

# Thespians Begin Rehearsal For Homecoming Production

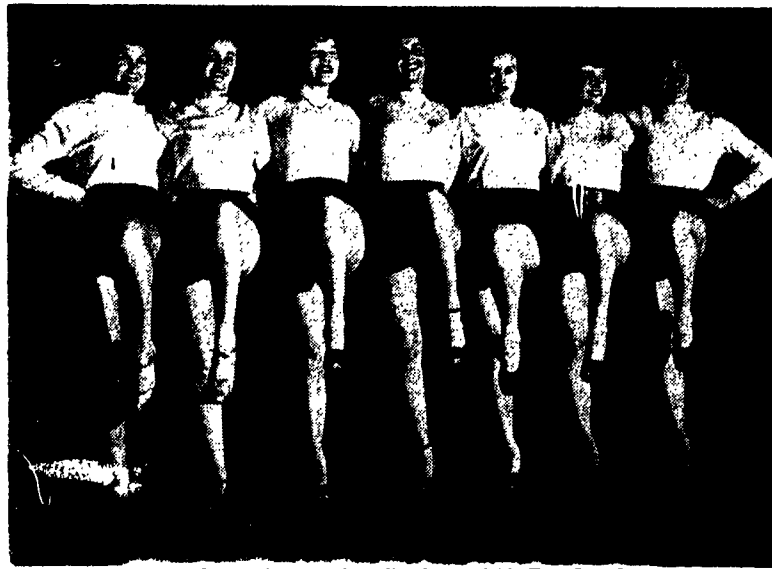
Thespians, student musical comedy organization, begins rehearsals Tuesday in preparation for the first performance of its annual show, which will be presented October 22 and 23, Alumni Homecoming Weekend.

In order to put the show on for Homecoming Weekend it was necessary to cast the parts this summer and send them to the Thespians so that full day and night rehearsals could be maintained during Orientation Week, J. Ewing "Sock" Kennerly, faculty director, stated.

The show, as yet unnamed, depicts a situation in college 40 years in the future in which the band is the big event of a game and the football team has ten minutes between halves in which to perform. Edward J. Nichols, professor of English composition, and James Frakes were collaborators in writing the production.

Try-outs for the chorus, singing and dancing, will be held sometime this week and will be announced in the next issue of Collegian. Sophomores and upperclassmen are eligible to try out.

Music for the show was written by Lou Levi and by Ray Fortunato and Pat Lamade, composers of hit tunes in other Thespian shows. Sets and costumes are under the direction of Duffy Sipes.



Thespian Chorus for Spring 1948 Production

# Hat Societies Honor Outstanding Service

Recognition to students for outstanding and meritorious service to Penn State is awarded through membership in one of the campus hat societies.

In the student vernacular these honoraries are termed "hat societies" since members are authorized to wear distinctive head-coverings.

Through these societies Penn State tradition and customs are enforced and the programs of welfare of the College are fostered.

In the "days of old" when freshmen were admitted to the College it was duty of the hatmen to enforce freshmen customs and to make life unpleasant for the green frosh.

The first contact new students will have with the so-called "big wheels" will most likely be at the first football game, for one of the traditional customs of the hat societies is to act as a guard of honor for the Lion football team as it enters New Beaver Field.

Hat men have been recognized and respected at the College for many years as the outstanding campus leaders and activities men.

The highest honor attainable by any Penn State man is selection by Lion's Paw. Membership to this honorary society is selective and restricted to 15 seniors each of whom has given to the College three years of outstanding service.

**Lion's Paw Mountaintop**  
The most outstanding activity of Lion's Paw in recent years was the purchase of the top of Mt. Nittany when that symbolic plot of land was threatened with timber stripping operations. Plans call for future development of the area as a picnic and recreation spot for students.

Mortar Board, the highest women's honorary, has as its aims the stimulation and development of a finer type of college woman. Members are chosen for their high scholastic standards and leadership in college activities.

One of the leading upperclass honoraries for men is Skull and Bones. It selects its members from those students who have excelled in campus activities. Sports managers, varsity athletes, political leaders and publi-

# Traditions, Student Customs Contribute to College Spirit

Equally as important for the student as the learning of a school's rules and regulations is familiarization with its traditions and customs. Such things make up a large part of the color and college spirit which surrounds Penn State.

It has become a tradition for every graduating class to allot funds to the College for the purchase of a specifically-designated memorial. Two of the outstanding class gifts on campus are the Nittany Lion Shrine and the Land-Grant fresco.

"The Nittany Lion," sculptured by Heinz Warneke and presented by the Class of 1940, is enshrined near the main entrance to New Beaver Field, and symbolizes the emblem of College athletic teams since 1907. Since its dedication in 1942, the statue has become perhaps the most-photographed spot on the campus. It represents the mountain lion which, according to

legend, once roamed the Nittany Valley.

### Land Grant Mural

The Land Grant mural in Old Main has become a nationally-recognized work of art since the Class of 1932 presented it to the College. Painted by Henry Varnum Poor, the mural is dominated by the figure of Abraham Lincoln, whom the artist wished to make a "symbol of hope and faith."

It was during Lincoln's administration that the Morrill Land-Grant Act, which stipulated that a certain amount of land in each state be granted for the support of colleges for the industrial classes, was passed. This act was of special benefit to the College, then known as the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania.

The combined classes of 1946 provided funds for the extension of the mural, which has already been partly accomplished, and will be completed this fall.

### "Old Willow"

"The Old Willow," standing at the intersection of the Mall and the diagonal walk leading to Old Main, is a cutting from a magnificent willow which stood there from 1858 until 1922, when it was blown down in a storm. The slip from which the tree grew was brought by Dr. Evan Fugh, first President of the College, from the home of the poet Pope at Twickenham, England. It later became the subject of many pieces of poetry.

The grave of George W. Atherton, president of the College from 1882 until his death in 1906, lies beside Schwab Auditorium facing Pollock Road.

The period of his administration was one of great development, the student body growing from 87 to 898 and the faculty from 17 to 65. It was Dr. Atherton's desire to be buried on the campus, and the present site was chosen because the auditorium was constructed during his administration.

### Geology Monument

The Polyolith, known more informally as the Geology Monument, was erected in 1898 and represents a long-range weathering experiment. Standing between the Armory and Main Engineering, the polyolith is composed of 281 samples of commercial building stones from all over the state.

Except for the base, the stones are arranged in geologic order, oldest at the bottom. Since the pillar was erected some of the stones have cracked and others show similar signs of decomposition.

### Hello Walks

One of the newer traditions, which unfortunately has come to a degree of disuse, is the "hello spirit." The two diagonal walks leading to Old Main have come to be called the "hello walks," and it is customary to greet everybody one meets on the walks.

These are a few of the many traditions with which the student should become familiar. To many graduates the most lasting memories of the College are the beliefs and practices of campus life.

# Navy to Construct New Water Tunnel

A water tunnel for study and testing of under-water equipment will be built on campus by the Ordnance Research Laboratory in conjunction with the United States Navy Bureau of Ordnance.

The building to house the tunnel will be of brick and will be built west of the Ordnance Research Laboratory, which it will resemble in design.

College trustees has approved a plan whereby the water tunnel will be named in honor of the late Lt. (jg) W. Garfield Thomas '38, one of the first graduates of the College to lose his life in World War II. The exact name will be designated after consultation with Navy officials.

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