

History of the Carillon Tower and the Carillon Concept

A fitting present to Ferris State College on its 85th anniversary, the Carillon Tower is the gift of hundreds of alumni, students, faculty members, and other special friends of the college.

The tower began as the dream of an alumnus and became a vital constructive project for the All College Student Government during three administrations.

The 48-foot tower, constructed of mission blend brick like other Ferris buildings, rises at the northwest corner of the Music Activities Center, which is near the midpoint of the campus. The electronic carillon unit has an effective audio range of from one to two miles, thus carrying to all parts of the campus.



NORMAN BORGERSON

Plans include the future addition of benches, walks, and shrubbery to form a Carillon Plaza.

Funds for building the Carillon Tower and installing the electronic unit came from contributions of students, their parents, alumni, and other friends of the college.

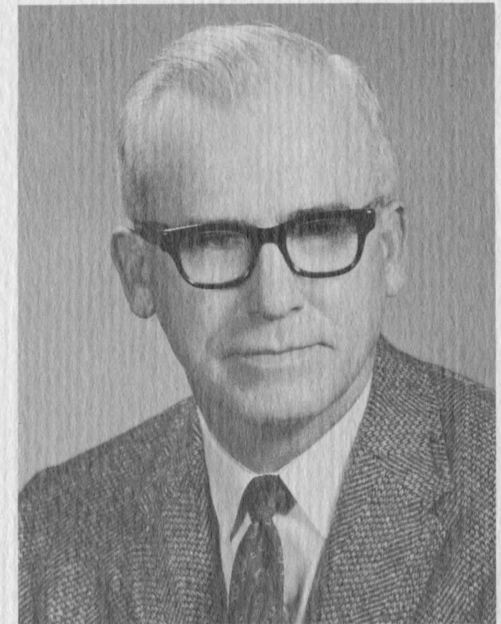
Initial push for the carillon originated with Ferris alumnus Norman Borgerson, retired deputy superintendent of public instruction and former Lowell postmaster. He sent a check to the college with a notation that he had always dreamed of a carillon tower on the campus, and he would like to start such a fund.

Officers of the All College Student Government took up the Carillon Tower project as one of the principal activities for the 1964-65 school year. With the guidance of a faculty committee, headed by Donald F. Rankin, who was then Dean of Students, the students began a campaign to raise funds to raise the tower.

The Student Government voted to transfer the fund designed to build a statue of a Bulldog on campus to the Carillon Tower Fund, and the fund was enriched by nearly \$4,000.

A Century Club, an organization of individuals and student groups who contributed \$100 or more to the tower fund was formed, and a concentrated drive for contributions of all sizes was launched.

After the Student Government officers completed their term of office, a permanent Carillon Fund committee was appointed. It was headed by Fred Lutzke, now a pharmacist in Lansing. Lutzke continued as chairman of the committee for two years until his graduation, and Dean Rankin and Lutzke worked diligently for the two-year period to make the carillon a reality.



DONALD F. RANKIN

At the time of Lutzke's graduation, the Carillon Tower Fund had nearly reached its goal of \$25,000. A \$1,000 contribution from the Residence Hall Association, and a \$1,500 gift from the Alumni Foundation shot the fund beyond its goal. Additional contributions will be used to develop the plaza concept.

Homogeneous with surrounding Ferris buildings, the tower was designed by Architect James Shane, a Ferris architectural drafting instructor.

The clock strikes the hour and the quarter hour, and the carillon plays at special events such as homecoming and commencement.

Electronic carillons, similar to the Ferris bells, are found in churches and chapels of every religious faith, at colleges and universities throughout the nation and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.