January 1st, 1963

Weter Memorial Library Pamphlet

Seattle Pacific College

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Weter Memorial Library

Seattle Pacific College
Weter Memorial Library, a memorial to the late James P. Weter, prominent Seattle attorney, and a monument to the educational ideals of Seattle Pacific College, opened its doors in the autumn of 1963.

The three-level building, designed by the Seattle firm of Durham, Anderson and Freed, Architects, is completely modern in design and decor. Facilities include seminar rooms, typing room, technical aids, library staff offices, outside patio reading area, and the regular book service and reading stations adjacent to the book stacks.

The completion of this facility marks another step in the development of the west campus complex as part of the campus master plan.

The building has a seating capacity of 400 students and a book capacity of 100,000 volumes. All necessary provisions have been made to allow for the expansion of the building as the growth of the college demands.
The structural system has been designed to allow the placing of the bookstacks in any portion of the building, thus allowing greater flexibility in future planning. Particular attention was given in the selection of materials to reduce maintenance costs. The color system was carefully planned to reduce the contrast, glare and brightness ratio. Neutral colored shelving and walls are accented with colorful furniture groupings and units. All parts of the building were given careful acoustical treatment. The desks, chairs and tables were selected by the architect for desirability and design qualities.

The cost of the complete project including building, furniture, desks, book shelving, drapes and carpeting amounted to $530,000 or approximately $23.00 per square foot.

Completion of the library is significant in that it was financed through a successful off-campus capital-expansion fund drive. The drive, first announced in October 1960 and launched the spring of 1961, began with a $200,000 gift from the Weter family and concluded this summer when the college qualified for the $25,000 Kresge Foundation gift.

Alumni, students and the Seattle community united behind a campaign committee headed by Harold S. Shefelman, law partner of the late Mr. Weter. Michael Dederer, president of Seattle Fur Exchange, The Honorable Matthew W. Hill, Washington State Supreme Court justice, served as co-chairmen of the campaign.

Miss Margaret Bursell, Librarian, and a faculty committee worked closely with the architect in developing a building plan which would best serve the unique purposes of Seattle Pacific College. Those on the faculty committee were: Donald McNichols, Chairman; Philip Ashton, Margaret Bursell, Donald Demaray, C. Melvin Foreman, Donald Kerlee, Dorothy Kreider, Clifford Rollof, Lawrence Schoenhals, Marthanna Veblen, and Winifred Weter.
The Executive Committee of the Seattle Pacific College Board of Trustees:

Paul T. Walls, chairman
Marvin E. Burke
G. Kimball Burns
Forrest C. Bush
Thomas J. Isaac, secretary
M. Marvin Wallace
C. Woodrow Wilson
SINCE the library is essentially a storehouse of ideas communicated to the reader by means of the alphabet, the panels tell the story of the development of writing through different alphabets.

The horizontal dyptych of the upper band portrays Indians carving totems, men painting Egyptian hieroglyphics, scribes hand writing books in a monastery, and the use of the early printing press. The lower frieze illustrates pictographs, early Greek and Roman alphabets, printers' marks and other symbols of communication.

The pre-cast mosaic is the work of Harold Blacs, Spokane artist.