

# Pattee Library Has Facilities To Accommodate All Students

The University library enters its second century in a condition that is unusual in its long history—it has enough shelves for all its books and enough reading and study rooms to take care of all students at peak periods of demand.

Completion of the new addition in 1953 means the library will have adequate facilities for at least 15 years to come, Ralph W. McComb, librarian, says.

The addition to the library tripled the stack capacity for books and doubled the space made available for students and readers.

With the six levels of stacks added, the library now has a potential capacity of 600,000 volumes. The number of books now on the shelves is 370,000.

The addition of four new reading rooms provides seating space for 1000 students—exactly twice the number that could be taken care of previously.

### Gift Gives Start

The library got its start with a gift of 14 books in 1837—two years before students were accepted in the recently created but still non-existent institution.

The first money spent on the library also came before class work started. The trustees listed an expenditure of \$16.97 for the library in their annual report for 1838.

At first, the function of the library in providing students with books for general reading was usurped by the two literary societies to which all students belonged. Each had a large room for its activities and maintained its own library.

### Trustees Give \$250

In 1859 the Board of Trustees gave \$250 to each society to expand their libraries. The groups turned over 1050 books to the library when they disbanded in the 1890s because of the lack of student interest.

The first librarian was W. A. Buckhout, professor of geology, zoology, and botany. He was placed in charge of books and the reading room in 1874. He was suc-

ceeded by Arthur Grabowski, professor of modern languages, in 1878. C. L. Reeves became the librarian the next year and continued there until 1889.

At that time, the library was open one hour daily "at a time convenient to teachers and students not otherwise occupied in the regular duties of school."

### 3000 Books in 1893

In 1889 the number of volumes passed the 3000 mark; in 1888 \$100 was appropriated for library assistants and the reading room was open six hours daily; and in 1889 the library was moved from the first floor of Old Main to larger quarters on the second.

In 1893 President Atherton asked the Board of Trustees for a library building and a full time librarian.

His second request was granted and the next year Helen S. Bradley was appointed librarian. While she was librarian from 1894 to 1903, the number of books doubled.

Andrew Carnegie, a trustee of the University, constructed a new, three-story library in 1904 at a cost of \$150,000. It had space for 35,000 books and could hold 20,000 more.

### Library Filled in 1915

Erwin W. Runkle, named librarian in 1904, reported that the new library was filled in 1915 and Sabra W. Vought, librarian from 1924 to 1931, and Willard P. Lewis, from 1931 to 1948, continued the plea for more space.

Finally, in 1941, the situation

was eased when the library was moved into a new building at the head of the tree-lined mall in the center of the campus.

The new building, built at a cost of \$450,000, had a capacity for 200,000 books and took care of the needs of the library only at the time.

It became completely inadequate when the number of volumes increased the following years and the spurt in enrollment after World War II provided especially crowded facilities for study and reading.

This situation was met with the completion of the new addition in 1953 providing four new reading rooms measuring 35 feet by 58 feet and six more levels for stacks.

A feature of the remodeled library is the automatic conveyor of books from the stacks to the circulation desk and the pneumatic tube system in transmitting book requests from the circulation desk to the stacks.

### Irvin Hall Was Once Home for Athletes

Freshman students who now live in Irvin hall are living in the rooms once occupied by some of Penn State's greatest athletes. Irvin was once known as Varsity Hall and was used exclusively to house varsity athletes.

The building replaced the "track house," a wood-framed building that was built as a living unit for athletes and served from 1904 to 1924. The building was razed by the University in 1930.

### 1895 Regulations

The weekly schedule followed by the men of the College in 1895 was:

Bell at 7:45 a.m.—Morning Inspection

Bell at 8:00 a.m.—Chapel Recitations

Bell at 1:30 p.m.—Afternoon Recitations or Practicum

Bell at 9:00 a.m.—Sunday; In-

### Sale of Liquor Barred

A bill forbidding sale of liquor within two miles of the University was passed by the State legislature on March 17, 1859.

Dr. Evan Pugh was president of the institution at that time.

Inspection Bell at 11 a.m.—Chapel

Drill at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

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