

Alfred State College Centennial

Name: *Dr. George W. Herrick*
Department: *Social & Behavioral Sciences, Counseling Center*
Dates Employed: *July, 1962 - June 30, 1983*

Memories:

I had planned to retire in 1986, but the first retirement incentive of 1983, was too good to pass up!

See attached pages

To: Diana Hovorka
Hinkle Memorial Library
Alfred State College
Alfred, New York 14802

From: Dr. George W. Herrick
Alfred Station, New York 14803

Date: November 1, 2005

Subject: Memories for the Centennial

Although your letter was postmarked on October 3, we received it a week ago. We were away and had only some mail forwarded early in our stay. So this will be a bit late. At this stage in my life I'm not sure just what I remember! I wish you lots of luck with this project.

Memories: I came to Alfred in June of 1962 for our 10th reunion celebration from Alfred University. And it was there that I heard there was going to be a revamping of psychology courses, and might I be interested in teaching at the college! At the time I was an administrator at Hinsdale Central school, and we were always anxious to get back to Alfred. Dr. Warren Bouck, who employed me, drove to Hinsdale to interview me. I was hired initially to teach English and Psychology. So I began in the fall of 1962, making the 90 mile trip daily from Cattaraugus County. Dr. Bouck saw to it that I had no 8 o'clock classes that first year!

Later on, with Dr. Bouck's blessing, I was transferred to Ms. Shirley Wurz, who was interested in providing the college with a counseling center. I was given the opportunity to start the center and being its first director. As far as I know, this was the first attempt at providing the college with a formal and professional counseling center, and was a first for college students in the area. Shirley and I traveled a lot all over the country, letting others know how to begin and manage such a center.

One of the things that impressed me about my early years at Alfred "Tech", in the 1960's, was the fact that there seemed to be an unlimited amount of money to be had above and beyond what had been allocated to the department's budget. Since I was likely to be called on to spend more than had been allocated, I kept a file with items which were needed in my department. I can recall a call from Dr. Rawe's office (vice-president) one day, offering to give us \$5000 if I could get the paperwork done to spend it by 1 pm! (Note, the exact amount of money may be incorrect, but the incident happened) Of course I complied!

In retrospect, I feel that 1960's represent the heyday of the college. There was excellent enrollment, large numbers of faculty and budgets. And the social gatherings were spectacular too, especially with the Christmas reception, with ice carvings holding shrimp, many other foods, ladies in long dresses, and great camaraderie.

2. In the 20 years I was at Alfred State, my office was in a number of buildings which no longer exist, or are no longer a part of the college. I began in a yellow bungalow at the present traffic light, where the Terra Cotta museum is now. Then there was a move to a white house on campus, and later to North Hall. At one time I was in the basement of Hinkle Library, where the Counseling Center was located, and the Dean and I were the only ones who had a window in our offices.

I also remember fondly two of my bosses: Dr. Warren Bouck and Ms. Shirley Wurz, Dean of Students. They gave me the freedom to do "my thing", as long as it made good sense.

Sometime during the tenure of Dr. Rawe, I was appointed chairman of the Social and Behavioral Sciences department. I remember mostly the great group of faculty and students I had the pleasure of working with. One of the outcomes of this association was the Human Services Curriculum, that is still in existence.

Another event probably remembered by many folks is^s the moving of the library. The library had been on the AU side of Main Street and was moved to the new Hinkle Library. The students and faculty moved all the books, carrying them across Main Street to the new building. And at that time there was no traffic light! I think even some officials from Albany were here and carried books also.

I graduated from Alfred University in 1952, the last year the institutions were still run together in some areas. In fact the 1952 Alfred U. yearbook included faculties of both institutions and the graduating seniors of both. The dedication in the Kanakadea was to Truman (Doc) Parish, of Alfred State.

Things change and buildings were built, but we remember an earlier time when we bought milk from the Tech dairy, took our kids to the school farm to see the newborn lambs, and everyone, it seemed, worked together for the betterment of the school.

gwh