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Twenty Years

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The FIRST TWENTY YEARS 1922-1942

Keld J. Reynolds

Teld J. Reynolds

LA SIERRA COLLEGE

ARLINGTON, CALIFORNIA

THE COLLEGIATE PRESS 1942

PREFACE

In this little book are recounted a few of the incidents in the dramatic story of the rise and progress of an educational institution. It is a condensation of the manuscript history in the library of the college, prepared as a tribute to the men and women who, with the help of God, developed La Sierra, and written in the hope that its distribution will serve to remind former students and teachers of the days that were and to help the newer students and staff members more readily to understand and catch the spirit of La Sierra, as they read this sketch of the first twenty years.

Acknowledgements are due for the help of two students, Leonard Knapp and Eugene Munson, who collected much of the material and wrote parts of the original draft of the manuscript history, to J. I. Robison, for his history of the beginning years, to Mabel Curtis-Romant for reading copy, and to W. G. Lawson, of the Collegiate Press, for help with the preparation of the book and illustrations

K. J. R.



J. I. ROBISON, 1922-1925



L. C. PALMER, 1925-1927





PRESIDENTS
1922-42

W. W. RUBLE, 1927-1928



H. M. JOHNSON, 1928-1930



E. E. COSSENTINE, 1930-1942

The First Twenty Years

I

THE BEGINNING

The sun was warm for early April, and the shirt-sleeved men rested in the shade of a palm tree on the hillside where they could overlook the sandy slope, planted to watermelons, and the valley below. The men belonged to one of the locating committees sent out by the Southeastern and Southern California Conferences of Seventh-day Adventists to find a suitable location for a new boarding academy, to be built somewhere in Southern California.

The committee was inspecting a tract on the huge Rancho La Sierra, the property of the millionaire realtor and sportsman, W. J. Hole. They liked what they saw. The sandy soil, decomposed granite from the hills which rimmed the valley, was well drained and as fertile as the section afforded. There was an abundance of water available. The site was beautiful, quiet, well out in the country, yet easily accessible to the cities. Other advantages were to appear later. But the committee had seen enough to bring in a favorable report.

By 1920 it was generally agreed that San Fernando Academy could no longer serve the growing needs of Southern California. Through the years since its founding in 1901 the men and women composing its staff had performed a notable service in the training of Christian workers for home and foreign service. But conditions in San Fernando did not permit the necessary expansion. The school was too near the city, land was not available, and there was lack-

ing the support from the constituency which would be needed if the old, inconvenient, and unsafe buildings were to be made into a modern educational plant.

Active in Southern California in promoting educational expansion and the cooperation of the two conferences to that end were the two conference presidents, W. M. Adams of Southern California, and J. J. Nethery of Southeastern, the latter at that time newly arrived from the Northwest where he had been active in promoting building operations in the Upper Columbia Conference. These leaders called meeting after meeting through the fall and winter of 1921 and 1922, to stir and organize the interest of the Adventists of the Southland, and to call the attention of the General Conference to the needs of the young people of Southern California. The discussions revolved around four questions: Should each conference provide an academy of its own? Should the two Southland conferences operate a joint academy? Should the plans for a joint academy look forward to a junior college? Should plans be laid now for a college?

The constituencies of the two conferences met in Glendale in March, 1922, with J. E. Fulton, Pacific Union Conference president, as chairman. So great was the interest that 400 delegates attended, representing nearly every Adventist church in Southern California. At this meeting it was voted to have a joint academy. At a later meeting at Pomona, in April, locating and financing committees were chosen. Then began a search from Santa Barbara to San Diego, and from the desert to the sea, to find a suitable and agreeable site for the new school.

Later in April a memorable meeting was held in Loma Linda. One of the locating committees had suffered a mishap. An automobile accident had injured C. C. Mattison, J. J. Nethery, and V. E. Peugh. Elder Nethery attended the meeting on his cot, and Elder Peugh in a wheel chair. At this meeting it was voted to dispose of the San Fernando

property on a sixty-forty basis, the sixty per cent to belong to the Southern California Conference. No agreement was reached on a site, though the delegates favored one on the La Sierra Ranch, in the hope of saving the union school plan, which was about to be abandoned.

It was evident that the Southeastern California Conference was going ahead with or without the joint school plan. At the Loma Linda meeting J. A. Burden rallied the delegates. "Brethren," he said, "we must not fear. God is with us. He has a place for this school. It will be found. The hand of Providence will be manifestly seen in connection with the steps taken to establish this school."

The La Sierra property gained favor. In June a committee chosen to negotiate with W. J. Hole and the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, reported a gift from the latter of \$10,000 in cash, and \$5,000 in benefits, and the purchase from Mr. Hole of 330 acres for \$102,550. This initial purchase was soon supplemented by others, raising the land holding to more than 400 acres.

In May the scene of activities shifted to San Francisco, where the General Conference was in session. R. F. Emmerson, J. A. Burden, and F. E. Corson were named a committee on building and supplies. Mr. Emmerson was to serve as general manager and purchasing agent for the project. J. I. Robison, newly returned from Africa and then educational secretary of the Southeastern California Conference, was asked to assist J. J. Nethery and Doctor H. W. Vollmer in the selection of a faculty. This committee selected J. I. Robison as principal, E. H. Emmerson to teach Bible and history, Miss Grace Nelson for music, Howard Miller for woodwork, Arthur Logan for farm manager, and Mrs. I. Koehn as preceptress.

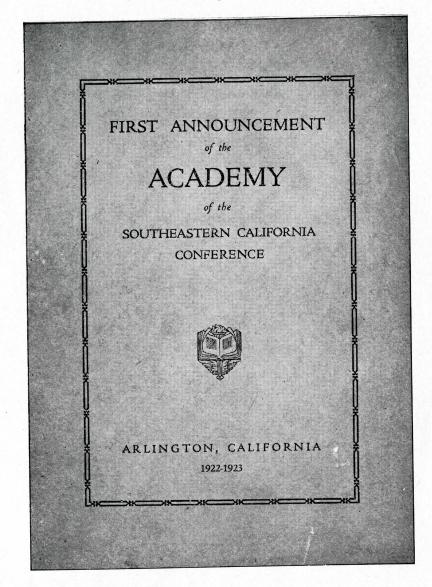
At the San Francisco meeting a financing plan was outlined. The committee members primed the pump with \$2,900, and designated the month of July for a "Fifty Cents"

Per Member" campaign throughout the Southeastern California Conference. In addition, it was planned to borrow as much three and four per cent money as possible. F. G. Ashbaugh and V. E. Peugh were publicity agents for the project. On July 1 they sent out an announcement, over the signature of the principal, that on October 3 a full-fledged twelve-grade school would open its doors at Arlington. So far the school had no name and no buildings.

The actual work on the school plant may be said to have begun on July 5, with the arrival of the wagons, scrapers, and other equipment, and the beginning of the grading and excavating. Workmen were housed in tents on what was to be the campus. An old farm house on the property served as construction office, kitchen, dining room, and cannery. The wife of the manager ran the cannery, and in the evenings, after the day's work on the buildings was done, the construction crews helped with the canning. These supplies were meanwhile being augmented by the church members of Riverside, who formed a canning club to stock the storerooms of the academy with fruits and vegetables.

The Southern California Conference had decided to continue operating San Fernando for another year, pending a settlement of the school problem for that conference. But they generously gave the new school the forty per cent of the San Fernando equipment, and with it a tangible bond, so that from the first San Fernando has been looked upon as the parent of La Sierra. Three truck loads of dormitory and school furnishings were brought from the older school, including a box of books and a laundry tub full of laboratory supplies, "seed" of the present well-equipped library and laboratories of La Sierra.

School opened officially on the evening of October 3, 1922, with an initial enrollment of eighty-four students. The boys' dormitory was ready, with living rooms upstairs, classrooms and offices downstairs. The girls' dormitory was only



a will.

II

and kitchen, in the south end of the building, were not completed. The girls climbed ladders to their unfinished rooms. Nowhere in the institution was there electricity for light or power. Oil and wood stoves were used, and oil lamps were used for lighting. The still scanty grass planting over what a few weeks before had been a watermelon patch, left the dust free to lift and fly, so that at times the sand had to be shoveled from student rooms and from the dining room. In spite of these inconveniences, the sturdy westerners, with the blood of pioneers in their hearts, and the morale of pioneers vitalizing their efforts, took hold with

THE ACADEMY YEARS

It was clear from the beginning that the new academy was not to be merely another school. Its founders and supporters had in mind, aside from geographical convenience, a school which would measure up to the instructions given to Seventh-day Adventists for their educational work. Under its statement of purpose the first bulletin of the new academy had this announcement:

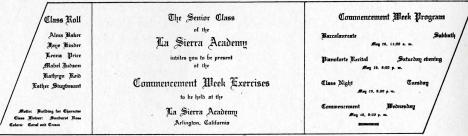
"The founders of the Southeastern California Academy believe that the great object in the establishment of this school is to train our young people to render efficient service in their stewardship to God, whether in public or private life. To accomplish this object they believe there must be a 'harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers' to prepare the student for 'the joy of service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.'

"To this end not only are the regular literary subjects offered adapted to train the mind, but in connection with the regular school work a training in the industries will be given that our students may become practical men and women who can cope with life's emergencies."

For the reasons given above, and to help defray the cost of room, board and tuition (about \$35 per month), each student was required to work twelve hours a week in some industrial department, of which there were several, or at some labor essential to the upkeep of the school. To each teacher was assigned a crew of boys and girls and a share in the labor program. As a graduation requirement students were expected to have labor credits equal to the number of years spent in the school, these credits to certify their faithfulness and efficiency. Students living in the community were required to present credits from their parents, these credits to be checked and evaluated by the proper industrial superintendent.

The standard college preparatory curriculum was offered from the first year, with credits in Bible required for graduation, and an additional unit made up from four quarter units in "drills" such as sight-singing, spelling and penmanship, to be passed by examination, or, failing that, in classes.

Much of the credit for the successful launching of the new school must go to the pioneer faculty, led by Principal J. I. Robison. The faculty, as completed for the school year, included: R. F. Emmerson, the business manager; E. H. Emmerson, Bible; H. R. Miller, preceptor in charge of the boys; Mrs. J. J. Koehn, the preceptress; Arthur Logan, farm manager; Mrs. W. E. Parker, superintendent of the laundry; Mrs. A. C. Giddings, in charge of the kitchen; Miss Grace Nelson, music; Miss Pearl Cooper, art and sew-



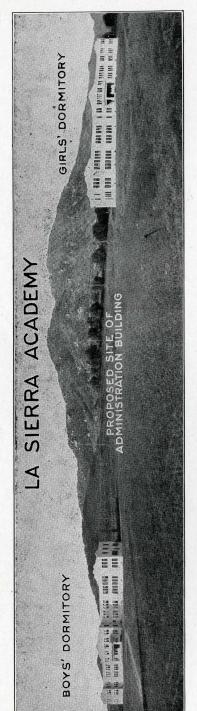
The first commencement announcement: 1923

ing, and assistant in the grade school; P. W. Stuyvesant, Spanish; L. J. Vollmer, history; Miss Ivamae Small, English. The matron taught cooking. The Bible teacher taught bookkeeping and had charge of the poultry farm. The preceptress taught the health classes. The principal taught mathematics and managed the orchards. The preceptor taught the shop classes. The teacher of Spanish had charge of the maintenance department. The English teacher was the librarian. There was no science teacher listed for the first year.

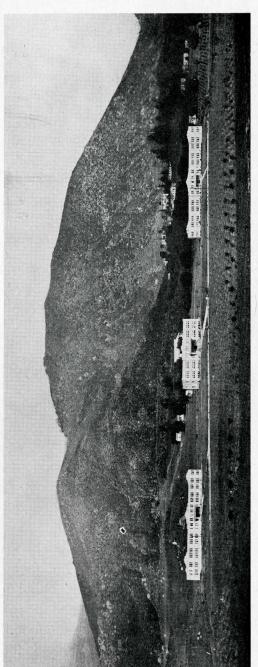
Six weeks after the opening of La Sierra's first year of school, a campaign was launched for an administration building. When the campus was first planned the two dormitories were spaced well apart, the home for the boys at the south end of the campus and the home for the girls at the north end, leaving room for three buildings between, an administration building to occupy the central position.

To finance this new building the constituency was again asked for fifty cents a week per member, and the offerings of the second Sabbath of each month were given to the project. The building was to cost \$50,000, of which the Pacific Union Conference and the General Conference were to contribute \$10,000, the school committee and the conference workers were to be responsible for another \$10,000, and the faculty and students were to raise \$5,000. At the camp meeting in the summer of 1923, many carpenters agreed to give from one to four weeks of labor on the new building. The money raised was used almost wholly for materials; the construction was almost entirely with volunteer labor.

Meanwhile progress was made in the development of the educational program of the academy. On October 19, when the infant school was two weeks old, it was given the name of La Sierra Academy, and a school board came into



The campus in 1922



The school in 1926

existence, composed of the following men: J. J. Nethery, chairman; J. I. Robison, secretary; C. C. Mattison, R. F. Emmerson, J. A. Burden, H. W. Vollmer, and V. E. Peugh.

Before the academy was three months old it began to reach beyond the secondary grades because of the demands and the very real needs of the constituency. The growth of Seventh-day Adventist institutions in Southern California created a demand for denominationally trained business and stenographic workers. And the rapidly growing church membership, with the resulting church school expansion, created a demand for grade school teachers far beyond the available supply. In recognition of these needs, the academy board in December requested permission to add a two-year teacher-training course, and a two-year commercial course, both on the junior college level. These were authorized at the Colorado Springs Educational Convention, held in the summer of 1923. La Sierra had begun to expand.

The second year the academy had a greatly increased enrollment, due in part to the decision of the Southern California Conference to send its young people to La Sierra, a decision in which the academy board concurred, on condition that the sister conference pay the academy a bonus above the regular charges, for each student sent.

The second year was notable in a number of ways. It was a period of considerable activity in developing the school plant. The administration building was completed, the chapel being first in the basement, with classrooms and offices above. But as the building was finished, the chapel was moved upstairs, to the south end of the main floor, where the library was located in later years, and the cafeteria and kitchen were installed in the basement.

The first all-student campaign was a feature of the year 1923-24. This was the "L. S. W. B. A.," remembered with pride by the students of that year, the "La Sierra Wash Bowl Association," organized to provide wash bowls for the dormitory rooms. There were then sixty boys and seventy girls in their respective dormitories. When the rising bell sounded at five-forty-five in the morning, everyone rushed to the common wash rooms with soap and towel. Worship was at six. Only about fifty per cent of the students arrived on time. The faculty was much concerned, until they



Student body: 1924

found that it was not a lack of spirituality but a dearth of wash bowls which lay at the bottom of the difficulty. The funds raised in the campaign remedied the evil and provided running water in each student room. Thirty days had been set for the campaign, but the goal was reached in one week.

There were thirty-one seniors in 1924, with Glenn Martin as president. (There had been eight in 1923.) On March 7 the class launched La Sierra's first student publication, an annual which they appropriately called *El Serrano*,

the Mountaineer. It was published for two years, the second year as a combination annual and school catalog.

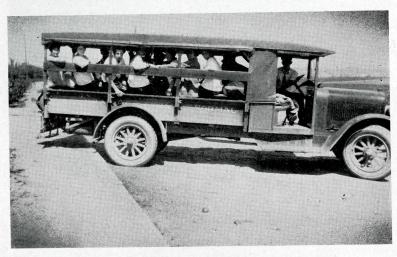
The year 1924 was one of community building in the valley. The old Spanish name of the district was revived and translated. Valle Feliz became "Happy Valley." A large promotion company, the John P. Mills Organization of Long Beach, undertook to sell small farms in the valley. In *El Serrano* for 1924 appeared two pages of advertising for the company, which offered two-and-one-half, five, and ten-acre farms for egg production and for the "growing of every imaginable variety of fruit and vegetable." Investors and settlers were promised profits of from a dollar and a half to two dollars and a half for each hen, and financial independence on a two-and-one-half acre Happy Valley farm.

Many responded to the appeals of the promoters. For some three years there was a mild building boom, as the small farms were bought and homes built. Streets were laid out, and La Sierra village began to take shape. Patrons moved to the village to be with their older children during their academic years, and to enjoy church school privileges for their younger children, swelling the enrollment during the years when the boarding facilities were limited, and aiding the development of a local Adventist church. But the community, self-named "La Sierra Gardens," began to press too closely around the academy. In a belated attempt to stop the crowding, the board in 1924 purchased two small tracts lying north and west of the campus, on which were built two faculty cottages, and in later years the grade school.

L. C. Palmer was the principal during the years 1925 to 1927. These were years of growth and development. The enrollment growth was slow, because of the limited facilities of the school and because of the development of five non-boarding academies within the La Sierra constituency — four of them within a fifty-mile radius from the col-

lege. These schools were encouraged, working relations were established with them, and in later years they became valuable feeders for the college. In 1925 the Southern California Conference agreed to help support the academy on the forty-sixty basis, and to pay \$100,000 of the initial cost of the school property.

In 1925-26 systematic campus planning seems to have been undertaken for the first time. Roads and paths were



The first school bus

laid out. The placing of the larger trees, pepper, gum, and palm, which in later years did so much to beautify the campus, resulted from this planning, as did also the placing of the industrial buildings along Pepper Drive beyond the West Campus. The first of these industrial units was the woodwork shop, a two-story building constructed by the carpentry class of 1925-26. The press building was erected shortly after.

Considerable attention was given during these years to the development of the farm. By 1926 the school owned thirty head of cattle and eleven horses. There were thirty acres of grapes, and one hundred fifty acres of alfalfa. The development of the herd, and the building of adequate pens and barns had progressed well since 1925, when G. E. Stearns began his long years of service at the school. A serious water shortage was relieved in 1926 when W. J. Hole gave the school well Number 4, in the valley series, together with \$5,000 in cash for a pipeline to the school property, and title to a strip of land in which to lay the pipe. In 1926 H. M. Johnson came to the school as a dairy expert and instructor. His influence was seen in the development of a better dairy herd, and in the listing, in the catalog for 1926-27, of courses in gardening, horticulture, floriculture, poultry husbandry, and dairying.

Through the later years of the academy the school continued to improve in equipment, organization, and scholarship. Library and laboratory facilities were greatly increased. A Reo "speed wagon" was purchased for use as a school bus, and to serve in a humbler capacity as a farm truck. A survey by the president of Pacific Union College, with the local and union conference educational secretaries, led to improvements in organization, looking forward to accreditation. The debt incurred in the first years continued to press heavily, but it was slowly melted down as the school was built up. The years of the principalships of J. I. Robison and L. C. Palmer were years of struggle, but they were years of careful planning and building. La Sierra was growing.

III

CRITICAL YEARS

The General Conference Executive Committee authorized the raising of La Sierra to junior college status on March 6, 1927. A backward look at the school's history shows clearly the trend in this direction through the years. The school plant was laid out on a larger scale than was justified by the needs of an academy in a region where several other academies were developing contemporaneously. The school had scarcely opened its doors before it was reaching upward into the college grades, with the teachertraining and commercial departments. And finally, the rapid growth of Adventist population, numbering about 10,000 in Southern California in 1927, and the concern of Adventist leaders for the welfare of the church's youth in the lurid, pleasure-mad and gangster-ridden postwar years, indicated the need for a new denominationally controlled college in Southern California, whose Adventist youth of college age by that time was approximately 2,000. La Sierra did not push itself into collegiate status. It was pushed by circumstances, and by the vision of the denomination's leadership.

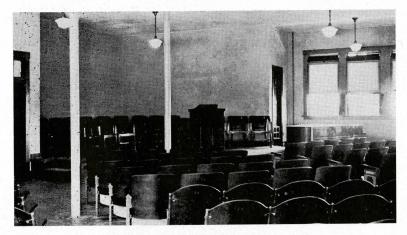
W. W. Ruble had been a moving force since 1921 in the effort to secure junior college rank for La Sierra. His position as educational secretary of the Pacific Union Conference gave weight to his efforts. When through these efforts, supported by those of the pioneer founders and promoters who had never ceased to work for the school, junior college rank was achieved, it was fitting that Mr. Ruble should be elected president, after the resignation of Mr.

Palmer left the position open. The resignation of W. C. Raley, who had been the manager and had given himself unsparingly during the years of struggle, brought this office also into the president's hands.

In the minds of those who went through the winter of 1927-28 at the Southern California Junior College, lies the memory of high adventure. There was so much to be done, and so little time and means with which to do it. Lack of equipment and facilities, keenly felt but endured during the academy years, now became intolerable. Such was the effect of La Sierra's change in status. When the new president presented to the board a list of needed improvements and costs, the latter totalled more than \$37,000. The school was given permission to spend \$17,000. Reinforced by student campaigns and donated labor from the loyal and cooperative student body, the \$17,000 was stretched miraculously.

An attractive grade school building was constructed at the north end of the campus, so planned that new units could be added as they were needed. The removal of the grade school rooms from the main floor of the administration building, whose front windows up to then had been decorated with seasonal colored paper cut-outs, permitted drastic alterations in that building. One of the grade rooms was cut up to make a large office for the president, with a reception room. Another was cut up to make the business office. Leftover corners became offices for the proposed student body organization and for the college dean, who did not materialize. The plans for a new chapel building, or for a chapel extension in the form of a "T" back from the center of the administration building, could not be carried forward for lack of funds. The chapel remained in its temporary location, where it was to stay until 1937.

In the spring of 1927 Riverside county paved Pierce Street and Hole Avenue, giving the college all-weather con-



The assembly room in use to 1937

nections with the main highways joining all of the important urban centers of the Southland. Gas mains were laid through the community and to the college. In the course of time individual gas-radiator heaters were installed in the main school buildings. In the school homes, however, new oil heating plants were installed, and radiators took the place of old electric heaters. There had been a great deal of clandestine home economics practiced at both ends of the campus, to the detriment of the heaters and of the income of the cafeteria. There was therefore much lamentation among the amateur cooks over the passing of the electric heaters.

In 1927 the development of a printing establishment was begun on the campus, with the coming of Titus Frazee and his equipment, which was bought by the college. Since Mr. Frazee was a promoter of no mean ability, the students were soon publication-minded. They founded a bi-weekly newspaper, with the odd and to most people unintelligible, name of the *College Cushi*. But in spite of its name handi-

cap, a subscription list of 1,300 was raised and a staff chosen, the editor being Willis Risinger, an energetic and popular young man from Texas. The board gave its blessing to the infant journal, with the usual warning that it must conform to denominational standards, and that it would be promptly strangled if it ceased to be self-supporting.

At the close of the same school year the students revived *El Serrano*, this time as a collegiately styled annual, with Titus Frazee as editor. This annual was attractive and welledited, with a Keratol cover and a heavy deficit. Another well-edited but financially disastrous annual in 1931 was the last of such ventures for a period of eight years, when the former experiences were twice repeated.

The administration of H. M. Johnson, covering the years of 1928 to 1930, was characterized by important developments. In the first place, the bonded indebtedness, which had been a staggering load upon the college, was lifted. The industries were developed in an effort to place them on a paying basis, which was achieved in the case of the dairy.



The dining room in use to 1941

President Johnson sought to enlist every man on the faculty as a part-time foreman of a student work crew in some labor activity, as an encouragement to all the students, men and women, to acquire some craft or industrial skills. The president met certain obstacles. The teachers found little time to work with the students. Many students came from homes in which one or both of the parents were in the professions; these students had neither interest nor pride in developing manual skills. Then, many of the students whose parents were artisans expected the college to emancipate them from manual labor rather than lure them back into it. It is to the credit of President Johnson that, in the face of these difficulties, he left in the college a wholesome respect for the craft skills, and for the craftsman. He also left a more democratic and fraternal spirit between the student who works his way and the one who does not, a spirit which thereafter was a part of the personality of La Sierra.

In student body organizations, two developments of the Johnson administration are worthy of note: the organization of the first dormitory club, and the reorganization of the college paper. The students had for some time been putting pressure on the administration for permission to organize some kind of a student association to include the entire student body. This proposal received little encouragement. They next proposed a dormitory club, to be organized along the lines of a literary society. The plan came from the men, and as a result, in the fall of 1929, they organized Mu Beta Kappa, the initial letters standing for "Men of Brotherly Kindness." The name of the club became, by common consent, the name of the dormitory in which the members lived. After the addition of a new unit, Calkins Hall, the name continued to apply to the men's club. The girls' Forum was founded soon after.

The reorganization of the college paper grew out of the financial leanness and the lack of appeal in the name, College Cushi. It was therefore decided, at the time of the fall subscription campaign in 1929, to change the name to the College Criterion, and to make it a weekly. A spirited and successful campaign, with the "Donkeys" running against the "Elephants," resulted in the victory of the girls, and a

THE COLLEGE CRITERION

The Weekly Publication of Southern California Junior College

ARLINGTON, CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 7, 1929

S.C.J.C. ENROLL-MENT IS 309

Registrar's Report Shows Increase In College Attendance; Also More for Senior Class;

COMING!

HURSDAY, Now 7—
12 30 F M.— "CHEMON" Staff
RENAY, Nov.
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The first musical program of the year was given inst satisfies a state thay night seasoned by Mrs. Myrtle Wests, beaut of the Plano Department. See

Mrs. Webb Presents CAMPAIGN NETS Students in Recital OVER 1200 SUBS

More for Service Classe.

The total enredthment to date in Supplers California, Junior California, Societa, Cartenia, Societa, California, Junior California, Societa, California, Junior California, Junio

good subscription list to encourage the first *Criterion* editor, Raymond Cottrell, and his staff.

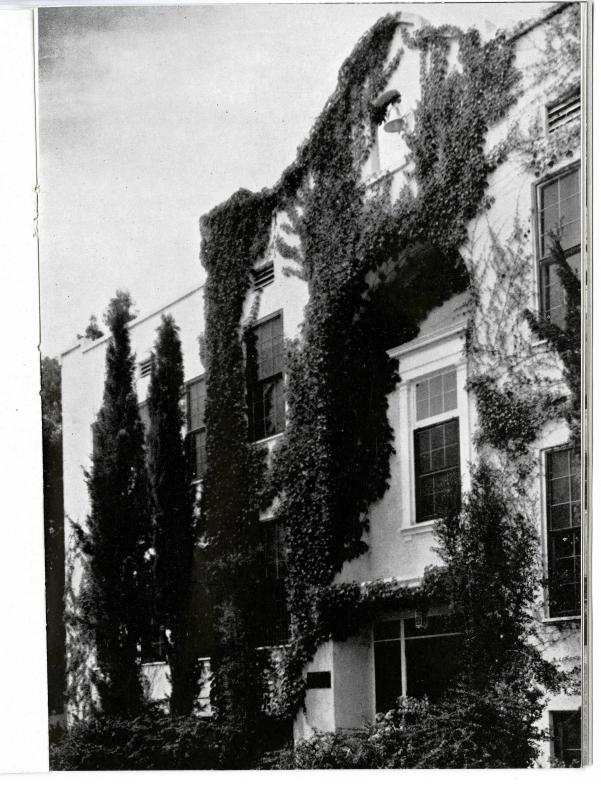
In 1929-30 the total enrollment reached 339, a figure which was not reached again for seven years, or until after the depression. The college enrollment during these lean years was slowly increasing. The decline was in the academy.

When President Johnson went to the General Conference in San Francisco in 1930, the mission board surprised him with an appointment to the Vejlefjord Hojskole in Denmark. The important post of president of La Sierra in the critical years fell to E. E. Cossentine, an aggressive and capable administrator, newly returned to the United States from Australia. Under his leadership the staff turned to the problems of increasing the enrollment, improving internal organization, and securing accreditation.

In the spring of 1931 La Sierra celebrated the departure of three alumni for foreign service—the first graduates to be called. They were Floyd Johnson and his wife (the former Eleanor Wentworth), to West China, and Mary Brewer, to teach in a girls' school in India.

The Associated Student Body organization was first developed during the winter of 1931-32. The first constitution described an organization including all enrolled students and the staff members, dedicated to the principles and objectives of Christian education and Christian citizenship. The officers were a president, a men's vice president, a women's vice president, a secretary, a manager, and the editorin-chief of the *Criterion*, with faculty advisers. On March 30, 1931, the first Associated Student Body election resulted in the election of Benjamin Brewer as president, Thyra Thompson and Cecil Jones as vice presidents, Donald Clark, secretary, and Harold Rutherford as manager.

A committee, appointed in 1930 to study the problem of accreditation had reported that, among other needed im-



provements, the science facilities would have to be extended. As the result, in the summer of 1932 a new building was erected between the administration building and the men's home. This building was San Fernando Hall, named in honor of the parent school.

The building of San Fernando Hall may be said to mark a turning point in the development of the college, because it brought the plant and equipment to a level where recognition could reasonably be expected, and it made possible the science curricula, the prenursing and predental added in 1933, and the premedical in 1934. It was also the first step in a building program which earned for La Sierra the name of the fastest growing college in the denomination.

La Sierra was accredited in 1933. In the spring of 1933 the General Conference approved the plan. Shortly after, the inspection committee of the Northwest Association visited the college and reported favorably. On May 1 La Sierra was notified that it had been added to the list of accredited junior colleges. Shortly afterwards it received the same recognition from the Board of Regents of the General Conference. The college was now a scholastic entity, and began to earn a reputation.

The school year of 1932-33 closed, and the critical period ended, on the heels of two great disturbances, the one local, and the other national. The Long Beach earthquake, which struck on Friday night, March 10, and wrought terrible destruction of life and property, shook the college severely, but did no damage. The national banking crisis of March and April brought serious problems to the college and its patrons. There were lean years ahead, with lowered income, lowered enrollments, and lowered salaries. But the college suffered no serious damage, and the experiences of the lean years developed a fighting spirit in the college, and a spirit of cooperativeness between students and teachers which continued into the more prosperous years.

IV

ADOLESCENT YEARS

The eight school years from the fall of 1933 to the spring of 1941 may well be called La Sierra's adolescence. The problem of providing facilities for the rapidly-growing school was like that of training and clothing an adolescent. During those years the total enrollment increased 243 per cent. The college enrollment increased almost 280 per cent, from 178 in 1933-34 to 480 in 1940-41.

The growing enrollment demanded the development of the internal structure of the college. No longer could the faculty as a whole deal with the minute details of administration. Committees were developed and given power to act. The faculty, freed from the burden of detail, devoted its meeting time to the discussion of general policies and improvements. In 1938, to further improve the organization, the board appointed an academic dean to direct the personnel work on the campus and to organize the departments of instruction. The first to hold this office was K. J. Reynolds, who had been a member of the staff since 1926.

As the enrollment increased and more systematic organization of personnel work became necessary, a program of testing of the incoming freshmen was begun, followed by the development of cumulative records, available to counselors. At the same time the school home deans developed a system of citizenship records to facilitate their counseling work.

The period from 1933 to 1941 was one of great development in the extra-curricular cultural interests and activities of the college. At the beginning of the period there were,

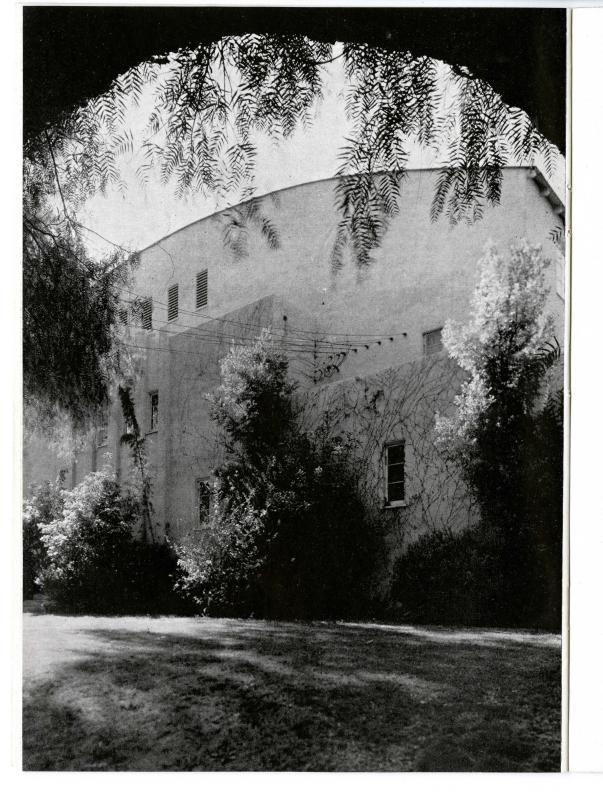
besides the church Missionary Volunteer Society and the Ministerial Seminar, only the Associated Student Body organization and the dormitory clubs, the men's Mu Beta Kappa, and the women's Forum. The appearance of the first premedical students in 1934 soon led to the organization of the Science Club, an honor society open by invitation to those with outstanding records in citizenship and scholarship. Soon other organizations followed: Foreign Language Clubs, Photography and Radio Clubs, the Commercial Club, the Arts and Letters Guild, several clubs devoted to musical interest, and a Nature Club sponsoring field trips to places of interest in the Southwest. The Crusaders (a re-organization of the Ministerial Seminar) became active in holding evangelistic meetings and giving Bible readings in the neighborhood of the college. The latest of these organizations, tne La Sierra chapter of the International Relations Clubs, sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment, was launched in 1940. These organizations did much to give the La Sierra student a cultured and stimulating collegiate atmosphere in which to live and work.

An organization was begun in the fall of 1937 which was to assume great importance after the outbreak of the war. This was the Medical Cadet Corps, which was made an integral part of the college program with two semester hours of college credit, later increased to a possible eight or ten. To prepare men for non-combat service in time of war or emergency, a thorough training was given in all phases of military medical work, as well as army organization, regulations, and close-order drill. The corps attracted favorable attention outside the school, and participated in Armistice Day parades in Riverside. By 1941, when the United States entered the great war, Major Lee and his officers were not only training students of the college, but had also a large corps of non-students who came in for the training.

Sporadic efforts had been made in academy days to maintain an alumni association, but with scant success. In 1937, ten years after the founding of the junior college, the alumni association was revived. On Sunday, May 16, the college held open house for its sons and daughters, and in the evening gave them a banquet in the dining room. The class about to graduate was also present, and with appropriate ceremonies was inducted into the association. Benjamin Brewer, who had been the first president of the Associated Student Body in 1931, and the senior class president in 1935, was made the first president of the revived association. His wife Galeta Applegate-Brewer, was the secretary, and Donald Clark, class of 1930, was the treasurer. After 1937, annual meetings were held in the spring.

Highlights of the spring semester were also the home-comings of the former prenursing students, begun in 1936, and of the premedical students, begun in 1937. In their senior year in the professional schools these alumni returned to recount their La Sierra experiences, and to describe the joys and rigors of professional training, for the benefit of those who would follow after.

One of the most dramatic stories in the history of La Sierra, and one of the clearest evidences of the working of Divine Providence, was the rapid growth of the school plant from 1935 to 1941. During these years buildings were constructed to a value in excess of \$200,000, in an effort to meet the needs of the rapidly growing school. While the first credit went to the Deity, the human agents also had their part. The college was always grateful to President E. E. Cossentine for his vision of the greater La Sierra and for his tremendous driving force, and to managers A. R. Smith and K. F. Ambs for their tireless and careful planning of the details of the new buildings and for the supervision of their construction and furnishing, and to the Board of Directors



for their generosity. Credit was also due the loyal student body and the friends of the college who came to its aid with financial assistance when the resources of the board had been nearly exhausted.

In a sense, the Associated Student Body might be given the credit for starting the improvements, when in 1935, under the leadership of Fred Horowitz, they raised \$850 and constructed a swimming pool on Pepper Drive. At the same time the Southeastern California Conference, needing a campmeeting auditorium, began the construction of College Hall, an auditorium 120 by 208 feet, also on Pepper Drive and facing the West Campus. This became the recreation hall of the college, and was used during the graduation exercises, as it would seat several thousand persons.

During the winter of 1935-36 a planning committee was studying the needs of the growing college. This committee urged the immediate construction of a large auditorium building which would also have studios for the music faculty and classrooms to relieve the congestion in the administration building. It also recommended the enlargement of the residence halls, the building of a hospital unit and a cafeteria, the moving of the home economics department into the old cafeteria, and the remodeling of the older buildings to conform to the modernized Spanish construction which had been decided upon.

About this time the building project was given added impetus by the offer of \$10,000 by W. J. Hole, the owner of Rancho La Sierra. At a meeting on April 19, 1936, the board voted to accept Mr. Hole's offer, and arranged the financing of the auditorium. Construction began in the summer. As it progressed, it was evident that the new building was of more solid construction and of better materials than had been put into La Sierra's buildings up to that time. The opening took place on January 31, 1937, with officials of the college, the conferences, and the city, in attendance,

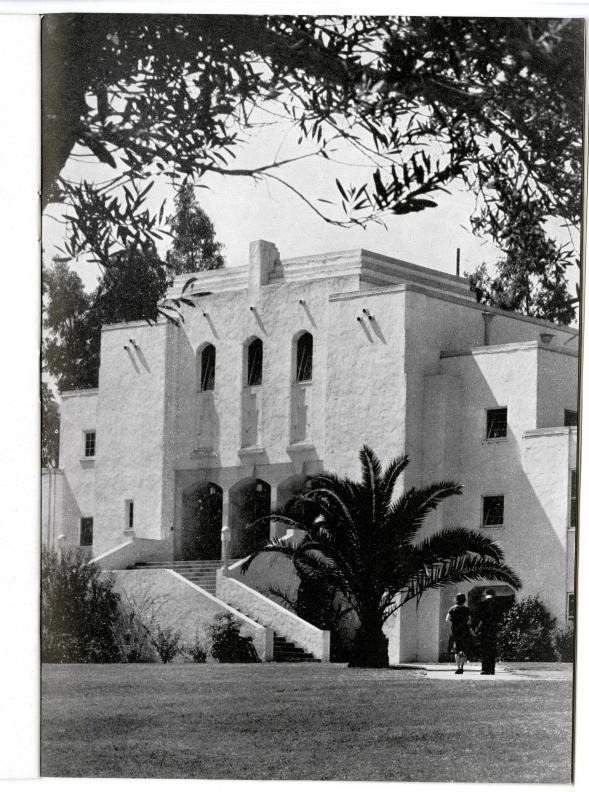
The Hole Memorial Auditorium was indeed the primer for a phenomenal building program. During the summer of 1937 the college store was built on the corner of Sierra Vista Street and Pepper Drive, with the La Sierra branch post office in the south end of the building. In 1938 the re-organized Loma Linda Food Company erected a large factory on land given by the college, and from then on gave work to a large number of students.

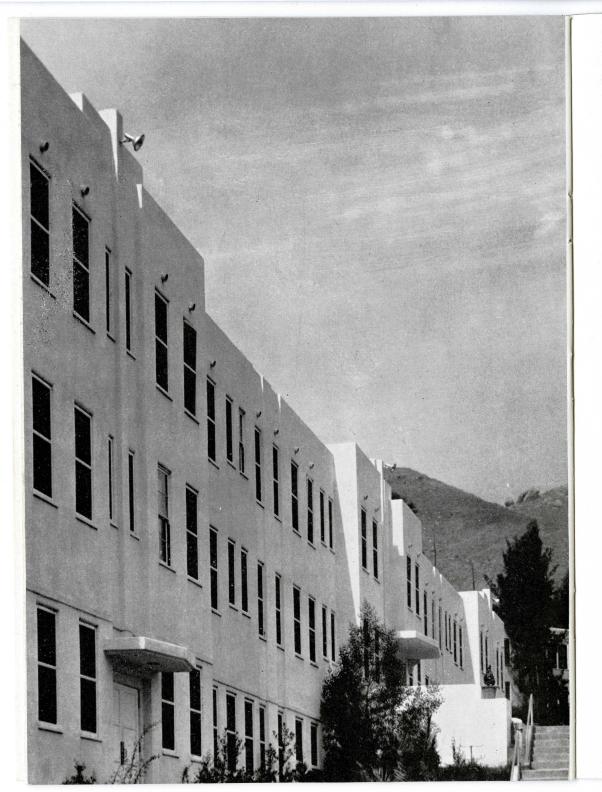
The problem of student housing became critical as early as 1936 when the enrollment increased about thirty per cent. To relieve the crowding, men students were housed in the upper story of the shops building, and a frame structure was hastily erected in back of Gladwyn Hall, the girls' dormitory, when it was discovered that the college had accepted some fifty girls beyond the capacity of all available living quarters. This annex was officially called West Cottage, but unofficially the campus christened it the "Greenhouse" or the "Chicken Coop."

The enrollment increases of 1937 and 1938 necessitated the opening of dormitory "wards" in the classrooms on the first floor of the auditorium. These were for men students. Later, as the men were moved into their new home, named Calkins Hall in honor of the then president of the Union Conference, the young women took over the improvised living quarters, until they, in turn, moved into their new Angwin Hall, completed in 1940. Meanwhile the remodeling of the older buildings had begun.

The cafeteria project was launched at the board meetings of September 22 and November 3, 1940. Construction began in April of the next year, and on September 5, just three days before the opening of the fall semester, the cafeteria staff with considerable ceremony but no regrets, took leave of the old and began work in the new and modernly equipped cafeteria.

La Sierra's cafeteria was designed by Clinton Nourse in council with leading Los Angeles restauranteurs. Its beautiful





California Spanish colonial dining room, patio, and banquet rooms were the pride of students and faculty, and the center of the social life of the college. Part of this interest was due to the fact that many had an investment of work or dollars in the cafeteria. Many days of labor were given by faculty men, mixing and pouring concrete and laying floor. And the Associated Student Body under the leadership of Robert Olsen, undertook to raise \$5,000 for the building.

The students were accustomed to campaigning. Their annual *Criterion* subscription drives for years netted 2,000 paid subscriptions. The drive for five grand pianos for the music conservatory, for the installation of the Estey Concert organ in the chapel, and other drives running back to the original wash bowl campaign, had established the tradition. But the cafeteria campaign was the greatest of them all. And in it the students raised a very considerable part of the needed funds.

Successful Harvest Ingathering campaigns for the church, spring and fall weeks of prayer to stimulate the spiritual life on the campus, the volunteer early morning prayer group, which under student direction ran daily from 1939, campus days and trips to the mountains for winter sports, class and club field trips to places of interest, these gave variety and spice to campus life, and provided the valuable educational by-products concerning which the students, looking back, might say, "All of this I saw; of much of it I was a part."

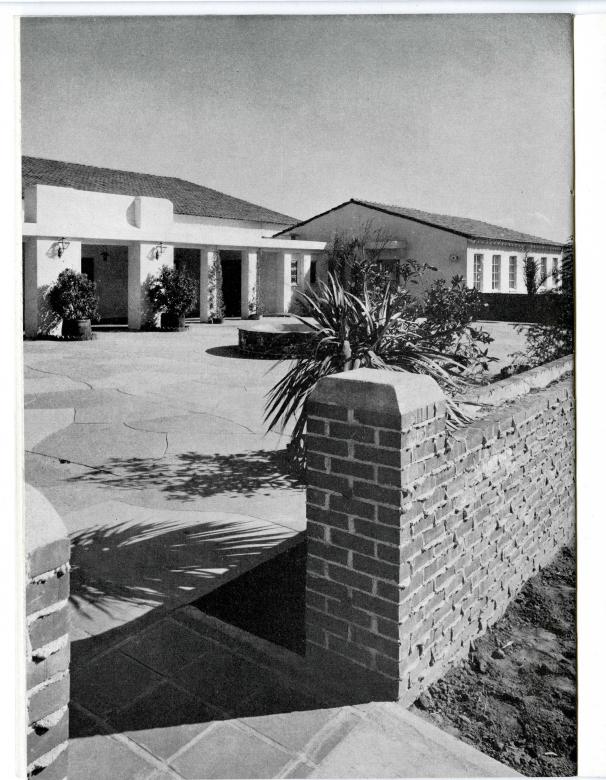
The adolescent years were a period of organic development in the institution. When school opened in September, 1940, La Sierra had an academy separate from the college organization except as to financial connections and a common registrar. The offices and classrooms were in Hole Memorial Auditorium. The first principal of the La Sierra Preparatory School was N. L. Parker, formerly on the staff of Lynwood Academy.

As early as December, 1931, the board had taken steps leading toward the incorporation of the college. Articles

were drawn up which were tentatively approved in February, took final form on December 24, 1933, and the actual incorporation took place on January 29, 1934. These articles described a non-profit educational institution, under the discipline and direction of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. On April 23, 1939, the board voted to change the name of the school to La Sierra College. The following month a committee on constitution and by-laws was appointed. It reported in September, and on January 30, 1940, a new set of articles was approved by the college constituency. These articles enlarged the powers and prerogatives of the college to a considerable extent, to cover future anticipated growth and development.

On November 16, 1941, the college was authorized to confer the degree of Bachelor of Science upon its premedical graduates upon the completion of the medical course. In the period under discussion this was the first and only use made of the new academic powers authorized under the new articles, the reason being that the General Conference was unwilling to authorize any upward expansion of the college during the uncertain and unsettled war period, recommending instead, that for the duration the status quo should be retained, the question of upward expansion to be reopened for consideration when circumstances and the growth of the college warranted it.





V

THE TWENTIETH YEAR: A CHRONOLOGY

SEPTEMBER

Fifth: La Sierra moved into the new cafeteria; the faculty held its first meeting in which the members drew a blue-print of the year 1941-42 and reviewed objectives. Eighth: Freshmen Day with college entrance tests; beginning of the two-day registration. Tenth: Instruction began under the thirty-four teachers. Thirteenth: The opening faculty-student reception in Hole Memorial. Twenty-second: Harvest Ingathering field day, goal \$600, raised \$1,300. Twenty-fourth: Associated Student Body election—William Taylor, president, Royal Sage, editor-in-chief of the Criterion. Twenty-eighth: Election of members of the faculty-student council. Enrollment at the end of September, 386 in the college, 165 in the preparatory school.

OCTOBER

Third: Beginning of seventeen-day Criterion subscription drive which netted 2,230, of which the women students were credited with 1206 and the men with 1006. Fifteenth: The first faculty dinner in the banquet room of the new cafeteria building. Seventeenth: The first Criterion of the year, Number 1 of Volume 13, came off the press. Nineteenth: The Missionary Volunteer Society organized into working bands; the faculty organized for bi-weekly meetings. Twentieth: Criterion campaign field day; end-of-campaign rally in College Hall. Twenty-third: Criterion picnic in the mountains for the successful campaigners. Thirty-first: The International Rela-

tions Club attended the annual conference at the University of Redlands. The college scholastic program went on as usual. Enrollment at the end of October, 571, of which 401 were of collegiate grade, and 170 were in the preparatory school.

NOVEMBER

Third: Beginning of mid-semester examinations for the college. Tenth: Opening of the Fall Week of Prayer, Elder E. W. Dunbar (Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Pacific Union Conference) for the college, and for the preparatory school, Professor L. R. Rasmussen (Educational Secretary of the Southeastern California Conference.) Eleventh: Fifty La Sierra medical cadets marched in the mile-long Armistice Day parade in Riverside. Eighteenth: The Girls' Forum entertained the men of M. B. K. with a banquet and program. Nineteenth: Thanksgiving recess, to the twenty-fourth. Twenty-third: Opening of the three-day convention of elementary school teachers from Southern California and Arizona, in the college chapel. Twenty-fourth: Beginning of the Week of Sacrifice in the college which netted \$1375.07. Twentyfifth: The five "White Hussars" presented the first Lyceum program of the season.

DECEMBER

Sixth: The "China Day" program and picture exhibit of Herbert C. White. Seventh: The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and started the great Pacific war. Eighth: Opening of Good Form Week; the first radio blackouts took the male glee club off the air and out of the KPRO "Paradise Carolers" contest of choirs; the United States declared war on Japan; school went on as usual. Sixteenth: Pianist Solito de Solis appeared in the second Lyceum of the season. Seventeenth: Opening of the

Music Week sponsored by the college Conservatory of Music. *Eighteenth*: Beginning of the six-days-a-week La Sierra broadcast by leased wire over KPRO, from "The Chapel of the Chimes," to a potential audience of three million listeners. *Twenty-first*: Biennial Father-Son banquet with Doctor E. C. Ehlers of the College of Medical Evangelists as guest speaker. *Twenty-third*: Opening of the winter vacation, to January 2. "La Sierra taken over by the army," a rumor with absolutely no foundation.

JANUARY

Ninth: Student colporteurs organized for study and future work. Fourteenth: The Criterion announced the plans of the college to take charge of the community organization for civilian defense; the plans included first aid and Red Cross classes, a fifty-bed casualty station in College Hall, and the organization of the 124 members of the Medical Cadet Corps for emergency work. Twenty-first: First semester examinations, continued to the 23rd. Twenty-fifth: Registration for the second semester, which opened on the twenty-sixth.

FEBRUARY

Seventh: The A Cappella Choir was heard on the coast-to-coast Voice of Prophecy broadcast. Fifteenth: The faculty banquet in honor of the silver anniversary of the marriage of President and Mrs. Cossentine. Seventeenth: The snow picnic of the preparatory school at Lake Arrowhead and Camp Bluejay. Twenty-third: The preparatory school all-girl senior class organized, with Glyndon Lorenz as president. Twenty-fourth: Organization of the college senior class, with Earl Landis as president. Twenty-fifth: The annual college snow picnic at Big Pines.

MARCH

Second: Biennial meeting of the constituency of La Sierra College. Fourth: The fifth annual homecoming for the 1942 seniors of the College of Medical Evangelists who had taken their premedical work at La Sierra-fifteen in number. Seventh: The first student baptism of the year in College Hall. Eighth: The administration launched an accelerated war-time program, with two six-weeks summer school sessions. Eleventh: The annual College Day when La Sierra was host to 160 seniors from nearby academies; the college seniors breakfasted in Fairmont Park in Riverside. Seventeenth: The Sheriff's Boys Band, from Los Angeles, appeared in the third Lyceum and broadcast from the chapel on the college time. *Eighteenth*: The Criterion announced that students of the college were conducting evangelistic meetings in the La Sierra Community Hall and at Murrieta Hot Springs. Twentysecond: Opening of the Photography Club salon, in the college chapel, exhibiting prize work of the members.

APRIL

Third: Opening of the Spring Week of Prayer, with Elder A. H. Johns (of the College of Medical Evangelists) for the college, and for the preparatory school Elder W. C. Loveless (Missionary Volunteer Secretary of the Southern California Conference.) Fourth: Francis R. Line presented "The Circle of Fire," a motion picture and lecture on the Pacific Area, for the fourth Lyceum program. Eleventh: The Girls' Forum presented "Dawn to Dusk," the story of a girl's life. Thirteenth: The Medical Cadet Corps in realistic military tactical maneuvers in Norwalk Valley. Nineteenth: The men of M. B. K. opened their "Hobby Week." Twenty-first: The senior picnic of the preparatory school. Twenty-fourth: The Moss Medical Aptitude test was given to all candidates for entrance to the medi-

cal college. Twenty-fifth-Twenty-sixth: First A Cappella Choir tour of the spring season, to four Los Angeles churches. Twenty-seventh: The annual homecoming of senior student nurses whose prenursing work had been taken at La Sierra, with twenty-two attending. Twenty-ninth: The college senior picnic at Balboa Beach. Total enrollment, 712, with 214 in the preparatory school and 498 in the college.

MAY

Third: The annual Associated Student Body banquet in the spirit of Old Mexico, in the main dining room. Seventh: The preparatory school was host to the eighth graders from nearby schools in the annual open house. Ninth: The speech department presented a Mothers' Day program in the chapel and over KPRO. Tenth: The annual alumni homecoming, with Doctor Winston Nethery, Class of '27, and newly returned from the Far East, as guest speaker; John McWhinny was elected alumni president for 1942-43. Fifteenth: Nine students participated in a master comrade investiture. Seventeenth: Combined campus choirs, with student soloists, presented "The Rosemaiden" in the chapel. Twenty-first: Professor L. R. Rasmussen was elected president of La Sierra College, succeeding E. E. Cossentine, whose resignation in favor of Union College, had been announced in chapel on the eleventh. Twenty-third: The last baptism of the school year. Twenty-fifth: The Japanese students left for the induction center at Parker, Arizona. Twentysixth: The eighth grade graduation in the college chapel, fourteen children from the teacher training school participating. Twenty-seventh: The new college bulletins for 1942-43 came from the Collegiate Press; the semester examinations began; (school had been going on as usual.) Twenty-ninth: Senior Consecration service in the college

chapel was begun with the stately traditional march, the robed seniors singing "Lead on, Oh King Eternal;" Doctor E. C. Ehlers preached the sermon. *Thirtieth*: Doctor W. G. Wirth preached the Baccalaureate sermon in College Hall; in the evening the college orchestra presented its final concert. *Thirty-first*: Before an audience of more than 1200, Elder F. C. Carrier delivered the commencement address in College Hall to sixty-six seniors (forty-five from the college, twenty-one from the preparatory school;) fifteen Bachelor of Science degrees were conferred *in absentia* upon La Sierra alumni who had completed the medical course.

