College Marks Tenth Year Of Its Founding

Six Buildings Acquired To Enlarge OLC Campus During Pioneer Years

It is a scene, this one about a decade ago, of the kind that has been enacted so often in the history of the Catholic church. A scene in which the principals know that they are acting in God’s cause and yet scarcely are able to fathom the success or failure (if they dare think of the latter) of the scheme they are about to undertake.

Such at least is the setting as Mother Hilda of the Religious Sisters of Mercy listens to Archbishop John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati outline his plans for the establishment of a girls’ college in the suburbs of the Queen City. It was, Drama in one sense then, a scene in which the principals knew that they were acting in God’s cause and yet scarcely were able to fathom the success or failure (if they dare think of the latter) of the scheme they are about to undertake.

That you may remember Edgecliff through the years, from its “pioneer” days up to the present, that you may smile and muse a while with us over the “years that made a college,” the past editors of THE EDGECLIFF present this anniversary edition.

In accordance with what seemed to be traditional in the history of Mercy schools, the sisters leased two historic estates for the new college in 1938. One of these was the home of the late Mrs. Mary Emery, and the other the former residence of Lawrence Maxwell. To this quiet and naturally beautiful setting came 46 students to enroll in the new college. On the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Sept. 24, 1938, the college was officially opened with a High Mass celebrated in the college chapel by the Very Rev. Monsignor Carl J. Ryan.

The following year two new pieces of property were added to the college campus. The home of the late Judge Howard Ferris was converted into the Residence hall, a dormitory for boarding students, and the Senior homestead was used as a library.

The year 1938 saw the erection of the present Administration building. Facing Victory parkway and Francis lane, the brick and limestone building is the center of college activity and is surrounded by the five residences which now house departments of the college.

The newest addition to the college was the former Freehill home on Victory parkway. The college library is now housed in this homestead. Emery hall as present contains lecture rooms, the Home Economics department, the college’s unit of the Institute Divi Thomae, and social halls. Resident students now live in McAuley hall with the music department and organ recital room housed in the same building. The former site of the library in the Senior home is now devoted to Fine Arts.

Ten years have passed since the Religious Sisters of Mercy undertook the mammoth job of establishing a college for women in Cincinnati. Ten years have seen the college spread from the original two homesteads to three more homes and the new Administration building. Ten years have been the years of enrollment in the college rise from 46 students to more than 200. Ten years have witnessed a miracle of progress and success in the drama of the new college, Our Lady of Cincinnati. The first mark has been made by the new institution, the first and greatest trials battled and won.

First Classes at Edgecliff, when the college was opened in 1935, were held in Emery hall, below. Commanding an unsurpassed view of the Ohio river, the mansion was for many years the homestead of the Emery family of Cincinnati.

Sisters Leased Homes

Among the first friends of Edgecliff were, left to right, top, the Very Rev. Monsignor Carl J. Ryan, superintendent of schools in the Cincinnati archdiocese; Mrs. Robert L. Otto, who was president of the Mercy Alumnae association on Freeman avenue; bottom, Mrs. George Overbeck, who was president of the Mother of Mercy Alumnae association, and Miss Mary Unnewehr, of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. Monsignor Ryan and Miss Unnewehr spoke at an inspection day ceremony on Sept. 14 and 15, 1935, which preceded the opening of the college. Mrs. Overbeck was chairman of arrangements for the inspection day and Mrs. Otto was co-chairman.

In Memory

It wasn’t much more than a dream before 1935. But ten years have seen a dream become a reality. In remembrance of the years that made Our Lady of Cincinnati college this anniversary edition of THE EDGECLIFF has been published. Alumnae of the college opened the homecoming celebration this morning with a High Mass offered in the college chapel, followed by a noon dinner. This afternoon all former students and faculty members of Edgecliff are being welcomed at the open house in Emery hall. Solomon Benediction will close the day’s celebration this afternoon.

The Edgecliff

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These three pictures were taken long ago, so long ago that we dare not mention the people concerned.

The Edgecliff's first student body. A.D. 1935.

The college song and college hymn were written, respectively, by Miss Mary Andris, '39, who is now Mrs. Raymond Kemble, and Miss Rosemary Ebertz, '39, now Sister Mary Joeline, R.S.M.

The Edgecliff staff of 1939-40 poses for its portrait. The instructor is Robert L. Otto.

Students entertain in the dining room of McAuley hall (top). One of the first chemistry classes, (bottom).

A picture taken at the first Christmas carol program in 1935.
One of the formations made at the annual candlelight ceremony.

One of the first garden parties, which now occur each year during graduation week.

The May Crowning ceremony, shown as it took place for the first time in the new grotto (top). The planting of the traditional rose bush, a graduation week event (bottom).

(Below) Students who attended the first night classes at Edgecliff. (Right) Members of the night school faculty were left to right, top, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Walter A. Roddy, the Rev. Francis J. Kunnecke, bottom, the Rev. John E. Wheatley, and Robert L. Otto.
A page of contrasts. The site of the present Administration building is shown above as it appeared when the school opened. Below, the Administration building, completed in 1938.

Students attended Mass in a chapel in the ball room of Emery hall until 1938 when the new chapel (top) was completed.

The one-room library of 1935 (top) has been replaced by building pictured below.

(Right) Students gathered at a recent graduation and (bottom) the first graduate, Mrs. Adele Fohl Corbett.
Candid (some not so candid) pictures taken at Edgecliff in the past ten years:
Left, top to bottom, four students bringing in a Yule log. Guess the year. Next, a picture taken on the first day of school in 1939. Then, the faculty in attendance at the 1944 graduation. At bottom, three early athletes.

Right, top to bottom,
Father Flanagan of Boys' Town visits Edgecliff. Three girls register on registration day. Two girls take time out between classes. Five pioneer students stroll on the campus lawn in their Sunday best.
Pictures on this page show traditional events at Edgecliff.

At top left are a group of former students who brought their children to Edgecliff this year to observe the annual Baby day.

One of the highlights of the annual Play day is the steak (oops!) wiener roast (top right).

Top social event of each spring is the Junior Prom (left).

In the layout below a group of freshmen receive their caps (top left); Freshmen are being initiated (top right); Freshmen looking over the campus during orientation week (lower left); Freshmen are being invested with the academic cap and gown.
Emery hall, shown here in a rear view, houses the Home Economics, language, and mathematics classes and provides a delightful setting for social gatherings.

Residents students live in McAuley hall (above).

Our Lady of the Snows.

This air view of the campus shows the administration building surrounded by (reading clockwise) McAuley hall, Emery hall, the power building, and fine arts building. Immediately behind the administration building is the sisters' residence hall. The organ room, below, is the center of the school's music activities.

The laboratory of Edgecliff's unit of the Institutum Divi Thomas (top) and (bottom) the auditorium.
Former editors of the Edgecliff are shown as they gathered in Emery hall recently to plan the paper's anniversary edition. Left to right are, Mrs. Daniel Corbett, Miss Dorothy S senators, Miss Mary Frances Walker, Miss Rosemarie Valentiner, Robert L. Otto and the Rev. Edward J. Graham, past and present faculty advisers; the Misses Mary Lou Palmer, Miriam Stautberg, Rose Pfeiffer, and Margaret Middendorf. Other editors, who were not present on this occasion, were Misses Rita and Alice Riesenber.