

# NU Looks Into Future—1975

## From The Chancellor

As you know, the University of Nebraska today begins its eighty-seventh year. It was eighty-six years ago on Feb. 15, 1869, that the Nebraska legislature created the University.

Anniversaries are always good times to pause and consider the future as well as the past. I suppose that is why The Nebraska has asked me to put down a few points which I consider pertinent to the University's development during the next twenty years.

Let me make clear at once, however, that my election to the chancellorship has not endowed me with any supernatural powers to peer into the future and see this institution as it will be twenty years hence. When it comes to soothsaying, your guess is as good as mine.

Nevertheless, I am confident that this University's growth during the next twenty years will be greater than any of us imagine at the moment. I base my confidence on one principal, obvious fact. That fact is that the need for the services in which the University deals is greater than ever before and it is still growing.

An increasing number of parents want their children to have college educations. More young people are planning on attending college. And both the number of parents and the number of children are on the increase.

So, if you are thinking only in numerical terms, it is apparent that our University cannot escape physical growth. We now can see the beginning of this physical growth: the new dormitory for men, the new Teachers College high school, the new Nebraska Psychiatric Institute at the College of Medicine, plus plans for the College of Agriculture, just to name a few examples.

In my opinion, however, additions to our physical plant are manifestations of growth. The real growth of a University must be measured in terms of influence and service and leadership. These, of course, are intangibles. They can't be counted like buildings or students.

When I say that I am confident that our University's growth during the next twenty years will be greater than we imagine now, I am saying that I believe the influence and service and leadership of this institution will be deeper and stronger and more apparent than ever before. I am sure that the need for this growth is great and enduring.

Certainly, there is no question but that tomorrow's student in any of the professions—medicine, engineering, law, teaching, or any other—will have more learning to do than today's student has. But more than that, he will also have a greater need to understand himself, as a human being; a greater need to understand those about him. He will have this need because the pressures of our own lives.

I cannot believe that the trust and confidence the people of this state have accorded our University stems from looking at pictures of Old University Hall. I do not believe their trust and confidence will be materially deepened by inspecting our new buildings. The trust and confidence that the University of Nebraska has acquired and the deepening of them result from the performance of our people. "Our people" includes, first, our faculty and staff, and second, the students they serve.

Our greatest asset, our greatest hope for growth, rests with our people. Our influence, our leadership, and our service will come from them.

It is on this basis that I make the forecast that the University's progress during the next twenty years will surpass our present expectations.

CLIFFORD M. HARDIN  
CHANCELLOR



Courtesy Lincoln Star  
Hardin

## Charter Day '55 Finds NU Planning Building Expansion

(On the eighty-sixth anniversary of its founding, the University looks ahead toward 1975 in a program of building construction and campus expansion.)

The present building and expansion program at the University has two more years to run, and tentative plans are being made for extensive building construction on a long-range basis, John Selleck, University comptroller, said in a Nebraska interview.

The most important consideration Selleck said, is that additional facilities will be needed everywhere as enrollment increases and student activities increase. Presently, the University is trying to build up those areas which need additional facilities, he added.

A 20-year program could include many things. At the top of the present building program are an addition to the law college for additional law library facilities and a wing on the Teachers College administration offices. It is hoped that

construction can start on these projects this summer, Selleck said.

Prominent on a long-range plan are a new physical education building for women, additional facilities for the Dental College, a fine arts building, a 2500-seat auditorium for additional classroom buildings.

Plans for a new pharmacy building are included in the present program, but are not so far along as the law library. On the same basis as the pharmacy building are an extension to the physics depart-

ment building, and a new chemistry building at the Ag College.

Further plans for the Ag College hold an Ag College library, a youth center and an additional science building.

### Housing To Expand

Student housing is "bound to expand," Selleck said. "The housing program must expand rapidly. If we were given another 500 beds for men students, we could fill them up by next September," he added.

There is "quite a demand for housing for married couples," Selleck said in telling how the University of Illinois has just completed a 20-story apartment building for married couples.

To help with the housing situation, the University has planned two small dorms on the Ag campus to be started this summer. One, for women, will house 60 students, and the other will house 120 men.

Since the University owns the Marquette Apartments and the adjoining land to the south of the Residence Halls for women, a southern wing is planned for the dormitories, he said.

### Temporarily To Go

As for the temporary buildings now situated on the mall north of the library, the administration wing on the Teachers College should take care of them, Selleck explained. The Student Health Center will be moved to a new building scheduled to be built on the new parking lots west of the Selleck Quadrangle.

A far-reaching plan has been established to form an "Engineering Quadrangle" centering around Ferguson Hall within 20 years, he said. Additional engineering buildings would take engineering activities out of Bancroft Hall and center them around the west end of the campus.

Building sites are prevalent on the campus, he said. The mall west of the library is being developed, and "someday there will be academic buildings on it," he added.

### Building Sites Available

A building site at 14th and Vine Streets is available for the girl's gym, and the mall now holding the temporary buildings could be used as sites for future classroom buildings.

Also available for possible building sites are the areas presently occupied by Ellen Smith Hall and the parking lot behind the Student Union. An addition to the Union for more recreational and activity facilities would extend out into this area, making the building U-shaped.

Recently included in the University's expansion plans is the estate left to the University to give additional art gallery facilities. As yet this estate has not been made available.

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## Curriculums

### Teachers, A&S Plan Changes

Several colleges are now in the midst of changing their curriculum, but the most apparent changes are coming in the Arts and Sciences, and Teachers Colleges.

Teaching methods that have been "unrecognized in the past" are now being studied, Henzlik said. Within the next five years, Henzlik foresees an improvement in the standards of teaching throughout the state. The Teachers College plans to refine their selective admission program and insist that secondary teaching students become better than average in their major field.

Walter E. Miltzer, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that his college would, in future years, seek to provide a more sound liberal education.

The main objective of improvement will be in the areas of the English composition courses, he said.

Physical changes are also part of the projected plans of both colleges. The new Teachers' High should be completed by Sept. 1, 1955 and an addition to the main Teachers building for special education is being planned.

Miltzer said that a new Physics building and a new bacteriology and pharmacy building are being planned although no contracts have been let. These structures should begin to take form within the next five years.



Courtesy Sunday Journal and Star  
Anderson

## From The Governor

Every Nebraska can look with pride at the progress made by the University during the past 86 years. Nebraska, through all these years, has kept pace with the educational progress of the nation.

Too much credit cannot be given for the sacrifice made by our forefathers who in both good times and bad always provided the necessary facilities to insure their children a good education.

It is our heritage, our opportunity and our obligation to not only keep up the high standards which have been left our generation, but we must keep up with the progress and the ever-changing conditions amid the scientific world in which we live.

It should be our purpose to use and pass on to future generations a most modern institution of learning which is one of our best safeguards of democracy.

VICTOR E. ANDERSON  
GOVERNOR

## More Interest In Education

### Doubled Enrollment Expected In Twenty Years, Hoover Says

"In the foreseeable future, a quarter of a century hence, this University will be approximately doubled in size."

Dr. Floyd W. Hoover, director of admissions and records, stated in a Nebraska interview that an enrollment figure of 12,000 by 1975 is a conservative estimate.

The birth rate, he said, has the most obvious effect on the enrollment. But, he added, the enrollment is increasing at a rate above what should be expected from birth rates alone.

In the event of a national crisis such as war, Dr. Hoover emphasized, the enrollment figure would depend heavily on the policies of

the national manpower control board. A reduction in the University's enrollment would be a likely effect, he said, because of a shift of populations.

Dr. Hoover particularly emphasized that increased interest in higher education is usually overlooked in speculation on future enrollment.

### Technological World

He explained that an eighth-grade education was sufficient a century ago. By the early 1920s, a high-school education was imperative. Now, Dr. Hoover said, a person cannot get along in a technological world without training.

The percentage of high school graduates going on to college has increased, he said. Before 1925, only 5 per cent continued their education, but now the percentage is between 30 and 35 per cent.

An increase to 50 per cent and over of high school students going to university is to be expected by 1975, Dr. Hoover said.

Also, Dr. Hoover said, an increased number of junior colleges would tend to increase enrollment for the University.

He emphasized that the increase of graduate enrollment will reflect the mounting demand for people with highly technical training who are being relied on more and more for technological and social advances.

## Research Encouraged

### New Improved Ag Campus Expected By Dean Lambert

Robot cows, automatic egg layers and completely remodeled structures with that futuristic trend may be a little out of the question, but W. V. Lambert, dean of the College of Agriculture, has listed a few of the changes and improvements he expects to see in the new two decades.

One of the major changes expected over the next twenty years will be the construction of a new bio-chemistry building featuring classrooms and improved chemistry laboratory facilities for Ag College classes. Research along agricultural lines will also be encouraged. According to Lambert, the present chemistry building will be remodeled into an office building for administrative purposes.

A new library building can also be expected on the Ag campus by 1975, which will house Ag College material as well as publications and material similar in nature to that in Love Library, Lambert said.

### Enrollment To Increase

The present experimental buildings for the poultry husbandry will be dismantled and the entire poultry research moved to the Havelock farms where there is more room for expansion and development along scientific lines.

Lambert said enrollment in 1975 in Ag College will be 1000 men and 500 women. Dormitories housing 350 men and 200 women can be expected on the campus to meet the expected rise in students.

Lambert also predicted that new recreation facilities in the Ag Union such as bowling alleys, billiard tables and many others will be added by 1975.

### Intramural Fields Planned

He added that intramural fields servicing both Ag and city campuses will be constructed. Tennis courts and possibly a golf course should provide recreational facilities for the students of tomorrow.

He hinted that the University livestock judges of tomorrow will be able to do their work in a livestock pavilion built to accommodate the dispersion of University livestock and the instruction of students.

The Ag campus will also be the center of youth activities for the surrounding community and facilities for the recreational development of the youth of the country will be constructed.

### More Classroom Facilities

With increased enrollment in the future, classrooms and laboratory facilities must be enlarged to accommodate the students, he added.

Another feature in 1975 will be

increased developments in research, said Lambert. Students of tomorrow will enjoy many facilities and privileges that students of today do not have the opportunity to capitalize on, Lambert said.

## Four Blocks Of Prairie Land

# State University Created Feb. 15, 1869

By JUDY POST  
Staff Writer

Attempts at higher learning in Nebraska began before the legislative enactment of Feb. 15, 1869, which created the State University.

In 1855, the territorial legislature passed a resolution providing for a University at Fontenelle, sponsored by the Congressional Association of the United States. The building burned in 1865, and was never rebuilt.

Four years later Nebraskans made the second attempt at establishing a University. Land grants were made by the federal government to states for educational purposes, with a time limit on the states' acceptance.

Governor David Butler told legislators in his annual address of 1869 that time was running out and they should take advantage of the land grant offer.

### Rumors

One building was provided for in the following act and it was to cost \$100,000, an astronomical figure for the time. Regents decided that a complete education plant was necessary to meet the needs of the future.

Rumors ran rampant in 1870, that University Hall, the first building in the University plant, was insecure and unsafe. Professional architects inspected the building and declared that only minor repairs were necessary.

The University opened its doors Sept. 6, 1871. Historians vary on the exact number of students enrolled. Numbers range from 20 to 198.

The campus was four blocks square and set in the middle of a raw and uncultivated prairie. Citizens tethered their cows in the school's front yard, and children found the campus rich in wild flowers.

### Sioux Indians

Lincoln was a rough and hardy

community of 1,000. The city used well water and there was not a sidewalk with 200 miles. Indians roved freely in the Western part of the state. The Sioux had not been subdued and Custer was still a shave-tail lieutenant.

If the Indians were a nuisance, it could safely be said that all was not quiet on the western educational front either. Students in the 1870's filled the campus well with oil, dragged a cannon from the state capitol to the campus, painted the roof of U Hall bright red, rattled skeletons during convocations, enticed donkeys to the third floor of U Hall and slid down the banisters regularly.

There were six woman graduates in 1869, which created a problem for The Nebraskan's predecessor, the Hesperian. The paper spoke politely of the feminine "graduation dresses."

The Hesperian interviewed the male portion of the graduating but neglected the ladies. Apparently, women of the day were to be allowed no ambition in a man's world.

### Sons Of Pioneers

Will Owen James, a student in the '90's and later editor of the Nebraska State Journal, described the atmosphere at a budding college in reflections.

"The students were sons and daughters of pioneers, fresh from sod houses and homestead farms. There were no sidewalks within 200 miles and the automobile was not even a dream. It was raw and exciting . . . an unfinished institution in an unfinished country," James wrote.

Pharmacy Hall was added in 1885 and Nebraska Hall, Grant Memorial and the first power plant followed in 1887. More buildings were built and the University began to assume its present plant.

The University's 10-year building plan in effect now provides for

additional changes in the campus. Ferguson Hall and the Agronomy Building were built in 1952, and a new Teachers' High School is under construction.

### Three Major Fields

The curricula of the University in 1870 was channeled in three major fields, the classics, sciences and selected studies.

Freshmen took geometry, Latin, Greek, Greek history, English and botany. Surveying and navigation, chemistry or history, Greek, Latin and English made up the sophomore load.

Third year students put their time on Latin, physics, Greek tragedy and literature, astronomy, and

Roman literature. Juniors could elect calculus and French, German and English literature.

Students that survived elimination to the fourth year undertook a class schedule that included intellectual philosophy, geology, moral philosophy, history of philosophy, history of civilization, constitutional law, political economy and logic. If this did not occupy the seniors, they could elect Latin, Greek, French, German, zoology, physical science and aesthetics.

### Locust Pest

A story is told that an examiner for admission to the University's preparatory school asked a prospective student just one question, "Can you read?" The boy answered affirmatively and was immediately told that he had passed. A locust pest had ruined the prairie for the third consecutive year and students were hard to come by.

"The pioneer plainmen of Nebraska were not content to be absorbed only in the activities of the present . . . we tend to picture them as leading humble and routine lives and we forget that they were a special breed of men, especially rich in ambitions and ideals," Dr. Louise Pound, pioneer Nebraska writer, said in a later description of the University's founding.

The hottest political issue in Nebraska's legislature of 1869 was the proposal to erect a state university. Several editors voiced the opinion that the proposal would not pass.

One side of the debate claimed Nebraska should take the progressive view and promote culture in Nebraska. They were the idealists of the time, rather like Schopenhauer.

The other side claimed that the secondary and elementary educational facilities were so limited that there would be no students for the university, unless the legislators proposed teaching the cows that tethered on the proposed site.

Like all political issues, both sides blustered for three weeks. The controversy raged, with first one side having the advantage and then the other.

The pro-legislators called the other side penny pinchers and the con-legislators called the pro side "dewy-eyed children."

History has not recorded what was the deciding factor, but the "dewy-eyed children" won and the resolution was unanimously passed. This fact in itself is practically unprecedented in legislative annals.

No one will ever know what caused the penny-pinching side to change its mind. Perhaps they realized that money is not everything, or, more probable, they had a vision of what the state debt would be in 1955 and decided that a measly \$100,000 would not matter.

## A Long Time Ago

Once upon a time the University downtown Lincoln about 1872, University Hall dominating the campus looked like this. Taken from the picture shows the old University scene.



Courtesy Lincoln Journal