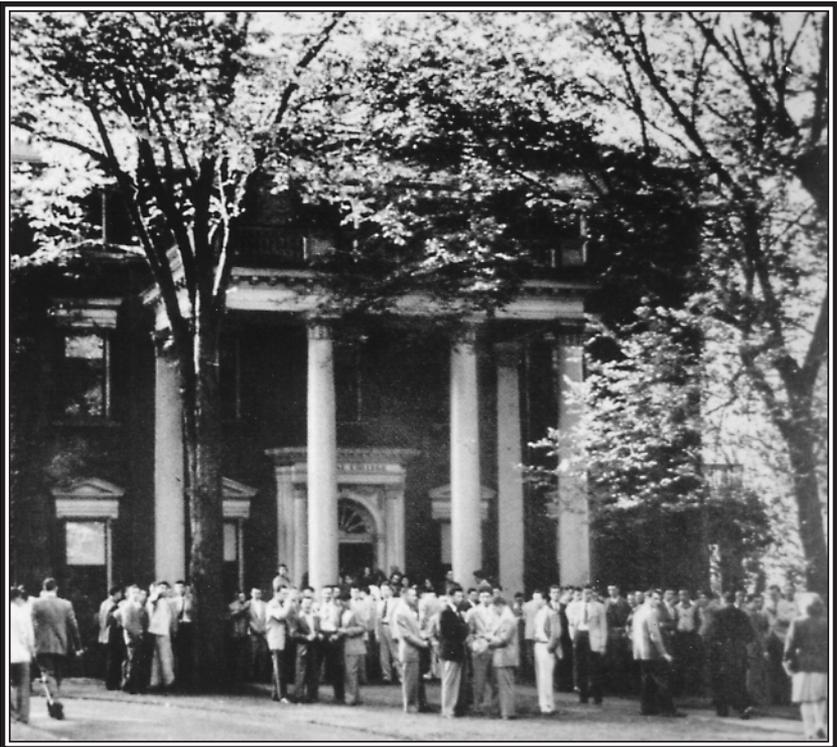


**PRESERVING THE PAST AND PRESENT
FOR THE FUTURE**



September 15, 1947, Opening Day for Le Moyne
at Judge Hiscock's Mansion on James Street

ACADEMIC BIRTH PANGS

Le Moyne's academic beginnings were very fragile. Started as a local college, the institution drew almost exclusively from Syracuse high schools, where academic standards were hardly the highest. Concern that the tag "happy high school on the heights" would have a foundation in fact led to a reluctance to provide remedial education, and early professors lamented incoming students' lack of Latin training. Beyond the ill-prepared student population, the times themselves gave reason for potential weakness. The GI Bill caused a post-war collegiate explosion, which in turn created piranha-like competition for qualified faculty.

Still, there were reasons for academic hope. The New York Provincial sent his "best and brightest" to get the college started. Jesuits such as J. Donald Monan, Robert Mitchell, William Richardson and others gave the fledgling institution a firm foundation. The college also boasted a lay faculty of whom 25 out of 36 had advanced degrees; 5 had doctorates and 20 had master's degrees.

Moreover, the Jesuit influence was not just a tradition, but a specific model; the college did not start from scratch. The original curriculum was a close imitation of Canisius College's. Le Moyne also adopted the long-established governance structure of Jesuit colleges, from the Rector of the Jesuit community being "ex officio" College President to the smallest details of administrative title and task.

There were two external factors that were vital to Le Moyne's academic coming of age: the Middle States Association and the Province Prefect of Studies. Middle States initiated its first trial evaluation program in 1946. By 1948, the Association announced that it planned to visit 16 colleges and universities. Jesuit institutions, assuming they would be selected, held a meeting of the deans of the Jesuit colleges of the New York and Maryland Provinces. Attendees realized that the prospective evaluation would prompt many innovations and changes.

The Province Prefect of Studies, who also claimed the titles of Prefect General and Director of Higher Education, was the key figure in upgrading the colleges to meet Middle States standards. The Prefect was the advisor to the Provincial in determining education policy. Because the Provincial had almost absolute power over the colleges—no new curriculum, department, or major course change could be made, and no honorary degree could be granted without Provincial approval—the Prefect's influence was enormous. He acted as a gatekeeper. The colleges sent him all their academically related recommendations or requests; the Prefect referred these items, with his recommendations, to the Provincial.

The Prefect's presiding over the meeting of New York Province deans and his annual visit to the College augmented his influence. The deans' meetings strove to ensure uniformity of the three colleges: Canisius, St. Peter's, and Le Moyne. Facets covered included admission requirements, syllabi, marking standards, catalogue content, and dismissal of failures. The Prefect provided the deans with detailed job descriptions for the dean, chairs, and full-time faculty. All three colleges were expected to implement these norms.

The Prefect of Studies' annual evaluation was a major event with a formative influence on the college. The job description stated that the Prefect "...shall visit all classes and oversee all teachers. In his annual visit he shall make a review of all areas and factors affecting faculty, student life, and religious and academic quality in accordance with the ideals of the Society and the requirements of standard accrediting agencies." These inspections took at least two weeks, during which the prefect examined records, academic practices, counseling, discipline, the library, athletics, student activities, plant facilities and upkeep. He observed each teacher and ranked them from A ("top flight") to D ("unsatisfactory teacher"). In 1951, John Fernan was the only teacher rated with an A; most received a C or C+, and two received a mark of D. (As it happened, one of the instructors who received a D continued to teach at Le Moyne for the following thirty years.) The Prefect was very candid in his comments: "Simply not a teacher. Should never have entered the classroom. Is a splendid character." He also added notes such as "In contrast with St. Peter's college, I thought the teaching was much poorer in chemistry at Le Moyne."

The 1951 Prefect's report was primarily aimed at preparing the College for an anticipated Middle States evaluation. He pointed out that many fundamentals were lacking, and his recommendations had a great impact on Le Moyne's future. The Prefect urged that a Faculty Handbook be produced immediately, statutes and by-laws be drawn up, a wage scale be drafted by a committee with faculty representation, a rank and tenure committee initiated, a pension plan instituted, a budget created, an alumni organization started, and a vocational guidance center formed. In all this the Prefect urged that the faculty have input. The President was to make final decisions; however, contrary to the then-current policy, he was expected to obtain the faculty's views on all matters of moment.

When the Middle States did make its evaluation, the visiting team withheld its decision and recommended changes. The Prefect wrote the president, William Schlaerth, S.J., a note that essentially said, "I told you so." The college complied with the suggested changes, and Middle States accredited Le Moyne in October 1953. The institution had taken its first steps toward academic respectability. ■

NOW THANK WE ALL—

The usual faithful contributors have continued to send items to the Archives. Administrators have been most generous. **Charlie Beirne, S.J.** provided the folders containing his 2001 files and trial reports of Salvadorian death squad generals. **Maureen White**, President's office, donated correspondence of Robert Mitchell, S.J., Edmund G. Ryan, S.J. and Eulas Boyd. **Professor Nancy Ring**, Academic Dean, and **Jeanne Darby** provided past budgets, day books, and 15 banker boxes of past Faculty Files. **Diane Litterer**, Institutional Research, has given copies of its past reports. **Patri Welch**, Institutional Advancement, continues to supply print shop products and other items. **Sr. Joan Kerley**, Campus Ministry, turned over video tapes, P.I.C. scrapbooks, and t-shirts. **Communications** provided 50 yearbooks and material from the 2001 Reunion of the class of 1951. **Michael Donlin**, Athletic Information, furnished 25 debate trophies from the 1960s and 4 banker boxes of sports photos. **Fiona Blom**, Performing Arts Center, came over with playbills and programs. **Rob Cook**, Library, delivered yearbooks and Middle States reports.

Alumni have been cooperative. **Bob Betterton '52** donated his correspondence with John F. Kennedy. **Nancy [Loesch] Ruff '63** left a bag of vintage items including *Dolphins*, playbills, *Insights* and *Phos*. **William O'Neill '51** sent articles and photos about the 1959 Industrial Relations Council.

From the basement of Loyola Jesuit Residence, **Don Kirby, S.J.** supplied the records of Joseph Roth, S.J. and many banker boxes containing material concerning Richard McKeon, S.J. a prolific early Le Moyne writer on Industrial Relations issues. **Michael Siconolfi, S.J.** donated folders on the 1970 separate incorporation as well as Richard Blake, S.J.'s correspondence on the 1993 Mission Statement.

Fredrick O'Brien, S.J. N.Y. Province archivist, provided documents on the Prefect of Studies. **Jennifer Reddy** performed her usual excellent proofreading.

These most appreciated donations and the great promises of so many others in the Le Moyne Community give me high hopes as well as a grateful heart. ■

LETTER TO THE ARCHIVIST

295 Honey Hollow Road
Windsor, N.Y. 13865-3406
March 8, 2002

Dear Father Bosch:

Recently the Syracuse Post-Standard ran an article about Le Moyne which immediately captured my attention and triggered some memories of the early days.

The article was about the College's new mortgage guarantee program.

When I joined the Le Moyne faculty in September 1947, at an annual salary of \$3,000, with absolutely no fringe benefits of any kind, the College was dead broke, flat-out. The cupboard was bare. Moreover, there was a sizeable debt, which was owed to an insurance company for a loan to complete the construction of the two buildings on the campus.

I can still recall sitting in the office of the President, Father Schlaerth, discussing this debt burden. Father said to me: "Jim, how are we ever going to be able to pay off this debt?" He was really worried.

That was then. This is now.

Now Le Moyne is financially able to introduce a mortgage guarantee program.

My wife and I decided to build a house for our growing family. We bought a lot on Harwood Avenue, off Seeley Road, just a few blocks from the campus. We paid \$900 for the lot. Within a year, lots in that area were selling for \$2,000 or more.

As an economist, I was curious about what would happen to all the empty land surrounding Le Moyne's 115 acres. I did some research and discovered that one particular tract of land, extending from Salt Springs Road down to Erie Boulevard, was on the market for \$50,000. I proposed to Father Schlaerth that the College should buy this property. I knew that the land was bound to go up in value. But the Trustees were cautious. Before we could do anything, Jackson Portter Real Estate bought the tract and built the Springfield Gardens.

And so it goes.

At any rate, I would now congratulate all those at Le Moyne who had the foresight to initiate this program. I see it as a form of social justice in the world.

Incidentally, all of our children graduated from Le Moyne. The Harwood location had many advantages. We were within walking distance of the campus. We were close to Our Lady of Solace Church and a fire station, and we had access to a bus route.

The great mystery now is this: With all this knowledge and experience behind me, how come I'm not rich? Riddle me that.

Peace!

Jim Henney

VOICES OF LE MOYNE HISTORY PRESENT AT THE CREATION

An oral history interview does not produce a polished, finely edited account but it can provide a sense of immediacy and reality that is hard to equal. Here is the future first Dean of Women Rita McCain's account of "how the school was started" in the fall of 1948.

We were downtown on James Street, and one day, about maybe four days before the students were coming to register in September, Fr. Beglan said, "I don't care whether those buildings are ready, we are going to move in tomorrow!" So we moved in, and the place was in chaos. There were no phones, there were no numbers on the doors. There was no room for the files that we needed for the students and the faculty. So we put the files down the hall... And so we had to wait for the maintenance men to put numbers up on the doors, and give us an idea of the numbers of students who could sit there. There were no desks, there was nothing, nothing, no phones, and the PA system was strewn all over the floor. It was just unbelievable; we got hysterical because everything was so silly and so funny because of the situation. So finally they got the numbers on the door, and gave us the numbers of students who could be held in each room. So we tried to make a schedule, and this was working night and day for the four days through the weekend. So we had one piece of paper on the floor, and we would kneel on the floor to write as Fr. Beglan would dictate the schedule of these kids because we had to give them the schedule on the following Monday. This was maybe Friday we were starting to do this, and so that's how we made a schedule. For two classes, of course, it wasn't as big of a deal as four, but all that stuff today on the computer is unbelievable. I see how much different it is. So then the phones, as I say, weren't working. We had to have connections and the poor phone fellow is in the office with us all the time in order to connect them. And he would have to answer the phone because it would start to ring and keep ringing, and he would have to answer it and try to answer questions. It was just fun! The whole thing was fun; it was really funny. So anyway, that's how the school began. So then when the students came we registered them, and that was another job of course we did was registering them, getting the schedules for them. So the first day of classes Fr. Owen came storming into the office saying, "Do you realize you've put us in a broom closet?!" ■

FROM THE PAST

POST-STANDARD APRIL 3, 1950

Women Winning Equality Fight—But It Will Break Their Hearts, Says Priest

Modern women will win perfect equality with men, but it will break their hearts, the Rev. Vincent P. McCorry, S.J. of the Department of English of Le Moyne College, told a capacity audience yesterday in Le Moyne auditorium at the sixth and final Lenten lecture of the 1950 series.

The title of his lecture was "Feminism, a Modern Heresy." Judging from audience reaction, Father McCorry was "wonderful," and as one woman commented, "certainly put it across."

MEN AFRAID?

Men have grown afraid of women, Father McCorry maintained. Many men think the girls of today are spoiled brats who demand too much of a man. In their fight for equality with men, women are winning the battles but losing the war. "You are getting everything you want, point by point, but God help you in the end," he told the feminine portion of the audience. Three factors formed the background for his lecture, Father McCorry explained: namely, the tendency in young women of today toward a growing hardness and rashness, the tendency in education for women to suggest that the ideal of feminine life is a career and the career girl is the ideal woman, and the sense of discontent many American women seem to have with themselves and their lives.

MAN MAIN INTEREST

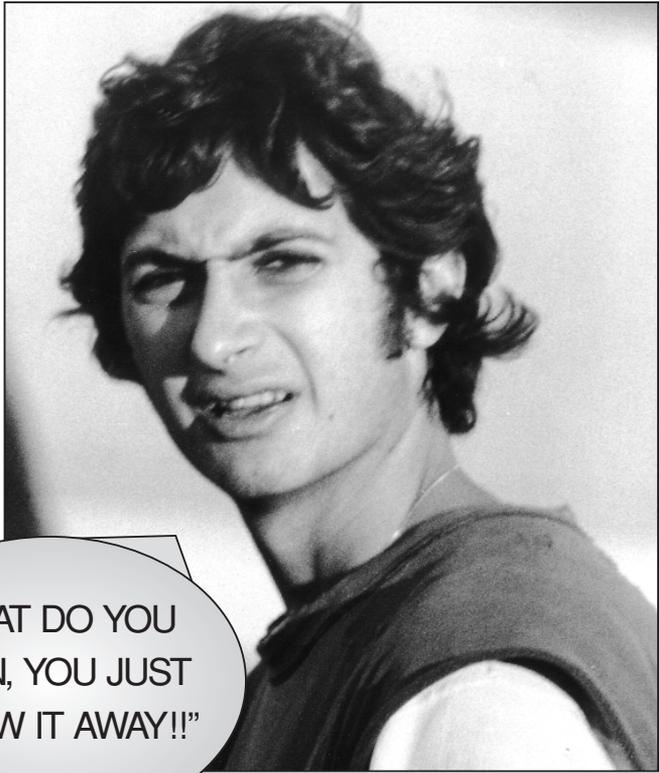
Father McCorry outlined the position women held in the past to better illustrate their present position. From the beginning of history until about 1850, most of her time was spent within the home. Outside herself, her function consisted of being mainly interested

in her man, her children and her home. For this life woman was well educated by other women. She was educated by women, as a woman, to do a woman's job. But today, women's life is public. Often it can't be helped, but much time is spent outside the home. The job comes first in many cases. "Woman has stopped being man's helpmate and become his competitor, and probably never before in history have so many women remained unmarried," Father McCorry said. "The home, threatened constantly by divorce, no longer is the center of life," he warned.

SUMS UP IDEAL

Defining the feminism movement, the speaker described it as a tendency or movement which propagandizes as ideal the ideal of a public life for women at the expense of husband, children and home. "Feminism is truly a heresy. It tells women that their old functions should be thrust in the background. It is a heresy, and it is criminal against women and the intellect," Father McCorry added.

He then attacked the four false propositions upon which he said feminism is based. History has proved as false the propositions that: [1] women can do everything men can do—and better; [2] women can do all that men can do intellectually; [3] women are in no sense subordinate to men; and [4] women are self-sufficient. "Woman's whole being calls for loving dependence as its happiest state," he asserted. "What is woman's true position today?" Father McCorry asked. "It is not to be a slave, but it is not to be a man. Her job is to be a true woman in a world that would cheat her by selling her the false ideal of feminism," he concluded.



“WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, YOU JUST
THREW IT AWAY!!”

Don't discard your history and remembrance.

Save your past and present for the future.

Good guys send all their non-current records, correspondence,
documents, photos, etc. to the college archives.

Be a good guy!

Send all inquiries and materials to:

William J. Bosch, S.J.

Le Moyne College Archives

Archive Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - noon / 1 - 4:30 p.m.

E-mail: boschwj@lemoyne.edu