Less Construction in Willard Administration. Local boarding house people opposed
dormitory construction. Personal benefit, fight for livlihood. Plans were to build
additional dorms on Nevada Street near Busey and Evans. Changed.

Several plans were used in planning the Illini Union. Mr Lavelle of Chicago planned
the Union interior. New addition.

Students loved the building. Miss Irene Pierson was social director. Dances, dress,
chaperons. Military Ball was too large and was held in Huff Gym.

Receptions after band concerts. Friday night affair was held in Womens' Building
before the Union was built. Mr. Willard felt graduation was for the parents.

The university was smaller. Reception now held in Union Baccalaureate has been
abolished.

Social events. Weekends, lectures, smokers.

Miss Ross' role in entertaining at the President's house. The President's house was the
faculty social center. Wives met for tea. Football luncheons. Faculty daughters used as
hostesses. May recognitions involved receptions. Leading students. Festive Sunday
afternoon (4-6) dress-up occasions. I supervised getting food, kitchen help, ladies who
helped, greeted people, floated, helped with traffic James, kept books, sought to include
as many people as we could. Used 10 or 12 girls each time. It was a social training.

I didn't pour coffee. I was a floater among 250 to 400 people. Faculty wives introduced
people. I separated old friends so they could meet new people. I knew many people,
but not well.

Some people came often, e.g. deans, department heads.

Small social group.

Many musicals. Seated 75 in the drawing room. Military Day reception for the
commander. Reception for the Baccalaureate and Commencement speakers.

House guests had family breakfast with us.

Willard's advisers included the deans. Dean Carmichael was a great scholar. Dean
Harno was provost. Mr. Janata was an assistant who ran the office, but was not an
academic adviser. Only the problem cases reached the President. Mr. Janata handled
correspondence. "I don't think Mr. Willard ever dictated a letter in his life. He said his
secretaries could write a better letter than he could. That's what they were trained for."

Delegation of authority built morale. They did not change letters he wrote.

The president gets the money from the legislature in Springfield. The president
reviewed budget. Mr. Janata was invaluable in Springfield. We found out what people
were thinking. He was a wonderful listener and had a marvelous memory. He wrote nice "no" letters.

386-419 Mr. Havens was young. Mr. Willard discussed plans for buildings. Mr. Willard was very conscious of the architectural features. The fine arts. He felt that this was particularly lacking in the Middle West. Standards of cleanliness.

420-442 Mr. Willard continued Georgian design. He would be unhappy with the present hodgepodge.

443-492 Mr. Willard was never impulsive. He encouraged dissent. Haves was one of the few who did argue with him. Senate handled academic matters. Some decisions were unpopular, especially the press. In retrospect, he felt that they were right. He did not play up advertising, press conferences and press releases. Afterwards, he thought he was a little tough on the press.


520-532 New buildings in the Willard administration.


586-618 Illini Union at the front door of the University. Willard accepted the accusation that it "was built for the country louts of Illinois." People were amazed at the Union. They tiptoed through. Businessmen feared competition. Bowling, pool, billiards. Union created a social organization. The old Illinois Union organization provided a start.

619-688 Airport dedication. Windy, cold day. Many planes flew in. Many speeches. One building was unfinished. Senator Lucas was very important in getting the airport. The CAA man and the governor were there. Legislators, trustees, band. Speakers. Opera singer from Chicago sang the National anthem.

689-705 President Willard was excited about flying, but was not a pilot.

707-741 Willard's attitude toward students. He would have liked to have continued traditions, but they were breaking down when he took over. One was not smoking on campus. Dr. Chase thought that was antiquated and it was abolished. As a result we had butts and stubs and matches all over campus. "That distressed him very much."

742-752 Homecoming. Hazing.

753-784 He didn't think Greek societies were very democratic. "He was interested in this great mass of independent students that didn't have anything." He was a Phi Kap at M.I.T., but took little interest in fraternity affairs. He thought a lot of it was the bunk.

785-832 Regulations were quite strict. Nothing could be done on Sundays. "This is what is known as the Bible Belt." People walked, visited gardens and museums. Students could not have automobiles unless a permit was obtained. If you were caught having a loving party in a student car, the permit was rescinded. No cars could be used for social purposes. No parking meters or lots.

Trustees who were important. Very dedicated men. No pay. Twelve working days plus committee meetings. Foundation members also contribute time and effort. President of the Board is important. This time-consuming job rotates. James M. Cleary was very active and helpful. A good friend. Merle Trees, Robert F. Carr, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Grigsby, Mrs. Plum, Henry Williamson. Many meetings were held in Chicago.

Medical colleges in Chicago are often forgotten. They needed a lot of help and new equipment. Mr. Willard was very interested in them. Personnel matters and physical plant standards were raised. Dean Davis, Dr. Cole.

Visitors. Amelia Earhart was sponsored by the speech society. Eve Curie, Margaret Bourke-White. Tickets were sold to the auditorium speech. Zeta Phi Eta. Miss Earhart drove in. She was jealous of women's rights. A feminist. She was on a speaking circuit.

Robert M. Hutchins was President at Chicago. He was a very unusual person who had new ideas about everything and a very charming person, but a radical and he liked to get people stirred up.

Box 1:

Correspondence, program, publications, 1897-1905, 1906-13, 1915-32
Publications lists & activities, 1920-34
Correspondence, 1933
President's House, 711 Florida Inventory, 1933-34, 1942-45
Committee in the Selection of the President, 1933-53
Correspondence, 1934-38
Guest lists, 1934-36, 1940
Floor Plans, ca 1935
Illini Union & Foundation, 1936-41
Correspondence, 1937-38, 1941
Gov. Dwight Green's University Visit, Nov. 10, 1941
Correspondence, 1942-47
Airport Dedication, Oct. 26, 1945

Box 2:

Commencement, June 16, 1946
Congratulatory letters, 1946
Correspondence & Programs, 1946, 1947-49
Illini Union 10th Anniversary, Feb. 24, 1951
Correspondence, 1951, 1956-81
Airport, 1954
Willard Recognition, Chicago, Feb. 25, 1957
Memorials, 1960
Oral History Comments by B. Ross on Willard Administration, Aug. 30, 1967
Mechanical Engineering Class of 1924, 43rd Reunion, Oct. 6, 1967
World Heritage Museum, 1971-73

Box 3:
Photographs
A.C. Willard Portraits
Mrs. A.C. Willard
Campus Events, President's Office Staff, 1939-43
Chicago Medical Center Buildings, 1933-42
Faculty Events, 1937, 1940, ca.1945
Founder's Day, 1937, 1940
Illini Union
Military Day & Reviews, 1935-36, 1939-42
Trustees
Urbana Campus Buildings
Visitors, 1937-42

Publications
University Publications Relating to A.C. Willard, 1933-59
Published Speeches, 1934-35, 1942-46, 1959
"Your First Year at Illinois," 1936, 1940-42, 1944, 1946
Betsy Ross, I Fly the Flag, Stipes Publishing, 1984

Memoir of Ross’s life, and recollection of events at the University of Illinois

Box 4: (oversize)

Diplomas & Awards
American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, Aug. 2, 1914
Sigma Xi, April 14, 1915
George Washington University LL.D., June 6, 1934
Northwestern University LL.D., June 16, 1934
ASHVE Paul Anderson Medal, 1935
New York World's Fair Women's Advisory Committee, (Mrs. A.C. Willard), 1939
Alpha Lambda Delta (Mrs. A.C.W.) April 25, 1940
Armored School, Ft. Knox, KY, Dec. 24, 1943
National Warm Air Heating & Air Conditioning Assoc., June 25, 1946
University of Maine, LL.D., June 15, 1947
Illinois Society of Engineers, Feb. 2, 1951

A.C. Willard, Dec. 1940
A.C. Willard, ca.1945
Chief Illiniwek (Edward Kalb) on Lover's Leap, Alton, IL, Oct. 1937
(10.75 X 13.5)
8 Photographs, captioned (10.5 X 12.5)
5 Air corps aerial photographs, ca.1975 (11 X 14)
Downtown Champaign
Central Campus
Illini Union (south side)
President's House & HFL/ARC
Campus From South Farms to North
Betsy Ross & Visitor, July 3, 1981
3 Mounted color photographs (18 X 22.5)
President's House, ca.1933
Illini Union Front, summer, ca.1942
Illini Union Back, winter, ca.1942