TACHÉ HALL

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF RESIDENCE LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

1911-2011

LEO PETTIPAS
AND FRIENDS OF TACHÉ HALL
Taché Hall

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Leo Pettipas and Friends of Taché Hall

Assisted by Linda Rzeszutek
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Preface
by Linda Rzeszutek

This book is an out-growth of the global “Doors Open” tour program that is designed to offer the general public an opportunity to become acquainted with architectural legacies that ordinarily might not be familiar or accessible to most. One of the buildings featured in the Winnipeg 2009 program was Taché Hall, part or all of which was variously known at different times in its history as “the Boys’ and Girls’ Dormitories,” the “Manitoba Union Building,” and “the Men’s Residence and the Women’s Residence.” Then in 1964, the building was finally known as “Taché Hall.”

To supplement the 2009 Doors Open Winnipeg visitor tour, a 20-page hand-out was prepared for the event and titled, appropriately enough, The History of Taché Hall. However, with the centennial anniversary of the construction of Taché Hall coming up in 2011, it was decided that the hand-out would serve as the foundation for a book to commemorate the centenary. Participants in the 2009 tour were invited to contribute stories and information about their experiences as former Residents. Subsequently, other former Tachéites were invited via the alumni journal OnManitoba to contribute stories and photographs of their own; and Leo Pettipas, one of the respondents and a former Resident of Taché Hall (Men’s Residence), agreed to take the lead in gathering, editing, and integrating further information to flesh out the decade-by-decade history of the grand old building.

This volume was a volunteer effort. It is a story book, not a scholarly work, in that it lacks in-text references, footnotes/endnotes, and a formal references section or bibliography. The research was neither systematic nor exhaustive; no pains were taken to ensure that all possible primary data were assiduously sought out and used: by the time the manuscript had reached 250 single-spaced pages, we felt that we had reached the limits of our time and our non-existent research budget, and called it a day. Accordingly, as a history book it is surely incomplete and knowledgeable readers may well find gaps and omissions of situations and events that they feel should be there, or that we have included events and photos that were taken in one of the other Residences in the later years—at times it was difficult to determine to what, to where, and to whom a comment or photo was referring. For this, we offer our apologies.

Of course, there are many still-accessible accounts of “adventures” that had been documented and even published many years ago, mainly in the Residence magazine The Perspective, that we nonetheless felt were not suitable for inclusion in a “family” publication. We also deemed it appropriate not to use students’ surnames. We gladly accept the unspoken gratitude of both the guilty and their innocent victims for choosing not to name them, when we describe their colourful, youthful indiscretions from days of yore!

Leo in 1967, as a student in the Men’s Residence.

Leo in 2011, an enthusiastic participant in this project.
A bird’s-eye view in the early years of the new Manitoba Agricultural College buildings in St. Vital, Winnipeg. A few years later, the area would be called Fort Garry.

The Boys’ and Girls’ Dormitories, one of the first buildings on the new campus, housed 200 females and almost 400 males in double rooms and would do so for 100 years to come.
A look at the east side of the campus almost one hundred years later, with Taché Hall standing proud and strong. Credit: Source unknown.
Contributors:

Many thanks to the following Residence students and U of M staff, past and present, who sent us their stories, photos, and memories for this project:

• Warren Bard
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• Mike Shannon
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• Ron Thorne-Finch

We apologize for any names that have been omitted, as some stories were not identified by author.

Photographs:

Thank you for the photo contributions from:

• Archives of Manitoba
• Bryan Scott Photography
• Folks from our Facebook Group
• Patricia McMorgan
• Ramona Garbald Photography
• The U of M Archives
• Thomas Fricke Photography

Sources:

• Rzeszutek, L. (compiler), 2009, The History of Taché Hall. Handout for the 2009 Doors Open Winnipeg event.
• Brown & Gold Yearbooks
• Manitoba Alumni Journal / OnManitoba
• The Bulletin
• The MAC Gazette

• The Manitoban
• The Perspective
• The Resident Yearbooks
• The Winnipeg Free Press
• The Winnipeg Tribune
• RSAC and Departmental files from 1960 to the present.

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• Ed Ledohowski
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Our Dedication

Last but not least, we wish to dedicate this book to our spouses, Katherine Pettipas and Ed Rzeszutek, for their patience, encouragement, and support over the three long years it took to produce this labour of love.
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This architectural image of Taché Hall Centre Block has been used over the past 100 years in presentations at Colour Nights, staff retirements, and other special events.