



2/9/22
President
Arthur C. Willard
Betsy Ross Papers, 1967

August 30, 1967
3 3/4 IPS

- 1-14 Charles S. Havens
- 15-43 Less Construction in Willard Administration. Local boarding house people opposed dormitory construction. Personal benefit, fight for livelihood. Plans were to build additional dorms on Nevada Street near Busey and Evans. Changed.
- 44-68 Several plans were used in planning the Illini Union. Mr Lavelle of Chicago planned the Union interior. New addition.
- 69-99 Students loved the building. Miss Irene Pierson was social director. Dances, dress, chaperons. Military Ball was too large and was held in Huff Gym.
- 100-118 Receptions after band concerts. Friday night affair was held in Womens' Building before the Union was built. Mr. Willard felt graduation was for the parents.
- 119-129 The university was smaller. Reception now held in Union Baccalaureate has been abolished.
- 130-143 Social events. Weekends, lectures, smokers.
- 144-204 Miss Ross' role in entertaining at the President's house. The President's house was the faculty social center. Wives met for tea. Football luncheons. Faculty daughters used as hostesses. May recognitions involved receptions. Leading students. Festive Sunday afternoon (4-6) dress-up occasions. I supervised getting food, kitchen help, ladies who helped, greeted people, floated, helped with traffic janes, kept books, sought to include as many people as we could. Used 10 or 12 girls each time. It was a social training.
- 205-232 I didn't pour coffee. I was a floater among 250 to 400 people. Faculty wives introduced people. I separated old friends so they could meet new people. I knew many people, but not well.
- 233-243 Some people came often, e.g. deans, department heads.
- 244-260 Willard's friends included Roger Adams, William Rose, Loring Provine, Arthur Daniels. Small social group.
- 261-282 Many musicals. Seated 75 in the drawing room. Military Day reception for the commander. Reception for the Baccalaureate and Commencement speakers.
- 283-298 House guests had family breakfast with us.
- 299-349 Willard's advisers included the deans. Dean Carmichael was a great scholar. Dean Harno was provost. Mr. Janata was an assistant who ran the office, but was not an academic adviser. Only the problem cases reached the President. Mr. Janata handled correspondence. "I don't think Mr. Willard ever dictated a letter in his life. He said his secretaries could write a better letter than he could. That's what they were trained for."
- 350-359 Delegation of authority built morale. They did not change letters he wrote.
- 360-385 The president gets the money from the legislature in Springfield. The president reviewed budget. Mr. Janata was invaluable in Springfield. We found out what people

- were thinking. He was a wonderful listener and had a marvelous memory. He wrote nice "no" letters.
- 386-419 Mr. Havens was young. Mr. Willard discussed plans for buildings. Mr. Willard was very conscious of the architectural features. The fine arts. He felt that this was particularly lacking in the Middle West. Standards of cleanliness.
- 420-442 Mr. Willard continued Georgian design. He would be unhappy with the present hodgepodge.
- 443-492 Mr. Willard was never impulsive. He encouraged dissent. Havens was one of the few who did argue with him. Senate handled academic matters. Some decisions were unpopular, especially the press. In retrospect, he felt that they were right. He did not play up advertising, press conferences and press releases. Afterwards, he thought he was a little tough on the press.
- 493-519 World War II transformed the campus. Men's Old Gym. Signalman's School. Neither soldiers nor students.
- 520-532 New buildings in the Willard administration.
- 533-585 University Hall. Badly built. Costly. Ceiling fell. Rickety, ugly building. Strong pressure from alumni to keep University Hall. Golden opportunity to replace it.
- 586-618 Illini Union at the front door of the University. Willard accepted the accusation that it "was built for the country louts of Illinois." People were amazed at the Union. They tiptoed through. Businessmen feared competition. Bowling, pool, billiards. Union created a social organization. The old Illinois Union organization provided a start.
- 619-688 Airport dedication. Windy, cold day. Many planes flew in. Many speeches. One building was unfinished. Senator Lucas was very important in getting the airport. The CAA man and the governor were there. Legislators, trustees, band. Speakers. Opera singer from Chicago sang the National anthem.
- 689-705 President Willard was excited about flying, but was not a pilot.
- 707-741 Willard's attitude toward students. He would have liked to have continued traditions, but they were breaking down when he took over. One was not smoking on campus. Dr. Chase thought that was antiquated and it was abolished. As a result we had butts and stubs and matches all over campus. "That distressed him very much."
- 742-752 Homecoming. Hazing.
- 753-784 He didn't think Greek societies were very democratic. "He was interested in this great mass of independent students that didn't have anything." He was a Phi Kap at M.I.T., but took little interest in fraternity affairs. He thought a lot of it was the bunk.
- 785-832 Regulations were quite strict. Nothing could be done on Sundays. "This is what is known as the Bible Belt." People walked, visited gardens and museums. Students could not have automobiles unless a permit was obtained. If you were caught having a loving party in a student car, the permit was rescinded. No cars could be used for social purposes. No parking meters or lots.
- 833-874 World War II took men away. War drives. Bundles. Red Cross. Gave up golf and card parties. President's Office bought first badge and first bond.

- 875-1049 Trustees who were important. Very dedicated men. No pay. Twelve working days plus committee meetings. Foundation members also contribute time and effort. President of the Board is important. This time - consuming job rotates. James M. Cleary was very active and helpful. A good friend. Merle Trees, Robert F. Carr, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Grigsby, Mrs. Plum, Henry Williamson. Many meetings were held in Chicago.
- 1050-1095 Medical colleges in Chicago are often forgotten. They needed a lot of help and new equipment. Mr. Willard was very interested in them. Personnel matters and physical plant standards were raised. Dean Davis. Dr. Cole.
- 1096-1183 Visitors. Amelia Earhart was sponsored by the speech society. Eve Curie, Margaret Bourke-White. Tickets were sold to the auditorium speech. Zeta Phi Eta. Miss Earhart drove in. She was jealous of women's rights. A feminist. She was on a speaking circuit.
- 1184- Robert M. Hutchins was President at Chicago. He was a very unusual person who had new ideas about everything and a very charming person, but a radical and he liked to get people stirred up.

Box 1:

Personal Records, Arthur C. Willard, 1903-06, 1920-23, 1930, 1934-36, 1939, 1942-48, 1950-58, 1960
 Correspondence, program, publications, 1897-1905, 1906-13, 1915-32
 Publications lists & activities, 1920-34
 Correspondence, 1933
 President's House, 711 Florida Inventory, 1933-34, 1942-45
 Committee in the Selection of the President, 1933-53
 Correspondence, 1934-38
 Guest lists, 1934-36, 1940
 Floor Plans, ca 1935
 Illini Union & Foundation, 1936-41
 Correspondence, 1937-38, 1941
 Gov. Dwight Green's University Visit, Nov. 10, 1941
 Correspondence, 1942-47
 Airport Dedication, Oct. 26, 1945

Box 2:

Commencement, June 16, 1946
 Congratulatory letters, 1946
 Correspondence & Programs, 1946, 1947-49
 Illini Union 10th Anniversary, Feb. 24, 1951
 Correspondence, 1951, 1956-81
 Airport, 1954
 Willard Recognition, Chicago, Feb. 25, 1957
 Memorials, 1960
 Oral History Comments by B. Ross on Willard
 Administration, Aug. 30, 1967
 Mechanical Engineering Class of 1924, 43rd Reunion, Oct. 6, 1967
 World Heritage Museum, 1971-73

Box 3:

Photographs

A.C. Willard Portraits
 Mrs. A.C. Willard
 Campus Events, President's Office Staff, 1939-43
 Chicago Medical Center Buildings, 1933-42
 Faculty Events, 1937, 1940, ca.1945
 Founder's Day, 1937, 1940
 Illini Union
 Military Day & Reviews, 1935-36, 1939-42
 Trustees
 Urbana Campus Buildings
 Visitors, 1937-42

Publications

University Publications Relating to A.C. Willard, 1933-59
 Published Speeches, 1934-35, 1942-46, 1959
 "Your First Year at Illinois," 1936, 1940-42, 1944, 1946
 Betsy Ross, *I Fly the Flag*, Stipes Publishing, 1984
 Memoir of Ross's life, and recollection of events at the University of Illinois

Box 4: (oversize)

Diplomas & Awards

American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, Aug. 2, 1914
 Sigma Xi, April 14, 1915
 George Washington University LL.D., June 6, 1934
 Northwestern University LL.D., June 16, 1934
 Urbana Association of Commerce, Oct. 2, 1935
 ASHVE Paul Anderson Medal, 1935
 New York World's Fair Women's Advisory Committee, (Mrs. A.C. Willard), 1939
 Alpha Lambda Delta (Mrs. A.C.W.) April 25, 1940
 Armored School, Ft. Knox, KY, Dec. 24, 1943
 National Warm Air Heating & Air Conditioning Assoc., June 25, 1946
 University of Maine, LL.D., June 15, 1947
 Illinois Society of Engineers, Feb. 2, 1951

A.C. Willard, Dec. 1940

A.C. Willard, ca.1945

Chief Illiniwek (Edward Kalb) on Lover's Leap, Alton, IL, Oct. 1937

(10.75 X 13.5)

8 Photographs, captioned (10.5 X 12.5)

5 Air corps aerial photographs, ca.1975 (11 X 14)

Downtown Champaign

Central Campus

Illini Union (south side)

President's House & HFL/ARC

Campus From South Farms to North

Betsy Ross & Visitor, July 3, 1981

3 Mounted color photographs (18 X 22.5)

President's House, ca.1933

Illini Union Front, summer, ca.1942

Illini Union Back, winter, ca.1942