

# University, Daily Nebraskan To Celebrate Birthdays

## The Story Begins . . .



**GETTING INFORMATION**—Daily Nebraskan reporter Marlene Wyatt gets the facts on a Union story from Mrs. Genevieve Grimm, Union activities director. With copy paper and pencil in hand, Marlene goes out to get the news for tomorrow's issue of the "Rag."

## The Story Is Written . . .



**ON THE DESK**—From the clattering typewriters each story goes to the desk to be copyread and have a headline written for it. News editors Kent Axtell, Sue Gorton and Glenn Rosenquist keep busy while managing editors Tom Rischie and Joan Krueger debate the front page make-up. News editor Ruth Raymond gathers information for a story.

## The Story Is Headlined . . .



**BACK TO THE OFFICE**—Reporter Connie Gordon sorts through exchange papers, campus publication issue from all over the nation, to find bits of information for her "Stolen Goods" column. Sue Gorton, news editor, is all business while typing up copy for a story.

## The Story Is Placed . . .



**DOWN TO THE JOURNAL**—Foreman John Gere puts the paper together as night news editor Kent Axtell supervises. The "Rag" is "put to bed" usually after midnight each night and goes to press early in the morning.

## The Story Is Read . . .



**NOT OFF THE PRESS**—When The Daily Nebraskan is distributed on campus between 11 and 12 a. m., Barbara Wiley, Jerry Kirk and Barbara Young get the day's copy and catch up on University news. Papers are distributed in most campus buildings.

## NU Born While Sod Huts Still Dotted State's Plains

By JANE RANDALL

It was on another winter's day of wind, howling across the lonesome prairie. An overcast sky with heavy clouds served as a background for E. E. Cunningham when he stood in the state senate to introduce the bill. S. F. No. 86 was the bill's name. It was referred to the committee on education, and two days later the bill was read for the third time, passed and signed by Gov. David Butler. That was Feb. 15, 1869.

What was this law? It was the one passed by the Nebraska legislature enacting "that there shall be established in this state an institution under the name and style of 'The University of Nebraska.' The object of such institution shall be to afford the inhabitants of the state the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the various branches of literature, science and the arts."

### Law Provisions

The law provided for six departments or colleges. They were literature, sciences and the arts, agriculture, law, medicine, practical sciences, surveying mechanics and fine arts.

H. H. Wilson, member of the class of 1878, who for 28 years, was a teacher in Law college, commented on the enactment in his reminiscences which were printed in the February 1941, issue of the *Alumnus*. He wrote: "Nebraska had been a member of the Union less than two years when on Feb. 15, 1869, there was put on the statute book of Nebraska a law that has become famous as the Charter of the University of Nebraska. It is remarkable that at a time when there was very little accumulated wealth in the state, and when many of her citizens were dwelling in sod houses and dugouts, they envisioned the future of an educated and efficient citizenry."

Indeed remarkable, but explainable. The reasons for this "envisioning" were set forth by Dr. Louise Pound, renowned University English professor in the Semi-Centennial anniversary book published in 1919. Here, she expressed her beliefs regarding the early establishment of an edu-

## Hanson Speaks . . .

Continued from Page 1

old Germanic school were Valentine, Burly, Griffen, Mason, Smith and White. In spite of the transition their music lasted and has subsequently remained high in the music world.

Gilbert was the first to break away from the old German traditions. Gershwin too was a revolutionist, for a time he was questioned in Boston. Lowell's songs of the South, his "Negro Rhapsody" in particular, was truly American in style. At this time Griffen founded the impressionist school with his "Pleasure Ome of Kublai Khan."

Carpenter and Hill were the two other revolutionists cited by Hanson. "The Ballet Skyscrapers" and the "Adventures in a Perambulator" are two examples of their witty style. Burly's "Gulliver's Travels" with his impressions of the Lilliputians is another composition of a lighter nature in that decade.

Hanson then charged young writers with "being too serious." Smith's "Prince Hal Overture" was the first composition of the revolutionary period that defied time.

Valentine and Cole, sensing the trend, performed variations on "Mary Had a Little Lamb." White also made contributions to this period and DeLamarer gained recognition with his witty "The Giddy Puritan."

Hanson said that tastes changed again in the third decade of the 20th century but he did not discuss it fully. Compositions of this era have not yet stood the time test.

Hanson concluded his lecture by saying that "The man who said he played no American music in his concerts because there was nothing to play, was more prejudiced than informed."

In introducing Hanson, the Chancellor remarked that his guest was great "first because he was a Nebraskan and secondly because he was Swedish." True, Hanson is both, he was born in Wahoo under a Swedish name. He studied at the University for awhile and continued at Northwestern. From there he went to College of the Pacific and from there he went to Rome. Upon returning from Italy, he was named Director of the Eastman School of Music in New York. The annual Contest for Creative Arts is under the sponsorship of his school. He has written an opera and other choral works.

Tonight Hanson will talk on the period from 1920 to 1950. He will as he put it "prognosticate" on contemporary writings and discuss the topic "Music As An Emotional Expression." The lecture will be held in Love Library auditorium at 8 p.m.

## Union to Present Singing Emcee

A student dance will be held in the Union ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 9 to 12 p.m. Lloyd Lotspich will be featured as singing emcee. Music is furnished by records. Entertainers besides the emcee include Don Huggler singing "Chicken Song" and "Cavereda." Peggy Wood will lead a girl's chorus line. Dick Pearson will present a magic act. Accompanist for the program is Bob LaHasse.

Union activities committee sponsors the affair. Pat Olsen is in charge of publicity. Hospitality chairman is Doug Hanson. Carrie Pederson will arrange the seating. Phyllis Heaton procured the entertainment.

cational institution in Nebraska. "From the first, the pioneer plainmen of Nebraska were not content to be absorbed only in the activities of the present. They were not only adventurers and workers; they were dreamers," she said.

"We picture them as engaged in useful labors but as leading humble and routine lives, engrossed in pioneer tasks. We are likely to forget that they were a special breed of men, especially rich in ambitions and ideals—richer in these, it may be, than many of us who are their descendants."

Then too, according to Dr. Pound, "new regions are not sought by the weak or the timid or the dependent, but by those of stern make—men of unusual self-reliance, endowed with enthusiasm and with zealous ambition."

**Mail Service Operated**  
A very few years before the University came into being, the Overland mail service operated across the Nebraska territory as did the famed Pony Express, which ended in 1861.

Omaha, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Falls City and Brownville were then the population centers of Nebraska. The total state population was no more than 100,000 Indians still abounded—Sioux, Winnebago, Omaha, Otoe. Thousands of them were residing on government reservations.

The University was established just two years after Nebraska was admitted to statehood and four years after the Civil War and Lincoln's assassination. Lincoln had been designated as the home of the capital only two years before, Lincoln, at that time, had a population of 1,000. There were few or no sidewalks, and the water came from wells. The present campus was literally "raw prairie."

**First Structure**  
Any historical account of the beginning of the University would not be complete without mention of University hall, the first structure on the campus.

Shortly after it was built, the Board of Regents once resolved to tear down the building. Prevalent talk marked the newly constructed U hall as insecure—even before a student had entered its doors.

The original estimate placed on the building was \$100,000. The contract, however, was let for \$28,480 more than the appropriation. The State Journal came to the defense of the building and argued "that it was better policy to begin erection of a building of sufficient size and well suited to its uses, even if it were necessary to have an additional appropriation, than to spend \$100,000 upon a building that would soon have to be torn down because it was unsuitable to the needs of the future."

Although old "U hall" met this fate in 1948, there are still many who look back in retrospect, on this Charter Day of 1951, remembering it as the "cradle of the University of Nebraska."

## First Student Paper at NU Came in 1872

By Kathryn Radaker.

With a birthday cake and 50 candles in prospect, the Daily Nebraskan will celebrate its birthday Thursday, Feb. 15.

The ancestor of The Daily Nebraskan was called the "Hesperian Student" and was published by the Palladian society of the University.

The Hesperian, a monthly at that time, was edited by J. S. Dales, one of the two students who formed the University's first graduating class. The Hesperian was first published in February, 1872, making this the 79th year for The Nebraskan and its forefathers.

**Erratic Publication.**  
The methods of publication were very erratic in those days. Lead articles of the first edition, taken from the Springfield Republican, present a more or less terrifying picture of southwestern United States.

Writing about New Mexico in that year, 1871, the correspondents, "Like all countries beyond civilization, the low value placed on human life is at first startling, but one gets used to hearing, over the morning coffee, of some horror, with a tranquility only enjoyed by the natives; it becomes merely an everyday item to know that the Apaches have murdered a few miserable Mexican sheep herders, or that somebody had shot his neighbor in the plaza of Las Vegas."

**Typical Items.**  
Typical of the items listed in the paper are the following: "It is amusing to step into the reading room and see with what velocity certain students read some of the largest and most scientific works in our library." "The university inaugurated its second term on the 7th, with from 25 to 30 new students. This speaks well for the management of Chancellor Benton and his noble corps of 'Prof's.'"

A four page paper, the Hesperian's back page was given over to advertising, with most of the firms represented now long out of business. The ad run by the University was particularly interesting. "The University of the State was opened last September under favorable conditions, and thus far has been prosperous and successful." "The faculty at present, is skilled in their several departments of instruction. To these there will be added two more at the opening of the next college year."

The Hesperian lasted approximately 30 years, and then made way for its grandchild, The Daily Nebraskan, still going at the 50!

## Bullock, First 'Rag' Editor, Knew Registrar Ellen Smith

By CONNIE GORDON

The University and the student newspaper are both celebrating birthdays this month. The University is 82 years old and the Daily Nebraskan is 80 years old.

The first editor of the "Rag" the Edna B. Bullock, related her experiences at the University. Miss Bullock's first memories of the University were when she was five years old and would slip thru the gateless opening in the board fence and stand on her tiptoes so that she could peek into the windows at the "skeletons."

Miss Bullock viewed the "skeletons" in the old U hall, which was the only building of the University at that time. These "skeletons" were the beginnings of the museum which was founded by Prof. Samuel Aughey, professor of science on the first University faculty.

### One Building in 1883

When Miss Bullock enrolled in the University in 1883, there as only one building, eleven professors and four instructors. The industrial arts and Latin school. The Latin school was the largest with an enrollment of 186. The teachers offered 130 courses to 281 students. There were 52 students in the medical college at this time, which lasted only four years.

The classrooms were equipped with long, rickety benches, whose slippery seats had a tendency to slant towards the floor. The rooms were heated by individual hardcoal baseburners. These baseburners were cared for by a student janitor who had a room in the basement.

### First Heating Plant—1885

The teacher's equipment was little better than the student's. It was in 1885 that the first steam heating plant was installed in the north wing of the basement and a full time engineer and janitor were employed.

Due to the dismissal of the chancellor and several professors in 1882-83, the fall term opened in 1883 with Prof. H. E. Hitchcock as acting chancellor. At that time, all registration cards were signed by the chancellor. Imagine the students of the University of today filing into the chancellor's office and discussing their registrations with him!

### Ellen Smith Latin Instructor

The principal of the Latin school at this time was Ellen Smith for whom one of the women's halls on campus is named Miss Smith taught English as well as being registrar. It is said of her that she never spared her-

self or one of her students. On one occasion, Miss Smith attended a Palladian society meeting at which Miss Bullock was present.

On one occasion, Miss Smith attended a Palladian society meeting at which Miss Bullock was present.

The next day, Miss Smith stopped her in the hall and said, "I saw you sitting on the edge of a table on Friday night. Never let me see you doing that again."

If only Miss Smith could visit the Union today!

Miss Smith, however, gave a great deal of time to students and was always interested in University affairs. She held an annual maple sugar party for the seniors and sponsored many other functions.

### Ellen Smith—Courageous

A large collection of Miss Smith's souvenirs, programs, photos, publications and letters were presented to the Nebraska State Historical Society at her death. Miss Bullock said, "I have known no superior to Ellen Smith who was a more perfect example of an honest, conscientious and courageous person."

In spite of the many inconveniences of the 1880's, the students of the University were very fortunate in that they had an excellent staff and some very learned scholars in their classes. The students knew their professors more intimately than today and therefore they received a richer and broader education.

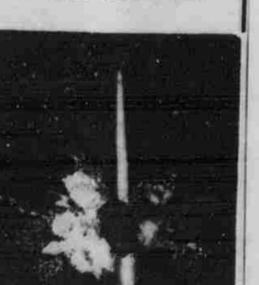
Students sat with the professors in their parlors and had tea with them. Many of the students roomed in the homes of their instructors and many walked to school with them.

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