

Early Student Activities CHAPTER III

During the College's first year, it was too new to have an organized athletic program; the major, extra-curricular activity was drama. There were many who had been active in dramatics in high school and they had a stimulating and capable faculty director in Miss Gail Hungerford, a drama teacher at St. Margaret's Academy. She coached the three-act play, "the Youngest" by Phillip Barry which was presented at the Boise High School auditorium on April 23, 1933 with Pauline Johnson, Milton Thurber, Ernest Allman, Betty Callaway, Preston Hale, Lois Rankin, Dean Kloepfer, and Margaret Luther in the cast. The ticket sale to finance this production (no student body money existed in the treasury at that time), was handled by David Pinkston. No one could have pursued sales with greater drive and purposefulness. Pinkston buttonholed business and professional men to such an extent that the attendance still remains one of the largest in the history of the College.

The 1933-34 year saw much enthusiasm from the drama students because of the growth and interest in Boise Junior College by the citizens of Boise. Three English plays were produced, "The Twelve Pound Look" by Sir James Barrie; "The Dover Road" by A. A. Milne on December 15, 1933, and

"Outward Bound" by Sutton Vane on May 4th and 5th, 1934. These plays had the advantage of direction by Dr. Herbert E. Childs and his class in dramatics.

Also established during the College's first year was "Romance Language Night." On March 11, 1933 two plays were given; one in French and the other in Spanish. Both were directed by Camille B. Power whose dynamic interest made such plays an annual event. The Spanish play, "El Palacio Triste" had a cast composed of Marian Manson, Doris Kerlin, Owen Sproat, Otto Power, Milton Thurber, Clark Fails, Victor Lemon, Pauline Johnson, Kenneth Robertson, and Preston Hale. A comedy "L'Anglais Tel Quor Je Parle" by Triston Bernard ". . . delighted French speaking people in the audience. Wallace Pefley, Lois Rankin, Fred Hershey, Betty Callaway, Vernon Gilbert, George Taylor, Arthur Allman, and Howard Kenzie were convincing as Frenchmen."¹

The German classes followed later in the spring with "Ein Abend In Deutschland," with two German plays, "Einer Muss Heiraten" and "Der Gute Diener." The cast for both consisted of Clyde Crooks, William Chatterton, Dorothy Lenfest, and Lellah Foster. Dr. Elsie J. McFarland was the director. The foreign language department decided to make this a tradition and have had plays in these three languages nearly every year since the original one.

One man who has contributed much to not only the French and German plays but to the foreign language department is Dr. Robert deNeufville who joined the faculty in 1940. He had received his degrees in German, Swiss and English universities and came to the College after he had been in the United States two years. During these two years he had been tutoring students at Sun Valley. He enlisted in the Intelligence Service of the United States Army in 1943 and returned to the College in the spring of 1946. On October 13, 1967, he received one of the highest awards presented to civilians by the French government for contributions made to promote better understanding of France in the modern world—the "Palm l'Academiques."



First Student Union Building



(Above) Cornerstone laying for SUB. Student body president Bill Hillman and vice president Steve Collins talk with President Chaffee



(Above, right) Students relax

(Right) Hattie Gesner, Manager (front left) and long-time Student Union personnel.





Night school classes



John Best—Orchestra Director and Music Appreciation

During its early years the College was fortunate in having the use of the Boise Public School Field for physical education. It was located on Warm Springs Avenue—only three blocks from the College—and had an excellent turf field as well as a running track. Students “working out” on the field returned to take their showers in the new gymnasium.

There was no full-time physical education instructor for men this first year and the only supervision they received was from Eugene Chaffee and student assistants. Mr. Chaffee handled these courses in addition to his full-time position of history instructor and consequently, the physical education activities for men were very limited.

Women students began the College’s first semester with a full-time physical education instructor—Miss Ruth Payne. She was the director of women’s athletics from 1932 to 1934 and taught basketball, tennis, swimming, and interpretive dancing in addition to regular physical education activities.

Except for skiing and tennis in recent years, women’s sports have been largely confined to intra-mural competition, but there was much of this. In the 1934-35 year, under the direction of Miss Jeanne Myers, basketball dominated the sports for women. “Three teams, sophomores, freshmen, and beauty squad, competed in a round robin with the sophomores winning with four victories and no defeats. The freshmen had two victories in their favor, while the beauty squad contented themselves with having the beauties on their side.”²

In these early years, students who were exceptionally good at a particular sport were appointed as sports managers and conducted classes under the supervision of the physical education instructor. This was particularly appropriate in the 1935-36 year when Max Eiden became the women’s instructor as well as the men’s instructor and coach.

In the spring of 1937, Miss Lucille Nelson, a former graduate of B.J.C. joined the staff as the women’s physical education

instructor. This year saw the introduction of a new sport on campus—speedball. It was very popular with the girls. Mrs. Kenneth Robertson (Lucille Nelson), taught for two more years.

From 1939 until the close of the war, none of the women's physical education instructors remained with the College longer than two years. They were affected by the war and left education to go into positions where the war seemed more apparent. During these six years, a number of new sports—archery, golf and hockey—were added to the curricula and are still popular courses today.

Football during the College's second year was coached by Mr. "Dusty" Kline, the high school coach. The team's equipment was largely cast-offs from Boise High School and there were very few substitutes to fill in for the eleven players who actively played throughout the fall. The team was composed of:

John Andrews	End
Preston Hale	End
Merle Power	Tackle
Walter Rigney	Tackle
Edwin Woodhead	Guard
Garth Rudd	Guard
Kenneth Robertson	Center
Dean Kloepfer	Quarterback
Owen Sproat	Halfback
Robert Shaw	Halfback
Richard Martin	Fullback

The first student body president, Kenneth Robertson, was the captain of this team which played its first of four games in October of 1933 against St. Joseph's Academy. The final score was St. Joseph's 6—Boise Junior College 0. At the end of the game, President Barnwell congratulated the Broncos on their spirit in spite of defeat and hoped that with the support of the newly organized Pep Band directed by Jun Yamamoto, they would do better in the future.

The beginning of the Pep Band was contemporary with the selection of the first yell leaders. This group was composed of three young men who in the 1934-35 year were Walter Johnson, Elmer Fox and John Moats. They were attired in sweaters in the College colors with a block B and appeared at football and basketball games to spur the players on by leading the students in their organized cheering.

Within a couple of years, one girl and two men made up the trio and from then until recently, when the girls took over in full force, there was either one girl, or two when the yell leaders became a quartet.

Over the years, both the size and uniform of this group has changed. Today, the six girls carry blue and orange pom poms and wear short blue and orange skirts, and sweaters with the Boise State College emblem on them.

The Pep Band, now called the Boise State College Marching Band, has also grown considerably to 100 members and the all-girl Broncette drill team composed of 48 members, plus the drum major and majorettes, make all Bronco performances very lively and colorful.

The name "Bronco" incidentally was decided upon in the first year of the College's existence. The students were desirous of choosing a name that suited this western area and as many wild horses roamed the Owyhee section of Idaho, the name of Bronco was considered appropriate. Every competing athletic team since that time has been referred to as the Broncos.

The basketball team of the 1933-34 year was coached by a young business man in Boise, Mr. Stanton Hale. It had a successful season, beating the College of Idaho three out of four games, Eastern Oregon Normal, and winning the Nazarene College Invitational Tournament. It was, however, badly beaten by the University of Idaho. Because there were very few colleges within a close distance of Boise and because there was very little money for traveling expenses, the basketball team com-

peted against the local high schools as often as possible and in the Boise City Commercial League against such teams as those of the telephone company and Idaho Power. The Broncos won these games more often than not.

Members of the first tennis team included Milton Thurber, George Taylor, Vernon Gilbert and Theron Liddle. Although most members of this team won their letters, money was limited and there were no sweater awards.

Actually, the sport in which the College excelled during its early years was track. The team was made up of Dean Kloepfer, javelin; Kenneth Robertson, hurdles; John Andrews, high jump; Kenneth Kehrer, pole vault; Walt Rigney, weights, discus, and shot-put; J. R. Woodruff and Bill Chatterton, quarter mile; and Preston Hale, 220 yard dash. Other students on this track team were Pat Joyce and David Pinkston. J. R. Woodruff was actually an outstanding quarter miler; probably the best in the state. He had not entered the sport during high school days, but he and Bill Chatterton were two of the best middle distance runners the College has ever had.

When the third year opened, the College adopted a more pretentious and orthodox type of football. The team was coached by a recent graduate of the University of Idaho, Max Eiden. He took over all of the athletics the College engaged in except for track. Until 1936 when he became President, Eugene B. Chaffee coached this sport. He had been a member of the Occidental track team in Los Angeles, California for three years.

According to the 1935 *Les Bois*, Homecoming officially began in the fall of 1933, but the activities surrounding this first year were very limited. There were, of course, no alumni to "come home." Not until the fall of 1934 did Homecoming really begin and from then on a new event was added almost every year.

The 1935 annual mentions that trash was collected from all over Boise for a bonfire which was built on one of the hills

north of town. A serpentine was conducted through the streets and a Homecoming program was broadcast on one of the local radio stations that same evening.

The following year "Elmer" was created. He began as a wooden or paper mache semblance of a horse and after each Homecoming game was cremated. The 1937 annual states, "From his ashes rises the spirit of new conquests and victories."³ Over the years, this tradition of burning Elmer died out, but in 1965 a real horse became the Bronco's mascot. Of course, at that time there was no cremation; instead the mascot was paraded around the campus and football stadium to demonstrate the spirit and prowess of the Bronco team. In 1965 he was an all-white horse named Spyeche. The following two years Montana Prince J. was the mascot. He was an Appaloosa owned and ridden by Bernie Jestrabek, a Boise College co-ed. At the last Homecoming game (1968) the mascot was another Appaloosa—Booger's Hustler—owned by Ila Smith, also a College co-ed.

The 1935-36 year initiated the naming of the Football Queen. Margaret Kroeger was chosen by the football team at their annual dinner-dance from nine competitors for her personality, sportsmanship, dignity, school loyalty, spirit, and popularity. This tradition continued until 1941 when the war forced a stop to most inter-collegiate games and consequently to Homecoming.

In the fall of 1946, Homecoming was resumed. One incident sparked the B.J.C. bonfire when the effigy of the College of Idaho team (that year's competitor), was set off prematurely by mauraders from Caldwell. Undaunted Boiseans hastily gathered more material for a new bonfire which was topped by an effigy of a College of Idaho Coyote sitting inside a wooden outhouse with the slogan "Ha ha Caldwell, caught you with your pants down," tacked to the door. The Broncos did just that; the final score the following afternoon was B.J.C. 20, College of Idaho 6.

The 1946 year appears also to have been the beginning of a tradition which has become very popular with both students

and local citizens. This is the Homecoming Parade which takes place prior to the football game and winds its way through the downtown area. Since its beginning, the number of bands has varied from four to twenty and each year the floats get bigger and better. The latter are built mainly by the various College clubs and organizations and each one depicts the prowess of the Broncos. There is always a set theme. The floats are decorated in any available yard or warehouse and there is constant anxiety that they will not be finished in time for the big day or that the weather will be wet and windy and destroy them before the final judging takes place. This has happened on a few occasions and the soggy crepe paper is anything but beautiful.

The 1947 year saw the resumption of a queen contest; a Homecoming queen in place of the football queens of 1936 to 1941. The annual football game that particular year was against the University of Idaho freshmen. One faithful supporter of the Broncos was Mayor Potter Howard of Boise. The local newspaper stated: "Mayor Potter Howard has been quoted as saying he'd give his shirt to see the Broncos play the Vandal frosh, and so that piece of apparel from his wardrobe will be prominently displayed on the float decorated by the school's dramatic group."⁴ A picture of Mayor Howard handing his shirt over to four B.J.C. co-eds accompanied this statement.

In the 31 years between 1937 and 1968, Homecoming has featured some or all of the following: a pep rally, a king beard contest, an alumni-night banquet and dance, and a pie eating contest. The October 28, 1968 edition of the *Arbiter* contained 16 pages of information pertinent to Homecoming Week. A schedule containing different events to take place every day of that week included all of the above festivities plus a concert to be given by the modern musical group "Spanky and our Gang," a noise parade, and a masquerade dance. This was also the first year that the downtown parade was held on the evening prior to the football game rather than on the same day.

On October 23, 1933, the first copy of the school paper was published. It was intended to be a semi-monthly paper, but

unfortunately this proved not the case; copies were printed only spasmodically until 1937. In the first copy was a small article stating that a prize had been offered to the student who could suggest the best name for the paper prior to its publication and that there was a small response to this but the name finally chosen was sent in by an anonymous person. It was the *Round-up*. Now the source is established—Mrs. Camille B. Power.

The *Roundup's* first staff consisted of Victor Lemon, Editor-in-Chief; George Taylor, Associate Editor; and Virginia Nagel, School Editor. Reporters, business staff, and various department staff members were Boyd Moore, Minnie McCurry, Edna Bell Wood, Theron Liddle, Gray Walker, Louise Kennaly, and Beth Whitehead.

The main story in this first issue was Senator Borah's address to the College student body on the "Recognition of Russia." In this he stated that Russia must be recognized as a nation and that recognition of all governments is the way to solve world-wide problems. He expected Russia would want to import much from the U.S.A. in the years to come. He also congratulated Bishop Barnwell and his associates upon their successful efforts at building a higher educational institution and wished them continued success.

The *Roundup* existed in various stages of dominance over the years depending largely upon the energy and imagination of the men appointed editor and business manager and also on the faculty advisor to the newspaper. If there was a lack of enthusiasm by both the editor and the faculty advisor, the newspaper slumped. If, on the other hand, either of the two emphasized the importance of a newspaper, it became a powerful base for the student body to operate on.

The newspaper has existed for a period of 36 years with nearly every principal story regarding the College included in its publication and under the name *Roundup* until the fall of 1968. At that time, the name was changed to the *Arbiter*, probably with the belief that the College needed a more pretentious

name than *Roundup*. At least, no good explanation has been given for the change that was made since there is little in the College's tradition as it exists today as a state institution to justify such a new designation. Only time can tell whether this name will continue as the College grows.

At the beginning of the third year, the College produced its first annual. It was dedicated to The Right Reverend Middleton S. Barnwell, D.D., who left Idaho in 1935 to become the Bishop of Georgia. The students summed up their regret at his departure by stating "This annual is respectfully dedicated: Because in losing him Idaho loses one of her foremost citizens. Because the Junior College loses not only its founder and first president, but a loving friend. Because the students and faculty wish him all success in his new labors."

The annual was edited by Vida Leneve Pope and Boyd Moore and at the suggestion of the history instructor, was called *Les Bois*. He also wrote the foreword justifying the historical background:

This initial venture of "Les Bois" is conceived in the spirit of those French-Canadians under Captain Bonneville whom tradition accords the honor of naming Boise—the river and valley. They were following new, untried, but interesting paths. Boise Junior College, likewise, has no easy, beaten path to follow, but with pioneer zeal must overcome each obstacle to its advancement with the fortitude and faith of those early French-Canadian voyageurs. May this issue of "Les Bois" and those that follow, serve as monuments to that progress.

This early annual introduces the College and describes each individual instructor and his special teaching field, providing their pictures and those of the students who attended the third year of the College. While most of the students who attended the first two years had gone, the faculty had four full-time and three part-time members of the first year and two additional full-time members who came during the second year of the College's existence. Three new members of the full-time faculty the third year were Dr. Myron Clites, Dean; Max Eiden, coach and men's physical education; and Mr. William

Wildhack, mathematics and physics. With the exception of Mr. Strachan, those members of the faculty who were with the College the first year have all remained until retirement age. Dr. Elsie (McFarland) Buck left in 1934, but returned to the College in 1937 and is the only one who teaches an occasional course since her retirement. During her more than 30 years with Boise College, she headed the Mathematics Department. Many of her students have proclaimed the superior quality of her teaching and of her sense of humor. Her dry and capable presentation of faculty and administration members contained in poems she wrote, have brought many chuckles from students and faculty alike. Her place in this college and its faculty will probably never quite be filled.

The basic theme of the yearbook has changed very little from the first one to the last one. As the student body has grown, the book has also expanded greatly, but whereas 64% of the 1935 annual's contents was written material, today 90% of the annual is composed of photographs.

In the fall of 1934, two service organizations in the College were created. At this time, when the student affairs were lagging, a group of young men and young women and the dean of women, Mrs. Camille B. Power, met at the home of Eugene B. Chaffee. Out of this meeting came the first service clubs for both men and women—the Vigilantes and the Valkyries. The principal purpose of each was service to the College and community.

The Vigilantes limited their membership to 20; each member having the privilege through service to the College to earn a letter. Six members did so the first year. For the first three years, Eugene B. Chaffee was their faculty advisor. In 1941 the Vigilantes became a chapter of the national service organization known as the Intercollegiate Knights. Dr. Ernest Retzlaff, a member of the faculty of Boise College in 1967-68 but a student in 1941, was instrumental in securing the transfer from a local organization to a national one.

The Valkyries had a maximum of 15 members. Dean Power was faculty advisor the first year, 1934-35; Ada (Yost) Hatch served in that capacity for the following eight years. Miss Helen Moore had the longest term as faculty advisor to the Valkyries—from 1949 to 1962.

The 1934-35 school year was, in many ways, the most fruitful year for the creation of various organizations on the campus. The Radio Club was the first one organized. Its purpose was for pleasure and also to handle messages for members who wished to use amateur radio for their communications. All equipment was supplied by the members and communication was made as far west as New Zealand and Australia and to many areas in the United States and Canada. In January of 1935 the club received its official station call number, W7EVV. Dick Frazier was elected President; Leonard Capps, Secretary-Treasurer; and Robert Gavin, Public Relations.

The Associated Women's Club was open to all women at Boise Junior College and had a series of interesting talks for young women and sponsored a number of social events. Dean Power was also the faculty advisor for this club for the 1934-35 year and from 1936 to 1940. Dean Ada (Poirier) Burke continued in this position for the next 16 years.

The B.J.C. Club included students who were awarded letters in the major sports and the yell leaders. One aim of the club was to enforce rules and traditions of Boise Junior College.

A self-organized and self-directed group this year (1934) was the Songsmiths. Under the leadership of Avery Thomas who directed the group and arranged the pieces, they sang for many assemblies at the College, on 22 different occasions in Boise at Christmas, and in 25 different towns between Boise and Twin Falls on both sides of the Snake River during Boise Junior College Week.

The St. Margaret's Players came into being this same year as a direct result of the early plays of 1933-34 inspired by Dr. Herbert Childs and an unusually strong group of members.

One popular activity which began in 1936 was a spring bar-be-que. Bill Jenkins, a local business man, and some of the male students drove up to Barrell Springs one Thursday evening to dig the pit and put the meat on to cook. The rest of the students rode up in hayracks the following day for the fiesta. The second bar-be-que was held at Mile High on May 22, 1937. Sadly enough, that was the last one since the College had grown so much by 1939 that it was impractical to try to take care of so many people in a mountainous area.

¹*Les Bois*, 1935. p.45.

²*Ibid.* p. 30.

³*Ibid.*, 1937.

⁴*Idaho Daily Statesman*, October 19, 1947.