

Union offers collegians recreation facilities

Represents eight years of struggle

Today on these two pages are stories of the Union, and what it has to offer the student who will take the trouble to use its facilities, but behind its luxurious quarters is a story of eight long years of struggle for the realization of a dream so that the student of today could enjoy a Student Union.

The honor roll of those who made the Union more than a "pipe dream" includes: Ray Ramsay, Oscar Norling, Elmont Waite, Bill McCleery, Robert Thiel, Jack Fischer, Irving Hill, Ed Murray, Arnold Levin, Ralph Reeder, Al Moseman, Senator George Norris, Congressman Henry Luckey, Chancellor Emeritus E. A. Burnett, State PWA Administrator John Latenser, and President Roosevelt.

Ramsay starts move.

Ray Ramsay, the then alumni secretary, and Oscar Norling, editor of the DAILY, began the drive for a Union in 1930. First constructive step came a few months later when the Alumni council appointed a student union committee. Under the direction of Ramsay a series of articles, running over a three year period, were prepared and ran in the DAILY and the "Nebraska Alumnus."

Then the Innocents took up the fight and Ramsay and the president of the honorary, Bill McCleery, went to the University of Missouri campus to inspect their new Union. Questionnaires and inquiries were sent to all colleges with Unions.

Robert Thiel, as head of the committee, made investigations, and found a number of legal barriers that would have to be removed before the Union could be built. In 1936 the Student Council took up the fight and under president Irving Hill and with the aid of the board of regents indicated that there might be a possibility of removing the legal barriers. Meanwhile the committee did all in its power to keep student interest in the project alive.

Students willing to pay.

Jack Fischer, DAILY editor, announced in November, 1935, that petitions circulated among students indicated that they would be willing to pay a small fee to defray the cost of maintenance. A similar survey among alumni disclosed that they would furnish the building. Then Nebraska's representatives at Washington went to work to get the WPA endorsement of the Union plan.

The next phase in the history of the Union was the approval by the regents of the petition for securing the federal funds. This occurred Friday, Feb. 14, 1936. The greater part of the struggle was over.

On Oct. 23, 1936, the DAILY announced that a \$180,000 assured a new Union for the university. The issue that day was given over entirely to discussion of the new building—its architecture, uses and history of the drive up to that time.

Construction interrupted.

Actual construction was interrupted and the builders had to postpone the date of its completion. On May 4, 1938, the building opened with a grand open house ceremony. The DAILY put out a special 12 page edition to celebrate the event. The edition carried the history of the struggle of the Union up to that date.

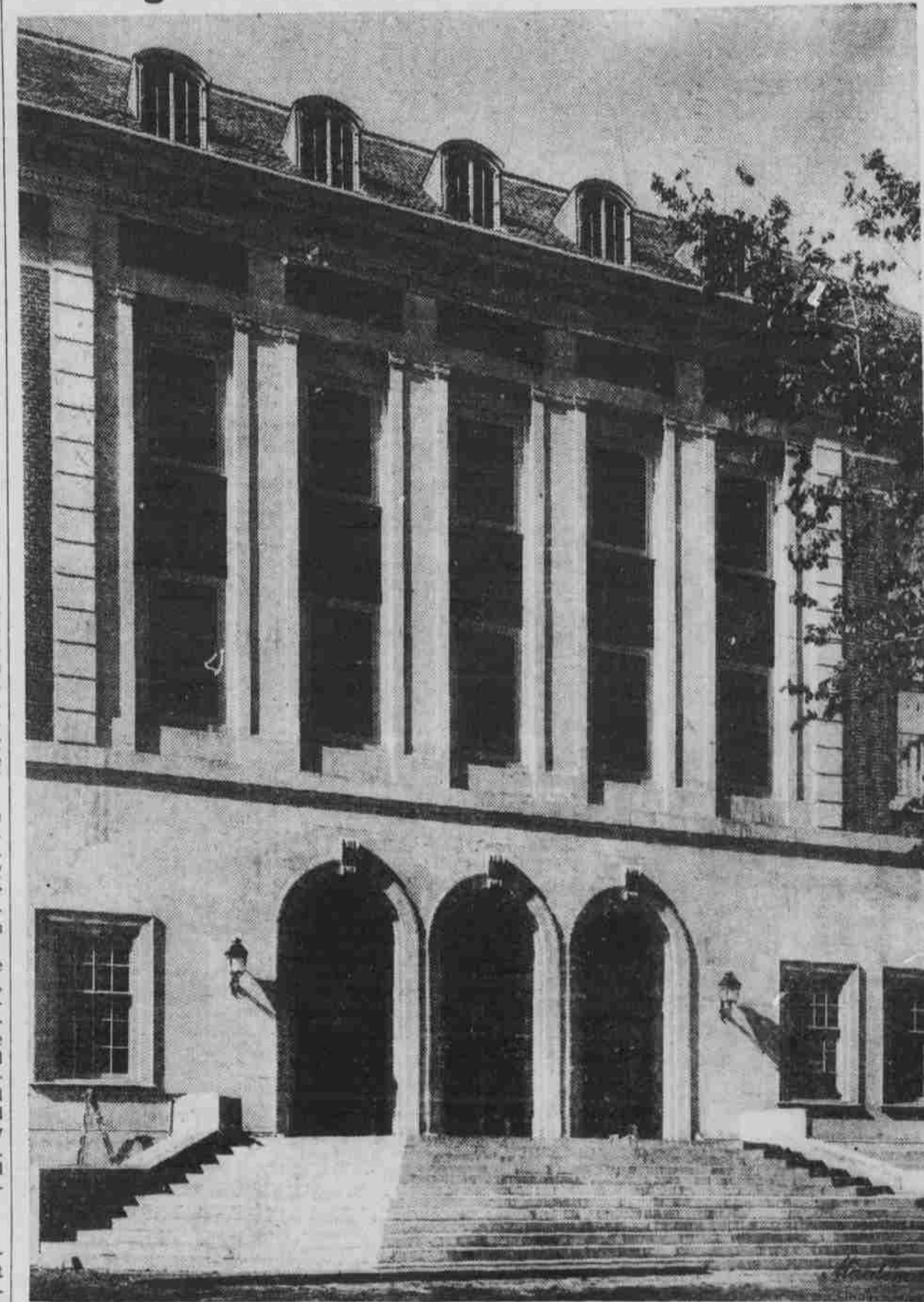
The following night Orrin Tucker played the first "name band" dance in the ballroom. Since that time the activities of the building have increased, and the value of the Union to the student body has increased a hundred fold.

Huskers approve Harmony Hours

Over 60 percent of students attending the Sinfonia Harmony Hours in the Union are boys and over 80 percent are not School of Music students, according to Union surveys.

Tschalkowsky is generally the most popular composer though requests for Ravel's "Bolero" top the list. "Valse Frite" by Sibelius, "Rhapsody in Blue" by Gershwin, the Nutcracker Suite run close behind. Strauss, Beethoven, and Wagner are also in demand.

Through these doors . . .



Courtesy Lincoln Journal and Star.

Thru these doors hundreds of university students pass every day in search of entertainment, in search of a place to play and profitably spend their leisure time. Here away from the atmosphere of the classroom they can relax and use their leisure hours in the pursuits of simple pleasures. For this privilege all students enrolled in the university pay an annual fee of 6 dollars to help maintain the building and carry on its program.

All students enrolled in the university pay the fee, but many do not take advantage of

what the Union has to offer. Student and faculty leaders of the past dreamed and struggled so that the student of today might be able to enjoy such a building. On these two pages is recounted the story of that eight year struggle as well as the stories of what the Union has done in its 23 months of existence and what it plans to do in the future. Here are outlined some of the things the Union offers the student if he will only take the trouble to drop in and take advantage of the facilities provided for his use.

Inquiring Reporter finds . . .

Student plans for use of new building went the way of all good resolutions

By Bob Aldrich.

The average student uses the Student Union only about an hour every day, according to the Inquiring Reporter's survey made Wednesday, and the lounge is the most used feature of the building with the grill taking second place. The result of a sampling of opinion as to the Union's advantages revealed that most students drop into the lounge or grill for a few minutes between classes to rest, coke, or play cards or ping pong or perhaps read in the Book Nook. The noon hour sees by far the heaviest traffic.

Students plan . . .

On May 4, 1938, the day the Union was opened to students, the Inquiring Reporter asked ten people how they intended to utilize the building. The principal difference between the enthusiastic plans made then and the way they are carried out today seems to be that many students planned to do most of their studying in the Union. Some people do study there, of course, but the library still holds first place as a study center.

Social activities.

"Coking, parties, other social activities, and studying will be my main interests in the Union," one of the questioned ones replied two years ago. "The Union's o. k.

but I still think a library would have been the better thing to build," another said. "Recreation, some study, caking, and other social activities will be the essence of my sojourns," a third prophesied. "By caking, I don't mean necessarily that a girl has to have a date to go caking. Two or three girls can go a-caking and have

Program includes fine arts classes and exhibits

An attempt to develop student appreciation of art has been made by the Union thru its many exhibits, student projects and hobby groups.

With the co-operation of the Department of Art, photographic and student art work has been displayed in the Book Nook. Two exhibits of the picture of the month and a representative student painting have been hung in the main hall.

A sketch class, carving and modelling have offered free materials and instruction to students, not in the hope of awakening latent genius, but with the idea of creating an active interest in art.

just as much fun as when they are dating. Personally I think the new Union is just as important as a new library would have been."

"I think the building will be a better place to gather in friendly groups than cheap drug stores and beer joints," one student said. Others rated the ballroom as the most important feature.

But what do students do in the Union? Well, Joe College (yes, he's still going to school) whips over right after history class. If he hasn't got a date he drops into the lounge and looks for his friends. After joining them in a general bull session for a few minutes he drifts into the grill for a coke. Joe has an hour to kill before ec class so he persuades a couple of pals to play ping pong. Afterward Joe may get in a game in the card room or pick up the latest best seller in the Book Nook.

Of the ten questioned Wednesday, four said they averaged an hour a day in the Union. Two students estimated their stay at three hours, another at nine to ten hours a week. Two said respectively, "once a week" and "about an hour a week" and the tenth was an ag student who said she very seldom came to the Union.

Student fees pay expenses of activities

Each student at the university spends six dollars a year for the use of the Union. This fee, in case you are interested, is divided up and used to finance various features and activities of the Union, the complete cost of which is approximately \$39,000.

Union expenses are divided into seven groups. They are: general operating expense, equipment maintenance and depreciation reserve, activities fund, wages and salaries, new equipment and building improvements, special furniture retirement fund, and principal and interest on loan.

Catering costs extra

The catering department does not share in the allotment of student membership fees, and must therefore be self-supporting.

General operating expenses cost \$2,000 and includes things such as office supplies, bookkeeping forms, stationery, postage, advertising, insurance, auditing charges, book, and magazine subscriptions.

Another \$2,000 goes for the equipment maintenance and depreciation reserve. Money is set aside each year to replace in the future and keep in current repair all equipment not used in the catering department.

Activities fund takes \$2,700. The Union program of dances, hobby groups, recitals, lectures, shows, etc., are paid for from this appropriation. Any income from dances or other functions is added to the fund, and expenses in turn are deducted.

\$9,000 for salaries

Nine thousand dollars go to page wages and salaries. This includes the salaries of the director and office staff, bookkeepers, activity managers, extra custodians, checkers, and all other student employes not working in the catering department.

Set aside for new equipment and building improvements is \$1,300. The amounts spent for new equipment and for building improvements are specifically appropriated by the board of managers.

The special furniture retirement fund requires \$4,000 from which unpaid balances on furniture and equipment in the Union are paid off in yearly installments.

Eighteen thousand dollars is for principle and interest payment on the loan. The building was partly paid for by a government grant, and other necessary money was borrowed from a bank. Approximately \$18,000 will be paid back annually until and including 1952.

No profit on food

In the catering department which is self-supporting, food is priced on a non-profit basis, but it must bring enough income to pay for the food, the preparation and service expenses, and to carry insurance, to repair and replace equipment, and to pay all other expenses regularly assumed by a catering unit.

The catering department includes the cafeteria, the Corn Crib, the faculty dining room, and all of the banquet and party service. A manager supervises this department, and the food is prepared by a full time staff. As many jobs as can be handled by students are filled accordingly, and approximately one hundred earn meals waiting tables, washing dishes, cleaning, and doing other work.

The student's six dollars provides the maintenance of many activities, services, and conveniences. There is free checking for clothes and books from 8 a. m. to closing time daily. A Postal Telegraph and Western Union station is provided at the office desk. All campus and alumni organizations may hold meetings at no charge. The travel bureau provides a clearing house for rides home at vacation times.

The ticket selling service sells tickets to all campus functions, except athletic activities, at the office desk. Lounge rooms are provided.

The cafeteria is open for lunch and dinner every day. At the Corn Crib there are hot and cold plate lunches and fountain service every day. Open for luncheon Monday thru Friday is the faculty dining room on the second floor where hot and cold plate lunches are served.

A lost and found department for (See ACTIVITIES, page 5.)