

UNIVERSITY OPENS IN SEPTEMBER 1871

Pioneer Students, Wearing Uncomfortable Clothes, Hear Talks on the Value of State Institution

UNIVERSITY HALL IS FIRST CAMPUS BUILDING

Allen Richard Benton, Initial Chancellor, Nurses the School Which Started With Twenty Students

By Gene Robb

Wearing tight and shiny trousers, black cotton socks very apparent above high squeaky shoes, collars designed to be as high and as uncomfortable as possible and neckties resembling shoe laces, an even score of young men sat in awed silence in a large room on the first floor of the then state University hall on the morning of September 7, 1871, listening to a vigorous speaker tell them of the importance of a university.

The occasion was the initial opening of the University of Nebraska, which had obtained its charter February 15, 1869, two years before, after the legislature had considered and found good in Senator E. E. Cunningham's bill to establish an institution of higher learning in the infant prairie state.

The beginnings of the University, however, hark back even farther than the day its charter was granted. In 1862, before Nebraska was a state, 90,000 acres were set aside for revenue to support a university. When the Nebraska territory was admitted to the union in 1867, 45,000 acres more were added.

University Hall Planned After the lawmakers for those 19,000 pioneers, huddled closely in the eastern section of Nebraska granted the charter, the erection of a university building first occupied their attention. Designed in "Franco-Italian style," University hall was started late in the summer of 1869 and completed in the winter of 1870 at a cost of \$128,000. The first chancellor, Allen Richard Benton, was elected in January, 1871, and at first set about to organize his faculty which was to consist of five professors besides himself.

And it was this chancellor, who nursed the new university through its infancy, that collected the twenty students whom he influenced to enter the one existing college of "ancient and modern literature, mathematics and natural sciences" in the fall of 1871. Only this one college was started at first, chiefly because there was none who wanted to study anything else.

The charter grant of 1869 provided for the establishment of six colleges of lengthy names and diverse purposes covering medicine,

DALES RECEIVES ONE OF FIRST TWO DEGREES

Whereabouts of Snell, Who Graduated With Him, is Unknown

One of the first of two men to ever receive a degree from the University of Nebraska and the first person to take advance work for a master's degree, is the distinction held by Dean James Stuart Dales, seventy-seven, executive secretary of the board of regents and member of the first graduating class of June, 1873. William H. Snell, whose whereabouts is unknown, was the other member of the class. Both graduated with a bachelor of philosophy degree from what is now the college of arts and sciences.

Dean Dales came to Nebraska in 1871, with Dr. Allen Richardson, then chancellor of the University 1871-1876, from Mt. Union college, located in Alliance, Ohio, and now known as Scio college. He had attended university there for three years and would have graduated the following year had not Dr. Benton approached him, asking for help in making his decision in whether or not to accept the new post offered him at the University of Nebraska.

Asks James' Advice "What would you do, James, if you were me," asked Doctor Benton of young Dales, then a youth of nineteen.

"I am in no position to advise a man of your age," replied Dales, "but I know what I would do. It is a young and growing country and I believe there are great opportunities for a young man out here."

Doctor Benton accepted his election to the Chancellorship by the Board of Regents and along with Dales made the trip to Lincoln.

That is the story of how Dean Dales, now known as "dean of American State Universities Secretaries" by virtue of his unbroken connection with the University of Nebraska since his appointment in December, 1875, first came to Nebraska.

The opportunities were not as numerous as Dales had anticipated and his first years here were filled with hardships of all sorts. His first jobs consisted of waiting tables, taking care of furnaces and other odd jobs around town but as soon became acquainted with some of the younger attorneys and a ready knowledge of the art of shorthand enabled him to work in as a court reporter, as well as doing other work around the law offices and courts.

Chicago Times-Herald Comments on Early Growth of University

In an issue of the Chicago Times-Herald, published in 1896, an interesting article concerning the University of Nebraska appeared under the heading, "It's A Great School." Following are a few paragraphs gleaned from the columns:

"It is hard to appreciate the conditions which have made it possible for the fourth largest of these state institutions to have grown up within only a year more than a quarter century, in the new, and according to the accepted ideas of the east, far western state of Nebraska.

"During the school year now closing there have been registered in the University of Nebraska 1,500 students. The rate of growth makes a more interesting study. Taking the number in attendance in 1885 as a basis, the annual increase each year has been almost exactly 20 percent over that of the previous year.

"The university is made up of the academic college, the industrial college, the College of Law, and the Graduate school. Prof. L. A. Sherman and C. E. Bessey, both educators of national prominence, are situated in the Academic and Industrial colleges respectively. The Graduate school has recently been fully organized. Prof. A. H. Edgren is dean of this school."

Nebraska's Leader



Dr. E. Burnett, chancellor of the University, who is scheduled on the Charter Day radio program.

Dean Sherman Recalls Early Campus Sights

"There were less than 200 students, I believe, when I came to this school," said Dr. L. A. Sherman, ranking dean and chairman of the department of English in the University of Nebraska, who came to the University in 1882.

"The only building on the campus at that time," he continued, leaning back in his chair and looking out of the window, "was old University hall. Most of the students were taking preparatory work."

The school at that time, Dr. Sherman stated, offered two years of preparatory work. In 1892, he said, the preparatory work was completely dropped, one year of it having been done away with a few years previous to that date.

"In '25 the chemistry laboratory was built," continued Dean Sherman, "and in '27 Nebraska hall and Grant Memorial hall were added. Since then I have seen all the present buildings erected on the campus."

The students in the University at the present time are not as old, on an average, as they were years ago, said the dean. The parents did not send so many of the students then. They were older people, most of them in their twenties at least, who had spent some years working before coming to the University.

Campus activities were very few when he came to Nebraska, said Dr. Sherman, and they have grown as the school has grown. When asked about the observance of Charter Day in past years, he said that it had always been a holiday in the school until about ten years ago.

Dr. Sherman will have completed his forty-seventh year as chairman of the department of English in the University at the completion of the present term. He recently announced his intention to obtain sabbatical leave until September 1, 1930, and to retire from the position he holds in the University. On February 9, the Board of Regents passed a resolution making him Emeritus dean of the department of English.

NEBRASKA BAND PLANS CONCERT

University R. O. T. C. band will continue its series of winter concerts Sunday afternoon at the Coliseum, according to Wm. T. Quick, director. The concert, second of three appearances which are to be made during the winter, will begin at 3 o'clock. The third and last of the series will occur on March 17.

The R. O. T. C. band is composed of ninety pieces, and its previous appearances have been received with general approval and considerable praise.

Featured on Sunday's program is the popular song, "Sonny Boy," and a selection from Rudolph Friml's musical comedy, "Rose Marie." In addition a varied program of standard band numbers and popular music has been arranged. Lyle Klotz, cornetist, will be featured in solo numbers during the afternoon.

HOUSE REJECTS BILL TO USE TAX FOR NEW DORMS

Committee of Whole Turns Down Plan to Provide For Housing

MANY OPPOSE MEASURE

Legislators Say Money Will Be Needed to Help Out Bank Guaranty

Efforts of the house standing committee to have the revenue from the proposed inheritance tax used for the building of dormitories at the University failed yesterday as the house considered the bill in the committee of the whole.

The bill was advanced to third reading with the provision that the revenue shall go into the general fund. The proposed inheritance tax bill would enable the state to retain 80 percent of such taxes paid the federal government. It is estimated that this tax would yield about \$200,000.

The bill as originally introduced provided for an educational fund, revenue derived from taking advantage of the federal act of 1926 to go to the common school, the normal schools and the University. When the bill was reported out of committee it was amended to devote the entire revenue to the building of dormitories for girls at the University. They justified their action by explaining that the amount if spread all over the state will accomplish little or nothing for any one institution.

Act Makes Use Possible. Congress passed an act in 1926 which made it possible to make use of this revenue. The act provided that inheritance tax paid to the state will be deducted from the amount to be paid to the federal government. The legislature failed to take advantage of this law in 1927.

Conflict in the house yesterday was waged over the disposition of funds obtained from the tax. Representatives from Lancaster urged the building of dormitories for girls. A motion was made to strike out the amendment made by the committee and to give the funds as the bill originally provided.

Opposition to the plan of giving the revenue to the University was great, for several reasons. One representative expressed a dislike for dormitories.

Money Needed Elsewhere. Another member in voicing opposition to devoting the money to the building of dormitories said that the legislature would need to pick up all the odds and ends in helping out the guaranty fund.

Friends of the University were vociferous in expressing hope that the legislature would provide amply for the University.

Following is the statement of O'Malley of Greeley: "It is a disgrace to the state if we fail to appropriate sufficient funds for our university. It is a crime if through lack of financing we permit big men of the instructional staff to go elsewhere because they can make more money. I suspect, however, that it may be dangerous to finance a dormitory in this uncertain way."

Bishop Expresses Views Representative Bishop of Lancaster expressed his views in this way: "When you don't provide enough for the university's existence, it is necessary for the authorities to increase fees. I should like to see an open gate and no tuition," he said.

AG MIXER SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

Block and Bridle Club Gives Dance at Activities Building

A College of Agriculture mixer will be held Saturday night, February 16, in the Student Activities Building on the Agriculture campus. The dance, to which all University students are invited, is sponsored by the Block and Bridle club of the Nebraska Bullock orchestra.

The admission charge will be fifty cents, with ladies admitted free. Each couple must have at least one identification card in order to be admitted. It is hoped that students at the Nebraska-Drake basketball game will attend the mixer following the game.

MINNESOTA WILL DEBATE NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska debaters will meet the Gustavus Adolphus team from Minnesota at an informal practice debate this afternoon at 4 o'clock, in Andrews hall 125. No admission will be charged.

Nebraska will take the affirmative of the question, which suggests a substitute for our present jury system. Jacob Finkelstein, Walter Huber, and Carl J. Marold make up the Nebraska affirmative team.

On Today's Program



Earl Cline, president of the Board of Regents, who will give an address on the Charter Day program.

UNIVERSITY PLAYERS PRODUCE MANY STARS

Several Well Known Actors And Playrights Belong To Organization

GROUP FOUNDED IN 1916

Drama has its history, and the University Players, has thirteen years of colorful history and reminiscences, compiled by pen and by word, concerning the noteworthy dramatic productions of that organization.

When Miss H. Alice Howell, director of the present University Players productions came to the University as the head of the department of dramatics, there was no such organization on the Nebraska campus. University plays were given periodically with the result that the glory, responsibility, and criticism could not be hung on any one organization because the plays were merely plays, backed by no university group.

Thirteen years ago, Miss H. Alice Howell, with the aid of several of the present dramatic enthusiasts, formed the University Players organization and became affiliated with the National Collegiate players. The productions were given at the Temple theater, and scenery and talent was limited.

Two Successful Actors However, about that time, Fred Ballard and Maurice Clark, were members of the newly formed University Players. Both are successful actors in New York at the present time, and Mr. Clark is noted for his recent dramatic productions which he has written. The University Players took on the aspect of an extra training school, giving its member added practical experience before regular audiences which patronized the organization of the spoken drama.

Susie Scott was another Players star who took the leads in a number of productions about 1917, before she entered her present occupation as actress and playwright. Several of her recent plays have been produced nationally, and one or two have been given by the University Players organization.

Many Stars Learn From the stage of the old Temple theater, acting under the University Players banner, many noted stage stars of today received their early training. Some of the more recent Players who are earning their livelihood elsewhere are: Harold Sumption, playing stock in Oklahoma City; Harold Felton, practicing law and doing summer dramatic work; Marguerite Munger, on road with a musical comedy; Hart Jenks, on road with Fritz Leibler in Shakespearean productions; Edward Taylor, playing in "My Maryland"; Jack Rank, playing stock in Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dwight Merriam, playing stock in Hammond, Indiana; and Gertrude Moran, playing in "These Days" on Broadway.

Herbert Yenne, present active member of the Players, joined the organization soon after his beginning in the University in 1916. Ray Ramsay, recent business manager of the company, and star of numerous dramatic productions, began his active part with the future dramatists in 1926.

There, in the old drab auditorium, on the small, time-worn stage, successes in spoken drama have been produced, the kind of actors and actresses, Nebraska students like to call their own.

AYLESWORTH IS LIONS' SPEAKER

Prof. L. E. Aylsworth of the department of political science of the University, presented an outline of the working of the proposed city manager plan of city administration in an address before the Lions club at their luncheon Thursday noon.

Professor Aylsworth was scheduled to speak at the club's luncheon two weeks ago but that meeting was postponed in favor of an address delivered at the chamber of commerce by Charles P. Taft who was here as a speaker for the state Y. M. C. A. conference.

Wisconsin University President Speaks at Early Charter Day

Charter Day was formerly a gala day at the University of Nebraska. It was a day of speeches, meetings, and various forms of entertainment. In 1890, President T. C. Chamberlin, of the University of Wisconsin, delivered an address entitled, "The Coming of Age of State Universities." Following are a few of the opening paragraphs of President Chamberlin's address:

"Twenty-one years ago today, the University of Nebraska had its birth. Today it completes that span of years which, in the life of man, covers the period of childhood and youth. Measured by the measure of man, the University of Nebraska now enters upon adult life. It has come of age, and as we survey the growth that has been made, we may indeed feel that the days of childhood and youth have passed, that a robust, vigorous and active manhood has already been entered upon.

"As we look upon these varied appointments, upon the breadth and height to which the University has grown, upon the numbers and attainments of those who instruct, and upon the numbers and promise of those who are instructed, we may indeed congratulate the University on having come to manhood's state."

GEOLOGIST SAYS COWS TROD CAMPUS IN 1891

Dr. E. H. Barbour Declares University Looked Drab In Earlier Days

CONSTRUCT IRON FENCE

When Dr. E. H. Barbour came to the University of Nebraska, in July, 1891, the one prominent feature was the desolation, dustiness, and bareness of the place, according to the story related by him to The Nebraskan yesterday. There were no trees, shrubs, vines, or decorative plants, and the ground was tramped out by the town herd.

Regularly each morning and again at night the town herds were driven to and from their pastures in west Lincoln, and until Chancellor Canfield's arrival in 1891, the university campus was viewed as a public domain, and herds were driven across the grounds. Chancellor Canfield's coming to the University of Nebraska was based upon the agreement with the regents that they would erect an iron fence around the campus.

At that time the campus walks were of twelve inch planks and one had to walk a straight course and keep himself well balanced on this narrow, tight road. The dog kennel type of architecture which prevailed in all north Lincoln was a very pronounced feature of the immediate surroundings of the campus.

NEBRASKA SWIMMERS LOSE TO DRAKE TEAM

Opponents Break Two Valley Records in Meet Ending On 38-31 Score

Coach Rudolph Vogeler's Nebraska swimming team lost a hotly contested dual meet with Drake university last night in the Lincoln high school tank. The final score was 38-31.

The Drake swimmers bettered two Missouri Valley conference records when they completed the 100 yard free style relay in one minute, twenty-one and one-tenth seconds, almost two seconds better than the present mark of 1:23. Squires of Drake, swimming in the 200 yard breast stroke, made a mark of 2:44, compared to the present Valley record of 2:46.9. McGuire of Drake also equaled a Valley record.

VALENTINE SPIRIT IS PARTY THEME

Valentine spirit was the keynote of the sophomore commission tea held Thursday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock at Ellen Smith hall. The decorations were red, white and blue, and a red and white color scheme was carried out in the refreshments.

The Y. W. C. A. social committee took charge of the refreshments so the sophomore commission would be free to entertain the guests. The commission is a selected group of sophomore women who participate in various branches of university activities.

Mrs. F. D. Coleman served the first hour, and Mrs. Parmelee Y. W. C. A. secretary, the second hour. The program consisted of music and a reading by Charlotte Wells.

Husker Football Men Will Get Gold Awards

Gold footballs will be awarded to Cornhusker football men between halves of the Drake-Nebraska game Saturday evening, according to Herbert Gish, director of athletics. The awards are made because of Nebraska's success in carrying off first place honors in the Missouri Valley.

NEBRASKA REACHES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Alumni and Friends of University Celebrate Its Birthday in All Parts of United States On Charter Day

RADIO PROGRAM WILL FEATURE OCCASION

Members of Faculty Journey Throughout Country To Address Gatherings of Loyal Cornhusker Followers

Today, on the sixtieth anniversary of the granting of a charter to the University of Nebraska by an act of the state legislature, the University, and alumni clubs throughout Nebraska and the United States are observing Charter day with programs and meetings. A feature of the university exercises will be the radio program which will be broadcast from the university broadcasting station over KFAB this evening at 10 o'clock.

The radio program will feature short talks by Chancellor E. A. Burnett; Earl Cline, president of the board of regents; and Arthur Dobson, president of the Alumni association. The university R. O. T. C. band, under the direction of W. T. Quick, will present songs and marches, and the university men's glee club and girls' octette, directed by H. T. Decker, will give a short program.

Members of the faculty will talk to alumni clubs throughout the state in meetings of these groups. J. E. LeRossignol, dean of the College of Business Administration and Harold Holtz, secretary of the Alumni association, spoke before the Chicago Alumni association at a banquet held in celebration of Charter day and also at similar programs at Detroit and Cleveland during the past week.

Lecture at Meetings This evening they will speak at St. Louis and tomorrow at Kansas City. At these meetings Dean LeRossignol's talks have been on the progress and needs of the University. Mr. Holtz, with moving pictures and slides, shows campus events and developments.

Coach D. X. Bibb, who will be in New York at a meeting of the football rules committee will speak before the New York Alumni club which will meet February 19. It has been impossible to send speakers to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Des Moines but alumni clubs at those places will observe Charter day.

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Fling Tells of Many Changes In University

Few men have had the chance to observe the growth of the University of Nebraska in the manner which has been afforded Dr. F. M. Fling, professor of European history. His period of service to the state began in 1891, and is surpassed in length by only one faculty member.

Four buildings made up the university campus at that time: University hall, Nebraska hall, a part of Memorial hall, and the chemistry laboratory, now called Pharmacy hall. The chemistry laboratory was then new and the best building on the campus. Nebraska hall was used for botany, zoology and physics. History, language, and all similar work was taught in the old main building.

Chapel is Conducted University hall, a part of which still stands, had a large chapel in it. This auditorium was two stories high, located in the center of the building. Chapel services were held every morning, the faculty members sitting on the platform. "We had some great old times until that disappeared," Doctor Fling said.

Memorial hall was later used as a chapel. An organ, exhibited at an Omaha fair, was bought by the alumni and set up for use in the services.

Gates Are Locked. After a while the officials wanted to keep people off the campus, and so erected a high fence around the four blocks making up the campus. The gates were locked each night, and opened in the morning. When new buildings were built outside of this area, the fence was torn down and sold. It may now be seen at Wuyka cemetery. As Doctor Fling expresses it, "Originally used to surround the living, it is now used to surround the dead."

A greater portion of the students were then working their way through," Doctor Fling said. "They were a rough looking lot, but were here for business. They thought nothing of carrying twenty hours, while students now are not able to carry twelve.

"Speaking of building \$40,000 fraternity houses would have astounded people at that time. There was then a red hot fight on between the fraternities and the literary societies. The editor of the Journal, a literary society member, was a bitter opponent of the fraternities. People would have collapsed if a dance on the campus had been mentioned. Now the students can do anything and no one seems to care."

When Doctor Fling came from his home in the east, there was no such thing as a dress suit among the students. When he attended a faculty reception during the first year of his work here, he was surprised to find himself the only one wearing a dress suit. One other man admitted owning one, but did not have the nerve to wear it.

A rather heated argument went on for some years regarding the wearing of formal clothes. Some faculty members thought it unbecomingly to wear a dress suit, yet did

BISHOP LEETE SPEAKS AT METHODIST DINNER

All Methodist Students and Faculty Banquet Will Be Held Friday

Bishop Frederick Deland Leete, of the Omaha Methodist area, will be the principal speaker at the All-Methodist student and faculty banquet to be held at Trinity Methodist church Friday, February 15, at 6 o'clock. The dinner is given in joint observance of the University Charter day and "Bishop's Night."

Bishop Leete is the author of the book, "Christianity and Science," which, according to Rev. W. C. Fawell, Methodist student pastor, has been favorably reviewed by many scientific and religious leaders.

Fred Marsh, who was recently elected to the university Board of Regents, will give a short talk on the subject of "Neighborhoods." Tickets for the banquet may be bought at the Wesley Foundation, 1417 R street, for fifty cents each.