

School's First Years Are Critical

By Frank Partsch Senior Staff Writer

EDITORS NOTE: This is the first in a series of the history of the University of Nebraska. The development has been divided into several periods.

The University was born, amid controversy, jealousy, and financial disagreement, when the legislature, on Feb. 15, 1869, (95 years ago tomorrow) passed a bill providing for funds for "the location and erection of a State university, agriculture college and State lunatic asylum."

The beginnings of the University were marked by two historic decisions, according to Dr. Robert Manley, assistant professor of history.

The first was the decision to build one rather than two universities as many other states were doing at that time. Manley says that this decision was based primarily on the cost involved.

The second, a regional decision to accept the concept of state aid to education, formed the basis for University support and the future actions of the legislature. The early building of the school in relation to the age of the state, says Manley, was a good test case of the reactions of a frontier state to an intellectual institution.

The financial problems began immediately after the bill was passed. Although \$100,000 was allowed for the construction of a university, the contract for the first building was let for \$128,480.

The cornerstone of University Hall, the grandfather of today's complex of classrooms and laboratories, was laid on Sept. 23, 1869.

It was an exciting day for the people of Lincoln and Nebraska. The city fathers desired a brass band with which to celebrate the occasion, but having none, they had to import one from Omaha to mark the festivities.

University Hall was completed in 1871. It contained 26 classrooms and offices, a chapel, an assembly room with a 600 seating capacity and two "society halls."

The building, located approximately where Ferguson Hall stands today, was called "Franco-Italian" in a local newspaper editorial.

The poor quality of building material caused immediate condemnation of University Hall and almost resulted in a premature death for the young school.

The foundation, built with stone from a Beatrice quarry, deteriorated rather than hardened with age. The editor of the OMAHA REPUBLICAN, smarting with civic pride because the University was not located in

Omaha, waged a campaign to have the University closed because of the condition of the building.

One of his editorials stated that the brick walls, as well as the foundation, were faulty. In a very dramatic moment, the fiery editor officiated at a test in which a window was removed to see if the walls would collapse.

The walls held, a rousing cheer rose from the crowd and the University lived for the time.

As a result of a \$25,000 appropriation to repair the building's foundation, the University was hampered by financial difficulties for several years.

Manley emphasizes that the birth of the University was probably premature, because the state had few high schools at the time. Therefore the University was a preparatory school rather than a college.

Another serious problem which appeared immediately was caused by the backgrounds of the members of the faculty. Nearly all teachers at that time were ministers, and the fact that the curriculum included a required chapel and Sunday worship created a problem of which denomination would predominate.

Religious quarrels between different factions were frequent, and the resignations of the first two chancellors were results of these quarrels.

The life of the student was a different world than students know today. Although there were no dormitories until the 1930's, the University set a strict moral code for its students, forbidding them, among other things, from going into gambling houses.

Until 1881 the curriculum was very strict, concentrating on Greek, Latin, literature, ancient history with no electives and very little science, but in that year the subjects were revised, allowing a few electives.

The University charter provided that the Board of Regents should buy textbooks and furnish them at cost to the students, but this provision was never carried out because of administrative difficulties involved in such a program.

Howard Caldwell, an early professor of history at the University, tells an interesting story of student reaction to compulsory military training in his book, EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA.

Military training became mandatory in 1877. The Morrill Act of 1862 had provided land grants to colleges providing training in military tactics, and although the University had received a sub-

stantial grant of land, it had not complied with the provisions of the bill regarding the drill until that year.

Caldwell says, "The students felt that their rights and liberties had been invaded, and they did not propose to submit."

A group of 19 students held several resistance meetings "on the third floor, high under the eaves" of a rooming house. A few were in favor of boycotting the drills, but their more conservative comrades convinced them to resort to a petition.

The conservative element winning out, the boys presented a petition to the Board of Regents, saying that they were unable to afford the required uniforms.

The Board answered that they would form two companies, one wearing uniforms and one in street clothes. The matter settled, 18 of the dissenters promptly joined the company with-

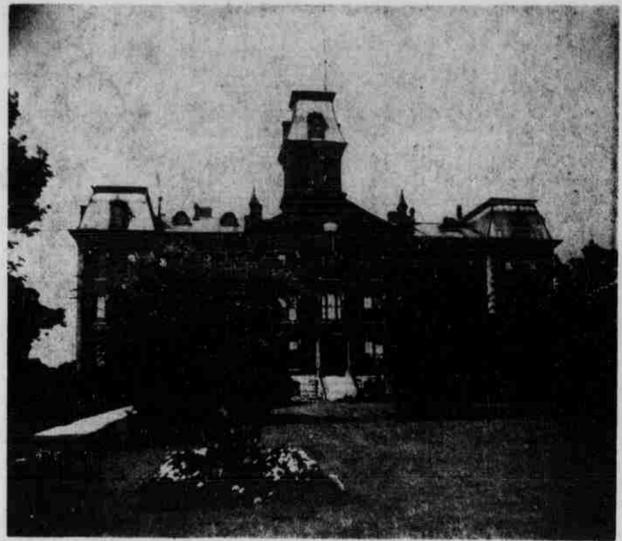
out uniforms and became known as the "ragamuffin company."

Caldwell makes no mention of the fate of the other boy who signed the petition.

Students paid no tuition, but were charged a matriculation fee of \$5, \$8 for non-residents. Enrollment was 130 in 1871, but by the end of the term of the first chancellor, Allen Benton, (1876), it had increased to 200.

The chancellor's salary was set at \$5000 by the first Board of Regents, but they later reconsidered their rash action and reduced it to \$4000. Professors received \$2,000.

The decade of crisis saw the birth and location of the University and its resistance to its first two crises: the poor building of University Hall and the religious issue. It was a critical period, in which the infant school waged and won a battle for its very life.



'TIS NO MORE—University Hall was the first building to be built on the University campus. It contained 26 classrooms, a chapel and two "social halls." It has since been razed.

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Hruska Defends Congress; Asks Renewed Commitment

U.S. Senator Calls Nation 'Fall Guy'; Discusses Civil Rights Bill In NU Speech



PRESERVE INDIVIDUAL DIGNITY—U.S. Senator Roman Hruska urged students to preserve dignity by individual responsibility in a speech in the Union small auditorium yesterday.

Senator Roman Hruska called on Americans to renew their commitment to democracy in a speech yesterday morning in the Student Union.

Hruska cited the United States overseas as "the fall guy for the fiascos of other nations" and domestically, saying that "a virulent strain has recently developed which challenges the function of the Congress and denies its rightful role."

"... We are hard put to listen to voices urging restraint and reason... If our system of self-government is being so tried by such forces, we stand ready to defend," Hruska said.

Hruska referred to "dangerous developments" in East Germany, Panama, Ghana and Cyprus where the United States has been the "victim of transgression."

According to Hruska, America should practice rather than proclaim the dignity

of the individual and the propriety of free institutions.

Hruska, who has served in Congress since 1952, returned to domestic matters by expressing concern over recent criticisms of the Congressional role in government. Many criticisms, said Nebraska's senior Senator "would destroy or diminish legislative power."

"There is an articulate school which believes that the Congress meddles in too many things. It follows, by that logic, that Congressional power should be cut down or, preferably, transferred," said Hruska.

He then claimed that any degradation of the legislative process because of its deliberative nature endangered self-government. Hruska said the Constitution verified Congressional power as the growing instrument of the people.

"With the vested interest

(in Congress) we, the people, have in its (democracy's) preservation, it is now time to renew your commitment," Hruska said in finishing his speech.

"I do not minimize the dangers that face it in these troubled days. Nor do I despair for its survival. But it will take a sensitive citizenry..." said Hruska.

Hruska later answered informal questions at a coffee hour. Topics centered around the Russian wheat deal and domestic party politics.

Answering a question on the wheat deal, Hruska said, "Even a nation as big as the United States cannot win fighting on both sides of the Cold War."

Hruska attributed progress on civil rights legislation to many Republicans. He said the split caused by Southerners was a weakness of "his Democratic brethren."

He also criticized the Administration for "cutting the civil rights bill off at the door" and keeping that bill out of the various Congressional committees. Hruska noted that the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which he serves, would like to clear up some wording and implications in the bill.

The Senator visited Morrill Hall while on campus yesterday morning and toured the School of Dentistry after the coffee hour.

Douglas Sets News Forum On Monday

Democratic Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois will visit the University campus Monday to participate in a news forum at 10:30 a.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

Douglas, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, will be accompanied by three Washington correspondents: Neal Stanford of the Christian Science Monitor, Lucian Warren of the Buffalo Courier-Express and John Metcalfe, a syndicated columnist.

Loan Applications Due

Upperclassmen wishing to apply for Regents and National Defense Education loans for the 1964-65 school year, should do so by March 1, according to Elden Teten, director of scholarships and financial aids.

Application forms may be obtained in 205 Administration Building.

Attache Speaks On Soviet Experience

Ulatoski: American Freedom In Danger Through Misunderstanding Of USSR

A former assistant attache to the Soviet Union warned Americans that "failure to appreciate and understand the Soviet Union, our relationship with them and our downgrading of the problem that exists could result in our losing our freedom."

Major Joseph Ulatoski, speaking at a joint meeting of the University's Young Republicans and Young Democrats, told about his personal observations and experiences in the USSR.

He was the first American in eight years to make the extensive trip across Russia. His assignment took him from the American embassy in Moscow to the Baltic, Ukraine, White Russia, Crimea, through central Asia,

northeast Siberia and across Siberia to the eastern coastline.

Following his talk Ulatoski showed slides taken in the USSR and answered questions concerning them.

Concerning Soviet government control the major said, "Every aspect of life is in a social structure controlled mainly by propaganda."

The major went on to say that the primary basis of government propaganda was "to work harder and produce more," in order to battle the west and to eventually produce a communistic Utopia. Generally the common people don't want to work because they realize that the end benefits are not theirs. There is a great deal of waste of materials and products because there is "no individual initiative."

"In spite of the evidence of poverty, however, there is daily improvement for the common man with regard to his standard of living; while there is improvement, however small it may be, there will be no dissention of the common people against the state."

The government is aware

of Russia's problems, Ulatoski said, and an extensive housing construction program is under way.

"Since it is a centralized government, the Soviet Union can pick the field they wish to work on and ignore everything else," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the United States can surpass the Soviet Union in any field if we went on a crash project, but we would

upset the economic system in doing so."

In summary the major said, "We've got to realize that we have a terrifically skilled adversary dedicated to our down-fall. We can't afford to be dumb and happy now—the world has grown much too small. If we can't make an attempt to understand and appreciate the Soviet Union and its relationship to us, then we don't deserve the freedoms we have."

Summer Schedules Are Available

The University's 1964 summer school bulletin and schedule is off the press and is available through John Aronson, director of admissions.

There will be two sessions of summer school, according to Dr. Frank Sorenson, director. The regular session will be held June 15 to Aug. 7 followed by the post-session Aug. 10-23. In addition, there will be several three-week inter-sessions.

"We anticipate a substantial enrollment of June graduates from high schools," said Sorenson.

Those planning to attend summer school are encouraged to complete applica-

tions as early as possible to facilitate enrollment prior to arrival on campus. Anyone interested in attending the summer sessions may obtain information from the director of admissions, Administration Building.

Club To Sell Clothing

Men's, women's and children's clothes will be on sale for 25 cents at the Nearly New Store, 1610 R Street.

The sale is being sponsored by the Faculty Women's Club and will be held every Wednesday night from 7 to 9 p.m.

Student identification cards must be presented on sale.

Eleven NU Coeds To Attend Journalism Meet In Chicago

Eleven members of the Nebraska chapter of Theta Sigma Phi, national professional fraternity for women in journalism, will attend a special conference on the future in journalism this weekend.

The conference is sponsored by the Chicago chapter of Theta Sigma Phi. Marjorie Paxson, women's page writer

of the MIAMI HERALD and national president of Theta Sigma Phi, will be the keynote speaker.

The eleven members from Nebraska University attending are Brenda Blankenbecker, Diana Copsey, Vicki Elliott, Diane Gosker, Sue Hovik, Carol Jaeger, Jane Carol Miller, Wendy Rogers, Susan Smithberger, Jane Tenhulzen and Sally Wilcox.

The weekend will include tours of the city and talks by leading Chicago women journalists in advertising, publishing newspapers, public relations, and broadcasting. The students will have their choice of spending either Friday or Monday "on the job" with a Chicago career girl.

The conference runs from February 14 through February 17...

Most Need Only 125

Students enrolled in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Teachers, Business Administration need 125 hours to graduate. Those in agriculture need 128, while engineering students and architecture must have 142 hours.

Students are considered freshmen until 27 credit hours have been earned. Twenty-seven to 52 hours constitutes sophomore standing, 53-88 hours is junior standing and 89 hours or more is enough for senior standing.

Scholarship Offered

Persons interested in applying for the annual \$1,000 Donald Walters Miller scholarship should do so through their college dean by February 26.

The scholarship is open to anyone who is enrolled at the University except freshmen. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of scholastic ability, educational and professional objectives, character and financial need.