

Traditions Gain Meaning as College Grows

At a small college where everyone knows everyone else, its of no special interest that everybody greets everybody else with a big "hello". But when a college sprouts out at its seams and becomes as large as Penn State, then its another story.

So, to retain the friendly atmosphere of the small college here, the "Hello" tradition has grown right along with the college. The two diagonal walks leading from Old Main are called the "hello walks" and it is customary for students to greet everyone they pass here. Along with this custom, all students greet the president or acting president of the College.

Each graduating class allots funds to the College for the purchase of a gift, with the class itself deciding by vote what it

will give. Two of the outstanding gifts presented to date are the Nittany Lion Shrine and the Land-Grant fresco. The great stone Lion is sculptured by Heinz Warneke, located between Rec Hall and New Beaver Field and is as symbolic of Penn State as the origin of the emblem itself.

Emblem's Origin

The lion emblem originated when H. D. Mason, '07, visited Princeton and was impressed by that school's emblem, the tiger. Proud of his school, Mason reasoned that Penn State should have an emblem as strong as the tiger. His suggestion of the King of Beasts as a school symbol was adopted in 1907.

The last two graduating classes have placed all or major portions of their money for a gift into a fund which will be used to pur-

chase a student press.

Dramatizes Act

Henry Varnum Poor's noted mural, found in the lobby of Old Main, dramatizes the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862. Money was given by several graduating classes, the Commonwealth, and the College for extension of the mural so that it now represents the services of the coal, steel and agricultural industries of the state.

Every day students rush past the side of Schwab Auditorium that faces Pollock road without knowing that the grave of one of the College's most outstanding presidents is located there. George Washington Atherton, who is buried there, was president from 1882 until his death in 1906, during a period marked by great improvement to the College.

The Old Willow, a magnificent tree which stood at the intersection of the Mall and one of the walks leading to Old Main, was blown down in a storm in 1922. Later a cutting from the tree, fondly remembered by many alumni, was planted to mark the location.

The geology monument or polyolith, representing a long-range weathering experiment, was erected in 1898 in front of the Armory. The obelisk is composed of 281 samples of Pennsylvania stone and shows the manner in which rock is stratified. Through the years the obelisk has become famed in site and story.

Contrary to popular belief, the lone boulder in a small natural bowl west of the Textile Chemistry building designates the site of a quarry from which such

stone was taken and does not indicate the center of the state.

Freshmen Customs

After three years of absence, freshmen customs will return to campus this fall. The 500 freshmen women living in Atherton will wear large green bows in their hair and name cards around their necks. They will also follow a set of rules different from those followed by upperclassmen.

The orientation Week, now in progress, is another Penn State custom, designed to help all new students become a part of the College with as little difficulty as possible.

One of the most enjoyable traditions is the annual Christmas carol program held in the front of Old Main. Students, faculty and townspeople all gather to sing favorite carols.

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