

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME  
Department of Public Information  
James E. Murphy, Director

61/63

For release in AM's, Thursday, Nov. 2nd:

Notre Dame, Ind., Nov. 1 --- The personal papers of General William T. Sherman, the military jacket in which he led northern troops, and the key to the courthouse at Appomatox are among the Civil War memorabilia in the University of Notre Dame Archives.

The Sherman papers were willed to the University in 1959 by the late Eleanore Sherman Fitch of New York, the general's granddaughter. The story of how Notre Dame acquired the Sherman collection began more than a century ago when the now-famous University was a little-known school in the northern Indiana wilderness.

It was the family of Mrs. Sherman (Ellen Ewing) which first became associated with Notre Dame. Her brother, Philemon Beecher Ewing, was legal adviser to Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., founder and first president of the University. Her second cousin, Neal Gillespie, was Notre Dame's first graduate. He later became a Holy Cross priest, a Notre Dame faculty member and official, and editor of THE AVE MARIA published on the campus. And Father Gillespie's sister, Eliza, became Mother Angela, C.S.C., generally regarded as the foundress of nearby St. Mary's College.

An intimate association between Notre Dame and General Sherman's immediate family began in 1862. In that year, when the general was fighting the war in the West, Mrs. Sherman enrolled her eldest son Willie in The Minims at Notre Dame, a grammar school no longer in existence. After the battle of Shiloh, the general became homesick for the sight of his young son, and arrangements were made for the lad to make the trip south to join his father.

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## General Sherman papers...2

A miniature sergeant's uniform was made for the boy, and he was the favorite of all the general's troops. Tragically, the child soon contracted "camp fever" and died in the fall of 1863. His death broke General Sherman's heart, and in his sorrow he wrote to Father Sorin that he could never quite understand why God had taken the child from him. The buttons of the little uniform made for "Sergeant Willie" are included in the Notre Dame collection.

Another son was born to the Shermans in Lancaster, Ohio, the following summer, but the child lived only six months and was buried from Sacred Heart Church on the Notre Dame campus. With the death of Willie, another son, Tommy, became the general's favorite, and he, too, was enrolled at Notre Dame in 1864, the year the Sherman family moved to South Bend. This son eventually went to Yale and seemed destined for a law career until he broke the news to his famous father that he wanted to become a priest. As Father Thomas Sherman he was an unusually effective Jesuit preacher until a stroke impaired his speech in later life.

General Sherman himself came to Notre Dame and was honored at a special ceremony following the commencement exercises in 1865. The battle-scarred general had difficulty concealing his emotion when his nephew, Tommy Ewing, made a short speech recalling little Willie's few months at Notre Dame. The assembled youngsters -- age eight to sixteen -- also pledged their support if the general felt the need to call on them.

And so the Sherman papers and heirlooms are housed at Notre Dame which was so much a part of the family's life. According to Rev. Thomas McAvoy, C.S.C., University archivist, the collection includes the diaries of the general and his wife, their wartime correspondence, the general's spectacles and name-plates, and the seal of the prison at Andersonville where so many Union soldiers were imprisoned.

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For release in PM's, Wednesday, November 1st:

Notre Dame, Ind., Nov. 1 -- The University of Notre Dame Press has just published volumes by two members of the school's English department.

Children and Older Strangers is a collection of poems by Ernest Sandeen, and Paul McLane is the author of Spenser's Shepheardes Calender: A Study in Elizabethan Allegory.

Prof. Sandeen, a specialist in American literature, is the author of an earlier book of poems, Antennas of Silence. A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1946, he was educated at Knox College, Oxford University and the State University of Iowa where he received his doctorate in 1940. During the 1957-58 school year Sandeen was a Fulbright lecturer on American literature at the University of Aarhus in Denmark.

Prof. McLane, who has specialized in Spenser, Shakespeare and the Renaissance period of English literature, also joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1946. His work on the new Spenser volume was supported by a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies. McLane holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Gonzaga University and a doctorate from the University of Washington. He taught English courses at Seattle University for thirteen years before coming to Notre Dame.

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For release in pm's, Tuesday, November 14th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Nov. 14 --The establishment of the Jesse H. Jones Professorship of Business Administration at the University of Notre Dame was announced here today by Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president.

The new faculty chair in Notre Dame's College of Business Administration honors the late Jesse H. Jones, Houston, Tex., businessman and philanthropist. Jones served at various times as Secretary of Commerce, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and Federal Loan Administrator during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Father Hesburgh said the Jesse H. Jones Professorship has been under-written for a five year period by a recent grant of \$50,000 from Houston Endowment, Inc. The foundation was created in 1937 by Mr. and Mrs. Jones for "the support of any charitable, educational or religious undertaking."

Dr. Thomas P. Bergin, head of the department of business organization and management at Notre Dame, will hold the Jones Professorship, Father Hesburgh said. For several years Bergin has conducted research on industrial development and economic growth, notably in the southern states. Father Hesburgh recalled that Jesse Jones is credited largely with creating the seaport and skyline of Houston and making it the biggest city in the South.

A native of Watertown, N. Y., Dr. Bergin was graduated from Notre Dame in 1945 and joined the faculty of its College of Business Administration two years later. He became head of the department of business organization and management in 1952. He holds a master's degree from the University of Vermont and a doctorate from Syracuse University.

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For release in AM's, Sunday, November 12th:

Notre Dame, Ind., Nov. 11 --- Alfred C. Stepan, Jr., founder and president of Stepan Chemical Co., Northfield, Ill., and his wife, Mary Louise, are the donors of a new center for concerts and convocations at the University of Notre Dame.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., University president, today announced that a \$350,000 building already under construction is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stepan, whose home is in Winnetka, Ill.

A 1931 Notre Dame graduate, Mr. Stepan is a member of the University's Associate Board of Lay Trustees. He is president of the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

The new building, to be known as the Stepan Student Activities Center, will be of buff brick construction and have a distinctive aluminum geodesic dome. Circular in shape, it will be 160-feet in diameter with a seating capacity of 3,000. The building will be located in the northeast sector of the campus on a new mall which will include the Notre Dame Memorial Library, also under construction.

The Stepans have seven sons and daughters, three of whom are Notre Dame graduates. Alfred, III, '58, who took graduate studies at Oxford University, is a lieutenant in the Marines, and Quinn, '59, and Stratford, '61, are Army lieutenants. A fourth son, Paul, is a freshman at Notre Dame. Their other children are John, Mrs. Joseph Flanagan (Charlotte), and Mrs. Richard Wehman (Marilee).

Mr. Stepan is a director of the Chicago Helicopter Airways and the Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Charities. He has been decorated as a Knight Commander of the Holy Sepulchre.

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EDITORS: PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE

For release in AM's, Sunday, November 19th:

A grant of \$1,000,000 has been awarded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to the University of Notre Dame to expand and improve its College of Engineering.

Announcement of the grant was made today by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., Foundation president, and Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of Notre Dame.

"The magnificent Sloan Foundation grant comes at a strategic moment in Notre Dame's development and will have an impetus that is hard to measure," Father Hesburgh declared. He said the grant will be used to strengthen the University's engineering faculty, improve and expand its engineering laboratory facilities, and establish a Computer Center.

Father Hesburgh said Notre Dame will endeavor to match and supplement the Sloan grant so that a total of \$2,500,000 will be available to underwrite engineering development at Notre Dame in the immediate future.

He pointed out that as a result of the Sloan Foundation grant, Notre Dame will receive an additional \$500,000 from the Ford Foundation as one of six universities chosen to participate in its Special Program in Education. The Ford Foundation will award Notre Dame one dollar for every two dollars which it receives from non-governmental sources during a three-year period ending June 30, 1963.

Portions of the Sloan grant expended for laboratory expansion and the Computer Center also will qualify for matching fund programs of The National Science Foundation.

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Dean Norman R. Gay heads Notre Dame's College of Engineering which has a faculty and professional staff of more than one hundred and an enrollment of more than 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students.

The University's engineering school was formally established in 1897 though courses in architecture and civil engineering were offered as early as 1869 and 1873 respectively. Today the College offers the undergraduate degree in architecture and bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering graphics, engineering science and aeronautical, chemical, civil, electrical, mechanical and metallurgical engineering. The doctorate is offered in the fields of engineering science, mechanical, metallurgical and chemical engineering.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation was established in 1934 by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., former president and chairman and presently honorary chairman of the board of the General Motors Corporation. Primarily a grant making institution, the Foundation supplies funds to universities and other non-profit organizations for research, education and related purposes. It supports the Alfred P. Sloan National Scholarship Program for college undergraduates, an extensive post-doctoral fellowship program for basic research in the physical sciences, and finances programs in industrial management, special projects in economics, and other educational and research activities. In the medical field the Foundation contributes substantially to cancer research and to research in ophthalmology.

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For immediate release:

Notre Dame, Ind., Nov. 13 --- Rev. Theodore J. Mehling, C.S.C., 55, provincial superior of the Holy Cross Fathers' Indiana Province, died today (Monday) in a Santiago, Chile, hospital, according to word received here.

Father Mehling was religious superior of more than 400 Holy Cross priests engaged principally in educational, parochial and missionary work in this country and abroad. The Indiana Province operates the University of Notre Dame and other American schools and conducts missions and schools in East Pakistan, Uganda and Chile.

A native of Fremont, Ohio, Father Mehling was stricken while making an official visit to St. George's College, Santiago, Chile. He succumbed due to complications following two intestinal operations at the Clinica Santa Maria in Santiago.

Highlights of Father Mehling's eleven year tenure as provincial superior include the erection of Moreau Seminary, Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House and Holy Cross House, a home for sick, aged and retired priests, all on the Notre Dame campus, and the establishment of Sacred Heart Novitiate, Jordan, Minnesota.

During the same period the Indiana Province opened Notre Dame High School for Boys, Niles, Ill., and Seminary Santa Cruz, Santiago, Chile. The Province recently sent its first missionary priests to Uganda.

Prior to becoming provincial superior in 1950, Father Mehling was president of the University of Portland in Oregon from 1946 to 1950. During the previous nine years he served as Dean of Studies at Portland. From 1933 to 1937 he was assistant superior of Moreau Seminary and during the latter two years he was an instructor at the University of Notre Dame.

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Father Mehling.....2

Father Mehling was born August 23, 1906, and entered Holy Cross Seminary at Notre Dame in 1922, beginning his year of novitiate two years later. He made his final profession of vows in 1928 and was graduated from Notre Dame the following year. Following four years of theological studies at Holy Cross College, Washington, D. C., he was ordained to the priesthood June 24, 1933, in Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, by the late Archbishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne. In 1935 he received a Master of Arts degree from Notre Dame. The University of Portland conferred an honorary doctorate on him in 1951.

The immediate survivors of Father Mehling include two brothers, Eugene Mehling of Fremont, Ohio, and Norbert Mehling, of Sandusky, Ohio; and a sister, Mrs. Clemens Widman, Fremont, Ohio.

Funeral services will be held in Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, but arrangements, including date and time, are incomplete.

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EDITORS: PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE

For release after 12:30 p.m., EST, Wednesday, November 22nd:

Washington, D. C., Nov. 22 -- President Kennedy today received the University of Notre Dame's Laetare (LAY-TAR'-RAY) Medal for 1961 in a ceremony at The White House.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., Notre Dame president, presented the award which has been made annually since 1883 to an outstanding American Catholic layman.

The citation accompanying the gold medal saluted the Chief Executive for "the charity, the calm determination and imaginative courage of your statesmanship in this age of prolonged and ever-increasing danger."

President Kennedy is the 79th recipient of the Laetare Medal which has been awarded to celebrated statesmen and soldiers, artists and industrialists, diplomats and philanthropists, educators and scientists.

Other Laetare Medalists who have been associated with government or the armed forces include Chief Justice Edward Douglas White (1914), Postmaster General Frank C. Walker (1948), Under Secretary of State Robert D. Murphy (1959), Alfred E. Smith, Governor of New York and Democratic presidential candidate (1929), Clare Boothe Luce, U. S. Ambassador to Italy (1957), Thomas E. Murray, of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission (1952), General Alfred Gruenther (1956) and General Joseph L. Collins (1950).

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## Laetare Medal...2

President Kennedy was named recipient of the Laetare Medal for 1961 on Laetare Sunday, March 12th. Generally regarded as the most significant annual award conferred on Catholic laymen in the United States, it is the third Notre Dame honor which Mr. Kennedy has received. In 1950, as a Congressman, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and delivered the commencement address at Notre Dame. He returned to the campus as a Senator in 1957 to accept the annual Patriotism Award of the senior class. For several years he has been a member of the University's Advisory Council for the Liberal and Fine Arts.

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NEWS RELEASES FOR NOVEMBER, 1961

61/63	November 1	General Sherman's papers in ND Archives
61/64	November 1	Publication of books by Prof. McLane and Prof. Sandeen
61/65	November 14	Jesse H. Jones Professorship
61/66	November 12	Stepan Student Activities Center
61/67	November 19	\$1,000,000 grant from Sloan Foundation to ND
61/68	November 13	Father Mehling's death
61/69	November 22	ND's Laetare Medal to President John F. Kennedy

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