



“We look to the future with great hope”

HUNTER'S 94TH BIRTHDAY

Ursula Mahoney '54

The ninety-fourth anniversary of the College established a landmark in Alumni history as fourteen hundred graduates gathered to celebrate the occasion on February 15, at the annual luncheon held at the Americana Hotel. It was the largest assemblage to date for a birthday luncheon.

Festivities got under way as early as eleven, as members of the twelve milestone classes arrived for their reunions in the special reception rooms reserved for them. A general reception for all Alumni was held at noon, preceding the luncheon.

Conversation at the various class receptions followed a certain pattern, whether the year was 1904 or 1954. Time certainly had gone by quickly. People had gotten fatter or thinner, had gone gray or had dyed, had had children and/or grandchildren or else, hopefully, had interesting jobs in the big exciting business world that in college days seemed the place to conquer. As for Fame, some had achieved it. Few certainly had sung it, at least not of late.

After the luncheon — a pleasure to the palate — had been served, Anna Trinsey greeted the guests and im-

mediately raised the issue of most concern to those present — the continuance of free tuition to the public colleges. “Our education at Hunter has shaped our lives,” she said. “We remember that we could not have gone to college had it not been for free tuition. We have a debt to pay in terms of service and support.”

Urging those present to continue their participation in Alumni affairs, she mentioned that two thousand additional active members had come into the Association in the last year, and that with continued growth the Alumni Million Dollar Goal for the 1970 centenary celebration could become a reality. “We look to the future with great hope,” she said.

President John Meng, the next speaker, greeted Anna Trinsey's mention of the million dollar fund with enthusiasm, “I hope the future comes soon.”

Turning then to the present, President Meng launched into a sharp rebuttal against remarks made by President James M. Hester of NYU at a Long Island University Scholarship Fund Dinner on February 5. Dr. Hester had then charged that City and State Universities were often irresponsible in planning or beginning

new programs or facilities with regard to their effect on private institutions.

President Meng, answering these remarks, charged that Dr. Hester had spoken “with more heat than light, with more emotion than logic.” If the chairman of the Board were to unseal my lips,” he said, “I could tell you of two specific instances when the Board of Higher Education abandoned ideal sites for new university facilities for one reason and one reason only — that use of those sites might prove inconvenient for local private institutions.”

Citing evidence of further cooperation between the public and private institutions, President Meng mentioned that some new study programs had been deferred or abandoned because of conflicts with the legitimate interests of private universities.

Putting his finger on the hitherto unspoken sore point of the free tuition fight — the fear of private colleges that any expansion by a public institution will cut into their financial preserve — President Meng raised strong objections to Dr. Hester's call for tuition charges. Dr. Hester had said that “when the Regents' recommendation for tuition charges in the City University is accepted, the whole complex of higher education institutions in New York will become more rational and productive.”

President Meng contended that “the productiveness of a higher educational institution is properly measured by the number and quality of its graduates.”

“Tuition charges,” he continued, “would not, in my estimation, provide this kind of productivity. Evidently the kind of productivity to which Dr. Hester referred is financial productiveness — for private institutions of course.”

President Meng also saw no reason for any objection to the plans of the City University to admit five thousand additional freshmen next September. “I would like to know whether New York University is prepared to admit its normal percentage of New York City high school graduates,” he said. With the literally thousands of eligible students seeking entrance to college, no university prepared to admit them need worry about getting enough students, he suggested.

“It is a disservice to the cause of higher education to suggest a dichotomy between public and private institutions that does not exist,” President Meng said. “There are differences, of course, but I like to think there is competition in terms of quality.”

President Meng was followed by Dr. Albert Bowker, chancellor of the City University, who expressed his good wishes and greetings to the Alumni and pledged to wear his Free Tuition button to the next NYU Alumni meeting.

A fine program was then presented by the College Choir under Professor Ralph Hunter's direction.

Traditional greetings and announcements of gifts from the milestone classes and other groups followed.

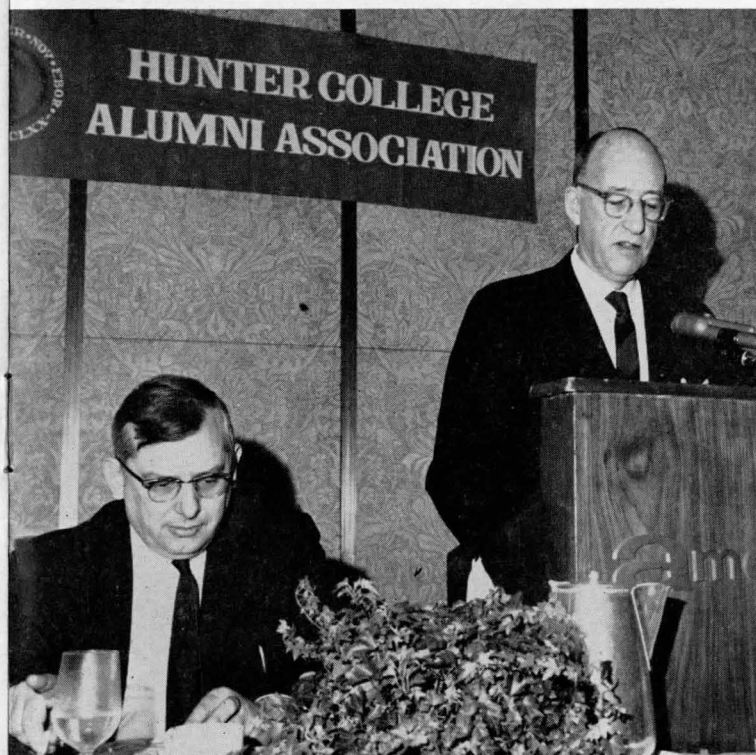
The representative of the Class of 1904, Anita Paschkes, recalled the days of the old ivy-covered College when the girls had known President Hunter. “Who among us can forget our annual Christmas play,” she asked, “or the basketball team, or the attractive seniors promenading the corridors with their ‘ducks?’”

Esther Cohen, speaking for the Golden Anniversary Class of 1914, a class proud to claim the late Marie Gallagher as a member, recalled the nine to two college day, the small classes, and the privilege of using the elevator in the “new” building even if students were only allowed to use it going up.

Shirley Graf, speaking for the Silver Anniversary Class of 1939, spoke of the pride of achievement in class members and mentioned that the class had a common problem of arithmetic. “Can so many years have elapsed since we graduated from college?” She was answered by a loud “no” from her classmates.

Betty Fox spoke for the Tenth Anniversary Class of 1954, mentioning the death of Dorothy Davis, in whose name the class has a scholarship.

Catherine O'Hara, chairman of the Alumni Scholarship and Welfare Fund, then awarded citations to those who had established permanent scholarships and the afternoon came to a happy end with the singing of the *Ivy Leaf*, the Alumni song, words by Helen Gray Cone.



Dr. Albert H. Bowker and Dr. John J. Meng