

September 30, 2013

Dear Mr. Sieczkiewicz

Market Street magazine states you document the history of Drexel. Perhaps I can add something. When WWII ended veterans were filling colleges on the G.I. Bill. I reenlisted in 1946 so I could attend the college of my choice. I enrolled in Drexel's BusAd co-op program 9/22/48, my son's birthday. A week later Miss Ivy Monk, the typing instructor excused me from typing class as I could type 84 wpm, stated she got a student job for me in the office of Dr. Allen T. Bonnell, Vice President for Development. Drexel was beginning to raise \$5 million to build a building next to Curtis Hall to replace the quonset huts classrooms. John Rich Associates, professional fund raiser, assisted with Harry J. Schmidt, age 75, working full time alongside Dr. Bonnell. Marie Maguire, his secretary and Honor McCulken comprised the office staff. John McShain and John B. Kelly were co-chairmen for the campaign. McShain built the Pentagon, gutted and rebuilt the White House and built many Veterans hospitals throughout the U.S. Kelly was the brick man, his daughter Grace Kelly, who later became Princess of Monaco would chauffeur him to see Dr. Bonnell. I was detailed to keep her company while her father conferred with Dr. Bonnell.

Some industry chairmen were Horace P. Liversidge, Chairman, Philadelphia Electric; Casimir A. Sienkiewicz, Chairman, Central Penn National Bank; Mayer I. Blum, President, 2601 Parkways, billed as the world's largest apartment house; Jim Buckley, Chairman, Philco Corp. Whenever I phoned Mr. Buckley he'd ask if it was time for his dental appointment as I sounded like his dentist.

Money was hard to come by at that time, more money was spent than taken in. I sent a letter to Francis DeSales Friel, President, Albright and Friel, consulting engineers, addressed it Francis D. Friel. He phoned Dr. Bonnell stated he used the middle initial "S". To placate him Dr. Bonnell took him to lunch. Later he joined the campaign, contributed \$15,000.00, given an honorary doctorate degree. Typed letters were sent requesting funds as it was thought it would create more interest than printed letters. I'd take company letterhead to Broad-Wood Corp. on Wood St. behind Broad. A metal plate was made of the proposed letter. A typist sat in the middle of a bank of typewriters, typed in the name and address and salutation, the remainder was typed automatically. Later I'd sign the letters, as close as I could get to the senders signature. One letter from Mayer I. Blum was printed Mayer I. Bum. When shown to Dr. Bonnell, normally very quiet, he was quite unhappy with it.

Catered dinner meetings were held in the Student Union Building, directly behind the main building, in a former bank building which was destroyed by fire years later when a grain elevator exploded. I was assist<sup>ing</sup> at this time. We held an all day affair at Wooten, the Drexel mansion in Bryn Mawr. In order to get attendees to meet each other, we played "Know-O", similar to Bingo. Blank cards were given each person, in turn the blank spaces were filled with signatures of other attendees, then a type of Bingo game was played with prizes awarded. I led a tour of the mansion, from the wine cellar to all rooms. When opening a bedroom door to show the room we found a president of a company in bed with a female Drexel employee. We closed the door, nothing was said.

Incidentally Dr. Bonnell went before the board of trustees, got a 5¢ raise for me, stated I was the first student to earn more than the 50¢ per hour student wage. Six months later he got another 5¢ raise for me. The summer 1949 quarter it was decided to ask alumni to contribute however there was no alumni office per se. I was given a vacant classroom in Curtis Hall, hired 20 typists. Each morning Helen J. Tavenner, the Registrar, Ralph Wagenseller, the Comptroller and I would go to the vault, take out drawers of 3x5 cards listing all student who attended Drexel beginning in 1893. Letters were sent

to each student with the address on record. Records were kept of letters returned by the post office. Those that were not returned we recontacted, requesting names and addresses of other Drexel alumni. That winter stencils were cut with these names and addresses, by class year. As the mimeograph room in the attic of the main building was closed weekends, I'd spent 12 hours a day running off the stencils. Later we collated the pages into books and began requesting contributions from the former students. An Alumni Office was set up nearest the Thinker Statue which students rubbed the top for good luck. Ann Greene, daughter of General Greene of the ROTC department and Marge Carmosin were the employees. Marge left shortly after to work at Hahnemann Hospital. Many weeks I worked 40 hours, between classes and weekends.

Evenings I was employed as Evening Supervisor of the Student Union Building in the office of Harold J. Myers, Ass't. Dean of Men. He was grooming me to take his job as he was slated to become Dean of Men when Dr. Leon Stratton retired. Myers later became Dean of Men, Comptroller and Acting President of Drexel. When the Korean Conflict began in June 1950, I was ordered to active duty, stationed at the Navy Recruiting Station at 13th and Market Streets. I continued working evenings as the Student Union Building until the end of the summer quarter in September, working in Navy uniform. Myers was recalled to active duty, stationed at the Philadelphia Naval Base. He was instrumental in obtaining a Background Investigation for me which entailed FBI visits to my home town neighbors, town council, Philadelphia neighbors, etc. Because of this I was able to get my next assignment to the U.S. Embassy in Belgium. Belgium joined the <sup>NATO</sup> ~~United Nations~~, given the job of clearing the North Sea of mines in the event of another war, however they had no Navy. Nine U.S. Navy personnel began the Belgian Navy. We secured security clearances for crews, they trained in the U.S., were given wooden minesweepers (non-magnetic) which they sailed to Belgium. They also built wooden minesweepers in Belgium. As they devised a month to bend the wooden bow the boats were built in a guarded building. Each month when I checked on the progress I had to notify the head of the Belgian Navy so that I could get access to the building.

Retiring from the Navy after 23 years service, having served in WWII, during the Korean Conflict and twice in Vietnam, I began job hunting. Harold Myers was trying to get me a position at Drexel, we had lunch in the faculty dining room at times, however with a family to support, a son in college, bills to pay, I went with the Social Security Administration and retired from the Social Security Region III. Harold Myers kept in contact until his death.

My only regret was that I was never able to get a college degree. My parents, three siblings, grandfather, uncle and other relatives were teachers. I had hoped to become a business teacher or school psychologist as I was working toward that end. Although I had three years of evening classes at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and two years of evening classes at Pensacola Junior College, and have more than enough credits for a degree, I do not have the one last year on campus as what was required at that time.

Drexel has come a long way from what it was when I left 63 years ago. I hope to get back there sometime in the future, am sure I wouldn't recognize it. I lived at 3258 Chestnut Street in the "Marble Terrace", years ago the Drexel Theatre stood in its place, Woodland Ave. was gone, no street cars that used to run on that street. Since retiring in 1987 I have <sup>Not</sup> been back to Philadelphia. Hope I have given you some news from the past.

Sincerely,

*Bob Stopp*

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