## Beyond the Call of Duty CHAPTER X

The College in Boise has existed under a variety of names during the past 37 years. All of them have had the two words "Boise" and "College" in their official designation. When the College started in 1932 it was called Boise Junior College. It remained under that title for the following two years as a private college under the Protestant Episcopal Church of Idaho. No administrative records are available, but actually, Bishop Barnwell was not only the president but he was, in every sense, the governing body of the College. His was such an easy, congenial relationship that faculty and citizens of Boise hardly recognized that the College was in reality the Bishop. He selected the dean and other officers and faculty and expected them to develop a fine college. His was the fine hand that skillfully directed without being felt. He modified, rather than roughly changed, events.

As pointed out elsewhere, Bishop Barnwell expected the church to launch the College on its way with another organization taking over at the end of two years. This he indicated when he first appeared before civic bodies and his remarks were quoted through the press. It was again reiterated in the spring of 1934 when he went to the Board of the Chamber of Commerce and

stated that he must relinquish control of the College and sponsorship of the same because of financial conditions that had developed during this low period of the Depression.<sup>2</sup> At this time he requested the Chamber Board to appoint a committee for reorganization of a succeeding independent college working closely with the administration of the Boise Independent School District.

Superintendent W. D. Vincent and Secretary Clyde F. Potter, of the Boise Independent School District were present at the first meeting of the junior college's new board on June 7, 1934 and played an important part in the College's transition from a church affiliated school to an independent one. It was natural for these school officials to participate in the development of the junior college since the preceding superintendent and board of the School District had brought Dr. Leonard V. Koos to Boise to make a study on this subject in 1930. It was also natural to have in its articles of incorporation, the inclusion of the chairman of the Boise Independent School District as a member of the new junior college board—Mr. J. L. Eberle, succeeded immediately by Mr. J. Lynn Driscoll.

Of the six remaining board members, Mr. O. O. Haga and Mr. Ben W. Oppenheim had held important positions on the Boise Independent School Board, while Mrs. Alfred Budge, Sr., Mr. J. J. Chapman, and Mr. E. A. Crooks were important civic leaders. Since the College was using the grounds and buildings of St. Margaret's Hall, it was only right that the founder, Bishop Barnwell, and his successor Bishop Bartlett, should continue as board members.

This board actually served as a stabilizer in the relationship of the College to the community and the businessmen of Boise. The Bishop had thoroughly established the need for a college during his two years as president.

Bishop Barnwell showed his continuing good faith by allowing the new Boise Junior College Incorporated (its new designation), to rent at a nominal fee of \$1.00 a year, the build-

ings and grounds of the old St. Margaret's School which had existed from 1892 until 1932 as a secondary and elementary organization. During the College's first year, 1932-33, high school students attending St. Margaret's School had been encouraged to finish their education under the administration of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Idaho which now had an additional job of running a junior college. During this year of joint occupancy, the dormitory housed some seven or eight young women from the junior college student body and an additional three or four secondary students.

In the College's second year, the second floor was used as a dormitory for college women alone and the first and third floors for offices and classrooms. The faculty offices were on the third floor and the administration offices on the first floor. President Barnwell used his Bishop's office which fronted on the Second Street side of his residence; while Dr. Atkinson, the dean of faculty, had her office on the Idaho Street side of St. Margaret's Hall. Immediately adjacent was the office of Mrs. Katherine Cole, Business Manager and Registrar.

When Boise Junior College Inc., followed in early June of 1934, the offices for the summer were moved to the public school building at 311 North Tenth Street, some ten blocks away. Finances were likewise handled at that place by Mr. Clyde Potter. The office previously occupied by Dean Atkinson became the office of the Dean of the College, Dr. Myron S. Clites, during the two years he was with the institution, from September 1, 1934 to June 1, 1936. After this date, when the positions of dean of faculty and president were combined in one person, Eugene B. Chaffee occupied this office. At the same time, the major business was transferred again to the College campus with J. Calvin Emerson acting as Business Manager and Clyde Potter continuing as Secretary-Treasurer of the College at the Boise Independent School District office.

As cited in an earlier chapter, Chaffee had felt that there should be but one head of the College and that should be its

president, but for two years there had been two heads, (1) Superintendent Vincent at the office of the Independent School District, ably assisted by Clyde Potter, and (2) Dr. Myron Clites in the office referred to above.

In May of 1936, Eugene B. Chaffee was offered and accepted the joint position of dean of students and president. Mr. Vincent indicated that he would step out of his advisory position and, in fact, attended only one more board meeting. The Board of Trustees by this time had had two years' experience and immediately placed the administration in the hands of the president with confidence gradually established between the board and the new president.

In 1939, when Boise Junior College became a tax-supported institution, the initial board for the Boise Junior College District was appointed by Governor Bottolfsen. Mr. Haga, Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Chapman, and Mrs. Budge, had all been members of the Boise Junior College Incorporated board for a number of years. That, plus the fact that Eugene B. Chaffee became the president of the new organization and remained in that capacity for 28 additional years and that the first faculty became the nucleus for the new faculty, made it a relatively easy change from a privately supported institution to a publicly supported one. Actually, the fact that the College went from an institution supported chiefly (90 percent) from student tuition and fees, to one supported 80 percent from taxes (property and liquor control), meant that teachers could be paid a more adequate income with the assurance that it would not vary because of lack of a stable financial base. For the same reason, more equipment and better facilities could now be acquired. It was no longer necessary to wait for the enrollment count before determining whether adequate finances existed for salaries and maintenance costs.

By this time, 1939, the day by day decisions were those of the president with the board of trustees, as the policy-making body, and the president, as the administrative officer, jointly planning the long-term and major decisions. This condition remained during the total period of the Boise Junior College District from May 1939 and even after June 1965 when two additional years making it a senior college became effective as a result of House Bill No. 7. The only modification in this long period was during the three and a half years that President Chaffee was serving with the U.S. Navy, from June 27, 1942 until September 15, 1945.

During this war period, Dr. Francis D. Haines served as acting president from June 27, 1942 until December 20, 1942, a period of almost six months. Two months prior to his resignation on the latter date, an advisory board was elected from the faculty. This group<sup>3</sup> handled administrative responsibilities until Conan E. Mathews became Executive Dean on January 1, 1943 and continued as administrative head for the remainder of the war until September 15, 1945.

On the change of the administration in June of 1934 from the Protestant Episcopal Church to that of an independent board working closely with the city schools, the president of the board was a man of real experience as viewed from the point of lay administration; a man who for 18 years had been Chairman of the Independent School District—Mr. Oliver O. Haga. As pointed out in his biography, he was the central college board official from the fall of 1934 until his death in March 1943 and provided the balance that was needed during the early months in which the College was placed under an administrative committee with Mr. Mathews as its head immediately upon Dr. Haines' resignation. Within a month after Mr. Haga's death, the College also experienced the loss of the vice president of the board, Mr. J. J. Chapman.

The presence of Mr. Ed Baird, Mr. Harry W. Morrison, Mr. J. Lynn Driscoll who succeeded Mr. Haga, and Mrs. Alfred Budge, Sr., all experienced members of the board, and the fact that the revenue was not a particularly difficult problem during this period since tax revenue continued without any diminution,

prevented any major instability. This, in spite of the great loss created by the deaths of the president and vice president of the College board.

Few colleges have had such an experienced, intelligent and civic-minded board as Boise Junior College and Boise College. These trustees had had many years of experience with public education and particularly with community projects that enhance the cultural phase of the average citizen's life. Most of them had acted as president of the Chamber of Commerce at one time or another.

Mr. Haga for instance, had been a teacher and administrator for a number of years in the public schools of Idaho including Boise and had served on this board of trustees for some 27 years. He gave generously of his legal background and his work as a college trustee was always tempered by his previous experience in this city. When Mr. Haga died in 1943, Mr. Ed Baird became President of the board for six months, with Mr. Lynn Driscoll who succeeded Mr. Haga taking over the heavy load as President after that period. Mr. Driscoll continued as President until February of 1950, at which time Mr. Baird once again took over this position until late 1960.

Ed Baird came to Boise nearly 60 years ago and entered business in this city, first as a partner and later as an individual owner of a cleaning and pressing establishment. He has served this community in many civic affairs; one of which was as a State senator representing Ada County for two terms from 1939 to 1943. Within a week after his active entry into the State Senate, he introduced the junior college bill which passed both houses and became the instrument under which Boise Junior College received tax support from the local area. He was immediately appointed to the Boise Junior College Inc. Board of Trustees and two months later when the College became a public one, he was appointed as a member of that board and served for over 21 years, half of these as President of the Board.

His quiet service to Boise Junior College cannot be overstated. His support and counsel strengthened the College during its first two decades as a public institution.

J. Lynn Driscoll, a graduate from Boise High School in 1909, did much for education in the city of Boise, first as a trustee and President of the Board of Trustees of the Boise Independent School District during which time he supported vigorously the development of a college in Boise. In 1934, as Chairman of the Boise Independent School District, he became a member of the Boise Junior College Inc. Board of Trustees from June 1934 to September 1937. He continued to give invaluable aid to the College in the two years that followed, by actively sponsoring the junior college act and in supporting wholeheartedly the organizing and setting-up of Boise Junior College under the provisions of the act. He was appointed by the governor to the Board of Trustees for the term April 1939 to September 1939. On the death of Mr. Haga he was appointed to the Board of Boise Junior College District in March of 1943 and served as President of the Board from September of 1944 until he retired in February of 1950. He has maintained a keen interest in the College from that date to the present and has counseled the College president and board members on numerous occasions when his support helped to improve the College in its early growth. His constant interest in the institution has meant much over the past 35 years as the College has strengthened itself through its change of position from a private junior college to its present status as an Idaho degree-granting institution.

Mrs. Alfred Budge served on the College Board from the time of her appointment to the first board in June of 1934 until her retirement in September 1950. She is the only woman to ever serve on the College Board prior to the institution becoming Boise State College. Her leadership of the Junior College Jamboree in 1935 and 1936 and the excellent way she organized the women's clubs in town to support this project did much to assist the College financially during these early years.

In addition to assisting in civic and educational activities, Mrs. Budge also raised an outstanding family and took on the many duties that naturally fall to the wife of a justice and chief justice of the Idaho State Supreme Court. She gave generously of herself in every activity she entered.

Mr. Harry W. Morrison became a member of the Board of Trustees of Boise Junior College immediately after it became a public institution. At this time, his large contracting company had become internationally known through its construction of dams, bridges, military and naval bases, and roads; yet with all of this pressure which took him out of the city for long periods, Mr. Morrison still gave generously of his great talents and also gave financial assistance to the College. His eleven years of service came at a time when the Morrison-Knudsen Company was involved in defense work for the nation and this took him all over the world, yet he never failed to give freely his time and energy during this most productive period of his life.

Mr. Robert S. Overstreet, who assisted the College in 1937 as chairman of the third jamboree, was available to take up responsibilities at any time he was needed. He became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1950 and has served to the present time. From 1961 to 1967 he was Chairman of the Board during a period of service second in length only to those of Mr. Baird, Mr. Haga, and Mr. Driscoll. He was succeeded as Chairman by Mr. John P. Tate on October 24, 1967.

Mr. Tate had been on the Board of Trustees of Boise Junior College Inc., from July 1945 to September 1946 through his position as Chairman of the Boise Public Schools. He was selected to the boards of Boise Junior College Inc., and Boise Junior College District in August of 1957 when Oscar W. Worthwine resigned.

During all the years of Boise Junior College and Boise College, the board has consisted of outstanding civic leaders. They have not only been interested in pioneering as a board of a community college, but have also assumed their place as

leaders who brought about an excellent airport for the city and developed it from a small airport where the military dominated, to a large regional airport where the military is a minor operation and the civilian has become the principal segment.

Most of the board members served for a period of at least 10 years and gave freely of their time and talent to make Boise College a permanent and superior institution. Few, other than the president of the College, were cognizant of their hours of devoted service that led to a constantly stronger institution. The unsung heroes of Boise Junior College Inc., Boise Junior College District, Boise College, and finally Boise State College, have been and are the members of these respective boards. (See Appendix A).

From July 1, 1939 to June 16, 1953, there were from two to four members from the Boise Junior College District Board of Trustees on the Boise Junior College Inc. Board. Between 1946 and 1953, only five meetings of the Boise Junior College Inc. Board took place and these were either to elect trustees or to assist the District Board on such projects as financing the dormitories in 1951. It was therefore deemed impractical to continue with two boards. Consequently, after June 16, 1953, the elected District trustees were ipso facto members of the Boise Junior College Inc. Board as had been the case with the Bronco Stadium Board since its incorporation on the 22nd of December 1949.

This was not the case with the Boise Junior College Dormitory Housing Commission whose members served on three-year staggered terms and were appointed by the Governor of Idaho. This was done so that legally the Housing Board would be independent from the College District Board and hence, the latter would not have had any responsibilities for financial arrangements made by the Dormitory Housing Board which no longer exists.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See Chapter I, p. 1. <sup>2</sup>See Chapter I, p. 1. <sup>3</sup>See Chapter XI, p. 111.