

Arts Center drive short millions; 'U' turns to Hannah

When John Hannah was president of Michigan State during the growth years (1941-69), some 45 buildings were constructed on campus; many others were renovated and expanded.

"Watching Hannah used to scare me," recalled the late Jim Denison, assistant to the President. "He would announce that we would build such-and-such a building, and sometimes would even say who would build it before we'd even talked to the Legislature about funding."

Executive Vice President Jack Breslin remembers, too: "He would announce to the press that we're going to build, then he would expect me to go down and get it through the Legislature."

Although it's been nearly a decade since Hannah was President, Michigan State has called on the 76-year-old patriarch to insure construction of the proposed Performing Arts Center. Only this time he can't turn to his old friends Downtown.

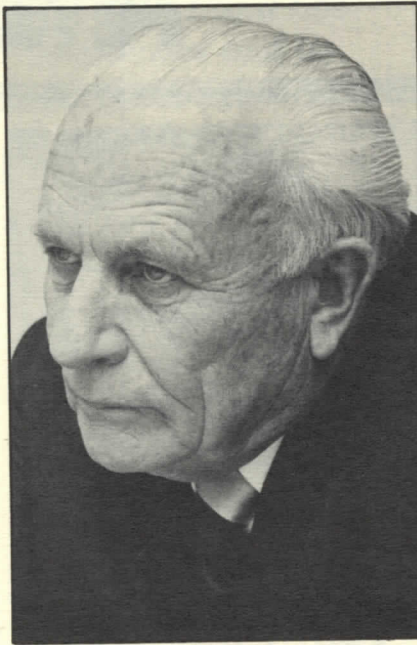
The Arts Center, whose impetus was provided by former President Wharton, must be built with private funds raised in the university's Capital Enrichment Campaign.

Wharton became chancellor of the State University of New York Jan. 1, after eight years at MSU. Even so, he's still keeping an eye on the project and this fall the MSU Board of Trustees authorized the transfer of \$96,000 in Wharton's corporate director's fees to the Arts Center account. Previously, Wharton donated \$30,000 in corporate board fees for construction of a huge outdoor sculpture for the Arts Center.

As of September, about \$7.8 million had been raised for the Arts Center which has been estimated to cost \$12.5 million. So when Hannah resigned from the United Nations Food Council in September and returned to his office at the university, he immediately began working with Les Scott, vice president of development, to finish the Arts Center campaign.

"We've got to get more money if the Performing Arts Center is going to get built," Hannah told the *State News*. "We've got to find a way of soliciting \$4 million more than now is in sight. I know it's not going to be easy."

No, it isn't. But then it wasn't easy in 1941 when John Hannah took over as president of Michigan State College with its 6,390 students. In 1969, Michigan State University had 44,274 students.



Hannah: "It won't be easy"

And, declared one MSU trustee, "The cement mixers ran for a month in his memory when he left."

John Hannah would like to start up one more cement mixer; it would be music to his ears — and what could be more appropriate for a performing arts center. ■

Renewed interest in campus route

After clamoring and protest from students and East Lansing residents, plans for a cross-campus highway were laid to rest in 1971. The rocky road-issue was revived this summer, however, as President Harden and East Lansing Mayor George Griffiths met to discuss possible solutions to traffic congestion on Grand River Avenue which now handles an estimated 33,000 to 34,000 cars daily.

Proposed designs for the cross-campus route place it just north of the Grand Trunk Railroad tracks across the campus as a continuation of Trowbridge Road from Harrison Road. Consideration would be given to exits at Bogue Street and Farm Lane for access to campus, to overhead crosswalks for pedestrian safety, to landscaping, and noise and pollution barriers.

Plans for an alternative east-west route across the MSU campus have existed since the late 1940's, so current talk may be, well, just talk. But, declares Harden, "I hope it happens. I don't see how we can continue to live in a compacted, impacted area without an alternative traffic route."

But, he assures, "Whatever we do will be in the best interests of the community." ■

Presidential search draws to a close

MSU Presidential Search and Selection Committee members hint that they may even beat their Dec. 1 deadline for recommending five presidential candidates to the Board of Trustees.

Over the last four months, the 18-member committee has narrowed the original field of 250 nominations to fifteen. According to Committee Chairman Robert Barker, information is being culled from all available sources to develop extensive dossiers on each candidate. And interviews are currently being conducted.

Nominees still under consideration have all had administrative experience, says Barker. "So one of the things we really look for is the administrative experience dealing with situations which are multifaceted, that would reflect the ability to keep ten balls in the air at the same time."

By the evaluation criteria established by the committee and approved by the Trustees, the candidates must also demonstrate a commitment to the land-grant philosophy and to equal opportunity and

affirmative action. They must have the ability to raise funds from public and private sources and to represent the university to government, interest groups and the university community itself. These latter two criteria, says John Bruff, one of two Trustees on the committee, "are the most essential for MSU at this point in our history."

The university community, as a whole, anxiously awaits the naming of a new, permanent president, as does President Edgar Harden, who remains as adamant as ever that he doesn't want the permanent job. Some concern has been expressed, however, that the trustees-elect, who will fill the seats vacated in January by Patricia Carrigan and Don Stevens, could be saddled with a president they had no role in selecting.

Trustee Bruff believes that the trustees-elect can be included in the deliberations although they cannot be given votes in the final selection of the new MSU president.

But, says Bruff, "No one is taking the position that the decision has to be made prior to Jan. 1. If we arrive at a person before Jan. 1, I'm sure we'll act. If not, we'll just have to wait." ■