

An Orphan

CHAPTER II

The responsibility for Boise Junior College was shifted in June 1934 from the protective arm of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Idaho with Bishop Barnwell as its first president, to a Junior College Committee sponsored by the Boise Chamber of Commerce.

There was a five-year interim of uncertainty and anxiety before a public tax supported organization took over in 1939. The enthusiasm of the first two years was gone as far as the community was concerned, but a group of faithful citizens organized as Boise Junior College Incorporated, furnished the legal base by each paying a \$10.00 a year fee for membership. "By common consent of Board members, the Chairman appointed Bishop M. S. Barnwell as a representative of the Boise Junior College Board to work with interested citizens in carrying out a drive to secure association members."¹

The College was truly an orphan during this period since the church had had to relinquish control because of the cost involved and the other responsibilities that faced the Missionary Diocese of Idaho which, however, continued its support by leasing the new College's plant at \$1.00 per year. As pointed out, the Bishop

had realized that he could not continue the College under church control and expense, for more than two years and had so stated in the summer of 1932 when he planned its opening.

The Corporation had many members, but was particularly fortunate to have as its chairman in these changing years, Mr. O. O. Haga, an outstanding lawyer of the city. He was unanimously elected Chairman at the first meeting, June 7, 1934, when the new Board of Directors met at the Administration Building of the Boise Public Schools.² Those present were: O. O. Haga, Bishop M. S. Barnwell, J. L. Eberle, E. A. Crooks, and B. W. Oppenheim. Members absent were: Mrs. Alfred Budge, Sr., and J. J. Chapman. Also present were J. L. Driscoll; Board Chairman, Superintendent W. D. Vincent; and C. F. Potter, Secretary and Clerk, all of the Boise Public Schools. These people were the lay backbone of the institution during this critical period, with the principal load carried by Haga, Vincent, and Potter.

Tuition charges for students were kept at the same figure of \$120.00 a year and the summer campaign for student enrollments was placed in the hands of Dr. C. H. Sievers who had been at the College one year as head of the education program for teacher education. During the months of June and July he carried on the registration program with an office on the first floor of the Administration Building of the Boise Public Schools. He had previously taught at Huron College in South Dakota, but had had little administrative experience. He was primarily a promoter, promising the prospective student whatever he could to induce him to come to the new institution.

The 1934-35 *Catalog*, some 33 pages of mimeographed material produced during the summer of 1934 by Dr. Sievers, not only had the faculty listing developed by Dr. Atkinson, but also had a list of successors for those who had resigned after the changeover. All the basic philosophy and regulations from the previous year's catalog were either passed over lightly or entirely omitted. The actual course descriptions worked out by

the faculty and administration during the 1932-34 years were reproduced verbatim. However, six courses in business given at a local business college were also included as a part of the College offerings and sixteen pages of the catalog, pages 5-20 inclusive, were taken from the University of Idaho catalog. These pages were various offerings covering many curricula never formally adopted by the faculty of Boise Junior College e.g., architecture, bacteriology, botany, economics, geology, home economics, zoology, agriculture, forestry, pre-nursing, and six curricula in the "Division of Engineering".³

This was definitely used to sell the prospective student on going to Boise Junior College. In other words, there were curricula for almost every possible prospective student request.

Actually, the faculty had approved a course of mathematics for engineering students in the common freshman year prior to the summer, but no second year had been approved except in the catalog organized by Dr. Sievers. The sophomore year of engineering did not exist until the Board of Trustees' meeting of December 17, 1934 approved a proposal by W. D. Vincent that a second year be added because 30 students, all freshmen, had indicated a desire to return to Boise Junior College as sophomores providing a second year course could be offered in engineering.⁴ This proposal was also approved by the faculty at a later meeting.

Dr. Sievers had an attractive personality, but his problem was in the field of finance where it was difficult to confirm the many jobs he had promised prospective students largely through money furnished by the National Youth Administration Program of the Roosevelt Administration. As the summer wore on, he lost interest and decided to go into business rather than continue in education at Boise Junior College.

On August 31, 1934, he made a report to the Board of receipts and disbursements together with unpaid bills covering his operations in conducting summer student registration. "Total receipts—\$1015.00; total deposited with the treasurer—

\$784.56; total disbursements—\$230.44.”⁵ The report contained a complete resume of advanced receipts for tuition as well as the expenses of the summer campaign.

During this same session of the Board, Superintendent W. D. Vincent’s title was changed to “Advisor of the Board” and C. F. Potter was unanimously elected “Secretary.”

In the meantime, the Board had asked Eugene B. Chaffee to meet in an executive session. Mr. Chaffee listened to the proposal that he assume the duties of dean of the College at a salary of \$1,500 plus additional money for the summer. The most important statement made at the meeting, as far as Chaffee was concerned, was one by Ben W. Oppenheim, a trustee, who stated, “You recognize, Mr. Chaffee, that you will be the dean of the College; however, Superintendent W. D. Vincent will be empowered as the final authority in affairs pertaining to the College.” Chaffee replied that he had had little experience in administrative work except as Superintendent-Principal of a small school near Boise, but he felt that where the greater responsibility rested, there should the control be also. He thanked the Board for its consideration, but indicated his desire to continue as a teacher of social science rather than accept the new position of dean as proposed.

In the two years that followed, W. D. Vincent acted in the capacity of president without public awareness of this fact, while Myron S. Clites was the newly elected dean of the College. He had been recommended to Superintendent Vincent by the president of the University of Indiana, where he had recently achieved his doctorate in education. He took up his responsibilities about September 10, 1934.

The new dean was a sensitive, hard working, and sincere person, but lacked the easy, self-reliant attitude of President Barnwell or Dean Atkinson and this was reflected in his work with faculty and students alike. He had spent many hours in working his way through undergraduate and graduate school with little time for the lighter activities on the campus. His sin-

cerity and interest in young people was attested by the many hours he gave them and their problems. He was wise to ask for the advice and judgment of W. D. Vincent and Clyde Potter and of a few faculty members on the campus. These people spent much time in assisting Dean Clites who lacked the experience that was required of an administrator, both in his dealings with the faculty and with the students. These were two of the most crucial years the College encountered.

In the fall of 1935, Camille B. Power resigned as French and Spanish instructor to take further study at the University of Illinois. Her successor lacked the spark and natural ability to teach which Mrs. Power had. Other additions to the faculty were chiefly part-timers; some of them too old in their attitudes to demand the best from students and thus unable to lead them through inspirational teaching.

In the spring of 1936, Mr. Chaffee resigned as head of social sciences to do the research on his doctorate in the National Library in Rio de Janeiro, on Brazilian Boundary Disputes. This resignation was accepted, but never activated since College problems of administration demanded a new administrative approach.

The Board had lost confidence in Dr. Clites as an academic administrator and suggested his resignation which was tendered on May 15, 1936. This had followed conferences between Dr. Clites and representatives of the College Board. The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting on May 15 show:

The Chairman announced that he was in receipt of Dean Myron S. Clites' resignation effective as of June 6, 1936.

After a thorough discussion of the future welfare of the College, the resignation of Dean Myron S. Clites was accepted upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted.

On the 20th of May, Superintendent Vincent asked Eugene B. Chaffee to reconsider his resignation and accept the offer of the Board of Trustees to become President of the College. The job was to be a combination of the one held by W. D. Vincent as Advisor and Dr. Myron S. Clites as Academic Dean. Quoting

from the minutes of a meeting held on May 26 at the Boise Hotel:

After canvassing the entire field and after due deliberation, it was moved by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Crooks that:

1. Professor Eugene B. Chaffee be elected President of the Boise Junior College for the year 1936-37, at a salary of \$1,500.00 per year and an allowance of \$300.00 for the summer campaign for students.

2. That it is understood as a part of this election that should there be funds in excess of the adopted budget for the year 1936-37, or should there be savings made within the budget, that there will be first set aside a definite amount for the summer campaign in 1937-38, and then the remainder of the funds shall be distributed as a bonus to the faculty of Boise Junior College, with a maximum of 12½% to be added to each salary and that for this purpose, Mr. Chaffee's salary shall be considered as \$1,800.00.

Mr. Chaffee assumed his duties as President on June 3, 1936.

A special meeting of Boise Junior College, Inc., was held at 12:00 noon on June 24, 1936, in the Rainbow Room of the Boise Hotel. All board members were present with the exception of Bishop Frederick Bartlett. He had become Bishop of Idaho in 1935 when Bishop Barnwell was chosen as the Episcopal Bishop of Georgia. At this meeting:

Upon the recommendation of President Chaffee, motion was duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the following persons be elected as faculty members for the ensuing school term, at salaries as indicated:

<i>Name of Instructor</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Salary</i>
Carson, A. B.	Math, Physics, Engineering	\$1,215.00
Eiden, Max	Coach, Physical Education	1,000.00
Emerson, Calvin	Chemistry, Bursar	1,500.00
Faust, E. J.	German	400.00
Farrer, Helen M.	Dramatics	150.00
Gaylord, Charlotte	Librarian, English	600.00
Hatch, Ada Y.	English	1,350.00
Hershey, Mary T.	Registrar	350.00
Power, Camille B.	Dean of Women, French, Spanish	1,350.00



1936-37 Glee Club directed by Mrs. Lucille Forter (front, center)



Campus clean-up



Coach Max Eiden and 1936 football team



Classroom building and quadrangle, St. Margaret's



Kenneth Robertson, first student body president and football captain

ORIGINAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MRS. ALFRED BUDGE
1934-1950



J. J. CHAPMAN
1934-1943



E. A. CROOKS
1934-1937



OLIVER O. HAGA
1934-1943



J. L. DRISCOLL
1934-1939, 1943-1950



B. W. OPPENHEIM
1934-1939



CLYDE F. POTTER
Secretary-Treasurer
1934-1960



Prior to 1938, Boise Airport occupied the present college campus



Board trustee Ed Baird sponsored the 1939 junior college law



Board trustee H. W. Morrison, constant supporter of developing new campus



Groundbreaking at the new campus



Cornerstone laying for the Administration Building—Mr. Haga officiates



A student organization started during the war and one that has continued to the present time is the Lifelines.



Dean Conan E. Mathews was Acting President from 1943 to 1945



The B.J.C. campus in 1946.

Rice, Maud R.	Zoology, Women's Hygiene	600.00
Strachan, James L.	Music	2.50 per student hour

The position in foreign languages, French and Spanish, held by Mrs. Power from 1932-35, was again open in the spring of 1936. President Chaffee of course knew Mrs. Power and also her work and sent a telegram asking her to return that fall. He also indicated that he wanted her to act as Dean of Women. For the latter appointment she was to occupy an apartment located at the western end of St. Margaret's Hall. After receiving his offer, Mrs. Power recently stated, "I couldn't get to the phone fast enough to accept."

During this period, the College was assisted financially by the Boise women's clubs who sponsored the Boise Junior College Jamboree. The first jamboree was held on Friday September 6, 1935, at White City Park. Numerous concession stands, a dance, a card party, and a softball and a baseball game⁶ netted over one thousand dollars and at the completion of the jamboree, a check for \$1,040.15 was presented to the Board of Trustees.⁷ A member of the junior college Board since its inception in 1934, Mrs. Alfred Budge, Sr., initiated and carried the jamboree through to its successful conclusion for two successive years, 1935 and 1936. The second year the College received a check from this source for \$539.53⁸

The jamborees were superseded in the 1937-38 budget by support from the Chamber of Commerce which agreed to raise \$5,000 from membership subscriptions and donations. Actually, it raised \$4,133.86.⁹ The following year the amount raised was \$2,077.50.¹⁰

There has been an earlier reference to membership fees to Boise Junior College Incorporated. As indicated, this gave the legal basis to the institution with each member paying a \$10.00 a year fee. The following are the total fees collected for the years in which such a charge was made: 1934-35, \$1,260.00;¹¹ 1935-36, \$1,076.25;¹² and 1936-37, \$232.50.¹³

With the resignation of Dr. Myron S. Clites, Dean of Boise Junior College, Inc., on May 15, 1936, and the selection of Eugene B. Chaffee as President of the College on May 26, 1936, the institution was to enter its third major change since its creation in the summer of 1932. The actual administration from 1934-36 had been carried on by conferences between Dean Clites and Advisor W. D. Vincent, with Clyde F. Potter acting as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. Chaffee's selection as College president resulted in an administration which, for the first time, was entirely under one full-time College employee.

The first president, Bishop Barnwell, had his major duties with the Episcopal Church of Idaho and his duties as president were incidental, but a minor part of his total duties to the church. W. D. Vincent's major duties were as Superintendent of the Boise Independent School District. He received no salary from the College and never formally acted in public as the head of the College. He could check expenditures and advise the dean, Dr. Myron Clites, and the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees continued to grant the new president a freer hand with the administration and by the end of this third year period, 1939, he was probably assuming responsibilities seldom granted other presidents of collegiate institutions in the Northwest. Actually, after the May 26 meeting, W. D. Vincent attended only one more board meeting and that was on June 24, 1936.

The next three years were crucial ones with rumors flying around the city regarding the accreditation and permanence of Boise Junior College. A bill making the creation of public junior college districts possible was passed by the 1937 Legislature, but vetoed by Governor Barzilla Clark. Leaders of the Chamber of Commerce by this time had sensed that the only way to build a permanent college in Boise was by public tax support. It selected for consideration and recommendation, a committee consisting of Oscar Worthwine, O. O. Haga, Reilly Atkinson, Ed D. Baird, J. G. Breckenridge, J. L. Driscoll,

Ben W. Oppenheim, Walter York, Harry Yost, and Frank Winzler. Their chief responsibility was to secure the passage of a junior college law, making it possible for a group of people in any area with a high school enrollment of 800 and an assessed valuation of not less than \$10,000,000 to form an independent district by a favorable vote of its constituents.

The bill to create such a public college was introduced into the Senate by Senator Ed D. Baird of Ada County early in January of 1939. The members of the Committee on Legislation listed above and President Chaffee met, in groups of six to eight, the 44 legislators who made up the Senate. Senators interspersed with college committee members proceeded, through talk and illustrations, to discuss the need for junior colleges in Idaho. This was done while eating steak dinners at the Hotel Boise. Often a senator whose attitude was unknown would deliver a speech in support of the bill to make the creation of public junior colleges possible. After six such banquets, the bill was ready for consideration and was passed by a vote of 34 to 9.

This same procedure was used with members of the House of Representatives. Eight such dinners were required to cover its 59 members in small groups. Following these sessions, the House, by a 46 to 11 vote, also passed the bill. Now it was up to Governor Bottolfsen to affix his signature if the bill was to become a law. In the words of Senator J. R. Field of Adams County, Chairman of the Education Committee, in a letter to Mr. J. L. Driscoll some ten years later, ". . . the proponents of the bill under the leadership of that grand old man, O. O. Haga, did the cleanest, best and fairest job in the promotion of this legislation that, in my knowledge, has ever been done."¹⁴

The bill had been passed by both houses so overwhelmingly that the Governor was suspicious of some sort of a 'deal'. As a result, it stayed on his desk for a number of days to the frustration and worry of its supporters.

During the preceding summer, Ben W. Oppenheim had visited the Governor to persuade him to run again after his first term had ended in defeat by Barzilla Clark in 1936. This support, at a time when "Bott" was disheartened by his defeat, made Oppenheim the right man to secure a signature of approval.¹⁵ This personal visit, plus the fact the Governor learned that the students of the College were securing signatures on a petition urging his signature, resulted in his approval of February 7, 1939, prior to his receipt of the petition.

Seven weeks later, the people making up the area contiguous with the Boise Independent School District, passed by a vote of 2014 to 234, the proposal to form a Boise Junior College District.

This whole story is told well by the three people who had most to do with the passing of the junior college bill other than those from Boise and Ada County, in their letters some ten years after the passing of the bill in February of 1939. The letters were in answer to one written by Mr. J. L. Driscoll, at that time (1949) President of the Board of Trustees of Boise Junior College, to all members of the Board of Trustees and President Eugene B. Chaffee. His letter of October 7, 1949 is self explanatory.

Some months ago you no doubt will recall that our local publication "Statewide" broke loose with some criticism of the Junior College and of the writer personally. The criticism, as far as the writer is concerned, didn't greatly perturb me one way or the other, but it did cause me to reflect that possibly while some of us who were very active in the enactment of the Junior College Law were still alive, it might be the better part of wisdom to get down in black and white from those who were familiar with the matter, what actually transpired in connection with that measure. There is a tendency as time goes by to greatly distort the facts, and since no written records of the various representations and conversations were made at the time, the writer called upon three different people, wholly apart and independent from the Boise Junior College, to give a statement of just what was said and done on certain points.

The three people called on were Governor Bottolfson, who signed the Boise Junior College Bill as Governor of the State; Earl David, representing the University of Idaho in the Third House during that session; and J. R. Field, Chairman of the Educational Committee of the Senate. I am pleased to enclose herewith for

your files, photostatic copies of the letters received from the several men, the originals of which are in my box here.

This letter of Mr. Driscoll's was written because of the criticism, as indicated in the above letter, by Vardis Fisher, a prominent fiction writer of national importance, who indicated that the College had been shoved down the throats of first the people of Boise and later the legislature. He wrote this article ten years after the State had approved the junior college bill making it possible for local areas to vote themselves a junior college district and to finance such an institution by local taxes, tuition, and fifty percent of the money that the county in which the junior college was located received from the revenues from the State's liquor stores. Fisher further stated that the College was not a bonafide collegiate institution.

Fisher was, at that time, a columnist for the weekly newspaper *Statewide*, (now called the *Observer*). His articles were usually critical of what others were doing in the State of Idaho. He ended up his criticism of Boise Junior College's work, by stating that it should be returned to a cow pasture where quality cheese products could be manufactured since it had little value as an educational institution.

President Chaffee immediately wrote an article answering this criticism, but before publishing it, he asked Mr. Driscoll to read it. Driscoll did so and said that it was excellent, but gave Chaffee the advice to avoid a newspaper controversy whenever possible. Chaffee decided that the advice was good, but his article which was ready for publication at that time, indicated the strong feeling about the unfair criticism of Vardis Fisher.

In this article he indicated that the sons and daughters of many prominent Boiseans had successfully completed their first two years at Boise Junior College while it was a private institution and that the College had grown ". . . for one reason and one alone, it was needed." He said that the growth of junior colleges over the nation had fulfilled a real need, citing the State of California as one of the best examples. He quoted from the

current presidents of the University of California and Stanford University, showing that junior colleges are a very necessary part of the State education and are an ideal method of educating the young people during their first two years of college.

He cited the then recent report of the President's Commission on Higher Education which stated that "The time has come to make education through the fourteenth grade available in the same way that high school education is now available." Chaffee further stated that the University of California at Berkeley at that time received three-fifths of its student body from within 30 miles of Berkeley and depended largely on the junior colleges of that state to provide the first two years of collegiate work.

He cited that Fisher, in one breath says that he has a high regard for the faculty members of Boise Junior College whom he has known, and in the next breath "Its members would be teaching in better schools if they could." Chaffee stated that this was false; that many of the faculty members had had many opportunities to teach in larger colleges and universities, but "they stay because they like this region and this college and the young people who in growing numbers have made this institution grow from an enrollment of less than 100 to over 1000 at the present time."

This is background for the letter cited above by Mr. Driscoll. The answers to this letter indicate that the College was well respected by at least three of the people from outside of the Boise area who should approve a junior college bill if it were to pass some ten years before—February 1939.

The first letter from Mr. Earl David indicates exactly what happened at the preliminary meeting held in Northern Idaho to gain the approval of the University of Idaho. Mr. David reported back to the legislative committee of the University of Idaho from the notes he had taken at the time of the meeting. In his letter of June 28, 1949 to Mr. Driscoll he stated:

As they (the notes) are about the same as yours, but somewhat more extended, I will quote them here for your approval.

At the meeting I opened up the question with the statement that contrary to reports, we were not opposed to a Junior College Bill, providing we could have some assurance from the business men of Boise that they would not ask for a four-year school any time in the foreseeable future. You stated that you could not control the action of the people of Idaho or even of Boise, but that you could promise that as long as you were connected with the Junior College, no such request would be made. I replied that I could sympathize with you because we couldn't control the action of the people of Moscow or Latah County. This was plainly shown in the last two elections. I then said that in view of the fact that all the members of the Board could be changed within two years, we would like a broader statement than that and we would be satisfied if those present and those interested in the movement, whether or not they were then on the Junior College Board, would oppose and would use their influence with the people of Boise to oppose any movement towards asking the legislature in locating a four-year school in Boise until such a time as it was clearly demonstrated that the development had proven beyond a doubt that such a school was needed in the State. After some discussion, this was agreed to by those present.

As far as my notes show, the question of the State furnishing financial support to Junior Colleges was not discussed. However, the proposed Junior College Bill calling for the formation of districts and the Junior Colleges being financed solely by those districts, was discussed and it was the opinion of those present that this was the only form in which the legislature would agree to a Junior College Bill. I believe this was the way the Junior College Bill was finally passed.

I cannot close this letter without saying that to the best of my knowledge, you and the others at the meeting, have not only lived up to the agreement but to the spirit of the agreement. Such understandings can hardly be put into technical language, but the essence of the contract is the unwritten part within ourselves.

This was Earl David's answer to the criticism levied against Boise Junior College by Vardis Fisher. This letter never appeared in public until the present time (1969) in this book.

The second answer came from J. R. Field on June 18, 1949; it also needs no explanation:

You will recall that I was Senator from Adams County and served in the 1939 Legislature and you will probably further recall that I was Chairman of the Educational Institutions Committee and was also a member of the Education Committee. I believe that I have quite a clear recollection of the handling of the Junior College Bill. . .

Naturally in the discussion of these bills, the question arose as to whether the Junior College Law meant that in a couple of years there would be a request made of the legislature to take over the Boise Junior College as a four-year state college or university, and I recall that you were very frank and fair in regard to this proposition, pointing out that you, of course, could not control the actions of the legislature and could not guarantee the future, but that you did assure all of us that such a request would not be made with that college's sanction.

Another natural point of discussion was whether the State, at some future date, might be asked to furnish financial assistance in one form or another for the junior colleges that might become established in Idaho under the Junior College Law. Here again, the proponents of the bill knew and the legislators knew, that no one could make any guarantee on this point and none were offered, but you people did affirm that while you could make no commitments, it certainly wasn't contemplated in the drawing of the bill nor was it contemplated in the minds of you people who were advocating and urging the passage of the Junior College Law. Your committee stated that while no one could give any definite assurance of what might develop over a period of years, the people of the Boise area were willing and wanted to establish the Boise Junior College as an institution supported only by local taxation as distinguished from a state tax supported institution with the thought that the need of a junior college system in the State of Idaho could be tested out, and that if it proved a mistake or was unneeded in the educational program, that the Boise taxpayers would have paid the bill and that it would have cost the State nothing. On the other hand, if such a program proved worthwhile and a needed part of our educational program, then at that time whenever that need was demonstrated, it would be the duty and obligation of those state and other public officials then charged with that responsibility to determine the future program of such a system both financially and otherwise.

I am writing you this letter because, failing to find my records, I thought it might be something you could put in your files as one person's written recollections of the facts surrounding the passage of the Junior College Law, and let me say in closing, that I will always feel that you and the rest of the committee of proponents were extremely frank and fair regarding the whole matter, and as far as I can recall no one made any misrepresentations or any commitments regarding the action of future legislatures.

The third letter, written May 23, 1949, to Governor C. A. Bottolfsen, explains Driscoll's understanding of what happened and contains a closing statement by the former governor which affirms the Driscoll letter:

As you know, the 1939 Session of the Idaho Legislature enacted the Junior College Law of the State of Idaho. You at that time, were governor of the State and signed the bill. In connection with that

approval the undersigned discussed this measure with you, but it did not occur to me then that that discussion might later become of enough importance to justify having it typed. However, in light of various editorials that have appeared of late in some of the newspapers of the state, I think that while some of us who took part in those discussions are still alive, we should reduce to writing what now seems to be important parts thereof and for that reason I am addressing this letter to you.

You will no doubt recall that you asked me whether in my opinion, enactment of the Junior College Law meant that in a couple of years there would be a request made of the Legislature to take over the Boise Junior College as a four-year state college or university. I stated to you that while I could not control the action of the people of Idaho, or even of Boise, that I could give you one definite promise and that was that so long as I was on the Boise Junior College Board, such a request would not be made with the college's sanction. Although I was off the board for a couple of years immediately after the enactment of the State Junior College Law ten years ago, I have been on it ever since and still am and no such request has been made.

No commitment was made on the question of whether some day in the future, request might be made of the State to furnish financial assistance for the Junior Colleges thereafter established in Idaho.

If you find the above and foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, I would appreciate it if you would confirm it on this letter and return it to me for my files. An extra copy is enclosed for your files.

After reading this letter, Governor Bottolfsen returned it to Mr. Driscoll with his signature and the following note: "I have read the above and foregoing and I find that it fairly and accurately sets forth the facts."

The above letters accurately portray for future showing, just what promises were or were not made by responsible citizens of Idaho in the successful attempt to secure a collegiate institution for the young people of this area. The author has the copies of these letters that have been quoted above, but the originals remain in Mr. Driscoll's vault and are to be delivered to the College by Mr. Driscoll at a time he thinks appropriate, or coterminous with his passing.

This is one of the few important legal documents that concerns the general citizens of Idaho and records what took place in the conference room by those most affected by such legis-

lation. Usually there is no such record of what may have happened in the "smoke-filled room" of a conference.

Immediately after the Boise Junior College District was created by the vote of the people in March of 1939, the Board of Trustees met to discuss where its new campus would be located. It had a one-year lease on the St. Margaret's Hall campus, but it was evident that this should be returned to the Episcopal Church since it needed such buildings to carry on its nursing education program.

The College and the Church worked out a program for the year 1939-40 in which the College would make certain repairs on St. Margaret's Hall. These repairs consisted of taking off the back porches, changing in a minor way the design of the roof over the front dormer window, and making some repairs on the interior of the building. These repairs by the Junior College District were to compensate for the rental of the buildings for the 1939-40 year.

Bishop Bartlett indicated to the Board of Trustees that he wanted the buildings beginning the summer of 1940 for the Church's activities in connection with St. Luke's Hospital. As a result, during the summer of 1939, the Board, under the leadership of Board President Haga, asked President Chaffee to make a study of the needs of the College—the amount of land needed for developing a new campus, and a likely place in the city for such an institution then and for the years in which it would expand into a much larger institution.

The following sites were suggested by organizations within the city including the Chamber of Commerce, as well as by the College Board and administration; the old Fort Boise barracks fronting on Fort Street; the Idaho Soldier's Home outside the city limits on State Street; the Ridenbaugh Estate lying just below the bench east of the new Depot; and the Boise Airport established in 1928, almost a mile in length and averaging in width from 600 feet to 1500 feet at its widest point.

At the Board's suggestion as indicated above, Chaffee drew up possibilities of each site and worked out requisites for the location of a college campus. By mid-summer, the Board had worked with the Chamber of Commerce on the idea of selecting a site. That body had asked Mr. Oscar Worthwine to act as Chairman of the Committee on Junior College Site Selection.

By mid-July, Haga and Chaffee had had numerous discussions on the possibilities of a site and Mr. Haga asked the College president to write a letter to the Junior College Site Selection Committee indicating the prime requisites. This Chaffee did in a letter addressed to Mr. Worthwine on August 12, 1939. Both men had in mind the selection of the airport because of its exceptional accessibility to a state highway (Capital Boulevard) at one end, and another vital highway (Broadway Avenue) on the opposite end. It was easily accessible by bus, rail, and air, and was within half a mile of the center of the city, yet did not have the confusion and noise that usually accompanies such a location. This was due, of course, to the fact that on the north side parallel to the airport was Julia Davis Park, which would act as a buffer to prevent objectionable businesses and inferior housing from being located next to the contemplated campus site. Also, the park would partly complement the projected campus since it was used primarily during the months of June, July, and August, and at almost the exact date that the College would open for its fall term, the park would become practically deserted.

The president of a college in Maine, Dr. Franklin W. Johnson, had indicated in *The American School and University* (a magazine largely concerned with matters pertaining to the architecture of schools and colleges), that "The ideal environment for young people during their four years at college was conceived to be a campus in the middle of a park—accessible to the home city by convenient approaches and have a connection with the state highway system."

Chaffee then indicated the size of area needed for academic buildings, landscaping, parking, and beautification of the

campus. This, plus the needs that would materialize over the years, added up to around 100 acres.

The old airport was the only site suggested that ideally met all these conditions and at the same time would add to the beauty of the city by fitting it into a plan of the civic center and park system. An additional advantage of this location was the proximity to areas where College students could work while attending school, such as wholesale centers, filling stations, and grocery and department stores. Of course, the fact that this area was available at almost no cost was the clinching factor. In 1938 the city had decided that it needed an airport of far greater size and flexibility than the narrow one that lay along the south side of the Boise River and had moved to what is now known as Gowen Field.

The Board secured the approval of members of the city council and of Mayor James Straight who indicated that they would seriously consider the donation of this site to the College as a campus contingent on a two-thirds majority bond issue vote for \$260,000 by the taxpayers of Boise for the first buildings to be located on the new site.

Taxpaying citizens of the city did indicate their support in November by voting 3040 to 305 in favor of suggested buildings—an administration building, a heating plant, and an auditorium.

The city council and mayor immediately approved the donation of the site and the architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel followed up their drawings of the previous two months with complete plans. The orphan was no longer an orphan; through striving, it had achieved a gratifying degree of maturity and security.

- ¹Board of Trustees Meeting, Boise Junior College Inc. Minutes, June 7, 1934.
- ²Ibid.
- ³*Boise Junior College Catalog*, 1934-35. C. H. Sievers.
- ⁴Board of Trustees Meeting, Boise Junior College, Inc. Minutes, December 17, 1934.
- ⁵Ibid, August 31, 1934.
- ⁶*Idaho Daily Statesman*, September, 6, 1935.
- ⁷Elmer W. Fox, *Audit Report*, Boise Junior College, Inc. June 30, 1936. Schedule B
- ⁸Byron Defenbach & Sons, *Audit Report for Boise Junior College*, 1936-37.
- ⁹Ibid.
- ¹⁰C. B. McMath, Jr., *Audit Report for Boise Junior College, Inc.*, June 30, 1940.
- ¹¹Elmer W. Fox, op. cit.
- ¹²Ibid.
- ¹³Byron Defenbach & Sons, op. cit.
- ¹⁴Letter of June 18, 1949 from J. R. Field to J. Lynn Driscoll.
- ¹⁵From conversation between Ben W. Oppenheim and Eugene B. Chaffee, 1967.