

Monuments to 'the campus of yesterday' were palaces of learning way back when--

When cows still overran the town, and not even the famous fence was set up to keep education clean, three-storied, towering University hall was built; the year—1870, the cost—\$146,700. She was the nucleus of a city campus destined to grow to an estimated value of nearly \$1,850,000.

Now old Septagenarian U hall, with fallen arches and arthritis, holding her head up to about seven-eighths of a story, is considered worth \$9,000. Remnant of her finery is the double bulletin board standing at the east door, made from ornate gates to the campus. The rest of the fence surrounds Wyuka cemetery.

Pharmacy cost \$69,525.

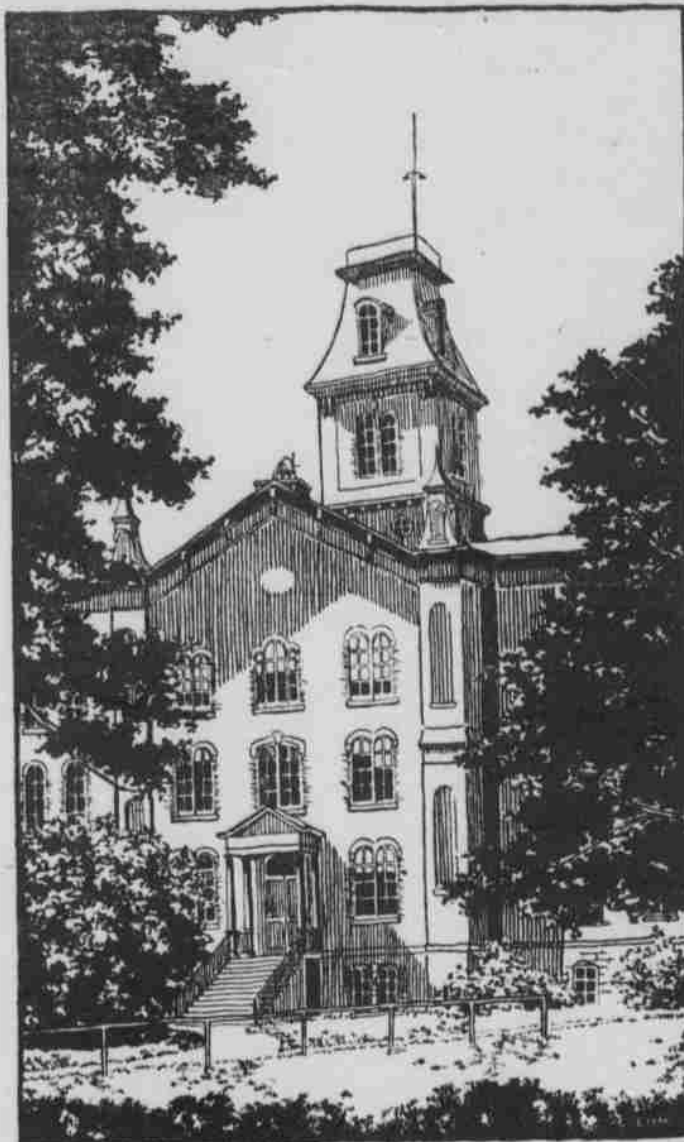
Pharmacy hall reared its head in 1885, at the cost of \$69,525, and has weathered the years well enough to remain, in the opinion of the administration's superintendent of operations, worth \$13,210.

In 1887 the University went on a building spree, constructed Grant Memorial, Nebraska hall and the first power plant. Grant Memorial's original cost was \$64,750; her present value is about \$13,000. They paid \$41,000 for Nebraska hall, and wish they could get \$9,108 for her now.

Library built in 1891.

The University of Nebraska's "spacious" library came along in 1891, cost \$126,950. The story is handed down in editorial offices that campaigns for a new library began as far back as 1911. By 1924, pleas for a new libe took on a tone of righteous indignation. The regents, in a little pamphlet labeled "important," cried that the library facilities were in a critical state—their 30 year old library completely outgrown. It was "virtually impossible for a student to count on studying in that building" they lectured alums. "Under present conditions it is impossible to encourage general reading on the part of the students." The building was considered sufficient for only about one-third of the students.

The whole bulletin, published in October of 1924, carried the same theme, entitled with the statement that "Nebraska's Educational Welfare Requires the Speedy Relief of Crowded Conditions at the University." It cited the investment for buildings for



that year per student as \$300, in contrast to the same investment in 1874 of \$1,100.

Other years cited.

Also badly needed, chorused regents and alumni association in cooperation, were new women's dormitories, a new dentistry building and electrical engineering building and a heating and power plant. They had a dream, also, of a museum of natural sciences, a school of fine arts and an auditorium all in one. A gymnasium was ever then a perpetual problem, and they expressed the need for a new observatory.

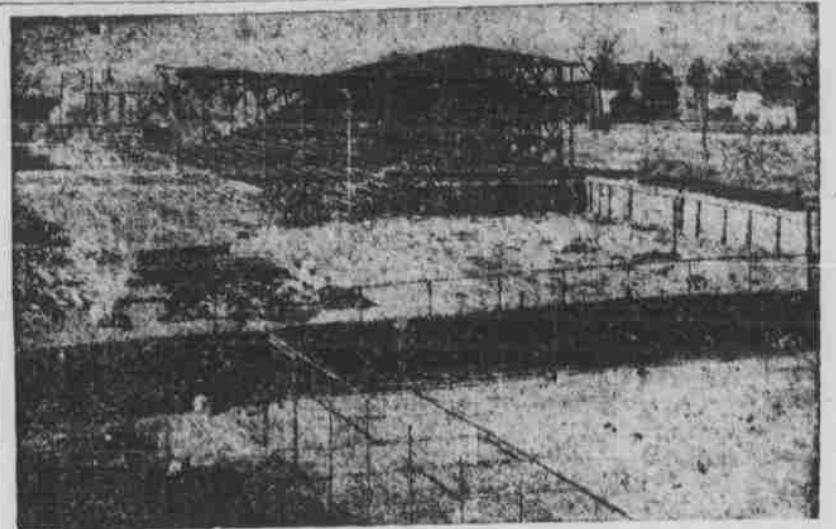
The old observatory was first built in 1896, and is now worth, not counting the new addition just being built, about \$300. Ag college also sprouted in 1896, with the Poultry Husbandry hall, followed in 1899 by the Experiment Station building. Agricultural hall was built in 1904, in the same year that what is now the home ec an-

nex, then a women's dorm, was constructed. The main home ec hall came along in 1908, costing \$66,150. Now its "overflowing" walls are evaluated at something over \$32,000.

Administration built in 1905.

Downtown, the halls of learning again clustered up after the turn of the century. Administration hall cost the university \$35,300 in 1905, is worth about \$17,297 now. The next year both the Temple and the Former Museum building were set up to the tune \$124,700 and \$57,900.

These buildings which outlined the horizon of the last generation of students, have increased in sentimental value where they have decreased in monetary value, their growth stunted by rising building costs, and are expected to pass out of sight in the coming decades, replaced by the campus of the future.



Veteran graduate . . .

Edna Bullock reminisces on 'University of the past'

. . . old buildings, profs

Slipping thru the gateless opening in the board fence and standing on five year old toes so that she could peek into the windows at the "skeletons" were the first memories that Edna B. Bullock related in reminiscing on her experiences at the University of Nebraska.

In the old U hall, which was the only building of the university at that time, Miss Bullock viewed the "skeletons" which were the beginnings of the museum which was founded by Professor Samuel Aughey, professor of science in the first university faculty.

Enrolls in University.

When Miss Bullock enrolled in the university in 1883, there was one building, eleven professors, and four instructors. The university was divided into three colleges, the general arts, the industrial arts and the Latin school. The Latin school was the largest with an enrollment of 186. The teachers offered 130 courses to 281 students and there were 52 students in the medical college at this time but this college lasted only four years.

Long, rickety benches.

The classrooms were equipped with long, rickety benches whose slippery seats had a tendency to slant towards the floor. The rooms were heated by individual hard-coal, baseburners in every room, which were cared for by a student janitor who had a room in the basement. The teacher's equipment was little better than the students. Lincoln still was without water and sewer systems. It was in 1885 that the first steam heating plant was installed in the north wing of the basement and a full-time engineer and janitor were employed.

Due to the dismissal of the chancellor and several professors in 1882-83, the fall term opened in 1883 with Professor H. E. Hitchcock as acting chancellor. At that time all registration cards were signed by the chancellor. Imagine the students of the university of today filing into the chancellor's office and discussing their registration with him!

Registrar Ellen Smith

Principal of the Latin school at this time was Ellen Smith for

whom one of the women's halls on the campus is named. Miss Smith taught English as well as being registrar. It is said of her that she never spared herself or one of her students. On one occasion Miss Smith attended a Palladian society meeting at which Miss Bullock was present. The next day Miss Smith stopped her in the hall and said: "I saw you sitting on the edge of a table on Friday night. Never let me see you doing that again!" If Miss Ellen Smith could only visit the Student Union today!

Miss Smith, however, gave a great deal of time to students and was always interested in university affairs. She held an annual maple sugar party for the seniors and sponsored many other social functions. A large collection of her souvenirs, programs, photos, publications, and letters were presented to the Nebraska State Historical Society at her death. Miss Bullock declares, "I have known no superior to Ellen Smith who was a more perfect example of an



—Lincoln Journal.

ELLEN SMITH.

She was registrar.

honest, conscientious and courageous person."

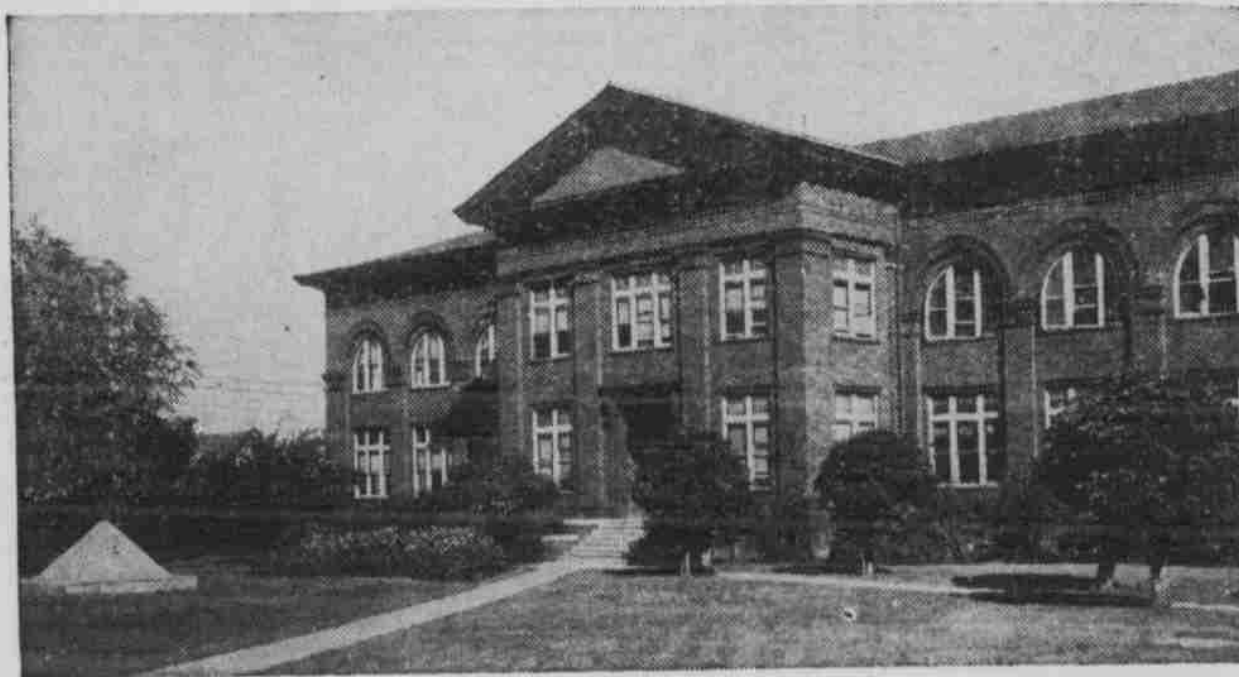
Excellent staff.

In spite of the many inconveniences of the 1880's, the students of the University of Nebraska were very fortunate in that they had an excellent staff and some very learned scholars in their classes. The students knew their professors more intimately than we do today and therefore they received a richer and broader education. Students sat with the professors in their parlors and had tea with them afternoons. Many of the students roomed in the homes of their instructors and many walked to school with them.

In speaking of the faculty of that time she exclaimed, "We admired and respected these teachers, we talked with them, and about them. We discussed their sayings and regarded most of their words as pearls of wisdom. They constitute some of the most enduring and splendid memories of our lives."

When Miss Bullock received her diploma in 1889, it was handed to her by Professor Bessey who was the acting chancellor. In describing this instructor, Miss Bullock went on to say, "The genial presence of Professor Bessey was felt all over the campus. His devotion to his broad scientific field was no more notable than his human, democratic interest in folks—just folks."

—Sunday Journal and Star.



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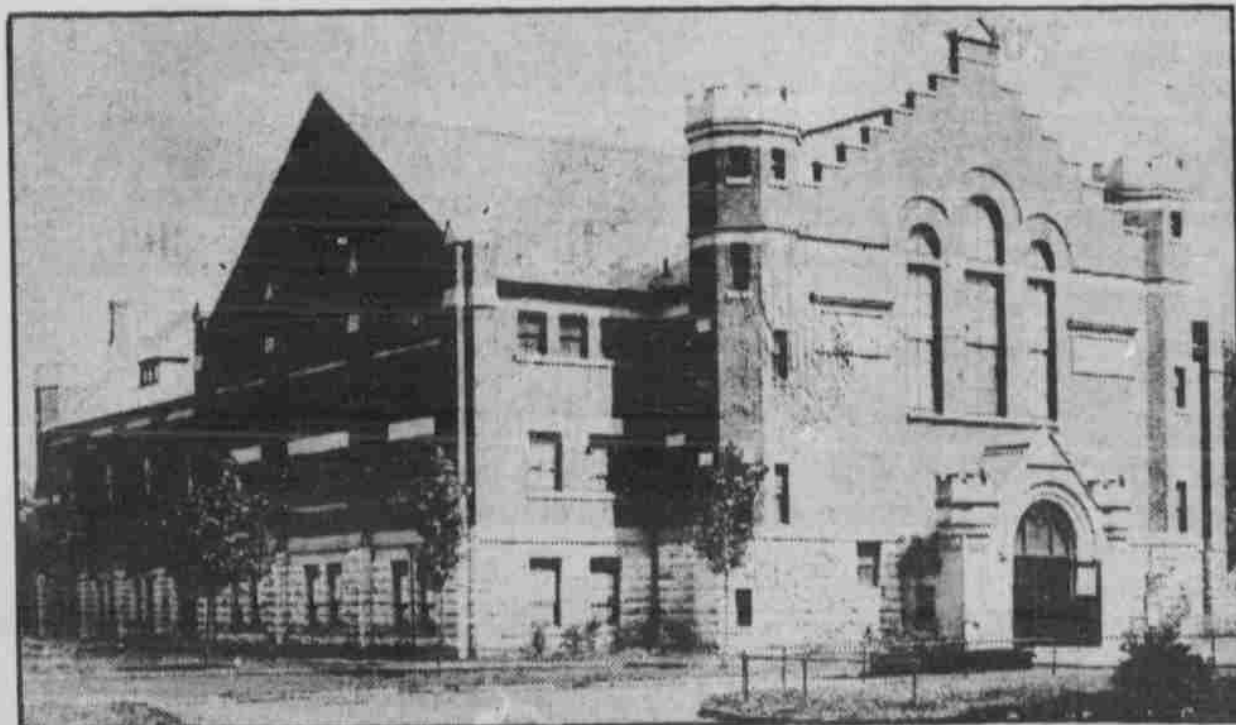
THESE PICTURES—

Like an old small-town grandstand, the forerunner to our present stadium looms in the upper right-hand corner. The new concrete structure replaced it in 1923.

The etching in the middle of the page is—we thought you knew—University hall in the old days. All but the first story has long since been condemned and lopped off.

Above is the Mechanical Engineering building in its prime. It stands over between Brace lab and the stadium, and houses the mechanical engineers' locomotives.

Dubbed Victorian-Gothic by graduate students, Grant Memorial hall, at right, was first the University assembly hall. It now houses the women's gymnasium.



—Sunday Journal and Star.