

Dana College and Trinity Seminary

Blair, Nebraska December, 1956

*The*  
**ALUMNI**

QUARTERLY

VOL. XII, NO. 4



Silent Night, Holy Night  
All Is Calm, All Is Bright - -

# Comtemplative Comments

In the first issue of the **Alumni Quarterly** which I edited, I encouraged you, the members of the Alumni Association of Dana College and Trinity Seminary, to submit news items and letters to the editor for publication. Several cards and notes with news items have been submitted for which I am grateful. However,

## President's Column

In the spirit of enthusiasm, encouragement and hope, alumni, who attended the 1956 Homecoming, left the campus. The statements and program outlined by the College leaders, as well as the forward-looking spirit which seemed to permeate the campus, gave alumni this feeling—a feeling that Dana was “on the move.”

But this spirit also presents alumni with a real challenge. If these signs of encouragement are to become realities, a share of the responsibility must lie with alumni and many alumni do wish to share in this responsibility. For within the history of Dana each of us has left some mark of our presence there or made some contribution no matter how small it may seem. Certainly we wish to perpetuate and promote that which is in some sense a very part of us.

In its annual Homecoming meeting, the Association undertook an ambitious program which attempts to show in both word and deed that we as alumni are concerned with the future of Dana. Our 1957 fund-raising project will provide money to be used for capital expansion and development. To this is added a work project with alumni helping to increase enrollment.

To the extent that every alumnus finds within himself the desire to share in creating a greater Dana, this program of the Association will be a success. This is not something which is an obligation or can be demanded of anyone, but we only share as we chose. Most of us during our life would like to be a part of something greater than ourselves—something which will leave its mark on future generations. To us, if we desire it, Dana can be such a cause.

Can we look to you in 1957?

Bob Hemmingson, President

only one unsolicited letter stating an opinion has been received from an Alumnus to date. This letter was slated to appear in the September issue of the **Alumni Quarterly**; however, due to lack of space and other reasons, it was not included at that time. The letter is included here with some comments which I would like to make concerning the thoughts expressed in the letter.

Dear Alumnus,

Are we beating our heads against a stone wall in our attempt at plant expansion, larger Dana faculty and “early accreditation”?

We all love Dana, but I wonder how much of her can be salvaged after 1960.

Yours in the service of Dana  
Levi C. Jensen

How much of Dana can be salvaged after the merger of 1960? The answer to this question depends to a great extent on the actions of the Alumni Association both before and after the merger. The role of the Alumni Association is increasing in importance. After the merger, the new synod will have several colleges, but to us, Dana will remain as “our college.” (Continued on page 8)

## ALUMNI QUARTERLY

of  
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# Season's Greetings

Dear fellow Danians:

"Good will to men" is a precious passage in the age-old Christmas greeting. It is only in the Father's good will to us, personified in the birth of His Son among us, that we find the true meaning of good will one to another. As we come to this Christmas and New Year 1957 we are deeply and humbly grateful to Dana's host of alumni and friends for the many, many ways in which you have accorded to us your good will and devotion. In this same spirit we pray for each one of you the abundant inspiration and blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit this Yuletide and throughout the New Year.

Faithfully yours,

C. C. Madsen, for the student  
body, staff and faculty of Dana  
College

## Alumni's Homecoming Impressions

Back for Homecoming—several years after graduation. Yes, quite a thrill it was. As we neared our destination we wondered if that indefinable thing we used to call the "Dana Spirit" would still be present on campus. Would the aura of friendliness and goodwill between faculty and students as we knew it years ago still be there? Would we still feel the need for our Christian college today as the founding fathers felt the need when they built "Old Main" on the hill years ago?

As we drove into the quadrangle, we noticed the "No Parking" signs. There was no parking problem when we were there since the only students who had cars were the enterprising ones who were able to make a few dollars from their autos! A tree now enhances the courtyard of Old Main where a pump used to stand. The Vets housing units for married students reminded us that due to changing times students are now able to marry during their college days and finish their education which was seldom done in our day. Yes, we could feel the tempo of the campus was much the same. As we read the notices on the bulletin boards, wandered through the classrooms

and across the campus, the intensity of purpose was there.

Other major changes have taken place—Pioneer Memorial, for example—a beautiful, useful and necessary addition to the facilities. It probably will never replace "Old Main" in our hearts, but it is a sign of progress on the campus. We missed many familiar faces in the faculty, only to find their places taken by many former classmates who are, at personal sacrifice, giving to others the ideals they received as students.

The student band—something unknown in our day, looked classy in their uniforms—the parade was an enthusiastic one in spite of a little rain which failed to dampen spirits. Otherwise the actual homecoming events themselves haven't changed to any degree. The banquet, now held in the gym rather than the dining hall, was to us, the highlight of the Homecoming festivities. The mood of the banquet, with its theme of "Hold High the Torch," assured us that the Dana spirit still prevails. Mr. Lincoln spoke of the next five years as "Golden Years" for Dana, leaving us with inspiration

(Continued on page 8)

# State of the College Message

(Address by President C. C. Madsen to the Alumni Association at its annual Homecoming meeting, 20 October, 1956.)

I am grateful for the opportunity given me by the officers of the Alumni Association to speak to you today on "The State of the College." In attempting to do this I am confident that I speak for all of us here at Dana when I state that the dominant characteristic of our state of affairs here on the campus is a deep-felt sense of gratitude.

## Gratitude to our Church

I believe it can truthfully be stated that we begin this new school term with a strong feeling of confidence and optimism as to our future. We are not questioning whether we shall stay or be able to carry on. We are assured that we will stay and that we will grow. As a basis for this assurance I give you three significant facts.

The first of these is the unprecedented demonstration of loyalty to Dana and confidence in her future expressed by our United Evangelical Lutheran Church at its convention in Cedar Falls last June. There, in addition to an already generous budget allowance, our Church voted by an overwhelming majority an additional appropriation of \$47,300.00 to be used specifically in strengthening our program looking toward North Central accreditation. By this action we have been able to increase faculty salaries and are in a position to make needed additions to our staff and faculties and other significant improvements. Had this increase been available earlier we would have been able to secure one or more faculty replacements with earned doctoral degrees for this year.

We feel also a deep sense of appreciation toward our Church for the forward-looking vision which has been voiced with strong determination by our Board of Trustees at its meeting this past week. Our Board also sensed the spirit of our Convention and has given us a clear mandate to move forward. It reaffirmed its approval of a long-range development

program of acquisition of property, erection of additional buildings, increased student recruitment and strengthening of staff. Our Board is conservative in not desiring to make premature announcements of specific projects—and we believe rightfully so, since we have suffered somewhat in the past from premature publicity on projects which failed to materialize. But this does not mean that our Board is less enthusiastic in its commitment to a vigorous, confident program of progress. In my contacts with the Church at District meetings and elsewhere this fall I have sensed this same strong expression of loyalty to Dana, for which we are deeply grateful.

Further, we are grateful as we return to the campus this year for the many physical evidences of improvement: the newly decorated rooms complete with new furniture in the ladies' dormitory, new roof and other improvements on Old Main, and, perhaps most striking of all, the new canteen-student center. These have won universal admiration and appreciation. For these improvements we are indebted in great measure to our retiring President, Dr. R. E. Morton, and to Mr. Snowbeck, our business manager, both of whom worked diligently and devotedly, "above and beyond the call of duty" during the summer in planning and supervising the projects. Much of the improvement was made possible from funds provided by the "Forward With Christ" campaign of our Church—and for this we are again deeply grateful. It is evident on every hand that these physical improvements have engendered a new spirit of appreciative enthusiasm among our students.

As we sense this gratitude to our United Evangelical Lutheran Church we are conscious that our Church has committed to us a precious trust, the stewardship of its mission of Christian Higher Education. We shall have something to say in a moment about our opportunities in other bodies, notably the American Lutheran Church, as we look forward

to merger. But we must never lose sight of the fact that we are still, first and foremost, the one College of our own UELC. To her lies our first stewardship responsibility; and from her, through you her sons and daughters, the alumni of her College and Seminary, still must come the loyalty and devotion without which we have no hope for the future.

### **Specific Factors of Hopefulness**

When we speak of such emotions as hopefulness or optimism it is not always possible to point specifically to their various sources. We do feel there is an excellent spirit prevalent in student body, faculty and staff thus far this year. We have, we are confident, an excellent group of students. The large majority of them come from the finest homes in our churches. Dean Rasmussen reports that the Freshman Week tests reveal a higher-than-average standard of academic ability and scholastic potential. There are, of course, a few of lesser background and ability, both academically and spiritually speaking. But it is not, nor should it ever be, our goal to be a conservatory for those who are superior or pious. We must maintain high standards; but we also firmly believe we have a **redemptive mission** to perform, academically, spiritually and socially. This mission is to aid those who are less gifted or who have had less opportunity to find themselves and to grow. From my years as a classroom teacher and director of Christian activities, I am convinced that right here lies one of our greatest and most gratifying opportunities of service.

More specifically, we are pleased to report that we this year have added two faculty members with Ph.D. degrees. Miss Engelman of our English department completed her work for her doctorate and was awarded the degree this summer by Northwestern University. Dr. Smith replaces Mr. Cloyd in Sociology and he has won a high place in the esteem of all of us. Mr. Gene Hamaker is our new man in History; he has completed all work for his Ph.D. except revision of his dissertation, and plans to complete that this year. We are happy to welcome a distinguished Dana alumnus, P. V. Hansen, Jr., to our Chemistry staff. He

has his M.A. degree in science from Northwestern University and hopes to continue steadily toward his doctorate. And we are grateful to Mr. Paul Jersild for his willingness to assist us this year as interim instructor in Christianity. He has the M.A. degree in Philosophy from Nebraska and one year at Trinity Seminary. He, in the classroom and LSA work, and his wife, Marilyn, as secretary in the President's office, are serving us admirably. We are authorized by our Board to engage one or two additional faculty members with earned doctoral degrees, so we are making progress in this area of our program. Another authorization is to engage an administrative dean, to enable the president to devote more time to our development program. If we succeed in finding the right person this year or by next September we shall have strengthened our staff very effectively. Our new Liberal Arts Reading Program, wherein every student and teacher engages in a cooperative study of selected great classics of literature, is now well under way. This is a rather unique venture in the field of liberal arts education; it appears already quite likely to gain for us some very favorable recognition in the educational field. Another significant improvement which will strengthen our position for accreditation is the purchase of the former home of Dr. Mengers and its conversion to use as our college infirmary and quarters and office for the college Nurse.

A further factor of hopefulness is the increasing measure of loyal interest manifested toward us by the officials, pastors and people of the other Lutheran bodies with which we look forward to merging in 1960 or 61, particularly the American Lutheran Church. The Central District of that Church just about equals our entire UELC in number of pastors, congregations and confirmed members. That body held two conferences on our campus this summer, and will have one of its pastors' conferences here this fall; other strategic conferences are planned for later this year and next summer. Dana will be the only college of the merging churches in the Central District; increasingly we hear officials and pastors of the ALC in our area as-

sureing us that already they are thinking of Dana as "our" Lutheran college. Our Choir has been invited to tour the District, chiefly the ALC churches this spring. We have students this year from seven of their parishes; they are excellent students and repeatedly assure us they hope to bring others from their communities next year. In all of this we find one of our greatest potentials for students and support and thus one of our strong areas of hopefulness.

### Areas of Strategic Effort

We repeat again what we have said already on several occasions: the first important step in our development program is an enlarged enrollment. We may talk about the impending tidal wave of students—and we **must** plan constructively for that. But for the immediate present, and likely for some years to come, we must still go out and get them. Recruiting is still our primary need. We are authorized to add a staff member exclusively for student recruitment this year, and this we plan to do. I believe we should firmly set our goal for 300 full-time students next September. If we accomplish this we will, I am confident, have made our first significant step forward to a sound, steady expansion program. In this you, the alumni, can play a most important part. You can still be our most effective recruiters. Most important is your personal contact and your persuasive loyalty among high school students, returning service men and other potential college students. Also, you can aid materially by promoting local scholarship or grants-in-aid programs for worthy students by your local parishes and Dana clubs.

I appreciate the efforts and actions by your Alumni Board toward more coordinated effort in your fund-raising program. I believe we are agreed that there is need for more concentration and coordination of our financial appeals and fund-raising; and I believe we can and will be able to plan and work together to effect this cooperation.

A primary goal for all of us still must be full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges. To the realization of this we are all whole-

heartedly committed; and on this we dare not slacken any effort. We have, however, stressed so much the fact that we still seek this accreditation that we have too often been negative in our thinking. Too often we simply conclude, "Dana is not accredited," forgetting that we are accredited in very strategic areas; we are accredited to the extent that we can offer any student a sound college education with the plus of a Christian environment. We are fully accredited by the University of Nebraska for transfer or graduate work in any recognized college or university: we are fully accredited by the Association of College and University Registrars for transfer or continuation of study without loss of credits; we are fully approved and in good standing for training of veterans (and under the new recent law, for training of orphaned children of veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict). These significant accreditations we must continue to emphasize and to publicize even as we move on toward the further accreditation by North Central. On the basis of these we appeal to you, our alumni, to be positive and confident in your loyalty and support.

In conclusion, a story. They tell of a man in the deep South (or it could have been in the Midwest) who was extremely lazy. He had gained recognition, in fact, as the most shiftless man in town. He went to a series of revival meetings and "got religion." In the fervor of his new experience he began to pray, confessing his laziness and pledging himself to work: "Use me, Lord, use me!" But then the old weariness set in, and he prayed, "Use me, Lord, use me—but please, Lord, use me in an advisory capacity!" I venture the guess that administrators at Dana have never lacked for alumni who were willing to be used in an advisory capacity; but their strength has always been found in those who backed them by willingness to serve, to give, to work. As I serve as your president I can do so only with your support. May we serve and may we succeed together, by the grace of God, in the spirit of that great man of God, Nehemiah, who said it so simply, "So we built the wall—because the people had a mind to work."



## On Destiny's Deep Sea

Mr and Mrs "Red" Leighton, D-49, (Dorcas Vammen, 46-49) were parents of a baby girl on August 6. They named the baby Jan Elaine.

The Rev and Mrs Robert N. Hansen, D-50, TS-53, became parents of a baby girl, Lois Margaret, on October 26. They have two other children, Mark and Rebecca.

Caroline Christensen, 51-53, completed nurses training at Augustana Hospital in Chicago last August. She is now doing public health nursing in Chicago.

The Rev Melvin Suhr, D-50, is now pastor at Centralville, Iowa.

Mr and Mrs James Jorgensen, D-50, (Phyllis Johansen, 49-50) are now living in Des Moines. They have two children Kurt, who is five and Karole who is two.

Dr Jerald Jorgensen, 50-51, is now practicing Veterinary Medicine in Cedar Falls. Mrs Jorgensen is the former Erna Thomsen, 50-51. They have one child born February 27, 1956 named Laurie Sue.

Harris Jorgensen, 51-52, is attending Iowa State in Ames. He will graduate with a degree in Veterinary Medicine in June.

Mr and Mrs Conrad Sorensen, 49-51, (Jeanne Nielsen, 48-50) became parents of a son, Paul David. They have another son, Mark Steven. The Sorensens live in Des Moines.

Le Moyne Nelsen, D-52, is now attending graduate school at the University of Minnesota.

Herbert Andersen, D-53, is now employed at the First National Bank in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Herbert formerly taught school in Nebraska and Minnesota.

Mr and Mrs Gary Hansen, 50-53, (Marion Nielsen, 51-53) became parents of a son, Bradley Jay, on October 2. Gary is now attending the University of Iowa.

Dr Engelman and Mr Norman Bansen, D-47, English professors at Dana, and Miss Luella Nielsen, D-42, English teacher in the Blair High School, attended an

English teachers conference in St. Louis, Missouri, during Thanksgiving weekend. While in St. Louis, they had a visit with Paul Simon, 46-48, Art Simon, D-52, and Ray Johnson, D-48.

Rev and Mrs Virgil Andersen, D-50, TS-53, (LaVaille Jensen, 49-51) became parents of a son, Larry James, on November 26. They have three other children, Paul, Kenneth, and Lea. At the present time the Reverend Andersen is pastor at Plainview, Nebraska; however, he has accepted a Call to serve the churches at Flaxton, Bowbells, and Northgate, North Dakota.

Mr and Mrs Donald Olsen, D-53, (Donna Moree, 50-52) became parents of a son, Timothy Earl, on November 12. Don is now attending Trinity Seminary in Dubuque.

Margie Poh, D-54, became the bride of Clayton Christensen in July. They live in Green, Bay, Wisconsin.

Rev and Mrs Robert Sorensen, D-52, (Beata Hauge, 50-52) became parents of a daughter, Mari Lynn, in October. This is their first child. The Reverend Sorensen is pastor at Benson, Minnesota.

Mr and Mrs Norman Freund, D-54, became parents of a son, Ronald Kent, on November 21. Norm is now attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

Lynn Farrens, D-56, and Emilie Laurson, 54-56, were married in Ord, Nebraska, on October 28. Emilie is teaching in Omaha. Lynn is in the army and will be stationed in Germany.

## News Notes

Hugh Hughes was elected treasurer and Herbert Hjortsvang was elected to the advisory council at the annual meeting of the Alumni Association. Miss Edith Skobo was appointed a member of the advisory council and will serve as the Association's campus representative.

A budget of \$2000 was adopted for the year of 1957.

# The Alumni Quarterly

Dana College—Trinity Seminary

Blair, Nebraska

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BLAIR NEBR

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## COMMENTS—(from page 2)

The grade and secondary schools throughout the country are overcrowded. This fact, coupled with the increase in percentage of the number of high school graduates entering colleges, gives us an ever increasing group from which to recruit students. However, the facilities at Dana will limit the number of students that can be recruited; therefore, plant expansion is necessary before enrollment can be increased to a great extent.

The special project of the Alumni Association for the coming year is to contribute all money received, over and above the operating expenses of the association, toward plant expansion. How much we contribute toward plant expansion will depend on the attitude of each alumnus. If we wait for a "Ford Foundation" or one or two individuals to take the lead, and contribute the great

est portion of the capital necessary for plant expansion, then it will probably be a slow process.

In the past Dana was built by the sacrificial giving of humble people. Its growth in the future will depend to a great extent on the sacrificial giving of humble people. Our forefathers gave us a sacred trust when they built Dana through their sacrificial giving. Many, if not most, of them did not even have the opportunity to attend the school which they founded. Will we, who have benefited by their giving, betray this sacred trust?

## HOMECOMING IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 3)

and high hopes that these predictions will come about. We left Dana, to return home, resolving not to wait as long before we return for another Homecoming. (AN, HN)

