years as a public institution of higher education has changed, as the needs of a changing society have dictated, into a multi-purpose liberal arts college. Although the education of teachers continues to be a major function, the college, for many years, has recognized a responsibility to prepare students for other professions as well.

The state Normal Schools were redesignated as State Teachers Colleges in 1921 when they were authorized to grant the bachelor's degree. Recognizing that the State Teachers Colleges in effect had functioned in the 1930's as general purpose colleges, the State Teachers College Board in 1946 authorized the colleges to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees, as well as the Bachelor of Science degrees which had been designated for teachers. The next step came in 1953 when it was recognized that a fifth year of college work was needed for public school teachers and the Master of Science in Education degree was authorized.

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# HISTORY OF MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE

by  
Dr. Joseph Kise

*[Written c. 1961; see 5<sup>th</sup> line of p. 45.]*

## Legal History of State Colleges

*Some notes and materials added later by various hands; see p. 31a, e.g. 24*

### Early Schools in Minnesota

The early pioneers in Minnesota were well aware of the importance of education for their children. After the Minnesota Territory was organized in 1849, the legislature passed a law to establish and maintain common schools. It authorized a tax to raise funds to pay teachers, and each school district was allowed to levy taxes for a school building.

### The Enabling Act

The Congressional Act authorizing a state government for Minnesota provided that the convention called for drafting a state constitution should vote to accept or reject the following proposal:

"That sections numbered sixteen and thirty-six in every township of public lands in said state---shall be granted to said state for the use of schools."

### The State Constitution

The state constitution adopted in 1858 provided that "The Legislature shall make such provisions, by taxation or otherwise, as, with the income arising from the school fund, will secure a thorough and efficient system of public schools in each township in the state."

### The Normal Schools

Recognizing the need to have qualified teachers for the schools, the State Legislature, during the first session in 1858, made provision for three state normal schools. One was established at Winona in 1860, one at Mankato in 1868, and one at St. Cloud in 1869.



## MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE

### Act for Establishment

On March 5, 1885, the State Legislature passed a law establishing a Normal School at Moorhead.

### The Act

Section 1. There shall be established, under the direction and supervision of the State normal school board, at the city of Moorhead, a normal school, to be known as the state normal school at Moorhead; Provided, said city shall donate to the state a suitable tract of not less than six (6) acres of land, to be approved by the normal school board for the location, use and benefit of said school within eighteen (18) months from the passage of this act; Provided further, that no money shall be appropriated for the erection of buildings for said school until the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven (1887).

Section 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

### Comstock Donates Site

Mr. S. G. Comstock, a senator from the legislative district which included Moorhead, met the condition set by the Legislature by the donation of six acres of land for the establishment of the normal school. The 1887 State Legislature thereupon appropriated \$60,000 for the erection of a building and \$5,000 for the current expenses for maintaining the school. The construction of the building was begun in 1887 and completed in the fall of 1888.

Among the writings of S. G. Comstock, the following statement is found:

While a member of the State Senate about 1885, It struck me that a Normal school would be a fine thing for the Red River country and especially for Moorhead. To that end I introduced a bill in the Senate establishing such a school here if the city would provide a site of six acres. Very shortly after my bill came before the Senate Committee, Crookston offered a similar bill offering a site and \$5,000 cash. Polk County had a very able senator so I had a most ticklish job on hand. There was much opposition to Normal Schools in the State. There was no possibility of getting two. Providence favored Moorhead. The Crookston bill fell by the way-side and one of the best schools in the State fell to our lot. Perhaps it should be recorded that Moorhead, since my bill promised a site of six acres should be donated the State, left for me to make the donation. This I did and at the next session got the appropriation for the Main Building.

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## First Registration

Registration for the first class was conducted August 29, 1888, when 29 students appeared to enroll. However, within a month 42 students had registered. Before the end of the year 97 students had enrolled. Since not all of the students were high school graduates, some sub-collegiate courses were offered. Tuition was free to all students who promised to teach two years in Minnesota.

A faculty of five including Dr. Livingston C. Lord, the first president of the Normal School, greeted the students. The other faculty members were John Paul Goode, science; Miss McClintock, music and history; Miss Clark, English and literature; Miss Ford, algebra and Latin.

The State Legislature appropriated \$5,000 for the running expenses of the college for the first year. Dr. Lord was paid a salary of \$2,500, the teachers \$800, and the directors \$1,200. The appropriation for current expenses was increased to \$19,000 by 1899, to \$39,500 by 1907, and to \$80,000 by 1916.

Since there was no dormitory, the girl students and some faculty members were provided room and board at the Bishop Whipple School. This school was established by a local group of Episcopalians. It was sold to the Northwestern Lutheran College Association in 1891 which at that time was looking for a suitable location for the proposed Concordia College.

Among the first group of students to enroll were Charles Loring, later Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court; Mrs. Thomas A. Stack, nee Edla H. C. Hallenberg, still residing (1961) in Moorhead; Mrs. Charles Loring, nee Bertha F. Dardow; Ella Gedney who later became Mrs. Leslie Walter; and Mrs. C. B. Gesell, nee Nellie J. Probstfield whose son, Ray Gesell, a former state representative, lives on a farm north of Moorhead. The first class was graduated in 1890.



Articles appearing in the March 9, 1945, issue of the Mistic:

### Class of 1890

As a member of the first graduating class of 1890, composed of ten students, Mrs. Leslie Welter, Sr., nee Ella Gedney, remembers many interesting facts.

At that time, the one main building was completed, but much of the equipment and furnishings had to be supplied later. This lone structure was isolated on the prairie, far removed from other dwellings. The Bishop Whipple School, which later was purchased by Concordia College, was used as the girls dormitory.

Mrs. Welter now enjoys many a laugh when she recalls the daily trips made from the dormitory to the Normal. The distance of seven or eight blocks had to be made on foot, regardless of the elements. Across the unbroken prairie, the wind had full sway, and in the winter, drifts six or seven feet high had to be negotiated. During the spring thaw and fall rains, the Red River Valley gumbo was another hazard for no sidewalks, streetcars, or commercial vehicles were available.

Charles Loring, the present Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, used to ride in five miles from the farm, on his pony. He was continuously praised by President Lord for making this effort, and he and his pony were the envy of the girls who used to say, "My kingdom for a horse." Occasionally some kind citizens would delight the girls by giving them a short ride in their double seated surray or sleigh.

Athletics were unheard of, and the students received their exercise through marching. Mrs. Welter played for the marching, and she oftentimes wonders why someone didn't "hit her over the head" for she played the same march day after day.

Public speaking played an important part in the education of that day. One especially amusing incident occurred when Ethel Lord, the President's daughter, became

stage struck and jumped right off the platform only to be ordered by her father to immediately return and finish her oration.

Wonderful inventions took place in those pioneer days too. Excitement ran high on evenings during this year, when all the inhabitants of this locality were asked to look at the water tower at a specified hour when the electric lights would be turned on for the first time.

Ella Gedney did not accept a teaching position, for she married Alderman Welter, and both Mr. and Mrs. Welter are active citizens of Moorhead, residing at 430 Ninth street south.

#### Class of 1891

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Edla H. C. Hallenberg of the class of 1891 is now Mrs. Thomas D. Stack who resides at 616 Ninth Street South, Moorhead. There were just two other girls who graduated in her class, namely Bertha F. Dardow (Mrs. Chas. Loring, deceased) and Martha Cruikshank.

Although Edla Hallenberg's home was in Fargo, it was necessary for her to live in Moorhead, due to lack of any form of commercial transportation. In her daily walks at the present time, Mrs. Stack enjoys walking past her former rooming places, picking out the windows in her rooms, and visualizing them as they were over fifty years ago. She, like Mrs. Welter, roomed at the dormitory, but she also stayed "off-campus" and had a room in the Brigg's home, which is now occupied by Dr. Hagen at 403 Eighth Street South.

These three graduates of the class of 1891 decided upon their own type of graduation gowns. All wore black net dresses, but each chose a different colored silk dress to wear underneath. The photographs of these girls are in the exhibit, and the style of their gowns, and of their hair arrangements would be quite in keeping with our co-eds today.

Mrs. Stack recalled the difficulties in getting between the dormitory and the main building. She says that the students of today know nothing about the hardships encountered in the pioneering days of our school's history.

Mrs. Stack presented the school with her large diploma which was signed by President L. C. Lord and Governor William Merriam. She also gave the school her life certificate to teach in the State of Minnesota and the letter which President Lord wrote to her when she received the certificate. At that time, a graduate had to complete two years of successful teaching and pass an examination before the certificate was issued. She is especially proud of the letter for it is in President Lord's handwriting. The school is very grateful to receive these certificates from Edla Hallenberg Stack.



This article was written by Dr. Edwin T. <sup>Reed</sup> ~~Reeder~~ in 1911.

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## ATHLETICS

Among student activities, athletics has always been a leading interest, fostered alike by faculty encouragement and student enthusiasm. Baseball was the first sport to enlist attention, but football took root in the normal school as early as in any of the schools of this region. In the course of the twenty-four years since the school opened it has entertained nearly all types of athletic sport common to secondary schools--baseball, football, basketball, indoor baseball, tennis, military drill, outdoor field day, indoor field day, and field and track meet. The Athletic Association was organized as early as 1898. Under its direction various forms of athletic work began. Football started in the fall of 1899. Basketball in 1901, even before the school had gymnasium facilities to play the game, the students, both boys and girls, walking to Fargo to practice at the Y. M. C. A. A big field meet between the normal and high school, comprising baseball, tennis, and the usual feats of strength and skill, was made a gala day in the spring of 1901, the normal winning 213 points against the high school's 57.

The school has had winning teams, at different times, in one or another of the three leading sports, baseball, football, and basketball, that have not only aroused the loyal enthusiasm of the students but have brought distinction to the school. The first football team which the school ever organized, for instance, in the fall of 1899, had a brilliant career. Although losing games to the Fergus Falls high school, The University of North Dakota, and the first of two games to the N. D. Agricultural College, this team won from both the Fargo and Moorhead high schools, Fargo College, and the Valley City Normal school, and in the last game of the season, on Thanksgiving day, defeated the N. D. Agricultural College at Fargo, in the second of two contests. This last game decided the championship of Moorhead and Fargo, giving the honors without dispute to the

Moorhead Normal. The records of the complete schedule of games for the two succeeding years, 1900 and 1901, will illustrate the type of contests that the school engaged in, as well as the comparative prowess of our athletes. These teams had the loyal support of the students; and school spirit never ran higher than during these two and the two succeeding years.

The normal's record in these contests is distinctly high class. Its total score compared with opponents means exactly what it says. The normal boys were skillful and aggressive players. The question naturally arises, "Why are we not meeting these opposing teams on the same terms today"? The answer is a bit complex. It involves not only the matter of the decline in the percentage of boys in attendance at all normal schools, ours among the number, but the more immediate matter of the development of the two leading colleges in Fargo from pioneer conditions to flourishing institutions of their class. But the real reason for the change is almost exclusively a matter of coaching. While volunteer coaching was the practice in all the institutions of the region, the normal held its own with the best of them. When paid coaches were attached to the faculties of the institutions we were competing with, our athletic achievements immediately declined, in comparison. They have never rallied. Even though we have abandoned football altogether, and centered our attention almost exclusively on basketball, we have not sustained the records of ten or twelve years ago. For the past two or three years we have had fine material for a winning team in basketball, under splendid business management; but for want of practical coaching the team has made only a creditable showing.

Last spring, 1911, we experienced a stimulating revival of baseball, which will doubtless be a live issue next spring. There is a pretty firm conviction, however, among those interested in athletics at the normal, that we shall get the largest benefits from our

athletics for men only when we have a man as athletic director, one who is an all-around athlete and practical coach; one, in short, who has "played the game".

No. Graduates (1890 to 1917)

Year	No. Students Enrolled	Advanced	Elem. High School	Class of Grad.	Total
1890	102	2	—	2	4
1891	134	7	—	5	12
1892	289	15	37	28	70
1893	347	37	61	17	95
1894	721	25	24	50	129
1895	777	35	54	45	134
1896	817	37	73	59	139
1897	828	24	72	50	136
1898	912	34	15	56	116
1899	970	31	—	52	137
1900	2,045	106	—	—	—
1901	2,085	118	—	12	130
	<u>8,113</u>				<u>1,215</u>

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No. Graduates (1890 to 1917)

Year	No. Students Enrolled	Advanced	Elem. High School	Elem. 3 Year	Total
1890	102	6	—	2	8
1895	134	7	—	5	12
1900	285	13	37	28	78
1904	349	37	44	17	98
1908	721	25	54	50	129
1910	777	25	58	45	128
1911	817	25	75	59	159
1912	828	24	72	30	126
1913	982	34	46	36	116
1914	990	51	54	32	137
1916	1,045	106	—	12	134
1917	1,083	118	—	12	130
	<u>8,113</u>				<u>1,255</u>

## STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

The State Normal School at Moorhead has 18 acres of ground. The original normal school site consisted of six acres, which was donated to the state by Honorable S. G. Comstock. In 1912, twelve acres additional were acquired by purchase at a cost of \$12,000. Trees have been planted on the original site, and the campus is in excellent condition. Six acres of the recently acquired ground is used as a school garden; another portion of the ground is used as an athletic field, and a new class room building has recently been constructed directly opposite the main building. In this building will be accommodated the departments of manual arts, physical, chemical, and biological sciences. There is also in the new building a commodious and beautiful auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,200.

The normal school offers courses of study leading to an elementary diploma, an advanced or life diploma, and to special diplomas in manual arts and music.

The enrollment in all courses in the normal department of the school for the year 1916 exceeds 1000 students; and the enrollment in the elementary school, connected with the normal school, exceeds 300 students, making a total of nearly 1400.

Tuition is free to all students who expect to teach school in Minnesota.

Since 1899 Frank A. Weld has been president of the Moorhead Normal, and Leslie Welter is the resident director and member of the Normal School Board of the state.

Clay County Illustrated  
Published at Moorhead, Minnesota  
March, 1916

## THE NORMAL IN WAR TIMES. (W. W. I)

The Normal school has been full abreast of the times in the bustle of preparation of our country for the entrance into the Great War where the future of democratic institutions is at stake. Soon after war was declared between the United States and Germany, the following young men from the school offered their services to their country and were accepted: Of the faculty---Arthur Johnson, Moorhead, aviation corps; Wallace Rusness, Moorhead, officers' reserve; of the students---Perry Johnson, Moorhead, aviation corps, John Schrader, Perham, officers' reserve; Arthur Storms, Menahga, cavalry; Vernon Lucas, St. Vincent, aviation corps; Edgar Wright, Moorhead; Clarence Engh, Moorhead; William Curran, Moorhead; Edward Stafne, Abercrombie; and Douglas Seaver, Felton.

When the war struck this country, the normal had already organized an institution which brings succor to the suffering which will result from the struggle--the Red Cross. This society, which is an auxiliary of the Moorhead Red Cross chapter, has been organized by the young women of the school. All of the young women belong to the school organization, and, upon the payment of a one dollar fee, become members also of the National Red Cross Society. The society is administered by an executive board of seven students and five members of the faculty. Classes in first aid, home nursing, knitting and plain sewing are conducted. When the call came from the national society for one hundred million dollars, the school responded nobly, contributing nine hundred thirteen dollars and ninety cents, as follows: Faculty, \$387; senior class of 1917, \$200, and summer term students of 1917, \$326.90.

(The foregoing article was taken from "History of Clay and Norman Counties" Volume I by Turner and Semling.)

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From Dr. Frank A. Weld's Address

Oct. 24, 1931

Laying of Cornerstone, MacLean Hall

"This college was the first teachers college in Minnesota to emphasize the importance of a well established Department of English; it was first to establish a Department of Reading and Expression; first to employ a teacher of Physical Education, a Dean of Women, a Resident nurse; first to publish a college paper; first to establish affiliated relation with rural schools to emphasize the importance of that work through practical applications, student teaching, and supervision; first to make request for legislative appropriation to build an Elementary School building; first to graduate students from a three-year curriculum; and it was one of two colleges, first to graduate students from a four-year curriculum leading to a degree."

## Stained Windows

At the rear of the stage in Weld Hall Auditorium are stained glass windows which portray three characters symbolic of Self Sacrifice, Service, and Undying Loyalty. The heroic mold of the figures, the rich antiquity of the costumes and the soft brilliancy of color combine to make these windows an inspiration to all who view them.

When Weld Hall was first built, the intention was to use the building only for music and art. Dr. Frank A. Weld, who was president at the time and who was much interested in art, asked Miss Mary Brumby, Art instructor, to develop ideas for three stained glass windows to be placed at the rear of the stage. Miss Brumby, using students as her models, began work upon the designs for the windows in 1920. She left the College in 1921 without completing the work. Nothing more was done until Dr. O. M. Dickerson succeeded Dr. Frank A. Weld as president. In order to continue with plans for the windows, Dr. Dickerson asked Miss Brumby to complete the designs she had started. When she had done so, the project was completed. The graduating classes of 1915-1916 and 1919-1920 contributed money to finance the installation of the windows which are dedicated to men and women of Moorhead State Teachers College who served in the First World War.

(This article was copied from the March 9, 1945, issue of The Western Mystic.)

## Official Seal

The Official Seal of the College was adopted by the Administration in March, 1931. The fire of February 9, 1930, had destroyed the Old Main. The graduating class of 1931 was anxious to have incorporated into the Official Seal of the College a combination of the old and new traditions of their alma mater. It was suggested that the gothic arches of the Old Main which were still standing be used as the background of the seal. On the three arches were inscribed the three words--Sacrifice, Service, Loyalty---, used on the stained glass windows fronting the auditorium of Weld Hall.

The members of the Art class were asked to draw a design that would fittingly present these ideas. The design drawn by Hannah Hokkenson was accepted as the one most appropriate. The College Seal was accepted by the Class of 1931 as the insignia to be used thereafter on the college ring. This ring is still the official ring of the college worn by a number of the persons who graduated from the institution during that period.

(The foregoing article appeared in the March 9, 1945, issue of The Western Mystic.)

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## The College During World War II

The College made considerable contribution to the military forces during World War II. Not only did many of the college men participate in the military service, but the College played a part in training men for the Army Air Corps.

On March 29, 1943, the first contingent of Army Aircrew students arrived at the College. They were housed in Wheeler and Comstock Halls. The training period at the College lasted for a period of 22 weeks. The group sent here was designated the 346th College Training Detachment. From March, 1943, to June 3, 1944; 1,650 aircrew men were trained at the College.

Additional faculty members had to be added to the College because the teacher education program was carried on. The students, mostly girls, found rooming places in Moorhead homes. Twenty-one of the regular faculty members helped to administer the Army Air Corps program or to teach the classes. By 1943, 19 new faculty members had been added.

The following Article appeared in "The Bulletin" issued by the College in June, 1943.

### STUDENTS IN MILITARY SERVICE

The College is proud of the record of the alumni and former students who are in military service. Even before war was declared, the College was feeling the impact of the emergency on the enrollment of men students. In February, 1940, Lieutenant-Colonel Alex Nemzek and thirty-seven students who were in Battery F of the National Guard were called into service. They were sent to Camp Haan, California, to form the nucleus of a new training program.

Since that time a great many of the alumni, faculty, and students have enlisted and been inducted into the armed forces. It is impossible to keep up with the enlistments and inductions

that occur each month, but there are at present at least three hundred men in active military service in this country and foreign countries.

These men are in all branches of the service. The College is represented in the Army, the Navy, the Marines, the Coast Guard, and the Seabees. The men are taking part in action in North Africa, England, Alaska, Australia, and the Pacific.

That the men of the College are serving with distinction is evidenced by the fact that twenty-four of the men who left with Battery F have received commissions. Likewise, over seventy-five of the three hundred men of whom we have record have become commissioned officers.

Several of the women students have enlisted in the auxiliary corps. The WAVES and the WAACS have representatives of the College in their groups. Some of these women have already become commissioned officers.

In recognition of the students of the College who are in military service, an honor roll memorial was dedicated on May 5. The memorial was presented to the College by the Student Commission. Witnessing the ceremonies in addition to the student body were the Aircrew students, veterans of the first World War, and members of the American Legion. The memorial has been placed in MacLean Hall.

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The Graduate Program  
by  
Dr. Byron Murray, Director

In the spring of 1953 the state colleges (then state teachers colleges) were authorized by the State Legislature to establish a fifth year of college preparation for teaching and to award the degree, master of science in education, to those who would fulfill all requirements. Programs were begun for elementary teachers, elementary administrators, and secondary teachers in the various areas.

In the summer of 1954 there were thirty-nine enrolled for graduate work, and by 1961, one hundred thirty in the first session of the summer school. More than four hundred fifty are listed in the active files as pursuing graduate work at sometime in the year. Courses are offered in the evenings and on Saturday as well as during the day in the regular year, and many more in the summer sessions.

Salary schedules in many schools provide increased salaries for those who have completed a fifth year of study, and an additional increment for those who have earned master's degree. The number who have been granted master's degrees is not large as yet, but it is growing each year. Most students in the graduate program are teachers who are employed in the college area.

The program is under the direction of the Graduate Council, which acts as the executive body for the Graduate Faculty. Departments have been recognized for graduate study as soon as they were able to provide appropriate courses and faculty members with predominantly doctor's degrees. Library facilities are being built up to make possible the kind of study and investigation involved in graduate work.



## OBJECTIVES OF TEACHER EDUCATION

### History Of The College

(Taken from the Report to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education)

The Moorhead State College was authorized in 1885 and opened for instruction in 1889 as a normal school for the purpose of educating teachers for the public schools of the state. From that time to this, one of the primary functions of the institution has been the education of teachers. However, curricular changes have reflected the demands of the public both for a more adequate and comprehensive preparation of teachers for the various levels of public school work and for educational programs for those who want a college education and do not want to become teachers.

As a normal school the service of the College was restricted mainly to the education of elementary teachers, since schools until late in the first quarter of this century were chiefly rural and urban elementary in character. As the tempo in the establishment of high schools increased, a further demand was made on the institution, namely, that of providing high school teachers. In 1921 the state by legislative enactment redesignated the normal schools as state teachers colleges, authorizing the awarding of bachelor's degrees, and specified that they were to be equipped for the education of teachers from the kindergarten through high school.

In 1946, the State Teachers College Board authorized the granting of the bachelor of arts degree in addition <sup>to</sup> of the bachelor of science degree. This action came about as a result of the need of providing higher education for the increased number of young people in the state who do not choose teaching as a career.

In 1953 the legislature recognized the need of a fifth year curriculum for teacher education in the public schools, and through the action of the State Teachers <sup>College</sup> Board, the colleges were authorized to offer the degree of Master of Science in Education. How great the demand

was, is indicated by the fact that 47 students in the Moorhead summer session of 1952 had their degrees and were enrolled for post graduate work, even though the College could offer no advanced degree.

In 1957, the State Legislature authorized the change in the names of the State Teachers Colleges to State Colleges. The change in name brought no profound changes in the educational programs already established, but it helped to define more clearly the several functions of the school. The teacher-education program continues to be of primary concern, but as a state college other educational programs are recognized as significant functions of the college. The provision for liberal education, vocational and professional education in fields other than teaching, and cultural and educational leadership for the people in the area are now also accepted as purposes of the college.

For several years the college has extended its educational programs to the people in the surrounding area by a selective use of faculty personnel and campus and community facilities. Some of the educational and cultural leadership that the college continues to provide are: adult education classes; leadership in civic and religious groups; faculty organized conferences and Institutes for teachers and other professional groups, such as lawyers, bankers, and doctors; art exhibits of regional and national importance open to the community; fine arts programs; concerts and recitals; and consultant services by the faculty to lay and professional groups.

Dr. Livingston C. Lord (1851-1933)

(1888 to 1899)

Dr. Livingston C. Lord received his early schooling in the state of Connecticut. He earned the degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Illinois in 1904, and A. M. from Harvard in 1912, and later the Doctorate of Education from Miami University.

Dr. Lord came to Minnesota in 1874, accepting a position as principal of a five room school at Winnebago City. After three years, he became principal of the Union School at Mankato. As superintendent of schools at St. Peter, he earned a reputation as a great educator. In 1888 he became President of the new Moorhead State Normal School and served until 1899 when he was called to the presidency of the Eastern Illinois State Teachers College. He occupied this position until his death May 15, 1933.

At the cornerstone laying of MacLean Hall in 1931, Dr. Lord returned to Moorhead to be the main speaker. He visited the College again in the fall of 1932 as a convocation speaker.

The following statement is taken from the Golden Anniversary Praeceptor (1937):

All who knew Dr. Lord, and particularly those who came under his influence at the Moorhead Normal, testify to the inspiring nature of the man, his unremitting energy, his strict attention to the business at hand and his insistence upon the same attention in others. "You could have heard a pin drop," early graduates say of the daily chapels which he conducted. But he was a friend to all, and his influence comprehended not only the Normal School, but the state as well. No history of education in Minnesota is complete without reference to this fine scholar and cultured gentleman.

During those first few years the school grew rapidly, and by 1896 there were 329 students. At that time sub-collegiate courses were offered, and most students were not graduates of high schools.

Dr. and Mrs. Lord had three children--Frank, Ethel, and Inez.



Frank A. Weld (1858-1933)

(1899 to 1919)

Dr. Frank A. Weld was born in Maine and came to Minnesota as a teacher in 1882. He first prepared himself for a career as an actor but later was persuaded by his parents to enter the profession of teaching.

Dr. Weld served as superintendent of schools at Zumbrota for five years and five and one-half years at Fergus Falls. He resigned his position at Fergus Falls to become the north-western manager of the D. C. Heath publishing company. Later he again entered the teaching profession as superintendent of the public schools at Stillwater. He was also employed to supervise the education of the inmates at the state prison located in that city.

Resigning as President of the college in 1919, he accepted the presidency of the "School of Education" publication of Minneapolis. Later he became editor of the "School Executive" magazine. He held this position until his death in 1933.

It is interesting to note that S. G. Comstock, Livingston Lord, and Frank A. Weld, the three men who were largely responsible for the founding and growth of the College during its first thirty years, all died in 1933.

During his tenure at the college, the faculty increased from 15 to 40 members, two additions were added to the Main Building, Comstock Hall and Weld Hall were built, the 25th anniversary was observed in 1913, from the student body 80 men enlisted in the service, and the first Praeceptor was published in 1916.

Oliver M. Dickerson

*June 20,*

(January 1920 to 1923)

(Assumed office March 1, 1920)

Dr. Dickerson was graduated from the Illinois State normal in 1899. In 1901 he entered the University of Illinois where he obtained three degrees--A. B., M., and Ph. D.

In 1906 Dr. Dickerson was elected head of the Department of History at Western Illinois State Normal at Macomb, Illinois. In 1908 he did research work in Europe on background of American Colonial History. On his return to the United States he became the head of the History Department at Winona State Normal. He was commissioned a captain in World War I and discharged after the war as a major.

Dr. Dickerson was elected President of the Moorhead Normal School in January 1920 and left in 1923 to accept a position as head of the Social Science Department at Colorado State College, Greeley, Colorado.

During the period which Dr. Dickerson was President, the name of the Normal School was changed to Moorhead State Teachers College.

Dr. Dickerson is the author of a number of textbooks in the field of social science.

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Dr. Ray Butts MacLean

(1923 to 1941)

Ray B. MacLean was a native of Wisconsin. Before coming to Minnesota, he taught rural school in his native state. He was graduated from Hamline University with the degree of Ph. B., and later earned an M. A. from the University of Minnesota. He was awarded an honorary degree of Ph. D. from Hamline in 1935.

Dr. MacLean served as superintendent of schools at Appleton, Minn.; Prescott, Wisconsin; and in the following Minnesota cities---Dodge Center, Wheaton, and Fergus Falls. He was well known throughout the state before becoming President of Moorhead State Teachers College because from 1913 to 1923 he was a member of the State Department of Education as State Director of Elementary Schools.

In 1925 Dr. MacLean was president of the Minnesota Education Association. He is a past president of the Moorhead Kiwanis Club.

He was co-author of two books: "Voices and Verse" and "Elementary Citizenship for Minnesota Schools". A daughter, Francis, now Mrs. Robert B. Featherstone, resides at 529 West Cavour Avenue, Fergus Falls. He died in 1947.

During the years while Dr. MacLean was president of the College, the first student was graduated from the four year curriculum in <sup>(1926) (BPM)</sup> 1928, sub-collegiate courses were dropped in 1924, MacLean Hall, the training school, and the Physical Education building were erected, land south of the Main Building was purchased in 1924 for the Memorial Field, the first edition of the Mystic was issued in 1925, and in 1932 MacLean Hall was dedicated.



Dr. O. W. Snarr

(1941 to 1955)

Dr. O. W. Snarr came to the College as President almost on the eve of World War II in the fall of 1941. He served the college as President for fourteen years.

Dr. Snarr was born in West Virginia. He obtained his A. B. degree from the West Virginia University and his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Chicago.

After teaching rural and public school in his native state, Dr. Snarr served as acting professor of education at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He came to Minnesota in 1920 to accept the position of director of professional education at Mankato State Teachers College. He served in this capacity until 1941 when he was elected president of the Moorhead State Teachers College.

While Dr. Snarr was president, the College was accepted for membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Ballard Hall was dedicated in 1949, and an appropriation of \$240,000 was made by the Legislature for an addition to Weld Hall. General education courses were initiated in the first two years of college work. MacLean Hall was reconstructed to make it more practical for the use of students and the college personnel.

Dr. and Mrs. Snarr are now residing at Romney, West Virginia. They have two children, one a son, Dr. O. W. Snarr, Jr., ~~Assistant Dean of Adult Education, University of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska,~~ <sup>Proctor, Ill.</sup> and a daughter, Mrs. Clifford Gunsalus, nee Gwen Snarr, who resides at 2064 Lenwood Drive, Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. A. L. Knoblauch

(1955-1958)

Dr. A. L. Knoblauch, a native of Blisseld, Michigan, was selected from a large number of applicants to become President of Moorhead State Teachers College in 1955. The State Teachers College Board in cooperation with a committee of our faculty did a good deal of screening before making a selection. But after the screening process, the Board and the faculty committee unanimously agreed that Dr. Knoblauch was the man for the position.

Dr. Knoblauch has had a varied background: he was teacher and principal at the public schools in Buchanan, Michigan, and, later he served as Superintendent of Schools at Cassopolis, Michigan, from 1935-1939. Dr. Knoblauch served as Executive Secretary of the Connecticut faculty and of the Connecticut Educational Association in 1940-41.

Prior to coming to Moorhead, Dr. Knoblauch had served in an administrative position at the University of Connecticut. He has his bachelor's degree from Michigan State, masters from the University of Michigan, and doctor's degree from Harvard University. Immediately prior to coming to Moorhead, he served as a Fulbright lecturer at the State Education College for Teachers at Rangoon, Burma.

In the summer of 1958 he left the College to become president of the Western Illinois University at Macomb, Illinois.

During his three years at the College, notable expansion took place both in the building and academic programs. The Weld Hall Addition was completed and Dahl Hall was ready for occupancy the following September.

The State Legislature in 1957 appropriated:

1. \$1,462, 500 for a Field House, Nemzek Hall, Stadium, and Physical Education Building, plus \$150,000 for field development.
2. \$550,000 for a Power Plant.

3. \$905,000 for a Library and Audio-Visual Center.

4. \$74,000 for an architects' design for a Science and Industrial Arts Building.

5. *\_\_\_\_\_ acres added to campus*

Dr. Knoblauch, however, was interested not only in the expansion of the physical plant of the institution, he was deeply concerned with the academic program. During his three years at the College the following additions to this program are noted:

1. A major and minor in Psychology.
2. A department of Audio-Visual ~~Art~~ Education.
3. A minor in Special Education to prepare teachers for the handicapped.
4. Areas of Concentration for elementary majors.
5. Six programs in the field of Business Administration plus a major and minor in Business Education.
6. Additional minors in several departments.

Changes also took place in relation to the faculty:

1. The number of faculty members, including administrative personnel, increased from 74 to 89.
2. Faculty members with earned doctor's degrees increased from 24 to 35--almost a 50 per cent increase.
3. The salaries of the faculty members were increased.
4. Professional ranking was instituted.

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Dr. John J. Neumaier

(1958 to 1964)

Dr. Neumaier was born in Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, on October 30, 1921 the son of Otto Neumaier (an importer and exporter of grain and flour, since deceased) and Lenore Schwarz-Neumaier (opera singer, also deceased).

Dr. Neumaier received elementary school and "Real Gymnasium" schooling in Frankfort, and attended schools in Lausanne, Switzerland; Milan, Italy; and Bedfordshire, England, from 1935 to 1939. He came to the United States in 1940 and became an American citizen in 1943.

From 1943-46, Dr. Neumaier served in the United States Army, the last year assigned to the Provost Marshal General's office in connection with a classified re-education project for German prisoners of war.

As a student at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Neumaier received the B. A. degree (Magna Cum Laude) and the Ph. D. degree (1954), majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Sociology. He was an instructor at the University of Minnesota from 1947 to 1951, after which he became an instructor of sociology and philosophy at Hibbing Junior College and instructor in the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota (1951-55).

In 1955, Dr. Neumaier accepted the position of Dean of Hibbing Junior College and served in that position from 1955 until July of 1958. In that year, he was appointed to the presidency of Moorhead State College, a position he has held since that time.

In 1944, Dr. Neumaier married Virginia May Bratman, then a student at the University of Minnesota. The Neumaier family has three children, a boy, Roger, now eleven years old, and a girl, Diane, fifteen. Both are students at the Moorhead State College Campus School. The third child, John Fredric, was born June 23, 1961.

President Neumaier holds membership in various professional organizations including the American Philosophical Society. He was recently appointed by Governor Andersen as a member of the Governor's Human Rights Commission.

During the three years that Dr. Neumaier has been the College President:

1. Dahl Hall was occupied in the fall of 1958 and dedicated February 7, 1959.
2. Nemzek Hall was erected and the first basketball game was played in this building February 3, 1960, with an attendance of 3,800 persons.
3. Ground was broken for the Livingston Lord Library on April 1, 1959, and dedicated May 12, 1961.
4. A Science and Industrial Arts building is under construction, to be completed by January 1, 1962.
5. Contracts are to be awarded in the near future for a Food Service Center to cost \$475,000 and a men's dormitory \$405,000. Completion date is expected in the fall of 1962.
6. The 1961 Legislature appropriated \$375,000 for the remodeling of MacLean Hall.
7. The college was accredited for graduate work, granting the degree of Master of Science in Education, by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; was accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education for the preparation of elementary principals with the master's degree as the highest degree, ~~or a~~ <sup>Graduates</sup> ~~master's degree~~ from the College were made eligible for membership in the American Association of University Women.
8. A new X-Ray curriculum was added in 1959 in cooperation with eleven hospitals in Minnesota and North Dakota.

The following majors and minors have been added to the academic program:

Majors

Accounting  
Chemistry  
Finance Management  
French  
Marketing  
Physics  
Political Science  
Speech

Minors

Audio-Visual Education  
Business Administration  
Economics  
German  
Sociology  
Piano  
Physical Education

9. The College enrollment has increased 64 per cent.

10. The Alumni Association has been reactivated and revitalized.

11. Definite steps have been taken to obtain a Student Center.

Dr. Roland Dille was born near Dassel, Minnesota, in 1924. He served in the army infantry in Europe during World War II. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1946. He was elected a member of the Beta Kappa. After teaching at Dassel High School for 2 years, he came to Moorhead State College in 1948 as an assistant professor of English. In 1954 he was named associate academic dean, and in 1957 became academic dean. In 1958 he became the eighth president of Moorhead State College.

Dr. Dille is immediate past president of the Association of Minnesota Colleges and is a member of the Board of Directors of KFME-TV. He was a member of the Commission on Institutions of the North Central Association and is the only Dilean representative of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

His book, Four Romantic Poets, was published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

September, 1970

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

1968-

Dr. Roland Dille was born near Dassel, Minnesota, in 1924. He attended the Dassel Public Schools and, after serving in the army infantry in Europe during World War II, he graduated from the University of Minnesota. He earned his bachelor of arts degree, summa cum laude, and was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After teaching at Dassel High School for a year, he returned to the University, where he earned his Ph.D., specializing in modern British literature.

He has taught at the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, and California Lutheran College. He came to Moorhead State College in 1963 as an assistant professor of English. In 1966 he was named associate academic dean, and he became academic dean in 1967. In 1968 he became the eighth president of Moorhead State College.

Dr. Dille is immediate past president of the Association of Minnesota Colleges and is a member of the Board of Directors of KFME-TV. He is a member of the Commission on Institutions of the North Central Association and is the state liaison representative of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

His book, Four Romantic Poets, was published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

September, 1970

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Thomas C. Kurtz

Resident Director--(1889-1892)

Appointed By Governor A. R. McGill

Thomas C. Kurtz has the distinction of being the first resident director of the Moorhead State Normal School. He resigned soon after his appointment to a second term.

Mr. Kurtz was a construction engineer who helped build the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was a brother of Dr. John Kurtz, the first physician in Moorhead. A sister, Mary, was the first wife of B. F. Mackall, pioneer druggist of the Red River Valley, and a great booster for the College. A nephew, Henry C. Mackall, a graduate of the Normal School, still (1961) lives in Minneapolis and frequently visits the College. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Kurtz married Louise McClintock, a teacher of music at the State Normal School. A daughter, Mrs. Luther S. Oakes lives in Minneapolis.

Mr. Kurtz was also a partner in the local Merchants National Bank. After the failure of the bank, Mr. Kurtz moved his family to Helena, Montana. Here he worked in a bank and also served as a construction engineer.

The Kurtz home was one of the best constructed and most artistic of the Moorhead buildings. The family of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Price lived in the building for more than thirty years prior to its demolition to make room for some new residences.

George N. Lamphere

Resident Director---1892-1893  
Appointed by Governor W. R. Merriam

George N. Lamphere was born in Connecticut and came to Moorhead in 1883. He published the daily and weekly "news". He was the author of a book, "The United States Government", published in 1882. From 1900 to 1907 he served as secretary of the board of trustees of the Minnesota Soldiers Home, residing in St. Paul during this time.

Mr. Lamphere served as resident director from the close of 1892 to late in 1893. During this time the Wheeler Hall was built and occupied. He resigned after serving about a year and was succeeded by the Hon. S. G. Comstock.



S. G. Comstock (1842-1933)

Resident Director-1893-1899  
1903-1907

Appointed by Governor Knute Nesson  
Reappointed by Gov. S. R. Van Sant

Mr. S. G. Comstock is known as the "Master Builder", the "Founder", and the "Father" for the Moorhead State Normal School. It was he who donated the six acres of land that was used as the site on which the school was established. It was also Mr. Comstock who was largely responsible for convincing the State Legislature to establish the fourth normal school at Moorhead. Mr. Comstock was a member of the State Legislature at that time, a senator from this legislative district.

The following statement is taken from "History of Clay and Norman Counties" by Turner and Semling:

The Master Builder.---Among the men who have devoted their energies to the strenuous task of securing a liberal and broadly-based system of normal schools in Minnesota, is Hon. S. G. Comstock, who, by the general choice, is counted the master builder of the normal school. As a member of the upper house of the state Legislature, he was the paramount influence in securing the location of the school at Moorhead; he donated the site and helped secure many of the school's largest appropriations for buildings and for the elevation of its standards. Through his experience in state and national legislation, as well as through his inherent integrity, he was a power at once for progress and uprightness in the business of the normal school board.

S. G. Comstock was born in Maine on May 9, 1842, and was educated in that state. He was admitted to the bar in 1869. Prior to coming to Moorhead in 1871, he practiced his legal profession in Omaha, Nebraska.

While residing in Moorhead, he was first elected county attorney. Recognizing his ability and integrity, the voters in his district elected him to the State Legislature in 1875. Later he was elected a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Comstock passed away at his home in Moorhead, June 3, 1933, at the age of 91.

Mrs. Comstock lived to the age of 97. The daughter, Jessie, continued to live in their home, which was built in 1883 and still is occupied, until her death.

In the year 1874, Solomon G. Comstock was united in marriage to Sarah Ball, a lady of high intellectual ability, and one held in the highest regard and esteem. She has devoted her life to the interest of her husband, her family and the good that she might do in the community in which she has lived. To this union three children have been born: Ada Louise, Jessie M. and George M. Mr. and Mrs. Comstock are most hospitable people and by their pleasing personalities and high ideals have had an elevating and substantial influence on the moral, educational, and civic life of the district.

(The above statement appears on page 273 in "History of Clay and Norman Counties".)

Ada Louise Comstock, now Ada Comstock Notestein, of New Haven, Connecticut, was graduated from the Normal School in 1898. She gave the commencement address at the observance of the Golden Anniversary of the College, and an address at the dedication of the Livingston Lord Library.

The May 5, 1961, issue of the *Mistic* contains the following statement:

Mrs. Notestein, who received a diploma from the college when it was a State Normal School, in 1898, also received a B. Litt, from Smith College, (1897) an M. A. from Columbia University, (1899) and honorary degrees from Mt. Holyoke College (L. H.D. 1922), University of Michigan (LL. D. 1936), and, most recently, an LL. D. from Harvard University. Mrs. Notestein was one of the first women to receive such an honorary degree from Harvard.

A former professor of rhetoric and first dean of women at the University of Minnesota, Mrs. Notestein was dean of Smith College from 1921-23, and president of Radcliffe College from 1923-43.

Quotation from Edwin T. Reed's tribute is most characterizing:

Among the men who devoted their energies to the strenuous task of fighting for a liberal and broadly-based system of normal schools in Minnesota, there is one, who in the community at large, is counted the master builder of the Normal. He is commonly called, indeed, the father of the school. As a member of the upper house of the state legislature, he was the paramount influence in securing the location of

the school at Moorhead; he donated the site; he helped secure many of the schools largest appropriations for buildings and for the elevation of standards; through his experience in state and national legislature, as well as through his inherent integrity he was a power at once for progress and uprightness in the business of the Normal Board. His stalwart manhood, his sterling culture and his earnest and warm-hearted regard for the ideals and ambitions of youth, have made him a salient factor in the larger life of the institution, and so long as there is a Normal School at Moorhead, It will honor his name and cherish the memory of Mr. S. G. Comstock."

(Edwin T. Reed, head of English Department, 1907-1917)

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## Carroll A. Nye

Resident Director-(1899-1903)  
(1907-1910)

Appointed by Governor John Lind

Reappointed by Governor John A. Johnson

Carroll A. Nye was born and educated in the state of Wisconsin. He entered the law office of his brother, Frank M. Nye, located at Clear Lake, Wisconsin. He also studied in the office of Robert M. LaFollerte. Later he obtained his Bachelor of Laws from the University of Wisconsin. He located in Moorhead after he was admitted to the bar.

While he resided in Moorhead, he served as city attorney for five years, city mayor for four years, and county attorney for eight years. In 1899 he was appointed resident director of the Normal School which position he held for one term. He was reappointed resident director in 1907, resigning in 1910 after being elected district judge. During World War I he was appointed captain in the quartermaster's division of the reserve corps of the United States Army.

During his first term as resident director, the gymnasium and assembly room were built as an addition to the Main Building, and in his second term the Model School, a domestic science department, and a children's library were constructed.

Lew A. Huntoon

Resident Director---1910-1913

Appointed by Governor A. O. Eberhart

Lew A. Huntoon was president of the First National Bank of Moorhead and the Commercial Club at the time of his appointment as resident director. He had served as superintendent of schools for three years prior to entering the banking business as cashier.

He died in 1913 and was succeeded by C. G. Dosland who completed his term.

## Christian G. Dosland

Resident Director--1913-1915

Appointed by Governor A. O. Eberhart

Christian G. Dosland was resident director when the construction of Weld Hall was completed in 1915. He began the practice of law in Moorhead in 1898.

During his residence in Moorhead, Dosland served as county attorney, city chairman for Liberty Loan drive, past president of 7th Judicial District Bar Association, and active in many local organizations.

C. G. Dosland is the father of Goodwin Leroy Dosland, local practicing attorney, and grandfather of Senator Bill Dosland and his brother John, both of whom are lawyers. One daughter, Corinne, is married and lives in California. Another daughter, Mrs. Lawrence Wright, lives in Moorhead and is now teaching at Glyndon.

## Leslie Welter

Resident Director--1915-1923

Appointed by Governor W. S. Hammond

Leslie Welter was a prominent business man in Moorhead. He came from Ontario, Canada, where he was educated in the local schools. The first two years after his arrival in Moorhead, he taught school, but later engaged in the mercantile business. In time, however, he became interested in handling potatoes and developed an extensive business in buying and marketing potatoes.

Mr. Welter took an active interest in local affairs. He served as a member of the Moorhead board of education, a member of the City Council, a member of the City Charter Commission, and president of the Commercial Club.

Mr. Welter was married to Ella G. Gedney who had been a member of the first class to enroll at the Normal School. To this union two children were born, Leslie, Jr., who lives in Moorhead, and Helen Margaret, who is married to W. W. Wallwork, Fargo, North Dakota.

During his two terms as resident director, 80 students left the college to participate in World War I. Two men lost their lives--Melvin E. Hearl and Adolph Anderson. Also during this time the name of the Normal School was changed to State Teachers College and sub-collegiate courses were dropped. The college was authorized to grant the degree of B. E.



Dr. O. J. Hagen

Resident Director--1923-1931

Appointed by Governor J. A. O. Preus in 1923

Reappointed by Governor Theodore Christianson in 1927

Dr. O. J. Hagen was born in Wisconsin and was graduated from the St. Cloud Normal School. Later he was awarded his M. D. from the University of Minnesota.

In 1911, Dr. Hagen was married to Moselle Weld, a daughter of President Frank Weld. He is still living at the age of 89 (1961) with his daughter Grace Harriet, who is married to Dr. M. J. Geib. He lost a son in World War II, and has another son, John, who is a chiropractor.

During his long life, Dr. Hagen taught in a village school, was a college instructor at Concordia College, and later a superintendent of schools in Richland County, N. Dak. He served as president of the Moorhead school board for seven years. After having been a member of the State Teachers College Board for eight years, he was elected a member of the Minnesota University Board of Regents. He has been elected an officer of several national organizations, and is listed in Who's Who in America.

Dr. Hagen served as resident director during a period when R. B. MacLean was elected president of the college, the college was authorized to prepare teachers from kindergarten through senior high school (19), Art Strong was the first graduate of the four year college curriculum, <sup>in 1926</sup> the fire destroyed Old Main on Feb. 9, 1930, and \$765,000 was appropriated for four new buildings.

In the city of Moorhead he is affectionately known as the "Grand Old Man of Moorhead".

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Dr. G. L. Gosslee

Resident Director--1931-1943

Appointed by Governor Floyd B. Olson

Dr. Gosslee was a physician and surgeon. He was born in Michigan and educated at Tracy, Minnesota. He received his M. D. degree from Hamline University in 1903. Later he did graduate work at the University of Vienna. He served in the U. S. Medical Corps during World War I. Dr. O. W. Snarr became president of the college during his service as resident director.

## George M. Comstock

Resident Director--1943-1951

Appointed by Governor Harold E. Stassen

George M. Comstock is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Comstock. He was educated in the Moorhead public schools and the Hill School, Pottstown, Penn. He received his B. A. degree from Harvard University in 1909.

After graduation from Harvard, Mr. Comstock was engaged in the lumber business on the western coast. Later, he was employed in the First National Bank of Moorhead. More recently he has devoted himself to his farms and a real estate business.

Mr. Comstock was a First Lieutenant in the field artillery in World War I. After the war he was elected the first commander of the Clay County post of the American Legion. He has taken an active part in many community activities, at one time serving as chairman of the Moorhead City Charter Commission.

George Comstock was married to Francis W. Frazier on October 11, 1917. She was a graduate of the Normal School, class of 1917. They reside in Moorhead at 2006 South 9th Street.

A daughter, Susan, now Mrs. Henning Clemetson, also lives in Moorhead at 315-22nd Ave. S.

During his tenure as resident director, the Moorhead State College was organized into divisions; general education courses in the first two years of college work were initiated; MacLean Hall was reconstructed to provide a student center, a student lounge, a new suite of offices for the deans and the registrar, and a large lecture and movie room. Ballard Hall was erected and dedicated in 1949.

Oscar B. Rusness

Resident Director--1951-1955

Appointed by Governor Luther Youngdahl

Oscar B. Rusness was graduated from the Moorhead High School. He was engaged in the banking business from 1908 until his retirement in Jan. 1, 1956. He served as cashier, vice-president, and president of the First National Bank of Moorhead from 1929 to 1956.

He is a past president of the Moorhead Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, and has been active in many other community activities.

Much credit must be given to Mr. Rusness in persuading the State Legislature in 1953 to appropriate \$40,000 to purchase for the College an additional fourteen and a half acres of land to the east of the College campus.



Norman H. Nelson

Resident Director--(1955-1959)

(1959- )

Appointed by Governor Orville L. Freeman

Norman H. Nelson is the present resident director of the College. (August 1961) His present term will expire in 1963.

Mr. Nelson is a native of this area having been born in Fargo, North Dakota, on November 21, 1915. After being graduated from the Fargo High School, he attended the University of Minnesota, receiving his B. A. degree in June 1940. His L. L. B. degree was awarded by the University of Minnesota in March 1948.

Mr. Nelson's education was interrupted by service in the military forces during World War II. He has practiced law in Moorhead since 1949.

In the city election, 1957, Mr. Nelson was elected City Police Magistrate and re-elected in 1959.

During his administration as resident director, the College has noted a tremendous expansion. The Alex Nemzek Field House and Stadium, the Power Plant, the Library, the Weld Hall Addition, Dahl Hall, and the Science and Industrial Arts buildings have been erected. The name of the College was changed from Moorhead State Teachers College to Moorhead State College. The number of students has increased considerably as has the faculty personnel. Professional ranking has been instituted. The academic program has been strengthened by additional majors and minors. The College has been accredited for graduate work by three national accrediting associations. Money has been allocated for a new food center and another men's dormitory. In addition, steps are being taken to obtain money for a student center. The College is definitely moving forward at a rapid rate.

## The College Buildings

### The Old Main Building (1888)

The first building erected on the Moorhead State Normal school campus was known as the Main Building. It was built at a cost of \$60,000. Construction of the building was commenced in 1887 and completed in the fall of 1888.

This first unit of the Main Building which was 180 feet long and 70 feet wide was constructed of Kasota stone and brick. At the time of its erection it was declared to be "the most commodious and handsome structure in the Northwest."

### Main Building Additions

A gymnasium and an assembly room were added to the Main Building in 1901 at a cost of \$40,000, and in 1903 another addition was constructed costing \$55,000 to provide an elementary school (Model School), a domestic science department, and a children's library.

The Main Building with its additions were, however, destroyed by fire the night of February 9, 1930. It was believed that the fire was started by a short in the main fuse box.

The college records and all the books in the library were lost. The records, books, and some of the equipment in the Training School, however, were saved with the help of the college men and spectators.

### Wheeler Hall (1893)

As stated earlier the girls at the Normal School were provided room and board the first two years at the Bishop Whipple School, but the State Legislature, recognizing the need for a girls' dormitory, appropriated \$25,000 for that purpose. The dormitory was completed in the fall of 1893 and was at first known as the Normal Hall. Later, however, it was named Wheeler Hall as a tribute to Francis G. Wheeler, the first preceptress of the school. It was so named at the suggestion of Governor Knute Nelson.

Miss Wheeler was graduated from Iowa Wesleyan in 1885. When she left Moorhead, she went to the University of Chicago to take charge of decorating and furnishing several of the campus buildings. In 1907 she was married to Mr. Wilfred Lutz, and moved to Beloit, Kansas.

The dormitory schedule instituted by Miss Wheeler lasted until 1917. The students were required to rise at 6:45 a.m. and at 10:45 p.m. total darkness was the rule for all rooms. Every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. the girls were locked in their rooms so that they would have to write home to their parents.

### Comstock Hall (1910)

Cost of constructing buildings continued to increase as can be seen by the fact that the Legislature appropriated \$75,000 to erect Comstock Hall, another dormitory for women. This hall was named in honor of S. G. Comstock, the founder of the College. A biography of Mr. Comstock is given under the heading of resident directors.

### Weld Hall (January 1916)

The year 1916 was the completion of Weld Hall, named after Frank A. Weld, president from 1899 to 1919. This new structure provided laboratory and class rooms for science, a new auditorium seating 900 persons, facilities and rooms for the industrial arts department, and space for the music department. After the fire destroyed the Main Building in 1930, it was used for many other purposes.



## MacLean Hall (1932)

Previously it has been stated that the Main Building with the additions were destroyed by fire the night of February 9, 1930.

College work, however, was resumed on February 17, most of the classes meeting in Weld Hall. The executive offices were located in Wheeler Hall and the home economics rooms were set aside for a temporary library.

The Alumni Corporation purchased six residences west of Weld Hall to provide class rooms for the College High School and the Training School. A Student Exchange building was erected east of Weld Hall to serve as a physical training room for women and a general gathering place for college parties.

The 1930 MSTC budget request called upon the 1931 Legislature to appropriate \$765,000 for three new buildings: the main College building, MacLean Hall, to cost \$420,000; the Laboratory School, \$220,000; and a heating plant, \$125,000.

Despite the lack of buildings and facilities, the College enrollment reached a record high of 538 students in the fall of 1930.

The Legislature, meeting in January 1931, in record time passed a bill authored by the Hon. G. D. McCubrey, Moorhead resident and senator, and the Clay County representative, E. J. Holm of Dilworth, appropriating \$800,000 for four new buildings at the College. The appropriation was somewhat different from the budget requests. The bill asked for \$325,000 for the main structure, \$160,000 for the gymnasium, \$100,000 for the heating plant, and \$180,000 for the Laboratory school building.

On homecoming day, October 24, 1931, the cornerstone of MacLean Hall was laid, and the building was dedicated on June 6, 1932. A new model school or training school, as it now is called, was erected, and by March 2, the first basketball game was played in the new Physical Education building.



## Ballard Hall (1949)

No new buildings were erected after the completion of MacLean Hall until the Legislature in 1947 appropriated money for the construction of a men's dormitory. This building was completed by 1949 and named Ballard Hall.

Mr. Ballard who came to the Normal School in 1899 as chairman of the science department, served as acting president of the College on two occasions. In December, 1919, he was called back from California to act as president and served until March when Dr. Dickerson arrived. He was again called upon to hold the office from June till September, 1923, when R. B. MacLean became president.

The Western Mystic issue of June 3, 1949, which was dedicated to Mr. Ballard made the following statement:

Long known as the "Grand Old Man of the College," Ballard announced his retirement at the Fargo-Moorhead alumni banquet in MISTC's golden 50th anniversary year of 1937. He had seen the college grow from its modest beginning to its present size. He had been a member of the Moorhead City Council for 14 years and served as president of the City Charter Commission.

Recognized at the time of his retirement as one of the Upper Midwest's foremost experts in the field of botany, Ballard was described by the late R. B. MacLean as "Intensely human and sympathetic...interested in youth and young people...a valuable public servant."

Ballard was recently honored when the new men's dormitory--now more than half constructed--was named for him. Reads the resolution adopted by the State Teachers College Board, "Be it resolved..that the dormitory for men at Moorhead State Teachers College be named 'Ballard Hall' in honor of Caswell A. Ballard in recognition of his 33 years of outstanding service to the institution at Moorhead, first to the State Normal School and then to the State Teachers college, and the nation. As a teacher and as a citizen, he served his profession and his country well."

Said the 1920 Praeceptor, predecessor of the DRAGON yearbook, in one of its dedicatory pages:

Professor Ballard is the only member of the present faculty of the Moorhead Normal School who has been in constant service since 1899. He is an important factor in the

growth of the school, not only by his work as head of the department of biology and chemistry, but also by his helpful foresight and unvarying purpose.

After 20 years of teaching he left in the spring of 1919 for California for a year of rest and study, but in December was recalled to become acting president of the school, in which capacity he served until March when Dr. Dickerson assumed the president's position.

Said the first yearbook to bear the name DRAGON on its 1938 dedicatory page:

To the grand old man of the college, Caswell A. Ballard, do we sincerely dedicate the 1938 yearbook.

Retiring last spring, after 38 years of untiring and loyal service to the college, the ready wit, delightful companionship, and sound judgment of this lovable professor has been greatly felt on the campus this year.

He it was who taught us to see and feel the beauties and profundities of nature around us--the beauty of our own campus.

Mr. Ballard passed away at Cedar Falls, Iowa, at the home of his son-in-law and daughter,

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Thompson, on June 1, 1949.

### Weld Hall Addition (1957)

The Weld Hall Addition provides a gymnasium with dressing and shower rooms for the College High School, a band room with five practice rooms, a large lecture room, and several offices. The gym has removable bleachers seating 900 people and a folding curtain that allows for girls' and boys' physical education classes to be carried on simultaneously. The band facilities are used by the college and the high school. The large lecture room, seating 100 students, is used chiefly by college science classes.

The Weld Hall Addition joins Weld Hall to the Laboratory School building. An appropriation of \$240,000 was made by the legislature for this construction in 1955, and an additional \$61,000 was allowed by the 1957 legislature for completion and equipment. It was ready for use in the fall of 1957.

### Dahl Hall (1958)

Dahl Hall was occupied in the fall of 1958, and was dedicated February 7, 1959. It was named in the honor of Millie H. Dahl who had served the College for 43 years.

Dahl Hall is a very artistic structure which cost over one million dollars to erect. It was built to house 304 women students.

Miss Dahl came to the Normal School September 11, 1910, as resident nurse and assistant to the Dean of Women. In 1912 she became superintendent of dormitories, and two years later was named director of dormitories. She held this position and directed food services until her retirement on September 30, 1953.

The 1952 DRAGON, the College annual, was dedicated to her in these words:

Millie H. Dahl, who came to the College as resident-nurse in 1910, who two years later became Director of Dormitories, and who in that capacity has been friend and counselor to hundreds of students; chief of the nursing staff when the dormitories became



hospitals during the influenza epidemic of 1918; co-ordinator in maintaining living quarters for the girls and in converting sections of the dormitories into classrooms and offices following the fire in 1930; the good soldier when the dormitories became barracks for the air corps in 1943-1945; a wise consultant during the extensive remodeling program of 1949; and who--no matter what the crises--always rose to the occasion with a dignity and serenity of spirit which have been an inspiration to those about her, this 1952 DRAGON extends its sincerest appreciation.

Upon her retirement in 1953, the State College Board passed the following resolution:

Retirement of Millie H. Dahl - the following resolution was adopted relative to the retirement of Miss Millie H. Dahl in recognition of her valuable services for many years in the Moorhead State Teachers College:

Resolved. That the services performed to the State of Minnesota by Miss Millie H. Dahl, director of dormitories and food services at Moorhead State Teachers College for forty-three years, has been of inestimable value to the thousands of students and faculty members who have been affected by her care.

The State Teachers College Board is aware of the special demands made upon Miss Dahl during the difficult times brought about by the destruction of Moorhead campus buildings in the fire of February, 1930, and the reconstruction period that followed: of the emergency constituted by the housing of the 346th College Training Detachment of the Army Air Corps in the womens' dormitories during World War II; and again of the reconstruction period since the war when dormitories, dining hall, and the kitchens were being remodeled. It is aware of the fact that during all these periods as in more normal times everyone was comfortable and adequately cared for, and that a fine morale was maintained.

The Board is also aware of the influence exerted by Miss Dahl both by precept and example, upon the social and the cultural life of many college generations.

For all of these reasons the State Teachers College Board herewith expresses its appreciation to Miss Dahl for her services and wishes her happy and fruitful years ahead.

#### Alex Nemzek Hall (1960)

The Alex Nemzek Hall, consisting of a Field House and a Physical Education Building, was dedicated February 27, 1960. A stadium and athletic fields are located immediately to the east of this structure which cost \$1,462,500. This sum was appropriated by the 1957 Legislature.



In naming this building the Alex Nemzek Hall, the State College Board passed the following resolution:

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION #1**

**MOORHEAD STATE COLLEGE  
Moorhead, Minnesota**

**November 20, 1959**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the State College Board, meeting in St. Paul on November 20, 1959, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Building Names Committee of Moorhead State College to name the Field House now under construction, and soon to be dedicated, the "Alex Nemzek Hall."

Alex Nemzek was born in the city of Moorhead and was graduated from the Moorhead Teachers College on July 25, 1930. He served the College as Coach and Athletic Director for almost eighteen years—from September, 1923, to February, 1941. During this period of time the college established an enviable record in athletics among the small colleges of the area.

During his career as coach at the College, Mr. Nemzek assisted hundreds of men students financially, was a friend and counsellor to all students and faculty members, and had the respect of everyone in the community with whom he came in contact.

He not only served the College, but also was outstanding in his contribution to the local community. He was Commander of the local American Legion Post in 1926, president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1939, mayor of the City for one term, 1948-1949, and just prior to his death, a leader in the raising of funds for the construction of St. Ansgar's Hospital.

ARCHIVES  
MOORHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

Mr. Nemzek had a distinguished record in the military service. He was in the Mexican border campaign in 1916; served in the European theatre of war in World War I, being discharged as a First Lieutenant; was Captain of the local National Guard Company; and participated in World War II, being discharged in 1943 because of a heart attack. He ended his career in the military service as a Lieutenant Colonel.

After leaving the College as a coach, he still continued to work for the institution in many ways. He was particularly effective in cooperating with the administration in obtaining from the legislature more buildings for the college, including the Field House.

The naming of the Field House "Nemzek Hall" will be received with hearty approval by the faculty, alumni, students, and the community alike. The coach, the educator, the soldier, the business man, and the civic leader whose death occurred on May 28th, 1958, deserves this honor.

#### Livingston Lord Library (1960)

The ground-breaking ceremonies for the Library Building took place on April 1, 1959; it was occupied in the fall of 1960; and dedicated with a three day program May 10-13, 1961.

The building was named as a tribute to the first president of the College, then known as the State Normal School.

The following statement appeared in a bulletin issued by the college recently:

On April 1, 1959, ground-breaking ceremonies were held at the site of the new Library Building, for which the 1957 legislature appropriated \$905,000 for building and equipping the library. Shortly thereafter construction began on this building, which is located on the center line of the old campus between Ballard Hall and the Campus School. The building is a blend of modern and traditional architectural themes, combining the arch with a new concept of a massive building supported on a series of pedestals.

The 60,000 square-foot building will house the library itself as well as an Audio-Visual Center and a 200-seat lecture room. The library portion offers study facilities for 450 students and storage space for 100,000 volumes.

The Audio-Visual Center contains two photographic dark rooms, a production classroom, a service office, and other special features. This center will contribute to the educational program of the State College and in addition will serve as a training agency for teachers in the relatively new field of audio-visual aids.

The lecture room will accommodate slightly more than 200 persons for such purposes as motion picture viewing, lectures, small string ensembles, and other activities requiring a small stage and audience.

Library services are concentrated at the circulation desk on the main floor. General charging of library materials, periodicals and their indexes, reference service and reference books, a part of the stacks, and the main reading rooms are on the first floor. On the second floor are more stacks and reading rooms, small conference rooms, seminars, a typing room for the use of students, and a large room for a curriculum materials center.

The feature of the library building which may be most striking to the casual viewer is the 9,000 square-foot main reading room. Seating 280 students, this room is two stories in height with walls of interior face brick.

### Science and Industrial Arts Building (1962)

The 1957 Legislature made available \$71,400 for a design of a new Science and Industrial Arts building. This was followed by an appropriation of \$1,822,000 by the 1959 Legislature. The building is scheduled for occupancy early in 1962.

The following statement appeared in a bulletin issued by the college recently:

A new Science and Industrial Arts Building is now in the advanced stages of planning. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1959, and the building should be completed for use in the fall of 1961. Both science and industrial arts facilities have been a major educational plant deficiency at MSC for many years, and important improvements in both areas will be possible when the new structure is completed.

As planned, the building will have a gross area of nearly 80,000 square feet. It will have four stories and an attached one story lecture-demonstration room which provides tiered seating for 250 students. Industrial arts shops will occupy most of the ground floor and part of the second floor; most of the science laboratories will be on the upper floors.

The industrial arts facilities are to be expanded to include an automotive shop, an electrical shop, a dark room, and a drawing room, in addition to the facilities now included in the Weld Hall location. Individual shops will replace the present crowded multi-purpose shops.

Laboratories for chemistry, physics, geology, and geography are designed to meet the requirements for specialization in each of these sciences. One such laboratory is designed for atomic physics. Similarly, the different needs in each of the biological sciences have been met with individual laboratories for each science. A greenhouse has been provided for the biological sciences.

The department of psychology will also be housed in the building, and the necessary experimental laboratories for psychology have been provided in the planning. A service elevator, storage rooms, supply facilities, faculty offices and general purpose classrooms are other features of the new building.



