

41/1/20

Student Affairs Dean of Students
Fred H. Turner Papers, 1918-1975

Box 1:

Oral History Interview by Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, WILL, 3 3/4 IPS (7" reel), July 25, 1967
UI Centennial, cassette tape, 1967 (*Digital Surrogate*)

Side 1

- 1-8: Introduction
- 9-44: Thomas A. Clark. I met him in his office in the summer of 1918 when I came as a student from Tuscola. I was seeking work. I got off at the Illinois Central Station, but had to walk to campus as a street car strike was in progress. I had no trouble seeing Dean Clark. He was a small, rather dapper man, who had a big office with a big desk. He was friendly and pleasant. He solved my problem quickly. I had few contacts with him until I began to work for him.
- 45-63: 16-year-olds registered for the draft. In August, they announced that the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) would be formed and University Students would enlist as army privates. I received \$30 a month. There were 1500-2000 of us. All administrative relations were with Army officers.
- 64-82: My older brother could not get into SATC and started to work in Dean Clark's office doing lettering work. SATC ended with the Armistice. The University was on the quarter system. We were mustered out and sent home before Christmas. I came back right after Christmas and started working as a clerk in Dean Clark's office for the \$.10 an hour minimum. The highest paid employee was chief clerk Anthony J. Janata. I worked in his office throughout my undergraduate career.
- 83-100: Clark was interested in policy. He had one secretary and many students. Ray Warnock and Horace Garman worked for him. I helped keep records and saw little of Dean Clark. After two years, I became chief clerk. I graduated in 1922.
- 101-130: I graduated as a pre-med student and had expected to go to medical school in 1922. In the summer, he invited Ray Warnock to return as associate dean. Mr. Warnock decided to stay at Penn State. In August 1922, Dean Clark asked if I would postpone going to medical school for a year to help him. In late fall, he asked me to become assistant dean. He asked me to finish my graduate work. I stayed on, getting my master's degree in 1926 and doctorate in 1931.
- 131-154: There are a great many folk tales about Dean Clark that are largely fairy stories. Men said he told students that they should take the 6,15. Accounts of spies who reported to him are "pure bunk." He kept his eyes open and listened carefully. A fraternity president told the dean about two freshmen and asked him to talk to them. Dean Clark "read them the riot act" and

- they must have concluded that he had a spy system. He was a very sharp man intellectually. He wrote and sold to the Atlantic and the American. He was a sharp investor, especially during the last ten years of his life. He left a sizeable estate.
- 160-191: People either liked or disliked him. Those who disliked him did so because of something they had done and he became involved in as chief disciplinary officer. He was also secretary of the Council of Administration. All notices and correspondence went out over his name. The committees reported to the Council which met in the Administration Building every Tuesday afternoon. All notices of drops and probations went out over his name.
- 192-220: He was a very kind man. Soft on money matters and aided students. He tried to become acquainted with them. He had an introduction slip before the students entered his office. He had memory systems and tricks to remember names and associations.
- 221-234: He was responsible for getting a university hospital and regularly made the rounds and called on students who were ill or having operations.
- 235-267: Dean Clark tried new things long before others, e.g. psychological tests for colleges (1912), foreign students office (1910 or 11), freshman orientation program (1912). He was interested in experimenting with new ideas. Dean Clark's charge from President Draper was to serve as an "ambassador."
- 268-309: Dean Clark did not copy others. The first meeting of Deans of Men occurred after Christmas in 1919. Clark and Scott Goodnight arranged the first meeting in Madison. Clark was unable to go as he had the flu. Seven men attended, three of whom were deans of men. Goodnight of Wisconsin, Reed of Iowa State College and several others attended. By 1924, there were 30. At Colorado in 1928, there were about 70. Clark was an innovator who liked to try out new ideas.
- 310-331: Clark had a committee on discipline, including deans and department heads. The committee included George Goodenough, Prof. Barton and Fred Rankin. They made recommendations to the Council of Administration, which took final action. Clark often said he had more friends among the students who had been involved in disciplinary matters.
- 332-367: The first convocation I attended was a military gathering in the Auditorium. Kinley, Clark, Huff and the military commander were on the stage. That fall, I had the flu. Dr. Beard and George Huff called on me. Huff was director of athletics, "but he was a personal officer, too." These men were the University. Faculty members, they "were part of backbone of the institution."
- 368-418: Students were taken for granted. Everybody didn't go to the university. Those who attended "were grateful for the opportunity." The faculty was smaller. They had been here a long time. They were distinguished men. The Horner biography mentions the nucleus of young men hired by President Draper who were the backbone of the faculty until the 1930's. There was great grief when one of them left, e.g. Stuart P. Sherman. There wasn't this mobility that we have today. It was a different kind of market

- entirely.
- 419-433: Dean Clark was equally a member of the faculty. He started the courses in rhetoric. With Frank Scott, he started the courses in journalism. Some faculty would look down their noses at Dean Clark, chiefly because he would defend the students against them. He asked for proof of cheating. He was a strong enough man to keep the respect of both sides.
- 434-507: I never really knew President James. He came from Northwestern. Draper's great field had been administration. Gregory. Peabody. We had a good engineering college by 1891. Burrill, as acting president, changed things. Burrill welcomed fraternities and student activities and organizations. Draper added medical colleges, library science and law. He was a business man and an administrator. His business principles remained. James was a scholar. James made no administrative changes. He built the curriculum and faculty.
- 508-559: Kinley came near to combining administration and scholarship. He ran "a tight ship." He was a Scotsman and a highly respected professor of economics. James was a retiring individual. He rode horses to show off. He was dignified and scholarly. Kinley was a showman, but he didn't mean to be. He had the confidence of the people of Illinois. He got the 10-year building plan (Georgian buildings) from the legislature.
- 560-600: Kinley sold the plan to the legislature. He was of strong character and forceful demeanor. He was a cold man. He wanted warmth and friendships. He saw many faculty people. He wasn't as tactful as James. He learned more on Dean Clark and Arthur Hill Daniels, dean of the Graduate School, for advice than any other two people. He kept them at a distance.
- 601-626: He left student discipline to the committees. He worked with faculty and the building program. He had over 10,000 students when he retired in 1930.
- 627-644: Traditions. Homecoming was started in 1910. There was no 1918 homecoming because of the flu. The game was played behind locked gates. I had recovered and watched through the gates.
- 645-699: Dads Day started in 1920 and Mothers Day in 1921. I was a student. Dean Clark gets credit for Dads Day, but he gave it to the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, because they invited their dads to the campus after 1911 or 1912. In 1920, Dean Clark proposed that this event be made a campus activity. The Saturday morning military review was a main event. Origins of Mothers Day. Womens Athletic Association had staged an annual May Fete on the Friday before the Interscholastic Track and Field Meet (Saturday afternoon) and Circus (Saturday evening). It was held at Illinois Field. The May Fete was a physical education show day. It was done in the peach orchard, next to Lincoln Hall.
- 700-741: Founders Day on March 2 has been celebrated since the earliest days. It was the date when the first students were registered. 50 were registered on March 2, 1868. 70 enrolled on March 11, 1868. The only big celebrations were in the 1940's. And simple campus ceremonies at Gregory's grave and

- alumni gatherings.
- 742-803: Chief Illiniwek was started by Lester Leutweiler, son of a professor. Lester was Boy Scout student of Indian Lore. Ray Dvorak, assistant band director, worked out the Indian regalia and dance. It caught on. A girl was chief for two years during the war. The uniform and dance are authentic.
- 804-969: Daily Illini as a morning paper. It was taken for granted. The Urbana Courier was a daily "one man paper" which was bought by people who wanted to read Chappie Burrows' editorials. The Champaign News-Gazette was the evening paper. The Daily Illini was the morning paper. When the Decatur people bought the Courier, the Daily Illini changed. It had to retrench. The Daily Illini was more important than it is now. Now people don't want to give time to editorial work. Formerly there was keen competition. Two cuts involved selection. Scotty Reston, Wally Deuel, Jack Adams, Jim Armsey and Jack Mabley were strong journalists. In the last few years, "I don't think you can spot very many." The Tribune was and is loaded with older men who worked on the Daily Illini. The present crowd had not stayed with the journalistic game too well. They tended to report rather than to editorialize. Deuel criticized Kinley, but only after thorough checking. Today's writers don't do this. People are talking to themselves in the Daily Illini and the student body reads it with amusement. There was not the friction between the Illini and the student government. I don't think the present Illini is much of a force in shaping student opinion.
- 970-1016: Fraternities. In the James period (1904-1920), the number of fraternities increased from 12 to 39 and the number of sororities increased from 5 to 14. Under Kinley, fraternities increased to 95 and sororities to 28. Many of the later ones were small and local and merged during the depression. Many houses were built in the 1920's.
- 1017-1120: Popularity of the fraternities. 1 - Plenty of money to spend. Building money was easy. 2 - Few dormitories on campus. We had only Busey and Evans Halls. Governor Green lived in Busey as an Air Force student. Private money housed everyone else. Social aspect had an effect. We have had good relationships between fraternities and independents.

Side Two (reverse) (Digital Surrogate)

- 1-17: Nothing
- 18-52: Fraternity life. I pledged as a junior. It has been interesting, but not exciting. I have been national president of my fraternity and I am not president of the national interfraternity conference. Our chapter has traditions. The men who wrote "Hail to the Orange" and "Oskee Wow Wow" lived in our house. The value is intangible - difficult to identify. "The best friends I've had all my life," I made there.
- 53-62: Men were pledged when they got off the train. Present pledging is too complicated.
- 63-133: In 1929, the Committee of Nine was appointed. They considered proposals

- to change the university statutes. The discipline committee was made responsible to the faculty senate. Faculty were reluctant to devote the time to committee work. Chase came in with the new system. The old Council was autocratic and autonomous, but "it got things done." It met each week.
- 134-153: The change started before Chase came. The impetus came from Dean Harno and his friends. The study was approved by Kinley. Chase did not have a major effect on student life.
- 153-220: Under the old university council of Administration, there was a Committee on Student Organizations and Activities. Under the new system, there was a Committee on Student Affairs, but no duties were assigned to it. The 1930 student regulations book contained 120 pages. In 1931, it contained 20 pages. The new committee began handling activities. In 1937, the Senate approved a Code on Student Affairs. It stated that the committee would handle "those things assigned to it by the President of the University." Discipline was handled in the same way. Faculty people handled discipline. They lacked experience. The faculty chairmen carried this responsibility until 1948, when we established the Security Office. Prof. Frank Beach (Commerce), the last chairman said that investigation was a full time job. The Security Office was established to cope with members. I was responsible. Veterans returned. I proposed to Pres. Stoddard that the Security Office be established to keep the records for the faculty chairman and to do the investigative leg work for him. Prevention rather than penalty.
- 221-249: We picked an experienced man. The office was an immediate success. Joe Ewers was security officer for 10 years. Tom Morgan was his first assistant and present head. The system has been widely copied. One function of the office is to check clearances for classified research. Ex-FBI men are on the staff.
- 250-282: For many years the university had one day policeman and one night policeman. They are basically watchmen. Growth in traffic problems. Now we have younger men. The security office is under the Dean of Students. The Police are under the Physical plant.
- 283-302: Student disciplinary problems change with the times. Today petty thieving and wanton destruction. Drugs are new. Liquor has changed. The Security Office protects students.
- 303-343: President Willard's administration saw pressure for housing. We had many old rooming houses. We had a growing Men's Independent Association which wanted dormitories. They had strong leaders. They appeared before the Board of Trustees and got approval. In 1940-41, they Navy were the first occupants of the Triad dorms. There are now few good rooming houses, especially for women. Willard saw the need for dormitories. We got stuck on the Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall, which was built on a cost-plus basis because we had to have it.
- 344-367: Stadium Terrace was essential for returning veterans. We had trouble getting the buildings out of Indiana. The governor objected. We used them for 20 years rather than 5 years. Many faculty members got their start in

- those buildings.
- 368-383: Veterans were not hard to handle. "Best behaved crowd of people." Village systems. Built playground. Joint babysitting. They did a lot of things on a cooperative basis. No crime. Very stable.
- 384-401: The married student population increased right after the war. Prior to that time a few graduate and law students were married. Today half of the graduate and law students, 60% of the veterinary students and 15% of the freshmen students are married. This has affected student life.
- 402-446: Hazing was over by 1918. Dean Clark cleaned this up. It was so bad that parents were not sending their children to Illinois. They severely disciplined students. Attempts to revive class fights in 1919 and 1920 did not succeed. People weren't interested. The Freshman-Sophomore ruckus ended with World War I. Hazing was a criticism of fraternities. The return of World War I veterans ended fraternity hazing. Better communication rather than tighter control ended hazing.
- 447-465: In loco parentis is a misnomer. The University cannot serve in this capacity. "All it can do is say these are the conditions under which it will accept students." If you don't choose to live within these conditions, you should go elsewhere. The term is a "straw man."
- 466-613: Founding of university. I am not related to Jonathan B. Turner. I wrote my doctoral thesis on the history of the university up to 1885. The land grant movement. The Morrill Land Grant Act was really a similar bill offered by Sen. Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio. President Buchanan vetoed the 1859 Morrill Bill. Wade's bill was passed in 1862. Morrill's bill was based on resolutions which Jonathan Baldwin Turner wrote for the Illinois legislature in 1853. They were read into the Congressional Record in 1854. "Morrill got all of the material from Jonathan Baldwin Turner and never acknowledges where he got it." Turner and Morrill never met. 1855-1862 - Talk of a land grant act. Turner first proposed a national system in the Prairie Farmer in 1852. Turner did not want a teacher's college, but an agricultural college. Established in 1853, Champaign outgrew Urbana. Champaign-Urbana Seminary established by two Aurora men who were bought out in 1864 by Champaign County people (including Dr. Hunt) seeking the industrial university. Legislative struggle over the location of the university. Champaign-Urbana wanted the university.
- 614-660: This was the time for a change in higher education. Basically colleges trained ministers. Higher education was classic. Stoughton and Babcock were the Aurora preachers.
- 661-675: Changes. Faculty mobility. Lack of a nucleus of older faculty.
- 676-695: Students are forced to take less interest in activities. They are better academically. The campus reflects the country around us.
- 695-720: Affluent student body. No excuse for not getting an education. In the depression we gave them \$.50 a day to eat.