

# The Joint Archives *Quarterly*

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## *Campus Alive!*

by Elton J. Bruins and Larry J. Wagenaar

Here are some excerpts from the new booklet *Campus Alive: A Walking Tour of Hope College*. Beginning October 1, it will be available at the Joint Archives, the Hope-Geneva Bookstore, and at select booksellers in the Holland area.



Hope Campus, c. 1890

HOPE COLLEGE-JOINT ARCHIVES

The growth of Hope can be seen in the way in which its campus has changed over the years. The walls can tell many stories about eager pioneer students yearning to grow, young men heading off to war, and earnest students protesting an unpopular war. Our tour booklet was put together to help you understand a part of the college story through the buildings that have appeared—and sometimes disappeared—from our campus.

The walking tour begins in front of the DeWitt Center at Columbia Avenue and 12th Street and will take you around the campus to a number of locations.

*LOCATION 3: LAWN BETWEEN PHELPS HALL and LUBBERS HALL*

### LUBBERS HALL

Built for \$300,000, the building known today as Lubbers Hall was dedicated September 16, 1942, to provide better laboratories for the science departments which had been located in Van Raalte Hall. Before the DeWitt Center theater was built, the Little Theatre was located on the fourth floor.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Hope President Exhibit Opens

The Joint Archives of Holland is pleased to announce the upcoming opening of the new exhibit *A Legacy of Leaders*. It will focus on the presidents who have been at the helm of Hope College for nearly a century and a half. Starting with the college's founder, Albertus C. Van Raalte, and his choice for the college's first president, Philip Phelps, the exhibit talks about the challenges Hope has faced through the years, including near bankruptcy in the 1870s, steady growth after the turn of the century, and becoming a recognized leader among liberal arts colleges.

Hope has been blessed with many interesting presidents throughout its history. From Gerrit E. Kollen's dedication to expanding the physical facilities of Hope College to the insightful leadership of Gordon Van Wylen, Hope is partly what it is today due to the vision of the men who have sat in the president's chair.

The exhibit will open October 20 at the time of the presidential inaugural and will run through April, 2000. It will include rare photographs, memorabilia, and a variety of other interesting materials pulled from the Hope College archives.

## From the Director

It is an exciting time at the Joint Archives of Holland as we get ready for the inauguration of Hope College's new president, James E. Bultman. The Archives is joining in the celebration with a new display in the reading room focusing on the leaders of Hope College. The exhibit opens October 20 at a special unveiling.

We hope you can stop by the Joint Archives and learn about some of the figures who have led Hope through both difficult and prosperous times. In the early years, the college barely survived. It was through the strong leadership of founder A. C. Van Raalte and the college's first president, Philip Phelps, and his successors to grow the tiny school from a dream to a solid and enduring reality.

We also hope that you'll take an opportunity to obtain the new publication *Campus Alive: A Walking Tour of Hope College*. Colleague Elton Bruins and I felt that a broader audience should be reached who have an interest in the history of Hope College. We both conduct tours of the campus repeatedly throughout the year, and *Campus Alive* is distilled from our remarks on these various tours.

Please stop by the Joint Archives later this fall to enjoy our exhibit and check out our new campus tour booklet. We look forward to seeing you!

Larry J. Wagenaar

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## Vander Jagt Papers Update

The processing of the Guy A. Vander Jagt Congressional Papers continues to reveal many exciting and interesting things. The focus this summer has been on processing two main areas of the collection: congressional bill files (the legislation that Vander Jagt either sponsored or cosponsored) and the departmental files (which consist mostly of constituent correspondence). These two groups of material contain information about several of the issues that were important to Vander Jagt during his twenty-six years as a United States Congressman (1967 to 1992), including diabetes awareness and research, veteran's benefits, and protecting family values.

The collection is a wonderful source for Michigan history. For example, the history of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is documented through a rich variety of sources including correspondence (both to and from Vander Jagt), newspaper articles and other clippings, press releases, internal notes and memos, maps, and various other materials. Controversial issues relating to the Sleeping Bear Dunes, such as the purchasing of private land by the National Park Service for the original national lake shore, later additions, and specific areas like the scenic corridor in Benzie County, are also included.

The collection also contains a wealth of material on issues relating to the Great Lakes, from shoreline erosion and other problems created by the high water levels of the 1970s and 1980s, to fishing and water quality improvement.



Guy Vander Jagt and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, 1982

Important events in U.S. history during the time that Vander Jagt served in congress often appear. Concerns for Vietnam POW/MIAs, the Panama Canal Treaty of the 1970s, and the Persian Gulf War surface, giving the reader a contemporary view of these events.

Another exciting aspect of the collection is that it contains correspondence from five U.S. presidents: Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush. This correspondence is both work related and personal. Some of the other notable correspondents discovered within the collection so far include Betty Ford, artist Paul Collins, and former NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle.

Work on the organization of the Vander Jagt papers will continue through next summer, and the collection is scheduled to be opened in the fall of 2000.

Christina L. Schmidt  
1999 Summer Graduate Student Intern

*(Continued from page 1)*

The architectural style of the building is late 17th century Dutch and is modeled on the plans for a community museum and library complex which failed in a local millage attempt. After the science departments moved into the Peale Science Center in 1973, the facility was renovated and made into a center for the humanities and social science divisions. The building reopened in January 1975, and was renamed in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Irwin (Margaret) Lubbers whose portrait graces the hall of the first floor. Dr. Lubbers served as the president of the college from 1945 to 1963.

#### OGGEL HOUSE

This home, demolished when construction began for Lubbers Hall about 1940, was built by Philip Phelps in 1860 during his tenure as principal of the Holland Academy for a teacher in the Academy, Rev. Giles Vandewall. The home was occupied in 1864 by Rev. Peter J. Oggel, the first Bible professor of Hope College and a son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. Van Raalte. In 1871, after the death of Professor Oggel, a one-story extension was added on the south side of the home to serve as a refectory for the college students. The Oggel House can be seen on early lithographs of the college campus.

*LOCATION 4: EAST SIDE OF VAN VLECK HALL*

#### VAN VLECK HALL

Undoubtedly one of the loveliest buildings on the campus, it was completed in 1858. The architectural design is Italianate. The building served the entire needs of Hope's predecessor, the Holland Academy. Students were housed here, the classrooms and library were here, and President Philip Phelps and his family lived here. Dr. Van Raalte raised the funds for the building on his visits to Reformed Church congregations in New York and New Jersey. The building cost \$6,000 with an additional \$1,000 required for the furnishings. John Van Vleck was principal of the Holland Academy during its construction and the building likely was given its name by locals who called it "Van Vleck's hall." Fire was a continual problem when students lived here, since they had stoves in their rooms for heating. During the renovation of the building in the spring of 1980, the roof caught fire and the building was almost destroyed. Fortunately, the building was saved, and it now serves as a residence for women.

#### CARNEGIE/SCHOUTEN GYMNASIUM

President Gerrit J. Kollen convinced Andrew Carnegie that he should make an exception to giving for libraries only.

Carnegie agreed and gave \$30,000 for a new gymnasium. It was dedicated on September 16, 1906. In 1954, the building was remodeled extensively. The balcony was removed and the structure was renamed Carnegie/Schouten Gymnasium in honor of Jack Schouten, who pioneered in the development of sports at Hope College. The building was razed in July of 1982 to make way for the administrative center addition to the north side of the DeWitt Center.

*LOCATION 5: COLLEGE AVENUE AT THE COLLEGE ARCH*

#### ORIGINAL CAMPUS

The first five acres of the campus were donated by the Rev. Albertus Van Raalte in 1853. He gave eleven more acres in 1860 when the campus was enlarged to include the entire area between College and Columbia Avenues and Tenth and Twelfth Streets. Eleventh Street between College and Columbia was closed that year. The main part of the campus now extends from Eighth to Fourteenth Streets and from Central to Lincoln Avenues. The formal front entrance to Hope College is the arch that was donated by the Class of 1912. Nearby is the traditional symbol of Hope, the anchor which was placed in 1965. Van Raalte, the founder of the college, chose an anchor as the symbol, based on Hebrews 6:19: "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul,..." He also called the institution his "Anchor of Hope" in an early report. The historical marker on the north side of the arch was dedicated in 1963. A brief history of Hope College is featured on both sides of the marker.

#### **Campus Walking Tour Now Available**

*Campus Alive: A Walking Tour of Hope College* is now available through the Joint Archives of Holland. Authored by Elton J. Bruins and Larry J. Wagenaar, this fully-illustrated booklet discusses sites of significance on the college's campus while telling the story of Hope.

Beginning outside the DeWitt Center, this self-guided tour describes how the campus has changed through the years. Stories of eager pioneer students yearning to learn, young men returning from war to live on campus, and devastating fires are a part of the college's tale.

*Campus Alive* is available for \$1.95 at the Joint Archives of Holland on the lower level of the Van Wylen Library and at select bookstores in the Holland area. For mail orders, add \$1.00 postage and handling.



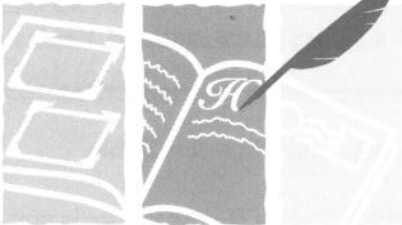
President Philip Phels' Study in Van Vleck Hall, c. 1880

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