Editorial - - Comment - - Bulletin

Be Proud Nebraskans

LEditor's Note: The reappearance of spring made us long for the bees and flowers, so we took a day off. The article below summarizes much better than we could, a condition you should all recognize and in which you should all be interested. It was written for the February issue of the Nebraska alumnus by Mr. Ellsworth DuTeau, university alumni secretary.

Seventy-one years ago Feb. 15, in what was little more than a prairie hamlet on the windblown plains, there was founded the institution known as the University of Nebraska. It was a one building school, its structure being appropriately called University hall. There is little left of that historic memorial but old "U Hall Tower" remains etched against the skyline of our campus memories, for as Flora Bullock, '97, so eloquently put it in her poem, it was a

"Brave old Tower
Serene and wise and kind,
Gazing for 50 years across a prairie land,
From whence came trooping eager boys and girls.
You called them in for blessing,
You called them in for blessing,
For mothering a while.
Fifty years, And now—
A lonely place againt the sky."

Yes, now tradition, for it is no more. Over the campus, in those days, there grew the prairie violet, recalled by Edna Bullock, '89, in this issue. Neighborhood cows grazed complacently over the modest campus unworried by their nearness to the growing pains of learning that ceased the faces of the eager boys and girls. A board fence was built to separate the campus from the outside world, and the walks leading up to U hall were made of loose gravel and pebbles. A few struggling trees graced the enclosure. Thus was the University of Nebraska presented to its students and passers-by during its early years.

Not until 1886 did another structure appear. In that year the new science building, now the College of Pharmacy was completed, and the growth of Nebraska university made its first declaration to its peoples. Since then it has grown from two buildings to sixty three, from one campus to three, from a freshman class of 106 to 2,052, from a graduating class of 28 to 1,324, from a total enrolment of a few hundred to approximately 7,000 and from four and one-half acres of campus to more than 400, not to mention the 4,700 acres of experimental farm lands it owns.

Yet, it isn't by size we measure a school, or the acres its campus extends, but by its worth as a seat of learning, by its quality, its recognition, the fellowship it enjoys in the educational world. And Nebraskans can be proud of their Alma Mater, proud to admit they were students in the great prairie school that is known for its standards.

In 1909 it became a member of the Association of American Universities, attesting the quality of its accredited standing. It is today one of the 33 members of the Association. It is a member of the North Central Association.

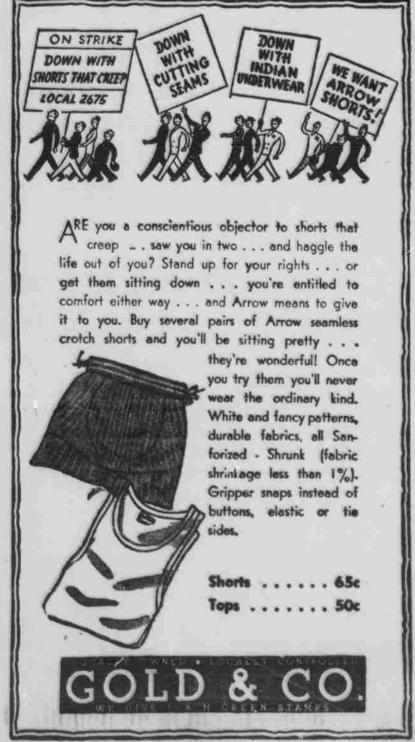
It ranks eighth among state universities and colleges. This, we are informed, is a "valid criterion of intellectual leadership," an index of a university's performance as enunciated by its alumni in their fields of citizenship and endeavor.

From the institution that was housed in one building in an enclosure that embodied four blocks, over 70 years ago, there have gone thousands of boys and girls who have become outstanding men and women. Today the alumni list of the University of Nebraska reaches higher than 52,000, scattered to the four corners of the nation and the earth. Twenty thousand have made Nebraska their permanent home. More than 1,000 reside in Chicago and vicinity, almost 500 in New York, 700 in Southern California, 500 in Denver, over 200 in Kansas City, 124 in Council Bluffs, 145 in Tulsa, and thus the list reads on. Nebraska University has produced 52,000 citizens for this country and, look where you will, in business, in professions, the field of citizenship—you will find Nebraska's record good. In fact, as a state, Nebraska ranks third in production of illustrious men and women.

The pioneer spirit burns brightly in the heart of the native Nebraskan. and it remains a steady glow in the heart of every Cornhusker, native born or not. Seven years of drouth have not weakened his faith in the state or his genuine interest in the university. The hot winds have come and gone leaving the problems of state, of business, and of education more acute with the passing of the Thirsty Thirties but the Cornhusker, greatly heartened by the welcome snows of this winter as 1940 gets underway, begins again to build his dreams. The state university can scarcely fail to reflect this indomitable character, this stalwart, courageous spirit that meets life with its chin up and eyes to the sun, that keeps its vigil as old U Hall Tower did 50 years, "gazing across a prairie land from whence came trooping eager boys and girls"-gazing until its supports began to weaken under their burden, until wind and rain and the relentless elements made it relinquish its proud watch that had seen more than 50 years of growth and generations of students, of those who left its grounds in noisy groups to return singly, poised and greyed by the world for which the university had equipped them.

Sometimes those who go farther and farther away, who seldom if ever return, forget that the university follows their trails, their careers on thru the years, proud of their achievements, hopeful for their futures. Sometimes they forget that the university needs their continued affection, their interest, their loyalty, their active allegiance. When one is graduated from the university, or leaves it permanently as a student, he does not leave the university behind; he is merely graduated into the citizenship of the alumni, into the permanent association of the university's sons and dughters. Some forget to hold their membership in the university family. But the call will someday reach even these remote members of the family and they will heed the call.

Yes, Nebraska University has, for the most part, done its work well, exceedingly well.







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- 2. Because they're going to be called on.
- Because they're wearing uncomfortable underwear.

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