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Penn State First Founded As Farmers' High School

Refounding Through Acceptance of Morrill Land Grant Act Caused Development

signed by Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, April 1, 1863, pledging the

The first quarter of a century was marked by a struggle to hold the Land Grant, and by drifting and experiment in educational aims. Six presidents in twenty-three years were scarcely compatible with continuity of plan or purpose. Dr. Evan Pugh, a man of rare vision, trained by six years of study in the universities of Germany. France, and England, the peculiarly so in the last five years. Germany, France, and England, the first great president, died at the early age of 36, just as he was laying the foundations of Penn State. His successor, Dr. William H. Allen, formerly and later president of Girard College, served two years with no marked internal changes but with important activities in disposing of the Land Scripton.

Only one course, agriculture, was offered up to 1866, but the settlement of the entire Land Grant upon the College by the Act of 1867, led Presi-College by the Act of 1867, led President John Fraser and the trustees to a "reorganization" in which engineering was to be taught, agriculture and the arts expanded. The program was too ambitious and too expensive to carry out. The trustees voted a "deorganization" and called Dr. Thomas H. Burrowes to salvage the College and restore it to its original purposes. His personal influence stemmed the tide of discouragement at home and and restore it to its original purposes. His personal influence stemmed the tide of discouragement at home and opposition abroad (in which the so-called Model Experiment Farm slargely figured), but he died in office after but three years of service. Dr. James Calder, a classically trained, classically minded executive, succeedlassically minded executive, succeed classically minded executive, succeeded. 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

An unfortunate interregnum in 1880-1881 under President Shortlidge re-opened the flood gates of criticism were few and in open rebellion. Fac ulty, trustee, and legislative investi gations followed—the Pennsylvani

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, 1863, a massive but forbidding structure, with a dark, almost prison-like interior, a student body so depleted in numbers that it sengely exceeded the 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 sourcely upon its chapter stitution squarely upon its charter won the people of the Commonwealt to its support, found in Governo James A. Beaver, a life-long frien of the College, a tower of strengt and enthusiasm.

A revamping of Old Main was h A revamping of the main was oc-gun, over-crowded departments began their exodus to new buildings. The schools were organized in 1896, dor-mitories were creeted, a University Inn, and the first buildings by private

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The Farmers' High School, baptis-|donors, the Carnegie Library and mal name of the Penn State College, Schwab Auditorium. Agriculture bewas a pioneer in agricultural educa- gan its modern development with a tion; its roots go back as early as building program and expansion of 1850. Its development, if not its very facilities under the aegis of The Alexistence, is due to its re-founding by the acceptance of the Morrill Act, Engineering owes its first adequate. Engineering owes its first adequate housing to Governor Pattison who became a warm friend of Penn State during his second administration, while most caustic in his denuncia-tions in his vetoes of the bills of 1883 and 1885.

> ton 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 coperation of Governor Tener should be noted. President Sparks bore a huge burden during the Great Waraburder which sapped his strength to the breaking point, leading to his 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.

Schember 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 some-thing of the external story: Recrea-Seventy-Fifth Celebration tell some-hing of the external story: Recrea-tion Hall, Engineering Building, Min-eral Industries, Old Main, Frenr and Grange Dormitories, Liberal Arts, and Chemistry units, Power Plant, Botany Building, Hospital Service Building,

To Class of '40 For Talent

Students interested in developing their thespic talents may do so by par-icipating in the activities of the Penn ical comedy shows during the school

Preliminary try-outs for the Thes-pians' first show will be held early in the fall. The exact dates will be announced in later issues of the CoL-LEGIAN. Freshmen are eligible to par

Thespians Will Look until 1930. From 1897, when the or ganization was founded, until that time, all the parts were taken by men. As the musical comedy era began, the Thespians turned to that type of entertainment, with the result that women gradually earned the right to participate.

Students Write Shows

The present director of the organization is J. Ewing "Sock" Kennedy '26. Prominent in Thespians during his undergraduate days, "Sock" went on Broadway upon graduation and played in the cast of "Good News."

ticipate. Last year quite a few first year men and women carned places in the singing and dancing choruses and a few gained lead parts. Casting, under the direction of graduate directors, is completed by further trials throughtout the year.

Women students were not allowed to take part in Thespian productions assisted by Kennedy and Prof. Hummell Fishburn, of the department of music. The fall show, presented on the Fri-

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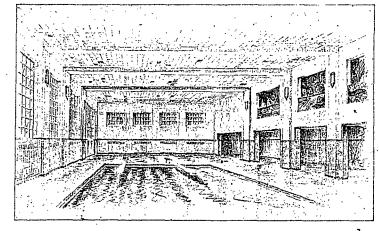
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