

President Marks Twentieth Anniversary of Arrival in Ottawa

It was twenty years ago—November 7, 1935—that Dr. Martin arrived in Ottawa to assume the presidency of the University.

The weather—the dry weather of the mid-thirties—and the unusual November heat made moving difficult for the Martin family.

Almost immediately such matters were forgotten as the new president plunged into the serious business of directing the University through the remaining years of the depression. There was one crisis after another. Planning for development often gave way to seeking for institutional existence.

But even in the depression years the plan of general education emerged, although slowly.

"I thought at first that getting the new academic program into being would be quickly and easily accomplished," said Dr. Martin. "Actually it took years of patient work, countless explanations, revisions, and cooperation from many staff members.

"We're still working at the program and there is much to do. Our vision expands with each development. Our hopes move out ahead of our accomplishments."

This well based program of general education with realistic elements of specialization marks the University as a leader in the field of education. President Martin would rather talk about it than about the physical development of the campus.

In that twenty years—in the last ten—there have been significant building projects—remodeling of the Commons, the magnificent Women's Residence Hall, the Wilson Field House, the two new residence halls for men, and now the library-art center.

The president knows the value of buildings. But the educational work is the heart and soul of his plan for the University.

"The student and what happens to him is the basic consideration

in the development of our program.

"There is much said today in the way of teaching that is not teaching in any sense. To pour facts and facts into minds is not necessarily teaching.

"What does each student need in development? To be genuine, we must answer that question and then include in teaching processes the elements to meet the needs.

"We are attempting to do this through a personnel program which will enable us to understand each student. And we are trying to implement our program with teaching that is based on the laws of learning.

"Education is not shooting a fusillade of facts at a gang of students. It is helping each student approach the limits of his potentialities."

Dr. Martin feels that considerable work needs to be done on various facets of the University plan.

"All denominational colleges must deal with the relation of religion to education," Dr. Martin believes. "So often college people confer on the definition of Christian higher education. They spend endless hours on that subject. Actually we need to implement our thoughts. It is not enough to talk about Christian faith in education. We need to do something about it."

While at work constantly on the program of education, Dr. Martin is also occupied with the problems of income and expense. Where to get all the money to carry on the current operations of the University is a big problem for any college president.

Ottawa University Resources Association is a double-barreled organization developed by President Martin. Its basic function is to raise funds for the current needs—the annual budget. It is also the organization looking to-

ward funds for development of the University.

Dr. Martin believes in planning for the future. Early in his career at Ottawa he listed physical needs—residences, library, commons, stadium, chapel, additional instructional facilities. The push on "plant expansion" came immediately after the war.

It accelerated in 1950-51 when a board of trustees committee headed by T. R. Palmquist, working with Dr. Martin, studied needs of the University. Goals to be reached by 1965 were established. The new residence halls, the library-art center are steps toward those objectives.

Change? As time goes on needs will change and so to some extent will objectives. The important element is that the University does have its mind on definite objectives for its future.

Dr. Martin knows that the brilliant years ahead may only be realized through a sound present. That includes the educational program, the students and faculty, and adequate facilities.

Small wonder, then, that the current support program—balancing the budget day by day—occupies so much of his time. That is the price that must be paid for a good University today and a better one tomorrow.

In recognition of twenty years in Ottawa, Dr. and Mrs. Martin were honor guests at a dinner, November 7, given by trustees and faculty at the Ottawa Country Club. 95 were present. Dr. W. D. Bemmels, R. M. Clogston, Dr. W. A. Elliott, B. F. Bowers, and Dr. William Keucher gave talks of appreciation.

A desk pen set and a silver vegetable bowl were presented to the Martins. Both Dr. and Mrs. Martin expressed their thanks for the cooperation received from all friends of the university.