Fenn College
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Images from the Cleveland State University Archives and the Cleveland Press Collection

Fenn College was founded in 1923 as part of the Cleveland YMCA’s education program, that had for over 40 years had helped students finish their high school education and learn additional business and technical skills. Throughout its history, the fortunes of Fenn College were linked to those of Cleveland. Fenn opened at a time when the future appeared bright and promising. Cleveland was the country’s sixth largest city and at its peak in prominence and prosperity as an industrial and commercial center. The opportunities were there and the college sought ways, like adopting a cooperative education program, to help students to prepare for them. For 42 years, Fenn provided a quality low-cost education to thousands of students in Cleveland and northeast Ohio—students for whom such an education would have been otherwise unattainable.

Fenn College is a stunning visual depiction of Fenn Campus and the many students, faculty, and staff who once graced its halls. Cleveland State University Library used its own impressive resources to document and celebrate Fenn College’s esteemed history. University Archivist William Becker carefully selected the images from the Archives and the Library’s Cleveland Press photo collection to commemorate Fenn’s students, faculty, and administration and their many accomplishments over more than 40 years. Each turn of the page reveals Fenn College’s rich history in its 236 photographs, all accompanied by descriptive text. Images of people, places, and events range from Fenn College’s optimistic beginning in 1923 through its transformation to Cleveland State University in 1964, including Doc Patterson, Paul Anders, Major Jenks, Robert Busbey, Sadd’s Bar, the B&H Diner, homecoming, classroom scenes, sports events, sorority pledges, registration, mock presidential campaigns, and so much more.

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For more information
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