Oldest NU Alumnus, Alison Taylor, Reminises About Life in Young Lincoln

By Ken Rystrom

Thirteen may be an unlucky number, according to superstition, but Alison O. Taylor is certain it is not—not by 68 years.

It was just that long ago—68 years—that the 13-member class of '83 was graduated from the University. Today Taylor is the only living member of the class and the oldest alumnus of the University living in Nebraska.

Although he is 90 years old (born Oct. 13, 1860), I would have guessed his age at least 20 years younger as he spryly opened the door of 244 S. Cotner boulevard. He lives there with his son.

He is short but stands as straight as men half his age. His hair, a little thin, is snow white.

As we talked in the living room, he told me that his hearing is good and that he does not ordinarily wear his glasses—even to read a newspaper.

He is extremely interested in prices, land, the University and politics. But he still enjoys talking about Lincoln and Nebraska when they were young.

Taylor came to Lincoln in 1879, after a year of college in Michigan. He attended Agriculture college for two years and then completed his University education on the downtown campus.

In those days, he said, the University had only one building, University hall, located where Ferguson hall now stands. Approximately 400 students attended the University, and the faculty included 10 to 15 instructors.

Compares Prices

In comparing prices of the '80's with those of 1951, he said that a dollar then was "as big as a wagon wheel," but it is now "only the size of a nickel." He estimated that University students lived an entire school year for $200. Room and board cost about two dollars a week, and—get this—University tuition amounted to five dollars a year!

I was amazed at his memory. He seems to remember more about 1880 than most students remember about 1948.

Taylor was quite critical of modern men. Walking as much as he used to, he said, would "kill these young fellows."

"Why, I can walk a mile right now," he said, "while these young men walk a block and then get into their cars."

Population—12,000

Lincoln, when he came, had a population of 12,000, he said. "O" street was then a dirt road with no bridges over the draws. He remembers that in the middle of the intersection of 13th and "O," whenever it rained, there was a deep mud hole. At one time, someone stuck a boot in the mud and attached a sign to it saying that a man had been lost in the hole.

On that corner, he said, was an old hotel, but it was so "far in the suburbs" of Lincoln that it had little business.

The center of the town, instead of being on "O" street, was near 9th and "P," he said, and from where city hall now stands west to the old depot.

As early as 1880, however, Lincoln was marked for great growth. Already there were the University, the state capitol, the insane asylum and the state penitentiary. "So you can see," Taylor wisecracked, "the University graduate had three choices; he could enter the capitol, the asylum or the pen."

Ran Grocery Store

But, contrary to that, he started a grocery store in Lincoln, running it until he went to western Nebraska in 1896, following the drouth and the depression.

Throughout his life, Taylor has been interested in business cycles and has seen the national economy rise and fall many times. However, as a good businessman, he has weathered the ups and downs and has now become a sort of business-prophet.

Taylor has certainly remained faithful to the University, for not only his own children attended it, but also six of his grandchildren (and undoubtedly it won't be long before some of his 17 great-grandchildren enter).

As we finished our conversation, he told me that he expects to vote in the next presidential election—"for the right man!"

In fact, he said, "I ought to be good for four or five more years."

Here's hoping that Taylor holds his title—the oldest University alumnus in Nebraska—for many more wonderful years.

Little Man On Campus by Bibler

"Like I say, Worthal—when you come in late you disturb the whole class."

Summer Activities Workers May Sign Up at Union Booth

Summer activities require students who have "time on their hands," according to Barbara Bredthauer, chairman of the summer activities group.

The summer activities board is sponsoring a booth in the Union Thursday and Friday from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

All summer school students and other students who will be in Lincoln for the summer may sign up for the summer activities pool. These people will assist the various campus organizations in their summer projects.

Since many workers are gone for the summer, these organizations pool their workers so that all may operate efficiently. Becoming a member of the pool, according to Miss Bredthauer, gives students an apportunity to become acquainted with activities at the University.

One of the prejects is sponsoring programs at the Veterans hospital. This is done by the Red Cross.

Other questions which students may have will be answered by the activities board representatives working in the booth.

Members of the board are Sarah Fulton, Julie Johnson, Barbara Bell, AUF; Marilyn Coupe, Dean Linscott, Builders; Peggy Mulvaney, Jean Loudon, Coed Counselors; Mariam Willey, Delores Lovegrove, YWCA; and Joan Hanson, Susie Stahl, Joyce Johnson, Red Cross.

College Men Vital to U.S. --Hechinger

Higher education in the United States is doomed unless Congress accepts the belief that colleges are the "lifeline" to the physical and spiritual arsenal of the world.

This opinion was expressed by Fred M. Hechinger in The Reporter magazine.

Mr. Hechinger, education editor of the New York Herald Tribune declares that Congress must be made to see the necessity of higher education for creating strength to defend freedom.

Higher Education Changes

There will be changes in higher education next year, although the rush into the Armed Forces has been slowed by the deferment of some college students. Enrollment will drop. Coeducational schools will recruit as many women as possible. The numbers in ROTC will be more than doubled.

Mr. Hechinger says the best argument for deferment of college students is the fact that Russia is threatening to overtake us in the field of technically trained manpower. The enrollment in Russian technical schools and colleges and universities is rising rapidly.

Engineering Enrollment Drops

In comparison, Hechinger points out the drop in enrollment in engineering in the United States.

He says our best hope for the future is the exploitation of our superiority in quality through education and the constant improvement of that quality.

He believes the future of higher education in this country is already in doubt. There is a trend toward the dismissal and non-reappointment of faculty members. He says there is the danger of a faculty shortage a few years from now.

Frank Sibert Named Farmers Fair Head

Frank Sibert was named Tuesday at chairman of the 1952 Farmers Fair board.

Rex Messersmith, another senior member, will serve as assistant chairman.

The six senior board members elected their successors last week.

Senior members are: Frank Sibert, Rex Messersmith, Rex Coffman, Mary Ann Grundman, Lois Larson and Janet Ross.

Other officers named are: Mary Ann Grundman, treasurer; Lois Larson, secretary; and Janet Ross, Ag Exec board representative.

Palmer Notes Boom in State's Construction

Nebraska is experiencing a "wild boom" in construction propelled by a desire to "get everything built" before wartime controls are clamped on.

This is the opinion of Dr. Edgar Z. Palmer who is active in business research for the College of Business Administration..

Building activity, which excludes such items as roads, power lines and pipelines, shows a jump of nearly 62 per cent from 1949 through 1950. Building activity in cities alone shows an increase of over 75 per cent, and a 110 per cent increase in contracts. A similar spiral is noted in residential building with the value index in 1950 of new homes over 126 per cent above 1949.

Accuracy of Student Directory Depends on Registration Cards

To have an earlier and better 1951 Student Directory, said Louise Kennedy, editor, the Directory name cards must be filled out accurately and completely.

The special Directory cards will be filled out during the summer at the time students pay their registration fees. New students will fill out the cards next fall.

Correct Listing

The information on the cards must be answered completely for all University records. The cards must also be accurate and legible if one desires a corfect listing in the Directory.

Students now knowing their Lincoln address at the time they fill in the cards should give this information to the registrar in September, said Miss Kennedy.

If the cards are clearly legible, they will not have to be retyped by hired typists.

This is the first year this process has been used in an attempt to speed up the printing procedure.

Miss Kennedy said that after the cards have been collected, they must be alphabetized, checked by the Lincoln Telephone company if necessary, typed into a complete and accurate list, and proofread after the Journal has made the galleys. The Student Directory is then ready to be printed.

Home Addresses

The new Directory will contain the standard information plus home addresses of all students, a complete schedule of the year's events, all organization's presidents and the organization's office and phone number.

The Directory staff includes: business manager, Phyllis Loudon; student lists, Susan Reinhardt; faculty lists, Vernita Helmsteader; proof reading, Betty Brinkman; organizations chairman, Norma Lothrop.

University Chicken Research Paying

Poultry specialists at the University say feed research with chickens is paying off well.

As a result of investigations by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and state poultry departments, they say three pounds of feed is now producing the same amount of meat that four pounds gave ten years ago.

The specialists point to the development of new feed ingredients and new economical sources of poultry feed. There also has been considerable progress in breeding for rapid growing meat-type chickens and high egg producers to use those feeds to the best advantage.

Much of the research has found prompt application through the national poultry improvement plan in hatcheries and breeding flocks. Pullorum, they say, has been cut down four-fifths.

Construction Work Will Start On Lutheran Student Center

Construction on a new Lutheran Student center at 529-35 No. 16th will begin June 1, Pastor Alvin M. Petersen has announced.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the modern $75,000 structure were held recently with Pastor Petersen and Dr. Donald Heiges of Chicago, executive secretary of the division of student services of the National Lutheran council, officiating at the ceremonies.

The center will be used by approximately 700 students represented by the National Lutheran council.

The student center will include two units, a two-story building with a basement and an auditorium. Construction of the auditorium will begin as soon as money is available.

The first floor of the center will include a lounge, library, kitchen, student council room, counselor's room and pastor's study.

The second floor will contain a chapel, class room and living facilities for a counselor.

The basement will contain a recreation room and room for storage.

The old buildings on the site are being razed in preparation for the construction work.

At the present time, the Lutheran Student Foundation has rented student houses on Ag and city campuses.

Picnic Planned For Thursday By Ag Union

An all Ag campus picnic is scheduled to begin today at 5:30 p.m. It will be held on lower campus if weather permits.

Free food and entertainment will be sponsored by the Ag Union activities committee.

Wiener roasting on open bonfires will begin around 6 p.m.

Performances of the Alpha Gamma Rho, Love Hall and Farm House Ivy Day sings are scheduled as part of the program. Miss Altinus Tullis will direct community singing for the entire group attending.

If it doesn't rain, equipment will be handy for playing softball. Two or three softball games can be played at once on the several bluegrass sod fields available on the campus.

Tables have been closed at the four organized houses to allow their members to attend the "outdoor frolic."

Chairman in charge of planning the picnic, Jean Holmes, is planning for more than 200 students attending. She said that enough food to feed well into the 300s has been purchased.

Publications Appointments Slated May 17

Interviews for positions on The Daily Nebraskan will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 19, in the Union faculty lounge.

Interviews for Cornhusker positions will follow the "Rag" interviews.

The Committee on Student Publications choose the summer and fall staffs of The Daily Nebraskan, and 1951-52 staff of the Cornhusker.

"Rag" summer positions include the editor and business manager. The paper is published twice weekly during the nine-week summer session.

The fall Daily Nebraskan staff includes the editor, business manager, five news editors, feature editor, ag editor, sports editor, assistant sports editor, photographer, three assistant business managers and circulation manager.

The circulation manager will be appointed by the committee for the first time this year. Applications for this post will be received through Thursday, May 17.

Cornhusker posts to be filled are: editor, business manager, assistant editor, managing editor, and assistant business manager.

YW Establishes Ag 'Lost, Found'

Ag YWCA members have organized a central "lost and found" department for Ag campus.

Many books, gloves, notebooks, pens, keys, scarfs and other articles have been found.

All lost articles turned into campus buildings this last year have been collected by the YW representatives.

The "lost and found" agency will be temporarily located at Love Hall. Students wishing to claim lost articles can do so by calling for YW officers or cabinet members there.

According to Ag YW treasurer, Artie Westcott, the lost and found will continue next year. At that time, a booth will be maintained in the Ag Union. It will open specific hours each week.

Many Confusing Cries Arise Over Council Constitution Issue

"Vote 'No'!"
"Vote 'Yes'!"

Confusing cries came from all sides yesterday as the students flocked in streams to the polls. A serious issue was at stake—the fate of the newly drafted Student Council constitution.

Campaign signs engulfed the campus in propaganda. Black and white bulletins urged the campus population to support the newly drafted document, while red and white announcements, declaring that the attitude toward the matter should be negative, cropped up all over the place Wednesday morning.

What to Do

"What are you going to do?" inquired one confused student of another.

"I don't know," the other returned, "my eyes aren't too good and I can't read that fine print too well. I'm no better off than you are."

"Shucks! Throw away your ID cards and forget about it!" was the forceful suggestion of still another student who had stopped to listen in on the conversation.

For a great per cent of those able to vote, this probably would have been a good idea.

'Well Informed' People

On other parts of the campus, however, there were a few "well informed" people. Wherever they happened to be, crowds seemed to congregate. Most of the gatherings turned out to be broiling sessions.

Nine times out of ten, the "authority," when the argumentation reached the sizzling point, would get up and stalk out in a huff with, "You guys wanted to know my opinion. Now you have it. If you want to fight about it, go attack someone else. You can't change MY mind. I'VE already voted!"

And so it went. Words that had started out as innocent mudballs gradually froze into hard stones. As the campaign grew more fierce, the stony words began to chip a little. Gradually they took the form of arrowheads, evolving in the end as tiny darts aimed at the back of every voter no matter what his opinion was.

Arguments Rage On

The arguments raged on. As the excitement mounted, smoke-filled rooms became more prevalent. Cigarette sales went up. Non-smokers began to complain of sore throats from talking and smoke-filled lungs from inhaling the stuff from the electrically charged atmosphere.

When the air of excitement swept in, dampness and mugginess came with it. Politicians sweated it out. In the heat of the campaign, yes's and no's slithered every which way.

"We're supposed to vote no!" someone put forth.

"Why?" queried one Doubting Thomas.

"Because the "Rag" said so! It was in the paper this morning," the first defended.

"It did not! It said to vote yes!" one ardent supporter shouted out defiantly.

Where in 'Rag'

"Will someone please show me WHERE in the "Rag' 'you guys found that?" pleaded the middleman, still on the fence between the two.

The two opponents snatched up their issues.

"It says here . . ." they started together. They stopped and looked at each other. Both of them were pointing to the same article.

On and on it went. Campus Romeos entreated their girl friends. Pinmates talked things over.

As the fellow said to his girl, "Of course, honey, I haven't asked you to do anything you don't want to, but it would be nice if you'd do something nice for me—just this once—and vote my way."

Despite all the debating, voters flocked to and from the polls—well over 2,000 of them. Lots of them voted "yes." Lots of them voted "no."

Calm your nerves, people! It's all over. It's up to the vote-counters now!

Alpha Lambda Delta Elects Holden President at Initiation

Joan Holden is the new president of Alpha Lambda Delta, freshman scholarship honorary.

She was elected after the initiation of the 31 new members in Ellen Smith hall, May 15. This is the largest number of girls to be initiated in Alpha Lambda Delta at Nebraska.

Lura Ann Harden is the vice-president; Sharon Cook, secretary; Phyllis Lyons, treasurer; and May Van Horn, historian. Jane Foster is the new faculty adviser. Senior adviser is Miriam Willey.

Alpha Lambda Delta certificate winners were announced at the meeting. These girls have maintained their Alpha Lambda Delta scholarship during four years of college. Maria Leipelt Bade is winner of the National Award for maintaining the highest average. Other winners are Audrey Flood, Joyce Hunscote, Janette Eloise Johnson, Nancy Mae Porter and Jean Rule Smith.

New Initiates

The new initiates are Barbara Adams, Barbara Berggren, Geneva Berns, Deloris Brown, Jane Calhoun, Connie Clark, Sharon Cook, Nancy Dark, Jean Davis, Sue Gorton, Lura Ann Harden, Diane Hinman, Joan Holden, Marilyn Housel, Mary Elizabeth Kinsinger.

Betty Lester, Phyllis Lyons, Mary Mackie, Charlotte Mason, Marjorie Moran, Mary Mulligan, Judith Pollock, Nancy Pumphrey, Susan Reinhardt, Barbara Spilker, Janet Steffen, May Van Horne, Shirley Wear, Harriett Wenke, Clementine Woster, Mary Ann Zimmerman.

The outgoing officers are Barbara Bredthauer, president; Midge Gady Tegpmeier, vice president; Cecelia Pinkerton, secretary; Hester Morrison, treasurer; and Diane Downing, historian. Nancy Porter is retiring senior adviser. These officers serve for one year at a time.

Faculty Adviser

Faculty adviser's term is for three years. Miss Forter succeeds Gertrude Knie.

The old officers and Marjorie Johnston, dean of women, participated in the initiation service. Bunny Haddix and Bonnie Ellers were initiation assistants. Jean Loudon was in charge of refreshments.

Alpha Lambda Delta sponsors a program on scholarship and how to study every fall at the girls dorm. Members who have had subjects that may be bothering some freshman woman, help her in the course.

The honorary has a fall and spring initiation. This year, Alpha Lambda Delta held an anniversary banquet for their 20th year at the University. The new initiates serve at the Mortar Board tea.

'Y' Estes Conference Scheduled June 7-16

The forty-third annual Estes Student conference held in the Rocky Mountain region will be held this year June 7 to June 16.

The conference is sponsored by the YMCA and the YWCA. Everyone may attend this conference whether he is a Y-member or not.

A registration fee of $10 should be sent as soon as possible to Ina Spark, Registrar, 1269 Topeka avenue, Topeka, Kans. Deadline for registration is May 25. This fee includes accident insurance for reimbursement up to $500. Board and room will be $31; this fee will be due on arrival.

Transportation Arranged For

Transportation for students will be arranged for by the "Y". A fee will be charged, the amount will depend on the type of transportation and the number of students desiring transportation.

Foreign students are not charged a registration fee. Also the cost of transportation will be lowered. This is possible because a special fund for foreign students has been laid aside for such purposes.

During the ten days spent among the mountains students will have fireside discussions, hikes and jam sessions.

Speakers from Many States

Speakers for the conference will be from many different states. Rev. E. Russell Lyn, Kansas, will speak on worship and meditation. Dr. W. Burnet East, Wisconsin, will speak on platform addresses. A bible study will be led by Dr. Floyd L. Sampson from Colorado.

Speakers from the University are Kenneth L. Cannon, assistant professor of home economics, who will speak on seminar marriage. Bernard W. Fuhr, guidance consultant for the Junior Division, will speak on seminar personal growth.

More information concerning the Estes conference may be obtained at the YW office.

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