



## HARM A. WEBER BUILDING

Built in 1925 in the Georgian Style

**C**elebrating 40 years in Elgin, Judson College is pleased to have the Harm A. Weber Administration Building featured on the 2003 Historic Elgin House Tour and to welcome visitors to our campus on Sunday, September 7, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

Located just off Route 31, this white-pillared red brick Georgian mansion is situated on a hill overlooking the Fox River. Approaching the house from State Street, one follows a narrow winding road that crosses a concrete bridge over Tyler Creek, which meanders through the riverside property. On the right can be seen Volkman Pond, a pleasant little lake featuring a sparkling fountain. The landscape includes many gorgeous trees, and stately oaks stand on either side of the mansion. Several areas of the original acreage have been reserved as wildlife sanctuaries, and deer, mallard ducks and Canadian geese contribute to the pastoral setting.

The beautiful structure was built in 1925 by Daniel Todd, president of Elgin Sweeper Company, on 20 acres of land, which was part of 175 acres owned and farmed by his late father, Thomas Todd. The Todd family fondly referred to their home as the "Braeburn Estate," named for the Scottish word meaning "hills and vales." Daniel and his wife lived in the 13-room house until their deaths,

upon which the estate and house were left to their three daughters, who sold it to Donald Melms in 1945. The house, which had remained vacant since Mr. Todd's death in 1942, was then purchased in the spring of 1946 by Dr. and Mrs. Joel Deuteran.

Dr. Joel L. Deuteran was a church and civic leader and one of the mid-west's most renowned surgeons. He and his wife, Margaret, and children, Jo Ann, Jean and Jack, lived on what many people considered the most beautiful setting in the Fox River Valley! Following his death in 1955, Mrs. Deuteran stayed at Braeburn and established Braeburn-on-the-Fox, a country setting for private parties and receptions.

In 1958 Mrs. Deuteran sold enough land (1/2 acre) along Route 31 to the state of Illinois so they could turn the road into a four lane highway. Judson College purchased the remaining 19 and 1/2 acres from Mrs. Deuteran in 1963 for \$100,000. The property immediately became the administrative offices, kitchen and dining hall for the new college, which opened in September, 1963, with 92 students and 9 faculty members. The house, now named for Harm A. Weber, third president of the college, has been modified through the years to meet administrative needs. Today more than twenty people have offices in the building, using every nook and cranny from top

to bottom. Impressive features of the property which can be viewed include the curved windows in the attic, sun porch, foyer and staircase, fireplace and woodwork in the president's office, dumbwaiter, and period tile and fixtures in the bathrooms.

Located near the great house, was a somewhat weatherworn three-car garage, affectionately called the "carriage house." Having initially functioned as a coach house with an apartment where the maintenance man lived, it was immediately renovated to serve as classrooms for music and art. The carriage house was removed when the stone structure of the Fine Arts Building was built in 1975.

On Sunday afternoon during the hours of the tour, everyone is invited to enjoy a cold drink and view the art hanging in the Draewell Gallery of the Fine Arts Building, as well as the Judson College 40th Anniversary Display.

Today's 90-acre campus with 15 buildings continues to provide one of the most beautiful settings in the Fox River Valley for over 1,200 students and 35 full time faculty members teaching in 41 academic programs. A map with a brief description of Judson College facilities will be available at both entrances for self-guided driving tours of the campus.