

# Riley-Robb Hall at Cornell University

Celebrating Its Opening

edited by  
J. Robert Cooke and Ronald B. Furry



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## Preface

In the fall of 1953, 46 years after the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell was founded (in 1907) as the Division of Rural Engineering and Architecture, ground was broken for what would become its own home, Riley-Robb Hall, named after its founding fathers, Howard W. Riley and Byron B. Robb. The building was dedicated on October 6, 1954, and in 1956 the Agricultural Engineering Department, as it was then named, occupied its new 2 1/4 acre facility for teaching, research and extension. By Fall Semester 1957, 38 professorial and non-professorial staff, 6 graduate students and 12 office professionals were on the roster, as shown in the new directory of September 25, 1957 in the Appendix. Pictures of many of these individuals can be seen in the photographs included in this album.

The appendix contains a listing of this 1957 directory.







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# Credits

- Photographers — Unknown
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Part I

The Construction of  
Riley-Robb Hall



# Earth-moving

Oxley Polo Arena is  
in the background  
(also pre-Wilson Lab landscape)

September 1953





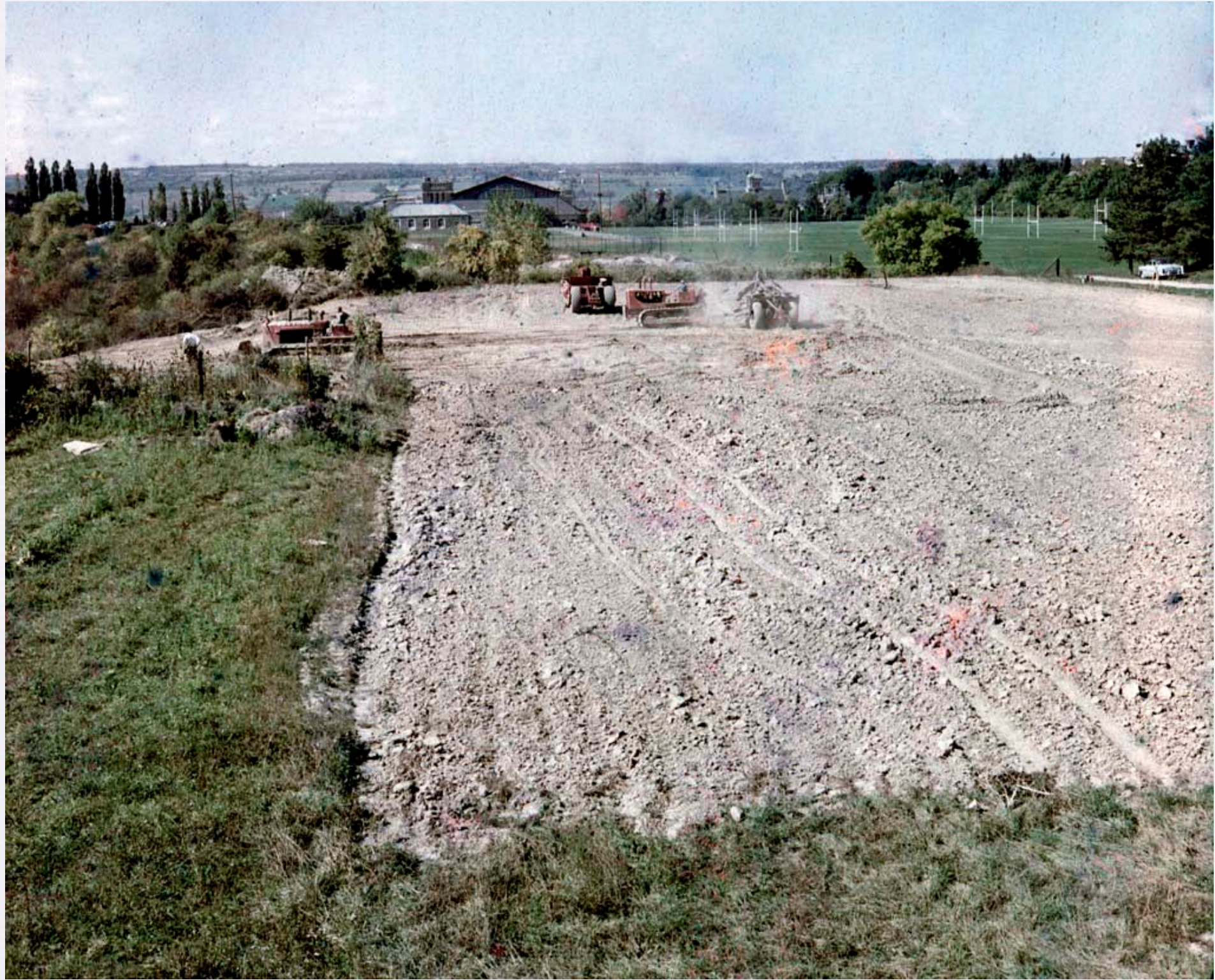


# Construction Site

with Barton Hall  
and Alumni Field  
in the background

September 1953







# Groundbreaking for Riley-Robb Hall

Fall 1953







The Gathering in 1953  
with the relocated 'temporary'  
buildings in the background  
(and these remain in use after 82 years!)







(enlarged left segment)





(Project Manager)

Ron Furry ?

Cy Terry ?

Georgia Robb ?

?

Burt Jennings



(enlarged middle segment)





Stan Shepardson   J.W. Spencer   Harold Gray (looking to left)  
 ?Bill Millier   ?   Cy Terry   Clesson Turner   Jane Martin  
 B.B. Robb (looking down)   J.E. Reyna   Doc Wright   Harold Clough   H. Riley



(enlarged right segment)





	?		?	Bill Larson		?	&	?
L.L. Boyd		Lila Boyd		?	Lucille Gunkel			
		holding Barbara			holding Gerry			
? Susan Boyd		?		Sharon Gunkel				
	?							



# Ceremonial groundbreaking with the Golden Shovel

Fall 1953







(enlarged left segment)





?	Jo Wilson	Gladys Loomis	?	J. E. Reyna
?	Clara Goodman		Georgia Robb	Delia Reyna



(enlarged middle segment)



Byron B. Robb  
and  
Howard W. Riley





(enlarged right segment)





Lu Gunkel

Sharon Gunkel

?Ginny Gray

?

Jim Spencer

L.L. Boyd

Lila Boyd  
holding Barbara

Susan Boyd



More of the group







(enlarged left segment)





Georgia Robb ?Clara Goodman & Jo Wilson ?

J.E. Reyna

B.B. Robb

B.A. Jennings



(enlarged right segment)





Sharon  
Gunkel

?

Clesson Turner   Harold & Virginia Gray

Jane Martin

Lannie & Lila (holding Barbara) Boyd  
Susan Boyd & ?Ginny Gray

Howard Riley (pointing)



# Orval French with dedicatory shovel

Judging Pavilion in background







Orval (second from left)  
in a serious briefing  
with project managers







Caterpillar and International (TD-24)  
bulldozers level the site.

Early Fall 1953







The foundation goes in

Late Fall 1953







Twin smokestacks, polo arena,  
Schoelkopf Stadium  
and snow cover





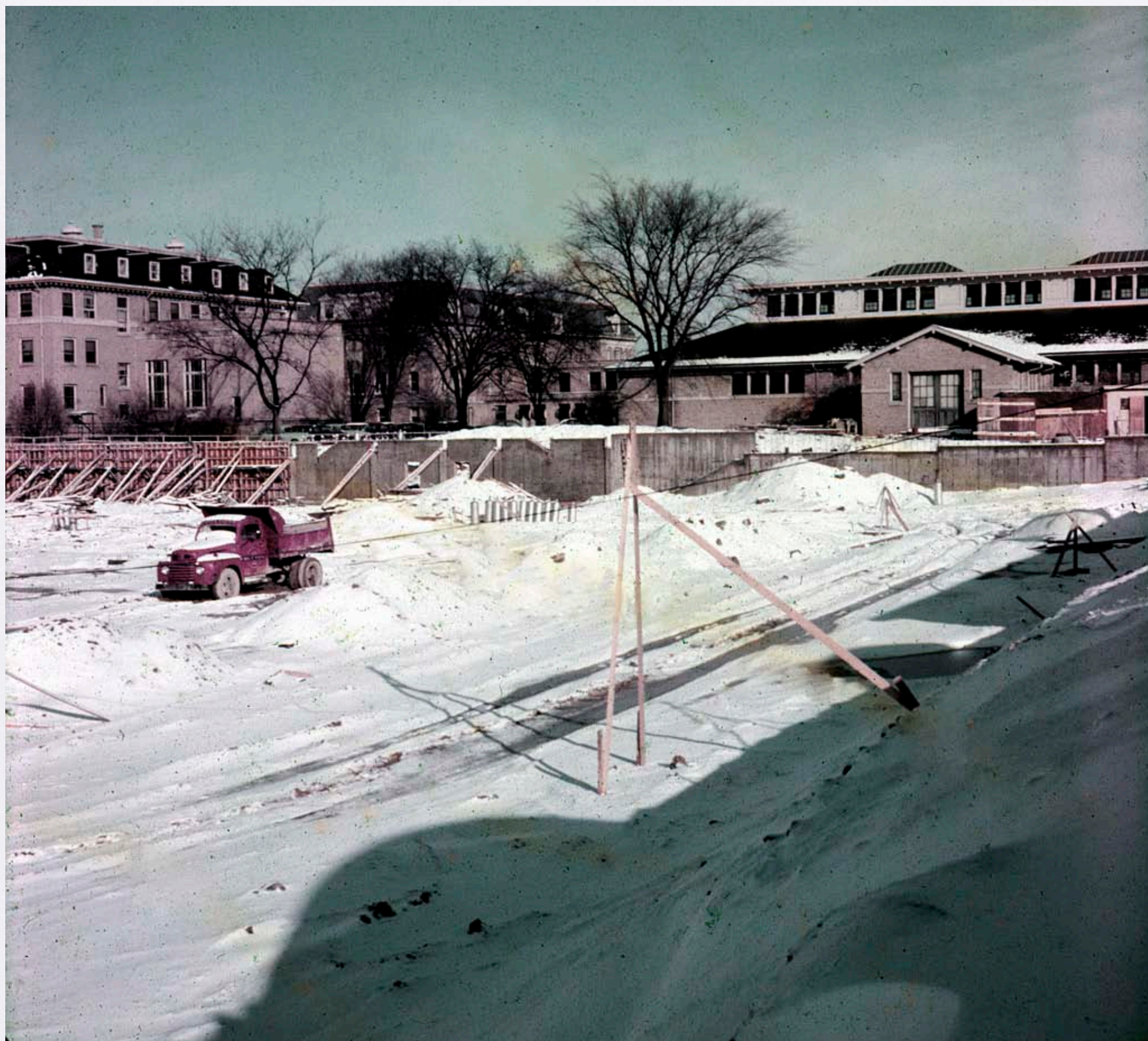


## Construction begins

Stocking Hall, Wing Hall and the  
Livestock Judging Pavilion  
are in the background

Winter 1953-1954







Earth-moving completed  
and the snow flies







The steel superstructure goes up.

And notice the mid-fifties car design.

Early Fall 1954



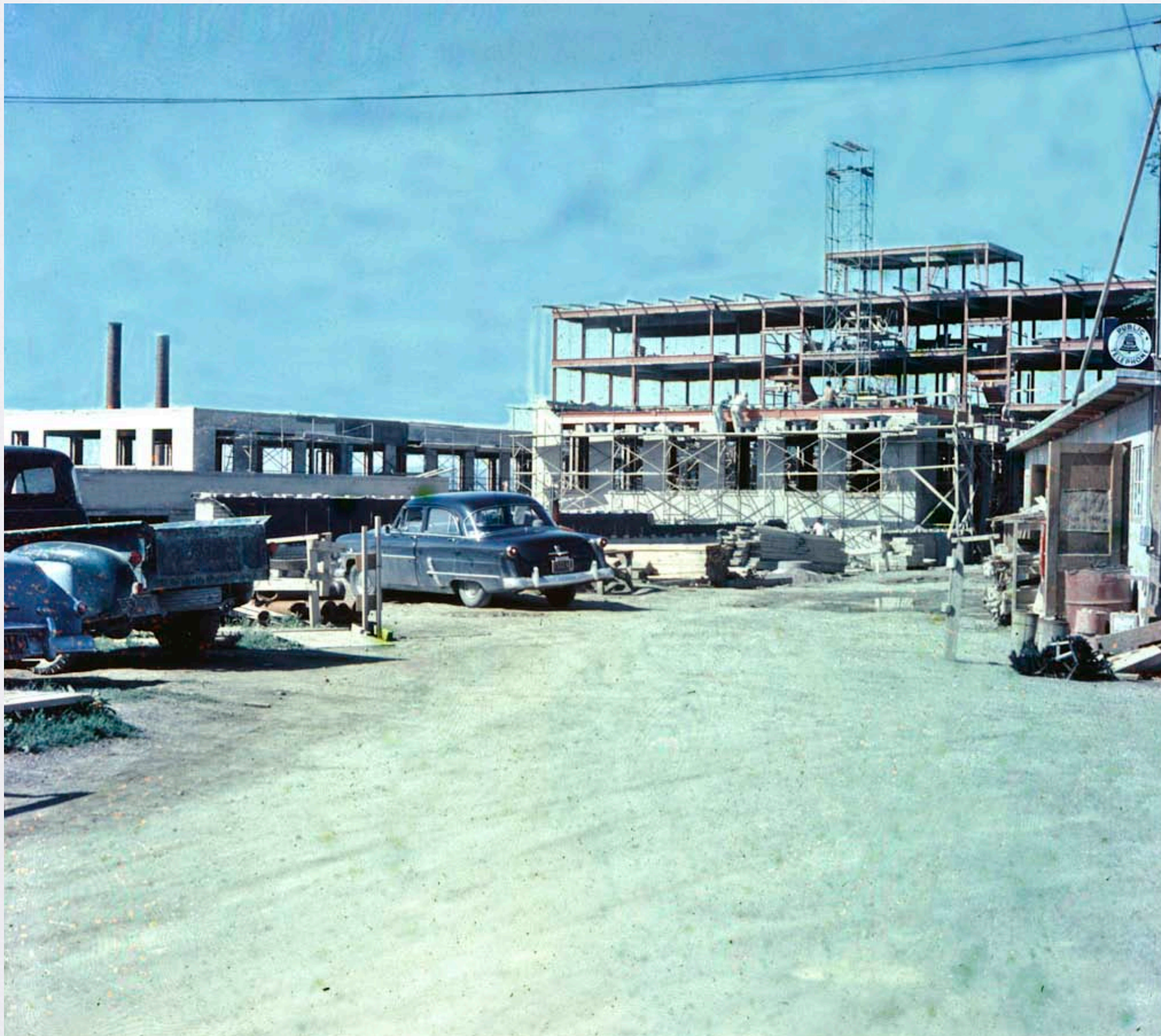




And up to the elevator penthouse

October 1954











Part 2

A Formal Dinner  
Celebration on  
March 3, 1956 in  
400 Riley-Robb Hall



Orval French and Forrest Wright  
perform carving honors







Helen French

Orval French  
(standing)

Pete & Jackie Knapp

Clesson &  
Elizabeth Turner

Minnie Roehl

Adda McCurdy

L.M. Roehl

J.C. McCurdy

Harvey Roehl

Delia Reyna

Prof. Goodman

Juan Reyna

Clara Goodman

Julia Riley

Georgia Robb

Howard Riley

B.B. Robb  
(vacated)

?







*(Reverse direction  
of previous photo)*

Orval French  
(seated)

?

Georgia Robb

Howard Riley

B.B. Robb

Julia Riley

Clara Goodman

Juan Reyna

"Goodie" Goodman

Delia Reyna

Harvey Roehl

J.C. McCurdy

L.M. Roehl

Adda McCurdy  
(vacated)

Minnie Roehl







L. William Larson and spouse  
(standing)

Juanito (Johnny) Ordoveza







Helen French

Norman Hurd

Burt Jennings (immediately adjacent to Hurd)

?

Elizabeth  
& Ed Foss

?

?

Hollis Davis

Harriet Davis

Mary Shepardson

Prof. E.S. Shepardson







Billie Wright

Lila Boyd

"Doc" Wright

?

Gil Levine

?







A.M. Goodman

Stan & Mary Shepardson

?

Pete Knapp

Jackie Knapp

Clesson Turner

Elizabeth Turner  
(facing camera)

?

?

(vacant)

?

vacant seat of Ron Furry

Anne Furry

Clayton Van Hout  
(with fork in mouth)

Wes Gunkel  
(standing)

Lu Gunkel







Carl Edwards  
(end of table)

Marie Layer  
(hand raised)

Cy Terry

Charles Robert Rochet  
(1st to right of cake)

E.D. Markwardt  
(2nd to right of cake)

L.M. & Minnie Roehl







Helen French  
(corner end of table)

Elizabeth & Ed Foss  
(door behind her)

Bill Millier

Harriett Davis

Mary Millier

Marie Layer

John Layer

Dorothy Spencer

Pat Ditmars

Chuck Ditmars

Olin Dart







Doc Wright (with pipe)  
in kitchen

B.B. Robb  
(with cane)











Part 3

A Gathering  
with Slide Show in  
400 Riley-Robb Hall



Lu Gunkel  
with Gerald  
(left of fireplace)

?

?

Jim Spencer, Jr.

Karen Spencer  
(blue)

?

Bill Millier, III

?

?







Helen & Orval French  
(back corner)

Paul Hoff  
(at projector)

Joan (red) &  
Bob Shelton

Carl & Olive  
Winkelblech  
(holding dau.  
Mary Ann)

Mary Millier  
(necklace)

Mary Ann  
Mitchell  
(light blue)

Jane Martin  
(dark blue)

Gordon Perry      Edith Perry  
   (and baby  
   holding bottle)

Anne Furry   Catherine Kellogg (hidden)   ?   Bob Kellogg

Millier dau.  
(leftmost at table)







Lannie Boyd (near drapes)

Stan Shepardson  
(standing)

Kate & Mr. Hurlbutt  
(dark blue dress)

Ev Markwardt  
Velma Markwardt

Mary Millier

Bill Millier  
(with pipe)

Bob Kellogg







Lila, child, Lannie Boyd  
(rightmost venetian blind)

Pete  
Knapp

Billie  
Wright

Paul Hoff  
(projectionist)

Roger  
Miller

Lu  
Gunkel

Elizabeth & Ed Foss  
(behind candle)

Joan & Bob Shelton

Orval French

?Sharon Gunkel  
(blue jumper with red tie)







Jim Spencer  
(standing)

Frank Dean  
(accordion player)

Lannie Boyd  
(facing right)

Dorothy Spencer  
(left of accordion)

Delia & Juan Reyna

Julia & Howard Riley  
(middle)









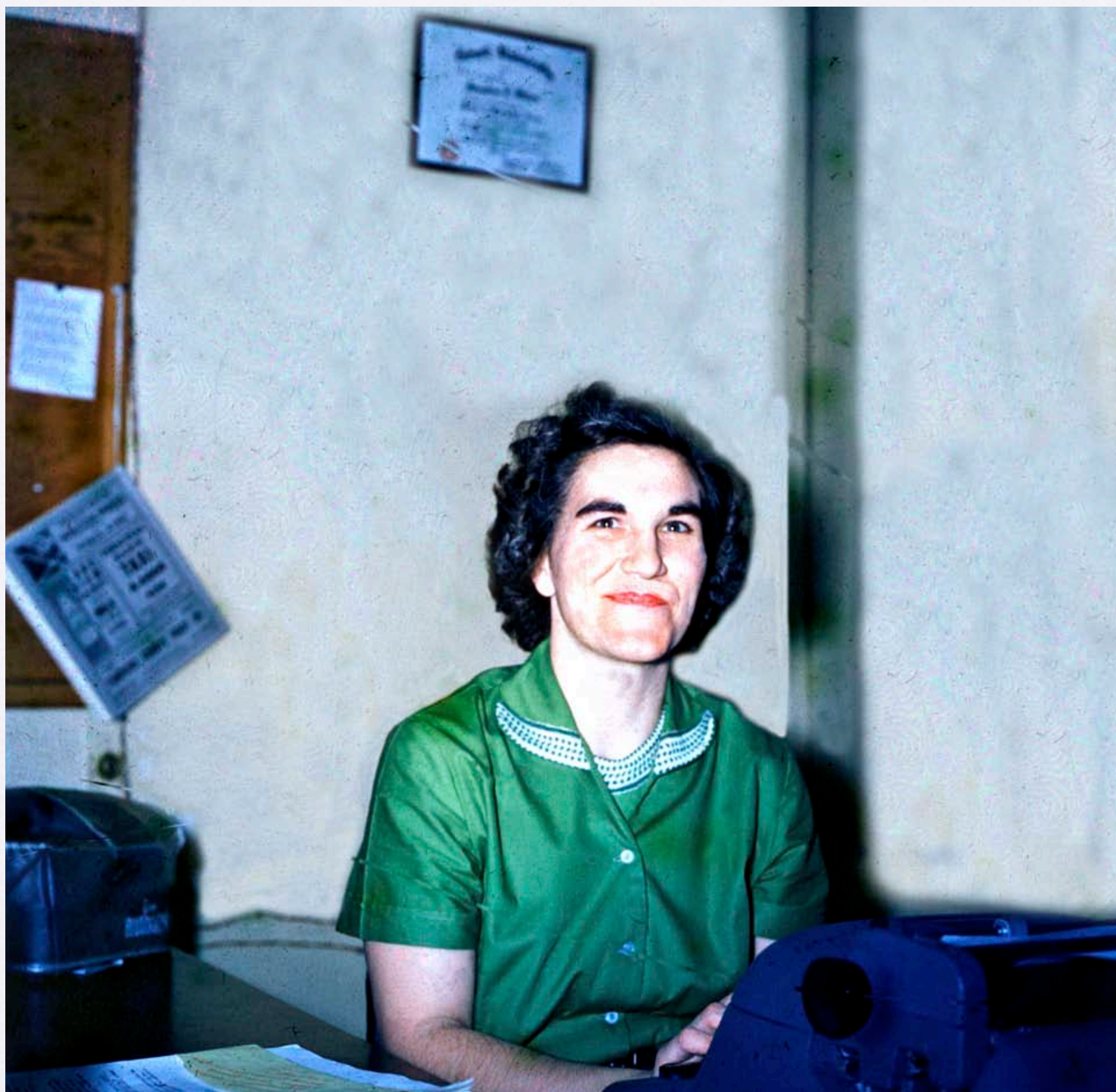


Part 4  
Photos of  
Individuals



Josephine Wilson







Mary Ann Mitchell







? and Joan Shelton







?

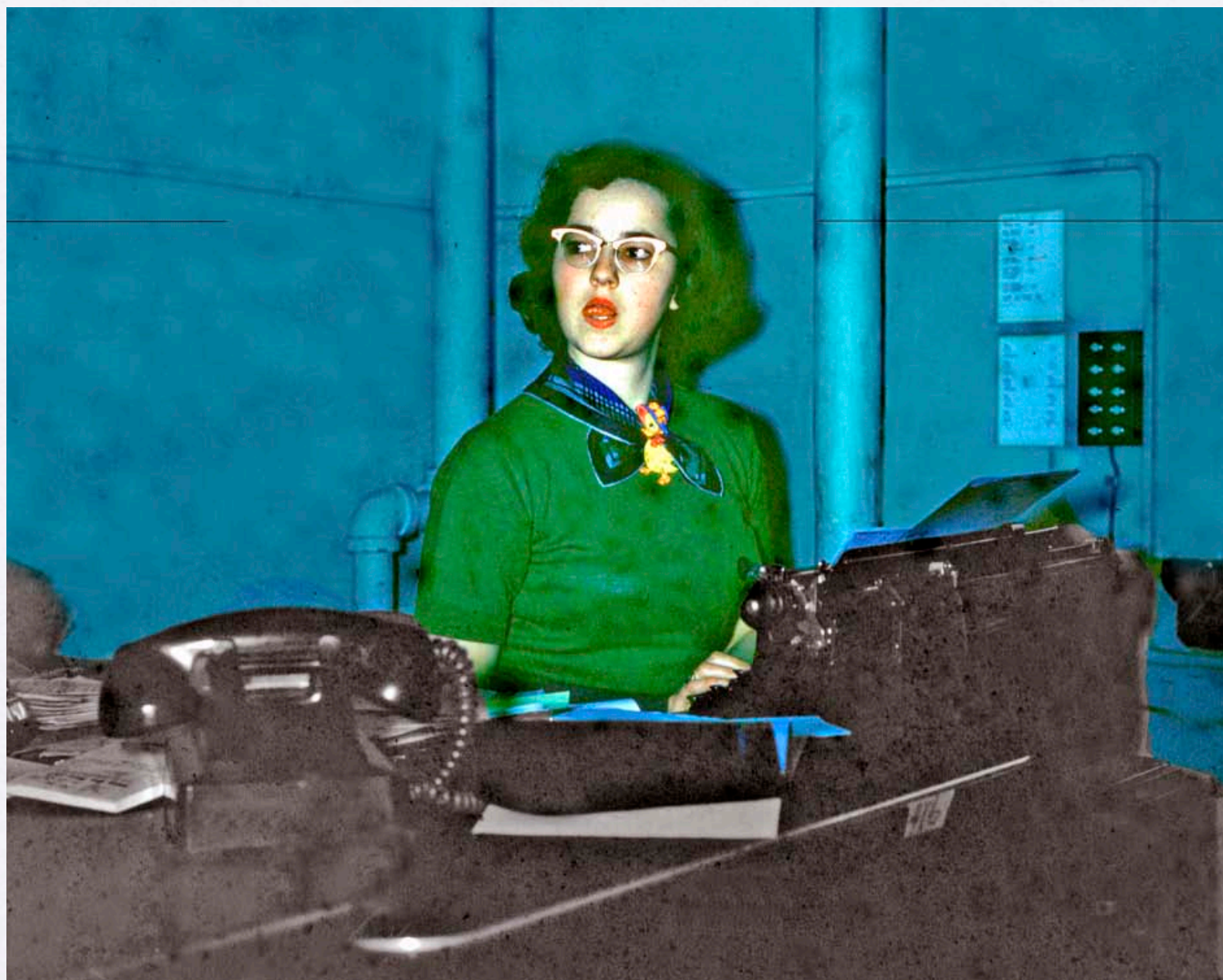






Joan Shelton







Clesson Turner







L. William Larson and son







A Row-Crop Mist-Concentrate Sprayer  
developed by Wes Gunkel (leftmost person)







## Appendix: Agricultural Engineering Department Room Directory

### September 25, 1957

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Winkelblech, Carl, 308  
Wright, F. B., 116

<sup>1</sup> On leave first term

<sup>2</sup> On leave until Dec. 15, 1957

<sup>3</sup> On leave until April 1, 1958



### **Graduate Students**

Bennett, G. Keith, 42  
Dirksen, David, 332  
Fenzl, Richard, 76  
Just, Jerome O., 416  
Merrell, Harold H., 61  
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DeChellis, Mrs. Lois, 304  
Diaz, Mrs. Virginia, 206  
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