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University of Minnesota, Morris

BUILDING NOTES

The CLAYTON A. GAY Residence Hall.....

The late Judge Clayton A. Gay was for many years a leader in the development of, interest in and concern for higher education facilities in West Central Minnesota. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Judge Gay came to Morris in 1930 when he established a law practice here. His role of service to his chosen profession and community shows a record of outstanding contributions.

As first president of the West Central Educational Development Association (WCEDA) Judge Gay devoted considerable time and energy to grouping forces within the West Central area of Minnesota to tell the story of educational needs in the area -- particularly the need for a University in this part of the State.

It was in recognition of this contribution that the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota directed that the first new building on the Morris campus be dedicated in memory of Clayton A. Gay.

The Clayton A. GAY Residence Hall was dedicated Sunday, February 20, 1966. The first unit of the building houses 120 residents and the UMM Health Service, while the second unit houses 140 for a total of 260.

EDSON HALL.....

The late Allen B. Edson joined the staff of the West Central School and Experiment Station in 1922 as Instructor of Agricultural Economics. In 1947, Mr. Edson was appointed Superintendent of the School and served in that position until 1958. He was chairman of the Scholastic Committee of the School, Instructor of Farm Management and Rural Sociology and also performed research in the areas of horticulture and agricultural economics. Mr. Edson served on the Building Committee planning the new 'administration building' of the School. The building was named in his honor following his death in September, 1958.

BEHMLER HALL.....

The late Dr. Fred W. Behmler graduated from the University of Minnesota as a Doctor of Medicine in 1920. He moved his practice to Morris in 1936. Dr. Behmler was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1954 and served as Senator for the 48th Legislative District from that time until illness forced his retirement in 1958. While in the Senate he was a member of the Senate Committee on Education. As Chairman of the Interim Legislative Commission to study the Schools of Agriculture and to recommend alternate goals to effectuate maximum use of University facilities, Dr. Behmler's Commission recommended establishment of a four year liberal arts collegiate program on the Morris campus of the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Behmler worked closely with members of the West Central Educational Development Association and others for establishment of a four-year liberal arts college in West Central Minnesota, then termed an "educational void". In recognition of Dr. Behmler's contribution the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota approved renaming the Food Services Building "Behmler Hall". The dedication, with Dr. Behmler present, took place on Friday, July 1, 1966. Dr. Behmler died November 6, 1966.

Behmler Hall houses the main dining room, Louie's Lower Level, a modern cafeteria, administrative offices and faculty offices.