

EARLY HISTORY OF PENN STATE

Steps Leading to Founding and Description of Early Life at the College

By Dr. Erwin W. Runkle
(Continued from Last Week)

The first Superintendent of the Institution was W. G. Waring who served from 1855 until the election of Dr. Dwan Pugh in 1859. To Mr. Waring is due the credit for pioneer work in laying grounds, instituting experiments and for proving his faith in the new project to both friend and foe. May 31, 1859, he writes to one of the most active trustees "Mr. and Mrs. T—are here. At first shocked, then pleased, and now delighted with everything." His letters and the first Order Book show how various were his activities. How humble many of his tasks, how honorably, and faithfully he performed them. He was virtually president, dean, business manager, superintendent of buildings, farm manager, landscape artist, teacher of horticulture, and publicity man. All these duties he performed in co-operation with and under the guidance of an honored trustee who was to witness the college owed its continuance in critical times, Mr. H. N. McAllister. Sixty-nine students were present the opening day, February 16, 1859. The buildings were only partly finished, and in the absence of the intended dining room and kitchen, a board shanty, which could neither be kept warm in cold weather, nor dry in wet or stormy weather, was used to cook and eat in. The farm was yet rough, and the lumber and materials from mason and brick work for the completion of the building, were piled around in shapeless masses on all sides of the latter, rendering it almost impossible to get about it, and presenting a most forlorn aspect to the students, who first entered the College thru the well traveled road of the breaking up of the winter frosts. The first years enrollment totaled, even under these conditions, 119, while the second session numbered 110. This year marked the beginning of Dr. Pugh's presidency, the importance of which, it is almost impossible to overestimate. Owing to the approach of war and the incomplete and unsatisfactory condition of the college surroundings, the enrollment dropped the third year to 88. This year was memorable, however, as marking the first graduation class. The class entered with fifty-five, but by 1861 was reduced to seventeen, and only eleven of these completed the work and received the degree of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture. This, according to Dr. Pugh, was the first class to graduate at an Agricultural College in the United States and they graduated upon a higher scientific-educational standard than is required at any other Agricultural College in the world. This statement is substantially correct, for while The Pennsylvania State College is not the oldest State College with an agricultural and industrial program, it has had the longest continuous existence—Michigan, having opened its doors in 1857, was obliged for various causes to suspend operations for a period. It must be conceded, too, that Penn State was from its very inception conceived by its founders as a peoples' college, a collegiate industrial institution and not a purely agricultural college. From an account of a visit made to the College under date of June 2nd, 1859, one may get the atmosphere of this period of beginnings. The first year of the institution was half over, and the fields were evidently blossoming under the first educational sowing. "The principal manager of the Institution, Mr. Waring, and his assistant Mr. Gilliland, had the kindness to show us over the most attractive parts of the farm, which contained 400 acres all in one field. The different kinds of trees, shrubs, etc., are all planted in families. Mr. Waring pointed out to us 60 different kinds of willow trees,

and this novelty will be found among all the plants and trees and shrubbery on the farm; some to the number of 10, 20, 50, 100 and perhaps 200 different kinds. Mr. Waring also drew our attention to the wheat field which contains different kinds of wheat—what a feast this presents for the eyes of our farmers. This will also be found to be the case with every other kind of seeds and grains. These seeds are brought from all parts of the world, for the sake of experimenting, so that farmers may learn which kind is the best suited to our soil, and which are the most productive. We were next conducted through the barn and work-shops. We then visited the science building; of which only about one-third is completed, it is five stories high, built of stone, and already makes a very imposing appearance. We were conducted through the post-office, library and reading-room. The latter contains newspapers from all sections of the state for the benefit of the students. We then went to the room containing the philosophical apparatus which is complete and the most splendid we ever saw. The Institution numbers 103 students, and a more contented and happy looking set we never saw and we felt as though we could always be among them. Students are required to labor on the farm 3 hours each day, which they do in classes; while there, one set were engaged in planting beans and another at harrowing; others plowing, etc., and Mr. Waring assured us that they are always willing to perform the labor assigned them, and do it cheerfully. This speaks well for them, and is a promising omen for the Institution."

Provision for accommodating traffic may be followed in newspapers of this early date. The only railroad in the county was the coal road from Bellefonte to Snow Shoe, then under construction. Under date of September 10, 1854, the following notice appeared in the Central Press of Bellefonte.

NEW STAGE LINE
From Bellefonte to Pine Grove. By Way of the Farmers' High School.

The subscribers respectfully inform the public that they have placed a two horse coach on this route and will carry passengers to and from the Farmers' High School, Pine Grove Mills, and all intermediate points at cheap rates. This stage will run three times a week, leaving Bellefonte, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A comfortable coach and careful driver will be provided and render the traveler comfortable.

On July 1st, 1859 the announcement is made of a daily stage, Spruce Creek and Farmers' High School to accommodate the increased travel in that region. At this date also these lines were consolidated under one management, and thus our trunk line facilities were properly launched. The schedule followed Leave Spruce Creek at 9 a. m., and arrive at the Farm High School at 2 p. m. the same day. According to a railroad travel book of this date the Pennsylvania ran three trains over this division, one in the morning; one in the afternoon and one at night.

Upon reaching the Farm School, the student found even one-third of the Main Building incomplete, neither side nor front steps were up. Stoves served to heat the interior, and candles, six a week, with one iron candle stick for two students lighted the gloomy recesses. Chapel was held twice daily, and assembly in chapel (To be Concluded Next Week)

NOTICE TO PICNICERS
Complaints have been made by several farmers about the condition in which these holding places and parties in the woods and groves near the watermelon rinds, orange peel, tin cans, etc., have been left scattered over the grounds in such quantities that it not only greatly mars the natural beauty and makes it impossible for others to enjoy the place, but it also increases the number of flies. The farmers are reasonable but insist that those using their grounds should use them properly. Could not all parties clean up and burn or bury all paper and other rubbish before leaving? Unless these things are done, the places will be a short time until they are noticed will be posted and no other places will be available.

FINALS OF SONG CONTEST
held by the Department of Music will take place on Friday morning at Assembly, 9:55 A. M. Interest in the contest has been widespread and will reach its height on Friday when the winners of the three heats will contest for the prize. These contestants are the A. D. S. House, MacAllister Hall, and the Track House. Each one will sing the best piece, Dvorak's "Massa Dear" an arrangement taken from the composer's New World Symphony. It affords opportunity for the judges to exercise discriminating judgment in picking the winner. The musical possibilities are many; the contestants are all practicing hard to win out. This contest feature has taken hold so well this year that it will undoubtedly be a yearly occurrence at subsequent Summer Sessions.

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INCORPORATED
Schedule in Effect Oct. 18, 1920

WEEK DAYS					
Bellefonte to Milesburg	Milesburg to Bellefonte	Bellefonte to Pleasant Gap	Pleasant Gap to Bellefonte	Bellefonte to State College	State College to Bellefonte
6:20 A. M.	6:30 A. M.	1:30 P. M.	8:25 A. M.	6:45 A. M.	8:00 A. M.
7:30 A. M.	7:45 A. M.	5:45 P. M.	1:50 P. M.	9:15 A. M.	12:30 P. M.
11:30 A. M.	11:45 A. M.	*10:30 P. M.	6:10 P. M.	10:05 A. M.	2:00 P. M.
1:00 P. M.	1:15 P. M.		*10:50 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	3:45 P. M.
*2:30 P. M.	*2:45 P. M.			3:10 P. M.	5:10 P. M.
4:00 P. M.	4:15 P. M.			4:45 P. M.	6:30 P. M.
5:15 P. M.	5:30 P. M.			*10:30 P. M.	*11:10 P. M.
6:45 P. M.	7:00 P. M.				
19:00 P. M.	19:15 P. M.				
9:30 P. M.	9:45 P. M.				
11:00 P. M.	11:15 P. M.				

*Saturdays Only †Wednesdays and Saturdays Only.

SUNDAY					
Bellefonte to Milesburg	Milesburg to Bellefonte	Bellefonte to Pleasant Gap	Pleasant Gap to Bellefonte	Bellefonte to State College	State College to Bellefonte
9:10 A. M.	9:25 A. M.	9:45 A. M.	10:15 A. M.	7:00 A. M.	8:15 A. M.
1:30 P. M.	1:45 P. M.	2:00 P. M.	2:20 P. M.	9:50 A. M.	12:30 P. M.
4:30 P. M.	4:45 P. M.	8:30 P. M.	8:50 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:00 P. M.
7:00 P. M.	7:15 P. M.			3:30 P. M.	7:00 P. M.
9:30 P. M.	9:45 P. M.			8:15 P. M.	9:00 P. M.

BELLEFONTE—LOCK HAVEN SCHEDULE
WEEK DAYS AND SUNDAYS

Bellefonte to Lock Haven - Lock Haven to Bellefonte

*7:00 P. M. 2:00 P. M. †6:20 P. M. 10:00 A. M. 5:00 P. M. †10:30 P. M.

*Sunday 8:00 P. M. †Saturday and Sunday Only

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