

GIFT TO COLLEGE

Pierre Goodrich Puts Rare Books on Wabash Shelves

By PAT REDMOND
Staff Reporter

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind.— Wabash College President Byron K. Trippet looked over the jumble of packing cases, chairs and cloth-covered tables and announced:

"I predict that this room will become famous."

With this impromptu dedication, Pierre F. Goodrich, Indianapolis attorney and philanthropist, began the task of setting the room in order.

Goodrich, 64-year-old son of former Governor James P. Goodrich, donated the room in the college's new million-dollar Lilly Library and is furnishing it with his rare collection of books.

"It will be a strange-looking affair," the white-haired attorney and businessman said. "There will be some with fine bindings and some dog-ears, too."

The 2,000-volume collection, which begins with the earliest law codes, is a record of man's search for order—a legal form of government.

WORDS OF FREEDOM

Goodrich said his collection deals with the question of civilization. "It's a historical arrangement, beginning with the first-known words of freedom," he added.

The books, which are originals or what Goodrich calls "honest translations," encompass the fields of music, poetry, science, drama, philosophy and political theory.

The collection today was being distributed along cherry wood shelves encircling the stone-walled room. On the walls are inscribed the authors,

grouped in the eras of history in which they wrote.

In the center of the room is a massive circular seminar table. The room is designed so that normal conversation can be heard from any point in the room.

Dr. Trippet said "Students will not take the books out. We'll encourage them to read here, where the reference material is available."

"I hope we can hold our faculty meetings in this room. Just the atmosphere should do something for us," he added.

GOODRICH IS SCHOLAR

Goodrich, a Wabash trustee, was graduated from the college in 1916, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He received a law degree at Harvard in 1920. He is now a member of the Goodrich, Campbell and Warren law firm in Indianapolis.

The agile, scholarly looking man said he began his collection because he felt he needed "more education."

"People have reached the point where they ask not only 'What am I?' and 'Can I?' but also ask the question 'Ought I?' We have to be free to make this choice."

The books were collected in this country and abroad over the last 15 years. "In fact, I'm not through yet," Goodrich added, "I've got a fellow in England still looking for some copies."

Goodrich said he couldn't put an exact value on his collection. "I couldn't say that the books are rare, some of them may be. Perhaps the collection, as such, is rare," he added.

Goodrich is working "day

and night" to get the room completed for an open house at the library Sunday afternoon. The new structure, named for the principal donor, Eli Lilly of Indianapolis, will be dedicated April 11.



PIERRE F. GOODRICH (left) and DONALD THOMPSON... philanthropist and Wabash College librarian—The News Photo, Pat Redmond

FEE's Trustee, Pierre, is indeed a scholar.

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