

1987

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# IMAGES

A Century of Excellence / 1887-1987

MOORHEAD  
STATE UNIVERSITY



**I**

images of Moorhead State are important for our sense of where we have been and where we are going. Far more immediate than the policies and legislative enactments that have shaped the university are our recollections of what and who we saw in our time at Moorhead State. In that shutter of the mind's eye it is teammates of 1909, Old Main towering over the prairie, students snarling across the bridges in protest, the hulk of Old Main after the fire, sock hops and homecomings and teacher scrawls on blackboards that we remember. These are the images we have tried to collect. These are the memories we present to you.

# The Lord Years/1888-99

**M**oorhead Normal School's ornate first building was erected on six acres of Red River Valley plains barely a decade after the city itself was named. The yellow brick structure, its turrets and chimneys rising like a British manor house, seemed to punctuate a solid commitment to teacher education on the western edge of Minnesota. The commitment from the capital in St. Paul, however, had not been nearly as solid as the building: Moorhead pioneer legislator Solomon G. Comstock's persuasive abilities had barely fended off attempts from Crookston and Detroit Lakes, cities which also wanted the teachers' school.

The doors to Old Main were opened to the first classes in the fall of 1888, under the leadership of President Livingston Lord and three faculty members.



The class of 1896; Old Main.



Twenty-nine students enrolled, but the student population grew to 329 students by 1896. By the time Lord left Moorhead in 1899, nearly all of those students still began at the high school level. High schools in this rural area were uncommon, and Moorhead Normal usually had to act as both high school and teachers' college. Graduates of Moorhead Normal left to teach after one or two years of college-level study. Moorhead Normal during its first decades offered no four-year degrees.

Students play baseball on a field north of Old Main, where MacLean Hall now stands. In the background is the city of Moorhead.

Old Main and Wheeler Hall.

*“No less than twenty-three grain elevators can be seen from the roof, and during the months of September and October, the smoke of the steam threshers is seen in every direction.”*

First Moorhead Normal School Catalogue,  
1888-1889







*“Each student is expected to attend regularly the church of his choice, or that which meets the approval of his parents.”*

1894-95 MNS Catalogue

6





A typical women's dorm room at the turn of the century; 1892-93 faculty: (*front row, l. to r.*) Margaret McElligott, Theodora Wadsworth, L.C. Lord, Isabel Kimball (*Back row, l. to r.*) Abbie Hale, Margaret Scanlon, J. Paul Goode, Ellen Ford, Fannie Hadley.

An early stage production; Moorhead Normal geography instructor J. Paul Goode helped Lord plant the first trees in front of Old Main. Goode later became a nationally known geographer at the University of Chicago.



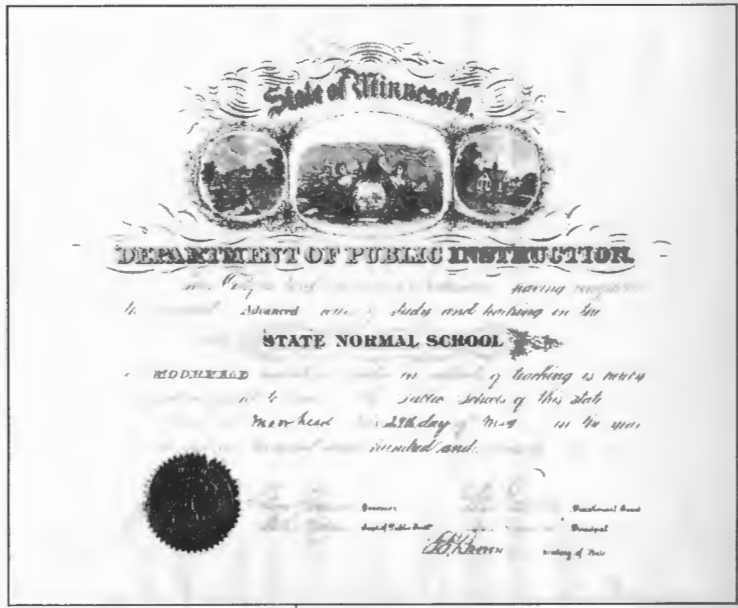


Moorhead Normal School's Chapel Choir takes its second annual tour, c. 1920; Old Main and Wheeler Halls; Students learned to teach in Moorhead Normal's Training School, connected to Old Main.

An early diploma from Moorhead Normal; Class of 1899.

*“While it will be the duty of this school to make its graduates self-reliant, it will also try to cultivate in them a modest, docile spirit...”*

1896-97 MNS Catalogue

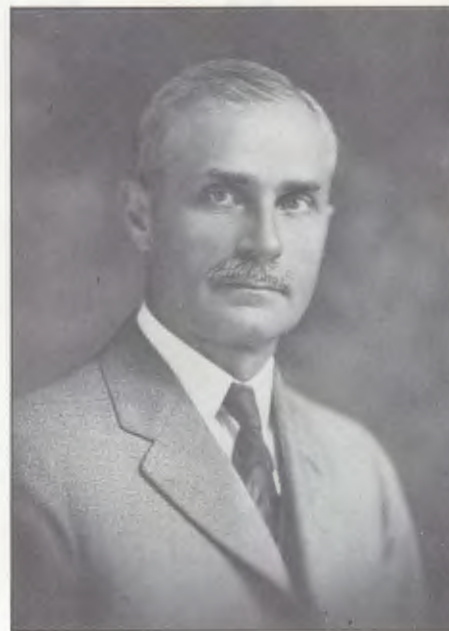


# The Weld & Dickerson Years/1899-23

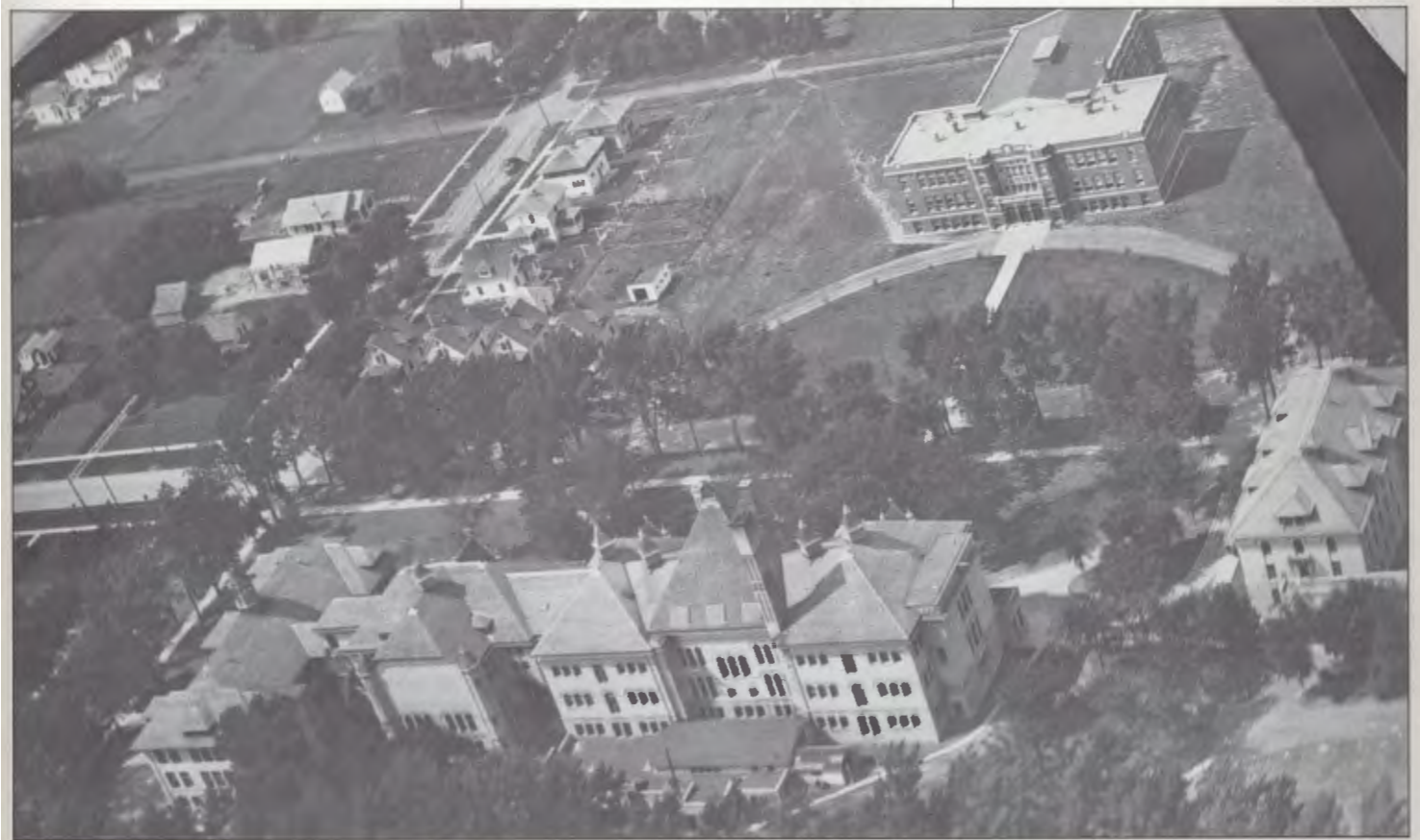
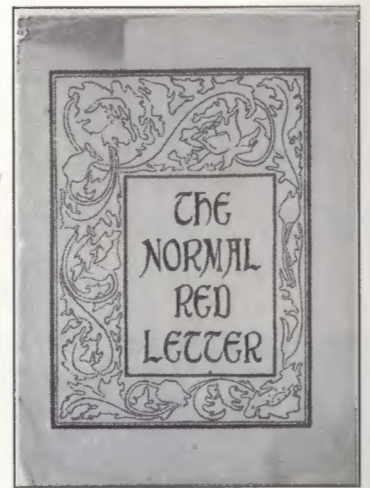
**P**resident Frank Weld, whose tenure at Moorhead Normal stretched 20 years, saw his students establish their first

extracurricular activities on campus. A turn-of-the-century football team, playing without a coach, defeated Fargo College football players five to zero. The Owl fraternity was established in 1900, and the Witches, later the Pi Mu Phi sorority, in 1905. The first campus newspaper, *Normal Red Letter*, appeared early in the century, and the first annual, the *Praeceptor*, was published in 1916.

An expanding student body compelled Weld to find more space. Additions were made to Old Main to provide a model school for student teachers. A women's dormitory, Comstock Hall, was built in 1911 to accompany Wheeler Hall, the first women's



Moorhead Normal's first yearbook, *The Praeceptor*, 1916; first newsletter, the *Normal Red Letter*, 1901; this early aerial photo includes Moorhead's second academic building, Weld Hall, completed in 1915 (at top right).



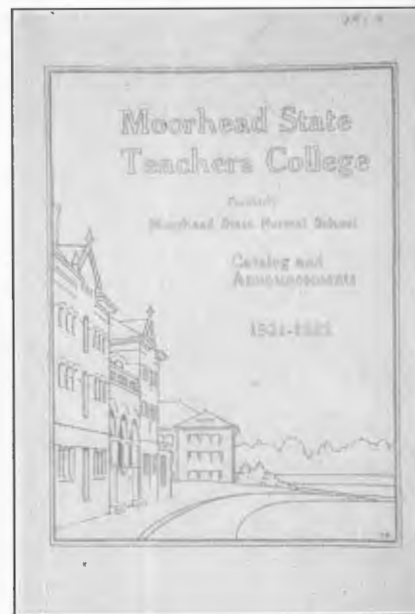
residence, built in 1893 (the few men at Moorhead Normal lived off campus). Both dormitories were torn down in 1964 to make room for the Center for the Arts.

What was to become the school's oldest building, Weld Hall, was erected in 1915.

President Oliver M. Dickerson did not match Weld's longevity at Moorhead, staying from 1920 to 1923. But Dickerson did oversee an important change, the transition from Moorhead Normal to Moorhead State Teachers College in 1921. It was more than a new name; Moorhead State was finally authorized to grant four-year degrees. The degree was becoming more and more necessary as educators realized elementary and secondary teachers should have more education.

Moorhead State's first catalog after the name change; Moorhead Normal Women's basketball team, 1913.

Moorhead Normal Chapel Choir "on the road," c. 1921.



*"When I got off the train in Moorhead and saw nothing but horizon, I wrote my wife saying if I could stay here until spring, I'd consider myself fortunate."*

Dan Preston, on his arrival to Moorhead, January 1919





The Normal School string orchestra, 1904.

Early Moorhead Normal sports figure Frank Malloy; a Moorhead Normal dance class; first MSNS football team, 1900: (*front row*) Earl Gates, Henry C. Mackall, Frank Malloy, Fred Ambs, and James Curran (*second row*) John K. Clausen, Casper Bergh, Oscar Askegaard, Jelmer P. Bengston, *Captain*, and Otto I. Bergh (*back row*) Emil D. Larson, Julius Skaug, John Hyslin, coach Harold M. Stanford (*seated*), Lewis P. Larson, and Clyde L. May. (Wayne H. May and Martin H. Gullickson are missing from the picture). Both the dance class and the football team pictures were taken by pioneer Moorhead photographer O.E. Flaten.





*“A woman seen smoking  
would have been  
reprimanded.”*

Lenora Johnson



# The MacLean Years/1923-41

**T**he administration of president Raymond B. MacLean spanned some of the rockiest times in Moorhead State's history.

MacLean and his faculty were responsible for building and implementing the four-year curriculum mandated by the state, and for eliminating the high-school-level courses. The Great Depression bit deeply into faculty paychecks and administrative needs, yet enrollment continued to grow.

Most daunting of all, however, was the catastrophe of Feb. 9, 1930, when the most spectacular fire in Moorhead's history destroyed Old Main and all its additions. The library, the model school, the records—nearly everything was lost. MacLean and Moorhead leaders saw a distinct danger that the state would abandon the campus and move the college elsewhere.



A street car crosses campus; a young MacLean (second from right) poses for a turn-of-the-century "picnic" photo.



*The thing that impressed me (as a new student) were the streetcars. They came up to the campus."*

Alan Erickson





The "Witches" sorority; Model School students, April 1929; the stained glass windows in Weld Hall donated in memory of World War I.

Student room, 1937; women's track; the first weekly campus newspaper was called the *Bulletin*, published in December 1924. The name was soon changed to the *MiSTiC*, an acronym of the school's name.

*"I think on school nights, everybody had to be in by 10:00. Otherwise...some got dragged in through the windows. But not very often."*

Ruth Erickson





**THE BULLETIN**  
MAY 1, 1925

**THE M. i. S. T. i. C.**

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA

VOL. II NO. 7

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1925

**NEW NAME SELECTED**  
When the state board of Friday for the new name of the "bulletin" there was a great variety of choices. Every name that was suggested had some votes, those receiving the largest number of votes being: "The M. i. S. T. i. C." was chosen with a large majority. The M. i. S. T. i. C. stands for the State Teachers College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and the word "bulletin" is their natural name.

**GOVERNOR VOTES**  
The Thirty-ninth session of the Minnesota Legislature closed on Friday, April 25, with the passage of the bill to amend the constitution to provide for a state board of education. The bill was passed by a vote of 45 to 15.

**COMMEMORATION BEING PLANNED**  
The thirty-ninth session of the Minnesota Legislature will be held in the city of Moorhead, Minnesota, on Friday, May 1, 1925. The session will be held in the new building of the State Teachers College.

**BASEBALL**  
The baseball team of the State Teachers College will play their first game on Friday, May 1, 1925. The game will be played at the college grounds.

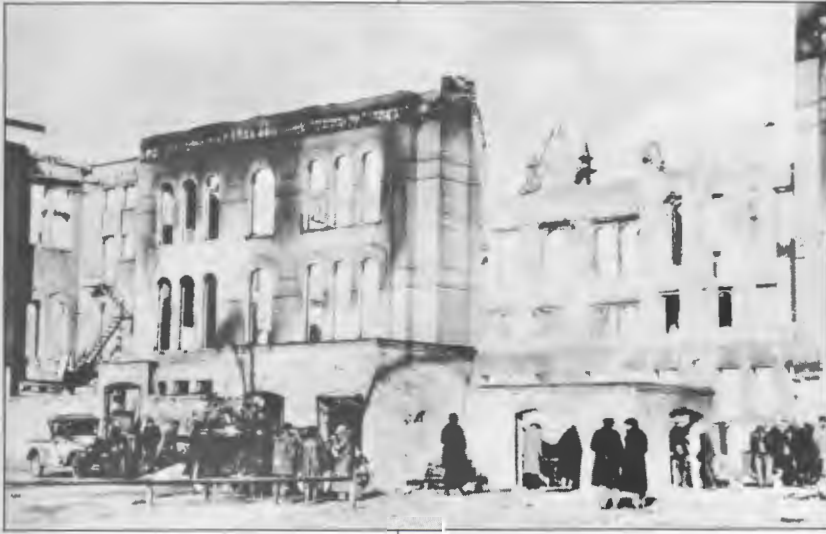
**CLAS PRESENTS**  
The class of 1925 will present a play on Friday, May 1, 1925. The play is titled "The M. i. S. T. i. C." and will be played in the college auditorium.

**INDIAN PARLANT**  
An Indian parlan will be held on Friday, May 1, 1925. The parlan will be held in the college auditorium.

**STUDY CLUB MEETS**  
The study club will meet on Friday, May 1, 1925. The meeting will be held in the college library.



Moorhead State's grand Old Main burned to a bleak skeleton the night of Feb. 9, 1930. An electrical short was blamed.



*“As each floor fell, the flames just shot up in the sky...so we all cried...the college was on fire.”*

Alice Corneliussen

*“It was total panic. They threw things like a record player out the window, and then they carried pictures downstairs. Three of us tried to get a piano out. The rollers caught, and the piano went end over end down the stairs.”*

Dan Preston

*“There was a real question as to whether the college should be rebuilt. And there was a strong movement on, ‘well, the building’s burned now, why don’t we discontinue that?...There’s a glut of teachers anyway.’”*

Clarence Glasrud

*“The great fire did tremendous things to the students, the faculty, the general spirit—morale—of the campus. It just pulled us together.”*

Byron Murray



Moorhead State again turned to its old friend, Solomon Comstock. Comstock directed a committee of Moorhead leaders to press for new buildings, and with help from area legislators, secured \$765,000. Four structures were needed to replace Old Main: MacLean Hall, Flora Frick Hall, Lommen Hall, and the heating plant (now Grier Hall). MacLean directed the campus landscaping, and was particularly interested in establishing a central campus square. In May 1932, students and faculty joined to move books and furniture into the new buildings.

Facilities (even a swimming pool!) far surpassed those of the beautiful but antiquated Old Main, and attracted more and more students to campus.





A steam shovel begins work on MacLean Hall, replacement for Old Main; Weld Hall and the newly completed Lommen Hall when motorized vehicles still crossed campus.

Student activities in the 1930s: on the steps of MacLean, 1934; listening to a lecture, 1930; the print shop, 1936; Flora Frick Hall Swimming Pool, one of the finest in the region.



*“The truth of the matter is that they just held an election as to what animal they wanted—tiger, or elephant, or dragon, or whatever. The dragon won.”*

Clarence Glasrud



The Pep Squad, 1936; the 1930 football team.  
Coach Alex "Sliv" Nemzek is sitting at lower left;  
the "hazing" paddle was used by the Owls,  
Moorhead State's indigenous fraternity.  
The college band, 1935.



UUUUUUUUUU

WELD HALL

UUUUUUUUUU



# The Snarr & Knoblauch Years/1941-58

President Otto W. Snarr had the misfortune of beginning his 14-year tenure in 1941, on the eve of the greatest war in history. The war devastated Moorhead State's operations, both in its finances and in its student population; a couple hundred women and a handful of men kept the college open. The college made extra money when the military borrowed facilities to train and educate troops, and to help pay expenses, Snarr even contracted with Moorhead growers to store onions in residence halls.

World War II and the G.I. Bill changed the face of higher education in the post-war United States. For the first time in history, large numbers of young adults earned an opportunity to get an education at government expense. Moorhead State was flooded with veterans of World War II in the late 1940s, and of the



Moorhead State faculty and staff: (l. to r.) Jennie Owens, Virginia Fitzmaurice Grantham, Alice Corneliussen, Katharine Leonard, Jessie Askegaard, Delsie Holmquist, Mabel Lumley, Ethel Durboran, C.P. Lura, Georgina Lommen; the campus around 1940, looking southeast.



*“When I came here in 1947, Weld Hall was used for biology. We were right next to the music department, and I really loved hearing the music even when I was attempting to teach classes.”*

Genevieve King, 1974, in an interview in connection with the dedication of King Hall.



Korean Conflict in the mid-1950s, when Arthur Knoblauch was president. Campus traditions—the weekly chapel service, freshman beanies, the smoking ban on campus—were abandoned.

More than that, however, faculty and administrators at Moorhead State realized they could no longer be exclusively a professional teachers' college. They had to expand, as more and more employers in many fields began to require higher education, and a background in liberal arts. Snarr established his General Education plan, forerunner of the Liberal Arts Requirement at Moorhead State.

Ballard Hall was erected under Snarr's tenure, and Knoblauch, an aggressive promoter for the college, persuaded a recalcitrant Minnesota Legislature to release funds for Lommen Hall addition and Dahl Hall, and consider funds for Hagen Hall and Nemzek Hall.

Taking a break, 1944; war bond sales, 1943.  
Veterans' Male Chorus, 1946-47.



*“The soldiers were having their drills up and down the halls of MacLean Hall. Hup two, hup two, and you just accepted it, thought nothing of it.”*

Alice Corneliussen







College bookstore; faculty and students make a recording for "College Night": (l. to r.) Donna Freeman, Mason Boudrye, Duane Scribner, Karen Kivi, Kenneth Skjegstad; graduation processional, 1956.

"Dragon" yearbook staff, 1954; men's dorm room, 1952; coffee shop in MacLean Hall, 1950s.



# The Neumaier Years/1958-68

**F**lamboyant, colorful, a refugee from Nazi Germany, President John J. Neumaier was revered—or sometimes detested—by both college people and Moorhead townspeople. In 1958 Neumaier declared he was coming to Moorhead State to do no less than turn it into a top-flight, prestigious Midwestern institution of higher learning, a “Harvard of the Midwest,” one newspaper writer called it.

Neumaier developed the department system, under which each academic discipline ruled its own specific area, a departure from the system of divisions which ruled several disciplines. He enticed dozens of young faculty members to Moorhead State, responding to unprecedented growth. Hundreds and hundreds of new students came each September, and the campus expanded to accommodate growth never expected by



Aerial view of campus, summer 1965, construction has begun for the Center for the Arts; faculty members: (*back row, l. to r.*) Byron Murray, Roland Dille, Ken Smemo, Charles Magel, Frank Noice, Joe Miller, Dean Townsend (*front row, l. to r.*) Gen King, Duane Scribner, Robert Hanson, Delsie Holmquist, Paul Heaton, William Treumann; razing of Comstock Hall women's dormitory, 1964.



its founders. New buildings included the Center for the Arts, Livingston Lord Library, Nemzek Hall, and Hagen Hall. In 1957 the college dropped the word “teachers” from its name and, as Moorhead State College, established itself as a college for teachers—and for anyone wanting a liberal arts education. It had begun as a school exclusively for two-year preparation. Now the four-year bachelor’s degree became the standard.

*“It was a glorious atmosphere . . . We had scholars and knaves, in the student body and faculty alike.”*

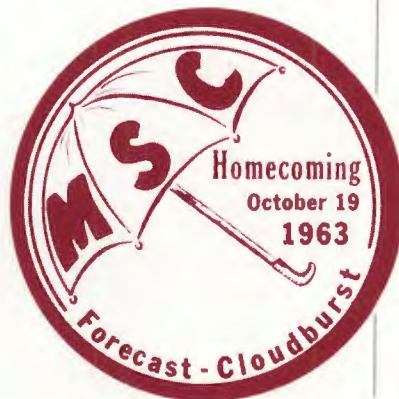
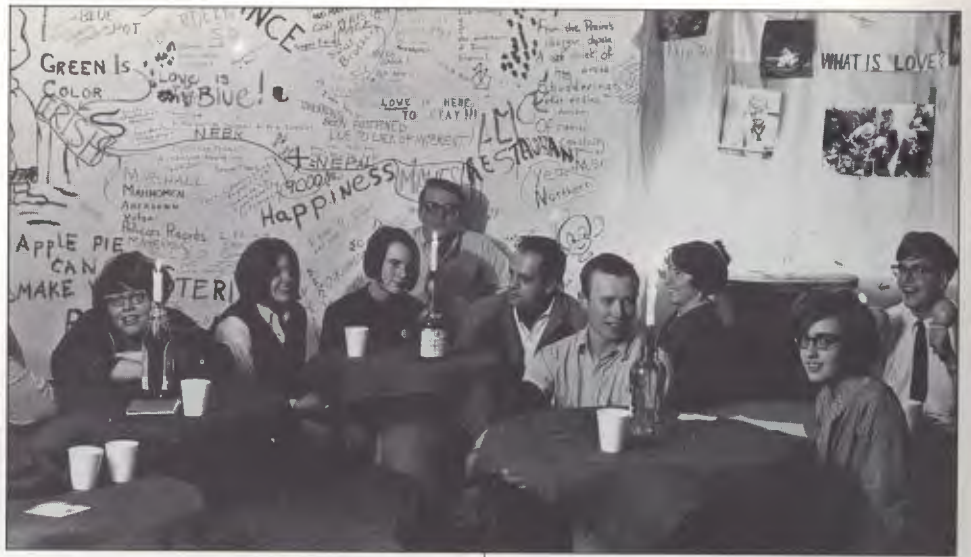
John Tandberg



Dance, 1960s; Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 1968.

Ted Larson and Pat McDonough perform at a 1962 radio program of the “Carry-On Show”; Bah’ai group, 1968; the stage band, directed by Al Noice, 1966; basketball player Pete Lysaker, 1965.

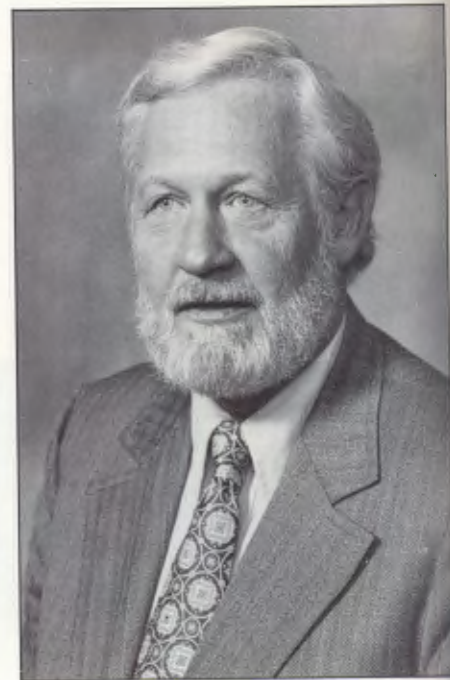




# Dille to Date Years/1968-

**T**he administration of President Roland Dille, first Moorhead State leader to be taken from the ranks of the faculty (English department), began against a background of strikes, sit-ins, and sometimes violence on college campuses, today known as “the protest era.” Student disruptions here were perhaps not as great as those on many larger campuses. Still, Moorhead State seemed most troubled of the area’s institutions of higher learning.

Students rallied in protest marches in response to the Kent State shootings and U.S. invasion of Cambodia, and stopped local traffic to deliver leaflets. The campus newspaper defied authority, and was suspended. Yet Moorhead State continued to expand during the first segment of the 1970s, in students and buildings. New buildings included Neumaier Hall,



Student strike after Kent State killings, 1971.



*"We never knew when we might be locked in the building. We were pretty much on edge at that time. There was a group sit-in at the entrance of Owens Hall."*

Beatrice Lewis

Murray Commons, Comstock Memorial Union, and a major addition to the Center for the Arts later that decade. A major addition to Livingston Lord Library is expected to be completed for the centennial year.

Also in the 1970s, fewer and fewer students declared majors in Moorhead State's old standby; education. More students were apt to major in business (the largest department), mass communications, and computer science. Growth of graduate programs strengthened the academic reputation of Moorhead State in the early 1970s, and in 1975 Minnesota recognized the advancements of its state colleges by giving them university status.

Moorhead State University has grown from a two-year school with two dozen students to a true liberal arts university with nearly 7,500 full- and part-time students, 28 major buildings, more than 100 student organizations, and more than 300 faculty members. It stretches 104 acres on what was once the bare outskirts of Moorhead, now a tree-lined older residential area.





Librarians Karen Kivi, Elsie Lee, Bernard Gill; groundbreaking ceremony for Center for the Arts addition, 1977; Moorhead State's last regularly published yearbook, 1971.



college aided newspaper back on MSC campus

moorhead state **advocate**

Vol. 1, No. 1 Sept. 23, 1971 Moorhead, Minn.

parades, queens—memories



students to be charged 50¢ for each game

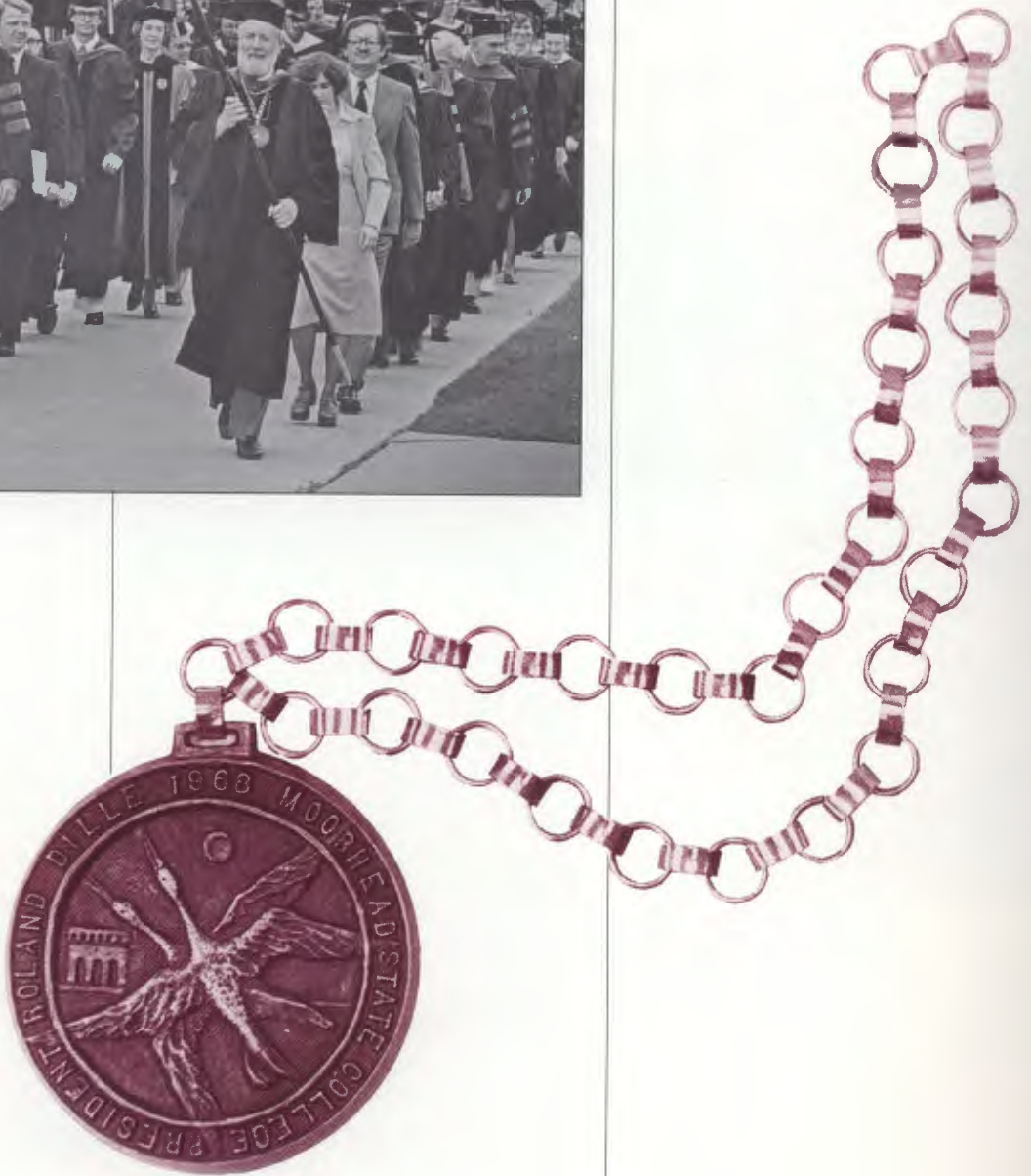
college men eligible for student deferments



**HOMECOMING GAME**  
3:30 Sat.  
Nansok Field

The *Advocate*, replacing the banned *MiSTiC*, began publication in the fall of 1971; Moorhead State's first birthday celebration, the 90th; a broadcast of "Campus News," a weekly student-produced television program, 1980s. Graduation procession, 1978.







The library; The Student Teaching Abroad program, one of the largest in the country, has sent more than 1100 students to 50 different countries since its inception in 1969; theater production, "No, No, Nanette," 1982.

Director Nancy Harger conducts student experiments at the Regional Science Center, the university's nature preserve about 13 miles east of campus; electronic music studio.







President Dille presides over freshman orientation activities; freshman orientation picnic dinner; Dille in his well-known Christmas role as Santa Claus.

Art and computer science students; the women's basketball team plays University of North Dakota, 1979.



*"Moorhead State is a cheery place to live and learn, especially in December when President Dille dons his colorful, red Claus costume."*

Stacia Vogel



Eurospring students spend a quarter studying in Oxford, England and visiting cultural centers in Europe. Here, they are in Florence, 1985.

The Center for the Arts; looking toward Comstock Memorial Union, Nelson Hall and Neumaier Hall; Weld Hall.



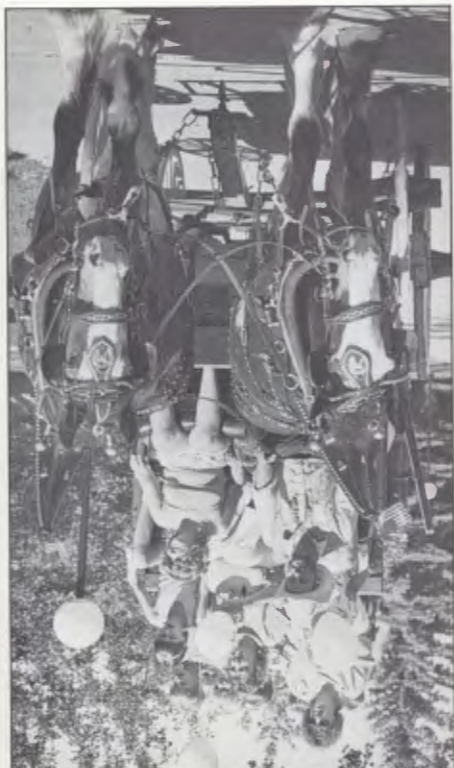




*“Moorhead State gave me - an ‘older than average’ student who wasn’t sure she could make it - respect for my intellect.”*

Cathy Mauk



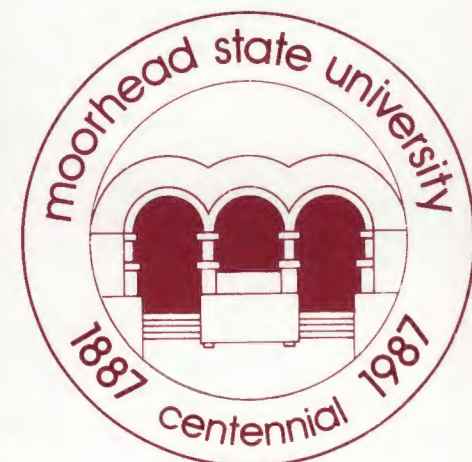


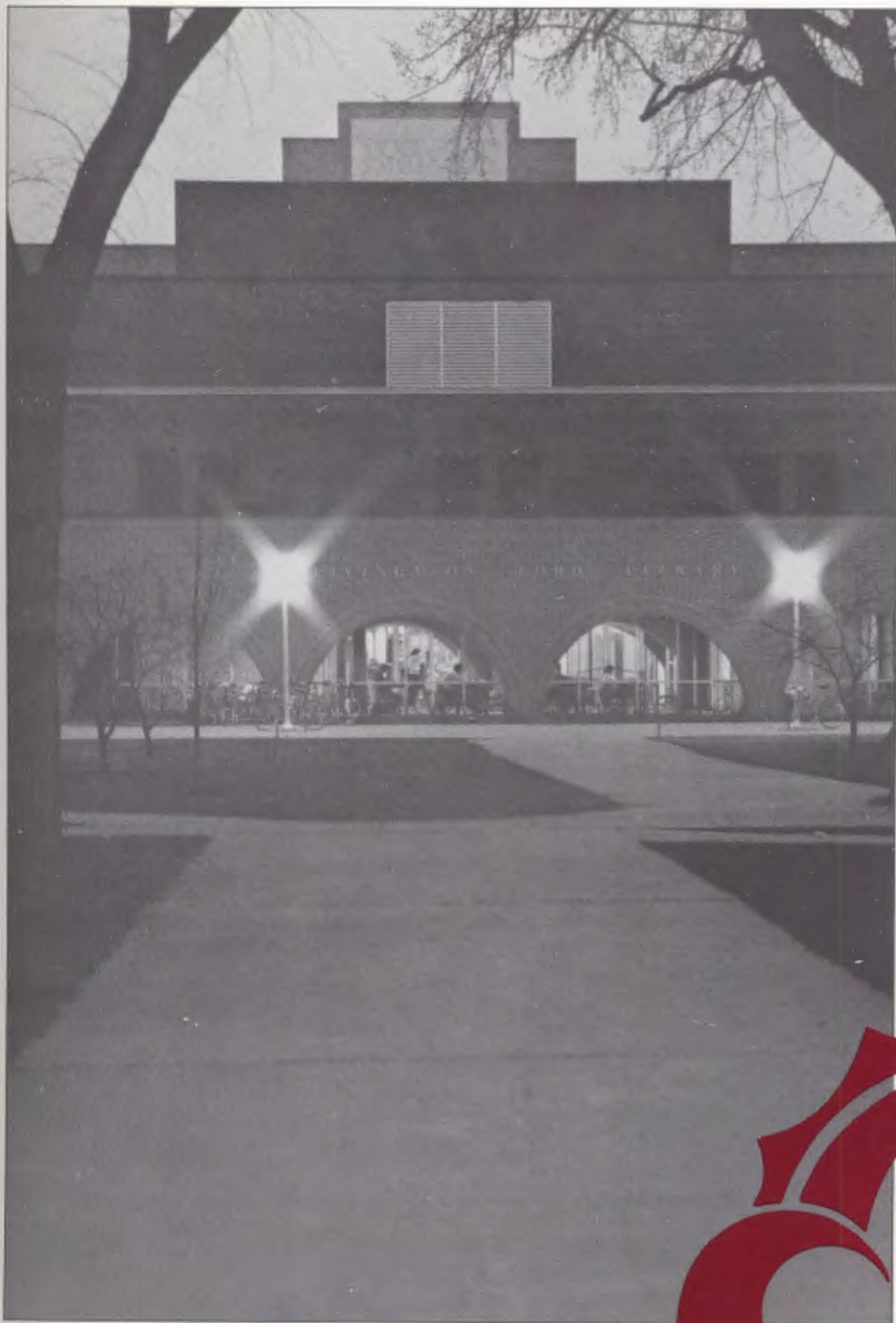
Moorhead State's Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration.





Celebration of a century: fall academic procession; Oxford Professor Allan Chapman speaks at centennial opening convocation; cake walk at 100th birthday party.





In this our Centennial Year, Livingston Lord Library, which now houses more than 300,000 volumes, acquired two new stories to accommodate space for an additional 150,000 books and added seating for 250. The Archives has been expanded to include the University archives and the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center in one area. Computer Services will move from Flora Frick to a new Computer Center, offering 24-hour access to a larger number of computers and terminals, and a more centralized location for scheduling services; and as Moorhead State enters its second century, a sleeker, bolder dragon makes its entrance. Designed by former student Haley Johnson from Hector, Minn., the revamped dragon has been chosen, says MSU President Dille, "to emphasize the pride and campus vitality that mascots stand for."





# IMAGES

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*Graphics assistant:* Becki Dewey

(*MSU student*)

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