

One sixth—one hundred—of the freshmen at Princeton competed for positions on the staff of The Daily Princetonian. Woodrow Wilson, '79, used to contribute a column entitled, "Here and There."

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'Vary is the Spice of Life'

**INTIMATE GLIMPSES INTO THE HEART AND LIFE OF JACK BEST**  
(Continued From Page One.)

There were only three buildings then—University Hall, the Library and Nebraska Hall. The Armory was built the next year.

"I put nine inches of concrete in the foundation of this building," said Jack rather boastfully. "I just wanted to say I 'elped build it."

"You have been staying right with it, too, haven't you?"

He only smiled and went on to explain that when he first came here, he was night watchman for University Hall. There was no fence around the campus then so he not only watched the building but also patrolled the campus. When the Armory was completed, he "took that under his wing". Then the University authorities decided that to watch two buildings was too much work for one man so they put Jack in charge of the Armory.

"Since then, I've been stayin' with it," he added, with a wink and a nod.

By this time Jack was warmed up to spinning old-time yarns and told me of pranks the students used to play; how one night about 2 o'clock he heard an awful yelling coming from Nebraska Hall; how he hurried over there and found three students on the top floor, decorated with pop-corn and molasses and roped so tight they could not move a muscle.

"And on 'allowe'en," he continued, "it was awful." I 'ad my 'ands full then; there was no fence around the campus, you know."

Jack then related very vividly how on one Hallowe'en night three students tried to steal the bell from the roof of University Hall. They had loosened the bell and were preparing to get it down to the ground by means of a long rope, when Jack crawled through the trap door on the roof.

"You got it," he heard one student say to another.

"I got you," he informed the culprits. "And they was so scared they nearly fell off the roof."

"Did you report them?" I asked.

"No—they was just boys."

We stopped talking a minute to watch the sophomore girls, who were then in the gymnasium, practicing the drill they were preparing to give at the exhibition. It was only a minute though, for it reminded Jack of another student caper that happened at an exhibition when Mrs. R. G. Clapp, then Miss Anne Barr, was in charge of the women's gymnasium. Exhibitions then were given only by the women students. Men spectators were barred absolutely, but of course they tried all means possible to get in. Jack, anticipating a few masculine on-lookers, locked all of the windows carefully that night and made a thorough investigation of the gymnasium before the program started.

"Is everything fast?" Miss Barr asked him.

"Everything," he assured her. "There's only one place I 'aven't looked and that's inside the organ."

Then just because he hadn't looked in there, he looked—and what did he find? Six students wedged in between the organ pipes. They had been there since 5 o'clock that evening.

"They begged me," Jack said, chuckling so that I could scarcely understand him, "Oh, how they begged not to be sent out before the crowd. But I just told 'em, 'You had the cheek to come in, now you'll have to have the cheek to get out! Sneak!'"

As soon as Jack had stopped laughing I suggested that we would have to hire him as detective for the next Girls' Cornhusker Party.

"I could always find 'em," he assured me. "But the boys don't play

pranks like they used to. They are all too busy going to parties and dances now. Then they didn't catch 'em up like Mr. Engberg does now, either."

"I remember when General Pershing was 'ere—I went with the boys on an encampment. I used to clean guns for 'em and fix over their belts. You know, I was a tanner by trade. The general told me to wake the boys early one morning, so I got a sponge with a little water in it, 'an went 'round and dropped water in all their faces."

Jack laughed and laughed over this. Evidently this prank of his was as clear to him as if it had happened but yesterday.

"You didn't imagine when you were with General Pershing that some day he would be leading the American troops into Mexico, did you, Jack?"

"No—he was a fine man, though. Awful strict!"

By this time I was more than curious to know where Jack had come from. The "h" dropped from his "Hallowe'en", his "hads" and "haves" marked him English. Then, he had just mentioned that he was a tanner.

"Jack," I asked, "did you say that you were a tanner by trade?"

He nodded.

"You are still tanning skins, aren't you, Jack?" It was rather a poor attempt at a pun.

He only chuckled. My impression of Jack by this time was that he smiled or chuckled most of the time.

"I was a tanner by trade, and when I came to this country—"

"Then you are English?" I interrupted.

"Yes, I came from London! I came 'ere, came to Crete first, thinking I'd keep up my trade but I couldn't get enough work so worked in a brick yard down there."

Then followed a somewhat brief story of his first few years in America. I could not catch all of the details for Jack does not talk loud and there was a piano playing and about fifteen girls doing steps in the gymnasium just outside the door.

He told me, though, how one day, during their first year in Crete, his son "Bill" brought home two pigskins. Jack thought the child had stolen them, so made him take them back. He had really found them, though, for Jack learned later that pigskins were thrown away in that part of the country. So gathering as many of the skins as he could he tanned them and made shoes for his children. He had two skins drying on a line in front of the house one day when two men came along, came into his house and asked if he was a tanner. They came back the next day and offered to start a tannery in Crete giving Jack charge everything away. That is why Jack of it. All arrangements were made and the buildings started when the spring floods on the Blue River washed came to Lincoln.

"Where is 'Bill' now?" I inquired.

"He's livin' in the country. Four of my girls live here in Lincoln. I have ten children and one's dead."

"Your wife," I asked, "is she English, too?"

"Yes, poor soul, she's gone now. She was a good wife—I can't talk no more," he murmured with tears in his eyes.

I left quietly. I had caught a glimpse of the real heart of this grand old man.

Hockey has been introduced as a Varsity sport at the University of Michigan. The first game played was with Wisconsin, and Michigan won by one goal. The game was a tie, and two five-minute overtime periods required to break it.

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Pastor of St. Paul's to Give Series of Fifteen Sermons on Famous Books.

A series of fifteen lectures on great books is to be given by Dr. Walter Aitken of St. Paul Methodist church at the evening service for the next few weeks. The first lecture was given last Sunday on "Charles Dickens, Graduate from the School of Hard Knocks." The title for the next talk is "David Copperfield."

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February 4—"Robert Falconer," by George MacDonald—(A wonderful exhibition of Divine Love).

February 11—"Abraham Lincoln"—(Program furnished by patriotic societies).

February 18—"The Great Desire," by Alexander Black—(One of the best books in recent years).

February 25—"King Arthur Tennyson's Conception of Manhood in Its Prime."

March 4—"Sir Galahad, and the Quest of the Holy Grail"—"His strength was as the strength of ten because his heart was pure."

March 11—"The Ancient Mariner," by Coleridge—(The subtle-souled psychologist).

March 18—"The Deserted Village," by Goldsmith—(The ideal parson in an Irish village).

March 25—"John Bunyan and Great Heart"—(The immortal dreamer).

April 1—"Easter Music—Seventy-five Musicians—Great Program."

April 8—"Mosses from an Old Manse," by Hawthorne—(Hunting for tomorrow).

April 15—"The Turnout," by Booth Tarkington—(An attractive book dealing with an American problem).

April 22—"Quo Vadis," by Henry Sienkiewicz—(One of the most thrilling stories of Christian heroism).

April 29—"The Victory of Pluck"—An address to young people.

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