Background

BY JOSEPH H. BURNS

The history of an institution offers to the present day student an atmosphere and spirit which are valuable parts of his education. The students of Rutgers Law School are fortunate in having a long and rich history upon which to draw.

The Law School came into being in 1928 as the New Jersey Law School but by its incorporation in the State University of New Jersey in 1946, it has joined former with an institution nearly two centuries old. Queens College, now Rutgers University, was chartered in 1766 as one of the Colonial colleges.

The New Jersey Law School was founded by Richard C. New, assisted greatly by Charles G. Banker and Charles M. Meyers. Mr. New described as "an inspiring teacher and a faithful friend," served as Dean of the Law School from 1910 to 1927.

One year after the founding of the school, the Board of Bar Examiners recognized it as a school of established reputation, and in 1912 permission was given to grant the LL.B. Degree. Thus, the new institution quickly took its rightful place in the educational structure within the state.

In 1928, Spalding Foner founded the Mercer-Basley Law School. A total of 2,335 students, the second largest student body in the country, were enrolled in 1927. This school became merged into New Jersey Law School in 1910, and Foner assumed the office of Dean.

In the Fall of 1935 representatives of five schools, meeting in the Downtown Club in Newark, signed articles of agreement which established the University of New-ark. The schools were New Jersey Law School, Warner-Beasley Law School, New York University, Duke College and Sarah Booth School of Business. Divided into the School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Law School, the new University held classes in the old Basley-Basley Academy in Newark, and in 1937 the first class was graduated.

The Law School continued to grow and in 1934 it was recognized by the American Bar Association. Dean George S. Harris, lent his able direction through these years and continued in the office of Dean after the Law School became a part of the State University on July 1, 1946. The State University had been created in 1945 by the efforts of the Legislature of New Jersey and the Trustees of Rutgers University.

Today more than 400 students are currently being trained for future service to the people of New Jersey and elsewhere, and the Law School itself stands on the threshold of its greatest era.

Rutgers University is the eighth oldest college in the United States and is the only Colonial college which has become a state university. In 1864 it was chosen as the land grant college of New Jersey by the Legislature.

By the Legislative Act of 1945, and the acceptance of the act by resolution of the Trustees, the State has increased its participation in the management of the University, and in its supervision and control by the vigilance powers of the State Board of Education.

Administrative Building

This building, with its dignified and colorful background, now serves as the main site for administering this carefully planned program. The Study of the Law is located in the center of a large metropolitan city and makes it ideal for the study of the law and seeking the actual functioning of the law in the near-by Federal and State Courthouses.