CHAPTER SEVEN

From College To University
1929—1939
Dr. Williams' Long Service

to the Bowling Green institution, which began in 1912, did not finally reach an end until April, 1939. He retired in 1937, at the age of 70, and was succeeded by Roy E. Offenhauer who held the office of President until December 29, 1938, when he died as a result of an automobile accident. Dr. Williams became acting president on January 2, 1939, and served in that capacity until April of the same year, when he was succeeded by Frank J. Prout. Since no major changes were made during Dr. Offenhauer's short administration, it seems best to consider the period from September, 1929 to April, 1939, as a unit.

These years were very important ones in Bowling Green's history. In 1928-29 it was a normal school with an enrollment of 951, mostly in two-year diploma courses. In July, 1929, it became a college, and in May, 1935, it became a state university with Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education, and Business Administration, and a graduate program leading to the master's degree. The enrollment increased to almost 1,800 students, of whom 1,157 were in four-year degree courses and 55 in the master's program.

Another Challenge—College or Hospital

However, this development was not without serious obstacles. In 1933 a new danger arose and for a time threatened the very existence of Bowling Green State College. This threat was the direct result of the Depression. The state colleges and universities were supported by fees and by state appropriations from the general revenue fund. This fund, at that time, was derived largely from excise taxes on the earnings of corporations doing business in the state. The decline in these earnings, due to the Depression, greatly reduced the general revenue fund. It forced the General Assembly to cut appropriations and eliminate activities wherever possible.

At that time, as is true today, the welfare institutions of the state of Ohio were unable to meet legitimate needs. Since it was impossible to finance the building of new institutions, the welfare section of the Senate Finance Committee proposed that one of the state colleges be suspended and converted, at least temporarily, into a mental hospital. Since Bowling Green was the smallest of the state institutions of higher education, it was selected for the suspension.

The proposal at first met with substantial support. Its advocates argued that the physical plant at Bowling Green could be converted to the new use at little cost, and that the educational needs of the state could be met
by the private colleges, the remaining state colleges, and the Ohio State University. Although the majority of the educators of the state were against the proposal, there was one group in favor. During the Depression, the private colleges of the state were having financial difficulties so serious as to threaten the very existence of some of them. Many of the friends of these institutions backed the proposed change, since they hoped it would bring the private colleges increased enrollments and larger incomes from fees.

However, the proposal met with strong opposition throughout northwestern Ohio. Some of this was spontaneous, and some was promoted by the friends of Bowling Green State College. Dr. Williams felt that the campaign against the proposed change would be more effective, if it were carried out by an agency outside the College. With his encouragement, citizens of Bowling Green and the surrounding territory organized the Northwestern Ohio Educational Protective Association. Dr. Williams also appointed a faculty committee, with the author as chairman, to advise and work with the Protective Association.

In the campaign that followed no attempt was made to deny, or minimize, the welfare needs of the state, but the emphasis was placed on the growing needs of higher education, and on the services that Bowling Green State College was rendering to the citizens of northwestern Ohio. Considerable stress was placed on the fact that a college education at Bowling Green was both nearer home and less expensive than elsewhere. Evidence was submitted to show that many students attending Bowling Green, and many future high school graduates in the territory, would be unable to go to other institutions, if Bowling Green State College closed its doors. This argument proved to be strongest of all those used.

Several pamphlets were published and distributed widely throughout northwestern Ohio. Almost every town and village in the territory was visited. Most visitors were members of the college faculty, but some were citizens of Bowling Green who volunteered their services. These visitors sometimes spoke before groups, but devoted most of their time to talking with prominent and influential local citizens, and soliciting their support. Almost without exception their support was enthusiastically given, and most of those visited promised to write their senators and representatives and urge other citizens to do the same.

This campaign aroused such public sentiment in favor of retaining the Bowling Green institution as a college, that the proposed suspension was defeated. The crucial vote came in the Finance Committee when the motion was made to delete the appropriations for Bowling Green State College from the general appropriations bill. This motion was defeated by a vote of 14 to 5. All fear of any further attempts to delete the Bowling Green State College appropriations was removed when in 1934, Martin L. Davey, a resident of Kent, was elected Governor of Ohio. The proposal to close
Bowling Green State College was forgotten. It was superseded by agitation to raise both of the northern Ohio state colleges to university status.

Although the final outcome was an overwhelming victory, the danger was very real for a time. Without the support of its many friends, Bowling Green State College might well have been suspended, and suspension would have probably resulted in permanent closing. Even if it were eventually revived, it would have had to assemble a new faculty. Some faculty members jokingly stated that they would join the staff of the mental hospital and be ready to assume their professional positions when the college was revived. Other members jokingly threatened to enter the hospital as patients.

The College of Liberal Arts

The growth of the new College of Liberal Arts was quite slow for a number of years. This was due to several causes. In the first place, the people of northwestern Ohio continued for a time to look upon Bowling Green as a teacher-training institution. They usually looked elsewhere when seeking a liberal arts education. Furthermore, the interest of most of the faculty (including the President) was in training teachers. Until this situation was changed, through the gradual appointment of new faculty members with different and wider interests, students who enrolled for a liberal arts course were often persuaded to transfer to the College of Education. The greatest handicap to the growth of the new liberal arts college, however, was lack of funds. During the Depression years it was impossible to secure sufficient appropriations to provide for the needed expansion of offerings in the field of liberal arts, and to employ the needed faculty.

Bowling Green’s development was just the reverse of that of many older institutions. In most of these, a college of education was grafted onto an existing college of liberal arts, and often, for many years, would be regarded as greatly inferior. At Bowling Green, however, the new College of Liberal Arts was the underdog. This was true for a number of years, until it was possible to build a faculty interested in the liberal arts program and convince the public that Bowling Green was truly more than a normal school.

Buildings and Campus

In the fall of 1929, the physical plant consisted of eight buildings. By 1939 this number was increased to 12 by the addition of the Practical Arts Building (now Hayes Hall) in 1931, the Women’s Physical Education Building in 1938, and the Natatorium, and a men’s dormitory (Kohl Hall) in 1939. In 1938, during Dr. Offenhauer’s administration, the University also purchased a brick house across Wooster Street from the Training School for a President’s home. This was occupied by Dr. Offenhauer and family, while President Emeritus Williams and family remained in the frame house, in which they had lived since 1914.

In 1937 the stadium was completed, and the auditorium was enlarged
to include a large, fully equipped stage for dramatic productions. At the same time a large pipe organ was installed in the auditorium. Before the stage was remodeled, it was so small that a player who left at one side and had to make his next entrance from the opposite side had to crawl under the grand piano (behind the rear curtain), or run down the stairs on one side to the floor below and up the stairs on the other side. In this case, he often arrived late or without enough breath to say his lines.

When the Practical Arts Building was constructed, Dr. Williams expected to buy a set of chimes, and the tower on the top of that building was planned to house them. However, the money he expected to use for the chimes had to be spent for another purpose, and the chimes were never purchased. The tower remains to this day, and is often referred to as the chicken coop or pigeon loft. At a later date, during Dr. Prout's administration, chimes of a different type, requiring no tower, were purchased.

In the late 1930's, all of the older buildings on the campus were repaired and repainted. These improvements and most of the new construction, during this period, were financed by money from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), supplemented by local- and state-appropriated funds. The programs of both the PWA and the WPA were planned by the federal government in an attempt to alleviate some of the economic effects of the Depression.

Williams and Shatzel Halls, the first two dormitories, were built from funds appropriated by the General Assembly. In 1939 a new method of financing dormitories and other revenue-producing buildings was employed. In that year, Bowling Green State University issued $100,000 in revenue bonds to help finance the construction of Kohl Hall. The following year, however, a Supreme Court decision declared a proposed issue by the Ohio Institutional Building Authority to be in violation of the Ohio Constitution, which limits state indebtedness. Following this decision, the office of the Attorney General felt that dormitory bonds might also be in violation of the Ohio Constitution. As a result, no more bonds were sold on the open market until 1954.

No major changes were made on the University grounds during this decade. Additional drives, walks, and lights were installed, but the campus retained the same general appearance it had presented since 1918. Even the construction of the new buildings made little change in the front part of the campus, since all of these, except the Practical Arts Building (Hayes Hall), were in the rear of the older buildings.

The Trustees

E. T. Rodgers, one of the most outstanding trustees to serve on the Board, was first appointed in 1923. He served until 1928 and again from 1943-61. Since most of his services were rendered during the latter term, they will be discussed in a later chapter.
Most of the trustees of Bowling Green State University have been men, but there were two exceptions during this period. The first woman to serve on the Board was Myrtle B. Edwards of Leipsic, who was a member from 1928 to 1935. She was followed by Bessie S. Dwyer of Montpelier, who served from 1936 to 1941. No other woman was appointed until 1961.

Frank J. Prout’s long years as President of the University have caused many people to forget that his services began before he assumed that office. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1934 to 1939, and played a major role in saving the University from political domination. His steadfast refusal to play the political game led to the final defeat of a political candidate for the presidency, and to the election of Dr. Offenhauer.

Faculty and Administrative Offices

By April, 1939, the faculty, which numbered 48 in 1928-29, had increased to 73. This growth was due to the increase in enrollment, the addition of the College of Liberal Arts, and later the addition of the College of Business Administration, and the master’s program.

With the change in status from normal school to college and to university, and with the accompanying addition of the new colleges and the master’s program, the problem of upgrading the faculty became a major one, and was to continue so for many years. Considerable progress was made during this period, in spite of the handicap of limited funds. In 1929 only four faculty members held the doctor’s degree; but by 1939 the number had increased to 31. In addition, other members were studying towards doctorates and several received this degree during the next few years.

After the passage of the Emmons-Hanna Bill, in 1929, the author was appointed the first Dean of the new College of Liberal Arts. At the same time the Office of the Dean of Instruction was discontinued, and Clyde Hissong (who had held that office) became Dean of the College of Education.

Early in 1930, Dr. Williams called the author into his office, and asked him to read an announcement which Dr. Williams was going to make during the assembly exercises later that morning. The announcement was to the effect that he was appointing the author Dean of Men, effective immediately. The author protested vigorously, and refused to serve. He believed he already had enough duties and furthermore had no interest in such a position. Dr. Williams, who had been performing the duties of Dean of Men, stated that he no longer had the time for this work, and he was not in a position to employ anyone at that time. He asked the author to help him out for the rest of the year. Stated this way, the author could not refuse. Dr. Williams inserted the word acting in the announcement, and agreed to serve for the rest of the year. Thus, he became Acting Dean of Men in addition to his other duties, and continued to serve in that capacity for six years. These were really busy years. The author taught 10 hours, edited the catalog, organized
and administered the new College of Liberal Arts, and served as Acting Dean of Men.

The year 1936-37 was even worse. The College of Business Administration was established by the General Assembly in 1935 and opened its doors to students in the fall of 1936. During the first year, however, no dean was appointed for this college and to the author, in addition to all of his other duties, fell the task of organizing and administering the new college. However, in the fall of 1936, he was relieved of part of his duties when G. Glenn Swanson became Acting Dean of Men. Further relief came in 1937, when Ralph G. Harshman was appointed Dean of the College of Business Administration. In 1937, William C. Jordan became the first full time Dean of Men. Mr. Jordan was Business Manager from 1925 to 1937. These appointments were among the last administrative acts of Dr. Williams before his retirement in the spring of 1937.

Faculty Committees

During this period, as in the past, many routine administrative duties were performed by standing committees of the faculty. These were faculty committees only in the sense that they were composed of members of the faculty. They were appointed by the President and were responsible to him. These committees were not listed in the catalog until 1936. The issue published in May of that year lists 10: Activity Fees, Alumni Relations, Athletics, Entertainment and Assembly, Executive, Graduate Instruction, Library, Placement, Social, and Student Employment.

The Activity Fees Committee was the result of dividing the functions of the old Entertainment Course Committee. The latter, with John Schwarz as chairman, now had charge of the Entertainment Course and the weekly assembly exercises. The new Activity Fees Committee, with the author as chairman, continued the task of deciding upon the distribution of the money secured from activity fees among the various participating activities.

The Act of 1935 authorized Bowling Green State University to offer work leading to the master’s degree. For several reasons, all concerned felt that for some time the graduate offerings would have to be small in number and limited in scope. The most important reasons for this feeling were the limited demand for graduate work, the lack of qualified faculty in several departments, and the insufficiency of the available funds. It was decided, therefore, not to establish a graduate school under a dean, but to administer the graduate work by means of a graduate committee. This committee was appointed in 1935 to plan and administer the new master’s program. Clayton C. Kohl was the first chairman.

By 1939, the number of standing committees had increased to 15. The additions were: Gifts, Endowments and Memorials; Personnel; Policies Commission; Promotion of Research; and Public Relations. The Committee on Gifts, Endowments and Memorials was the University’s first attempt to secure
financial support from sources other than fees and state appropriations.

With the attainment of university status, the administration felt that it was necessary to increase the amount of research being done by the faculty. This feeling was shared by many (but not all) faculty members. The Research Committee was given the task of encouraging scholarly production on the part of as many faculty members as possible. It was composed entirely of members of the teaching faculty (no administrators) with F. C. Ogg as chairman. This committee did effective work, although for years faculty research was greatly hampered by lack of funds and by heavy teaching schedules. These latter were also due to inadequate appropriations.

University Organization

Before the College of Liberal Arts was established in 1929, Bowling Green State Normal College was a small, single-purpose institution, and its administration was quite simple. The establishment of the new college complicated matters. It not only necessitated the appointment of new administrative officers, but also raised questions concerning the respective duties of the various officers and the even more important question of how the faculty should be organized to serve best the dual-purpose college.

In 1929-30 President Williams appointed a committee to study these questions and to make recommendations. The members of the committee were the two newly appointed deans to represent the administration, and Dr. Clayton C. Kohl, chairman of the Social Science department, to represent the faculty. This committee with the author serving as chairman, drew up a list of duties of the deans and registrar which was approved by the President. In addition, the committee report provided for an Executive Committee, composed of the President, the two deans, and the registrar. This committee was to pass on all exceptional and peculiar cases arising from the administration of the academic requirements and regulations. Gradually, the functions of the Executive Committee were expanded. During the latter part of Dr. Williams' administration, and for all of Dr. Prout's, it was a policy-making body, discussed and usually decided on most academic and student personnel problems. When, in 1937, a dean of the College of Business Administration was appointed, he was added to the Executive Committee.

The question of faculty organization proved much more difficult and was destined to plague the college for many years. In fact, no satisfactory solution was found until 1951, by which time it was even further complicated by the change from a dual-purpose college to a triple-purpose university. Even before the 1929 committee was appointed, the faculty had considered this question and had been unable to reach an agreement. The majority of those members who had been in favor of the creation of the new college also wanted some kind of division of the faculty, but could not agree on any plan. On the other hand, those faculty members who had either opposed, or been indifferent to, the establishment of a liberal arts program (and they
were in the majority) were strongly opposed to any division. They argued that, if a division were to be made on any logical basis, the result would be that the College of Liberal Arts would have most of the faculty and the College of Education a big majority of the students.

The committee members represented almost as many points of view as the faculty, and were unable to agree on any plan of division that would be acceptable to either the faculty or the President. They agreed, therefore, that no division would be made, and that all departments and faculty members should serve the College as a whole, rather than particular colleges. In spite of several attempts to change this plan of two (later three) colleges served by one faculty, it survived until 1951.

For purposes of routine administration, the two deans agreed that each would assume primary responsibility for the administration of certain departments, but that important decisions concerning any department would require the approval of both. The division agreed upon was, briefly, that departments and faculty members engaged primarily in the training of teachers should deal with the Dean of the College of Education, and all others with the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Obviously, this arrangement was not a permanent solution to the problem, but it worked fairly well for a time. The main reason for this was that the two deans occupied adjoining offices, were able to discuss questions that arose and to reach a reasonable and friendly decision.

The question of separate college faculties was renewed with new vigor, when, in 1935, Bowling Green became a university with a College of Business Administration and a master's program. The same opposition to a division was encountered, and the same arguments used. The division on a college basis would still have left the College of Education with a small faculty and a large enrollment, and the new College of Business Administration would have had only one department, that of Business Administration. It was finally decided that the formation of college faculties would have to wait until the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Business Administration had more students and the Colleges of Education and Business Administration developed more departments. The departments of instruction were, therefore, divided among the three deans for purposes of routine administration. The division was as follows:

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This type of organization, a single university faculty serving three different colleges, remained in operation until the end of Dr. Prout's administration in 1951. Although it had a number of weaknesses, it really operated quite smoothly. This was largely due to the fact that the three deans involved were able to discuss the problems that arose and reach an amicable and reasonable solution. These discussions were greatly facilitated by the fact that the deans occupied adjoining offices. The author, as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, found that his greatest handicap was the lack of a faculty primarily interested in the field of liberal education and dedicated to the development of a strong program of liberal studies. The result was that he had to work through individual faculty members who shared his interest in building a strong College of Liberal Arts, and through committees chosen from these individuals. Fortunately, the number of such faculty members increased steadily throughout this period.

There was no delegation of authority during the first part of Dr. Williams' administration, but after 1929, the practice was for the Dean of the College to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the academic program of his college. The deans also discussed all questions concerning more than one college before submitting recommendations. At first these discussions were informal, but, after the creation of the College of Business Administration, the three deans held more formal meetings. Although it never appeared in the catalog, this group of deans came to be known as the Council of Deans.

In practice, most decisions on academic questions were made in the Executive Committee. However, the President, as chairman, always had the right of veto. Occasionally questions were discussed in general faculty meetings, but seldom were decided by faculty vote.

Student Government

The first student participation in administration took the form of student representation on administrative committees. The committees were usually those that administered the various student activities that shared in the student activity fees. The first of these, as previously noted, were the Social Committee and the Athletic Committee.

Faculty committees were first published in the catalog in 1936. At this time, the Activity Fees Committee, which distributed the money from the fees among the various participating activities, was composed of three faculty and two student members. This committee had been in existence for several years, but in the beginning was made up of only faculty members. There is no record of the time when students were included. Following 1936, students were added to all of the other committees administering activities supported by activity fees. By the end of Dr. Prout's administration these included, in
addition to the above, the committees in charge of the Artist Series, Music Activities, Publications (student), and Speech.

The May, 1931, catalog also contained for the first time, the following statements:

The Inter-Sorority Council is made up of two representatives from each sorority on the campus. It has power to regulate the sororities in their relation to each other and to the college.

The Inter-Fraternity Council is a similar organization composed of two representatives and a faculty advisor from each fraternity, with similar powers.

Sororities and fraternities were local social groups, since there were no national organizations on the campus at this time. The decisions and recommendations of these two councils were subject to approval by the Dean of Men, or the Dean of Women, and the President of the University.

The increase in the number of men enrolled in the University brought with it a movement for a student government body with broader powers than the Women's League, and including both men and women. This movement culminated in 1935. The Bee Gee News of March 20, of that year, contained a letter to the editor and an article on the subject. The letter summarized the work of student councils on other Ohio campuses and discussed a few of the fields in which a student council would become an indispensable tool in bringing about lasting, beneficial changes in our college life.

The idea continued to spread, and various campus organizations rallied to its support. Among these was the Emerson Literary Society, which at that time was one of the most influential student groups. At its meeting on April 3, 1935, this society passed a series of resolutions calling for the organization of a student council to supervise elections, coordinate campus organizations, provide a medium of contact between the student body and faculty, and perform several other functions.

The Bee Gee News article, mentioned above, started with the statement: "A much needed improvement for Bowling Green State College is a student council, if it would work." After considerable discussion and study, by students, faculty, and the administration, it was decided that it would work, and the catalog dated May, 1936, contained the following statement:

All students registered in Bowling Green State University are members of the University Student's Association. The governing power of this association is vested in a Student Council, composed of twelve students and three faculty members. Its purpose is to coordinate campus activities and to act as the official student voice in affairs affecting the student's interest.

The actions and recommendations of the Student Council, as in the case of the Women's League which remained, were subject to the approval
of the appropriate administrative officers, and of the President of the University.

The pattern and the machinery for student participation in the administration of the University was complete by the end of Dr. Williams' administration. It remained basically unaltered during that of his successor. The pattern was to afford students the opportunity for studying, discussing, and making recommendations concerning all matters directly connected with their non-academic life on campus. The machinery was the Student Council, the Women's League, the Inter-Sorority and Inter-Fraternity Councils. Students also served on the committee charged with distributing funds from activity fees, and on committees in charge of activities which received activity fee money.

Expanding Curricula

The decade from 1929 to 1939 saw many changes in and a great expansion of the curricula offered at Bowling Green. All of these, with two exceptions, were the result of the development from a normal school to a university. The first exception occurred in the College of Education as a result of increases in requirements of the state Department of Education for the certification of teachers. As a result of these new requirements, all two-year diploma courses were discontinued on September 1, 1938. The diploma curriculum in elementary education was increased to three years in 1938-39, and to a four-year degree course in 1939-40. The last two-year diplomas were granted in August, 1939. With this event, the final vestige of a normal school vanished, and Bowling Green became a four-year, degree-granting university.

The year 1938-39 also saw the dropping of the Department of Agriculture. This was not the result of the change to university status, but was due to the fact, as we have seen, that work in this field at Bowling Green had never been able to secure adequate support from the General Assembly. With the retirement of George W. Beattie, who had been the only member of the department, all offerings in this field were discontinued.

The Bowling Green institution, from the beginning, offered many courses in the field of the liberal arts. These had been sufficient to enable students to take the first two years of a general or pre-professional course at Bowling Green, and then transfer to other institutions. Following the Act of 1929 and the establishment of the College of Liberal Arts, four-year curricula were introduced leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science. The curricula for the Bachelor of Science degree differed from those for the Bachelor of Arts degree by requiring more mathematics and science.

For the first year, 1929-30, majors and minors were offered in six fields: English, chemistry, French, history, mathematics, and social science; and minors only in four additional fields: biology, Latin, physics, and Spanish.
By 1938-39 the major and minor fields included biological science, business administration, chemistry, economics, English, French, history and political science, Latin, mathematics, physical science, sociology, and speech. Minors only were also offered in geography and geology, home economics, music, physics, psychology and philosophy.

Prior to 1935, the offerings in the field of business were limited to curricula for the training of teachers in the commercial subjects. With the establishment of the College of Business Administration in that year, four-year curricula were offered for students wishing to prepare for a career in business. These led to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. The May, 1935, catalog outlined a general course and opportunities for specialization in accounting, marketing, and secretarial science. The May, 1939, catalog offered majors and minors in accounting, business finance, and marketing, and a minor in secretarial science.

The Act of 1935, besides changing the name to University and establishing the College of Business Administration, authorized the granting of the degree of Master of Arts. Bowling Green State University immediately took advantage of this authorization and announced, in the May, 1935, catalog, master's programs in the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts. In 1935-36 graduate work was offered only in the Departments of Education, English, History, Mathematics, and Social Science. The May, 1938, catalog added the Departments of Biological Science and Foreign Language to this list.

Departments and Courses

The change from normal school to college, in 1929, and to university, in 1935, resulted in the creation of several new departments, and an increase in the number of courses offered. The Department of Agriculture was dropped in 1938-39. Most of the other changes took the form of new department names, and the splitting of old departments into two or more new ones.

In 1920-21, the title of the History Department was changed to Social Science, since, by that time, it was offering courses in history, political science, economics, and sociology. In 1929-30, after the establishment of the College of Liberal Arts, this department was split into two, the Departments of History and Social Sciences. The latter included economics, political science, and sociology.

The year 1929-30 also saw the creation of a Department of Psychology and Philosophy. Courses in these fields had previously been offered in the Education Department. In 1932-33 the title of the Geography Department was changed to Geography and Geology, since it was offering courses in both subjects.

With the opening of the College of Business Administration in 1935 the title of the Department of Commercial Education was changed to Business Administration. In 1936-37 the Social Science Department was eliminated
and separate Departments of Economics and Sociology were established. Political science was re-combined with the Department of History.

A few courses in speech were offered by the English Department as early as 1919-20. Gradually, the offerings in this field were increased until they became so numerous that, in 1938-39, a separate Department of Speech was created.

In 1939-40 the courses for the training of teachers in commercial subjects were removed from the Department of Business Administration, and a separate Department of Business Education was established. At the same time, the offerings in the Department of Business Administration were expanded and divided under the heading of general courses, accounting, business finance, business law, marketing, and statistics.

**Fees and Expenses**

The decade from 1929 to 1939 saw the addition of one new fee and one increase. In 1929 a health fee of $2.50 a semester for dormitory residents, and $1.50 a semester for others, was added. The student activity fee was raised to $6 a semester in 1936 and to $6.25 in 1937. With these increases, each student received a copy of the yearbook. The first *The Key*, published in 1924, showed a profit, but several issues in succeeding years were unable to pay expenses, and were forced to use part of the profits from the first year. Since this could not continue indefinitely, it was necessary either to discontinue *The Key* or to find a better method of financing its publication. No issue was published in either 1933 or 1935, because of lack of funds. Faced with this situation, the student body suggested that the book be included in the activities fee, and that the fee be increased for this purpose.

These years also brought moderate increases in living expenses. In 1932, room rent was increased to $2 for a single room, but remained at $1.50 a week for each occupant of a double room.

Northwestern Ohio at this time was largely a rural area with very little industry. As a result, the effects of the Depression were not felt too seriously in this region for several years. By 1933, however, money was becoming scarce even in northwestern Ohio, and Dr. Williams wanted to reduce as much as possible the estimate of expenses, as published in the catalog. Board in the women's dormitories was reduced from $3.50 to $3 a week, and the item of $30 for washing and incidentals was omitted from the estimate. This reduced the total, for girls living in the dormitories, to $240 for a year. The elimination of washing from the necessary expenses was justifiable, since some of the girls did their own laundry in the dormitory, and most of the rest took or sent their laundry home.

At first glance, it would seem that the necessary expenses for men were greater than for women. There were no men's dormitories, and rooms in private homes and meals in restaurants cost more than in the
women's dormitories. In fact, however, this was not true, since many of the boys brought food from home and did their own cooking. Most of them came from farms, and food sent from home cost little. Often milk was the only item of food the boys bought in Bowling Green and, in winter, even this was often brought from home.

After 1933 expenses increased once more, but only moderately. In 1934 board went back to $3.50 a week, but the total necessary expenses were still well below $300 for the year.

Kohl Hall, the first dormitory for men, was completed during Dr. Williams' last year as acting president, although it was not opened until the following September. This dormitory was named in honor of Dr. Clayton C. Kohl, former chairman of the Department of Sociology. This was the first time that a faculty member was so honored.

After the contracts for Kohl Hall were let, but before construction began, Dr. Williams became afraid that a dormitory for men would not fill. If this happened, the University would be unable to pay interest on the bonds which had been issued to pay for its construction, or to provide for the retirement of the bonds. On his recommendation, the Board of Trustees on March 6, 1939, instructed Dr. Williams to see the Attorney General and find out what could be done about cancelling the contracts. On March 15, Dr. Williams reported that the Attorney General had given the opinion that the University had obligated itself to the contractors, and that there was no legal way in which the contracts could be cancelled. This ruling later proved to be very fortunate for the University, since without this dormitory it would have been impossible to obtain service training programs during the war period.

Many of the men attending the University at that time had been cutting expenses by doing their own cooking. Dr. Williams was convinced that they would want to continue this practice. To meet this situation, and to make certain that the new dormitory would be filled to capacity, Dr. Williams changed the plans for Kohl Hall to provide for a Co-operative Boarding Club on the third floor. The May, 1939, catalog contained the following statement concerning this club:

Meals will be prepared by a cook furnished by the university and served in the club dining room. Each week the cost will be prorated among the members, and credit allowed for any provisions brought from home. By this plan, it is hoped to furnish wholesome and well-balanced meals at a cost materially less than in the regular dining room. Club members will be charged $1.50 a week for room and 50c a week to apply toward upkeep of the club kitchen.

This club was probably suggested to Dr. Williams by several private co-operative boarding clubs which had been sponsored by the University for a number of years. These operated under similar plans and had proved both successful and popular.
From College to University

After the passage of the Act of 1929, many people in northern Ohio felt that provisions for higher education in their section of the state were still not equal to those in the southern half. The need for college training in business also was growing rapidly, and no state school in northern Ohio was authorized to offer courses in this field. Furthermore, the possession of a master's degree was becoming more important for high school teachers, and it was felt that additional facilities were needed for graduate work. These circumstances, coupled with the natural pride and ambitions of Bowling Green State College and Kent State College, and the influence of Governor Martin L. Davey, culminated in the passage of two companion bills, by the General Assembly, on May 15, 1935.

The first of these bills contained the following provision:

On and after the passage of this act, the Bowling Green State Normal School, and the Kent State Normal School shall be known as Bowling Green State University and Kent State University respectively.

This change of name was not made without argument. Several members of the General Assembly still felt that university was too pretentious, and that the name college was more fitting. However, one of the main objectives of the new legislation was to put the institutions at Bowling Green and Kent on the same basis as Ohio University and Miami University, and these latter had been known as universities for many years. Since they did not think it wise (or possible) to change the names of the two older institutions, the legislators decided to change Bowling Green and Kent from colleges to universities. Even at this time, no one in the legislature foresaw the future development of the state institutions in the four corners of Ohio. Today, the state is very fortunate to have five well-established and strong universities. Sometimes, a legislature acts more wisely than it knows.

The second act passed on May 15, 1935, contained the following provisions:

The boards of trustees of Bowling Green State . . . university and Kent State . . . university, respectively, are hereby further authorized to . . . create, establish, provide for and maintain a college of liberal arts and a college of business administration.

Since the Act of 1929 did not specifically create a College of Liberal Arts, some faculty members at Bowling Green maintained that the trustees had exceeded their authority when they established such a college. To remove this doubt (which existed only in the minds of a few diehard opponents of liberal arts at Bowling Green), Dr. Williams asked that the College of Liberal Arts be included in this act, although it had been in existence for six years.

The College of Business Administration began functioning with the school year of 1935-36. However, no dean was appointed, and the author was assigned
the task of organizing and administering the new College. This was a difficult assignment, since he had no particular qualifications for planning a curriculum in business administration. His difficulties were increased further by the fact that there were, at that time, only two men on the faculty who were qualified to participate in the planning. One of these was interested only in the training of teachers of commercial education, and had been strongly opposed to the creation of a College of Business Administration. The other individual had expected to be appointed dean of the college and was badly disgruntled by his failure to secure this position. Furthermore, the two men were not only jealous of each other, but were also diametrically opposed in their points of view. As a result, they never agreed on any question. Finally, by ignoring these two men, and consulting catalogs and professors at other institutions, the author succeeded in preparing a curriculum for the opening of the new College. At the end of the second year, in the spring of 1937, Dr. Ralph G. Harshman was appointed Dean. This was the last administrative appointment of Dr. Williams before his retirement from the presidency.

The growth of the College of Business Administration was more rapid than that of the College of Liberal Arts in its early years. This was largely due to the fact that there was a growing demand for business training on the college level, and the private colleges offered little in this field. Furthermore, the worst of the Depression years were past, and it was easier to secure funds for the development of the new College.

**The Master's Degree**

The second Act of 1935 also authorized the Board of Trustees to include the usual technical or graduate instruction for the degree of Master of Arts. History repeated itself. Just as the Act of 1929 did not specifically create a College of Liberal Arts, the Act of 1935 did not specifically create a graduate school. It simply authorized graduate instruction leading to the degree of Master of Arts. The reason was the same as before. Ohio State University was still opposed to the development of graduate schools at the other four state institutions, and it was feared that its opposition would defeat the bill.

In spite of the lack of specific authorization, Dr. Williams and the trustees established a College of Liberal Arts. However, in the present case, because of the known opposition of Ohio State University, and in view of the small size of the graduate program, Dr. Williams felt that it would be unwise to establish a graduate school. As a result, the graduate program was administered for a number of years by a graduate committee composed of the deans of the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, and four faculty members. Dr. C. C. Kohl was the first chairman of this committee. Later, when the College of Business Administration offered graduate courses, the dean of that college was added to the committee. This type of organization and administration of graduate work was continued for a number of years.
Organizations and Activities

From the beginning, Bowling Green State Normal College believed in the value of extracurricular activities in furnishing a well-rounded education. This belief was well stated in the May, 1931, catalog:

In order to provide adequately for the social as well as the mental development and training of its students, Bowling Green State College supplies a well-rounded program of student organizations and activities. It is believed that among these organizations and activities every student can find one or more suited to his needs and interests and in which he can develop those qualities of social ease and leadership necessary for a successful and happy life.

President Williams believed that all activities that were officially sponsored by the College should be available to all students at the least possible cost. This led to the establishing of the activity fee which, by 1939, entitled a student to free admission to all intercollegiate athletic events, debates, and certain lectures, entertainments, plays, and social events. It also included a paid-up subscription to the Bee Gee News and The Key.

In the beginning, the problem was to provide enough activities. However, by 1931 the picture had changed. The catalog published in May of that year (and several succeeding catalogs) contained the statement:

Although students are encouraged to take part in student activities, care is taken to limit the amount of such participation so as to prevent interference with regular college work.

However, the limitations were not always effective and some students, then as now, majored in extracurricular activities.

For a number of years, Book and Motor was the only honorary society at Bowling Green. Several others were added by 1939. The first of these was Phi Sigma Mu, an honorary music fraternity, in 1926. This was followed by Pi Kappa Delta, forensics, in 1929; Beta Pi Theta, French, in 1936; Sigma Tau Delta, English, in 1936; Sigma Delta Psi, athletics, in 1936; Kappa Mu Epsilon, mathematics, in 1937; and Kappa Delta Pi, education, in 1939.

In addition to these national organizations, there were also a number of departmental clubs. Among these were the Home Economics Club, the Intermediate Teachers Club, the Kindergarten-Primary Association, the Industrial Arts Club, and Quill Type, an organization of students and faculty in business education.

As the years passed, the musical organizations and activities varied with the interests and talents of the students and faculty. However, there were always enough to constitute a valuable part of college life for both participants and listeners. The 1939 Key lists the Marching Band, Concert Band, Treble Clef (girl's glee club), Men's Glee Club, Concert Orchestra, A Cappella Choir, and Male Quartet.

The A Cappella Choir was a valuable part of the musical life of the campus during these years. In 1929 R. N. Tunnicliffe, chairman of the Music Department, organized a mixed chorus which gave a number of concerts each
year. Later, the name was changed to A Cappella Choir. It frequently sang as a vested choir in the weekly assembly exercises and gave two public concerts each year, one of which was the traditional Christmas Concert.

The activities in both speech and drama were carried on under the supervision of the English Department until 1938, when a separate Department of Speech was created. Rea McCain, chairman of the English Department, supervised both speech and drama until 1919, when James W. Carmichael joined the English staff, and took over the work in public speaking and debate. Dr. McCain continued in charge of the drama activities until 1940, when Elden T. Smith was added to the staff of the new Department of Speech.

In 1930, Bowling Green State College was granted a chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, forensic society, and participation in events in this field was expanded. The May, 1931, catalog contains the statement:

Contestants in oratory, extempore speaking, and debate, for both men and women, are entered in the Provincial Convention, and the National Convention contests.

No new publications were started during these years. The Bee Gee News was published throughout this period, and The Key was published annually, except in 1933 and 1935. No Key was published in either of these two years, but the Bee Gee News published commencement numbers containing class pictures, and a brief record of the activities of the year.

Bowling Green's sports activities were not confined to intercollegiate competition. By 1939, according to the catalog published in May of that year, the University provided a varied program of intramural sports for both men and women. These included hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball, tennis, archery, volleyball, badminton, handball, table tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and swimming.

Two changes occurred in the athletic program during these years. By 1932 Bowling Green had become too large and its teams too strong for the Northwest Ohio Athletic Association. It withdrew from that organization and, in the same year, joined the Ohio Athletic Conference. At that time, the Conference included 24 other Ohio colleges. Bowling Green competed in that organization until 1942, when it was again forced to seek stronger opposition.

In 1935 athletic relations were severed with the University of Toledo, Bowling Green's oldest rival. The rivalry between these two schools had become so great that few games ended without a riot. As a result, it was thought advisable to end relations, and to give the rivalry a chance to cool off. Athletic relations were not resumed until 1947.

No new men's social groups were organized during this decade, but there were two additions to the number of sororities. These were Las Amigas, founded in 1930 and PHRATRA, founded in 1933. This completed the list of local fraternities and sororities in Dr. William's administration.
The Silver Anniversary

In June, 1939, the University celebrated the completion of 25 years of instruction and the graduation of the twenty-fifth class. The fact that it was not the silver anniversary of the founding of the institution (this was four years earlier, in 1935) led to much confusion and misunderstanding. Ceremonies were held at the alumni dinner on June 3, and at a convocation on June 4. The programs included the introduction of the new President, Frank J. Prout, and of the five members of the faculty with 25 years of continuous service. These included, Dr. H. B. Williams, Dr. J. R. Overman, Dr. Rea McCain, Prof. G. W. Beattie, and Prof. E. L. Moseley. Brief talks were given by representatives of the first and twenty-fifth classes. Martha Harvey Parquette represented the Class of 1915, and Kermit Long spoke for the Class of 1939. Mrs. Marquette might have represented both classes as she received a two-year diploma in 1915 and the B.S. in Education in 1939. Dr. Williams spoke on the topic Normal School to University, and Gov. John W. Bricker gave an address.

Dr. Williams Retires

At the meeting of the trustees held on June 8, 1936, Dr. Williams informed the Board that he had reached retirement age on October 16, 1935, and could retire on August 31, 1936. However, if agreeable to the Board, he wished to continue service as President. The Board acceded to his wishes, and continued his services for the year beginning September 1, 1936. Nothing further concerning his retirement appears in the minutes of the trustees until July 1, 1937. At the meeting held on that date, the Board adopted a statement of policy as follows:

Whereas, the State Teachers Retirement law provides that members shall retire when they reach the age of seventy years, with the consent of the employing board. Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of Bowling Green State University that the teachers and employees of this University shall retire at the end of the school year when they reach the age of seventy years.

This policy was adopted by a vote of three to two. The trustees then, by unanimous vote, elected Dr. Williams, President Emeritus, with duties to be specified by the Board at a future date.

Dr. Williams was stunned by this action. He had intended to present the question of his retirement or retention for another year to the Board for its consideration, but he was surprised and deeply hurt by its summary action. He felt that his long service to the University deserved more considerate treatment.

At the meeting of August 25, 1937, Dr. Williams' duties as President Emeritus were defined. He was to:
1. Have charge of finishing all buildings then under construction.

2. Organize the alumni.

3. Carry out any other duties assigned by the Board.

These duties were satisfactory to Dr. Williams. He had long felt the need of more complete records of former students and graduates, and of an organization of the alumni to cooperate with the University administration, but neither time nor funds had been available. He welcomed the opportunity to devote his time to this project.

At this same meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:
Homer B. Williams, the first president of the University . . . be given a vote of thanks for his efficient leadership in the construction and development of the institution from a few unimproved lots and delapidated fields to its present attractive campus and recognized rank as a State University of approved standards.

This resolution did little to diminish the bitterness Dr. Williams felt at the treatment he had received.

The Election of a New President

The Board of Trustees made no public announcement of its plans for securing a new president. Between July 1, and August 25, 1937, of the same year, only one official Board meeting was held. The minutes of this meeting, August 3, 1937, made only one reference to the question of a new head for the University. They contained the following statement, without any elaboration or comment:

Carl Hawver and Archie King, graduate students, were present and addressed the Board on the matter of the selection of a man to succeed President H. B. Williams.

The uninvited presence of Mr. Hawver and Mr. King resulted from the fact that rumors were rife on the campus, in Bowling Green, and throughout northwestern Ohio, that the Board was holding secret meetings in Lima, Columbus, and other cities outside Bowling Green, and that they planned to appoint a man who had strong political backing, but limited qualifications, for the position of president of a university.

Frank J. Prout (later President of the University) was President of the Board of Trustees at that time. He strongly disapproved of the political plan and, as a result, was not notified of the secret gatherings. No minutes were kept of these rump meetings. Few official meetings of the Board were held, and these were not open to the public. The trustees refused to hear representatives of the faculty, students, alumni, or citizens. The sole exception was the case of the two graduate students mentioned above, and they crashed the meeting without invitation.
The faculty was greatly disturbed by the many rumors, and a group was organized to do all in its power to prevent a political appointment. This group decided that its best strategy was to back a candidate of its own and decided upon Clyde Hisson, Dean of the College of Education. The faculty group also started a thorough investigation of the qualifications and character of the leading (rumored) candidate. However, the Board still refused to hear any representative of the faculty.

Finally, late in August, the rumor reached the faculty group that the trustees were going to hold another secret meeting on the following day, and they now had three votes lined up for the political candidate. This was enough to insure his election, as the Board at that time had five members. A hastily called conference of some of the leaders of the faculty group was assembled to discuss possible means of stopping the election. After much discussion, the group decided (since the Board would not hear a faculty representative) that the only hope was to concentrate on one trustee, who was reported to have been the last to agree to back the politicians' choice. Two faculty members were selected to visit this trustee in his home, and to present all the information the group had been able to assemble concerning the candidate. C. S. Martin, chemistry, and D. J. Crowley, industrial arts, agreed to undertake the mission, and secured an appointment with the trustee for that evening.

After studying the information submitted by the faculty representatives, this trustee stated that he had been misinformed and misled, and that he could not, and would not, vote for the proposed candidate. As a result, at the trustees' meeting the next day, this candidate received only two votes, and the political plot was foiled.

With this defeat, the politicians apparently lost heart, and a compromise candidate was soon proposed. One member of the Board of Trustees at that time was from Lima, Ohio, so he suggested Roy E. Offenhauer, superintendent of the Lima schools. Dr. Offenhauer was well and favorably known to the other trustees, and was well qualified for the position. At an official meeting of the whole Board, held in the Argonne Hotel in Lima, on August 25, 1937, he was unanimously elected as the second President of Bowling Green State University, for a term of five years. That his election was evidently agreed upon before the official meeting was shown by the fact that both he and Dr. Williams were present at the meeting.

Dr. Offenhauer's Administration

Dr. Offenhauer assumed office in September, 1937. He was a man of great charm and impressive appearance, and soon won the hearts of student body, faculty, and citizens of Bowling Green. Everyone predicted a bright future for the University under his leadership. These high hopes were shattered, when Dr. Offenhauer was injured in an automobile accident. He died on
December 29, 1938, after only a year and four months in office. About all that can be said about his administration is that it showed great promise, but a year and four months were too short for many real accomplishments.

The plans for the new men's dormitory were started during Dr. Offenhauer's term in office, but construction had not started at the time of his death. On December 1, 1938, Dr. Offenhauer recommended to the trustees that this dormitory be named Clayton C. Kohl Hall, in honor of Dr. Kohl, Professor of Sociology, who had died on November 10. This was almost the last recommendation that Dr. Offenhauer made to his Board of Trustees. One other meeting was held on December 22, when Dr. Offenhauer reported progress being made on the buildings under construction. This was also Dr. Frank J. Prout's last meeting with the Board, as its President, since his term had expired.

Only two other events need to be mentioned, both in the realm of faculty affairs. The first of these was the culmination of several years of effort on the part of the faculty. On January 12, 1938, at the recommendation of President Offenhauer, the Board of Trustees adopted the 1925 statement of tenure principles of the American Association of University Professors as the policy of the University. This was the first official tenure policy for Bowling Green State University.

The Policies Commission

When Dr. Offenhauer became President, he believed that faculty should have a greater part in discussing and making recommendations concerning university affairs. To accomplish these purposes, he felt that a body smaller than the general faculty was needed. To meet this need, he appointed a Policies Commission, with the deans of the three colleges, the dean of men, the dean of women, and the registrar as ex officio members, and 10 members elected by the faculty. F. C. Ogg, of the Mathematics Department, was the first chairman of the commission.

This group was empowered to discuss academic and administrative problems and policies, and to conduct studies and investigations in these areas. It could report findings, and make recommendations to the faculty and President. However, it had no legislative powers. In the faculty meeting on January 20, 1938, Dr. Offenhauer stated that the commission was not to have power to put its findings into operation. Such power was still reserved for the President.

The Executive Committee, which was continued as before, was composed entirely of administrative officers. The new commission, while including administrative officers, had a faculty chairman and a majority of faculty members. It also had the power to initiate discussions and investigations. Although the Policies Commission proved unsuccessful, it was still an important first step in the direction of greater faculty participation in University administration. Efforts in this direction were to continue for many years.
Dr. Williams as Acting President

After Dr. Offenhauer's death, the trustees asked Dr. Williams to return as Acting President. Although deeply hurt by his summary retirement, his continued interest in the welfare of the University moved him to accept. He served in this capacity until the election of Frank J. Prout, who assumed the presidency in April, 1939.

Enrollment Exceeds One Thousand

Attendance continued to increase slowly during this period. It exceeded a 1,000 for the first time in 1930-31, when the enrollment for the second semester was 1,002 students, and reached 1,310 in 1938-39. Dr. Williams was well satisfied with these figures. He told the author, on several occasions, that he thought 1,000 students was the ideal enrollment for a college, and that he hoped Bowling Green would never greatly exceed that figure.

Part of the increase in the early 1930's was the result of the Depression following the stock market crash of 1929. Job opportunities were scarce, or non-existent, and more young people entered college. Furthermore, Bowling Green probably received more than its share of these students, since, at that time, the cost of attending this institution was among the lowest of any accredited college in the country.

The number of women enrolled at Bowling Green from the beginning had greatly exceeded the number of men. After the establishment of the College of Liberal Arts in 1929, and the College of Business Administration in 1935, male enrollments grew more rapidly, and the proportions of the sexes started to change. In 1928-29 only 205 men were enrolled, but by 1938-39 this number had grown to 655. This growth in male enrollment was to continue until finally the number of men would exceed the number of women.

Post-Summer Sessions

The decline in summer enrollments, due to decreased demand from teachers in service, continued throughout the period from 1929 to 1939. This led, in 1934 to the dropping of the second summer term. Only one session was offered in that summer, but it was increased from six to eight weeks. The Summer Session Bulletin for 1934 contained the following statement:

The Summer Session of the College has consisted heretofore of two terms of six weeks each because the state certification requirements were arranged in units of six weeks. Now the heaviest demand for summer work arises from students who wish to earn credit toward a diploma or degree.

To meet the changing demand for summer work, the Summer Session of 1934 will consist of a single term of eight weeks, six days a week, and will be equivalent to a half-semester.

For a number of years a post-summer session of three weeks was held for students who wished to earn extra credit. Usually only one or two classes were offered. The student enrolled for one course and earned three
hours' credit. In 1934 the enrollment was 602 in the regular session and 26 in the post-summer session and, in 1937, the corresponding numbers were 712 and 95.

Summer enrollment increased sharply in 1938, with an attendance of 971 in the regular and 98 in the post-session. This was largely due to an increase in the requirements for elementary teachers, which was announced by the state Department of Education in 1938. The new requirements were to go into effect in the fall of 1939, but would not apply to teachers starting their training programs before September 1, 1939. The enrollment in 1939 was 937 for the regular term and 39 for the post-session.

During the early 1920's extension offerings were greatly curtailed due to increased on-campus enrollments. No substantial increase came until the late 1930's. The extension enrollment in 1936-37 was 46. This grew to 217 in 1937-38, and to 475 in 1938-39. These increases were due to the fact that the University faculty had finally grown large enough to provide more off-campus instruction.

Conferring of New Degrees

The years between 1929 and 1939 saw an increase in the number and a change in the nature of the degrees granted. The new College of Liberal Arts conferred the first Bachelor of Arts degree on Albert G. Jenkins of Toledo in August, 1931, and the first Bachelor of Science degree on Allen Scott of Bowling Green in July, 1933. Richard L. Beard of Findlay received the first Master of Arts in August, 1936, and the new College of Business Administration conferred the first Bachelor of Science in Business Administration on Dale Orwin South of Dunbridge, Ohio, in June, 1937.

In the spring and summer of 1939, there were 127 graduates from the two-year diploma courses. This group was the smallest for a number of years. It was also the last, since all two-year curricula had been discontinued. On the other hand, the number of graduates in four-year degree courses had increased to 244. Of these, 202 received the Bachelor of Science in Education degree; 24, the Bachelor of Arts; 5, the Bachelor of Science; and 13, the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. In addition, 13 received the Master of Arts degree.

The Act of 1929 granted authority for the conferring of honorary degrees by the trustees, on the recommendations of the faculty. This was the first power granted to the faculty by statute. However, no honorary degrees were conferred until the retirement of President Williams. In June, 1938, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws in recognition of his long and distinguished service in the public schools of Ohio, and in the building of Bowling Green State University. Dr. Williams had never been very favorable towards the policy of granting honorary degrees but, nevertheless, he was greatly pleased. All agreed that the honor was richly deserved, and that it was fitting that he should be the first to receive such a degree.
Election of Third President

In one respect the election of the third President of Bowling Green State University differed from that of the second—there was no attempt to exert political pressure. In other ways, however, the two elections were similar. In neither case did the trustees make any effort to find the best man for the position. Without preliminary discussion (at least in an official meeting) the trustees, on March 3, 1939, elected Frank J. Prout to the presidency. He assumed office on April 1, of the same year.

Fortunately, Dr. Prout was well qualified for the position. He had recently retired from the Board of Trustees and, as a result, was well acquainted with the history of the University and with the problems facing it in the future. At the time of his election, Dr. Prout was superintendent of the Sandusky, Ohio, schools. He was highly regarded by the public school men of the region. Before going to Sandusky, he had held administrative positions in several other Ohio school systems.

While the official title of the institution at Bowling Green had been changed, in 1935, from college to university, the public and the Board of Trustees still regarded it as a teachers' college, whose primary purpose was to train teachers for the schools of northwestern Ohio. As a result, the trustees, in seeking a president, thought only of public school men from northwestern Ohio. Even the governors of Ohio regarded Bowling Green State University as primarily a local, teacher-training institution. This is evidenced by the fact that, through all of its early history, the Board of Trustees (appointed by the Governor) was composed entirely of residents of northwestern Ohio, and usually included at least one public school administrator.

All of the first three presidents of the University had been connected with the Sandusky public schools. Both Dr. Williams and Dr. Prout were superintendents in that city at the time of their election to the presidency. Dr. Offenhauer, before going to Lima, had been principal of the Sandusky High School and superintendent of the Erie County Schools.

President Williams' Contributions

President Williams served for the longest term of any president. He was appointed in February, 1912, and held this office until September, 1937, when he had reached the retirement age of 70 years. On the death of his successor, he was appointed Acting President, and served in this capacity from January 2, 1939 to March 31, 1939. He thus guided the Normal College, College, and University for a total of 25 years and 9 months. Indeed, it would be more accurate, since Dr. Offenhauer's service was so short, to state that Dr. Williams' was the guiding hand for over 27 years.

Dr. Williams' administration was noteworthy for many reasons besides length. He planned the first curriculum and assembled a well-qualified faculty.
From the beginning, and throughout his term, he resisted all political and other pressures that might well have proved a serious handicap. He insisted on maintaining high standards in all the work offered, and always placed quality of offerings above quantity. He believed in growth and expansion, but only within the limits set by the resources of the college.

Possibly his greatest contribution arose from his never-flagging determination to build a college rather than a normal school. As a result, his administration saw the normal school develop into a state college, and then a state university. It also saw the establishment of a graduate program on the master's level. In all these developments, he had the support and the cooperation of the Bowling Green Board of Trustees and faculty, and of the sister institution at Kent. However, Dr. Williams probably had more to do with these developments than any other one man. His well-earned reputation for conservatism and sound judgment gave him great influence with state officials and the state legislature. Without this, it is doubtful if either the change to a college or the later change to a university (including Colleges of Liberal Arts, Education, Business Administration, and a graduate program) would have been possible at the times they were accomplished. Growth in both physical plant and enrollment was slower than some people desired and expected. This in the early years was partly the result of World War I, when men almost vanished from the campus. The greatest handicap, however, was the lack of sufficient funds to make more rapid expansion possible. Bowling Green and Kent were established because of the lack of adequate facilities in northern Ohio for the training of elementary teachers. Local pride also played a major role. Since southern Ohio had two state-supported colleges (Miami and Ohio Universities), northern Ohio was entitled to equal treatment. This initial interest and pride soon waned, however, and when it came to supporting the new institutions, many people (including members of the state legislature) did not see the need of anything more than two-year normal schools. This attitude, as we have seen, was shared by many of the existing colleges in Ohio. They had been serving the state well for many years in training high school teachers and did not welcome, or see the need for, new institutions in this field. Ohio State, although it had ceased active opposition to the granting of degrees, was far from enthusiastic in its support of further developments. All of these institutions had loyal graduates in the legislature. Bowling Green and Kent had none. The result was that both Bowling Green and Kent had difficulty for many years in securing appropriations to support adequately existing programs, and to provide for desired expansions.

In the case of Bowling Green, this situation was aggravated by Dr. Williams' conservatism, which caused him to pare to the bone his request for appropriations by the legislature. He even took pride in keeping expenditures below appropriations, and returning to the state a substantial balance at the end of each biennium. A member of the Education Committee of the General Assembly once said to the author that returning state money after it was ap-
propriated was not only unheard of, but that it was really a crime. Although we can not agree completely with this view, we must admit that in Dr. Williams' case economy was sometimes a virtue carried too far.

Dr. Williams' contributions far outweighed any hampering effects of too great conservatism. In fact, this conservatism was more often an asset than a handicap. Although, at the time, some people thought he built too slowly, we must admit that he built well. The subsequent history of the institution substantiates this verdict. He started with nothing—no official name, no buildings, no faculty, no curriculum, no students, and no specific authority for anything but a two-year normal school. He left a university including a College of Education, a College of Liberal Arts, a College of Business Administration, and a graduate program leading to the master's degree.

Dr. Williams was a hard man to know, and many people thought he was gruff and unsociable. However, underneath this rough exterior, he was really the kindest of men. He was feared by many students and faculty, but revered by all. The title of Prexy, by which he came to be universally known, showed both respect and affection.

Dr. Williams' conservatism caused him always to say no when first confronted with a new proposal. The author early formed the habit of never pushing an issue when first presented. He developed the system of first raising a question for discussion, but carefully avoiding any decision. Then he would return to the discussion informally, from time to time, and finally would obtain a favorable decision in most cases. Many times this came voluntarily from Dr. Williams, and was prefaced by the remark, "Overman, I believe I have a good idea." This was not a conscious stealing of the author's ideas, but it was proof of the effectiveness of his system of dealing with the President. Incidentally, the author later found the same system almost equally effective in his dealings with succeeding presidents.

To the author, Dr. Williams' two greatest characteristics were foresight and courage. It is true that he did not foresee the great expansion in enrollments that have come in recent years, but neither did anyone else. However, he had greater vision than either the public or the members of the General Assembly, with respect to the future needs of Ohio in the field of teacher training. He saw that the program for elementary teachers would ultimately be extended from two to four years, and that greatly expanded facilities would soon be needed for the training of high school teachers. From the beginning, as we have seen, he planned to meet these needs.

His courage was shown in many ways. He had the courage to resist political pressures in the appointment of faculty members and administrative officers. Above all, he had the courage to offer courses for secondary teachers and school administrators, and to grant degrees for many years before there was any legal authority for doing either. Furthermore, he had the courage to fight The Ohio State University, as an equal, when it challenged these acts. Indeed, Bowling Green State University owes much to its first President.