



East Hall, men's residence, dedicated during 1961 commencement.

Marconi and the completion of Interstate Highway 80 for the demise of football. What he meant by that, of course, was that the invention of radio had provided people with access (to other than local games). The completion of the interstate highway system had made Iowa City - and Big Ten football - only 55 minutes away from Davenport. St. Ambrose could hardly thrive against that sort of competition, and mounting a football team each year had become a most serious financial loss. Matters would stay that way until 1974. Then would come introduction of club football at St. Ambrose, and then the reintroduction of intercollegiate football in 1977.

In December of 1959, Father Sebastian Menke was appointed dean of the new East Hall dormitory. Students would begin moving into the completed structure shortly. He was replaced as student chaplain, temporarily, by Father John Dolan. Father Dolan would remain in that position until September of 1960 when Father John J. Byrns was named chaplain of the College. Father Byrns, though not a member of the teaching faculty as such, came to the College from a career in the service during which time he had suffered extensive leg injuries. An apartment (the student chaplain's office - was prepared for him in the chapel itself and he lived there.

The completion of East Hall in 1960 meant the end of the student barracks (that had been put up by the navy during World War II. The building was designed in the form of an "I." Each

floor had student rooms and a faculty suite, originally designed to be occupied by a priest. The building, though beautiful on the outside, had some lamentable defects. The showers were uncontrollable. No matter what temperature the dial was set at, there would invariably be either a spurt of ice-cold water or a spurt of scalding-hot water in the middle of a person's shower. This was caused by the use of water connected to the same pipe in some other part of the building. The defect exists to this day.

Even in the old times, when periods of silence were invoked in dormitories, it was impossible to have a quiet atmosphere in East I Hall. Lack of carpeting on the floors and the thin quality of the doors always enabled you to recognize a person who was coming by his footsteps from several feet away. Noise carried unbelievably.

One of the advantages of the building was its central air conditioning. The trouble was that the air conditioning either never got turned on, or it was in a somewhat permanent state of disrepair. The place gradually became the least popular of the residence halls on campus, even though it was the newest. It is referred to by current students as "beast hall."

With the demise of football at St. Ambrose, the first two years of the '60s saw strong developments in the other sports. Leo Kilfoy was named director of athletics in 1960, and began to add a great deal of emphasis (to the development of an intramural program. It is that intramural program which probably forms the highpoint of athletic activity at the College. There are an estimated 1,200 students who participate in (the various sports every year.

On the intercollegiate level, the College continued to develop the excellence of its tennis team, which has remained outstanding to (this very day. There also was new emphasis on (track and cross-country under the excellent tutoring ability of Roy Owen.

Owen was almost the perfect coach. His teams would be record-breaking until his departure from the College in (the 1970s. He was also sensitive about the academic development of his athletes. I remember in the '60s talking to a student who was on the track team. That particular afternoon he happened to be in a cold sweat because Mr. Owen, though it was before the track season opened, had insisted on a meeting with the track team that afternoon. The difficulty was that semester grades had just come out, and the track team as a whole had not reached a 3.0 average. The members were certain that there was going to be the devil to pay when