

# Nationally famous at 72; but somewhat shaken

Another Charter Day. Adding one more year to the university's age, and placing a few more cracks and a few more weather stains on its rickety old buildings.

Seventy-two years! They've left their mark. Twenty-six buildings over 30 years old. Nine buildings over 45. And University hall condemned before it was opened now with its top two stories removed, and braces holding up its sides celebrating its 70th birthday.

Deep hollows in the stone steps, and the marks where previous hollows have been filled show the imprint of 50,000 men and women who have come and gone. And national figures among the faculty, topped by Chancellor Avery and Dr. Charles Bessey who grew up with the school, have made way for a new generation of educators.

Time is thoro, destructive. The wide open plains which once surrounded solitary University hall have been blotted out by industry, congestion and a small sized metropolis. The old fence which kept the cattle off the campus grounds for years has for lack of need been transferred to the cemetery. And age has long ago obliterated the university sun dial donated by the class of 1906 and has brought the hands of the library clock to a stop.

Little remains save the bottom story of University Hall to call back another day; the first birthday for higher education in Nebraska.

Then Lincoln was young, just a cluster of frame buildings housing a population of 2,500. No paved roads, no automobiles. And the thick black Nebraska mud made communication over the state and even in the town almost impossible. The state itself had only 100,000 people and they were scattered far and wide. They had little in common save that they were pioneers; they were

dreamers, and they had a desire to carve out of the plains a state that could hold its own with the best of them, a "white spot" of the nation.

Representatives of these pioneers met in legislative session. And there with the small resources they had, they voted to erect a building, to hire a faculty and to charter a University of Nebraska; that the star of education and enlightenment might forever flourish in the state.

Only twenty students appeared in 1871 for the first session of classes. They had no facilities to speak of. About all they had to start with were dreams, a spirit of the plains, and a belief that this embryonic university would someday flourish.

These dreams have come true. It expanded rapidly. Added in rapid succession in response to its growth were Pharmacy Hall, Grant Memorial Nebraska hall. Then in 1891 came the library and with it Ellen Smith. By the turn in the century, the faculty could count almost a thousand students.

And as its founders had dreamed it was recognized over the nation. It was admitted as the eighth state member of the Association of American Universities, one of the most elite accrediting agencies in the country. Books and lectures by members of our faculty were praised and read by students everywhere. Standing out as great beacons in the young field of education were Nebraska men like Dr. Barbour, Professor Fling, Chancellor Avery, Ellen Smith, Dean Sherman and Dr. Louise Pound.

It was truly an age of glory. Stalwart men and women left that school, strangely literate at a time when literacy was not needed, educated when great sections of the country were mired down in ignorance. Men left that university prepared to build a state. And they did.

They didn't forget the university, once they had been graduated. Thru its training, and thru the research which it carries on as an integral part of its program, advancements in business and agriculture were made one after the other. Legislatures set aside sums of money to be used for these purposes. And Nebraska university was in truth as well as in name a center of learning for the state and for the nation.

But today that star shines less brightly. A cloud is passing over it. Depressions in agriculture, and greater demands for money elsewhere, have greatly curtailed its activities. The funds formerly used for research and experimentation have been cut to a minimum; many of the brilliant educators which should have filled the shoes of the Besseys and the Averys are going elsewhere where better salaries are beckening.

Last fall 14 professors handed in their resignations; several others did during the first semester. And with each passing year, depreciation eats into the already meager facilities in the engineering branch of our campus.

A man can't live without blood. A university can't thrive without funds.

Mindful of a brilliant past, worried over a doubtful future, Nebraska students prepare to celebrate their university's 72nd birthday tomorrow. The pioneering spirit is still here. So long as a Nebraskan remains, the love of this state, and the hope for the future of its university shall always exist. Clouds are but temporary; the star itself still shines brightly. So we will celebrate this day ever hopeful that providence may sweep away this cloud and let the full radiance of that star of education shine once more.

## Collegiate Oddities

### PARANOIAC'S PARADISE

I hopped down to the mellowmuck sea. A fiddler crab shook his eyes at me and he danced and he pranced and he said, "Hoohoo, the big, mauve men are after you. Just wait until the sun falls dead in the sky and they'll come creeping by and by with a stick and a knife and a big, mauve sack and they'll stuff you in it, and you won't come back! And they'll jump and they'll howl and shriek hoohoo when those big, mauve men have captured you!"

"Ninny-claw crab," I snarled with a sneer, I've just dug a pit and filled it with beer; the big mauve, men will tumble in, and they'll all dissolve, and their big, mauve grin will melt like cheese, and they'll lose their sack, and I will come back from their evil attack! You'd better look out with your hoohoo for I may put the cadabra on you!"

The crab said MY! and the crab said OH! and he burrowed down into the ocean. Now while I glugged with glee in my seaside walk. I knew all along that crabs couldn't talk.

This bit above popped up into mind during an infamous Phi Rho party. It seems those little affairs are conducive of thinking of this kind for here's another chunk also of that vintage.

Ennuye, draped, reclining on a couch, sophisticated, wan—. You look like your muse. And when you look the other way, the little crook pours arsenic in your drink, or slips a bodkin through your ribs, or clips you behind the ear. Ah, yes, I know the kind, and I confess that I must be no gentleman, if such a gilded courtesan is what a gentleman would choose, for I, good sir, pursue a muse who scampers, giggling, over wealds and runs undraped through open fields.

### FINAL EXAM IN BOTANY

Botany is the study of the structure, activities, and

nomenclature of plants. Plants being the things that when eaten are called vegetables and when mowed or hoed are called "those dam' ol' weeds."

Plants are funny things too, like people. They are sometimes named after people who discover them. A plant discovered by a man named Wyeth is called Wyethia, so when I find a dandelion plant in the spring all withered and cut off, just waiting to be raked up, I will name it Williea.

Some plants can be used for medicine. Some can be used for other things. My uncle, g "99-proof" willie used to make what he called medicine out of some weeds he found growing along the North Loup river near Burwell. He put some of this medicine (about a quart) in his Model T one day and he ran that car for five months before he put in another quart. Only he didn't waste it on his car, he drank the stuff to stay healthy.

When a botanist speaks of viola, he's talking about a species of the pansy family. My uncle g "E-flat" willie plays a pansy in the Burwell orchestra.

Often plants are adventitious, that is, they grow in a funny way. The morning-glory is an example; it rambles all over when it grows. My uncle g "Eight-ball" willie used to raise plants that got up at night and walked around the garden for exercise, only he's dead now and the plants died of exhaustion.

The leaves of most of the higher plants have tiny surface hairs which protect the leaf from inclement weather. I had an uncle who used to work 40 hours a week giving the trees in front of the Burwell courthouse a shave.

Lastly, plants are hardy. Although winter winds are blowing over the campus and snow flies in the air, there are flowers in bloom here. The tiny flowers of the snowdrop plant bloom as early as Feb. 1 in the midwest, and there's a snowdrop bush just north of the

## Beneath the Sower

★ L. J. Art Rivin ★

Senator Lambert's bill to abolish the legislative council received plenty of attention in government committee hearing. The senator opened fire himself, piling up a long list of reasons for discontinuing the council. He was refuted by Senator Thomas, head of the council, and Senators Callan, Tvrdik, Adams and Howard.

The bill's introducer emphasized the fact that he was not indicating the members of the council nor its research director, Dr. Shumate. Rather he pointed out that in the hands of special interests, the body might become an autocratic "little legislature" since all bills introduced in the senate must receive the pass of the council.

Senator Lambert accused the council of doing nothing but making long, vague reports which nobody ever reads. "And for all that," said Lambert, "they have spent \$13,000." He pointed out that both ex-governor Cochran and his successor Governor Griswold advocated abolishing the legislative council.

The opponents of the bill retaliated with a convincing defense of the value of the research done by the council. They also cited the fact that the council saves time for the legislature by drafting bills previous to the session.

greenhouse, which is south of the M.A. building, which, when you walk up the wooden stairs, is so quiet that you could hear an anvil drop.

## Bengtson goes south to speak

Dr. Nels A. Bengtson, dean of the junior division and chairman of the geography department, spoke this week at several colleges and universities in Texas and Oklahoma. He was invited to these schools to exchange ideas regarding freshman counseling.

Monday, Dean Bengtson met with a faculty committee of Oklahoma A & M, which now has in operation a new plan for junior division guidance. Monday evening he gave a lecture before the student body on "Geographic Aspects of the Caribbean Area in Relation to the United States and Hemisphere Defense."

At Southern Methodist in Dallas, Dr. Bengtson discussed organization of the junior division on the Texas campus, and also was the

## MacDougall named barb assistant social director

The Barb Union appointed Boyd MacDougall, assistant social director, to succeed Bob Wilson as social director. Wilson, director for the past three semesters, graduated at mid-year.

Budd Walker was appointed as co-chairman on the Barb Union Interhouse Council social committee. His post was created to facilitate the development of a larger Barb social program. Other men will be appointed to the committee at a later meeting.

principal speaker at an Abraham Lincoln celebration.

Today, Dean Bengtson will visit the North Texas Teachers College campus at Denton, where he will meet with a faculty committee for discussion of freshman counseling methods. He will also lecture at an evening convocation on "Geographic Aspects of Hemisphere Defense."

## Saenz, Canadian prof collaborate on dictionary

Professor Saenz, assisted by Juan Cano of the University of Toronto in Canada, is compiling a two-volume Spanish-English, English-Spanish dictionary which he hopes to be "more authoritative, more complete, more practical for the student and ordinary reader than any other book of its kind." Each volume will define approximately 50,000 words.

Following the term to be defined, the authors are listing the most common usages of the word. Idioms containing the specified word complete the definition.

In compiling the work, the authors have divided the alphabet between them. Thus during the school year, they work independent of one another, and during the

## Intercollegiate debate filings close tomorrow

Filings for the second intercollegiate debate tryouts must be submitted to Prof. H. A. White

summer, they compare notes, revise, and make additions to the manuscript.

To illustrate the length of time required to precisely define a word, Professor Saenz stated that five or six hours of intensive work went into the defining of the particularly meaningless Spanish word "lengua," which means briefly in English "tongue."

"One learns a lot one is surprised to find out he did not know," laughed Professor Saenz in commenting on the writing of the book.

this week. The tryouts will be held Feb. 20.

All men students are eligible for the team, which will run for the remainder of the semester. Two credit hours will be given for each candidate selected.

The topic to be debated is, "Resolved, that the United States should enter the war rather than see the defeat of the British Empire."

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