

Change trip it's been "

still holds on to much of its history



on the lawn of the Glenhill Farmhouse on Oct. 30, Behrend Center. "My husband always had time to talk to the best of his ability," she said. "No matter how busy I was, I would try to listen to the problems young people would bring

spurt began in 1953 when Eric Hall was erected. The addition of the gymnasium, organized and funded through a community-sponsored campaign, provided a regulation basketball floor, a stage, locker rooms and showers, a recreation room, and several small offices.

With a new auditorium, the Center's athletic department formalized, resulting in regular basketball, baseball and soccer seasons. Since initial team members competed without the financial support of the College of Physical Education, students were charged annual activity fees of \$15. The money accumulated from these fees financed all sports, as well as the Center's clubs, dances and publications.

"I've always looked at Behrend's students as agents of change," he explains. "Some of the early student representatives didn't say much, but they were there -- they were getting involved, and that's what counted."

Some may argue that student involvement has actually decreased throughout the years. Few of today's students can picture themselves donating an afternoon to clean the bottom of the Behrend pool, one of many clean-up efforts the student body undertook during "Work Day." The event, held each spring during the Center's early years, found classes cancelled and students combing the campus on

organized cleaning patrols.

The campus continued to grow, however, and much of this campus unity dissipated during the transition.

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By 1959, the University had established its commonwealth campus system, and Behrend became a branch campus. The Campus' enrollment had doubled, and administrators began looking toward a bigger picture.

This period led to the construction of two buildings that would completely shift the focus of the campus: the Otto F. Behrend Science Building (named after Ernst Behrend's brother) in 1962, and the J. Elmer Reed Building (named after the head of the College's development committee) in 1968.

"The science building truly was the watershed of development for Behrend," Lane recalls. "We finally found ourselves with adequate classroom space and advanced resources for the sciences."

The use of the Reed Building, however, was less defined. The area that currently serves as the library was originally intended for use as a ballroom.

"Fancy balls were quite popular at the time," Lane explains. "But eventually, it just made sense to use the space to invest in a larger library."

"The construction of the Reed Building, and of the first residence halls, really did transform the University."

The first residence halls, Perry and Niagara, were dedicated in November of 1969, providing adequate housing for the campus' still-growing student body.

Behrend entered the 1970's with yet another new structure, the Nick Building. By this time, enrollment had topped the 1,200 mark, and the campus accepted its first junior class. In June of 1971, the College graduated its first three baccalaureate students, two of which had completed all their course work at the Behrend Campus.

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On January 20, 1973, the University's Board of Trustees decided to rename the campus Behrend College.

Lawrence Hall and a new resident cafeteria, Dobbins Hall, had been added two years earlier, and the campus map came much closer to its current view.

Student apartments and the Hammermill/Zurn Building followed in 1984, ending the next phase of the College's development.

But change is inevitable. As students returned to campus this fall, they were met with new access roads, stairwells and parking lots. Some students unpacked their bags in new resident suites. Discussions range from the much-delayed library groundbreaking to the future use of campus land near Kanty Prep and the Mack house.

While the future of these projects, as well as the future of the College, is unpredictable, Ben Lane is sure of one factor -- Mary Behrend would be impressed.

"She'd be euphoric," he says. "This is by far the most beautiful campus in the entire branch campus system."

"In fact, this is one of few institutions where the dream of one person was so strikingly fulfilled."



Greg Geibel/The Collegian



ted at Behrend's
s of change."

-Ben Lane
Associate Professor
Emeritus of English