

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

Name: Glenn J. Leathersich
Department: Executive Secretarial
Dates employed: 1947-1973
Memories: The faculty of New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute doubled from 15 to 30 when I joined it in the summer of 1947. President Orvis was an inspiration during the following years of rapid growth. We sometimes grumbled at the demands he made on us, but we marveled at what was accomplished. At times, we were called upon to give up our Saturdays to his projects--go to Brockport State College to dismantle a WWII Government-built mess hall to be re-erected in Alfred as our first gymnasium --cleaning up debris and left-over lumber from building a cafeteria and lounge--moving war surplus material from the farm barn to an empty house on Sugar Hill--cleaning out the "Place House" on Main Street to be used as office and classroom space. We were also asked to take our turn on Saturday mornings to cover the Main office to answer the telephone and receive visitors.

I was hired to teach courses in a new Retail Marketing curriculum. Nearly all the students were returning veterans and the most enjoyable group I ever taught. They were serious about preparing themselves for jobs, yet they had a spontaneous, mature sense of humor.

I made a transition from the Marketing Department to the Secretarial Department, where enrolment was growing rapidly, and was named Department Chairman in the '60's. Lily Carter was the first teacher in that department and had set the tone of high standards.

The Department grew to be the largest in the college in the 1960's. After we set our capacity for incoming freshmen, Milo VanHall, recruiter, would call and say "Can you take ten more." Our largest freshman class was around 130. We also accommodated about 75 incoming freshman from the Medical Secretarial curriculum. The Department faculty grew to eight in number.

Much attention was given to job placement. The Rochester firms of Eastman Kodak, Xerox, and Gleason Works hired any of our girls who wanted a job. The Central Intelligence Agency placed five of our graduates in secretarial positions in the White House, and in Embassies in London, Paris, Athens, and Rome, plus one in Guatemala.

A typing contest was held for area high school students during Fall Festival. At its peak, 89 students from 39 high schools participated.

During my 26-year tenure, I had the experience of relocating the Department in two new buildings--the Industrial

Building on the old campus and the E. J. Brown Building on the present campus. There were many innovations--dictating machines were installed to enable students to practice outside of class time, machine shorthand courses were added (Stenograph), carpeted walls in the typing room reduced noise level, and Court Reporting was added to the curriculum.

When machine shorthand was introduced, John Palmer volunteered to accept the Stenograph Company's invitation to go to the Company's headquarters in Chicago for an intensive one-week course in teaching it. A few years later he was called back for a ceremonial dinner in Chicago, honoring him as "The Machine Shorthand Teacher of the Year."

One of John's students was Robert McCormick. After completing the Court Reporting curriculum, McCormick continued his education for a baccalaureate degree in education at Albany State College. During his two years there, he worked as a free-lance court reporter in the Albany area. He was then hired back at Alfred State College where he developed the Court Reporting curriculum to one of the finest in the Nation. It is internationally known as he has developed "on-line" courses that serve students worldwide.

I feel blessed to have been a part of the college through its period of rapid growth in numbers and stature.

Sincerely

Glenn J. Leathersuch