



## Looking for a Cause? Spare Campus Trees

### What a Way To Go

Campus activists, looking for a cause... Horticulturists, botanists, and foresters, looking out for their jobs...

And squirrels, birds and dogs, looking out for part of their environments...

All can focus their attention on a 63-year-old Russian White Oak tree on the University of Nebraska's East Campus that is destined to be ripped out of the ground to make way for a new campus road — unless of course, the course of the road is changed.

It seems that the University has a long tradition of insensitivity to rare trees, unless some sort of a clamor is raised in defense of the tree.

"It is the age-old conflict of the engineer who looks at a tree as a temporary thing," said Harvey O. Werner, professor emeritus of horticulture and forestry at the NU College of Agriculture. Werner has been at the university for fifty years and knows the school's trees like some know its football teams.

"This oak tree is very rare," Werner explained, "simply because it has survived in Nebraska since the turn of the century with little damage from environmental conditions that were foreign to the species."

#### Russian Acorns

The oak has grown from acorns brought from Russia in 1905 by former Horticulture Department chairman Dr. Rollins A. Emerson. Today the tree is valued at between \$4000 and \$6000 but it lies neatly in the path of a newly-proposed entrance to the East Campus.

The situation is not new to the University. Although both campuses are abundant with rare and beautiful trees, many have been lost in the fact of progress.

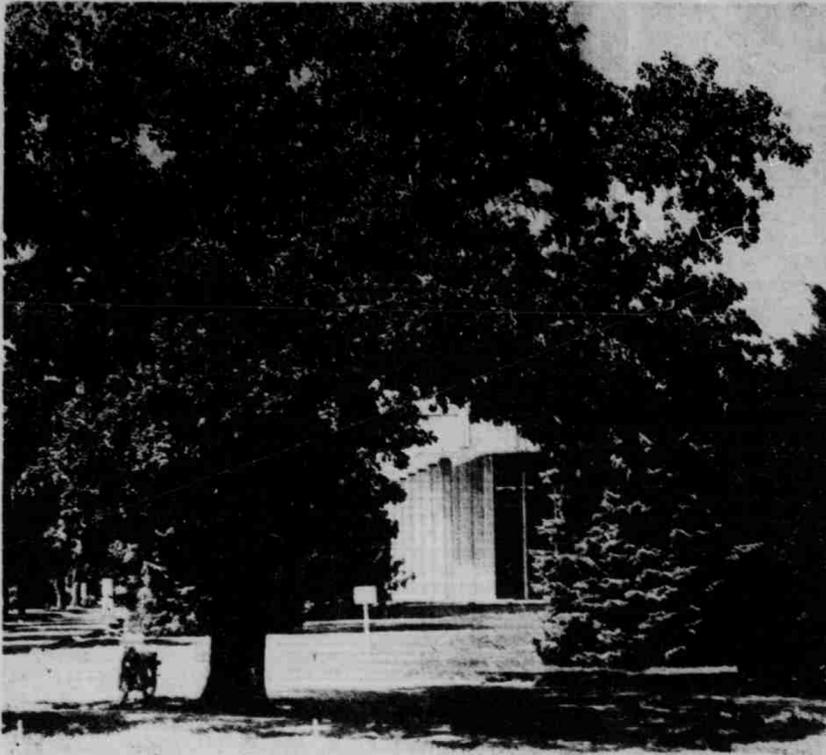
One of the most tragic, referred to as "The Fiasco of the Center" by horticultural circles in Nebraska, occurred during the construction of the Kellogg Center for Continuing Education on East Campus.

Werner related the story in this manner:

Back in the early years of the 1900's, Charles Bessey, the world-famous botanist at the University, started an ambitious collection of plants which was made in taxonomic progression (classification) according to his recently devised theories.

The collection was planted in an area bounded by Holdrege and 33rd Sts. — the same area designated over 40 years later to be the site of the Kellogg Center.

Considerable discord arose among various elements of plant specialists on and off campus. And after careful planning and many painful decisions, a number of rare



This sprawling Russian White Oak tree on East Campus faces an early death if a proposed new entrance to the campus is built according to existing plans. The rare tree, valued at \$4000-\$6000, has become the center of a "Save that Tree" campaign. It was grown from acorns brought from Russia in 1905.

and valuable trees were marked for salvation.

But — the bulldozer inadvertently destroyed the marked trees and only some of the unmarked trees remained.

"This was a bad slip-up, to say the least," Werner said, continuing that no one could really be blamed for the mistake.

"Still, one of the finest collections of its kind, anywhere, is gone forever."

Dr. Elvin Frolik, dean of the

College of Agriculture and Home Economics, who is playing a prominent role in the temporary salvation of the Russian oak, has a reputation for saving trees on East Campus.

A utility tunnel was to be constructed in a collision course with a giant spruce tree, given to the University by a prominent nurseryman to be used as an annual Christmas tree. When Frolik heard about the plans he immediately met with campus

planning officials to alter the course of the tunnel. It was, and the tree still is growing — decorated at Yuletide and the center of an old University tradition.

"Therefore, we do have a precedent in adjusting construction for the sake of a valuable or traditional object on campus," Werner said.

Another current road project has bit into a valuable collection of campus trees.

The road, which will connect the new College of Dentistry with the rest of the East Campus, has been hewn out of an area planted by Earl Maxwell, a former Nebraska state forester.

It was Maxwell's hobby to plant as many unusual trees on campus. Experts feel that the University is greatly indebted to Maxwell.

"If it hadn't been for him," said Gary G. Long, instructor of horticulture at NU, "there probably wouldn't have been any unusual trees here at all."

Long has embarked on a project of his own: he is attempting to "tag" most of the unusual trees on East Campus with a small sign giving its common and technical names. The trees at J. Sterling Morton's Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City are so designated.

History and legend also grows with NU trees.

On City Campus, a large spruce was given to the University as a memorial to a prominent professor. The tree was planted in an area that would now be south of the Administration building. Plans called for the spruce to become a permanent Christmas tree in the main campus.

"To put it bluntly, the tree drowned," Dr. John F. Davidson said. He is an NU professor of botany. Actually, the root system of the tree grew straight down to an underground reservoir and the tree had too much water.

So, university planners studied the problem and decided that a cyprus tree could survive in that area because of the abundant water supply. The tree was planted with the intention of providing an even more unusual Christmas tree.

The first winter arrived and the tree lost its leaves. Everyone thought it was dead, Davidson says, until it was discovered that the tree was a "bald" cyprus, one of the few conifers which actually does lose its leaves seasonally.

Werner said that at the turn of the century Nebraska was a very tree-conscious state and certainly earned its title of being "The Treeplanter's State."

J. Sterling Morton inaugurated Arbor Day, still honored across the state and the nation.

"Many other prominent persons were involved in the planting of trees," Werner said, "because they wanted to improve the state's appearance with healthy trees."

**Tour Revealing**  
A tour of the East Campus reveals a remarkable collection of rare and beautiful trees.

A Chinese date tree is standing in the middle of a small parking lot in back of Fedde Hall. There were three but a chilling tunnel disposed of the other two. The remaining tree is the victim of bad-driving and is constantly being hit. Four iron posts protect the tree, but now the posts are bent.

Probably the rarest tree on campus, "and possibly in the state," according to Long, is in the same vicinity. It is a Lace Bark Pine, a native of China. It features a multi-colored bark which peels off in a delicately-laced pattern, revealing colors of pink, light green and silver grey.

"It is amazing how people walk right by a tree like this and think nothing of it," Long said. "But then they discover that it is rare and valuable and think it's just great."

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## NU Student Visits Resurrection City

A University of Nebraska student who has visited Resurrection City, headquarters of the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C., believes the most significant result of the campaign would be "a measure of support from the people of Nebraska and especially the people of Lincoln."

Bob Lucy, a junior from Fullerton, Neb., majoring in social work, visited the complex while on a seminar sponsored by the Methodist Church of Fullerton, under the direction of the Rev. Thomas Rehorn.

A group of 31 young Nebraskans and adult sponsors attended a number of programs sponsored by various groups in the Washington area under the title "Christianity and Social Action." The visit to Resurrection City was "a chance to see what we were studying about," Lucy said.

Lucy, and two members of the group from Omaha, spent most of one afternoon in the hastily-built city-within-a-city. Still vivid in his mind is the ankle-deep mud which plagued the poor people throughout most of their stay in the nation's capital.

Lucy said that the important task of a visitor to Resurrection City is the correct interpretation of the Poor People's Campaign to the rest of the people of the United States.

"I don't think Americans are getting a fair picture of what is happening in Washington," he said.

Lucy and his group were at the Supreme Court Building during the much-publicized demonstration which resulted in a number of poor people's arrests.

"The demonstration was actually planned for dramatizing the plight of the American Indian," he said, "and it was led, in part, by a 102-year-old woman."

"At one point someone lowered the American flag in memory of the late Martin Luther King." Immediately the police moved in. I saw them beat a number of people, who were later taken off in ambulances. I asked a policeman what happened to them. He said that they had gotten sick. I had seen them beaten, but the press reported the police version.

Lucy said that press reports indicated that the demonstration numbered about "one hundred persons and some fifty policemen."

"I know there had to be at least two hundred policemen at the scene," he recalled. "Two buses of policemen were not unloaded and there were at least nine paddy wagons."

Lucy said there was little dissension within the population of the city, but that there was a large amount of boredom and apathy.

"There really isn't much for anyone to do," he said, "so, much of the day is spent in idleness."

He asked one young black resident how long he planned to stay in Washington. The answer was: "Until the government does something."

Lucy said that the campaign is patterned after the social action methods used in the South during the voting rights campaign of a few years ago. Most of the confusion resulting in bad publicity of the Washington campaign personifies the tragic aftermath of King's assassination, Lucy feels.

"Dr. King was one of the finest leaders in the country," he said. "It will be hard enough to ever replace him, especially in two months."

Lucy said the individual resident at Resurrection City bears witness to the existence of widespread poverty in the United States.

"One starving person in the world's most affluent nation is wrong," he said. "But thousands make the situation deplorable. That is why the people of Nebraska have to become involved in this campaign."

Lucy recommended writing to Liaison Office of the National Council of Churches in Washington on information concerning the campaign. The address is Room 106, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 2002.

One of the Fullerton youth's favorite mementoes of his visit to Resurrection City is a copy of a poem that was painted on the side of one of the city's plywood shacks:

We came in dressed with new hope  
The young—the old—the gritty.  
We dared to build upon a dream  
In Resurrection City.  
We left behind hopelessness  
For we were tired of pity.  
We seek only true dignity  
In Resurrection City.  
The dirt is cast, be all the pain  
While folk come to your aid.  
Give an account for yesterday  
And all your old pretenses.  
You must pay for your folly  
Come deal with our committee.  
Prep—do not underestimate the need  
In Resurrection City.

## Graduate Dormitory Opening Broadens Campus Experience

A year's experimentation with various aspects of graduate student life has expanded with the scheduled opening of dormitories for exclusive occupation by graduate students next fall.

Reservations are now being accepted for living quarters in Benton Hall for male students and Fairfield Hall for women. Both have a capacity of 68, and are located in Selleck Quadrangle.

The formation of the graduate student dorms was a culmination of a highly successful year of living on two floors of Schramm Hall, one of the three dormitories in the NU's newest housing complex on the northern periphery of the City Campus, which was comprised mainly of grad students.

This success, plus the realization that many NU grad students were, in fact, dismayed with University life, socially and academically, resulted in positive action by a student group and the University administration.

"Our contention is simply stated," explained Bing Chen, a grad student in electrical engineering from Jericho, N.Y. "We feel that, in order for any university to reach national prominence, it should have a strong graduate program, with emphasis on faculty and graduate students."

**Grumbling Sensed**  
Chen said that he sensed a sufficient amount of "departmental grumbling" about graduate students' conditions to warrant prompt action.

Thus, the student group, after careful study of existing problems, drew up a number of proposals to help remedy the situation.

The result is the opening of the "Graduate-Foreign-Independent" dorm complex.

Foreign students (and others interested in the program) were added because of their special interest problems, such as lack of total communication with the bulk

of the university complex and extremely distant homes.

With the University closing down a number of times during the year, it is necessary for students who live a great distance from the school to find temporary housing quarters.

A survey taken by Norm Snustad, residence director at Harper Hall, revealed a strong parallel between the departure of foreign students from NU and the lack of a place to stay during vacation periods.

"I was in the center of dormitory life," Snustad recalled, "and watched many people leave. I was interested to know why."

Chen, Snustad and a number of other NU students began working on the graduate student complex after watching the Schramm experiment develop into a total success.

#### Programmed Outlined

Larry Haise, a graduate student in English from Ft. Collins, Colo., and president of third floor on Schramm, outlined some of the programs initiated for the benefit of the grad student:

First, informal coffee-hours were planned for each week, bringing together "personnel and personalities" of the University for discussion groups, pertaining to interests of the grad student.

Movies, social functions and other recreational facilities were also added to the program. A snack shop operated for the convenience of the graduate students, but later expanded to cover all residents of Schramm, proved to be a financial success although profit-making was not the motivation, Haise said.

But the major accomplishment of the program, its supporters feel, is the involvement of the graduate student in the university community.

The students in the dorm became active in student government and university affairs. This totally

disclaims any notion that the exclusiveness of the dorm's population actually is a form of segregation, the steering committee feels.

"Housing grad students in a separate dorm is not isolation," Haise said. "We have found that, on the whole, these students were actually brought more into the mainstream of campus life."

He said that the student actually becomes more campus-orientated, especially if he isn't living in some remote area of Lincoln.

#### Responsibility

"By focusing on the grad student with physical proximity, the

## Musician To Conduct NU Clinic

Dr. Lloyd Pfautsch, nationally recognized lecturer and clinic director, will conduct a series of choral workshops at the University of Nebraska School of Music, July 13.

Pfautsch, director of choral activities at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tex., will speak on four subjects and will utilize demonstrations:

July 1 — "Some Contemporary Trends in Church Anthems," 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

July 2 — "Conductors Move in Mysterious Ways," 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

July 3 — "Are You Rehearsing More and Enjoying It Less?" 1:00 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.

July 3 — "Diction in Choral Performances," 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The clinic is open to all students and faculty and the general public. There is no fee. The clinic will be held in the choral room of the Westbrook Music Building, Room 119.

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