

# First campus student recalls novelty, independence and leadership

It was only across town, but it was a different world for Dale Boyke.

"It was overwhelming," said the Goodrich High graduate. "The campus was new, everything was new: the college layout and program were so different from high school. Finding classes was new. There was construction dust. Meeting professors for the first time was new... they acted differently and treated students differently than in high school. I felt like I was thrown into the adult world."

Students were new, too. Boyke was cited as the first male student enrolled at the Fond du Lac campus. He recalls sitting on a podium with dignitaries and officials during the cold and windy opening ceremonies. He remembers the pride of his father, Clarence, who had once served on the County Board so instrumental in creating the campus.

"You are talking to a farm kid who had no money, nothing in those days," said Boyke, now an engineer and vice president celebrating 35 years of employment at Oilgear, a Milwaukee-based maker of integrated electro-hydraulic systems.

"I had to work at home and live at home, and save money. I chose (UW) Fond du Lac because it was local. But, I looked at it as something really special. Not everyone went to college. I really appreciated it."

The new campus seemed big as Boyke walked between classroom buildings. Transferring to Madison to complete his engineering studies (B.S.M.E., Dec. 1972) put size into perspective.

"A city block, versus a mile," he laughed.

In addition to independence, college offered another new and meaningful life experience: sports. In high school, Boyke skipped all extracurricular activities in order to be home for farm chores.

As a college freshman, he made the varsity basketball team. Along with that came the inspiration and guidance of Coach Richard Knar and the friendship of teammates who called themselves "The Family," and did everything together: work, study, play.

"Coach Knar taught us a lot. I appreciated him and his skills of building people," said Boyke, who regularly contributes to the Knar Scholarship Fund at UW-Fond du Lac.

"You could idolize that man. I was used to working hard on the farm, and I respected my father and Coach in the same vein. I'll never forget that man...that's why I support his name and the scholarship."

To add your support to the Richard C. Knar Scholarship fund, contact the UW-FDL Foundation office at (920) 929-1335.