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Rubber Booted Feeler Government Trapped in Castle Motif

by Alan Gayda

McLaughlin College will likely be ready by Oct. 1, according to Al Arcand, Director of Construction for the College. Until then, students will have to brave classes in rubber boots and dodge air hoses in the common room.

Construction of the college has progressed very rapidly considering the strikes which beset it in July 1967. In April, 1968, fire gutted the top three stories of the residence building holding up construction for another twelve days.

A shortage of skilled tradesmen is given as still another cause of the slow-down.

Despite these obstacles, overtime work last winter made up for time lost (as well as interrupting many dreams in the Founders college residence next door!)

All facilities of the college building were to be ready for Sept. 10, except the library, exercise, hobby and recreation rooms.

A distinguishing feature of the college is the architectural design of its common room. This room acts as a hub from which the academic wings and offices jut out to the north, south and west.

The room is a pit with a sand blasted natural concrete finish

and has natural lighting from light wells in the ceiling, the light wells being covered by plastic domes.

From the exterior the common room assumes the appearance of a castle turret, dominating the rest of the college building and acting as its focal point. The exterior design is an obvious continuation of the castle motif apparent in the style of Founders College.

The real capacity of the McLaughlin residence exceeds the standard set for the four colleges by 14. (Each college was to accommodate 250 students but the real capacity of each varies slightly.) This gives the resi-

dence a capacity of 264 students (180 single and 42 double rooms and should provide the extra space needed for the planned orientation 'sleep-in'). Additional living space is available in the basement level for senior tutors, visiting lecturers, special students, or graduate students.

While McLaughlin will not have a permanent student council this year it will have a 'feeler' government (or temporary advisory committee as it is being called) which will prepare the way for the future college and constitution. The committee will be composed of 3 students from the college, a don and the 2 fellows.

G M. President eases York's housing shortage

McLaughlin College derives its name from Colonel R. S. McLaughlin who is best known for his pioneer work in the Canadian automotive industry. He will be remembered by the students of this generation for the McLaughlin Planetarium at the University of Toronto and for the McLaughlin Foundation.

At the age of 97, McLaughlin is still chairman of the board of General Motors of Canada and vice-president of General Motors

Corporation in New York. Even now he still goes into his office everyday. Learning the carriage trade from his father, McLaughlin became a partner in the McLaughlin Carriage Company in 1895 and from 1901 to 1907 was a director and then its secretary treasurer.

While on a trip to the U. S. to improve his knowledge of the carriage industry, McLaughlin became enthused over the new development being made in the

American automotive industry. Will Durant was the leader in this industry at the time and McLaughlin tried to persuade him to come to Canada. He also tried to persuade his father to move into auto manufacturing.

However, Durant refused the offer and the elder McLaughlin would not leave the carriage trade. Left on his own initiative McLaughlin, with the help of his brother, George, designed a Canadian car with a style very sim-

ilar to Durant's Buick. McLaughlin's intention was to build a Canadian car for the Canadian market and he ordered the machinery to begin production.

This action finally moved Durant to come to Oshawa where he persuaded McLaughlin to join him in the production of a Canadian car under the name McLaughlin-Buick.

When the Buick firm grew into the General Motors Corporation, the Canadian division under Robert and George McLaughlin, became known as General Motors of Canada. McLaughlin became president of General Motors of Canada and vice president of the General Motors Corporation. Forced by serious illness to give up the presidency in 1946 McLaughlin became chairman of the board while still retaining the position of vice president of the American firm.

In 1951 McLaughlin set up the McLaughlin Foundation with a grant of one million dollars to assist Canadian medical students, aid medical research and bring distinguished medical lecturers to Canada. Recently he became patron of the McLaughlin Planetarium at U. of T. As a patron of the Ontario Regiment in Oshawa he received the title of honorary colonel. He prefers to be called 'Col. Sam' by his friends. Surely McLaughlin College will be a lasting tribute to this great Canadian.



McLaughlin residence in the background. Everyone asks about the weird shapes on the roof. Go there and find out. We did. They are skylights. Ilze Smits

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Toronto Star, June 10, 1968

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