

University Attained Status 'Long Ago'

By PEGGY McCLAIN

Although Penn State was authorized as a university no longer than a month ago, history shows that the school reached university status shortly after 1908 during the administration of Edwin Sparks, eighth president of the University.

The extraordinary growth of the school from a primarily agricultural college to a multi-curricula institution occurred during Sparks' presidency from 1908 to 1920 when student enrollment increased from 1100 to over 3000.

Penn State's growth has been attributed to several factors. Perhaps the most dominant was the institutional policy adopted by Sparks and the Trustees and former's endorsement as president.

Sets Forth Aims

The gray-haired, mustached president, who had accepted his nomination to the office only on the condition that no opposition presented itself, set forth his administrative aims to "secure a worthy standing for Penn State in the state and nation and to arouse public sentiment to its advantages and needs."

Sparks maintained that the scope and character of the school should be broadened until it met "the special requirement and attitude of every man and woman in Pennsylvania."

He said that he would expect a free hand in controlling the budget and in the matter of appointments. On the basis of these policies he was unanimously elected president by the Trustees.

Other Facts Encourage Rise

However, the rapid rise of the school's status was not due entirely to the efforts of Sparks and the Trustees. The rise coincided with a period in the educational history of the country when colleges and universities everywhere were growing rapidly. And consideration must also be given to the fact that Penn State would have increased as a result of advances made by former administrations.

Before the close of Sparks' administration Penn State reached the proportions of a university, despite its title of college. Its affairs could no longer be managed after the manner of a small college, so administrative changes were made. The creation of schools headed by deans had been partially accomplished under George Washington Atherton, the preceding president.

Sparks went farther and set up five reorganized schools—the liberal arts, agriculture, engineering, natural sciences, and mines—and two independent departments, home economics and industrial arts and the institute of animal nutrition.

Anticipates Advances

Sparks had anticipated these advances when he sought to extend the University's policy of broad interpretation of the Morrill Act and to extend also the scope of instruction in the liberal arts. He said a state-supported institution should offer courses to all classes, especially in a country where vocations are not likely to descend from one generation to another.

Following Sparks' retirement in 1920, John Martin Thomas, the ninth president of the University, proposed making Penn State a university. Thomas set forth his aims to include the development of Penn State into the Pennsylvania State University, directly owned and controlled by the state as Pennsylvania's only state-endowed institution of higher learning. This goal, radical at that time, was announced only two weeks after Thomas took over the presidency.

University Status Feasible

In his inaugural address, he elaborated at great length upon this goal, declaring that there was no obstacle in the school's constitution or organization to prevent it from becoming a university. He cited examples of western universities that had developed from land-grant colleges.

However, Thomas' ambitions met with obstacles. A long-time resident of Vermont, the new

EUTAW HOUSE
Potters Mills
SEAFOOD DINNERS
at All Times

Scrolls to Seek National Group Establishment

Questionnaires regarding the establishment of Scrolls, senior women's hat society, as a national hat society on campus and at other schools will be sent to colleges and universities throughout the country, Gwen Griffith, president, said yesterday.

The circulars will contain questions about whether there is a need on campuses for a national senior women's hat society and whether the various schools want to establish one.

The questionnaires are being used as an evaluation, Miss Griffith said, to see if there is a need for a new national women's hat society. Several deans of women from small schools have written that there is such a need.

If a national society is established, Miss Griffith said, Scrolls will affiliate with it under its national title.

Scrolls decided this week to send games and books to elementary grade school and junior high school girls at the Crossnore girls' school in North Carolina as a yearly project. The gifts will be sent to the administration of the school for distribution to individual students.

Anna Mae Webb, seventh semester music education major, was appointed by the group to study eligibility requirements for spring tapping and to decide on a date for tapping.

Jane Albrecht, seventh semester home economics major, was appointed to the Hat Society Council project committee.

Marriages

Black-Williams

Miss Marilyn Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Williams of State College was married to George Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Black of Mechanicsburg Nov. 25 in the Presbyterian Church in State College.

The Rev. Donald W. Carruthers performed the double ring ceremony before the immediate families and close friends of the bride and bridegroom.

Mrs. Black was graduated from the University in 1953 and is a recreation specialist at the University of New Hampshire. She is a member of Gamma Phi Beta.

Mr. Black is a sixth semester music education major and a member of Sigma Pi.

Alpha Gamma Rho

Alpha Gamma Rho and Gamma Phi Beta recently held a Christmas party for 19 children from the third grade of the Pine Grove Mills School.

Santa Claus presented each child with a gift. Entertainment included games, singing, and refreshments.

Today WARNER Theatres
Orchestra
"HOW TO MARRY A MILLIONAIRE"
in CinemaScope

State
John Payne
Evelyn Keyes
"99 RIVER STREET"

Nittany
Robert Taylor
Eleanor Parker
'ABOVE AND BEYOND'

Christmas Vacation Brings Back Woes

By PEGGY McCLAIN

Eggad! Christmas vacation again!

In pre-college days Christmas vacation was a long-anticipated nothing-to-do-but-have-fun time. No longer! Now it's a mass recovery from a three-week blue book seige, plus (supposedly) a research drive to finish up term papers due before Thanksgiving.

Belles Lettres Is Literary Organization

Probably the most frequently slurred-over or mispronounced name of any campus organization is Belle Lettres.

Despite the French title, members of the club leave concerns of the language to Le Cercle Francais and instead dwell upon the factors of arts in today's civilization.

Marian Swartz, president, said "belles lettres" is a term used by critics to describe literature of the highest artistic excellence.

The club is an informal group sponsored by the Department of English Literature but is open to any students interested in literature and its allied arts. Its members and officers are undergraduates and its programs are undergraduate in level.

Payment of dues, 50 cents per semester, is purely voluntary since all meetings are open. The small fee is designed to give the member a sense of belonging. For members in good standing there are pins made by the Balfour Co. which can be ordered through the secretary.

Programs given by the club include lectures and discussions on topics touching literature or its relationship to other arts. Kent Forster, professor of history, recently showed slides of places visited on his last trip to Europe.

Lectures, movies, discussions, and refreshments provide entertainment for members while they "seek some culture."

Wilkes College Invites Students to 'Follies'

University students have been invited to attend a dance "Snow Flake Follies" by the junior class of Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre.

The dance will be held from 9 p.m. to midnight tonight in the Wilkes College gymnasium.

Music will be furnished by a local orchestra and refreshments will be served. The donation is 35 cents.

Early Services at Hillel

The Hillel Foundation Sabbath eve service will be held at 5:30 p.m. instead of at 8 tonight, Rabbi Benjamin Kahn announced yesterday.

From Thanksgiving until today, school days have been crammed full of all kinds of "menta. exercises." Not only have profs been intent on making the pre-holiday schedule a synonym for the Blue Book Era, but students have been dragging themselves over hot coals trying to compile Christmas shopping lists and giving parties for the kiddies and perhaps one or two for themselves. Coeds even have to CLEAN THEIR ROOMS before they go home!

But today it's all over. Home-ward! To sleep, to eat the proverbial home cookin', and to just plain relax. Perhaps the optimistic student still has such hopes. Me-thinks he's in for disillusionment.

For instance, what about those textbooks crammed into suitcases . . . and the term paper outlines, and that deadly final exam schedule? What about that stack of Christmas cards that haven't been addressed and mailed yet? And let's NOT forget that shopping list that was held over for future home reference!

Christmas jobs will be a snap compared to the average University career, but pity the poor six o'clock riser that has to slush through the remains of a blizzard (White Christmas?) to work!

Looks like Christmas will be all kinds of fun. Different, anyway. But never let it be said that it was any vacation. So have a real cool Yule, and if thing's get too wicked . . . there are always finals in January. So be it.

Phys Ed Honorary Elects New Officers

Phi Epsilon Kappa, men's physical education honorary fraternity, has announced the election of new officers.

They are Donald Bell, president; Ralph Laudenslayer, vice president; Leo Henry, secretary; Karl Schwenzfer, treasurer; William Anderson, historian-editor; Charles Russo, guide; and Theodore Mortensen, sergeant-at-arms.

Phone Numbers Changed

Officials of the University pointed out that the telephone number for the University has been changed to 8-8441 and the dormitories number has been changed to 8-5051.

Beaver House

Beaver House and Philotes sponsored a Christmas party yesterday for the children of the Tusseyville School.

Co-Edits

Alpha Kappa Alpha

New initiates of Alpha Kappa Alpha are Patricia Dillard, Aurea Hart, Barbara Miller, Jeanette Williams, and Myrtle Williams. The sorority held a brunch at the Dutch Pantry following initiation.

Mrs. Robert T. Oliver, sorority adviser, recently entertained the chapter at a dinner in honor of new members.

Kappa Delta Rho

Kappa Delta Rho and Alpha Omicron Pi held a Christmas party for 37 children yesterday at the chapter house.

New pledges of Kappa Delta Rho are Steven Fast, William Kane, and Walter Demasey.

Delta Delta Delta

Delta Delta Delta recently entertained Alpha Sigma Phi in the McElwain recreation room. The sisters presented a skit and served refreshments.

Gamma Phi Beta

Sigma Chi was recently entertained by Gamma Phi Beta in the Grange playroom. A skit was presented by the sorority pledges and dancing and refreshments followed.

Sigma Pi

Sigma Pi recently held its annual children's Christmas party. Sixteen children from Lemont, Linden Hall, and Woodycrest attended the party.

The boys and girls were served a Christmas meal, shown movies, and given presents by Santa Claus. Fifteen women from Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Chi Omega, and Delta Delta Delta assisted the brothers with the party.

Acacia

Acacia and Delta Zeta caroled Wednesday night at fraternities and dormitories. Refreshments were served at the chapter house after the show.

Phi Epsilon Pi

Phi Epsilon Pi has pledged Rodger Davidson.

president was not familiar enough with Pennsylvania's complicated political situation at that time, nor did he recognize the difference in Pennsylvania's historical background and the history from which the western universities had emerged.

With his not-so-applicable ambitions; Thomas got off to a bad start from which he never fully recovered. His prestige suffered as a result of his failure to achieve his goal.

Expansion Continued

Expansion continued at Penn State in financial fields, in enrollment and in construction. The school continued as a college with university proportions for the next 33 years, through the administration of Ralph Dorn Hertzl to the present administration of Milton S. Eisenhower, when Penn State was granted its long-deserved recognition as a university.

Wayland Dunaway said in his 1946 edition of History of the Pennsylvania State College, "Inasmuch as The Pennsylvania State College has long been a university in all but name, it is only reasonable that it should be so named, as some day it undoubtedly will be."

SALLY

Wishes You
And Your's
A Very Merry
Christmas

Merry Christmas

We wish that you and your family may be blessed with the Yuletide gifts of love and joy in abundant measure.

Griggs Pharmacy
E. College Ave. Opp. Old Main