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Underneath the Arches, no. 08, September 30, 1963

Grand Valley State College

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No. 8 Special Opening Day Edition

September 30, 1963

(Note: Previous editions of the "Arches" have reported to our pioneer class GVSC progress toward this great day in their lives and ours . . . opening day of classes. For this issue we turn from looking forward to this day and gratefully look back upon the devoted efforts and generous deeds which have made this opening possible.)

HISTORIC DATES -- 1957: The Russell Report
 1958: Formation of the Committee for the
 Establishment of a Four Year College
 1959: The Jamrich Study
 1960: Public Act 120 establishing a new college
 1961: First GVSC State appropriations
 1963: GRAND VALLEY STATE COLLEGE OPENS!

A SQUARE MILE OF CAMPUS AND A MILLION IN CASH -- We have an 836-acre campus in Ottawa county . . . overlooking the Grand River, above which rises a steep bluff divided by wooded ravines. It cost about a third of a million dollars. We paid for one of our academic buildings . . . and for half of our operating expenses last year. How come? Because the response to the '60-'61 GVSC fund drive was overwhelming . . . the money, ordered by the Michigan legislature to be in hand before GVSC rated a charter, was raised in six months.

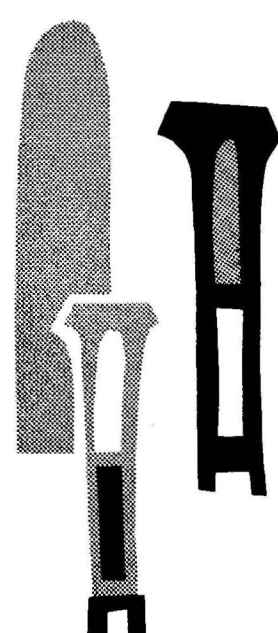
THE GREAT LAKES GROUP -- Lake Michigan Hall . . . stone, glass and concrete . . . rises from its plateau. It still awaits finishing touches but is ready for the pioneer freshmen to begin today's classes.

Just to the north, Lake Superior Hall resounds to the hammers and drills that are hurrying to complete it by year's end. Seidman House . . . the collegiate center . . . has walls rising.

Still on paper are Lake Huron Hall . . . third academic building in the Great Lakes group . . . and the Loutit Hall of Science.

OUTSIDE AND UNDERGROUND -- All utilities are in place, but you won't see signs of them. An underground corridor hides water and sewer lines, electricity and phone wires. Roads are graveled . . . landscaping starts next spring.

One of our farmhouses is converted to a field house . . . complete with showers for GVSC athletes, a health service, and sports equipment storage.



BOUQUETS ALL AROUND -- When it comes to saying "thank you" we realize how fortunate this college is in the many friends who have made this date possible ...

... the original committee for the Establishment of a Four Year College, who found a small sentence in the Russell report and worked for two years to achieve official recognition by the Michigan legislature

... the legislators from this area who pushed through the bill establishing GVSC in record time, when the state's financial situation was desperate.

... the many consultants from our sister colleges who advised us when our beginnings were small and our problems great

... the Board of Control members who have given so much of their time since their appointment almost three years ago

... the Citizens' Council members who carried the word of the new college to every corner of the 8-county area, who helped select the site and raise the money

... citizens of Allendale who sponsored the site which the Council and the Board selected

... the Michigan Department of Administration and all its divisions who have assisted us in our construction program and operations

... officials of the township and county governments surrounding College Landing, who have shown the greatest co-operation with their new neighbor

... the donors (more than 5,000 of them) who gave to the GVSC fund drive, the donors of scholarships for our pioneer class, the donors of buildings and equipment and countless other gifts, both tangible and intangible

and many others who took part in launching this venture.

HIGH HOPES -- At the beginning of its work, the original committee adopted "High Hopes" as its informal theme song. The gist of its lyrics is that nothing is impossible for those who aim high, work hard, and don't give up.

According to our president, James H. Zumberge, "Our high hopes are being realized because there were so many who took this message to heart. Their perseverance has brought us this far. With their continuing support, we move ahead with the task of providing the best in education for the youth of today."