

# Daily Nebraskan

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Good teachers never die . . .

## Educators Immortalized

By George Davis

To some people the notion of life after death is far-fetched. But unknown to many, several men at UNL have everlasting life. These men live on because of their dedication and service to UNL, dedication that has been rewarded in structures built in their honor. The names Selleck, Oldfather, Hamilton and Baker are best known to most UNL students and faculty as buildings. Behind the bricks and mortar, however, are legends of service and dedication that have molded the future of UNL.

John Selleck was business manager for athletics and student activities from 1922 to 1941. He then became comptroller for the University of Nebraska in 1942 and in 1948 was named NU business manager. During his nine years as business manager he also served as acting chancellor and chancellor between 1953 and 1955.

During his career as business manager, Selleck saw the final construction of Memorial Stadium and began band day and season ticket sales to bolster attendance at the then 30,000-seat stadium.

Selleck also supervised the construction of the university Coliseum to house both the men's basketball team and graduation exercises and began plans for Schulte Fieldhouse.

People also remember Selleck for his plans for the future of UNL student housing and was honored by having Selleck Quadrangle built in his name.

Besides Selleck, other men were also planning the future of the university in their specific areas. Cliff Hamilton and Charles Oldfather were both professors at NU before becoming chairmen of their departments.

Hamilton became a full professor of chemistry in 1929. In 1939 he became chairman of the chemistry department, a post he kept until 1955.

During his career at UNL, Hamilton authored more than 100 research publications. He also researched chemical warfare during World War II. He was widely regarded as the world's foremost expert on the chemical compound arsenic. His personality was not poisonous, however, and he became known to his students as "Uncle Cliff."

Charles Oldfather, also known for his good nature and teaching ability, began his career in 1912 at the American University of Beirut and came to Nebraska in 1926 as a professor of ancient history. In 1929 he became the chairman

of the history department and in 1932 became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He kept the position until 1952.

Oldfather is remembered for his leadership of Arts and Sciences College through the Depression and World War II and his ancient Greek translations.

Baker Hall on UNL's East Campus was named in honor of educator, scientist and administrator Marvel L. Baker, who was a member of the university's faculty from 1924 to 1928 and 1930 to 1963. He was professor of animal science from 1941 to 1963.

Baker, who was a dedicated teacher well-liked by students, was an Illinois native and also was active in several research projects.

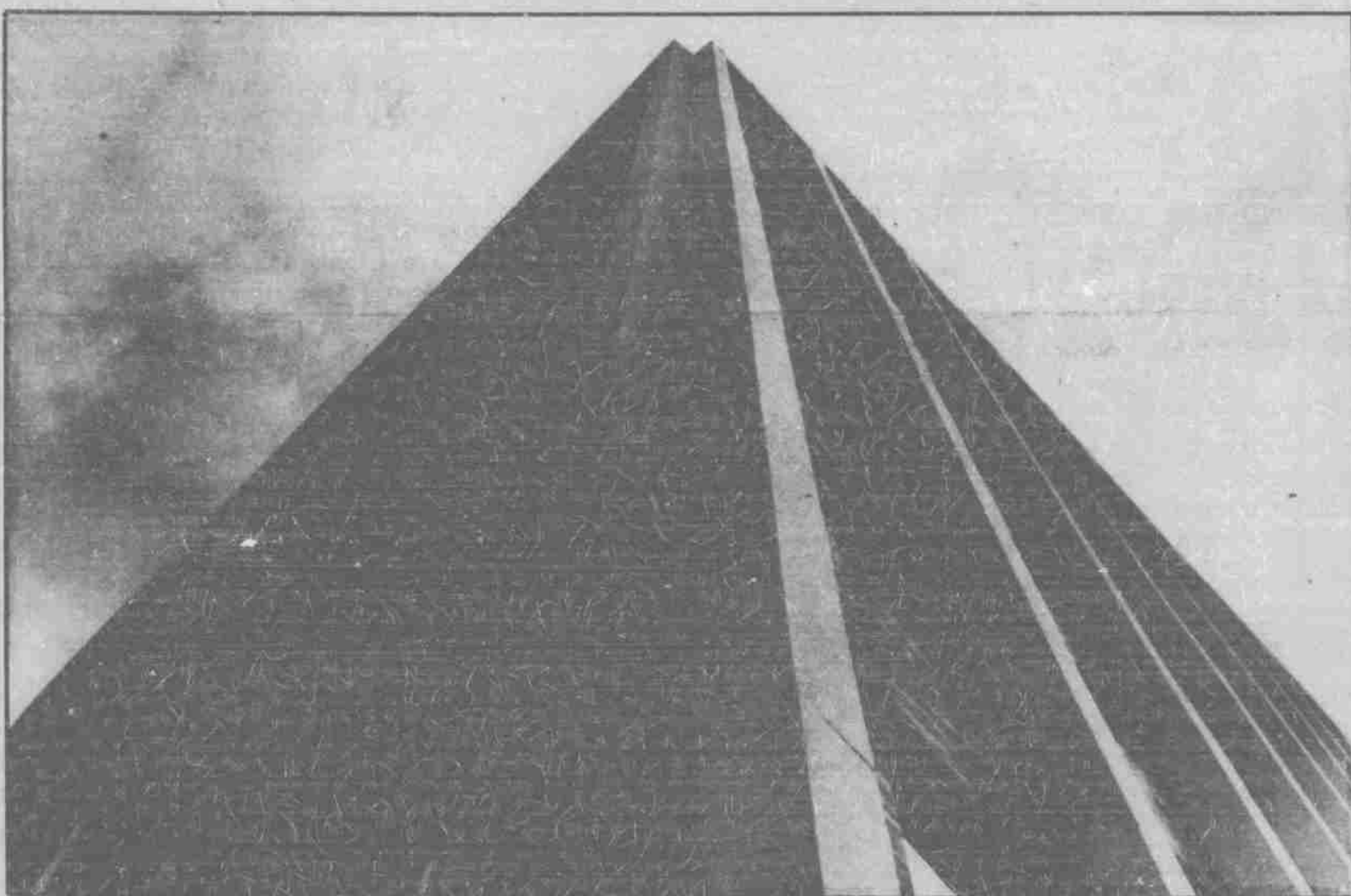
He participated in developing projects in swine as well as beef cattle breeding.

He was dean of an NU group in Turkey until his retirement from the university; the University of Erzurum, Turkey, was established under his leadership. Baker died in 1977.



University Archives

Clifford Hamilton



Charles Oldfather Hall

David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

## Dugan: Board to make decision this week in Commonwealth case

By Jeff Goodwin

A decision by the state Claims Board is expected to be made this week in the Commonwealth Savings Co. case, Claims Board Chairman Mike Dugan said Friday.

Dugan made his comments at the conclusion of a two-hour hearing Friday at which M. J. Bruckner, attorney for the Commonwealth depositors, and state Banking Director Roger Beverage attempted to prove the state's liability to Commonwealth depositors.

As part of the evidence, they submitted 1,262 affidavits, all gathered within two days, from Commonwealth depositors. Each depositor said they believed their account was insured up to \$30,000.

Beverage said the affidavits indicate the depositors believed their accounts were safe.

"I think these affidavits show without question that the depositors relied on the state of Nebraska," Beverage said.

Beverage said his examination of Commonwealth's books showed the institution had been in trouble for some time.

"What I found in looking through the reports of examinations was a deteriorating situation that was deteriorating rapidly and markedly," he said.

"The institution was basically living and paying its depositors on new accounts. There was a precipitous decline in which the institution was no more solvent in 1978 and '79 than it is today in terms of its ability to function."

Beverage said the state, if it liquidates Commonwealth's assets during a period of eight to 10 years, may be able to recoup \$28 to 30 million.

He said that would still leave a shortfall of \$30 million. He said if the assets were liquidated right away — which some depositors are pressing for because they need the money immediately — the shortfall would be about \$47 million.

Beverage said Commonwealth's assets include about one-third of Lincoln's real estate market.

On paper, Commonwealth's assets are listed at \$75 million Beverage said, but he added, "they aren't anywhere near that. We've got \$27 million worth of loans that they won't even touch with a 10-foot pole."

Beverage said it was the state's responsibility to meet its obligation to Commonwealth's depositors.

"This thing is not going to go away," he said. "It didn't just fall out of the sky. We let it happen and that's the basis of our claim."

Regardless of what decision the Claims Board may make, the final decision on paying any claims will be decided by the state Legislature.



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John Selleck