A few days ago, Dave Hayes of the Class of 1921 died. That incident didn't make many headlines; but Notre Dame remembers him as a valiant individual. The reason: "He came to us penniless and ambitious. He washed dishes for his meals in a South Bend restaurant for a year. He became a famous athlete as well as a brilliant scholar. During his odd hours he tutored several deficient students, and thus earned a little spending money. Then, on his graduation day, he turned over the savings of these years and labors -- one hundred and fifty sparkling, consecrated dollars -- to the Notre Dame Drive then in progress. He left the school with the same old grin on his face, as penniless as he came." (1924 Dome).

By this heroic gesture did he manifest his devotion and gratitude to Notre Dame. And from such as Dave Hayes do we derive our tradition of loyalty and love. May a little of his spirit be with you this week. Why? Because you are asked to participate, modestly, of course, but actively, in the Notre Dame Foundation -- the organization charged with the task of obtaining the contributions necessary for a solvent school. In a sense you might look upon it as the arm which reaches out to pick up the tab that remains over and above the fees you pay for your education -- a very real and necessary service performed by the University in your behalf. Simple arithmetic will show you how great would be the deficit were it not for the efforts of the Foundation.

There is another and indirect contribution possible to the University on the part of all Notre Dame students -- namely, a regard for, and the careful use of, University property, and facilities, and utilities. Such effort on your part would reflect favorably on maintenance costs, and really be another form of contribution. We do not refer to wilful destruction of property -- that's a matter of restitution in conscience -- but rather the thoughtful care equivalent to, and expected of you, in your own home.

Over The Years

Whatever Notre Dame has in the way of material comforts and facilities today, be sure they are much more than your father enjoyed when he was here. Each generation has lent a helping hand to make life here more agreeable for you. Your participation in the Foundation Drive, this week, is your indoctrination into this laudable practice of recognizing the kindness of other Notre Dame men to you, as well as your obligation to the Notre Dame men of tomorrow.

It must be pretty obvious to all of you that Notre Dame doesn't belong to any particular generation, but rather to the Mother of God. We of each generation are merely stewards of the things that belong to her household. While here, we are free to traffic in her treasures of truth, to preserve and to bolster her towers of learning. And with her help, we shall hand over to posterity her learning and traditions made richer because they passed through our hands, and became a part of our life.

It should be regarded as a privilege to participate in Foundation Week, when the edifice we support is none other than the household of the Mother of God.