

year. Another social event that came to be very prominent in College affairs was the dinner that was held at St. Ambrose for all the clergy, Catholic and Reformed, of Scott and Rock Island Counties. The various clergy would assemble to hear a progress report on the Ecumenical Council from Bishop Hayes and then a theological discussion followed.

The commencement address that year was given by Robert W. Galvin, president of the Motorola Corporation. Later, thanks to the generous contributions to the College by Virginia Piper, wife of the late Paul Galvin, founder of Motorola, the current Fine Arts Building would be named after Paul Galvin.

The 83rd commencement had 319 graduates. It was still a combined effort of St. Ambrose, Marycrest and the Mercy School of Nursing.

There had been a great deal of snow that winter, and in April of 1965 the Mississippi River threatened to flood. Local businesses and industrial plants were extensively damaged. The city asked the help of all able-bodied individuals, and classes at the College were dismissed for two and a half days so that the students could go and help. As the floods came, the Davenport Water Works was severely threatened, and it became "Project Ambrose." Either the students did not know, or were too generous to care, but had the Water Works been flooded, the school would have had to be closed for the rest of the year. But save it they did, anyway.

The industrial complex on the Mississippi in Bettendorf was also saved due mainly to the efforts of St. Ambrose students. The American Red Cross took over the College gymnasium as registration and administration centers. There were 115 national Red Cross staff workers from 28 states present to aid the needy. College facilities were offered to those who needed them. Saga Foods extended its services by transporting food to workers who were on the sandbagging detail.

At the conclusion of the flood, President Menke sent a message of gratitude to the students, and the mayor of Davenport, Kay T. O'Brien, made the following comment:

"You haven't ^{space} in the news to say what I could say about the part played by St. Ambrose College in the flood crisis.

Especially significant was their enthusiastic defense of the Davenport Water Works. The City can do without electricity or gas or many other things, but we could not have made it without water,

and you kept it possible.

"The only thanks I can express are my prayers for your wonderful works. Thank you."

Continuing evidence of the increasing quality of faculty at the College was the addition for the second semester in the 1964-65 school year of Arthur C. Hanson, Ph.D., to the College chemistry department. It was he who had built a chemistry lab at the Rock Island Arsenal.

And lest it be thought that St. Ambrose students were absent from national affairs, January of that year saw Steve Mizerak, a junior, invited to participate in the World Championship Pocket Billiard Tournament.

Among the new faculty that Monsignor Menke introduced at the opening meeting of September 17, 1965, there was one person who was already famous in academic circles. That was Sister Ritamary Bradley, C. I. M., who joined the department of English. Sister was already a nationally-known Chaucer scholar at the time of her appointment. There were faint rumblings of discontent from both the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame and the Medieval Institute at the University of Toronto that a small college had managed to secure the services of someone as famous and such a reputable scholar as Sister Ritamary.

Father Schmitz, the previous dean of men, had gone on to study psychology at Marquette and was replaced by Father Thomas Dinges. Father Dinges had come to the College from eight years in parish activity. He was very active in the navy reserve and could regularly be seen leaving or coming to the campus in the full military uniform of a lieutenant junior grade. This caused him to be nicknamed "Admiral Dinges" by the students. The naval aspect was augmented by his announcements over the East Hall public address system which always began with, "Now hear this!"

The first concelebrated Mass to be held on the St. Ambrose campus was celebrated at the opening of the academic year. Father John Smith, of the history department, had succeeded Father Madsen as chaplain. Father Madsen had retired from the College to a parish in Fairfield, Iowa, where he was to continue preaching his usual message of renewal through the Second Vatican Council.

The freshman class that year included over 500 students. It swamped the boarding facilities of the College and, since many had enrolled at the last minute, space was found in the Dempsey