

Interview with Thomas Knauss
Marquette, Michigan
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I attended Northern and graduated in 1954. Later I returned to teach in the mathematics department. I retired in 1988.

Every Christmas a special party was held in the foyer of Kaye Hall. It became a great tradition. The students would gather around the balconies and watch the proceedings. Forest Roberts enjoyed playing Santa Claus. He would pass out Dixie cupped ice cream to everyone.

Christmas lights decorated the second and third balconies. On Dean Ethel Carey's instructions the lights were green, yellow and white. The use of the color red in any form was not allowed. Carey thought that it increased and promoted passion among people. Around 1949-1950 a number of male students decided to play a joke on Dean Carey and the students. They entered Kaye Hall at night and painted every white light red. Most women wore some red on their person.

In the Carey Hall dining room, female students were required to wear dresses from Sunday through Friday. Only on Saturday evenings could they wear slacks.

I remember when I was first a faculty member and a member of the Faculty Senate when there was a discussion about hours for women in the dormitories. There were different hours for women of different years such as freshmen through seniors. There was also a discussion over why women should have hours and not the men. The conclusion was that if the women had to return to their dormitories the men would go home as well since the women were gone!