Campus Now 60 Years Old

ack streamers". The fall 1932 dance was
hestra from Saint John was booked for the
he spring of 1933 was a cabaret dance to
of the residents were invited. In 1939 the
cial activities included: a first-class water
proposed masquerade due to flu out-
spring drenching of unsuspecting walk-
f the Residence Formal with formal dress
present lasted into the 1960s. The house
for the event, with special attention given
a bridge spanned.

nonths of 1939 considerable renovations
was at this time that the portrait of the late
hanging in the dining hall, was received.
vere a result of the generosity of Lord
1939 King George VI and Queen Eliza-
Mother, came to Fredericton as part of the
ovincial government hosted a luncheon in
there being no other establishment in
which could have hosted such a banquet.
or, Dr. Murray MacLaren provided a flag
Union Jack could be frown outside the
in place after the royal visit had ended, but
beginning of term in September 1940. In
ver, some students removed the flag pole
tenant Governor's house on the night of
concrete from the construction site of the
ole in its old position. The grounds' staff
own the pole saw it slip and break into two
eless, were dumped behind the Engineer-
was later cut up into six-inch pieces and
money for the Spitfire fund, during World

rs, the LBR was used by the RCAF and
rogrammes at UNB in 1941-43. Members
oused at LBR during the summer of 1941
was used by the military during the war
university agreed to make LBR available
sing of refugee children when they were
for distribution to different homes.

ccommodation for ex-service students at
September 1945, when a student body of
compared with 325 before the war. LBR
additional residents by allocating two per
was $9.75 per week for room and board.
80 men in residence of whom 50 were
younger non-veterans. In the early 1950s
rected in front of LBR where it remained
ial university flag poles were erected in
Building.

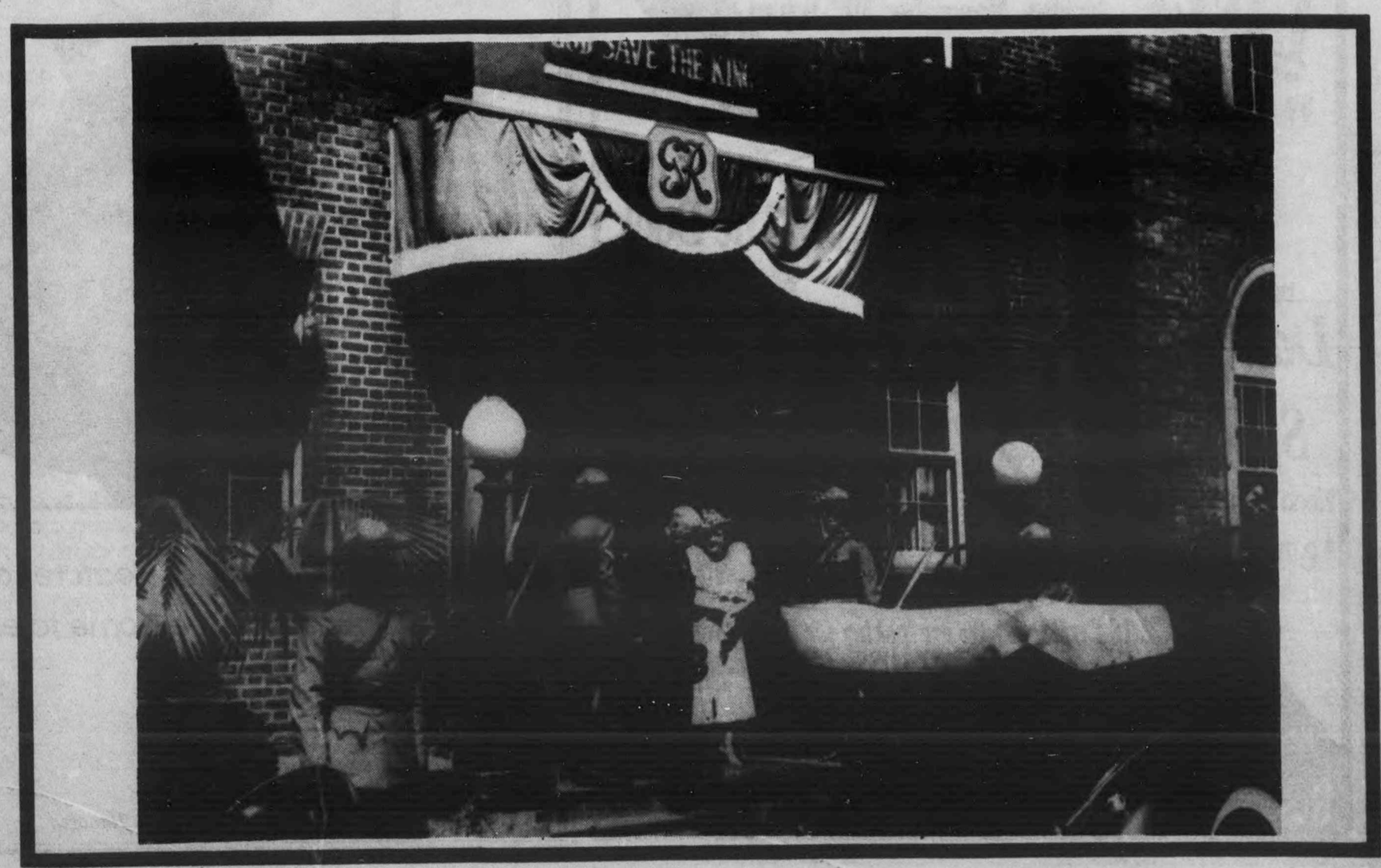
BR, Alvin Shaw (1954-1970), recalls that
elaborate security arrangements for the
Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip (both
UNB and probably LBR in 1952 before the
On the morning of the visit a driver coming
rol and plunged his car into the north front
three hours before the royal party were to
mpt work by the grounds staff ensured that
nce of the fairly serious damage to the
t 1958, the LBR was the scene of another
ess Margaret visited the residence and was
heon by the Mayor of Fredericton, William
ng hall was decorated with palms in the
vers on each table. The new Trans-Canada
city was named after Princess Margaret in
her persons of note to have ben entertained
include Georges P. Vanier, John Diefen-
Robert Kennedy (the latter unscheduled).
eriod of major expansion in the university generally. In 1958 a development plan entitled, "The Measure of Excellence", budgeted for an expenditure of $9.5 million over the succeeding twelve years. Part of that programme involved the building of eight new residences to cater to an expanded student population, which was expected to grow from 1,380 to 2,800 by 1970. In 1971, Lord Beaverbrook's son and successor to the title of Chancellor of the University, Sir Max Aitken financed extensive renovations to LBR at a cost of over $500,000. Completely new electrical and heating systems were installed, and new fixtures, shower units, and floor repairs put in place. It was at this time that renovations to accommodate two paraplegic students were carried out. The halls and rooms were carpeted, and fire doors erected. The wood panelling in the dining room and main lounge as well as the fireplaces were retained in their original condition. During the eighteen months that the alterations were being carried out, the residents were dispersed to the other residences, but re-occupied the LBR in September 1972. The lengthy renovations were occasioned by the nature of the original construction, as the interior partitions are of solid concrete making the structural, heating, plumbing and electrical alterations complicated.

To coincide with the opening of the newly renovated building, the students of the LBR decided to establish an alumni chapter, whose purpose was to establish and maintain a liaison between past and current members and to advance an academic, community and cultural interest in the house on the part of former residents. It was hoped that the proposed alumni chapter would assist in guiding the house in long term planning. LBR was among five houses at the time considering the formation of alumni residence chapters. It proved a difficult task to make contact with alumni, because of an absence of records between 1930 and 1954. Yet by the fall of 1973 volunteer students from LBR had located over 1,000 names from Alumni Office files though over 1,000 more were still outstanding. An Open House was planned for October 1973 so that former residents could view the new renovations. By February 1974, the house president, Douglas A. Currie, reported that two years of searching had uncovered 1,200 names, but that at least 1,500 were still unidentified. At this time also, the house president had in mind to establish an LBR Alumni Scholarship and an LBR Alumni Newsletter. A meeting of LBR alumni took place on 20 March 1974. Further plans were to have LBR alumni participate in the Fall Formal and in special sporting events arranged between alumni and house members. With the departure of Douglas Currie from the house at the end of the 1973-4 academic year, plans for an alumni chapter seem to have receded.

For the fifty-year anniversary of LBR in 1980, an elaborate programme of events was planned, the highlight of which was a formal dinner and ball on 11-12 January for alumni. The dinner was a great success that a wide cross-section of LBR alumni from all years and special guests, 51 in all, attended. Other events included a resident fellow evening when former deans, dons, and fellows met with house members to recollect on times past; a special issue of The Lady, the house magazine, was released; a pool party for house members and guests for which event the swimming area was decorated and there was music playing; and an open house for the public. A portrait for professor Alvin J. Shaw, Don of LBR 1954-70, was unveiled as part of the anniversary celebrations.

In 1931 an LBR by-law prohibited young ladies from doing anything more than being shown through the dining hall and other public rooms. Alvin Shaw recalls that after the war and prior to the mid-1950s, female guests could be entertained in bedrooms for a period of one-half hour during the annual Residence Formal (the same half hour for all residents, of course!) provided that the bedroom door was wide open and that both feet of the occupants were on the floor at all times! These rules were relaxed over the years. Times were changing and in September 1984 the LBR became co-educational, with an equal number from either sex. Some wished LBR to remain an all-male residence, but most people favoured the transition, as it was believed that a co-ed system would help to eliminate some of the more extreme behaviour common in single-sex residences.

As LBR enters the final decade of the twentieth century, its members and alumni can look back on a sixty-year existence that has seen many changes. Despite such changes, LBR has remained a "Home away from home" for those who have been privileged to live here.

by T.P. Power

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