

Library opened to reveille

Reveille was at 6:12 a.m. At 10:30 p.m. the day closed with "taps" resounding from the halls of Don L. Love Memorial Library.

Rather than containing rows of books, from 1943 to 1945 Love Library housed rows of beds.

Army Specialized Training Student Units moved into the newly constructed building at its completion in 1943, according to Joseph Svoboda, UNL archivist.

At the close of World War II, shelves and books replaced army bunks and the building was opened to students and faculty as the new library.

That was 34 years after planning for the library began.

Plans for a new library were discussed as early as 1911 when librarians thought

Library Hall (now Architectural Hall) no longer could accommodate the University of Nebraska's book collection, Svoboda said.

Because of lack of space, the library stored over half of its books stock in twenty-three locations on campus.

Library Hall lacked not only shelf space, but also seating space, Svoboda said. The building had a seating capacity of 400 for a student body of 5,000.

Along with crowded conditions, Library Hall suffered from a leaking room and sagging beams.

The need for a new library was given formal recognition in 1940 when the NU Board of Regents announced their decision to build Love Library. Construction began in April 1941.



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