

CHAPTER X

REGIS COLLEGE STATION, DENVER COLORADO

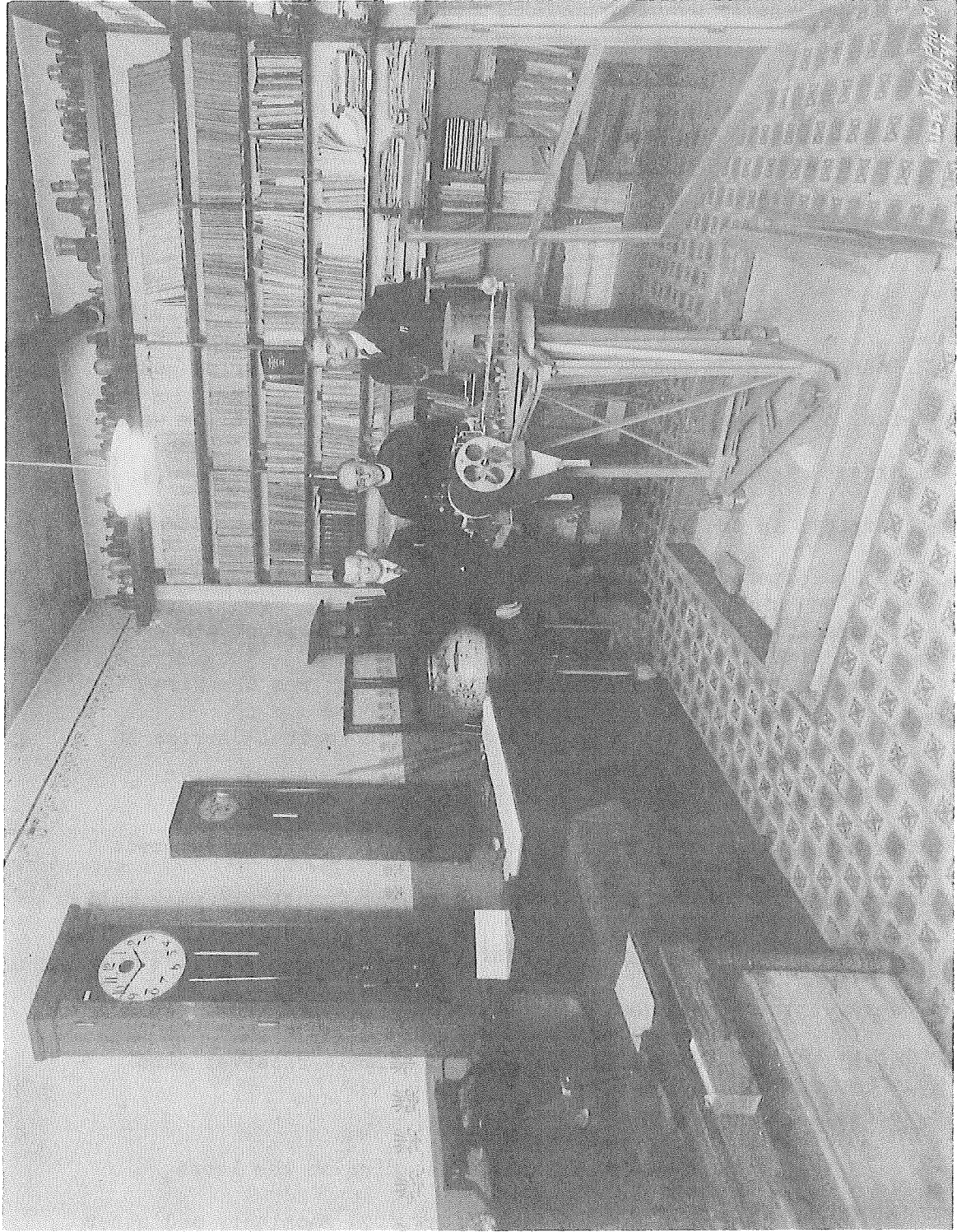
By Joseph V. Downey, S. J. and
James B. Macelwane, S. J.

The authorities of the then Sacred Heart College in Denver cooperated wholeheartedly with the interest of the Reverend Armand W. Forstall, S. J., in the proposal of Father Odenbach. As a result a Wiechert 80 kilogram inverted pendulum, horizontal component seismograph and contact clock were ordered from the firm of Spindler and Hoyer of Göttingen, Germany, in the spring of 1909. In the month of August of the same year the seismograph was set up by Father Armand W. Forstall, S. J., in a basement room under the front steps near the middle of the college building. It was the first station of the newly founded Jesuit Seismological Service to begin routine recording.

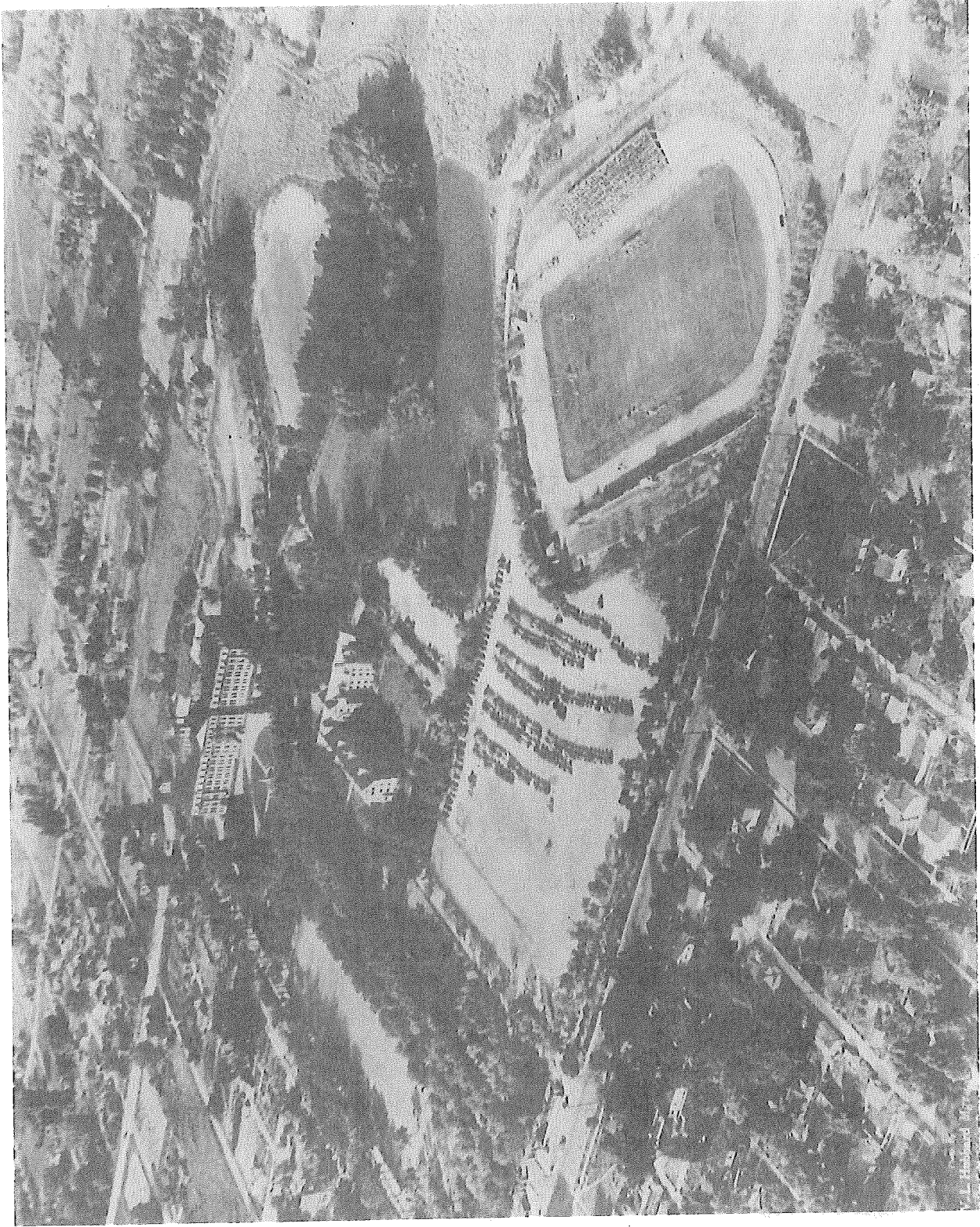
Under the very efficient direction of the Reverend Armand W. Forstall, S. J., the instrument functioned very well and with surprisingly high sensitivity. Its operation was never interrupted, except briefly for minor repairs, from 1909 until 1945. A compensated clock and a radio receiver were added in the course of time.

While the foundation of the pier on the loose Denver formation permitted vibrations from machinery and other

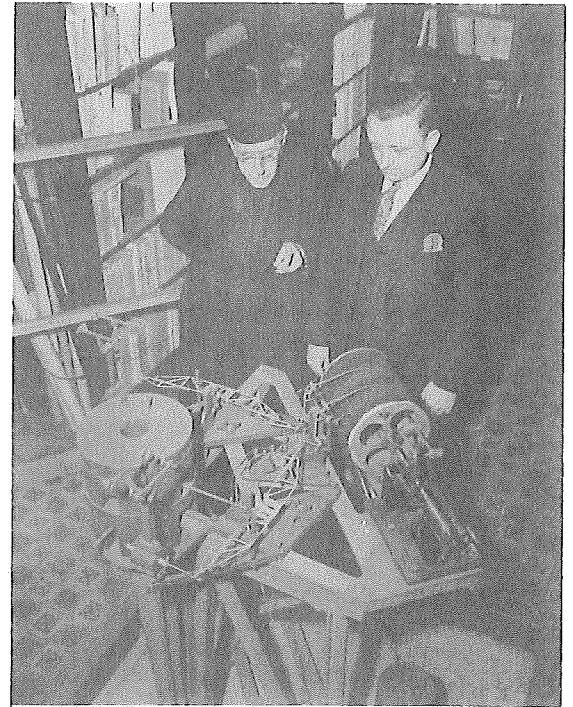
Regis College. DENVER, Colorado.



Rev. A. W. Forstell. - Officials of International Time Service Corp. -

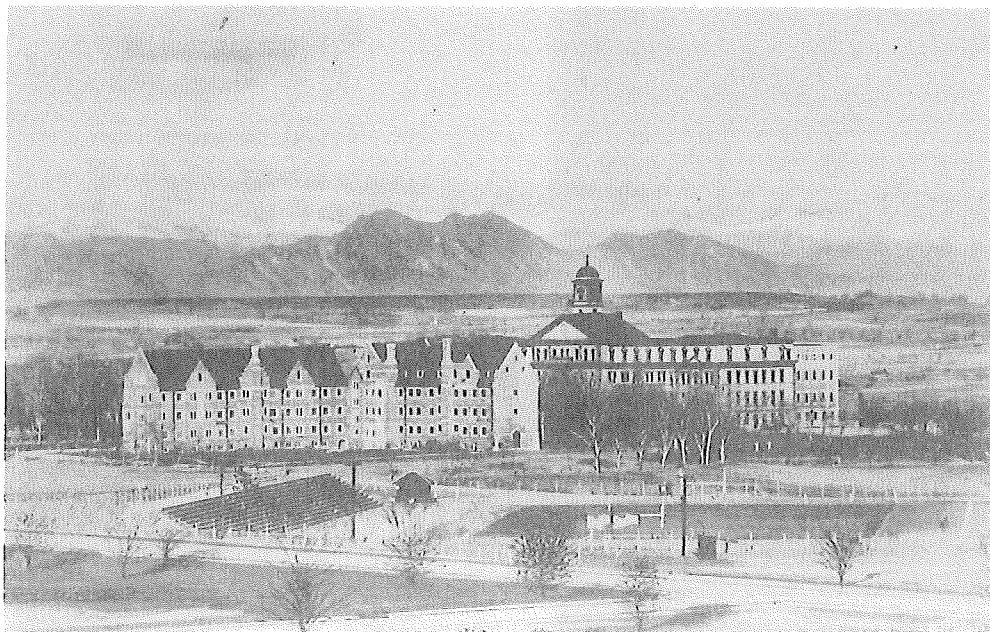


Airplane View of Regis College Campus



Left: Main Entrance to Administration Building beneath which the Seismological Station is located

Above: Father Forstall demonstrating the Wiechert Seismograph to a visitor



View of Regis College with the Rocky Mountains in the background



Reverend Joseph Vincent Downey, S. J.
Present Director
Regis College Seismological Observatory



Uniquely Designed Seismograph Pier with Seismometers below and Photographic Recorders above.
Father Downey, Director, and Mr. Robert Howerton, Instructor in Mathematics, Assistant

local sources to disturb the records more than was desirable, it also served, apparently, as a natural amplifier, adding to the instrumental sensitivity to produce records of larger amplitude than were obtained at other stations which were using the same lever magnification.

The records of earthquakes were interpreted by Father Forstall and results were given to the local press. In addition the data were entered in a monthly Seismological Bulletin which was sent regularly to a fairly large number of observatories and to the International Seismological Summary at Oxford. Beginning with the year 1933 the reading of the records and the publication of the reports was taken over by the Central Station of the Jesuit Seismological Association at the request of Father Forstall and the authorities of Regis College.

In 1946 Father Joseph V. Downey, S. J., became director of the seismological observatory. He reconditioned and installed two long-period horizontal seismographs of the Macelwane-Sprengnether type originally designed and built for the research of Father Ramirez on storm microseisms, together with two recording drums built by Masing in Tartu, Estonia, for the Galitzin-Wilip seismographs at Florissant which had been replaced by a Sprengnether triple drum recorder there. These are in operation at the present time and are giving excellent service. The bulletins are being published with the cooperation of the staff of the Central Station in Saint Louis.