

# DONATIONS

By Don Amsden.

To many students of Greek sociology, it may come as a surprise that St. Valentine's Day was not always celebrated by the presentation of 8—count 'em—8 beauty queens.

So, in the interests of liberal education, I give you a few of the old Valentine practices. Earliest Valentine custom (wouldn't you know it) was a lottery. By the simple process of drawing a ticket bearing her name, a young Roman swain earned the privilege of courting the girl whose name he'd drawn. (What the gals thought of this is not on record.)

Then the early Christian church attempted to put the practice on a more noble plane. The names of young women were replaced with those of saints whose virtues the young men were supposed to copy. This reform met with something less than wild enthusiasm. As one anonymous wag wrote, "To expect a woman and draw a saint is ever a disappointment to mortal man."

Romance and the old-style lottery returned. Then the name of Valentine was given to both the man and girl participating, in honor of a martyred bishop by that name. Finally it became customary to wear the ticket or send it to the drawn Valentine. And so today greeting card manufacturers grow fat and rich printing sentiments that any grade school child expresses better when she writes, "I love Johnny Jones" on the sidewalk.

Another Valentine's Day custom in early England was the belief that the first person encountered on Valentine morning was either a destined husband or wife. Due to the obvious hazards, this led no doubt to many elaborate stratagems and probably was the original source of the remark, "I shoulda stood in bed."

Other customs have been practiced. One was making the "Dumb" cake—so-called because the woman making it had to do

so without speaking. (A qualification that undoubtedly hastened the death of the custom.) The cook was obliged to climb the stairs backwards and place the "Dumb" cake under her pillow which assured her of dreaming of her lover.

A variation of this was the writing of a lover's name on a piece of paper at midnight, Valentine eve, laying the ashes on a looking-glass previously marked with a cross, and placing the whole under the pillow.

(Both of these practices must have had the same practical effect as eating crackers in bed. Perhaps for this reason their popularity was short-lived.)

Later, in England, a young girl who wished to know her future husband was advised to enter the churchyard at midnight and, as the clock struck, run around and around the church repeating continuously:

I sow hempseed, hempseed I sow,

He that loves me best

Come after me and mow.

(How many "mowers" appeared in answer to that touching summons, history doesn't record. But it seems likely that they preferred the nearest cozy pub since the custom did not persist.)

More mercenary English children began to beg fruit and money from door to door on Valentine's Day. And, for some obscure reason, in some parts the pennies were heated previously on a shovel. The unwary child, of course, got his fingers neatly burned to a crisp. (Here we have the forerunner to the hilarious hot-foot of today!)

On Valentine's eve, in 18th century England, the door was opened carefully and a valentine (attached to an orange or an apple) was thrown in. If a lucky heave happened to catch the beloved squarely in the eye, I suppose it meant she would look at no one else for that year—or at least for a day or two.

## Hastyhoof Given No Valentine!

### Finally Selected Fraternity Queen

BY TOTTIE FIDDOCK.

"Will you be mine? Valentine, that is?" drooled Horace Hastyhoof to the exotic blonde he had cornered under the bleachers at a basketball game.

In reply the blonde tossed Horace through the basket, made a score for the home team, and disappeared.

Walking home through the deserted and slushy streets, Horace sobbed bitterly to himself because he had never in all his life had a valentine. "What a crude custom, what a primitive device, what a devilish, unpolished absurdity Valentine's Day is!" he growled aloud. He wished he could find the joker who had invented the stupid tradition and gnashed his teeth with rage.

Never a Success.

Poor Horace! He had never been a success at hearts of any kind. When he was five years old and in kindergarten, he sent a valentine to the little girl with long curls and a pink dress, but she only laughed and used it for a blotter. He had robbed his little sister's piggy bank to buy it, too.

When he was a little older, he fell in love with his teacher, and since his sister had become cagey with her piggy bank, it was necessary for him to touch his father to buy the beloved one a gift for the great occasion. Father, good old Father, came through—with a nickel. So the teacher got no gift and Horace got no valentine.

The other boys he knew got valentines every year from all kinds and shapes of girls; pretty ones, ugly ones, fat ones, dumb ones and, of course, the smart ones. But nobody ever sent a valentine to Horace.

Brush-off.

In high school, Horace almost got a valentine at last. He very subtly got a date for Feb. 14, but all she gave him was the old Fuller treatment, which was far from what he was expecting, to say the least.

Now here he was a college man, a fraternity man (he was the sole member and founder of Beta Upsilon Gamma) and still no one gave his hopeful heart even the smallest crack.

With heavy eyes and bleeding gums, (trenchmouth was one of his major assets) he made his weary way back to the BUG house, which consisted of an improvised foxhole outside the Union.

He peeked despondently into the mailbox which had contained nothing but dust for the last 6 months, and found a letter.

At Last.

"At last," shouted Horace joyously, "at last someone has sent me a valentine!" With trembling fingers, he opened the envelope and reached inside for the message.

There were no hearts, no flowers, only a short statement.

"Congratulations," it read, "on being selected Interfraternity Queen for the year 1947."

## Miss Joan Claire Witt



—Courtesy Lincoln Journal

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Witt of Nebraska City have announced the engagement of their daughter, Joan Claire, to J. Collins Troy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Troy of Kingston, N. Y. The wedding will be June 18. Miss Witt attended St. Mary college in Xavier, Kansas, and was graduated from the university where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority and Pi Lambda Theta. Mr. Troy was graduated from Roosevelt Aviation school. He was a member of Kappa Gamma Chi.

## Fun, Frolic, Festivity Featured At Counselors Penny Carnival

BY JEANNE HICKEY.

Fun, frolic, and festivity are in store for you if you are planning to attend the Penny Carnival sponsored by the Co-ed Counselors to be held in Grant Memorial this Saturday afternoon.

Organized houses are setting up booths for the general public, and that includes you.

If you want to show a certain young lady what a whiz of a dart-thrower you are, there'll be a booth just so you may demonstrate your talents. Perhaps you want to see what your future holds after that degree, or whether it's all in vain. Come and find out at one of the many unique entertainments. They will give you enjoyment just like that you had when you were a youngster.

Unusual Sight.

If you've never been to a carnival, your education isn't complete. There are sights there that you will see nowhere else. That girl you helped thru Sosh last semester might resemble the character you saw in the last movie, and that fellow who always seemed to resemble a "before" from a vitamin ad may amaze you with his prowess in hitting the gong.

Yes, there'll be food, and most

individuals seem to have an inclination toward participating in the common sport of eating.

Twenty-three booths made up of original themes will be enough to catch your eye... but wait until you get inside them! The tickets are only twenty-five cents, and may be obtained from any coed counselor or at the door. Drop in around two, you won't want to leave until the end.

## CRITICALS

2 & 3 RING ZIPPER NOTE BOOKS  
CANVAS LAUNDRY MAILING BAGS  
Goldenrod Stationery Store  
215 North 14th Street

## VALENTINES

A grand selection for your approval  
Goldenrod Stationery Store  
215 North 14

## Hertzler Book Discusses Weaknesses Of Sociologists

BY EUGENE BERMAN.

"Previous sociologists have been strong on emotion and hope and weak on basic facts and principles," explains Professor J. O. Hertzler of the sociology department in his book, "Social Institutions."

Although only recently published, the book has been acclaimed as a great contribution to sociology on the basis that it presents the fundamentals in a sound and logical way, something that heretofore had never been successfully accomplished.

In a general way, "Social Institutions," which is published by the University of Nebraska Press, analyzes the normal operation of that great social mechanism, human society, of which all individuals and groups are a part. It is devoted to a study of the universal functional devices known as social institutions; the book is especially concerned with the causes, functions, compositions, implementations, relationships of institutions, and the effects upon institutions of a great array of internal and external changes.

Special Attention.

Special attention is given to the great pivotal institutions—the economic system, the marriage and family system, the legal and military system and the religious and ethical system.

Pointing out that this book will not appeal particularly to the headline readers or the searchers for sensational or lurid pathological details, Professor Hertzler explained that "this book is for those students of the social sciences who wish some knowledge of the coherent factual material, the principles, criteria, conceptual structures, and the analytical categories relating to the normal operation of that great social mechanism, human society."

Questioned as to an author's opinion of his work, Professor Hertzler stated, "It was fascinating to me at least." He has written three other books, "The History of Utopian Thought," "Social Progress," and "Social Thought of the Ancient Civilizations," besides contributing to four other books, writing numerous articles in social-scientific and semi-pop-

ular periodicals, and compiling numerous reports such as his "Nebraska Changes in Population," which was written in co-operation with the state of Nebraska.

Volume Features.

Special features of this 376-page volume include: the first systematic treatment of the implementation of institutions; examination of institutions and social change, including the effects upon institutions of modern nobility and contact, and the transition from primary to secondary group relations; the transmission of institutions in time and space; a detailed analysis of the tendency of inflexibility; a special examination of the relationship of institutions; the disorganization and re-organization of institutions; and the relation of social organization and institutions to world peace.

This last topic is a fascinating one, for it shows what the sociologist thinks about world peace. Professor Hertzler sets the following as basic principles: 1) Peace in an area, whatever its size, is a matter of order and security; 2) Order and security rest upon some final authority armed with coercive power; 3) Authority functions through a minimal amount of essential social machinery, a framework of organizations and institutions; and 4) The effectiveness of the machinery rests upon substantial supporting opinion and will.

## New Activity Announced For Student Union

Ag student Union is sponsoring a series of bridge lessons under the instruction of Dale Ball every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p. m. Lessons will start with the presentation of the fundamentals of bridge and will continue, depending on the demand, with a series of six advanced lessons.

Week-end Union activities will include a coffee hour from 5 to 5:45 p. m. Sunday evening, followed by a movie at 8 p. m.

A party for graduate students will be held Friday at 7 p. m.

## Bridge Classes

Begin

5:00 p. m., Tuesdays

Ag Union

4:00 p. m.-6:00 p. m.

Thursdays

Union 313

Bridge Tournament

2:00 p. m. Sat., Feb. 15

Union YZ

Register By Sat. Noon.

Remember

Her

ON

VALENTINES DAY

with flowers from

HILTNER FLORAL CO.

PLANTS - CORSAGES - CUT FLOWERS  
135 So. 12 2-2775

## Free Variety Show

Don Ameche & Joan Bennett

in "CONFIRM OR DENY"

3:00 p. m., Sunday, February 16  
Union Ballroom

8:00 p. m., Sunday, February 16  
Ag Union

Coffee Hour 5 to 6 at Union & Ag Union