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Business and Public Administration

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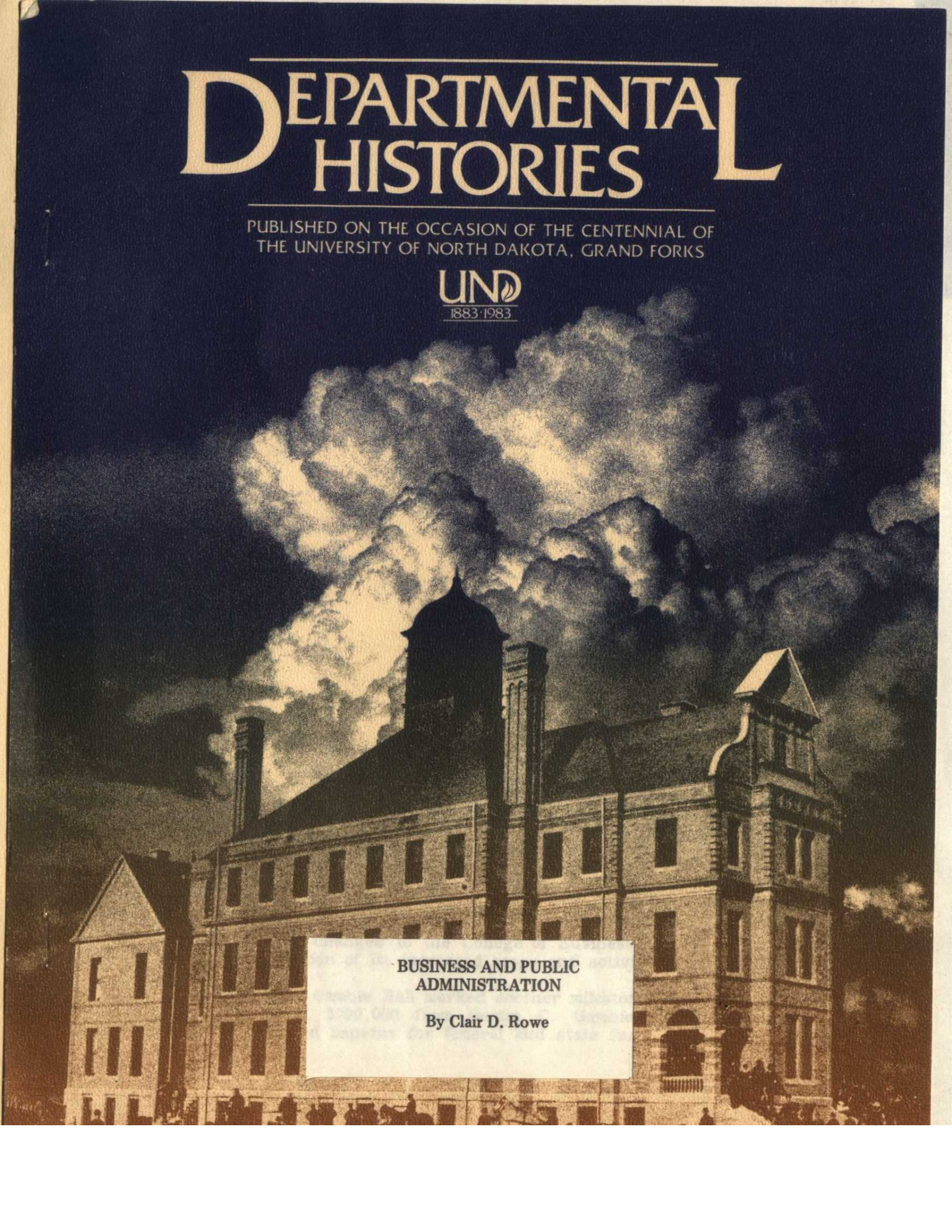
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DEPARTMENTAL HISTORIES

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**BUSINESS AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

By Clair D. Rowe

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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An Ideal

The ideals of university service and scholarship were the motivating factors in the establishment of a School of Commerce at the University of North Dakota in 1924. Prior to 1924, a commerce curriculum was offered in the Economics and Political Science Department of the College of Liberal Arts. However, six foresighted faculty members and more than 200 students recognized the need for additional professional education for business and, under the leadership of Ezra Towne, a petition to establish a School of Commerce was submitted to the Board of Administration. Subsequent action by the Board resulted in the formation of the School of Commerce in 1924.

A Reality

Ezra Towne, the first dean, led the embryonic school during its formative years and took his place in the ranks of the early day "giants" of the University. As business complexity and specialization increased, the School of Commerce broadened its curriculum offerings to meet the needs of students embarking on business and public service careers. The initial eight programs in economics and political science were augmented by the addition of the Department of Accounting in 1926.

During the years following World War II, enrollments increased dramatically as a result of an influx of veterans wishing to study for business careers. The old quarters shared with the School of Law were no longer adequate to meet enrollment pressures and members of the faculty often had to look elsewhere to conduct their classes. It was during this period that the college was sympathetically referred to as the "suit case" college.

A New Direction

The retirement of Dean Towne in 1948 ushered in an era of change. Under the dynamic leadership of Thomas J. Clifford, an alumnus and the youngest dean ever appointed at the University, significant program revisions were accomplished and new departments were created. To attach further importance to several of the functional areas of business administration, Marketing and Management, which had existed as single departments within the organizational structure of Economics and Political Science, were established as separate departments in 1951. Recognition of growing importance of aviation as an industry led to the creation of the department of Aviation in 1968. The name of the school was changed to the College of Business and Public Administration in 1955 in recognition of its increased scope and activities.

The dedication of Gamble Hall marked another milestone for the College in 1969. A contribution of \$200,000 from Bertin C. Gamble and the P. W. Skogmo foundation provided impetus for federal and state funds to build and equip the

new home of the College of Business and Public Administration. At the dedication ceremony, Gamble endorsed the major premise of the founders of the College by saying, "The most important asset this country has is the dedicated youth who are adding to their fund of knowledge and abilities to take their place among the leaders of the country and world."

After Dean Clifford was inaugurated as President of the University in 1971, Dr. Clair Rowe, Chairman of the Marketing Department at Ball State University, was named Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration. During his administration additional changes and expansion of services have occurred. A Masters of Business Administration degree program was established on the UND campus, in Bismarck, and at the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force bases. A Masters in Public Administration was inaugurated in 1976. The Small Business Institute and the Executive-in Residence Program was developed, and the Department of Business and Vocational Education was transferred from the College of Education to the College of Business and Public Administration. Formal application for accreditation of the College by the American Collegiate Schools of Business was made in 1982.

Today, after 59 years of service, the College enrolls more than 1600 students, and a full-time faculty of 70 professors implements the objectives of the College. Included in the organizational structure are seven departments - accounting, aviation, business and vocational education, economics, management, marketing, and political science. Five service programs have been established to meet the needs of the University, state and nation. They include the Bureau of Governmental Affairs, Bureau of Business and Economic Reserach, Center of Economic Education, Small Business Institute Program, and the Executive-in-Residence Program.