

Barn Was Campus—

Building Boom Started in 1855

By ED DUBBS

An old barn and several shacks composed the campus in 1855, two years before the first students enrolled.

By the time the 69 students arrived in 1859, the original Old Main was standing. It was a plain but substantial building of magnesium limestone. The structure was 240 feet in length, 80 feet in width, and five stories high. It housed everything from classrooms to dormitories.

Between 1882 and 1895, the Commonwealth appropriated several hundred thousand dollars for buildings and maintenance, and in 1895, the University ranked as one of the great technical institutions in the country.

One of the first structures to be erected after the first Old Main was the Mechanical Arts building. The edifice, built in 1885, had floor space of over two acres.

During the school year 1888-9, the armory was finished. The building was used for a drill hall and a gymnasium.

A year later, a chemistry and physics building and the Womans' Building were erected.

In the early 1890's, several additions were made to the campus. These include the old Engineering building (1891), and Sparks and Hillcrest Cottages (1892).

During the school term 1896-7, the Obelisk, constructed of Pennsylvania building stones, was erected.

Soon after the turn of the century, Schwab Auditorium (1902), Carnegie Library (1903), and McAllister Hall (1904) were added to the ever-growing campus.

Both Schwab and Carnegie were built of buff brick and in the Roman style. At first Carnegie served as a library. McAllister, also of buff brick, was used for dormitory purposes for some 600 students and faculty.

In the following two decades,

1905-25, many additions and annexes were made. The main additions were: the Agricultural Building (1906), the recently renamed Weaver Building (1914), the Line (now Textile Chemistry) and the Liberal Arts (now Sparks) buildings (1915-6), and Watts Hall (1923-4).

During the school year 1928-9, five additions were made to the University. They are: Recreation Hall, Infirmary, sheep barn, Veterinary Hospital, and Brooder House.

In the following two years the following edifices were erected: Main Engineering, Grange Dormitory, Botany (now Buckhout) and Pond Laboratories, Old Main was rebuilt, Mineral Industries, and the Power Plant (remodeled a year later for the Petroleum Refining Laboratory).

The school term 1937-8 saw many additions. They were: Frances Atherton Hall, Mary Beaver White Hall, wing to Mineral Industries, the central unit to Sparks Building, Burrows Building, Pattee Library, Frear Laboratory, and the Electrical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, and Forestry buildings.

Five new dorms—Hamilton, Thompson, McKee, Simmons, and McElwain—highlighted the additions of the 40's.

With the oncoming opening of the Hetzel Union Building, the brief history of architecture is brought up to date.

Morrill Act Infused Life In University

Sixty-nine colleges and universities—of which the University was one of the first—proclaim themselves "land-grant" institutions.

These schools all receive revenue from a grant of public lands by the United States government, a grant that heralded a new era in democratic education.

The lands were allocated in the Morrill Act of 1862 for the endowment and support of colleges that would teach "agriculture and the mechanic arts" and promote "the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes."

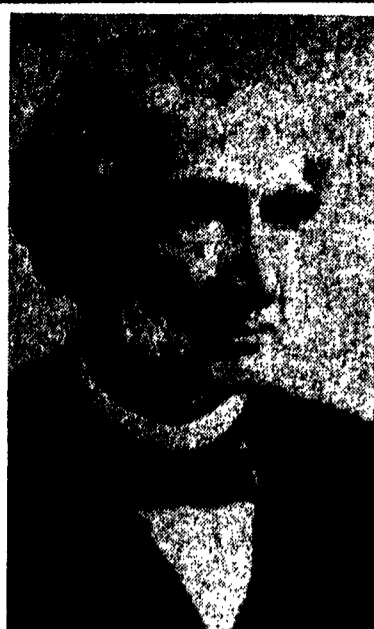
Up to that time, higher education had been reserved primarily for the wealthy, and it was based largely on classical studies of Latin and Greek. Now education was shaped to the needs of the common man.

The teaching of agriculture was specifically set forth as one of the aims of the Morrill Act. But at the time that President Abraham Lincoln signed the measure into law, only three states—Pennsylvania, Maryland and Michigan—had schools of agriculture.

Pennsylvania's representative, founded seven years previously, was the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. It had been renamed May 6, 1862, from the Farmers' High School by its Board of Trustees in anticipation of the passage of the Act.

Indeed, the trustees and other friends of the school are credited with playing an important role in securing passage of the bill. Frederick Watts, first president of the Board, said: "The trustees looked upon this act of Congress as almost the work of their own hands—as an endowment of their own institution."

Typical of their efforts in be-



Justin S. Morrill
Authors Land Grant Act

half of the land grant was the fact that in 1859 when President Buchanan vetoed the first Morrill Act passed by Congress, members went to Washington in a body to plead for approval of the measure.

Their efforts bore fruit when the bill was re-introduced in 1861 and approved by Lincoln July 2, 1862.

Under provisions of the Act, Pennsylvania was entitled to 780,000 acres of public lands. By the Federal government within the State's borders, it received land scrip representing acreage available in other states. This scrip was to be sold, its proceeds going to endow the institution designated as the land-grant school in each state.

The Pennsylvania legislature early in 1863 accepted the terms of the Morrill Act, and a battle-royal then ensued among the various colleges of the Commonwealth who wished to share in the proceeds.

The University initially had been founded largely through the efforts of agricultural organizations. The Morrill Act, with

McAllister Hall Was Originally Dorm for Men

By BARBARA BUDNICK

McAllister Hall, woman's dormitory on Pollock Road, has the distinction of being named after one of the men most active in the work of getting the land grant for the University, Hugh Nelson McAllister.

McAllister, a lawyer by profession, experimented with scientific agriculture as a hobby on a farm he owned near Bellefonte. As a lawyer, he could have been a prominent personality in state and national politics but chose, instead, to turn his attention to a project resulting from his hobby.

He and Frederick Watts had discussed the establishment of a state school specializing in scientific agricultural education. Their efforts resulted in the passing of the land grant bill in the state legislature and calling the proposed institution, the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania.

In 1905, 32 years after McAllister's death, the building that now bears his name was opened as a men's dormitory.

For several years before, many male students had been forced to return home because of the room shortage in State College.

During the 10 years after the building's erection, many of the occupants moved to clubs and fraternities, leaving McAllister Hall only partially filled. Finally, in 1915, when the College's 50 coeds were overflowing local facilities, McAllister Hall became a woman's dormitory.

its provision for teaching the "mechanic arts," justified broadening the scope of instruction beyond agriculture to include the sciences and engineering.

Similarly, the Morrill Act stated that the land grants were "to promote the liberal . . . education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life," and this helped develop the institution beyond a mere trade or technical school.



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