

HOOLEY-BUNDSCHU LIBRARY
WHITFIELD CENTER
THORNHILL GALLERY

Construction 1977
Dunn Construction Company
Campaign/\$1,500,000

In the North Central Report, the Chairman of the Committee wrote that the completion of the library seemed to be the focus of interest for the college community. Yes, when ground was broken on April 17, 1977, joy was felt throughout the campus. This was the long-awaited-for building and soon to be a reality. It was the only construction which had its name selected in the early sixties when Judge Henry A. Bundschu made the commitment to help toward the construction of the permanent library. Judge took pride in the fact that he was the oldest living law graduate of the University of Michigan. He was an active member of the Jackson County Historical Society. He wore daily a fresh flower in his lapel and frequented his office until well past his ninetieth birthday. (Missing the ever present flower when I paid my respects at his wake, I took one of the daisies in a bouquet and placed it in his lapel jacket. Now, he looked completely blissful.) A native of Independence, Missouri, Judge was a proud son of his ancestors who founded the Bundschu Department Store and who played active roles in their community.

Judge Bundschu's contribution received in the Fall of 1962, made possible the purchase of the sturdy tables and chairs which were delivered to the lower level of Blasco Hall in the Spring of 1963. This furniture is in the Hooley-Bundschu Library today, thirty years of hard wear! The portraits of the Judge and Anne Sarachon Hooley (Miss) are in the study room of the library. These portraits were taken by Michael Burks, an instructor in photography, who married Lisa Kroupa '82. Michael went to KU to obtain his doctorate.

Before Anne Sarachon Hooley departed from Kansas City in 1962, to open her business school in Mexico City, she visited me at 5600 Main Street. In the dismantling of her secretarial school at 4600 Main Street, she wanted to donate its chairs, typewriters and other equipment to the College. Her original building is still being leased and has the name of Sarachon-Hooley etched in stone. Anne was a most distinguished-looking lady with blue hair, well educated and very well groomed. My responses to her query about the future of the College were listened to very carefully. Years later on her return to Kansas City, Anne confided that at the time of our first visit, she wondered seriously "if all

could and would come to pass." Yet, she marveled at the Faith, Hope and Love which girded the statements in regard to the future.

On her first visit to the new campus, Anne expressed an interest in being part of the library project. When Judge was asked if he minded sharing his name with that of a woman, he replied: "Why no, provided she is a real lady." When Anne accepted the invitation to be a donor, she asked that I repeat rapidly the proposed 'Bundschu-Hooley' name. Which I did. "Don't you think," she asked, "that the students would resort to 'bunch-of-hooley!'"? So, the names were reversed to the satisfaction of both donors.

A priceless anecdote of Anne's with Joyce Hall of Hallmark Cards is priceless. He had called Anne asking for a secretary NOW. When Anne replied that she would be delighted to have a secretary for his office but time would be needed to prepare her well for her duties. To which response, Mr. Hall was negative: NOW or NEVER! It was no longer than several weeks when Joyce Hall called Anne back and asked for one of her students prepared with whatever it was (finesse) that Anne had said.

The architects worked long hours with Sister Una Marie Brumbach, head librarian, and a committee composed of the college community members. When the expenses began to exceed the budget, the architects were asked to remove enough footage to remain within the budget. This was done as requested and a knockout panel was provided for future expansion of the library, if necessary. Sister Una was firm in her determination to maintain the library for quiet study. No lounge was permitted within the library for purposes of relaxation. Although requested vehemently by some, the student center was considered adequate for relaxation purposes. The new library provided five times as much space as had previously. At the heart of the educational process, the library with its number and quality of volumes is the priority of the Academic Dean and the Department Chairpersons. The library has kept pace with change and the new technology. The library holdings are now on the Blue Star System on-line Public Access Catalog. The on-line database vendors are Dialog, Westlaw, and OCLC First Search. Infotrac, ERIC, MCAT and MO Facts are on CD-ROM. Macintosh computers have been added to the IBM and Apple IIE computer list. To aid in teaching, two camcorders and two video disc players are available

to students. A VHS editing room is the latest addition to the library.

The library contains memorabilia important to the history of the College. On the paneled wall is a section of silk material of exquisite Chinese embroidery of a dragon from the Margaret O'Rielly estate. It was unfortunate that much of the O'Rielly estate was auctioned in the late fifties and so little realized from the treasures she had collected when traveling abroad. As the youngest member of the college faculty, it was a concern to me that such treasures were so freely given away for a pittance. A portrait in pastel of a French lady by Nattier is from the Florence and Ethel Beck estate. This portrait has a companion piece of a lady with blond hair and blue eyes in contrast to Avila's lady with brunette hair and brown eyes. This picture hung over the mantel piece in the home of Miss Beck, Philosophy Professor on the St. Teresa Campus. She was an excellent professor though strict and formidable. The first month of my presidency, Miss Beck sent three of her students to my office to be reprimanded for refusing to pray before her class. It was a new experience for me to have to reconcile students and professor amicably. (It occurred to me to send them to the Academic Dean but she, in turn, whisked them to my office.) The small portrait of Mrs. Vita Goppert was given to the College by our benefactress at the time she was named Avila's first lady. (At that time, little if any thought had ever been given to the presidency being held by a layperson). The picture of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Blasco was given when our trustee Chairman and his wife returned from one of their many trips to Rome in behalf of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher. The Chinese table is from the estate of Margaret O'Rielly and the Chinese arm chair came from the home of Marie Ridgway who wanted Avila College to have it. The four sections of benches with black cushions were given to the College by the ABC storage company. This company had no gift money at the time of the solicitation and offered these pieces instead. The benches had been painted yellow with well worn thin green pads, having been in the waiting room of the bus station. Our upholsterer picked up these items from ABC and returned them to the library refinished beautifully in walnut and upholstered with thick black naugahyde pillows and backing. It was a lovely transformation. The two salon chairs were from the Visitation Convent when the Sisters of St. Joseph left the parish. By the circulation desk is a wooden statue of the Madonna given by Paul and Marily DeBacco '73. Paul was an executive of Hallmark Cards and had been

transferred to Kansas City from New Jersey. The African corpus of Christ is from Mary Elizabeth Schutte '49 who labored as a missionary in Africa. The macramé was a gift from Dick Pond, Dance Instructor and Musical Choreographer. Two framed stained glass windows were the gift of Helen Voight, a wealthy oil woman who had these windows removed from the home of the Kansas Wheat King. One window is in Helen's memory and one in memory of our former resident student from Georgia, Bettye Cobb, who died shortly after graduation, ~~as~~ a wife and mother. This memorial was requested by her classmates through Ann Faughnan Ronchetto '68.

In a large display case are some pieces of chinaware from Germany, belleek pieces from Ireland. These are from the estate of Margaret O'Rielly. The oriental dolls and pieces were received from some of our foreign students: Miriam Songsiridej, Monica Chung, Yasuko Sakaki.

The large round study table and its extension pieces with its chest of drawers were the furniture of Margaret O'Rielly's father. This furniture was offered to the College by Mrs. Marian Hughes, a relative of the O'Riellys. Her home was being razed by the Kansas City Life Company whose Executive, Mr. Joseph Bixby, had purchased the land to build his new home across the street from the family insurance business. A meeting time was arranged to visit with Marian to see the furniture and determine its usefulness to the College. Because of extensive damages to the wood, the refinisher picked up the pieces at the home and brought them when finished to the campus. The refinisher, Mr. DeLeon, said that some of his customers, intrigued by the style and make of the table, had offered a good sum for its purchase. This table had been custom-made by Keith's and veneered in the manner of the style of the time. Until the Hooley-Bundschu Library was constructed, the table was stored in the Barefoot Room of Marian Center. It took up the entire space but was functional as a conference table in the round.

In the workroom of the library are the excellent walnut cabinets carved by a German craftsman of Independence. These were from the estate of Judge Bundschu. The enclosed glass bookshelves with their concealed locks, a smaller cabinet, a one-step ladder and a credenza were all part of the set. The latter piece was removed from the home of Judge after his death by his relative, Mr. Brady. Mr. Brady assured Albert Bundschu that it would be returned to Avila at his demise. A triptych of classic Chinese embroidery on pink silk was given to the College by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gibson. Jackie Gibson was happy to donate these lovely

works of art to the College. Many visitors have offered to purchase them; however, they are not for purchase but to be enjoyed by the college community.

A modest gold vase which is in the workroom was in the office of Sister Mary Daniel Tammany (President 1959 - 1961). Sister was a sensitive religious and a woman destined to assure the continuation of the College in her short span of service. It was she who was responsible for the purchase of the fifty acres in south Kansas City. In her short tenure, Sister accomplished her mission well. She basically convinced the Provincial Council members that the College had a future in Kansas City. She received the necessary permission to move ahead with the purchase of the fifty acres at 119th and Wornall Roads. It cannot be over-emphasized to note the importance of Sister Daniel's optimism in the midst of the confusion of the times when religious Orders were examining their missions and the future. The fate of Avila College hung on her depth of persuasion.

Throughout the campus are lounge chairs of simple design which can fold in two pieces. The Jones Store featured these sturdy student chairs of green, blue, orange and black fabric. There were three hundred dollars available to purchase some lounge pieces for student use. What was found for that amount of money according to our upholsterer, Gary Boyce, was of poor quality and ^{not} suited to the hard wear given by college students. What elation was had when Sandy Edelman and Margot Thornhill, Director of Alumnae and Admissions respectively, received and listened to a salesman from the Jones Store who had a warehouse of these chairs reduced from ninety to thirty dollars! Ten chairs were purchased then and there. Ninety more were ordered to be used throughout the campus: thirty-eight for the Sisters' rooms in Foyle Hall; some in the alumni lounge; some in the residence halls and a number in the library. The chairs are now more than twenty-five years old and many are still in use and have the original fabric.

In the reference room is the spade which has been used for most of the ground-breakings. When St. Teresa's Academy had groundbreaking for their Goppert Center, it was requested of my office to return the spade to the Academy. It was a privilege to let the spade be used for this important function; however, the plaque was still clearly visible noting that the spade had been first used for the groundbreaking of Donnelly Hall when the senior college building was being constructed. The chain of metal links attached to the spade bears the date on each link from 1942 to 1986. This portrays the visible linking of the

past to the present commencement classes. There are framed photographs of the Rheims Cathedral taken by Sister Colette Marie Doering while on a student tour abroad. The file cabinets holding the video tapes were given to the College by Panhandle Eastern Pipeline. At the time they were given, Sister Una Marie exclaimed that the files were just what was needed. Their value? Sister said that the ones she had priced were one thousand dollars each and they were not as sturdy, nor as fine a quality as the ones donated.

It was Sister Una Marie who suggested having stand-up racks for the extensive holding of long-playing records in the audio-visual room. On the walls of the room were hung the portraits and still-life picture attributed to Sister Annetta. The large chest of drawers is the companion piece to the O'Rielly table in the main room of the library. In the Reference Room is the one and only conference table taken from Donnelly Hall. Some of the original oak tables and chairs of the Donnelly Hall Library are in use today in the library and in the Education and Psychology Department.

The Hooley-Bundschu Library has among its holdings the Education Research Information Center (ERIC), a complete listing of articles and publications on education for research purposes.

When the books were moved to the new campus in the Fall of 1963, it was discovered that the real count of the library holdings was far below the figures on the College book holdings. The discrepancy occurred as a result of the books of the Academy being part of the total count for the College. Instead of the number being accurate, it fell short of about a third of the volumes supposedly held. Books and periodicals are very important library holdings. It is important to note that the Avila College Library holds 1,852 microfilm, 360,600 microfiche (the entire ERIC collection), 1,133 cassettes, 41 sixteen millimeter films, 6,721 slides, 190 reel tapes, 283 VHS, 725 filmstrips, 1860 sound recordings and 299 computer software.

Extensive weeding has been done in the book areas. The book collection is very representative of what a small liberal arts college collection should be. Additional funds are being added to further expand the college holdings.

It is an honor and a privilege for Avila College to have the name of an alumna

on the library building. Miss Dorothy Whitfield attended the Trenton, Missouri, Junior College. She was encouraged to continue her education as a medical technologist. She attended the College of St. Teresa and obtained her degree in Chemistry with her fifth year internship at St. Joseph Hospital located at Linwood and Prospect, now at 1000 Carondelet Drive. Sister Henrietta Eileen Heiner was Academic Dean and Dorothy's advisor and mentor. Dorothy worked as a medical technologist until she began her own company: marketing her products in the morning and filling out the orders in the afternoon. A conscientious worker and sensitive business woman, Dorothy became a successful entrepreneur, a forerunner of the Women's Movement. Her generosity made possible the whole lower level of the Hooley-Bundschu Library. Whitfield Center is an integral part of the College programs.

In the conference room is a Ship's bell and sounder given to the College by Fern Schibi'71. It is a practical gift and calls sessions to order. There is inscribed on the bell: "Qui me tangit, me audit." There are framed pictures of the architectural drawings of the buildings, too nice to be discarded. There is written the philosophy of our Architect, Angus McCallu, who believed firmly that the College must reflect the goals of the College physically: a love for beauty, openness and simplicity. A set of Monet posters was framed and given to the College by Mary Agnes Thornhill and her sister.

The lights which had been installed in the Helmes Room for the display of art pieces were removed and used in the new Thornhill Gallery. The temperature control for this room and the lighting were made appropriate for the purposes of the gallery. Its name is in honor of a long-time friend, benefactor and Counselor, great in his humility. Edward A. Thornhill served on the Board of Counselors as an active member. He was a professional person, sensitive to others at all times. His sudden death on October 4, 1981, was a loss to many at the College. Dr. Blanche Dow, Trustee, said that Mr. Thornhill was one of the few truly humble persons she had the privilege of knowing. I remember Ed being on the Board of the Adult Education Board at St. Teresa's in 1952.



On our way to Europe, late '70's, the Thornhills and
mom and I met in New York. A happy meeting!

PM 8/26/92

SLM 8/27/92

set 8/28/92

AmG 8/28

side 15 8/30

✓ In AD 9/5/92

✓ Dr. Ellen 9/2/92

✓ Dr. Peter 9/28

9/2/92 Dr. Margaret