

Hazing Ended Campus Reign When Frosh Waved Firearms

With a note of considerable pride President George W. Atherton announced to the University (then College) Board of Trustees in 1898 that students by unanimous vote had decided to abolish hazing.

In lauding the spirit and loyalty of the student body, President Atherton said the decision exceeded all other displays of spirit in the history of the school. He said the pledge received "the personal signature of every man in every class in the College."

But what President Atherton's report left untold was the series of events that led up to the pledge. For these events one must refer to the 1900 LaVie.

There, in the form of a fable, the story is told that a freshman objected to hazing by a sophomore—objected so strongly that he resorted to firearms.

Sophomore Expelled

The offending sophomore was expelled by faculty action, and to secure his reinstatement the entire student body signed the pact pledging themselves not to take part in any hazing.

Surprisingly, the agreement was lived up to. Hazing did disappear from the University campus. Initiation rites for freshmen thereafter were carried on under the name of "customs," rules for first-year students being given this heading for the first time in the student handbook of 1904.

But the change in name and the attempt to permanently control hazing by publishing rules did little to end the bloody scraps between freshmen and sophomores. The death of a student and the injury of several others in a melee in 1907 involving 500 had only a temporary restraining effect.

Records Vague

President Atherton's report was vague as to hazing practices before the turn of the century as are records in the University archives and the works of the student writers of that day. It was evident, however, in the President's report



NOT TAR, but molasses and feathers made a coat of dishonor for luckless freshmen in the days of hazing at the University. Strict hazing came to an end when a freshman pulled out a firearm and threatened a sophomore. The sophomore was expelled from the University, but was later reinstated when the student body agreed to end hazing. Its replacement: customs.

that the usual series of harmless pranks had "been rarely carried to excess by our students but often sensational paragraphs had been written about them."

Early graduates say little about formal hazing but G. Alfred Smith of the first graduating class of 1861 described the sport of challenging a newcomer to ride one

of the school's farm mules, Lion. Lion was trained to throw anyone who mounted to his back from the left though he was perfectly peaceable if mounted from the right.

"It was great sport to see the new and unsuspecting student who knew he could ride any beast (Continued on page 46)

Human Nature Never Changes!

Elaborate plots to swipe examinations are nothing new at the University.

When William Frear was teaching chemistry courses during the late 1800's, some students decided to borrow copies of his exams.

Frear lived in the third floor of the Main Building, so the students went to the fifth floor and lowered a conspirator down by rope to the window of the professor's room to swipe the questions.

The plot failed.

Dean Osmond Honored in Lab Started in 1937

By MARGIE BLANK

Osmond Laboratory was named in honor of I. Thornton Osmond, a former dean of the School of Mathematics and Physics and a physics professor of the University.

The building, formerly known as the New Physics Building, was one of the 10 major units constructed on campus in 1937-38.

Osmond was born near Philadelphia in 1844. He received his early education at home, attended a private academy, and then completed two years at the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. In 1868 Osmond entered Mt. Union College, where he received a bachelor of arts degree. Three years later he received his master of arts degree.

After teaching for six years in Philadelphia, and Clinton, N.Y., Osmond enrolled as a graduate student at Cornell and earned his master of science.

Osmond was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary society, board of examiners of the International Electrical Exhibition of 1884, and a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He joined the faculty in 1879 as a professor of physics and resigned as dean in 1907. He wrote extensively on the field of physics and served as a meteorologist for the State Board of Agriculture.

Thompson Helped Pick School Site

By MIKE MOYLE

A man who had a direct hand in the founding of the Farmers' High School, the original name of the University, was Moses Thompson, the man for whom Thompson Hall was named.

When Governor Pollock and the committee of trustees appointed in 1855 to select a site for the Farmers' High School came to Centre County they were to inspect the land of General James Irvin, who along with Thompson, was one of the county's leading citizens.

No Town

However, they found no town of any kind in the area, and had no proper place to take up lodging. This being the era of abundant hospitality and large manor houses, it was natural that the group be entertained by Moses and Mary Thompson at their mansion at Centre Furnace, which still stands at the Evergreens. One-hundred fifty persons were entertained by a sumptuous dinner prepared by Mrs. Thompson—a remarkable feat—and General Irvin's offer was accepted.

First Hostess

Mary Thompson became the first hostess for the University, entertaining official guests in the early days, including Moses' good friend, Andrew Carnegie, to whom he sold the Scotia mine.

The Thompsons also entertained the Board of Trustees in 1856 when plans were being made for the building of Old Main.

Moses Thompson was born in 1810 in a humble cabin in Oak Hall. His parents died early in his life and he was forced to take charge of the family. He took responsibility easily, however, and the oldsters called him "the old man."

Equipped with scant education but blessed with rare common sense he had to learn to economize. In 1842 he sold his Oak Hall farm and moved to Centre Furnace where he began his fabulously successful business career with General Irvin. He eventually became sole owner of the Centre Furnace iron works, and largest land owner in the county.

When Men Were Men and Women Were Few!

When Ellen A. Cross registered at Penn State in 1871, it started a new phase for the college. She was the first woman to enter Penn State! However, more followed until there were, in that first year, a total of SIX coeds.

While President Calder had welcomed women to the campus a rule promptly went into effect which forbade students "to talk or ride with students of the opposite sex or to meet such students in the parlor or any other place except by special permission of the president and hostess!!

A decade went by and the female enrollment increased as did the rules. One stated "that all requests by gentlemen to call on or accompany young ladies and all requests on the part of young ladies to receive or accompany gentlemen must be presented to the lady principal in the ladies' parlor between 6:45 and 7 p.m." (The parlor closed at 9 p.m.). Gentlemen desiring to accompany ladies outside the parlor had to obtain written permission from the President. In 1890 these rules were revised.

Then

Revisions came and went as did the years. With our present enrollment the president would be in a definite dilemma if permissions to date young ladies still had to be obtained.

However, one rule does still stand. It states that "young ladies are absolutely forbidden to hold any communication out of the windows or by means of the steam pipes!!

In the future, as the enrollment increases the rules may again see a change. That we can not predict. However, it is these present students and future enrollers that Simon's is proud to serve.

Now

Simon's

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1855 TO 1955 AT PENN STATE U.