



Biography of

Joe Underwood Davenport

Founding President of Colorado Mountain College

March 19, 1921 - November 25, 1967

Presented to Colorado Mountain College

from his five children

Prepared for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

Dr. Joe U. Davenport was born March 19, 1921, in Clermont, Florida, the fourth of six children.

Joe's family was originally from Missouri. His father had come to Florida for work, and they returned to Missouri in 1922.



1921, Florida



1926, Missouri



1929, Missouri



This is Joe's High School graduation photo, in the Spring of 1939.

Joe was President of his senior class at Stella (Missouri) High School.

Joe then attended the Southwest Missouri State Teachers College at Springfield, Missouri.

Like all young men of the times, Joe had to register for the draft in the fall of 1940. H



Joe received ribbons for the American Theatre, National Defense, European & African, Asiatic PAC1 with two stars, and World War II Victory.

On December 28, 1945, Joe was honorably discharged from active duty. He remained in the Naval Reserve.

In September of 1950, Joe was called back to active duty to serve in the Korean War.

At the time, Joe was teaching at the Smackover (Arkansas) High School as an Industrial Training Instructor. In addition to teaching, he was the sponsor of the Sophomore class.

Following are his official "call to duty" letter, and two local newspaper notices.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH NAVAL DISTRICT
FEDERAL BUILDING NEW ORLEANS LA

TENTH GRADE NEWS

Coach Sam Baskin has elected sponsor of the Sophomore class at Smackover High School to replace Joe Davenport, who is leaving for active duty in the navy.

Joe Davenport Called to Duty

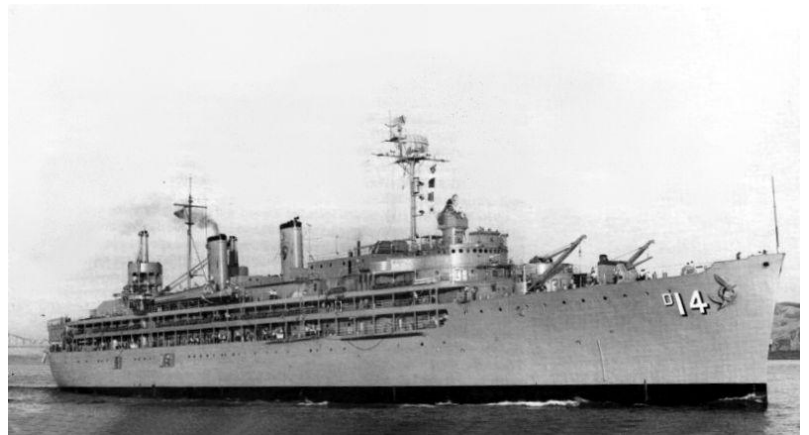
Joe Davenport, trades teacher in the local high school has been called to active duty in the United States Navy. He is to report to San Diego, California, for duty as communications officer on the S. S. Dixie.

Mrs. Davenport and children will make their home with his brother L. C. Davenport and family in Fayetteville, Arkansas while he is in service.



On his way to Korea, Joe had a stopover in Honolulu, Hawaii. Here he is in his blues, with his camera sightseeing in Honolulu.

In early October 1950, Joe boarded the U.S.S. *Dixie* (AD-14) shown at right, as Communications Watch Officer. His ship was a part of the United Nations Blockade and Escort Force with the Pacific Fleet in the Korean War.



On June 19, 1951, Joe received a Commendation from Rear Admiral Allan E. Smith aboard the U.S.S. Dixie (AD-14), for "... meritorious service as Communications Watch Officer on the admiral's staff ... for outstanding performance of duty under battle conditions ... for welding together the ships of nine different nations into an effective fighting force. In so serving, you have assisted materially in resisting aggression in Korea and in carrying out the directives of the United Nations. By your special effort, skill and devotion to duty, you have contributed greatly to the success of our mission."



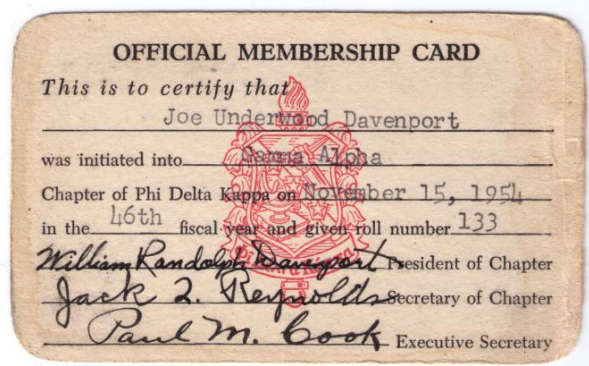
In 1952, after serving in Korea, Joe moved his family to Seattle, Washington. He was stationed at Bremerton Naval Yard, as Communications and Electronics Officer.

This photo was taken in Washington State.



In January 1954, Joe moved from Seattle to Jonesboro, Arkansas to become the Physical Plant Director at Arkansas State College. He took over the position from his brother, Lawrence Conrad Davenport, who had held that position since February 1951. This is the Administration Building where Joe worked on campus at the Arkansas State College.

At this time, Joe joined the Gamma Alpha Chapter of the Phi Delta Kappa fraternity. Here is his first membership card. Note that Joe's card was signed by the President of the Chapter, none other than his brother, William Randolph Davenport. Joe was a member of Phi Delta Kappa for the rest of his life.



Their mission is to "promote high-quality education, in particular publicly supported education, as essential to the development and maintenance of a democratic way of life. This is accomplished through leadership, research, and service in education. The fraternity deals with policy and issues for educators at all levels, and advocates research-based school reform."

Joe then moved his young family from Jonesboro, Arkansas to Springfield, Missouri to teach eighth grade at Pipkin Middle School.



Barbara, Jim, Jane, Ruth, John, Paul, Joe

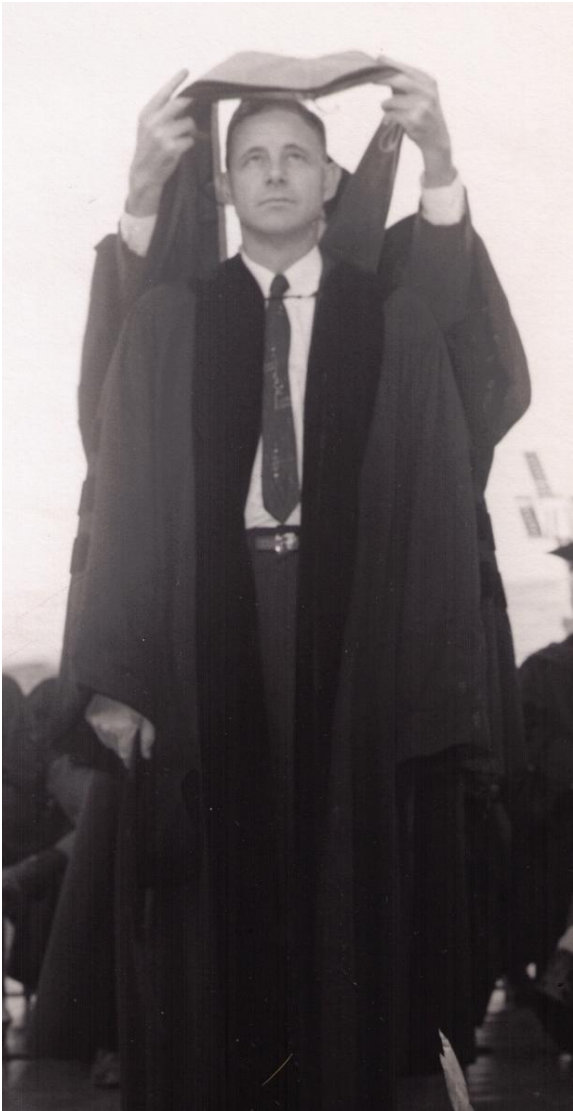


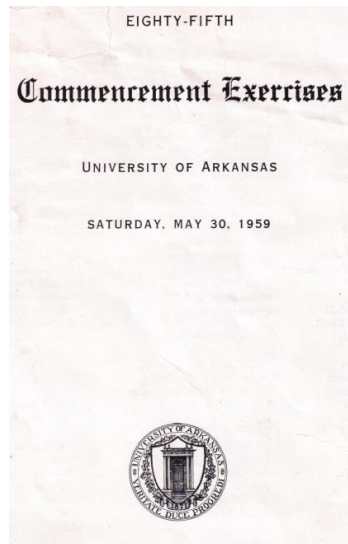
Joe continued to serve in the US Naval Reserve as a communications instructor. Here is a photo of him with four of his students.

In September 1957, Joe enrolled at the University of Arkansas, in Fayetteville. He was a full time graduate student, earning his Doctorate degree in Vocational Education. He also worked an eight-hour afternoon/night shift with the U of A Physical Plant Department, and part-time at KHOG, a local radio station. He was also the Administrative Officer at the Naval Reserve Station in Fayetteville.



On May 30, 1959, Joe earned his Doctorate degree in Vocational Education.





DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Joe Underwood Davenport (Vocational Education)

B. S. E. & M. Ed., University of Arkansas

Dissertation: An Analysis of the Status of and Suggestions for Improving Industrial Arts Education in the Public Secondary Schools of Arkansas.

Scholar Joins Two Brothers In Receiving UA Doctorate

Gazette State News Service
Fayetteville, May 30.—When Joe Underwood Davenport of Little Rock received his doctor of education degree at commencement exercises at the University of Arkansas today, he became the third male in his family to earn the same degree from the same institution.

Davenport, 38, one of nine to receive doctor's degrees at the ceremonies, followed in the footsteps of two brothers, Lawrence, 40, of Victorville, Cal., who is now teaching at a junior college, and William Randolph, 33, who is director of teacher training at Butler University at Indianapolis, Ind.

Both Lawrence and Randy earned their Ed.D. degrees in 1955.

Joe Davenport and his wife, the former Barbara Shepherd of Little Rock, and their five children plan to move to Fort Collins, Col., where he has accepted a position as associate professor of industrial education at Colorado State University.

Family of Educators

The desire to teach apparently runs strongly in the Davenport family. In addition to the three boys with Ed.D. degrees, a fourth brother Melvin V. of Caldwell, Ida., is a civil engineer and the only one of the group who isn't teaching or hasn't taught. One of the Davenport sisters, Mrs. Glenn

Atkinson of Barnett, Mo., is a public school instructor, and the second sister, Mrs. Gerald Dill of Riverside, Cal., taught for a number of years in public schools. Mrs. Dill also earned a degree at the University in 1949.

It took Joe Davenport two years to complete the Ed.D. degree requirements. In addition to carrying a full load each semester, Davenport served as an assistant in the department of vocational education and worked 25 hours a week at radio station KHOG in Fayetteville.

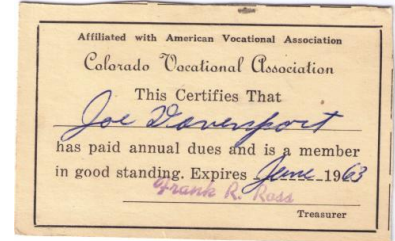
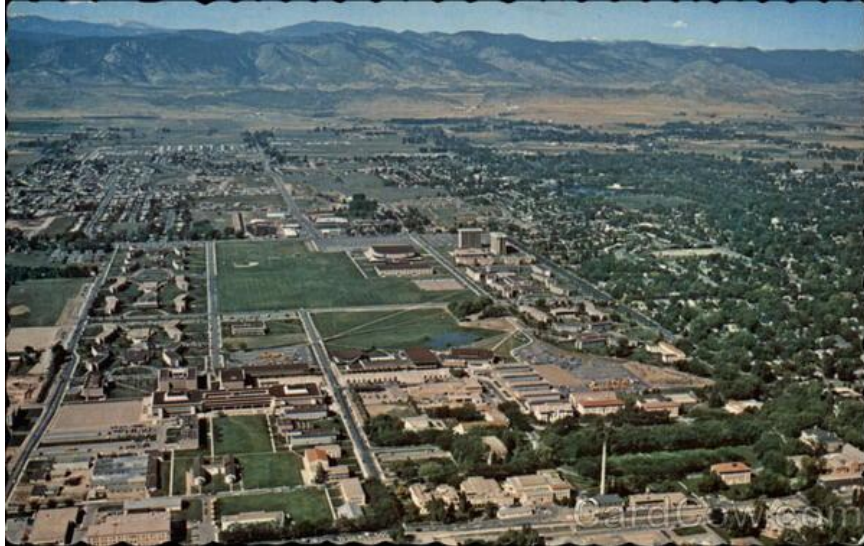
In Davenport's opinion anyone can get a college degree, "if the desire is great enough; and if the candidate isn't afraid of work."

Davenport, a member of Phi Delta Kappa and Delta Sigma Phi, honor education societies, is looking forward to his work at Colorado State. "But we're going to hate to leave Fayetteville," he said. "The University of Arkansas is a friendly school and the people here are wonderful. They enjoy giving each other a hand, it seems."

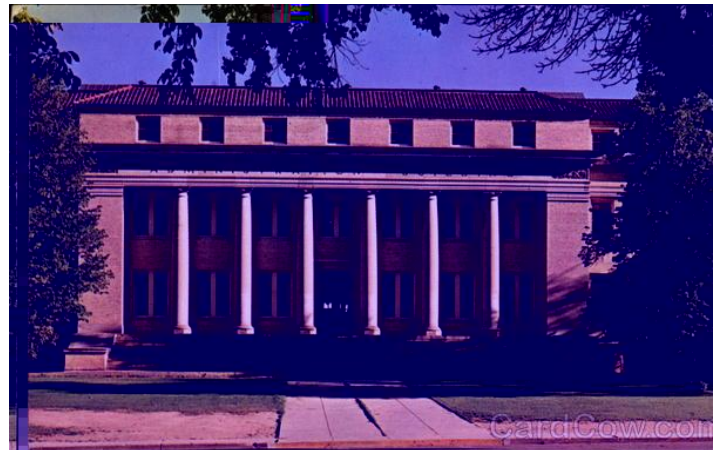
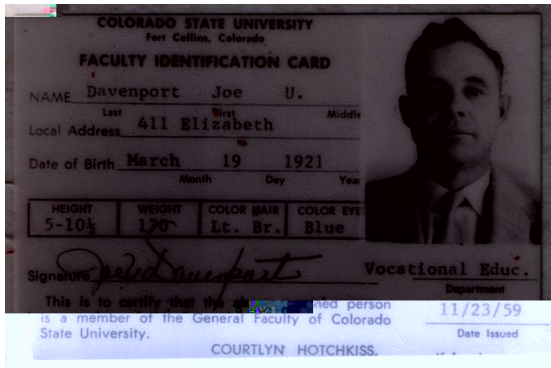
Joe, and two of his brothers, Lawrence Conrad Davenport, and William Randolph Davenport, set a record at the University of Arkansas for three family members obtaining their PhDs at the same U of A campus.

Lawrence and Randy received their PhDs in 1955, and Joe received his in 1959. Somewhere on campus, there is a brick plaque commemorating this record that the three Davenport brothers set.

In 1959, after he received his Doctoral degree, Joe moved to Fort Collins, Colorado to take a position as Dean of Vocational Education at Colorado State University.



This is an aerial view of Colorado State University.



This is the administrative building on campus where Joe had his office.



Personals 1960

Lt. Cmdr. Joe U. Davenport, associate professor of vocational education at Colorado State University, recently completed a two-week annual reserve training program on the USS Providence, first guided missile cruiser assigned by the Navy to the Pacific Coast. Cmdr. Davenport is administrative officer of the Navy Reserve Surface Division at Denver.

Joe remained active in the Naval Reserves.



U.S.S. Providence (CLG-6)

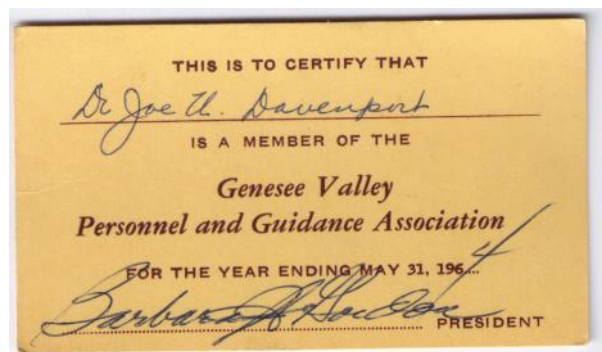




In 1963, Joe moved to Rochester, New York taking the position of Dean of Career Programs at Monroe Community College. campus shown below.



Joe was also a member of the Genesee Valley Personnel and Guidance Association.





Joe and his wife, Barbara

In 1964, Joe transferred to Orchard Lake, Michigan where he took the position of Dean of Campus at Oakland Community College in Highland Lakes, Michigan. Here he is with his family, Jim, Ruth, Barbara, Jane, John, Paul, and Joe.





In June of 1966, Joe moved to *Glenwood Springs, Colorado* to take the position as the first President of the newly formed *Colorado Mountain College*.

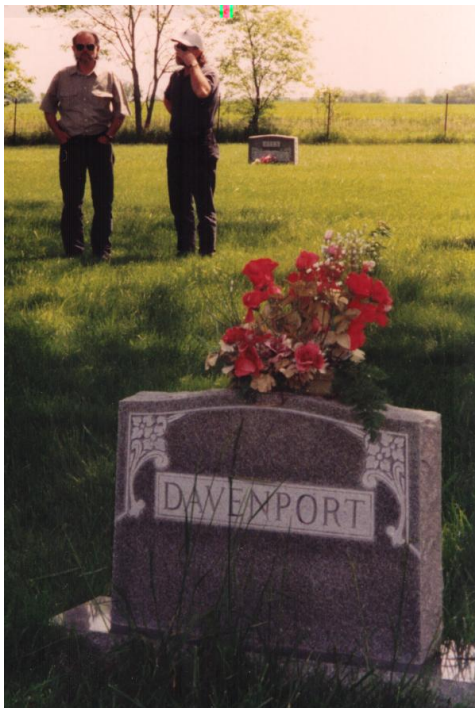
October 1966, Joe at the groundbreaking ceremony at the *Glenwood Springs Spring Valley* campus.



Joe with his family at the *Leadville* campus, Jim, John, Jane, Ruth, Barbara, Joe and Paul.



Joe flew his private plane between the campuses. He died on November 25, 1967, while landing in Glenwood Springs.



Joe is buried in High Point, Missouri next to his parents.





**Colorado
Mountain
College**

November 24, 1968
Dedication Program
East Campus

Invocation
Reverend Robert Stewart

•
Welcome
President Elbie L. Gann

•
Tribute to Dr. Joe U. Davenport
Governing Committee
Portrait Presentation
Mrs. Joe U. Davenport

Joe's portrait was commissioned, to hang in the lobby of the Glenwood Springs campus of Colorado Mountain College.

The portrait was dedicated exactly one year after he died, by his wife, Barbara and Joe's sister, Jessie Davenport Atkinson.