Summer 1968 and, although the "lazy, hazy, crazy days" are few at the Stark County Branch, it provides opportunity to reflect upon the first year on our permanent campus.

It was a year of unparalleled growth and exciting challenge at every turn. More than that, it was a rewarding experience, a meaningful contribution to higher education in this locality.

One might say it was a year of "personalities" at the Branch. Sen. Frank J. Lausche, Gov. James A. Rhodes, actor John Carradine, pianist Arthur Loesser, former boxing champion Archie Moore and political analyst Sam Lubell were among our distinguished guests.

And it was a year of "firsts" at the Branch. Kent State University President Dr. Robert I. White addressed our first Fall Convocation. Our first Concert-Lecture Series was held. We wound up the year with our first Student Leadership Dinner.

Branch students made headlines...not because they rioted or protested, but because they achieved positive accomplishments. Leslyn Hiple was crowned Miss Canton. Sgt. Nick Denman gunned down 20 Viet Cong attackers in a muggy Vietnamese village and was awarded the Silver Star for bravery. Ronnie Harris won his third national AAU boxing championship and added his first national Golden Gloves title for good measure.

It was a busy year. We opened a bookstore...renamed the student paper...watched the birth of an Interfaith Campus Ministry...held an orientation, a choir concert and three plays...took ten trophies at the Ohio Regional Campus Spring Sports Tournament...compiled our winningest basketball record...made speeches...conducted tours...welcomed Massillon City Hospital student nurses into our classes this fall...carved our niche.

We taught...and we learned.

Now, we await Fall Quarter and with it over 2,400 students. Admissions, running at a record pace, bear out the projection. But more of that later. Won't you take a few moments to review, with us, 1967-68 at Ohio's largest University Branch?
November 18, 1967, dawned cold and windy, but weather could not diminish the excitement that prevailed at the Stark County Branch. It was Dedication Day—the "official" beginning of the new campus, although classes for 1,824 students had been meeting there since September.

Some 800 persons filled the auditorium and overflowed into the library where they watched ceremonies on closed circuit television. Later, open house tours drew 2,000.

Dedication featured remarks by (left to right in photo) Sen. Frank J. Lausche, Kent State University President Dr. Robert I. White and Gov. James A. Rhodes. Other participants included Atty. Edward J. Zink, chairman of the Branch's Citizens Advisory Committee; Branch Director Jack D. Morehart, and James F. Foraker, the president of the student body.

In his remarks, Sen. Lausche stressed the historical importance of education in America. Gov. Rhodes looked to the future, citing the Branch's master campus plan which envisions an enrollment of 15,000. Both paid tribute to those who made the Stark County Branch a reality.

the nurses are coming...

Shortly after dedication, on December 13, 1967, the Stark County Branch took an important step in serving the educational needs of the community. It was announced that the Branch and the Massillon City Hospital School of Nursing were affiliating in a cooperative nursing education program.

Under the arrangement, effective this fall, students from the School of Nursing will spend the first year of their three-year program attending classes and participating in all activities at the Branch.

Announcement of the agreement was made jointly by (left to right in photo) Miss Barbara C. Mertes, R.N., School of Nursing director; Massillon City Hospital Administrator Robert L. Zucker, and Branch Director Jack D. Morehart.

"The new affiliation with Kent State University is considered as another strength to our nursing program," Miss Mertes observed at the time.
Stark County Branch students have available to them for the first time the services of an Interfaith Campus Ministry and its full-time, on-campus director.

One of the most broadly based organizations of its type in the country, the Ministry has been in development for the last 20 months. It includes all religions, races and ethnic groups in its program and sponsorship. Assuming the duties of director of the Interfaith Campus Ministry on July 1 was William H. Casto Jr. (left), a native of Columbus. Mr. Casto previously served as assistant chaplain at Ohio Wesleyan University and as assistant director of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Virginia. A graduate of The Ohio State University, he received a master of divinity degree in June from Methodist Theological School at Delaware, Ohio.

The Ministry will strive to nurture spiritual values among Branch students and personnel, provide programs to make students aware of their faith and provide a counseling service to help them solve their personal problems. It hopes to strengthen ties between students and their own religious affiliations and to work with local congregations in the ecumenical spirit.

Atty. Gary A. Banas is president of the Ministry, which includes several faculty members and students on its board. The Ministry is not, however, a University organization.

When the Vice President of the United States, Hubert H. Humphrey, arrived at Akron-Canton Airport on his way to a major address at Kent State University's main campus May 3, more than 200 Stark County Branch students, joined by 100 from other branches, formed a human "KSU" on the runway to greet him.

In the accompanying photo, Gary Sigler, Stark County Branch student body president, presents Mr. Humphrey with a plaque on behalf of the Branch. To Gary's left, in checked coat, is William M. Stephens, dean of the Division of University Branches, and Stark Branch Director Jack Morehart.

Chartered buses carried the Stark County Branch students to Kent where Mr. Humphrey addressed a crowd of 10,000.
getting to know you...

To acquaint members of the Stark County Branch freshman class with each other and with campus personnel, facilities and procedures, two-day orientation sessions were held last August just after the new building was occupied. Because there were 600 students involved, it was necessary to split them into two groups and run identical programs August 21-22 and August 23-24.

As the photos indicate, activities ranged from the serious business of studying the catalogue (left), registering for classes, paying fees and buying books to fun and games (right).

In addition, the freshmen met the faculty and the administrators, learned about student organizations and activities at the Branch and received counseling. Their parents were guests at a meet-the-faculty tea. Warner D. Mendenhall, director of student affairs, and a 22-member committee of students headed by sophomore Marcia Battista planned the orientation.

first cultural series is history...

For the first time, students at the Stark County Branch were given the opportunity to enjoy and profit from a Concert-Lecture Series during the 1967-68 academic year. Ten varied programs, ranging from guest artists to student productions, made up the series, which also attracted community attendance.

Among the participants were (left to right below) writer and political analyst Sam Lubell who discussed the 1968 Presidential campaign (he is seen chatting with several Branch students on the subject of changing Negro attitudes), concert pianist Arthur Loesser, actor John Carradine and former world light-heavyweight boxing champion Archie Moore who described his current work in fighting juvenile delinquency. Other guests included troubadour harpist Gerald Goodman and composer Donald Erb, as well as the Kent State University Choir.
it was a good year in sports...

The best basketball record in history and ten trophies in spring sports were among the athletic highlights during the 1967-68 academic year at the Stark County Branch.

Coach Ray Swope's basketball squad rolled to a 14-6 record and took fourth place in the 12-team Ohio Regional Campus Tournament at Kent State Ashtabula in February. Henry McGhee (No. 50 in photo), 6-3 center, was named to the all-tourney team. Terry Byers (No. 42 in photo), 6-2 forward, paced the season's scoring with 327 points. McGhee notched 302.

The Stark County Branch dominated the Ohio Regional Campus Spring Sports Tournament which attracted 175 athletes from nine branch campuses. Local men and women won ten trophies in three sports at the tournament held in May at the Ohio State Newark Campus.

They included three team trophies for first place finishes in men's and women's bowling and in golf. Golfers, with HPE coordinator Robert D. Kistler at right, included (left to right) Bob Moock whose 78 earned runnerup medalist honors, alternate Steve Rukvina, John Sibila, Tom Ivan and Ange Spitale.

In men's bowling, a team of Bob Snyder, Jim Rowles, Bob Morris, Tom Kracker and Larry McCorkle rolled 3605. McCorkle’s 759 series was high and Morris took high game honors with 236. A team score of 2512 earned top honors in women's bowling for Marty Eckelberry, Jennie Johns, Paula Watson, Mabel Bruce and Diane Dlugolecki. In tennis, Martha Williams in women's singles and Dave Snyder in men's singles took runnerup honors.

The year also saw the first venture in girl's track at the Stark County Branch when six women were entered in an invitational meet at the College of Wooster in May. The best showing was by Holly Mercer who tied for first place in the shot put with a heave of 36 feet 7 inches. Other entrants were Mimi Rebillot, Pat Pressler, Kay Wright, Candy Bixler and Betty Jo Beck.

Branch Director Jack D. Morehart made sports page headlines in February by bowling a 781 series that included a perfect 300 game. In December, the Stark County Branch played host as Kent State University met Duquesne University in a basketball game at Canton Memorial Auditorium. Thirteen Stark County natives who formerly served as captains of Kent State athletic teams were honored at halftime.
Three Stark County Branch students earned well deserved recognition in recent months for their achievements outside the classroom.

Boxer Ronnie Harris (shown at right with Professor Tom McCort in the biology lab) won national titles in both AAU and Golden Gloves competition in the 132-pound class.

It marked the third consecutive year that Ronnie had taken the national AAU crown in his weight class. He is prepping this summer for the Olympic trials September 5-8 in Toledo where he hopes to win a spot on the United States team that will compete in Mexico City in October. Ronnie's long range goal is to become a doctor.

Pretty coeds abound at the Stark County Branch, and one of the prettiest is Leslyn Hiple who was crowned Miss Canton on May 12, winning the right to represent Stark, Wayne and Holmes counties in the Miss Ohio Pageant July 15-21 at Cedar Point. Two other Stark County Branch coeds, Madalana Matter and Pat Cooper, were among the ten semi-finalists in the local contest.

Honors of a different nature were bestowed on another Stark County Branch student during ceremonies held Memorial Day on the steps of McKinley Monument here. Sgt. Nick Denman received the Silver Star, this nation's third highest medal for bravery. He was recognized for his bravery as chief of a 175mm gun crew that was attacked by the Viet Cong near Tam Ky, South Vietnam, on May 3, 1966. Sgt. Denman is credited with having killed 20 Viet Cong as he fired 1,000 rounds into their midst from a .50-cal. machine gun mounted atop an armored personnel carrier.

Achievements within the university framework were cited May 27 when 83 students who had made significant contributions during the year at the Stark County Branch were honored at the first Director's Leadership Dinner at Topps' Chalet. Cited for academic excellence were Jennie Johns, sophomore woman with highest accumulative average; Nash R. Uebelhart, sophomore man with highest accumulative average; Cynthia Digiantonio, freshman woman with highest accumulative average; Albert Johnson, freshman man with highest accumulative average, and Anne Fenton, student with greatest number of perfect 4.0 hours. The program consisted of a discussion on prejudice by a "Panel of American Women" that was moderated by Mrs. Richard Saltsman.
In addition to their work and activities at the Stark County Branch, many faculty members have found time to serve a variety of community and professional organizations. A few examples, besides innumerable speaking engagements, follow:

JAMES R. LOTZE, assistant professor of music, wrote concert notes for the Canton Symphony Orchestra, conducted the Canton City Schools Choral Festival and was the accompanist for the Canton Players Guild production of "Oliver!" MRS. JEANNE RUBIN, assistant professor of music, serves as assistant concertmaster of the Canton Symphony Orchestra.

LEE BRUBAKER, assistant professor of English, served as pronouncer for the 1968 Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge and Stow Spelling Bee and as a judge for the 1968 Canton Spelling Bee.

WARNER D. MENDENHALL, assistant professor of political science and director of student affairs, is a member of the legislative committee of the United Fund of Central Stark County.

ROBERT D. KISTLER, health and physical education coordinator, is a regional director of the Northeast Ohio Tennis Association and also is chairman of a committee to coordinate Branch athletics across the state.

FREDERICK WORRELL, assistant professor of sociology, is a member of the Governor's Council for Study of Vocational Rehabilitation in Ohio. He also is active with Operation Headstart for College-Bound Youth at the Canton Urban League.

GLENN A. HIMEBAUGH, instructor of journalism and director of information services, is a member of the public relations committee of the United Fund of Central Stark County and of the Stark County Extension Advisory Committee.

MRS. KATHI WALZ, instructor of health and physical education, demonstrated a circular stretch rope at the annual convention of the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation February 16 in Akron.