

1987

A Look Into the Past

Cedarville College

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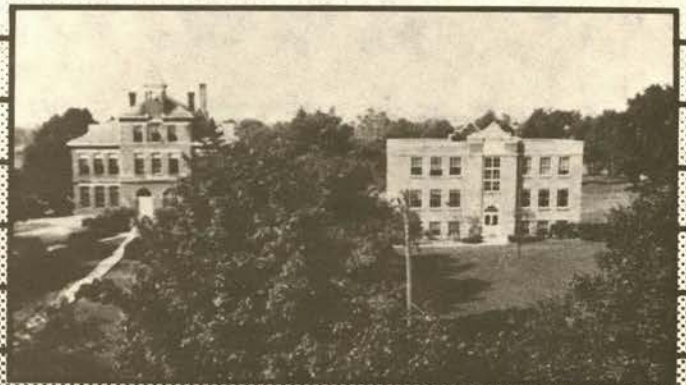
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A LOOK INTO



THE FIRST



THE FOUNDATION

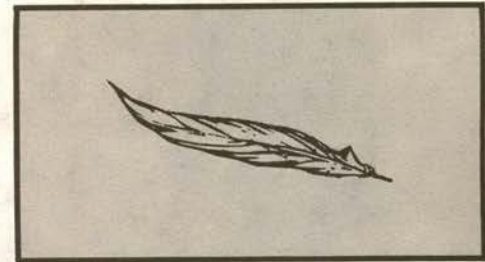


David McKinney, 1st President (1897-1915)

The foundation of Cedarville College's history was formed by the college's first president, Dr. David McKinney. He was a well-educated and articulate man who had completed his undergraduate program at the University of Pennsylvania before attending the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia.

During his 21 years as president, McKinney, while commuting to Cedarville twice a week, retained his pastorate of the Plum Street Reformed Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. His stable leadership and administrative abilities greatly contributed to the college's formative years, although his primary commitment was to the pastorate.

McKinney spent most of his term away from the college campus, but he accomplished many admirable goals: three new buildings were added, including a new li-

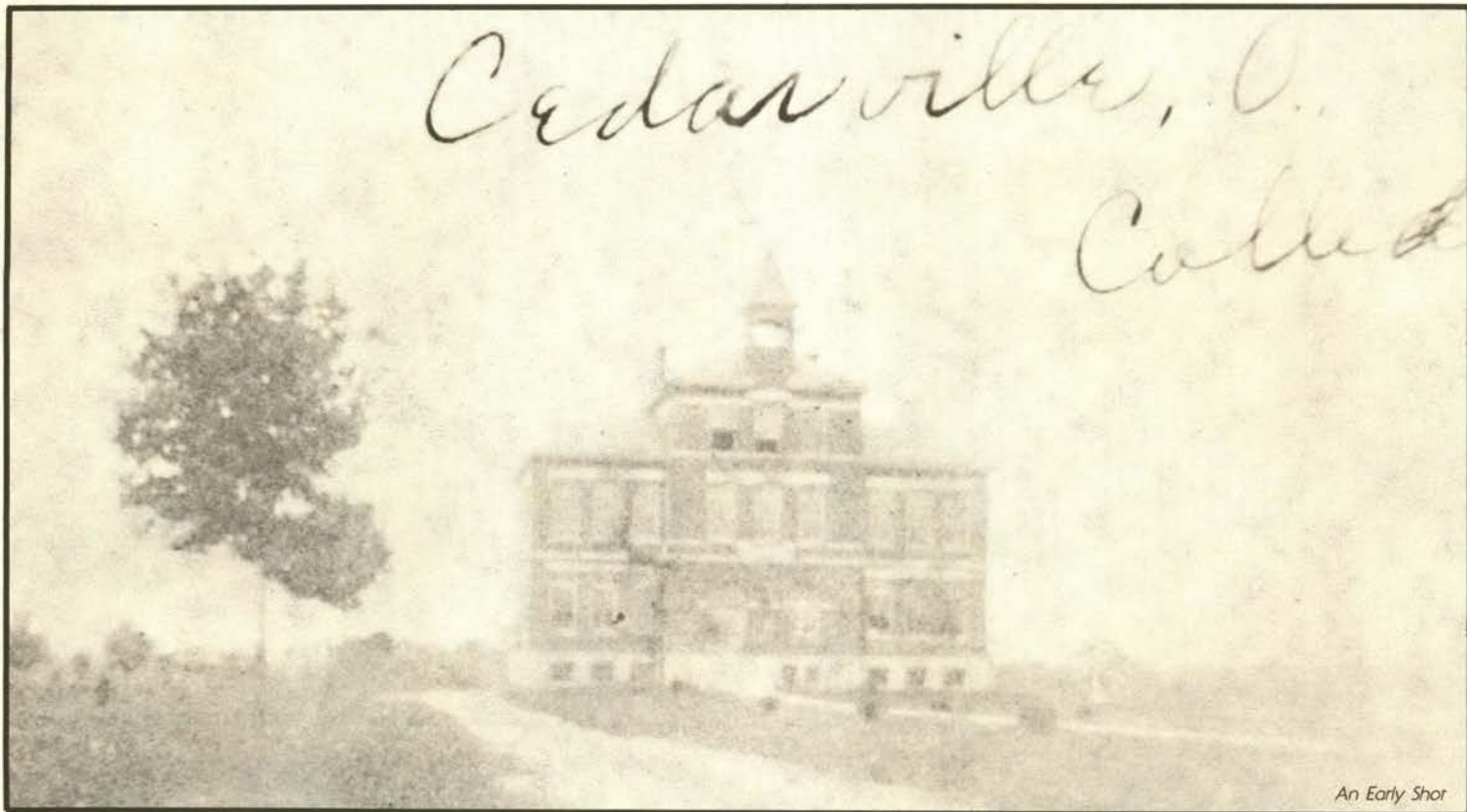


1915 Doan's School of Nursing



1916 Women's Basketball

Cedarville, O. College



An Early Shot



Alford Memorial Gymnasium 1929

brary; the endowment quadrupled, and church contributions to the general fund had become a "permanent . . . part of the resources of the college." McKinney also helped to firmly establish the college's reputation.

During McKinney's presidency, Cedarville College became more than just a school for Bible students. Organizations such as the Drama Club, Glee Club, and the Mandolin Club were established, while the key activities of the campus centered

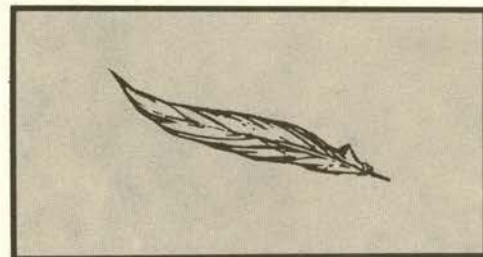
in the literary organizations known as the Philadelphian and Philosophic Societies.

In addition to academic programs, the college also enjoyed a vigorous athletic program. Sports for men included baseball and football, and basketball soon followed. Adding this sport allowed women to compete as well.

As the college grew, both McKinney and the trustees recognized the need for a resident administrator, so McKinney resigned from the presidency.



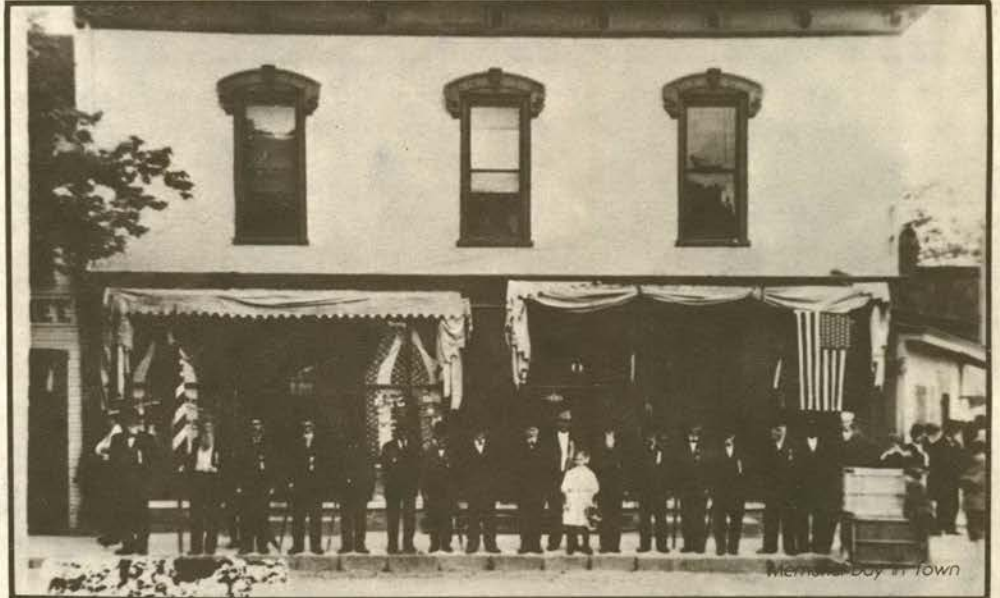
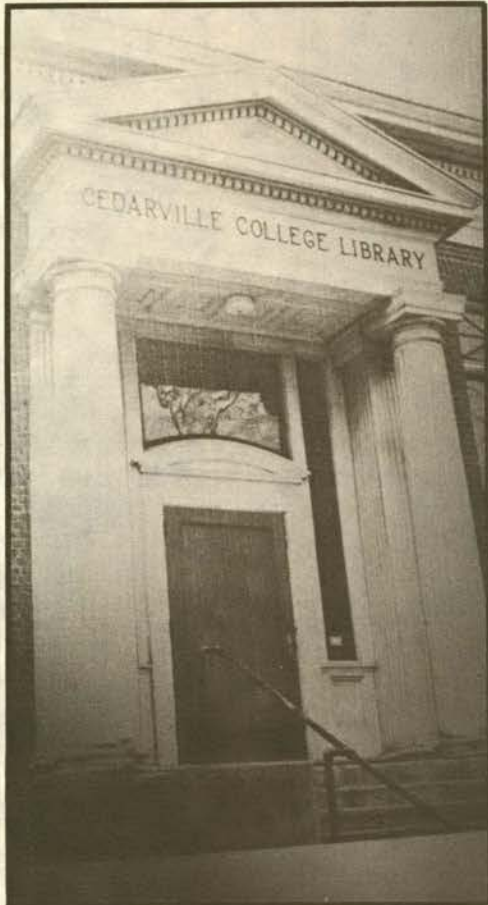
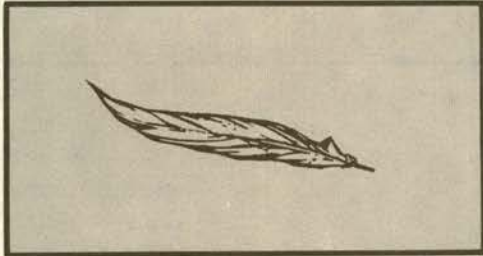
Cedarville Townspeople

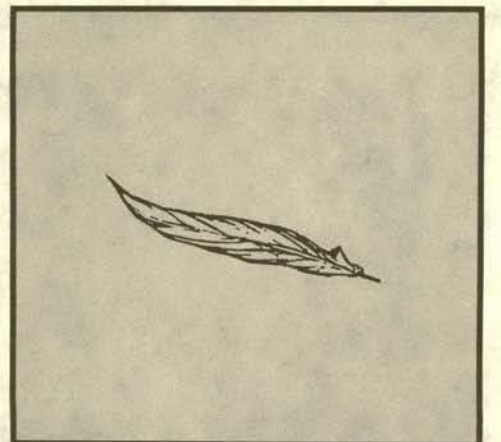


As the college prepared for its 40th anniversary, in 1934, Dr. David McKinney was invited to be the commencement speaker. The 74-year old McKinney accepted the invitation; however, his sudden death less than a month before graduation prevented him from fulfilling that commitment. McKinney's place at commencement was taken by his son, Rev. D.A. McKinney, who pastored the Oakland Presbyterian Church in Springfield, Ohio.

Dr. David McKinney was a great man of God who devoted many years of service to Cedarville College and the cause of Christ. His influential leadership provided the college with a strong foothold for its future success.

by Kristin Webber

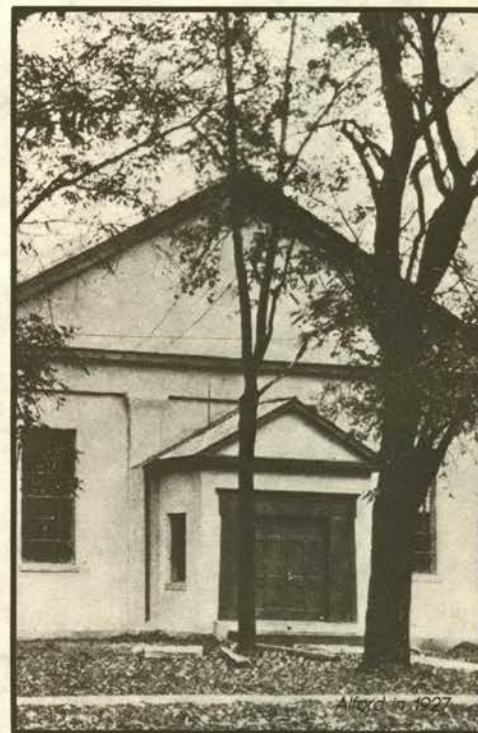




THE McCHESNEY DAYS

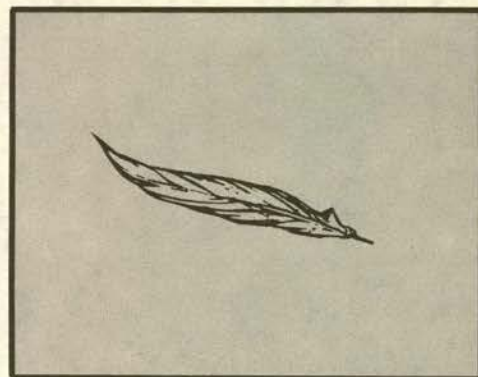


Wilbert McChesney, 2nd President (1915-1940)



When David McKinney resigned in 1915, Reverend Wilbert Renwick McChesney was unanimously elected the second president of Cedarville College. Teaching for 21 years, McChesney had been the first faculty member hired by the college in 1884. He was an ordained minister and skilled pulpit orator but had spent his entire career in the classroom teaching subjects such as Greek and systematic theology. Devoting his life to the college, he also served as Vice President in 1909 and Dean in 1913.

One of the most serious problems McChesney faced when beginning his presidency was the college's lack of resources, particularly financial. In his inaugural address, he promised a major fundraising drive. However, as the United States became more and more alarmed about





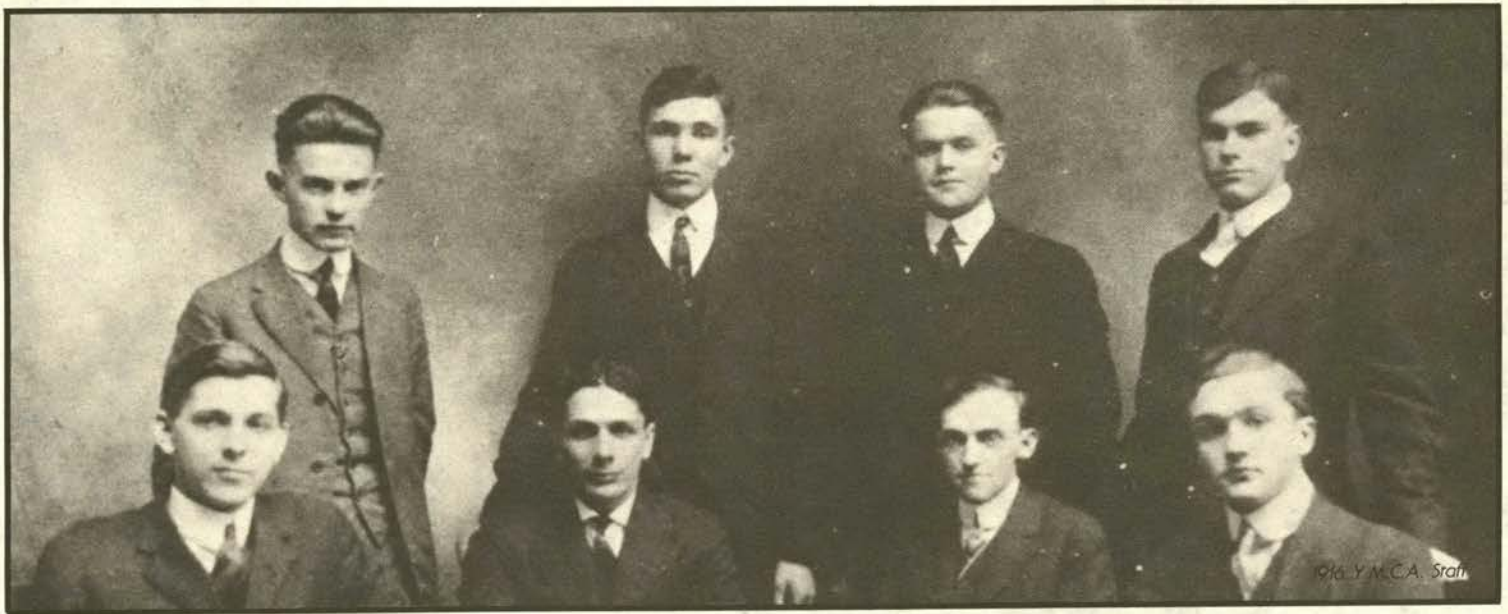
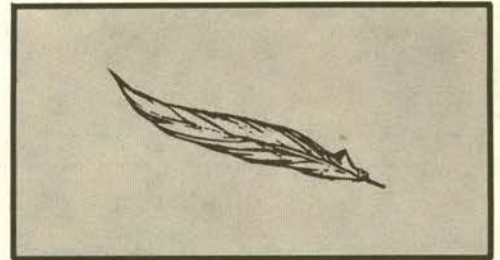
Y. W. C. A.

1916

entering World War I, McChesney decided to delay his fund-raising efforts.

After the war, the college's enrollment began to climb; by 1920, 116 students strained the campus' limited facilities, by 1921, 135 students were enrolled. That year, McChesney asked the Board of Trustees for an endowment and building program. Announced by the Cedarville Herald, he launched a successful \$200,000 campaign for the school. He appealed to the citizens of Cedarville and Greene County, threatening that the college would have to close down or move if it did not raise needed funds.

During his early years as president, McChesney continually urged the trustees to meet the state of Ohio's minimum standards. Satisfied by the school's efforts to meet these standards, inspectors for the Ohio State Association and Department of



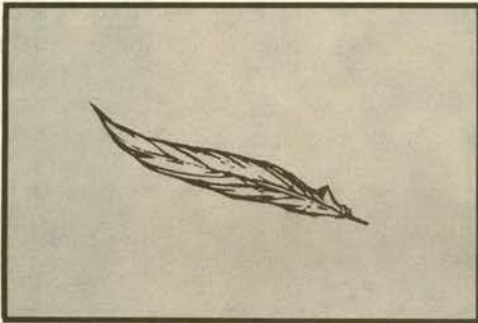
©16 Y.M.C.A. Staff



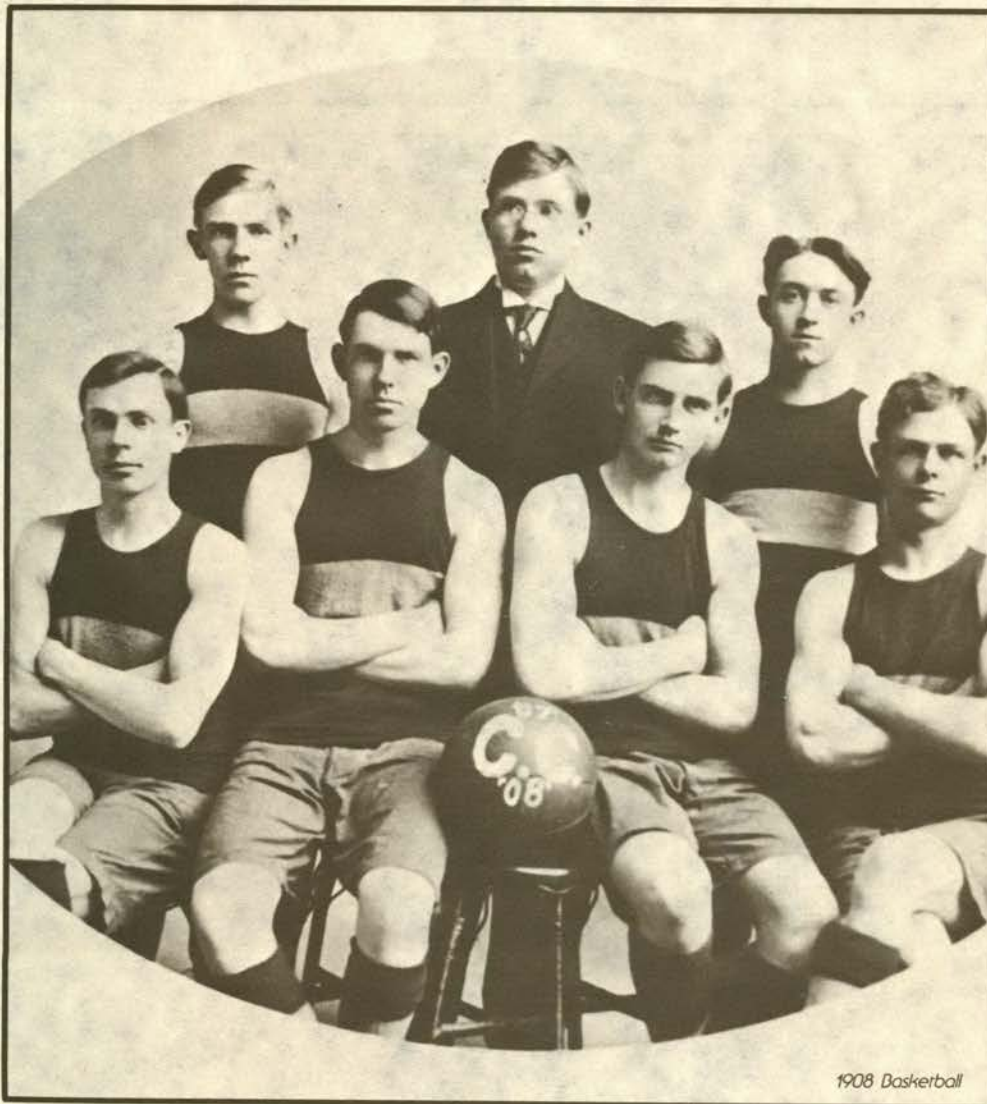
Public Instruction even called Cedarville "one of the best small colleges in the state."

In spite of this academic success, the college's financial problems grew worse. In 1928, the General Synod of Reformed Presbyterian Churches gave up all control of Cedarville; thus, the college lost its supporting constituency. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. gradually filled the openings on the Board of Trustees, but the college was unable to win the support of that denomination in the students or donations.

In the midst of these financial problems,



Glee Club 1928



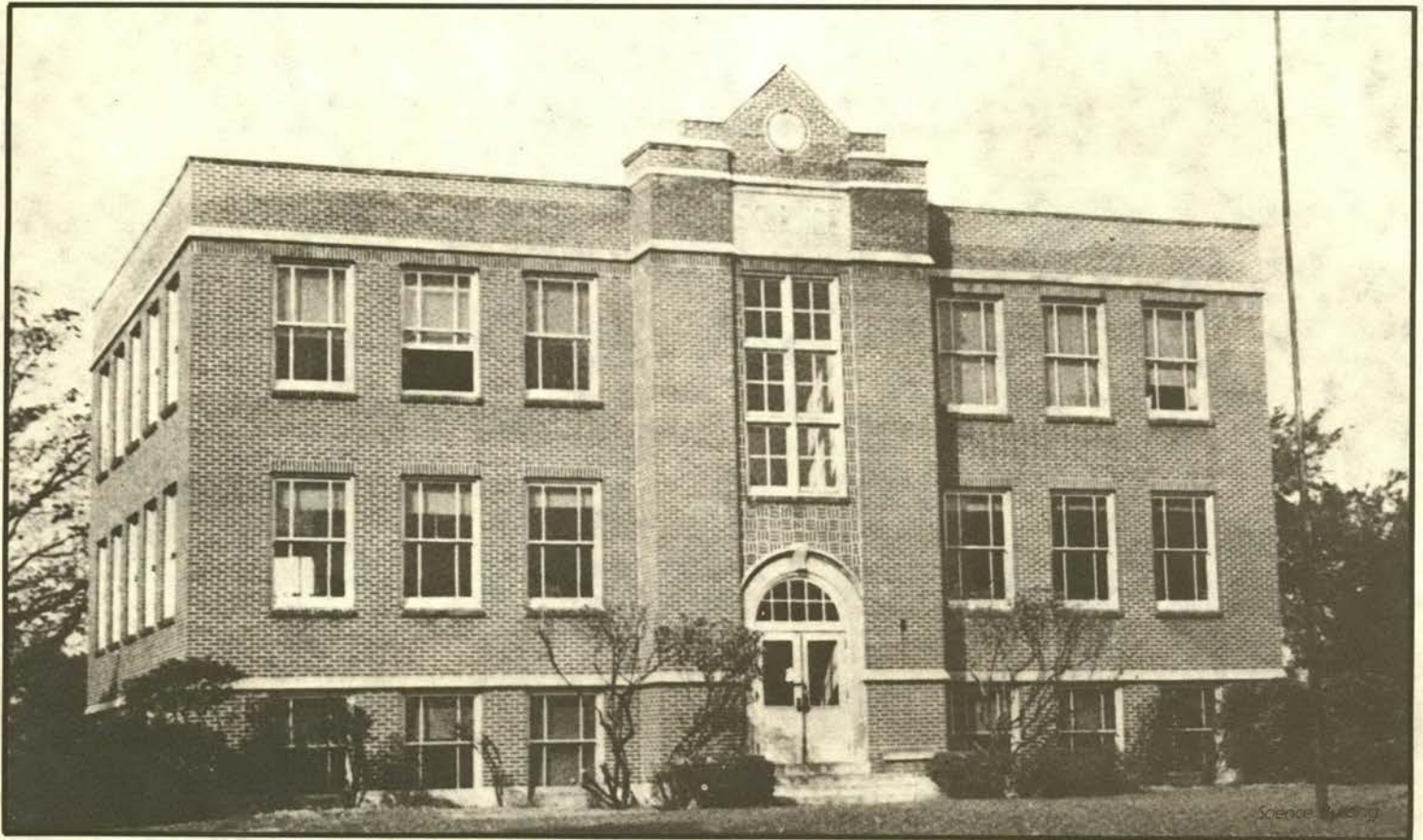
1908 Basketball

a dissident group of alumni seriously challenged McChesney's leadership, questioning his ability to handle the college's funds. McChesney remained president after a narrow 6 to 5 vote of the Board of Trustees, but this division in the board severely damaged his position.

Then, in 1934, McChesney lost the support of McKinney, the friend with whom he had worked unceasingly throughout the history of the college. Following the death of his wife, McChesney officially resigned as president in 1940, and Reverend Walter Smith Kilpatrick was chosen to fill his office.

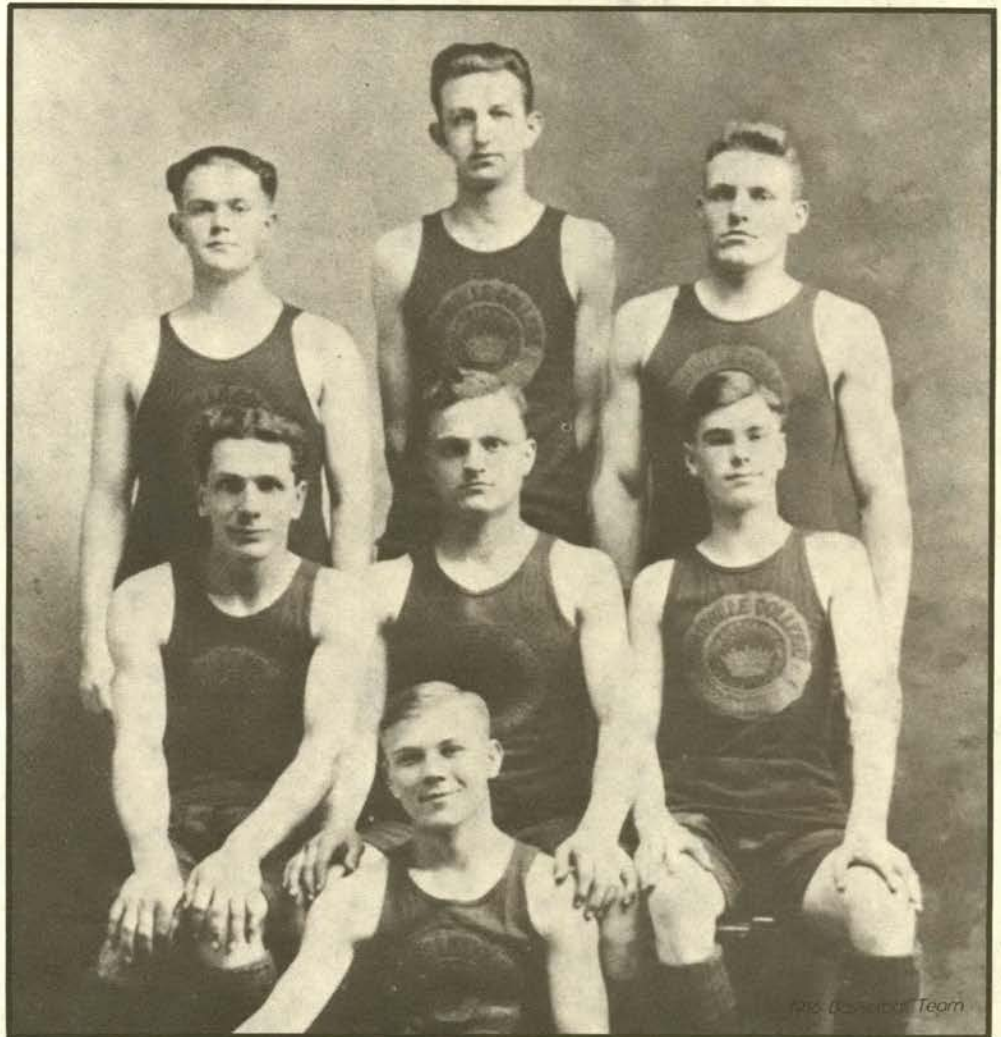


1910 Basketball



Despite his problems with the Board of Trustees, McChesney was well-respected by alumni and by the community. For instance, from 1932 until his death, he was elected by a wide margin to the Ohio Legislature every term but one. As president, he greatly enjoyed traveling to churches to preach the Gospel and raise support for the college he believed in. An editorial in the Cedarville Herald called McChesney "a first citizen of his community and of the religious community at large." The piece went on to express, "He lived each day what he preached and what he taught as well as what he advocated for the uplift of his fellow citizens."

Lisa Fawcett



A MIRACLE BEGINS

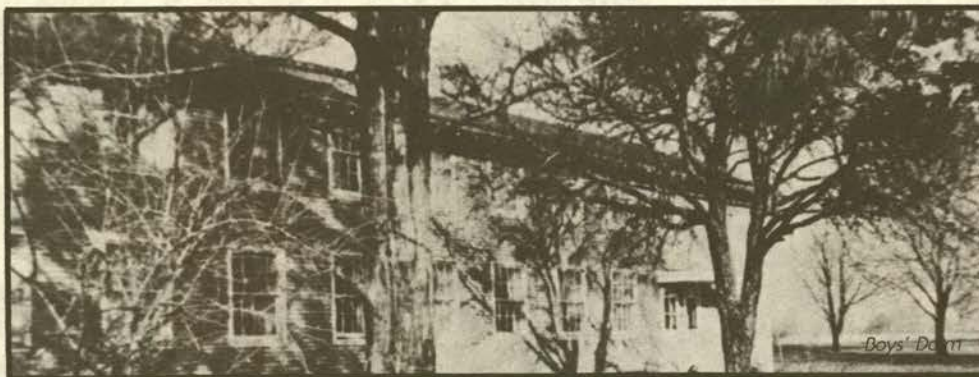


James T. Jeremiah, 7th President (1953-1978)

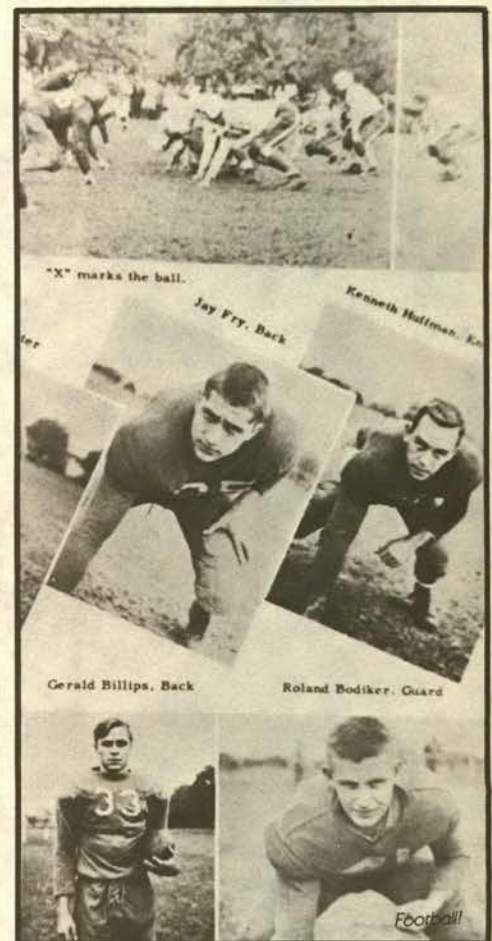
James T. Jeremiah's leadership of Cedarville College can be characterized in two words: faithful stewardship. Under his guidance the school has realized the potential that Jeremiah saw in 1953 when he first investigated the possibilities of merging the resources of Cleveland's Baptist Bible Institute with the physical plant of a then ailing Cedarville College.

Jeremiah's efforts to persuade the B.B.I. trustees toward merger led to meetings with the Presbyterian trustees. Both groups agreed that the mission of Cedarville College must focus on training young people for many professions, so that every segment of society might have a beacon to stand, as the school motto stated, "for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ." The merger complete, both Dr. and Mrs. Jeremiah began to invest the talents that God had given them in the school while Jeremiah continued as a full time pastor in Dayton, Ohio.

At the start of Jeremiah's involvement with Cedarville, his raw materials consisted



Boys' Dorm



"X" marks the ball.

Jay Fry, Back

Kenneth Hoffman, End

Gerald Billips, Back

Roland Bodiker, Guard

Football



Harriman Hall



1969 Gymnastics Team

of only six buildings: Old Main, the Science Building, The Carnegie Library, Alford Auditorium, Bethel and Harriman dorms, and some remodeled Army barracks, a gift from Uncle Sam. Dr. Jeremiah, by now working full time as President of the college, took these meager ingredients, added hours of work and prayer, and produced a result best characterized by The Miracle, the title that students of that era chose for their yearbook. During these times of limited resources, the Jeremiahs wore all hats. Besides serving as president, Dr. Jeremiah taught a number of classes on campus; Mrs. Jeremiah served as the college printer.

One by one, however, the talents multiplied under the young president's faithful stewardship. Basketball was instituted as the first intercollegiate sport, and Fall Quarter 1953 saw a student population of 103, and a faculty, including Dr. Jeremiah, of nine. The college continued in its growth spurt until the college's 10th anniversary which recorded a burgeoning student body of 501 and a faculty of 33.

Cedarville College Library and Lounge



With such added growth came added responsibility as well, but Dr. Jeremiah proved himself yet again as a faithful steward: he charted the expansion of the campus and put together an administrative staff capable of managing the growth needs. Dr. Clifford Johnson was hired as Academic Vice President and worked toward accreditation by certifying the teacher education program with the state of Ohio. Consecutive student services Deans Richard McIntosh and Don Rickard instituted financial aid services, the counseling department and the placement office. Lee Turner was hired to staff the development office, and he began the *Torch* mag-



1968 Field Hockey



Cedarville College Dramatic Society

Presents

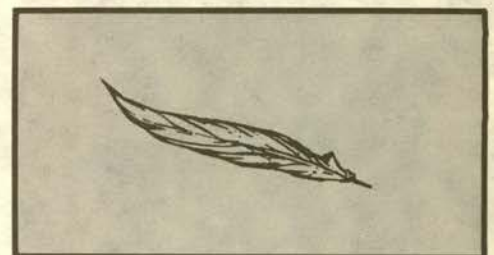
DEAR RUTH

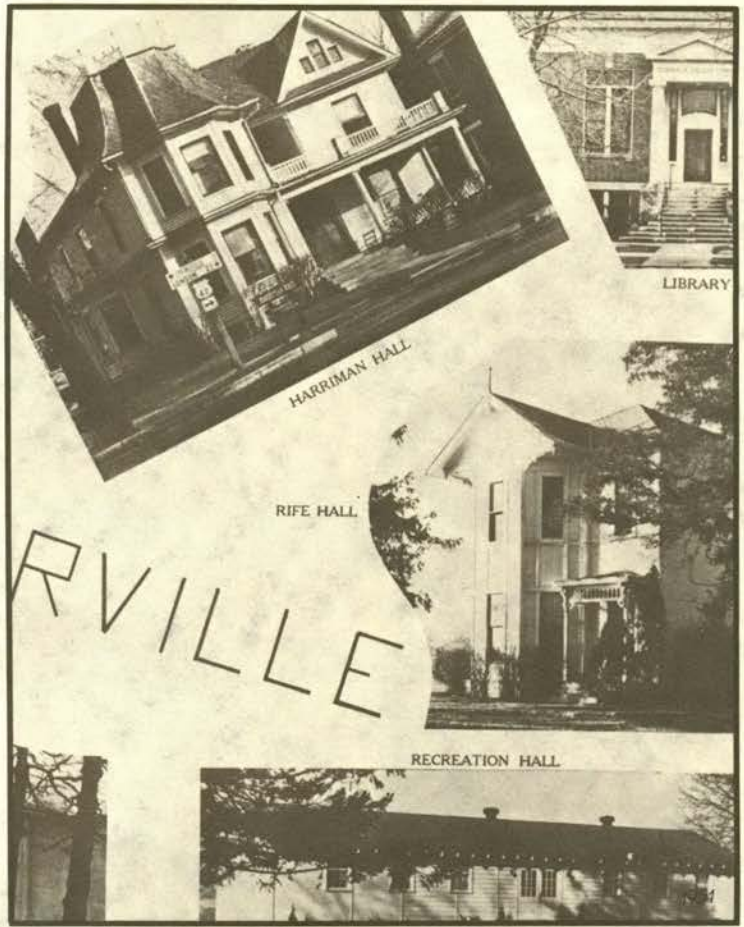
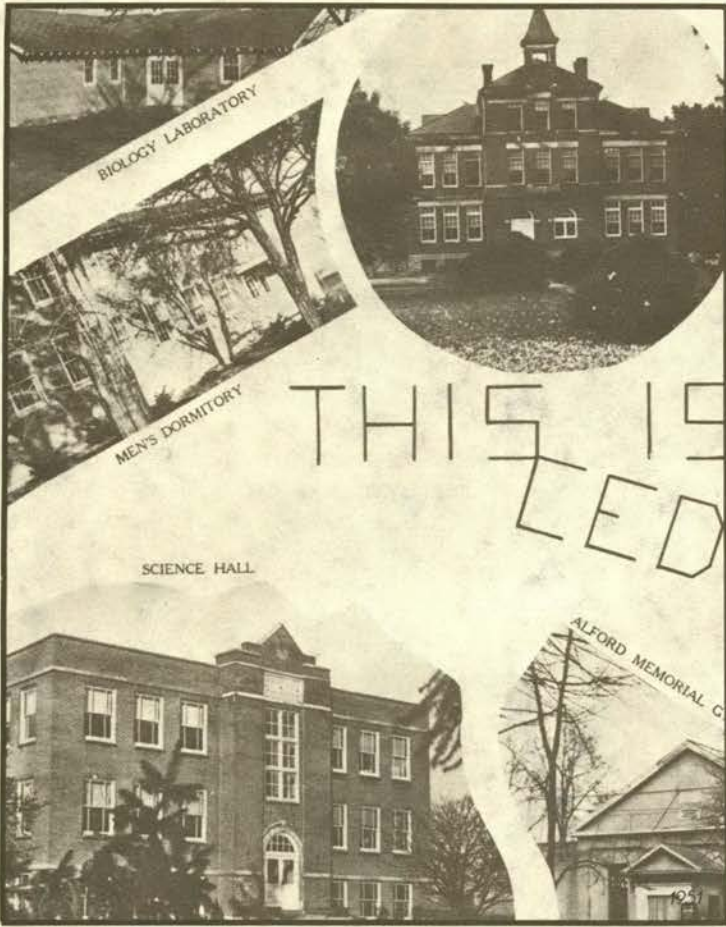
Comedy in Two Acts By
Norman Kraena



azine, and Pastor Harold Green was brought in to provide spiritual guidance and to organize the Christian service department.

Dr. Jeremiah's sound investment in this management team was blessed as God continued to give the increase, both in enrollment and facilities. Patterson, Milner, Williams, a new Library, and Maddox Hall were built. Enrollment in 1968 reached 927, and the faculty roster boasted ten doctorates. Students were able to reach out into the community with both the ministries of WCDR and with the formulation of



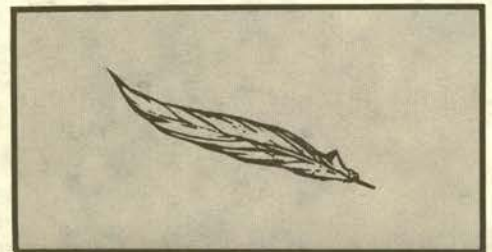


a Red Cross disaster team on campus.

As the years passed and the college grew, Dr. Jeremiah once again showed his faithfulness as a steward of God's gifts. The college had expanded by 1976 to an enrollment of 1221, a population which required two chapel services. As Jeremiah surveyed the needs of the college, he realized that new facilities would have to be built, requiring a leadership full of energy and vitality. Unsure of his ability to fulfill such an awesome responsibility, Jeremiah wrote in 1978,

"My question is, how can I best help in the program of progress that lies before us? Frankly I am not sure I can carry the heavy responsibility that is required of me . . ."

With the good of the college in mind, Jeremiah decided that the best stewardship would be his resignation and the passing of responsibility to a younger man with more of the physical resources needed to perform the awesome job of president.

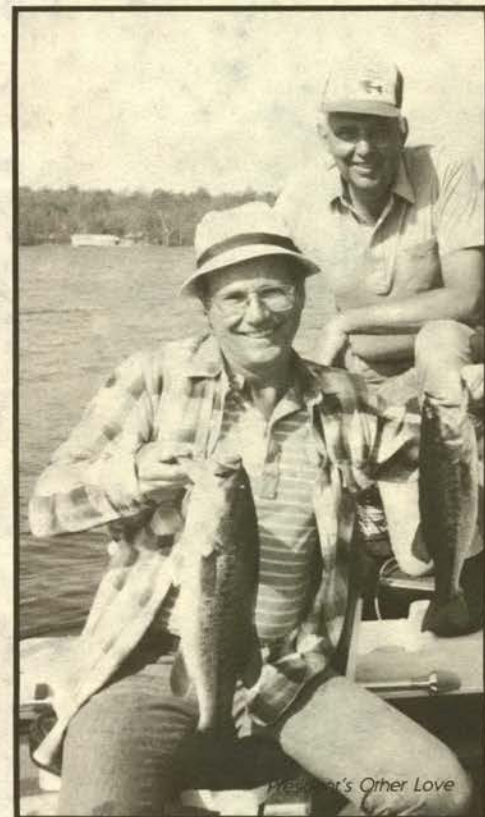
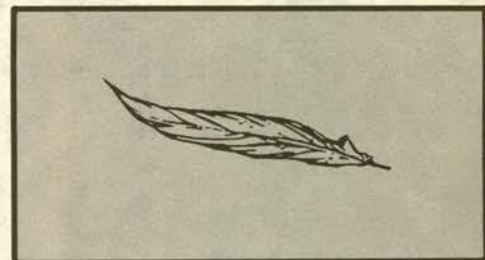


A GROWING COLLEGE FAMILY



Paul H. Dixon, 8th President (1978-)

A scene very familiar to the students of Cedarville College often illuminates the Monday morning chapel service. Over 2 thousand voices obediently respond to the greetings of the man beaming broadly, exhorting earnestly from behind the massive podium which bears the college emblem. Over 2 thousand faces look toward him expectantly, the man who serves as a far more animated emblem of the current trends of Cedarville College. The faculty, staff, and student body join voices to offer up before him the chorus "Christ Is All I Need," the self-adopted theme of their director behind the pulpit, President Paul H. Dixon. President Dixon has publicly pronounced chapel services, "the heartbeat of every Christian College," and the Monday morning chapel scenario appropriately captures the pulsing essence of the Dix-



meccoring 1978

President's Other Love



*The Trustees
of
Cedarville College
are pleased to announce
the appointment of*

Paul Dixon, M.Div.

*as President
and
the appointment of*

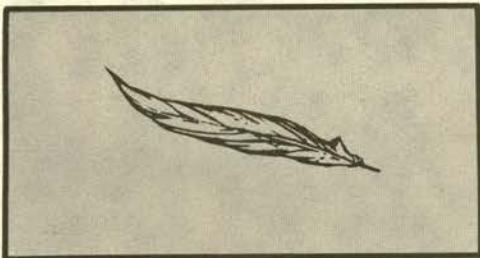
James T. Jeremiah, D.D., Litt. D.

*as Chancellor
of
Cedarville College*

*The transition in administration will be
completed September 15, 1978.*

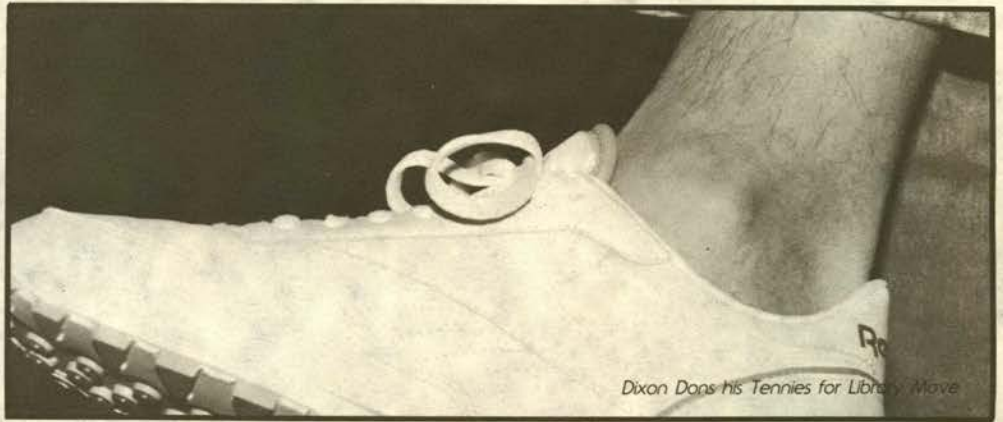
on era.

The Dixon era at Cedarville College can be accurately termed pulsing by its very nature. Steady, fast paced and constant, the life's blood of Dixon's work at Cedarville College flows not only with his personal ambition and visions for the College's potential but also from maintaining mo-



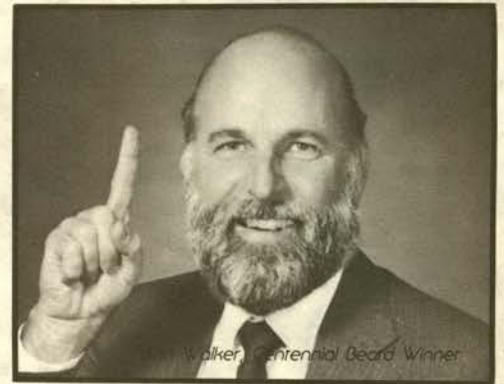
Future President Andrew Paul Dixon

mentum with his determination and drive to realize his goals. Since his assumption of the presidency in 1978, Dixon has surrounded himself with a diligent and supportive administrative staff to aid in achieving measurable standards of growth for Cedarville College. Indeed, the measurable standards of growth effected by Dixon and his staff appear quite impressive. Although confronting a decline in the market of higher education due to a lack of college age, college bound, liberal arts students, enrollment at Cedarville College has climbed steadily from 1178 students in 1978 to approximately over 1800 students in 1986-87, revealing the concentrated efforts of Dix-



Dixon Dons his Tennies for Library Move

on's admissions staff. Buildings have seemingly "sprung up" to expand the campus of the college, cultivated by Dixon's careful attention to development and funding. New fields of study have been grafted into the college curriculum; consequently, the majors of nursing and business successfully attract a larger scope of prospective students. Extending even as far as campus beautification, the all-pervasive efforts of Dixon's campaign for excellence in measurable standards of growth is perhaps best exemplified by the detail of a mere flower



Walker, Centennial Beard Winner



George ...

ied directions. The communication and organizational skills that Dixon practiced during his years as an evangelist manifest themselves in his ability to marker Cedarville College far more extensively than any of his predecessors in the presidency. As a result, when President Paul H. Dixon addresses his 1987 "college family," they may listen to his exhortation, endorsement, and encouragement with the confidence that before them stands a man determined to achieve his goals for Cedarville College.



... Lady Liberty

bed. A tribute to the Dixon era, the flower bed in front of the James T. Jeremiah Chapel was carefully cultivated and planted to spell out, "Christ Is All I Need," reminding all passersby of the man who appeals with great charisma to this "Cedarville College Family."

Although Paul H. Dixon accepted the presidency of Cedarville College with only the leadership credentials of an evangelist, husband, and father, his systematic and aggressive approach has enabled him to lead Cedarville College into new and var-

A special thanks to Dr. J. Murray Murdoch for providing us with Cedarville College: A Century of Commitment to use as a major source for our research.

