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## Founders' Day 1957

Macalester College

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Edwin V. Coulter

Chester Tobin

Charles J. Turck

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**Macalester College Archives**

**Audio Reel #77**

**Founders' Day 1957**

[Bagpipes]

Phil Beedon: Founders' Day greetings from the campus. This is Phil Beedon speaking to you from Dear Old Mac. We are mighty pleased that in homes, restaurants, hotels, and church dining halls and recreation rooms, Mac clans in greater numbers than ever before are meeting this year to observe Founders' Day. We sincerely believe that it is good for Macalester and good for her sons and daughters to meet this way. To strengthen college loyalties and renew friendships. Wherever your clan may be listening at this moment, I hope that these voices from the campus will bring you back to Mac for the next few minutes.

[00:50]

We've had many, many hard working and devoted Mac-ites serve as president of the national Macalester Alumni Association, and Mr. Edwin V. Coulter, Class of '34, is no exception. Vice-President and General Manager of Multi-Clean Products, Incorporated, St. Paul, he is presently giving much of his time as Chairman of the Alumni Fund Committee. Ed, have you a word for Mac-ites on Founders' Day?

[01:15]

Edwin V. Coulter: It has been a pleasure and a great privilege to represent each of you in our contacts with the other faces of Macalester. I know that the trustees and faculty and President Turck sincerely appreciate the importance of the alumni. Dr. Henry T. Heald in his final

president's report before leaving New York University to become head of the Ford Foundation said, "The ultimately continuing strength of a university rests with its alumni. Their association is ended only with death and even then new generations of alumni provide the continuity that perpetuates a university. Its officers come and go, its facilities change. Its programs are modified and buildings replaced, but its alumni maintain a lifelong relationship to their university. They are keepers of the tradition. Preferred stock holders of the enterprise. The mark of its accomplishment. From the time he is selected as an undergraduate, the alumnus is irrevocably associated with and attached to his university. If his university gains renown, some rubs off on him. If he obtains prominence and success, his university basks in the reflected glory. He of all people has the greatest stake in his university. He follows its progress with pride. He serves as an unofficial ambassador to the community. He contributes in many ways to its leadership. A university has a responsibility to its alumni and they to it. If an alumnus retains an intimate association with his institution, and an intimate knowledge of its goals and problems, the chances are he will give it his assistance, time, effort, and money. It must never give him real cause to regret that it is *his* university. This is the ideal university-alumnus relationship. Both the university and alumnus should strive to reach it and keep it." If you will substitute Macalester College for university in the passage I have just quoted, you will, I am sure, agree that this represents a challenge to both ourselves and our great college Macalester.

[03:33]

[Speaker?]: Mr. Chester M. Tobin, Class of 1920, immediate past-president of the Alumni Association, has given unstintingly of his time and energies to the college. A member of

Macalester's Board of Trustees, he brings a wealth of experience, gained both here and abroad, to his present important volunteer service. That of heading the annual giving committee of the challenging new development fund. Chet, we'd like to hear from you.

[03:58]

Chester M. Tobin: Fellow alumni, as this is our annual occasion of the gathering of the clans of Mac-ites throughout this country and abroad, it is fitting that I recall some of the things that impressed me as I read and prepared to speak at the second student convocation last fall on the history and ideals of Macalester College. It still seems incredible to me that in the spring of 1849, when Dr. Edward Duffield Neill landed from the boat bringing him up to St. Paul, St. Paul had a population of but three hundred people, though it tripled in size before that very year ended. And its upriver twin Minneapolis was not yet born, though quickly destined to outgrow it. Dr. Neill came to St. Paul and to the territory of Minnesota as a young Presbyterian minister of twenty-six. Dedicated to the task of bringing to this area Christian education. What a pioneer. And what great footsteps he made in the sands of time. By early 1853, he had opened Baldwin School for Girls. Back to his great purpose after the Civil War, he made such a deep impression on Mr. Charles Macalester that, after his death in 1873, it was learned that he had left Winslow House for Dr. Neill if he could get the necessary additional backing to fulfill his dream of creating a college for men. So Macalester College was created by an act of the state legislature in 1874. But the struggle to get the additional funds is evident by the fact that it was not until September 1885, eleven years later, that Macalester College opened its doors to its first student body—six freshman students and Baldwin Academy with thirty-two students. In the second year

of the college, there came to its faculty a young man whose name was James Wallace. And that man, because of his indomitable leadership, courage, and great Christian faith, was to save our beloved college [from] being closed following the Panic of 1893.

[06:02]

I cannot help but well up with emotion when I recall [how he] traveled to Pittsburg and sold parts of the campus to Mrs. Thaw and her son and how these great people years later gave back that same property as a gift. It had been up until that time the largest gift ever made by any individuals. Nor do we ever forget how the entire faculty sacrificed unbelievably to keep the college open through those and other extremely difficult years. No wonder that to so many of us, Macalester and Wallace are well nigh synonymous. Dear Dr. James Wallace, you are enshrined in our hearts as a grand old man of Macalester. And to our college there came another great leader in 1939, Dr. Charles J. Turck. It has been my privilege and pleasure to be associated with him in our alumni affairs for six years and the past two years as one of the alumni representatives on the Board of Trustees. When I look over the campus and see the buildings that have [been] added and then many other great marks of growth, I realize the significance of his years of leadership. What a might of a man in physical stature and what a giant of a man in limitless energy. An achievement for the college and in his vision and planning for the future of Macalester. For within the year, he has pressed for and secured this thing you are hearing more and more about. The Development Council. And what is this Development Council? It is a group dedicated to the task of determining what Macalester should be in the next ten years and the decades to follow, and then to secure the means of making it just that. The planning is where it belongs—in the hands of the faculty with a trustee liaison. For then it becomes the task of the

trustees and alumni to approve and accomplish the great goals being set. Yes, Macalester is on the march and every alumnus can be very proud of our alma mater on this Founders' Day celebration.

[08:03]

PB: And now we are pleased to present—with a Founders' Day message for Mac-ites everywhere—our prexy, Dr. Charles J. Turck.

[08:16]

Dr. Charles J. Turck: My dear friends of the alumni, the current academic year is the first year of the program of the new Development Council, as Mr. Tobin has just now explained to you. May I begin my report then, with a special tribute to this council. Its chairman, Benjamin Griggs of St. Paul and Cameron Thompson of Minneapolis, and to all its members and the alumni who have worked enthusiastically to get this council in operation. The tribute I pay takes the form of a very simple report, namely that we have received in the current fiscal year, as the result of the operations of the council, in gifts and bequests a total of more than one million dollars. You will remember last year the college announced the program of development that included projects that would cost in the end ten million dollars and would take at least ten years to accomplish. Since we had never raised more than four hundred thousand dollars in any one year, our average goal of one million dollars a year might have seemed to some fantastic. Yet in the first year, without any campaign and relying entirely upon the work of the volunteers, alumni, and others who make up the Development Council and its committees, we have received the first million

dollars. To the one who has sparked this program and has given, I would estimate, about forty percent of the total, Mr. DeWitt Wallace. Distinguished son of a distinguished father. We can only say thank you sir, and God bless you. This development program now rests on the willingness of every alumnus of Macalester to make an annual gift, to to make a provision for Macalester in his or her will, so that each alumnus is a volunteer, a partner in this great enterprise.

[10:05]

If we are going to upgrade Macalester and its students, faculty, equipment, and program, make it one of the top twenty colleges in America, it would cost money and courage and vision and wisdom. We have these things in our collective possession in abundance. Let us use them all for the advancement of Macalester. Time does not permit me to even summarize what has been accomplished. One hundred fine trees have been planted this fall and winter, with shrubs and evergreens and a lilac hedge that will encircle the football field and the college. The field house has been completed and dedicated and is in full use. Two dormitories, one for a hundred and thirty-two men and the other for a hundred and fifty-two women, are in the process of construction and will be ready for occupancy September 1957. The F. R. Bigelow Professorship of Economics has been established by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation and filled by Dr. Arthur Upgren, at present the Dean of the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College. The James Wallace Professorships have been established in several fields, but the holders of these posts have not yet been appointed. The salaries of our professors have been increased on the average of about fifteen percent, which is almost unheard of in college circles and the end is not yet. Our attendance in the fall of 1956 was one thousand three hundred and

sixty-five, and although our standards have been raised, we anticipate an increase of a hundred in the fall of 1957. The greatest years of Macalester are immediately before us. Let me close by mentioning a matter of very special interest. Dr. Edwin Kagin, our beloved Professor Emeritus of Religion has worked long and faithfully over the papers of Dr. James Wallace. And he has completed the manuscript which now has been accepted by Doubleday & Company for publication this spring under the title, *James Wallace of Macalester*. I venture to predict that this book will bring the name and the story of our college to a vast public that has known us only casually. Make this book known to your friends, the great story of a great man. This, his birthday and our Founders' Day, we salute his memory and pledge a new loyalty to the development of his college and ours.

[12:34]

PB: During the next few minutes, you will hear a voice from the past. The voice of the great founder on the occasion of whose birthday anniversary we all join to observe Founders' Day. The record from which this message is taken is a bit scratched, but I'm sure you will thrill to the voice of Dr. James Wallace as he greeted the alumni on Founders' Day on his ninetieth birthday in 1939.

[13:00]

[Recording of James Wallace from 1939]: My dear alumni, alumnae, and friends of Macalester, accept our affectionate greeting. Tonight in a large degree, the honors of the college are yours. Without you as loyal and sympathetic ears, how cold and joyless this Founders' Day would be.

Of what significance were an alma mater if there were no children to rise up and call her blessed. As the highest joy of parents is in the well-being and well-doing of their children, so the highest satisfaction of the alma mater is in the character, success, and ever-widening influence of her foster sons and daughters. I am asked to speak briefly this evening on Dr. Edward D. Neill to whom the honor belongs of Founder of Dear Old Macalester, yet I cannot help but feel that you should be regarded as affiliates in this high honor. You were agents in putting soul and spirit into Macalester's material body. You have reflected glory on its birth. You have given it continuity of life. You have vindicated its right to be. Through you and other devoted friends, it has risen to an honored place among the colleges of the land. I have spoken these words of praise with great sincerity, yet I am aware that in almost every graduating class there can be found a number, usually very small, who carry away their diploma with little or no sense of gratitude or affection. If questioned, they would probably say that they paid for all they got and even for more. This attitude bespeaks a dull and narrow mind. No American college was ever built for pecuniary profit. The motives that prompted their erection were the same as or closely akin to those that have founded and sustained our churches. No college lives or needs income from tuition. It is endowments generously given that make such institutions possible. The college has aims and aims far above the making of money. Its mission and its glory is in the making of character. In the love of learning it inspires. In the wider horizon it extends. In the fraternity of letters it creates. In the Christian philosophy it teaches. In its lofty appeal of a life of service and sacrifice, not only for our great democracy but also for the common wheel of men and nations everywhere, no college fully realizes its ideals. Macalester humbly confesses its shortcomings, but there is, I am glad to say, solid ground to hope that as the months and years go

by, Macalester College will, to an increasing degree, realize its lofty aims and justify the warm affection and cordial support of all those whom she loves to claim as sons, daughters, and friends.

[16:58]

PB: And now as we hear the last notes of the piper, so long from the campus.

[bagpipe music]