

Penn State First Founded As Farmers' High School

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The College grew in numbers largely due to preparatory students, to music and art pupils. Three courses, agriculture, classical, and scientific, were offered, and women students were admitted on equal terms in 1871.

An unfortunate interregnum in 1880-1881 under President Shortridge re-opened the flood gates of criticism and personal recrimination. Students were few and in open rebellion. Faculty, trustee, and legislative investigations followed—the Pennsylvania State College was passing through its darkest days.

However, a new leader, the second great president, Dr. George W. Atherton, had been found, destined to serve nearly a quarter of a century. He received an institution of one building, Old Main, completed in December, 1883, a massive but forbidding structure, with a dark, almost prison-like interior; a student body so depleted in numbers that it scarcely exceeded the faculty, and with a reputation and name over the State (however unjust) of an educational failure and not entitled to the proceeds of the Land Grant. With rare determination and insight, he placed the work of the institution squarely upon its charter, won the people of the Commonwealth to its support, found in Governor James A. Beaver, a life-long friend of the College, a tower of strength and enthusiasm.

A revamping of Old Main was begun, over-crowded departments began their exodus to new buildings. The schools were organized in 1896, dormitories were erected, a University Inn, and the first buildings by private donors, the Carnegie Library and Schwab Auditorium. Agriculture began its modern development with a building program and expansion of facilities under the aegis of The Allied Agricultural Societies in 1900. Engineering over its first adequate housing to Governor Pattison who became a warm friend of Penn State during his second administration; while most caustic in his denunciations in his vetoes of the bills of 1883 and 1885.

Liberal studies were strengthened, departments of physical education, forestry, home economics, the calorimeter and research activities were established, a Summer School and Farmers' Institutes fostered. Dr. Atherton left the institution firmly established in the hearts of the people of the Commonwealth, as the crown of the free public school system, an institution of nearly one thousand students, thirty buildings, nineteen four-year courses, and (with surprisingly few omissions) all the major lines of development of a modern state university, at least in embryo.

Thus the College groped its way during the first quarter century. It "found itself" under President Atherton during the second quarter century. Its rapid development has come during the third quarter century, and peculiarly so in the last five years. Presidents Sparks, Thomas and Hetzel are three different types of executives. Under Dr. Sparks the student body grew almost phenomenally, popularizing and extension activities were greatly increased, the Summer School established on a new basis in 1910. Comprehensive building plans were outlined, and genuine additions to the plant made. More adequate support was provided in which the active cooperation of Governor Tener should be noted. President Sparks bore a huge burden during the Great War—a burden which sapped his strength to the breaking point, leading to his retirement in 1920. Dr. Sparks handed over to President John Martin Thomas an institution with 370 on the faculty and a resident student body of 4,016.

The service of Dr. Thomas of four years was marked by plans for a greater Penn State, a better physical plant, more adequate legislative support. The College campaign to raise \$2,000,000 for welfare buildings was organized and vigorously carried on.

The \$8,000,000 bond issue was proposed although not realized since the revenues of the State were assured adequate to meet the new building program. Four permanent buildings were erected and the School of Education and the Graduate School established.

September 24, 1926, Dr. Ralph Dorn Hetzel was called to the presidency and a new Penn State began rapidly to realize itself. An adequate campus plan and the following new buildings which were dedicated as part of the Seventy-Fifth Celebration tell something of the external story: Recreation Hall, Engineering Building, Mineral Industries, Old Main, Frear and Grange Dormitories, Liberal Arts, and Chemistry units, Power Plant, Botany Building, Hospital Service Building, and other permanent units.

The inward history of change and development is even more significant. A new freedom to teach, a more liberal environment in which to learn, a continuous search for avenues of service to the Commonwealth—these are some of the spiritual factors which are moulding a new and inner Penn State while the Campus is undergoing an almost complete transformation.

2 Army Cannon Once Led Attack On 'Fort Shivery'

Two harmless little cannon, now squatting on their concrete beds in front of the Armory, gaze stolidly at developments on the campus and reminisce on the many battle-fields they surveyed in the dim days of the eighties.

Silently, these two veterans of combat review days when, mounted on trunions, they gleamed in the sun and the spokes of their wheels glittered as they were drawn by students sweating to the commands of battalion commanders.

Those members of the "Old Guard" did not, however, limit their experience to the dust of the march and the playing of the national anthem with colors flying. They took an intimate part in conflicts between the "Town Muckers" and the "Old Main Rats," rival bands of students which sprang up as a result of separate rooming quarters half a century ago.

One spring day in the eighties, legend runs, the "Town Muckers" felt the urge for excitement at the expense of their rivals. Organizing a parade, they maneuvered about the terrace fronting Old Main and taunted the inmates with cries of "Government Paupers" and "Rats." In those days the dark walls of Old Main housed most of the student body.

After this show of spirit the "Townies" were satisfied and returned to their haunts on Beaver Avenue where they roomed in what was

College Historian



As College historian, Dr. Erwin W. Runkle has been granted a leave of absence from active teaching duty to compile a printed volume of the history of Penn State.

ORATORS ADDRESSED 2,600 IN AUDIENCES LAST YEAR

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and speeches, followed by frequent delivery and extemporaneous rebuttal work constitute the work on the squad. Reward for achievement along forensic lines is in the form of a key, given by the College to any student who participates in five intercollegiate contests in one year.

For the administration of debating affairs there exists a Forensic Council of nine members appointed by the president of the senior class from the three upper classes. A president is selected and holds membership in the Student Council. The Forensic Council sponsors the Intra-mural debate contest and aids in the Sophomore Speaking contest for which all sophomores are eligible.

known as "Fort Shivery," in the language of the "Rats." But the residents of Old Main were intent on revenge. Hauling out their heavy artillery they gathered a representative collection of rubbish, tin cans, and garbage, and rammed it all down the muzzles of the cannon.

Aiming the deadly instruments at the lodgings of their enemies, the "Rats" drew a bead in approved military style. After the addition of powder and the application of a match, amid a thunderous roar, the two stalwarts belched forth their questionable contents. Because ammunition supplies had been exhausted the barricade was lifted, but a notable military victory had been gained by the roomers in Old Main.

With the imbedding of the impediments of war in concrete bases, College authorities have doomed the cannon to a life of inactivity.

2 HONOR SOCIETIES REWARD FRESHMEN

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Purple Quill is a literary guild which has for its purpose fostering creative writing and appreciation for it among the students. Members of all classes who have demonstrated their ability along literary lines are elected to membership.

Kappa Kappa Psi is made up of outstanding members of the College Band while Kappa Gamma Psi is a professional music honorary. Phi Mu Alpha, commonly known as Sinfonia, is another professional music society whose members are outstanding for vocal and instrumental work on campus musical organizations. Theta Alpha Phi is an honorary dramatics fraternity. Two major or four minor roles must have been played or proficiency shown along some other phase of dramatic art as the minimum requirement for eligibility. Among women students the Louise Homer club is the honorary musical group.

Many Professional Groups

Seven honorary fraternities reward achievement in the various curricula of the engineering school. Tau Beta Pi elects from the upper fifth of the juniors and seniors in the school. Sigma Tau requires marked ability along the professional lines of its members and Pi Tau Sigma elects on the basis of engineering ability, scholarship, and personality. Scabard is a professional group of students in architecture as is Pi Gamma Alpha, honorary fine arts. Eta Kappa Nu is solely for students taking electrical engineering, and Chi Epsilon restricts its membership to civil engineers.

Education Societies

In the School of Liberal Arts, Pi Lambda Sigma is a local honorary pre-legal society and Delta Sigma Pi is an honorary commerce fraternity. Members of Phi Sigma Iota, romance languages, and Pi Gamma Mu, social science, are chosen on a strictly scholastic basis.

Phi Lambda Upsilon is the honorary group of the chemists. It elects on a basis of general scholarship with work in chemistry having double weight. The honor man of the sophomore class in the chemistry curriculum is elected at the end of the year. Proficiency in physics is rewarded by membership in Sigma Pi Sigma. Pi Mu Epsilon limits its membership to students of mathematics.

High ranking students in the mining and geology curricula are eligible for Sigma Gamma Epsilon, a professional fraternity. For students in the education school there are Kappa Delta Pi and Kappa Phi Kappa. Junior and senior men and women whose grades are above the average and who have completed at least six semesters in education work are

Registers Freshmen



WILLIAM S. HOFFMAN

eligible for the former group while the latter is professional and members must intend to follow that line of work after graduation. Psi Chi is an organization of students specializing in psychology.

Xi Sigma Pi is the forestry honorary and Pi Alpha Xi rewards with membership students who show ability and interest in floriculture. Alpha Tau Alpha chooses from the students enrolled in agricultural education. Omicron Nu, honorary home economics, elects from the two upper classes while the Ellen H. Richards club is composed largely of juniors in home economics.

Scabard and Blade is a national society electing students who take advanced military training. Last year a local organization of underclassmen proficient in military drill was accepted to membership in Pershing Rifles, a national society for recognizing proficiency among students in the basic R. O. T. C. course.

MINERAL COLLECTION SHOWN

A complete collection of mineral ores, rocks, and other interesting mining and geological specimens are on display in the museum of the Mineral Industries building. A large relief map of Pennsylvania, which was formerly located in the original Old Main, has been placed there.

First Students at College Helped Complete Building

"Every college has a legend . . ." In seventy-five years, Penn State has gathered many memories, recorded in old volumes and dusty prints for each new class to read and wonder.

What were freshmen like seventy-five years ago? They had no customs, no upperclassmen to look up to; they had little, in fact, but classes and long hours of work. The sixty-nine students who arrived at Penn State as the first freshman class in February, 1859, found Old Main in the process of construction, and to them was delegated the task of finishing the building.

The undergraduate of today would look askance at these pioneers. In those early days when Penn State was still the "Farmers' High School," students rose at 5 o'clock each morning, and began their study or work before 6 o'clock. Their classes lasted until 8 o'clock at night, and all lights were out before 10 o'clock.

Freshmen Treated Harshly

Old Main housed the entire College in 1859, and until 1886, dormitories, classrooms and administrative offices alike were contained in the same structure. Even after that time students lived there for many years.

Around this ancient building, now replaced by a modern administrative building, hover many of the legends which have passed on from class to class. Battles between classes and factions have become historic, and the "Old Main rats," whose haunts were in the upper stories, number many alumni still.

Many grey-haired gentlemen will remember with a sigh of regret, the episode of the attic cave-in. Before prohibition, one student beer party was rudely interrupted when the liquid refreshment crashed to the floor below. There was a suicide window, too, out of which an English instructor

for fell before breakfast one morning in 1907.

In early days "semester shirts" were common; and arrayed in these rough flannel garments, with corduroy trousers, students considered their wardrobe for the year complete.

There were less pleasant moments for freshmen who arrived shortly after the turn of the century than for those of 1932. The Old Main bell-ringer could tell about it:

"Believe me, those boys don't know how easy they have it," he said. "In 1902 when the boys came in to town they were started off with a bang. No sooner had they stepped from the drays that hauled them from Lemont, but some rowdy sophomores got a hold of them and made 'em walk the chalk line."

"It wasn't anything for the freshmen to be greeted with a lot of old tomatoes or eggs thrown at them."

Pleasanter memories surround the banquets which each class held, and the scraps which surrounded their occurrence with an added savor. To Williamsport, to Bellefonte, or some other nearby town, the class-mates would go, pursued by other classes. At one time sophomores greased the railroad tracks near the College to prevent the freshmen from setting out on the expedition.

Even after 1871, when co-eds were first admitted to the College, "cates" were scarce. Not only was the supply of available young women limited, but written permission from the president and the dean of women was required beforehand. For a number of years no more than five co-eds were enrolled at any one time.

Changes in the years have obscured many old legends, and with the appearance of new the old has faded; but four years from now some member of the class of 1933 will probably ask, as have thousands before him, "Do you remember . . . ?"

WORD OF HONOR

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