Students Cheer Arrival Of First Free Lance, Collegian Predecessor

Sixty-eight years ago in April, a boisterous crowd of Penn State students cheered as the Bellefonte Central pulled into Struble's station and a trainman handed a package to a world War II gave Collegian its most recent set-back. With the diself-conscious young man.

The young man was a staff member of the Free Lance, predecessor of the Daily Collegian, and the package contained

the first edition of the newly lished in April, 1904, nine years later.

journalist in an inaugular market same stall as the free Lance, a per week. down College avenue to the gate pert weekly newspaper, the State way on Allen street, where, an even larger body of students wait-ed to give the new monthly a col-legiate welcome. Thus the first official student

William Fisher, class of 1887, was stands. the first editor. Travels Rocky Road

the first editor. Travels Rocky Road The Free Lance lived for 17 years, but traveled a rocky road. The editors tried to keep their readers informed as to the hap-penings in the College commun-the ditorial commun-was stands. Six years later the paper ex-panded to five columns, tabloid Size, the same as today's Daily Collegian, and changed its mast-head to the Penn State Collegian. War Interrupts World War I caused the only in-terruption of the Collegian in the readers informed as to the hap-penings in the College commun-ity, with suitable editorial com-ment and criticism where they history. The presses were stilled

The Free Lance struggled fi- strikes, and for a semi-wet county nancially and was printed in on the liquor question. Bellefonte, State College, Wil-liamsport, and Lancaster during leaders in student campaigns, its short life span.

became a pocket-size literary mag-azine. The last issue was pub- years the offices were moved from

Students accompanied the young journalist in an inaugural march down College avenue to the gate-

Thus, the first official student policy and operated without cen-newspaper-literary magazine was sorship from College administraborn. Its first issue, printed in two tion. This "hands off" policy did columns, was the size of T i m e not mean the staff emerged un-magazine, with a blue board cover. scolded for some of its editorial

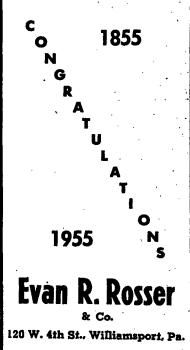
feit necessary. However, the editors found meeting the monthly deadline was almost impossible. One editor on April 21, and contained news of Feb. 2." The Free Lance struggled fin the the struggled fin the struggled

which included advocating aboli-Students' appetite for "stale" tion of compulsory chapel, reor-campus news became slack, and ganization of the football and ath-eight years later the Free Lance letic policies, and centralization of

Daily Collegian Emerges The final transformation of the Collegian took place ten years seems to have been established by And no member of the administration will help you get out week. The paper again became President Ralph D. Hetzel. any jams you may get out of tabloid size, five columns in width viewpoint to a new Collegian edi-with either four or eight page is tor "I do not want to react a distribution of the collegian proved its caliber sues. The Collegian offices were moved to the basement of Car-negie Hall, where they now are located. This step necessitated a

minishing student body, it was forced to drop its subscription plan, and students were assessed a fee for the paper. War shortages

of material and manpower cut the issues to a weekly basis, but the



their cramped quarters downtown The short news flashes were start- you what you could or could not to the third floor of Old Main. ed in 1942 to keep the student print. No member of the College informed about the war. administration will censor your

> And no member of the administration will help you get out of

business of editing a student news-All-American honor rating for supaper," he said, "and that is what periority in publishing and editing I would be doing if I should tell of a collegiate newspaper.

Traditional Customs Bout Provides Boxers

When old timers from college get together they have a tendency to talk endlessly about their respective Alma Maters. Stories by the thousands have been handed down, some true, some not but, nevertheless, enjoyable. By permission from one of these teller of tales the following story is ushered forth about this campus in the days when-

It seems, to get out from under the hazing of the upperclass the freshman men would meet the sophomore men on College Avenue and engage in a battle of sorts.

Leo Houck, who was at that time head boxing. coach, used to obtain a grandstand seat at these affairs. Upon spotting a freshman or sophomore with superior defensive ability, Leo would send one of his assistants to bring this boy or boys to him and offer him a tryout for the team.

Although my informant refused to disclose how he fared in these battles he did say it was very rewarding to be a winner!

Storch Motor Co. 224 E. COLLEGE AVE.

I am NOT too young!

I may not be 100 years old, but I've been around this campus for a couple of years and I know what's goin' on.

Who am I? Well, my real name's the Penn State Book Exchange . . . but you can call me BX like most people do.

Well anyhow . . . like I sad, I've been around here and I've met lots of students who go to Penn State. I've been watching, too . . . and I noticed all of the improvement around campus in the last few years.

I try to keep all of the students supplied with

school needs and I'm gonna make some improvements too. See . . . I'm moving into my new home in the Hetzel Union Building. Come on over and visit me.

But, gee whiz . . . what I'm really tryin' to say is that I think Penn State is great!! And even though I'm just a kid, I want to wish Penn State University a HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY!!

PENN STATE BOOK EXCHANGE

"The student-owned, student-operated school supply store."

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