Perhaps the most significant event in the history of Tech took place on Tuesday, April 22, when ground was broken on Boynton Hill for the $1.8 million central library named for the late George Cropton Gordon, '95. The Gordon Library, to be completed by the fall of 1966 will have study facilities for 600 students and stack space for 100,000 volumes. Located on the east campus, it will overlook Boynton Street adjacent to the Washburn Shops and Salisbury Laboratories.

The building is the result of the generosity and loyalty of George C. Gordon, '95, a Cleveland industrialist and a Worcester native, who left Tech her largest gift, a $3 million bequest. Of the college's late benefactor, President Storke said, "A more loyal alumnus of Worcester Tech or of any other college would be hard to find. Throughout the years he showed his appreciation for his Alma Mater by his always active interest in her progress, by his frequent gifts in quiet support of her specific needs. All of these generous acts, so natural in his overwhelming desire to reward the college which had started him off onto his successful career, were completely epitomized in his last legacy ... may this"

President Storke addresses the gathering at the Groundbreaking ceremonies.

May-June 1965
beautiful library ever be a reminder of this gratitude."

Also participating in the groundbreaking ceremonies was Wayne E. Keith, '22, chairman of the Board of Trustees. At the luncheon held in Morgan Hall following the groundbreaking, he stated, "I count it a privilege to have been closely associated with Worcester Tech during this period of its greatest growth. Yet, as I look to the future, I am sure that this college's greatest era is yet to come. Each year, the quality of the students improves, the facilities become more adequate, and the caliber of the faculty grows in proportion to the challenge which lies ahead in engineering and science. The George C. Gordon Library will be an important part of this great future at Worcester Tech."

During the groundbreaking, messages from the Gordon family were read and also speaking at the ceremonies were Fred L. Ball, director of Park Drop Forge Company of Cleveland of which Gordon was president; George Gund, chairman of the Cleveland Trust Company, a long-time friend of Gordon; and Prof. Albert G. Anderson, Jr., librarian of the college.

Ben C. Bowman, director of libraries at the University of Vermont, and George W. Smith, Jr., '15, member of the Board of Trustees and a friend of Gordon's, spoke at the luncheon program.

Bowman suggested that college librarians within a span of perhaps 10 years will face a student population burst with attendant problems of architectural accommodation and volumes of paper work. Electronic "hardware" innovations are expected to free the librarian for his proper role in academics. He said he perceived additional cause for hope in the increased intimacy of a four-way dialogue between librarian, administrator, faculty, and student.

The remaining force for advance, Bowman said, is anticipated federal legislation providing aid to higher education and specifically funds for library expansions.

George C. Gordon worked for five years following graduation as master mechanic at American Steel and Wire Company, and two years as chief engineer at Carpenter Steel Company before becoming general superintendent at Wyman-Gordon Company. He joined Park Drop Forge Company in Cleveland, Ohio in 1911 and advanced to its presidency in 1930 and board chairmanship in 1958.