

1525 Sheridan  
Laramie, Wyoming  
June 25, 1952

Professor J.W.Thomas  
Northern State Teachers College  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Dear Professor Thomas;;:

When Miss Lyda Williams asked me if I would send you a copy of my speech delivered on May 28, I didn't realize that it was going to take me this long to have an opportunity to prepare it. I hope the delay has not inconvenienced you.

Cordially yours,

*Marion Kamigaw Tilsen*

## Glancing Backwards 1933-1942

Glancing backwards historically at our decade, we find that in 1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt became president of the United States. We were in the depths of the depression. While we weren't particularly conscious of it in this country, in Europe were already heard the rumblings of World War II. Hitler had come to power in Germany. Mussolini marched into Ethiopia in 1936. Toward the end of the decade we began to make economic recovery, but then came Pearl Harbor.

The decade, because of the depression and the international situation, was somewhat more serious than the previous era. There weren't any such fads as miniature golf, the women weren't symbolized as was the flapper of the '20's, even skirts weren't especially short or especially long. In fact it was during our period that college girls began to wear sweaters and skirts, slacks and saddle shoes that are still prevalent 10 to 20 years later.

Out of this background come the ten classes that I represent tonight. Altho the picture of our college years was painted against a rather somber background, there was little reflection of that background in the lives of the college students during that time. As we look backwards, our college years were as happy as the other eras,

As far as physical changes were concerned, there was one major improvement—the erection of Seymour Hall to be used as a dormitory and student union. That will be enjoyed by many generations to come.

Our ten year period can claim more college presidents than can the students of any other ten year period. Dr. David Allen Anderson was at the helm when we began our decade in 1933. Shortly afterward Dr. C.G. Lawrence became our prexy and served until 1939 when the responsibilities were turned over to the able leadership of Dr. N.E. Steele.

As far as students are concerned, each has found his own niche and is serving in his own humble way. Up to this time few have made the headlines, but many are successful in their chosen professions and happy in the substantial American homes they have established. Of all the students who graduated during our decade, the name of Joe Robbie has perhaps been before the public most. I was amused recently to note after his name in the Pasque these words; Preference-Politics; pet peeve-politicians.

Each individual student will have his own fond memories of his college days. Some will remember the buildings and grounds. Some will reminisce about favorite activities and clubs. Each will have his favorite teacher—in my own particular case I shall be forever grateful to Prof. Harkness for his guidance and encouragement. Some will even remember the subject matter that they learned. But it seems to me that our contribution to the college as a whole is something far more profound than this. For what will posterity remember the years 1933-1942?



It has been said that "The shadows of an institution are no greater than the shadows of the individuals within it." From this decade come the shadows of three great men who will forever make our institution stand out. The students of 1933-1942 knew, worked with, loved, and admired the outstanding personalities of Dr. A.H.Seymour, Dr.J.C.Lindberg, and Dr.M.M.Guhin. Future generations will benefit from their shadows.

When we thumb through faculty popularity sections of old Pasques, year after year the results were something like this--most popular teacher-Dr. Seymour; most clever-Dr. Seymour; most congenial-A.H.Seymour; school's greatest asset- Dr.Seymour. This all came as a result of his interest in the students, his sterling character, and his homespun philosophy that will cast its shadow over Northern students for years to come.

The influence of Dr.J.C.Lindberg on the upsurge of creative writing in the state is just as real and vital today as it ever was. Through his classroom teaching, through his editing Pasque Petals, through his sponsoring poetry contests, he has encouraged many to write. Each year the January issue of Pasque Petals is dedicated to Dr.Lindberg. Mrs. Garvin's tribute to him in one issue expresses our sentiments.

"The leaven of a noble life  
enlarges itself many fold;  
You left us a heritage  
of high thinking,  
heroic manhood,  
devotion to culture,  
incredible bravery  
in adverse situations.  
You live on, singing  
in many hearts of South Dakota."

The spirit of M.M.Guhin will live for generations in the hearts of South Dakota school children. The founding of the Young Citizen's League by Dr.Guhin was perhaps his most eminent accomplishment. This organization has spread its influence over the entire Northwest, and at the time of his death more than 7500 schools were participating in its projects.

"The shadows of an institution are no greater than the shadows of the individuals within it." If Northern's shadow today stands tall, these men have contributed to it.