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Smith, Helen – A Memoir

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In the fall of 1914 I arrived in Westernville to enroll as a student in Otterbein College. I had received several letters from President Walter S. Clippinger and had arranged to work as a secretary in his office to help defray my college expenses.

I knew practically nothing of life on a college campus, and still less of the office duties required of me. Miss Ethel ^{Wheeler} ~~Oliver~~ had been in the office as a student secretary for a couple of years ~~and~~ was my immediate mentor and teacher of the necessary office procedure. We worked ^{in the} office on the average of 24 hours per week. ^{TP} In those first few weeks I was aware of President Clippinger as he presided in Chapel, and as he hurried to and fro from his own teaching responsibilities. (For a number of years he taught classes in Education and in Psychology. ^{? (check)} By But as the weeks ~~rather~~ went by I became enmeshed in the letter-writing from the President's office, the ~~forms~~ reports being made, the visits to the President's office from faculty, students, church groups representatives, local ~~etc.~~ friends (friends and some not so friendly). By the end of ^{my} ~~the~~ first year as a college student I felt as much at home in the college office as I did in any classroom.

Perhaps it is well to recall that the "College office" was to the left of the south entrance door to what is known now as Tower Hall. The first room was the President's private office, and the one ^{and the next room was the President's private} used by the student secretaries. Across the hall ~~was~~ ^{the} one room used by the college treasurer, Mr. W. O. Baker. He had no assistants. The registrar was a member of the faculty, and another ~~member of the faculty was~~ professor was secretary of the faculty. Student records were kept

in the President's office.

President Clippinger knew all the students by name, always addressing them as "Mr." and "Miss." His manner toward students was formal and reserved. He lacked that certain "sense of humor" which might have made it easier for students to approach him on campus matters. However, as I look back, I can confirm what I felt then that he made every effort possible to understand student problems. ~~His own stern~~

Dr. Clippinger's relations with members of his ~~at~~ the faculty ~~was~~ ^{were} friendly and gracious. Professors had easy access to his office ^{and while he may not agree with certain actions of some of them Mrs. Clippinger was the epitome of sympathy & loyalty to every one}. He entertained faculty & wives and/or husbands frequently in their home. (Now known as the "Clippinger House" on 71 Grove Street. ~~There~~ Mrs. Clippinger was a most delightful hostess, and their parties always held promise (fulfilled) of an evening of good fellowship. ^{and stop}

In the following years I assumed more of the responsibility of Dr. Clippinger's correspondence to Trustees, faculty, education institutions and the general work of the office. I found Dr. C. - easy to work for, quick to catch an error, understanding of ~~the~~ work at hand; because a class must be attended by his student secretary. He had a marvelous vocabulary, but I became so used to his manner of speech that I now & then could manage to follow a chapel speech in shorthand & I worked in the office thru the summers as well as the school year. I also

stayed for one ^{school} year after I graduated in 1918 until other student secretaries were in the office.

President Clippinger was a prodigious worker. Not only did he carry the heavy load of at Otterbein including a constant ~~struggle~~ effort to have enough money to end the year in the black. There were ^{special} ~~camp~~ campaigns for money in which he took the lead, traveling to churches, organizations, to prominent alumni and to ^{in N. Y. + Chicago.}

He was President of the Ohio S. S. Association, Pres. of the Ohio Anti-Saloon League and later on President of the Columbus Torch Club.

He was in great demand as a commencement speaker not only for high schools thru out Ohio, but for institutions of higher learning, i.e. Capital Univ.

He frequently was called on to speak at in churches for various educational and religious groups; was called upon to ^{also} speak before ^{the} Kewanee Club of Col. + the Lions Club in Westerville.

My ~~acquaintance~~ friendship for the Clippingers extended far beyond the time I served as his secretary, for in 1920 I ^{was invited to} returned to Westerville to ~~spend~~ to him. ~~During 2 days, when a small~~.

I look back at the ^{time} ~~5 years~~ I spent as President Clippinger's secretary as ~~one of the richest years of my~~ as one of the most valuable training periods of my life, for I probably learned as much from his high educational ~~standards~~ ideals, his ^{rapid} ~~prompt~~ dispatch

of work, and his over-all integrity ~~friend~~ toward his job
as I did from formal class and laboratory sessions.
~~He was friendly cordial, the~~ ~~Cliff~~ ~~Boh~~ ~~President~~ &
Mrs Clippinger were cordial and gracious, and I have
~~spent many happy hours with them~~ the greatest respect
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Smith, Mrs. Helen: Memor

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Dr. Clippinger's relations with members of his ~~at~~ the faculty ~~was~~ ^{were} friendly and gracious. Professors had easy access to his office. ^{and while he may not agree with certain actions of the faculty, he was the} Let Mrs. Clippinger ^{entertain} the faculty & wives and/or husbands frequently in their home. (now known as the "Clippinger House" on N. Grove Street. ^{an} ^{step} ~~There~~ Mrs. Clippinger was a most delightful hostess, and their parties always held promise (fulfilled) of an evening of good fellowship.

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