

# Cather's Campus Years Reviewed by Publication



**FRESHMAN**—As a first year student at the University in 1890, Willa Cather wore her hair "short and uncured," cut in a "very stubby pompadour," and "shingled and parted on the side."

There are conflicting opinions as to just what Willa Cather was like when she was a student at the University. One thing is certain, however: She was a person one could scarcely forget. "Today her college classmates recall her with feelings which vary from fervent admiration to vast contempt," James R. Shively says in the introduction to the new University Press publication, "Writings From Willa Cather's Campus Years."

The book presents a picture of the young Miss Cather drawn first of all from her student writings. Impressions and recollections of her college classmates are added at the end of the volume. From the collected material emerges a striking view of the brilliant, eccentric girl who became one of America's great novelists.

**Taboo to Fashion**  
In a period when "an elaborate fluffiness tempered with Victorian modesty" was the standard feminine style, "Billy" Cather appeared at the University with her hair "short and uncured," cut in a "very stubby pompadour," and "shingled and parted on the side."

During her sophomore year she let her hair grow for her role as Lady Macbeth in a student theatrical production. Her habitual dress, however, continued to be remarkable. "Invariably she wore severely tailored suits with comparatively short skirts, shirt-type blouses with white starched fronts and linked cuffs, and usually a straw hat of a flat design," Shively reports.

**"Indifferent"**  
Letter writers say that Willa Cather was "very egotistical" and "indifferent to other people," and that "she had no friends and wanted none." Many descriptions, however, say she was "courteous," "affable," "alert" and "vivacious."

"The truth," Shively concludes, "seems to be that, conscious of her unquestionably remarkable abilities, she was self-confident and rather lonely. That she had some good friends cannot be questioned."

Miss Cather was an energetic participant in student activities. She was editor of the *Sombrero*, a senior yearbook issued in 1894. She wrote for and edited the *Hesperian*, a campus publication which represented the "anti-Greek" group. In addition she served as critic, and later as secretary of the Union Literary Society; appeared in at least three productions of the University Dramatics club; and served, during her senior year, as dramatic critic and columnist for a Lincoln daily newspaper.



**SENIOR**—At senior prom time of her last year, Willa Cather had her hair grown and was the picture of femininity. Her usual dress, however, was of the severely tailored suit variety.

## Air Reserve Openings Told

Recruiting representatives from a troop carrier squadron of the air force reserve will be in the lounge of the Military Science building from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon Friday.

Vacancies exist in all enlisted grades and specialties. Ex-servicemen will be recruited at their discharge rank and ROTC students will be granted ratings according to the amount of training they have had. This program is open to all men regardless of branch of service, or whether they have had previous service. The squadron, which is primarily composed of Lincoln men, meets at Offit Field in Omaha one week-end a month for training purposes. Full pay and allowances are given for these weekend meetings.

All men who are interested or who have any questions about the air reserve program are urged to see the representatives.

## Connelly Tabbed New 'Personality'

"He's really got loads of personality."

That is John Connelly, Chesterfield "personality of the month" for March.

In addition to his studies, being editor of the *50 Cornhusker*, vice president of Corn Cobs and an innocent, tend to take up most of this popular senior's spare time.

Personalities are chosen for Chesterfields by their campus representatives, Joel Bailey, Ted Gunderson, and Keith O'Bannon.

## Classified

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## Fire Guts School In Michigan U

Fire swept through Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, Michigan on Feb. 22, destroying the commerce building and damaging others. Six were injured while fighting the fire at the trade and business college.

## Utah U. Has 100th Birthday

The University of Utah has just finished celebrating its first 100 years of existence.

The university staged a three-day program with more than 400 university and college presidents and heads of leading scholastic societies attending. The university was founded in 1850 when the followers of Brigham Young set up a "Parent School" in a log cabin. The tuition, paid in corn, potatoes and other available produce, amounted to \$8 a quarter and it was required that half of it be paid in advance.

The Founder Day ceremony at Salt Lake City, home at the university, included an academic procession and convocation with speeches by college heads.

Alumni banquets were staged throughout the United States for former Utah students who could not come to the centennial. Faculty members were sent to the various banquets as guest speakers.

A Daily Utah Chronicle editorial (a university publication) praised not only the advance of the school in student education, but also the extension service, the special courses in business and labor problems and bulletins published for the benefit of the residents of the state.

## Welding Contest Open To Students

The Resistance Welder Manufacturers' Association is offering a \$250 prize for the best undergraduate paper on resistance welding.

The paper may cover any phase of the subject. It should describe clearly any original work done on the subject by the contestant. No statement should be included which might be considered unethical advertising or sales promotion. The article is to contain a minimum of 2,500 words.

Competition is open to undergraduates in any college or university in the United States.

Entries should be addressed to the American Welding Society, 33 West 39th Street, New York 18, N. Y. More information may be obtained by writing to the Resistance Welder Manufacturers' Association, 505 Arch Street, Philadelphia 6, Pa. Deadline on entries is July 31.

All entries should be typewritten and double spaced on one side of the paper only. Photographs, charts and graphs may be attached to the copy or detached if clearly identified.

## Officers Named By Farm House

In a second semester election held Monday night, the Farm House fraternity voted in Dorel Heiss as president replacing Stan Lambert, last semester president.

Other newly elected officers are vice president, Jack Wilson; secretary, Eugene Heuermann; treasurer, John Wilkinson; social chairman, Bob Radin; and Adrian Kluma, business manager.

## Schooner Staff . . .



**PRAIRIE SCHOONER**—Professor Lowry C. Wimberly, editor of the *Prairie Schooner* and Emily Schosberger, assistant editor, talk with students about plans for the magazine, which was judged among the top 10 magazines of its class in the nation. Subscriptions went on sale Tuesday and can be purchased from members of Corn Cobs. Wimberly, professor of English, has edited the magazine since its beginning 23 years ago. It contains articles written by other faculty members and students.

## Bell Tower Wins Place in NU Life

By Glenn Rosenquist

The bell tower has come into its own. No longer is it dubbed "The Singing Silo."

No longer do they suggest rechristening it "Lover's Leap," the place for disillusioned pinmates to end it all. The "Silo" is now the Carillon Tower, and it is clearly a part of University life.

The \$85,000 structure, which was a gift of University Alum Ralph S. Mueller, got its first workout during Homecoming week end when it was dedicated. Since then it has been used daily to herald the changing of classes and to ring out the hours.

After every victorious home basketball game, as spectators pour out of the Coliseum doors, they are greeted by a concert of husker songs. The concertmistress is Gwen McCormick, a University Junior from Lincoln.

Gwen must leave the basketball games several minutes early. She walks across the street to the tower, lets herself in the control room, turns on the "juice," and begins to play.

**Variety of Songs**

What the game-goers hear are songs like "Huskerland," "There's No Place Like Nebraska." There is always at least one song played for the opposing team.

The tower is actually a University building. It is not something like a tomb, or a grave-house. The shaft is heated from the University tunnels, and it contains, among other things, some furniture, a staircase and several rooms. Perhaps it doesn't have mail service, but it is a University building anyway.

Gwen practices during the days. Of course, the amplifier is not connected. The bells can just be heard in the control room.

"People are always knocking on the door, but no visitors are allowed, and I can't let them in," says Gwen.

**Inside Carillon**

A very interesting procedure can be observed from inside when the automatic chimes are about to ring. The machine starts to buzz; a red light comes on; and then the chimes ring. Next the light goes off; the buzzing

stops; and Gwen can practice again.

The granite shaft is 16 feet in diameter. The tiny control room is at the base of the shaft. This room contains the amplifying equipment, a small table, bench—and the console.

The keyboard of the console is unusual in itself. It is much like a piano keyboard, except that it is only two octaves wide. The bells themselves are long pencil-like rods from 13 to 24 inches in diameter, which, when struck by tiny hammers, produce the bell-like tones. These tones, when electronically amplified, are considered by many experts to produce better music than sets of bells weighing up to 75,000 pounds. The box containing the bells weighs only 200 pounds.

**"Simple" Melodies**

Gwen tells of overhearing one student talking about her chime-playing. He thought that the person who plays the after game concerts must be just learning how to play, the melodies were so simple.

"Simple melodies are the only type which can be played on the tiny keyboard," claims Gwen. "It's actually hard to make mistakes, but I occasionally do," she adds.

Besides Nebraska cheer and school songs, Gwen slips in a few others now and then to add variety. Sometimes she will play "God Bless America," sometimes the Cornell song, and sometimes she will play "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

She is not sure whether she is handicapped or not, not being able to see her audience. One night during one of Gwen's concerts, a student walking by the tower was heard to comment: "See that light up there on the third floor of Bessey hall? That's the nice they play these things."

Apparently, many students do not realize that the bells are played right in the tower.

**Fall Plans**

Next fall Gwen will be playing the bells before and after football games. Her next and last appearance of the season will be after the Oklahoma game Saturday.

## VA Announces Payment of NSLI Claims

The Veterans Administration today announced that the payment of National Service Life Insurance special dividends due deceased veterans of World War II will begin in the near future. The payments, which will go to beneficiaries or heirs of the deceased veterans, are expected to be substantially completed by June 30, 1950.

Ashley Westmoreland, Lincoln Regional Office manager, said that where the National Service Life Insurance was in force at the time of the veteran's death payment will be made automatically by the VA to the insurance beneficiary of record. In such cases, he added, no application of any kind will be required.

If the National Service Life Insurance was not in force at the time the veteran died, the dividend will be paid to the veteran's estate thru the executor or administrator of the estate. In those cases where there is no administrator, payment will be made directly to those persons who are entitled to the veteran's estate under the inheritance laws of the state of which the veteran was a legal resident at the time of his death.

Westmoreland said the VA will send dividend claim forms directly to persons found to be entitled to all or a share of the veteran's dividend in those cases where the insurance was not in force at the time the veteran died. No general distribution will be made of these claim forms, he added.

## Oklahoma Town Forbids Kissing

For high school students in Bethany, Oklahoma, a kiss is not a token of affection but cause for expulsion from school.

Last week five teen-agers were expelled following a walk-out by nearly 30 students. The "strike" was prompted by school officials' protest of a kissing incident.

The ruckus started Thursday when Riddell Riggs, 16, crowned Charlotte McLain, 16, as basketball queen—then kissed her. Public kissing is frowned on in the strait-laced town of 2,500, where parishioners of the Nazarene Church dominate affairs. Beer, cigarettes and women in shorts are also taboo.

The students walked out Friday but were back in school Monday. Five of them, though, were suspended for their role in the protest.

The police chief of Bethany sent two officers to the school "to protect school officials." The officers remained all day and when school was dismissed they were joined by four others in a cruiser car.

appearance of the season will be after the Oklahoma game Saturday.

Currently the chimes are also used to call students to the Tuesday evening vesper services, with Myron Roberts of the music department at the helm.

And perhaps someday, if the tower remains accurate and keeps on being dependable, downtown jewelers will start setting their clocks by its chimes. That would be the ultimate in tribute.

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