CHAPTER ONE

OVERVIEW

The college of today is required to fit more men for commercial life than has ever been the case ... there is no object of ambition so worthy as business success.

—President Arthur Twining Hadley, Yale University, 1899*

Husson College, as it is known today—a regionally accredited, independent, private, nonprofit, coeducational institution of post-secondary education, governed by an elected Board of Trustees—was incorporated in 1961.[1] Later in 1963 the 101st Maine State Legislature amended the legislative action of the 96th Legislature to provide for the nonprofit corporation to confer bachelor of science degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Business Teacher Education, and Secretarial Science.[2] In 1964, the College was notified of its Tax Exempt Status, under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, based upon the educational goal of the College.[3] There were, however, four business schools of a proprietary structure that preceded the present institution; each made a significant contribution to the development and posture of the College today. As the school "changed hands", the equipment and title would be purchased by a successor who would rent the current site. (See Appendix P.) The corporate structure notwithstanding, the mission of the College has been constant, namely, providing the opportunity for individuals to develop skills to meet the needs of the business community—locally, nationally, and internationally.

The first of these schools, the Bangor branch of The Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship, opened in 1898. It offered courses of study other than those of a basic business curriculum. Mr. Frank L. Shaw, Portland, Maine, attended the Portland public schools and completed the business program at the Gray's Portland Business College in 1878. After teaching for Mr. Gray several years, he opened his first business school in Portland in 1884. Later, he opened one in Augusta, Maine, and Houlton, Maine. The one in Houlton was short-lived. Mr. George D. Harden, who was the manager of the Houlton site, was transferred to Bangor to manage the Bangor branch which opened on November 1, 1898, located in the Bass Block, Hammond Street. The Opening received an unusually positive press coverage. Although competition was very keen from time to time, "The Shaw", as Mr. Shaw called it, was the most successful of all the local business schools during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Granted, there were five other proprietary business schools in the city during this time; nevertheless, "The Shaw" was outstanding both in size of student body and courses offered.[4]

In 1925 all movable equipment was taken from the Bass Block[5] to the second floor of the Adams Building, 27-29 Columbia Street[6]—for whatever reasons: post World War I; runaway inflation; unemployment; the lack of managerial expertise after the death of Mr.

George D. Harden, the local manager (1915); the death of Mr. Frank L. Shaw (1925), the President-Treasurer; antiquated equipment; lack of students; conditions of the physical plant. The new location was sandwiched in between the Kineo Mill End Company located on the third floor and a music store, on the first floor.

Mr. Howard W. Mann—proprietor of business schools in Auburn (1916), Portland (ca 1926), Augusta (1926), and Presque Isle (ca 1927)—purchased the equipment of the Bangor Shaw Business College in 1926. He changed the institutional title to conform to that of his other schools, Maine School of Commerce, identifying it as the Bangor Branch (MSC-B). He employed Mr. Chesley H. Husson, BS, '26, Salem (Massachusetts) State Teachers College, as teacher-coach. Mr. Husson was the first business educator in any of the local proprietary business schools to have completed a formal bachelor degree program of study in business education. Within a few years, he assumed the duties of Principal, along with those of teaching and coaching. By 1929, however, Mr. Mann faced serious financial problems.

In 1933, a stock corporation—with Dr. Charles E. Adams, Bangor, President; Mr. George T. Carlisle, Bangor, and Dr. Adams, Treasurers; Mr. Ernest Lamb, Brookline, Massachusetts, Trustee; Mr. Chesley H. Husson, Principal—was formed and purchased the Maine School of Commerce, Bangor Branch. The institutional title was changed to the Bangor Maine School of Commerce (BMSC).[7] Principal Husson had complete freedom to organize the administration and to develop the curriculum as he saw fit. (See Appendix B.)

He set about to upgrade all courses being offered and particularly to develop a program of studies for secondary school business teachers comparable to the one he had completed at Salem State Teachers College. During this period, business teachers, largely because of the paucity of their professional training, were considered second-class instructors; and students, who took the commercial course in secondary schools, were looked upon as being inferior to those enrolled in the classical or college preparatory program of study.[8] With the cooperation of Dr. Olin S. Lutes, University of Maine, and Mr. Harrison W. Lyseth, Maine State Department of Education, Mr. Husson added a third year of subject matter to the then existing two-year Teacher Training Program. The three-year Teacher Training (Normal) Program was accepted on a reciprocal basis by the University of Maine (1936-1953). Graduates of the BMSC Business Teacher Program could continue to study at the University for three semesters and be awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Commercial Education (B.S.C. Ed). University of Maine graduates in Education could complete three semesters of study in the technical subjects in the business teacher education program at BMSC and be certified by the State to teach business (commercial) subjects on the secondary level.

Mr. Husson became President and Treasurer of the Corporation in 1935, positions he held until 1970 and 1961 respectively. He continued as Principal of the school until 1947. At that time, he changed the institutional title to Husson College and was its first President, a position he held until his retirement in 1970. In 1935, he set up a Board of Directors for the Corporation. The members were Mr. George T. Carlisle of Bangor and Mr. George E. P. Husson, Jr. (his brother), Billerica, Massachusetts. The former served until his death, 1960; the latter, until 1959. Mr. Chesley H. Husson, Jr., was appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. George E. P. Husson, Jr.[9]

In 1940, Mr. Husson erected a modern, well-equipped building at 157 Park Street. His was the first business school in the State to provide such a structure complete with gymnasium/auditorium, well-lighted classrooms, and up-to-date equipment for post-secondary business education.

Miss Clara L. Swan was appointed a Vice President in 1954; Miss Priscilla A.Clark, a Trustee of the Pension Fund in 1953, and Acting Treasurer in 1956. Each assumed the responsibilities of several administrative positions during the transitional period from a proprietary corporation to that of a nonprofit, private corporation (1961-1970). Dr. Barkev Kibarian was President, 1970-1973; Mr. Franklin A. Peters, 1973-1978. President Delmont N. Merrill was appointed in 1978. (See Appendix **C** and **D**.)

In 1961, the status of the College was changed from one of a proprietary structure to that of an independent, nonprofit, private educational corporation—its present status.[10] Since early 1962, the governance of the institution has been by a Board of Trustees. The College moved to its present site, One College Circle, in 1968. Here Husson College has made its permanent home base, a multi-acre campus with all buildings newly constructed and ready to carry out its educational mission.

Husson College confers, has conferred, or will confer the following degrees:

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Business Teacher Education, Secretarial Science (Office Administration) authorized by the 96th State of Maine Legislature, March 19, 1953. (The first degrees conferred June 11, 1954.)

The Associate in Business Science Degree authorized by the 102nd State of Maine Legislature, September 1966. (The degree was conferred from February 4, 1966, through May 16, 1981.)[11]

The Associate in Science Degree authorized by the 104th State of Maine Legislature, May 9,1970. (The first degrees conferred May 8, 1982.)

The Honorary Degree authorized by the 104th State of Maine Legislature, October 1, 1969. (The first degree conferred May 30, 1970.)

The Master of Science in Business Degree authorized by the 108th State of Maine Legislature, March 31, 1977. (The first degrees conferred May 8, 1980.)

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree authorized by the 110th State of Maine Legislature, April 6, 1982. (The program will begin September, 1983.)

Thus, the development of Husson College falls within well-defined periods:

I. The Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship, Bangor, Mr. Frank L. Shaw, President (1898-1925).

II. Maine School of Commerce, Bangor Branch, Mr. Howard W. Mann, Principal/President (1926-1931). For a brief period, 1931-1933, Mr. Parker B. Smith, Auburn, was President and Mr. Husson, Principal.

III. Bangor Maine School of Commerce (proprietary) Mr. Chesley H. Husson, Principal (1933-1947); Husson College (proprietory) Mr. Husson, President (1947-1961).

IV. Husson College (independent, nonprofit, private institution) 1961 to the present:

Presidents:

C. H. Husson, 1961-1970
Barkev Kibarian, 1970-1973
Franklin A. Peters, 1973-1978
Delmont N. Merrill, 1978-

The leader of each period, developed a framework which served as the foundation for his successor. All made a positive contribution to the development of programs of study in business that led both to the certification and degree-granting status on the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship
1898-1926



1857-1925

F. L. Shaw

Mr. Frank L. Shaw, who began a private business school in Portland, Maine, in 1884, incorporated the schools at the several sites—Portland, Augusta, Bangor—in Maine in 1898.[12] He was President of the corporation from 1898 until his death, 1925. Having attended the Portland public schools, he graduated from Gray's Portland Business College, completing the prescribed Bryant, Stratton Business course. After teaching six years at the Portland Business College, he opened the first of his three business schools. He expanded on the Bryant, Stratton business programs of study, which had been outstanding during the middle of the nineteenth century. Early on, he introduced "physical culture", fielded a baseball team, offered courses in "Elocution", and arranged for lecturers to address the student body. He felt strongly that "Every individual should have his chance to develop sufficiently the skills needed to provide for a better way of life". ... (And) "No student should be denied such an opportunity because of financial straits or limited formal educational opportunities."

Insofar as verifiable, he exercised little visible executive influence on the Bangor Branch.

I

The Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship

1898 - 1926

The Shaw Business College and School of Penmanship[13], insofar as verifiable, was the third business school in the City to have been incorporated. There had been eight previous business schools in Bangor, two of which—Bryant, Stratton, Gray and Lakin's Bangor Commercial College (1865-1868) and Eastern Business College (1868)—were incorporated. The latter, listed among its incorporators the following prominent local businessmen:

Samuel H. Dale, Mayor, City of Bangor
John E. Godfrey, Probate Judge
Albert W. Paine, Attorney-at-law
Charles P. Roberts, Local Superintendent of Schools
Hannibal Hamlin, former Vice President of the United States
Samuel D. Thurston, Treasurer, Bangor Savings Bank

To the extent that it can be ascertained, it never opened its doors. One of its incorporators, Mr. Willard W. Williams, had opened a school the previous year (1867-1868) in conjunction with the Worthington and Warner's Commercial College. (See Appendix **A.**)

Shortly after incorporating his several schools, Mr. Shaw abbreviated the title to Shaw Business College. Mr. George D. Harden, Treasurer, was manager-teacher of the Bangor site (1898-1915). Those alumni whom one of the authors knew and interviewed, could not recall Mr. Shaw's having ever visited the Bangor site.

Having been graduated from Columbia Falls (Maine) public school, Mr. Harden attended the Portland Shaw Business College from which he was graduated in 1894 at the age of eighteen. He began his professional career as an instructor in the College with which he was associated until his death in 1915. His widow, Mrs. Alice Harden, succeeded him as Treasurer of the Corporation and manager of the Bangor Branch: the former position, until 1919; the latter, until her death, 1921. Mrs. Grace Cannon (1921-1924) and Mrs. Harriet C. Stroberg (1924-ca 1926) were the other managers of the Shaw Business College before it was purchased by Mr. Howard W. Mann.

No official records are extant; however, based upon news reports, advertisements, memorabilia, and informal interviews, one can conclude that the Bangor Branch of the Shaw Business College was progressive, productive, and offered quality business training.

According to the *Bangor Industrial Journal* the subjects taught included:

> Bookkeeping, arithmetic, penmanship, business correspondence, commercial law, business practice, banking, stocks and bonds .... stenography, typewriting, ornamental penmanship .... The institution conducts three regularly organized (school) banks, the Shaw College Bank and the Exchange Bank in Portland and the Dirigo Bank of Augusta. These banks are managed by the students and have each a full complement of officers. They are conducted in every respect like the national banks in actual business. Besides the banks there are post offices, railway offices, and general merchandise and commission houses ....[14]

A feature article in the September, 1916, *Bangor Daily Commercial* records the success of "Maine's Largest Commercial School". To be sure, the report includes the branches in Portland and Augusta; yet, one may assume that the Bangor branch "carried its own weight". It further identified the following programs of study: Commercial Course, Shorthand Course, Teachers' Courses, and Telegraph Course. The article reported that the "Bangor Branch has recently placed teachers in the following schools of Maine: Fort Fairfield High, Franklin High, Easton High, Lincoln Academy and Bucksport Seminary".[15]

Again, in 1924, a local newspaper ran a special feature on The Shaw, stating that Mr. Shaw had been determined from the beginning "to conduct it (The Shaw Business College) along the line of truth and right common sense" that the "growth of this splendid school ... has been a gradual one"; that "the most up-to-date methods are used and the instructors are the best, since the largest school can pay for them".[16]

The sudden death of Mr. Shaw in January, 1925,[17] brought about the dissolution of The Shaw Business College Corporation. Mr. Howard W. Mann (Auburn, Maine), purchased the Augusta and Bangor sites in 1926.

The local Shaw Business College provided adequately for educating the "whole" man. There were socials, dances, musicales, and athletics for the students. As early as 1907, there was a basketball team. (See **Student Life.**) Insofar as can be ascertained, The Shaw was the only local business school to offer such programs.

Maine School of Commerce-Bangor Branch
(MSC-B)
1926 - 1933



1881-1954



Mr. Howard W. Mann, a graduate of Bay Path Institute, Springfield, Massachusetts, came to Maine in 1913 to teach penmanship and other business subjects at Edward Little High School, Auburn, where he headed the Commercial Department for three years. Having established his own business college—Maine School of Commerce, Auburn—in 1916, Mr. Mann acquired the ownership of four other business schools in the State and formed a chain of Maine Schools of Commerce (MSC): MSC, Portland (1926-1930s); MSC, Augusta (1926-1929); MSC, Bangor (1926-1931): MSC, Presque Isle (ca 1927). The schools at Bangor and Augusta were purchased from Mr. John S. Pratt, Portland, who had bought the rights to the Shaw Business College Corporation upon the death of Mr. Frank L. Shaw, 1925. Mr. Mann had established the one in Portland, 1926, which was not associated with the Shaw School. He also purchased the one in Presque Isle, known as the Aroostook School of Accountancy, ca 1927, from Mr. Preble Hatch, Proprietor.

Beginning in 1929, early in the Great Depression years, he found it necessary to divest his interests. The Bangor Branch was purchased (1933) by a corporation headed by Dr. Charles E. Adams. Mr. Mann became an instructor at Becker Junior College (Worcester, Massachusetts) ca 1934, a position he held for nearly twenty years.[18]

II

Maine School of Commerce - Bangor Branch
(MSC-B)
1926-1933

On August 10, 1926, Mr. Howard W. Mann opened "three new Maine Schools of Commerce at Portland, Bangor, and Augusta".[19]

Mr. Mann, a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Bay Path Institute (Springfield, Massachusetts), had come to Maine in 1913 to teach commercial subjects at Edward Little High School, Auburn (Maine). In 1916, he opened the first of what would become a chain of five Maine Schools of Commerce: Auburn (1916), Augusta (1926), Bangor (1926), Portland (1926, independent of the Shaw Portland branch), Presque Isle (ca 1926-1927).

Because of the economic conditions of the post World War I era, one can only conjecture concerning the condition of the equipment; the number of students to continue their program of study under the new management; the number of programs continued, dropped, or modified. It is known that four students completed a specified program of study, 1926-1927, three of whom graduated with a one-year Normal (Business Teacher) diploma. It is also known that Shaw had offered two-year programs of study. Whether any Shaw students matriculated in 1926 for completing a two-year program of study is unverifiable. The open policy of students entering at any time also continued into the early 1930s. Correspondence with a 1930 graduate sheds much light on the "loosely-knit" management during the Mann era:

> ... we really didn't do too much about graduation in those days—as you probably know, we entered and left almost at will—unless we were working for a diploma—as in the Normal Teacher-training course (program).
>
> I was in the two-year course[20] although I actually attended not much more than perhaps a year and a half ... we had no commencement exercises—just paid our last tuition and picked up our diplomas ....[21]

Mr. Mann did not retain any of the Shaw personnel. He transferred Miss Freda Seeley (Mrs. Charles A. Metcalf, Bangor) from the Auburn school to teach typewriting and be office manager. He employed Miss Marjorie L. Runnels (Mrs. Alton R. Covell, Bangor), a graduate of Gilman Commercial School (Bangor), to teach stenography and related subjects; and Mr. Chesley H. Husson, to teach commercial subjects and coach. In 1929, Mr. Alton R. Covell—a graduate of Morgan Business College, Waterville, Maine—was employed to teach penmanship and bookkeeping. Upon the resignation of Mrs. Freda Seeley Metcalf, 1931, Mrs. Priscilla Crane, a graduate of the Auburn MSC, joined the faculty.

Unlike Mr. Shaw, who was never known to have visited the Bangor site, Mr. Mann frequented the local branch, often participating in classroom lectures.

Quite by accident one of the authors in 1981, was able to contact Mr. Mann's daughter—Mrs. Josephine M. Rogers, Grand Cane, Louisiana—with whom he was living at the time of his death in 1954.[22] She recalls with great filial respect her father's ventures in Business Education in the 1920s.

He was certainly a dedicated educator and was well known all over the State. He had five business schools first in Auburn, then Portland, Augusta, Bangor and Presque Isle. As a child I used to travel around with him from one school to another, sometimes in our old Peerless automobile, sometimes on the train ....

My father was a remarkable man. He was interested in everything and a recognized authority on many things, especially botany (wild flowers), genealogy and antiques. He had a memory-bank like a computer, could spell any word in the dictionary and was really a mathematical genius. He knew all sorts of shortcuts to handle large numbers in his head or total a column of figures at a glance. He was gregarious and outgoing and enjoyed people in all stations of life and remembered everybody's name ....

Of all the memories of my father's Maine Schools of Commerce, my favorite is of the summer schools he had on the shores of Echo Lake at Bar Harbor. The students, in fact all of us, lived in tents and studied by candlelight. There was a big building there which served as the "schoolhouse" and another one was the mess hall where they served wonderful home-cooked meals, including home-made oatmeal bread, raspberries and blueberry pie. I loved it all except the night we had **eel!** ...

Having been an instructor on the secondary level for three years (1913-1916) and having managed a business school for ten years (1916-1926), Mr. Mann recognized the limitations and the paucity of preparation offered for teachers of secondary business subjects. (See Appendix E.) Together with Mr. Husson who had been appointed Principal of the Bangor Branch (ca 1929), he began to develop a teacher-training program of studies that would result in a three-year program of study.

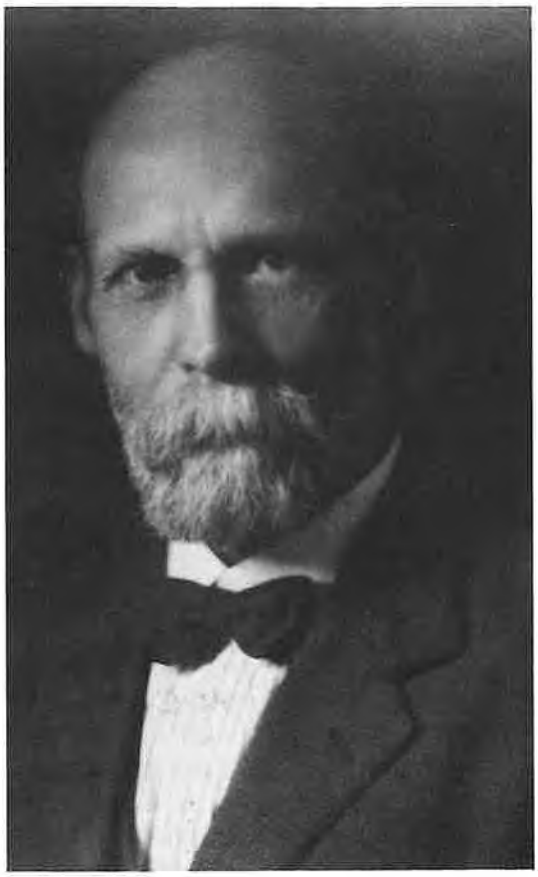
Unfortunately, within a few years of having formed his chain of five Maine Schools of Commerce, he met with unusual financial reverses. Insofar as ascertainable, he was the only entrepreneur involved; no record of a corporate structure has been established. First the Presque Isle (ca 1928), then the Augusta (ca 1929), and third, the Bangor Branch (ca 1931) were placed in receivership. Mr. Parker B. Smith, President of National Shoe and Leather Bank, was designated President in Receivership of the Bangor Branch.[23]

The title, equipment, and records were sold to the Bangor Maine School of Commerce Corporation, 1933, Dr. Charles E. Adams, President.

III

Bangor Maine School of Commerce (BMSC)

1933-1935



1863-1949

Charles E. Adams

A native of Bangor, Dr. Charles E. Adams was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1884. After working a few years in the Adams' Land and Lumber Office, he became Director and instructor of gymnastics at Colby College. After graduating from Maine Medical School in 1890, he became director of the gymnasium at Rutgers College. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Rutgers. He traveled extensively in Europe where he studied forestry. He divided his time between the practice of medicine and the management of the Adams' Timberland interests.

He owned the Adams Block where BMSC was located. From his observations of the effectiveness of the school, he recognized its value to the City and was instrumental in refinancing it in 1933.

Bangor Maine School of Commerce 1935-1947
(BMSC)
Husson College 1947-1970



1903-1972

Chesley H. Husson

A graduate of Lynn (Massachusetts) High School and Salem State Teachers College (Massachusetts) (1926), Mr. Chesley H. Husson spent his entire professional career in the development of the institution that now bears his name. Insofar as ascertainable, he was the first—and only—professionally qualified educator among those engaged locally in proprietary business school teaching to hold a bachelor's degree in Commercial Education. Further, he was the first to advance professionally—having received a Master of Science degree from the University of Maine in 1939.

His affiliation with the College began in 1926 as teacher-coach and later as principal. He became president of the corporation in 1935 and continued as principal of the school. With the change in title of the school in 1947, he assumed the positions of President-Treasurer. Under his leadership for nearly a half century, the school evolved from a commercial school, vocationally oriented, to an accredited, specialized institution of higher learning, granting associate and baccalaureate degrees in business studies. Today, the College is an accredited institution granting associate, bachelor, and master degrees in business and professional studies. Since 1970 local, state, national, and international business and professional leaders have been the recipients of honorary degrees, conferred by the College.

III

Bangor Maine School of Commerce
(BMSC)
(Proprietary)
1933-1947

Husson College
(Proprietary)
1947-1961

A corporation was formed in 1933 with Dr. Charles E. Adams, owner of the Adams Block, Columbia Street; Mr. George T. Carlisle, Bangor; Mr. Ernest Lamb, Brookline, Massachusetts, and Mr. Chesley H. Husson of Bangor. Dr. Adams was President; he and Mr. Carlisle were Treasurers; Mr. Lamb, a Trustee; and Mr. Husson, Principal. Each was issued one share; ninety-six shares remaining in the treasury.[24]

In 1935, Mr. Husson became President-Treasurer of the corporation. He held the position of President until his retirement, 1970.[25] He was Treasurer until 1956.

Miss Priscilla A. Clark became Acting-Treasurer, 1956; Executive Director-Treasurer, 1961. (See Appendix D.) The College concerned itself with the development of programs of study based upon a semester time frame, structuring a teacher preparation program for instructors of secondary business courses, enriching all programs of business, technically, professionally, and culturally. The instructors of the business courses were the same for the next decade (1933-1943); one had been with the school since 1926. An additional business instructor, Miss Clara L. Swan, was added to the staff in 1939. She was the second teacher of business subjects in the local proprietary business schools to have earned a bachelor degree in business (Commercial) education. She was also one of two students to have completed the three-year Business Teacher Education Program (Normal Program) at BMSC (1933); the first graduate to matriculate in an out-of-state accredited institution of higher learning. She was awarded a baccalaureate degree (1939), American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Despite the depression years, BMSC was outstanding in programs of study offered, the proportion of students completing their programs, being graduated, and being placed in positions of employment. In fact, the quarters at 27-29 Columbia Street became totally inadequate. With the counsel and support of Mr. George T. Carlisle, Mr. Husson erected Commerce Hall, 157 Park Street, and moved BMSC to that location, September, 1940.

The Universal Military Draft (1940) and Pearl Harbor (December 1941) affected the school drastically. From an enrollment of approximately 300, 1940-1941, to that of under 100 in 1943-1944, the school was severely taxed to continue the broad-based curriculum that it had developed during the past decade. Withal, the Principal continued to have liberal arts graduates affiliated with BMSC and was successful in employing well-qualified, part-time instructors for teaching professional and other liberal arts courses.

Adversely as the Selective Training and Service Act (1940) had been on BMSC, most favorable was the Service Men's Readjustment Act of 1944. Better known as the "G. I. Bill of Rights", it opened doors to the World War II veterans to return to civilian life via the classroom. However, there was one colossal impediment for a vast number of veterans. Accredited, post-secondary institutions of higher learning required that all candidates for admission must have completed the college preparatory (classical) course on the secondary level. Literally, thousands of veterans had completed either the business or general course in high school or had qualified for a G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma) in the Armed Service. Regulations governing the administration of the "G. I. Bill" were stringent: the minimum requirement involved the approval of the State Department of Education.

Among the 14 programs of study offered by BMSC was the Business Teacher (Normal) Training Program. This three-year program had been certified by the State since 1934, accepted on a reciprocal basis by the University of Maine since 1936, and approved for veterans. The other programs were not certified by the State, per se, as the State was not primarily concerned with their contents.

The fact that all students of the Business Teacher Education program also were required to take the majority of courses making up these other programs, gave a tacit endorsement of them. (See Appendix **F**.)

Veterans, except those who chose the Business Teacher Education Program, were able to matriculate at BMSC with certain restrictions. These restrictions, which included study halls, strict class attendance, and a forty-hour week on campus appeared to Mr. Husson as both discriminatory and unjust.

The Veterans "Readjustment Assistance Act of 1952" was more stringent than the original "G. I. Bill". Thus, in October 1952, only the Teacher Training Program was approved for veterans. (See Appendix **G**.) This action prompted Mr. Husson to assume a leadership role among a large group of Eastern proprietary business schools in organizing the Business Education Research Associates (BERA). Through its efforts and under the direction of Dr. F. G. Nichols, formerly of Harvard, procedures and policies for accrediting business schools that would be open to veterans entitled to the "G. I. Bill" were established.

With the change in the title from BMSC to that of Husson College, 1947, Mr. Husson restructured the academics. He established four departments: Accounting, Business Administration, Business Teacher Education, and Secretarial Science. He successfully petitioned the 96th State of Maine Legislature for degree-granting authority. The first Bachelor degrees in Business (BS) were conferred June, 1954.

All the while the College continued to grow. Within a few years, it had utilized all available buildings within a 300-foot radius for classrooms. Room and board facilities were saturated. (There were no dormitories operated by the College before 1960.) Classroom space was leased from nearby churches, Bangor High School (Harlow Street) and John Bapst High School (Broadway).

Definitely a new course of action had to be found. To provide adequate facilities involved many hard decisions and the surmounting of some major hurdles. First, was the changing of the corporate structure from a proprietary profit-making one to a nonprofit,

private, charitable one. This action was accomplished in 1961. Second, was to become accredited by the nationally recognized agency for the New England Region—The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. This process was begun in 1966 with Recognition of Candidacy granted in 1968; Accreditation, 1974; and a continuing accredited status with the Association to the present.

The College had been fully accredited since 1959 by ACBS (Accrediting Commission for Business Schools) as a four-year degree granting institution. ACBS was recognized in 1956 (See Appendix **H.**) by the United States Office of Education as the accrediting agency for proprietary institutions for Veteran enrollment. Husson had enjoyed accreditation as a "Senior Business College" by ACBS since 1956. The gap in the time frame was due to the fact that ACBS had not structured the evaluative criteria for four-year, degree-granting proprietary colleges in 1956. The College still continued to have certification of the Business Teacher Education Program by the Maine State Board of Education—a status attained in 1934.

With an option on over 300 acres of land, the College was ready to seek funds for building a new campus. The result was a unique combination of funds: private financial contributions from Maine citizens, business, and banks coupled with federal government education facility and student housing loans which resulted in the construction of a complete Husson College Campus—the first time under these loan programs all of this was accomplished at one time in one place in the United States.



Machines Room, ca 1945

IV

Husson College

(Nonprofit, private, independent, accredited, institution)
1961 to the present (1983)

As a proprietary corporation, the College had limited resources for seeking funds to underwrite the construction of a completely new facility. Federal monies were readily available for nonprofit educational institutions of all levels. With options on the land, Mr. Husson resolved the dilemma by having the College become a nonprofit, private institution. As it was accredited by ACBS, it became eligible for federal funds to erect a completely new facility, the present campus.

Thus began a program of development that culminated in Husson College as it is today; a private, nonprofit[26] coeducational institution accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., granting associate in science degrees, bachelor of science degrees, master of science degrees, and honorary degrees. The evolution of the College from a proprietary, corporate, private enterprise to its present status is the theme of this history. The College has a rich heritage: the singleness of purpose established by Mr. Frank L. Shaw; the challenge of improving and enriching formal education for business personnel introduced by Mr. Howard W. Mann; the implementation and refining of both by Mr. Chesley H. Husson who devoted his entire professional career to the enhancing of the dignity of all endeavors in business education. Executive Director and Treasurer Priscilla A. Clark assumed great responsibility during the critical period of change that the College experienced during the decade of the 1960's. Her professional expertise was vital in the building of the modern facility. (See Appendix D for a profile of Miss Clark.) Details concerning the construction of One College Circle are presented in Chapter TWO. Other chief executive officers have included Dr. Kibarian, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Merrill.

Husson College

1970-1973



1927-

Dr. Barkev Kibarian

Dr. Barkev Kibarian, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island (1950) received both his master's (1952) and doctoral (1958) degrees from New York University. He came to Husson from Emporia (Kansas) College, where he had been president since 1968.

He soon established goals that he would strive to attain. Among them was accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. Others were a revision of the organization of the College; the development of a positive, aggressive admissions program; the implementation of a Statewide Adult Education Program; establishment of ways for better communication among members of the Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students. He created an Executive Committee made up of three Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and Director of Public Affairs. A President's Cabinet was formed with department heads, faculty, students, and staff personnel as members. It served as a sounding board providing recommendations pertaining to policy. He successfully petitioned the State Legislature for authority to grant associate in science degrees (1971), superseding the Associate in Business degree, and to confer honorary degrees. He introduced informal breakfast meetings for both faculty and students.

Husson College

1973-1978



1912-

Franklin A. Peters

Mr. Franklin A. Peters was appointed acting President by the Board of Trustees, 1973; President, 1974.

A graduate of Philips Exeter Academy, Mr. Peters received his bachelor's degree in accounting and finance from Columbia University, 1938. His association with Standard Oil Company—serving in various executive positions in China, Southwest Asia, India, Pakistan, East Africa—was interrupted by World War II. After internment by the Japanese in Hong Kong, he served in China with the O.S.S. until the end of the War. He returned to the Company after the War and retired from his executive position in East Africa in 1966.

He was a member of the Husson faculty 1968-1969. After receiving his M.B.A. degree from the University of Maine, 1970, he rejoined the Husson faculty. While President, he continued to refine the organizational realignment begun by his predecessor. During his presidency the College received its initial accreditation by New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., for a three-year period. It was continued in 1978 for a five-year period. The College was authorized by the Maine State Legislature, January 1978, to award Master of Science in Business degrees. He also brought about the location of the Penobscot Job Corps on campus. He did much to sustain the stability of the College, including the obtaining of several federal aid programs for students. He was made President Emeritus upon retirement in 1978 and served as chairman of the College Board of Trustees for the next year.

Husson College

1978-



1925-

Delmont N. Merrill

In 1978, Delmont N. Merrill became the fourth President of Husson College. An Ellsworth native, he was educated in the schools there before U. S. Marine Corps service in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Following his discharge from the Marine Corps, he enrolled at the Bangor Maine School of Commerce, and, in 1948 received his three-year Business Education Teacher Diploma. For the next five years he taught and coached at Sullivan High School and Sumner Memorial High School. In 1953 he returned to Husson where, in 1954, he became the first candidate to qualify for the Bachelor of Science degree which he earned *Cum Laude.* He received a MEd (Master in Education) degree from the University of Maine, 1964, a CAS (Certificate of Advanced Study), 1968, University of Maine.

Appointed an instructor at Husson in 1953, Mr. Merrill rose through the academic ranks to tenured professor and head of the Department of Physical Education and Health. As a varsity coach, he achieved a remarkably successful record in basketball and baseball. In 1973, he was appointed Vice President for Administrative Affairs.

Mr. Merrill has had wide experience in the private business sector. Since 1958 he has been Vice President of Merrill's Blueberry Farms, Inc. and a Director of several Hancock County businesses. He has served, as well, as a Trustee of the Brewer Savings Bank.

He has also been active in community affairs as well as those of higher education. He was State Basketball Commissioner from 1975 to 1978 and was President of the Higher Education Council of Maine in 1983. He has served as a Director of United Way and was appointed by Governor Brennan to be Chairman of a visiting committee to the Maine State Prison.

As President of Husson College, Mr. Merrill's goals have been in the area of financial credibility and academic excellence. During his administration the College has achieved a

net contribution each year after several years of deficit operations. As President, he has been an active fund-raiser. Under his leadership, the governance of the institution has been restructured and, in 1979 the *Husson College Handbook* was published. In it for the first time were policies covering all employees of the College. It has been kept current. He has also published annually the *President's Report* which details all activities of the College.

During Mr. Merrill's administration, Husson has initiated its first major endowment fund drive and established a baccalaureate nursing program in conjunction with the Eastern Maine Medical Center. He was instrumental in establishing Computer Information Systems in both administrative and academic areas. He also achieved accreditation of the Master of Science in Business program and the continuing of institutional accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

In 1979, Mr. Merrill commissioned a comprehensive study of the history of Husson College. This volume is a result of that study.