



FOURTH IN A SERIES

Completed in 1966, the Engineering Center was a controversial departure from the familiar Klauder building design. At left in this composite photo by Casey A. Cass is how the building appears today. At right is the barren look it presented in the late '60s. The parking lot has been replaced by unique learning laboratories.

— FAC — parties at the Sink or Tulagi (the Tule) on University Hill.

Fraternity and sorority couples went steady and then got pinned before they became engaged. Those with cars spent more than a few of their evenings parked on Flagstaff Mountain. Wedding bells blended with *Pomp and Circumstance* as couples left college together.

Meanwhile, alumni made the headlines. In 1962, Scott Carpenter (Aero'49, HonDocSci'00) distinguished himself as the second American to orbit Earth, while Byron White (A&S'38, HonDocLaw'63) was appointed U.S. Supreme Court Justice by President John F. Kennedy.

Before Newton left his six-year term he stated, "We are in the midst of the

CU alumni celebrate 125 years: 1957-1981

By Silvia Pettem

When the University of Colorado started its academic year in September 1957, nearly 3,000 freshmen stepped into a new world. Former President Ward Darley (A&S'26, MD'29) called the increase in enrollment the "rising tide." CU administrators were concerned about state financial support while new students were more worried about hazing by sophomores.

The freshmen were told to always wear their green beanies and to never walk on the grass. Etched in their minds and in stone over the main entrance of Norlin Library were the words, "Who knows only his own generation remains always a child." During centennial celebrations in 1976, the University would take a look at its past, but first it had to struggle



1958
Student Marilyn Van Derbur (A&S'60) becomes Miss America.

through the social and political upheaval of the times.

Tradition and transition

Former Denver Mayor Quigg Newton took the helm in 1957, then steered his presidential administration through six years of transition. Every year Newton and the regents would request an increase in state funding and every year it was never enough. With resulting increases in tuition, Newton attracted nationally known educators by doubling salaries from \$9,000 to \$18,000 per year.

Dignitaries also broke ground for CU's new Fleming Law Building, replacing the structure on the Quad gifted nearly a half-century earlier by Sen. Simon Guggenheim. In addition, the emerging Engineering Center promised to be among the best in the country despite its controversial architecture.

More changes appeared on the horizon but campus social life was still

rooted in tradition. Freshmen who didn't toe the line were tried and punished in moot court carried out by Phi Epsilon and Spur, the sophomore honoraries.

Girl-watching was a popular male activity and the sidewalk in front of Hellems was known as "eyeball alley." The university was proud of sophomore Marilyn Van Derbur (A&S'60), crowned Miss America for the year 1958. Her duties included world travel, but she made room in her schedule to return to Boulder for homecoming.

Students met for coffee in the University Memorial Center's Indian Grill and on the Tower Terrace on the roof. The student center was also the place to bowl, play ping pong and watch television. The legal drinking age was 18 for 3.2 percent beer, which was all that was allowed within Boulder city limits. Students toasted the week's end at Friday Afternoon Club



transition from a good university to a great university. I do not take credit for this. I just happen to be president at this tense stage of the evolutionary cycle."

Changin' times

Joseph Smiley became president in 1963. Boulder was a small quiet town but it changed with the rest of the country following the Rev. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech to civil-rights demonstrators in Washington, D.C., and

1957
Coach Dal Ward led the Buffs to their first appearance in the Orange Bowl, defeating Clemson 27-21. Ward was fired in 1958 after 11 seasons, despite a 63-41-6 record.

1958
Student Marilyn Van Derbur (A&S'60) becomes Miss America.

1959
The ski team under coach Bob Beattie wins CU's first national championship in any sport.

1961
An innovative partnership between CU and the National Bureau of Standards establishes the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics.

1962
Astronaut Scott Carpenter (Aero'49, HonDocSci'00) becomes the second American to orbit the Earth.



A few credits short, Scott Carpenter, left, received his bachelor's degree from CU President Quigg Newton in June 1962, just months after the astronaut's Earth orbits.

1963
Joseph Smiley succeeds Quigg Newton as president and helps calm the political tensions of the early 1960s.

1963
The first group of CU students sails for Bordeaux University in France laying the groundwork for Study Abroad programs.

1964
All campus student organizations finally comply with the regent's 1956 ban on discrimination.

the gunning down of President Kennedy in Dallas. As the Vietnam War heated up, singer Bob Dylan explained the social climate in his *The Times They Are A-Changin'*.

Dylan was right. By the late-1960s the "Age of Aquarius" contrasted sharply with the post-World War II era. Men's hair grew longer, and clothes became more casual. Harvard professor Timothy Leary told young people to "turn on, tune in and drop out," and some of them did. In 1967 Boulder voters repealed the city's liquor laws, allowing regular wine, beer and liquor to be sold (to those over 21) within city limits for the first time in six decades. For those between 18 and 21, 3.2 beer was still available at the Sink and Tulagi.

While the Vietnam War dragged on,

Burgers, beer and conversation have made the Sink a haven for students for decades. The popular spot underwent several changes after selling 3.2 beer to those 18 and older was outlawed during the Reagan administration. But it's back to its famous look and great burgers today. You just have to be 21 to enjoy a beer.

large groups of students began to congregate around the President's House, the Smiley family's living quarters.

The old campus building had been a quiet retreat for previous presidents since construction in 1884. When the campus became disruptive, alumnus Sam Koenig (ElEngr'13) surprised the university with a gift large enough to purchase the president an off-campus house. In 1968 the original President's House was remodeled into the Koenig Alumni Center, home of the CU Alumni Association.

Smiley, as did Newton, resigned following disagreements with the regents.

In 1969 Eugene Wilson filled in as interim president. Later that same year, during continuing student unrest, Frederick Thieme took over as CU's 11th president. In his inaugural address, he predicted his new job would be like "taking a ticket for a trip on the *Titanic*."

In May 1970 four students in a Vietnam War demonstration at Ohio's Kent State University were shot and killed by National Guardsmen. Boulder's students then voted to strike and close down CU. Other anti-Vietnam War actions included a sit-in at Regent Hall and the bombing of the Air Force ROTC office. While voluntary, most professors cancelled finals after and estimated 10,000 protesters filled the Norlin Quad.

The student marches had been peaceful but a riot the following May grew out of an angry mob that resented Boulder police presence on University Hill. Another riot, in May 1972, began in response to President Richard Nixon's blockade of North Vietnam and the mining of Haiphong Harbor. Anti-war demonstrators, including many students, forcefully blockaded U.S. 36 at the Baseline Road overpass. As the day wore on, part of the crowd marched through the streets of downtown Boulder. In pre-pedestrian mall days, the protestors sat down in the middle of the 1200 block of Pearl Street. "Beat" poet Allen Ginsberg was part of the group, urging everyone to remain calm.

Student unrest plagued the rest of Thieme's administration. In a secret ballot in 1973, faculty and staff gave him a vote of "no confidence." In his response, Thieme stated that he was only guilty of

CU ALUMNI PHOTO



1968

The Trivia Bowl, an annual quiz competition to crown the champions of pop culture knowledge, begins a tradition that spans more than two decades.

1969

Frederick Thieme is selected as president with the improbable expectation that he will subdue student activism.

1972

Passage of Title IX federal legislation opens the door to intercollegiate athletic participation for women. CU creates seven varsity women's teams before the end of the decade.

1974

Engineering professor and campus administrator Roland Rautenstrauss (CivEngr'46, MS'49) becomes CU's 12th president in the course of 50 years of service to his beloved alma mater.

1977

Biology professor Keith Porter receives the National Medal of Science for his pioneering work in cell biology.



MICHAEL MEADOWS PHOTO

Likening his job to a trip on the *Titanic*, President Fred Thieme tries to calm the estimated 10,000 students and others who clamored for a strike in protest of the Vietnam War and the Kent State killings in May 1970.

"being president." Of those who voted he added, "These are difficult times, and I share their concern for problems. But it's a national phenomenon, not just Boulder."

Acknowledging the past

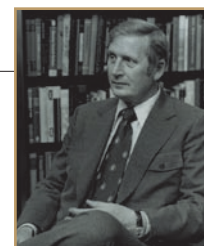
Thieme was fired by the Regents in 1974 and replaced with Roland Rautenstrauss (CivEngr'46, MS'49), a tenured professor of civil engineering. The war in Vietnam was almost over. Incoming students of the mid-1970s formed a new identity rather than a return to the traditions of their parents' generation.

In 1976 the large bay window of Norlin Library was enclosed, and a new main entrance was added to the east side. Fewer students entered the building from the west, and most seemed to ignore the engraved inscription. No longer were freshmen quizzed by sophomores but a knowledge of the past was still important on campus. To mark the occasion of CU's centennial, administrators in 1976

rededicated Old Main and re-enacted the University's 1877 opening gala.

As part of the celebration Rautenstrauss toured the state, boasting of the university's accomplishments and his commitment to "continue to fight to prevent the erosion of the excellence of CU." As previous presidents had learned before him, it was a big job. Three years later he resigned, citing "weariness" and went back to the classroom. Of Rautenstrauss' administration, Regent Jack Anderson (PolSci'52, Law'54) stated, "This man has done everything that was ever asked of him . . . It's been a heck of a good five years." 🐾

This is the fourth in a five-part series on CU and the Alumni Association in commemoration of the association's founding by the university's first graduates on June 9, 1882. Silvia Pettem (A&S'69) is a Boulder historian who writes frequently for the Coloradan and the Boulder Daily Camera.



Roland Rautenstrauss in 1973.

1966

Ralphie, a six-month-old buffalo calf, begins her reign as CU's mascot.



Ralphie I in 1968.

1967

CU is admitted to the prestigious American Association of Universities, placing it among the ranks of top research institutions.

Timeline by Kay Oltmans, director of the CU Heritage Center.