

Interviewee: Richard Moe

Interviewed on April 13th, 2000

MOE'S ROLE AT PLU: Moe came to Pacific Lutheran University as Dean of the College of Professional Studies. The Dean of College of Arts and Sciences was Erich Knorr, who was replaced by Dr. Anderson. There was five school heads under Professional Studies; Nursing, Business, Education, Arts, and Physical Education. Mortvedt offered Moe the Dean position while he was teaching at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. He was recommended by Dr. Rand of St. Olaf. Dr. Rand was President of Waldorf College when Moe was Dean. Mortvedt took Moe and his wife to dinner at the Tacoma Club and impressed Moe. Once at Pacific Lutheran University, Moe lived in the basement of Mortvedt for 3 weeks until his housing was ready.

ABOUT MORTVEDT: He earned his PhD in Middle English from Harvard University. He was a well educated man and stately. Mortvedt had others act their best, not by demand but his integrity made others act this way.

PRESIDENT COUNCIL: The members of the council were vice president of Finance Dean Buchanan, Academic vice president Dr. Langevin, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Anderson, Dean of Student Life Dr. Leasure and Executive Secretary Lucille Giroux.

RELATIONSHIP WITH MORTVEDT: Moe and Mortvedt had a good relationship. It was always formal and cordial. Mortvedt loved and supported the arts and liked books. He was also willing to support others. He was known as "Mr. Straight". The community was not as important as campus life and faculty for Mortvedt. Clayton Peterson was the vice President of Development at the Presidential council meetings. Mortvedt planted many trees on campus and was the first president to make a long term plan for campus improvement. Lower campus was still underdeveloped during this time; memorial gym was the only building. During his presidency, buildings on lower campus were built. Other buildings on upper campus were being built as well.

LIBRARY: They wanted a location that was easy for everyone to get to. Mortvedt believed the library was the most important building on campus. Xavier Hall was not large enough to be the library anymore. The library was built so another floor could be added on later. For the dedication of the library, Mortvedt brought in a great Lutheran Theologian, Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan from Yale Divinity School.

COMMENCEMENT: In 1966, Arch Bishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury came to the Pacific Lutheran University Commencement. It was held in Eastvold Auditorium and this was a start to the processional commencements.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Mortvedt liked to go fly fishing. He made traditions for commencements. He retired because it became difficult for him to change his presidential style fast enough. Mortvedt took a religious, isolated school to a distinguished university by hiring professors who had PhDs. Moe's wife Lila liked Mortvedt and his family liked the move to Pacific Lutheran University. After Mortvedt's retirement, he wanted to be addressed as Bob.