



—Daily Collegian photo by Bob Thompson

OLDEST ACTIVE TOWN BUSINESSMAN—John Chotta, freshman in business administration from Allison Park buys a package of envelopes from George T. Graham, a State College merchant for 62 years, who celebrated his 85th birthday today.

Graham, at 85, Recalls 'Most Foolish Thing'

By ED DUBBS
Collegian Editor

George T. Graham, State College's oldest active businessman, celebrating his 85th birthday today, is happy he did "a most foolish thing" in his early 20's.

That "most foolish thing" was coming to State College, "a town that seemed to appeal to nobody but me."

Needless to say, the "boss" at Graham and Sons, which itself has become a Penn State tradition, feels things have paid off all right during his 62 years as a State College businessman.

But he admits he was lucky. "If I would have had any brains at all," he reminisced yesterday, "I wouldn't have come here."

State College was just a country village in 1896 when Graham told his not-too-happy wife he would like to move here, leaving a profitable barbering business in Philipsburg.

State College had between 600 and 700 population. About 300 students attended a small college here.

He first operated a barber shop in State College, a 4-chair one. Having a difficult time keeping barbers out here in the wilderness, he opened State College's first eating place shortly before World War I. It's name: "Graham's on the Corner," situated across from today's Corner.

His second business venture, although successful, was soon dropped because of a wartime shortage of help.

In 1925, he opened his present candy and tobacco shop and newsstand at its present location. He runs it with his two sons, Randall, class of '23, and Robert, class of '28.

Although he didn't open his present shop until 1925, he has sold candy, tobacco and newspapers from time to time since he came to State College. The first scoreboard bulletin board went up in his barber shop.

Graham has seen a lot of Penn State and State College history. He has seen the town and the University grow, and sees an even greater future for both since "the town and the University work together so successfully."

One thing he has seen noticeably disturbs him. That is what he calls the end of spirit among Penn Staters. He recalled the class scraps, and noted that "students don't have any spirit like that today."

But he feels this is not the fault of the present students. He said he believes this was caused by the changing "environment," or the growth of the student body and the town.

When the student body was smaller and he knew most of the students, Graham heard many of their problems. It is said that few students went to jail, since Graham would always take the responsibility for

them until they had a court hearing. And if a student needed some cash badly, the place to get it, interest free without collateral, was from the barber, later the restaurant owner, and later the man who ran the tobacco and candy shop and newsstand.

He has also helped—and still does—many students to get through school by giving them part-time jobs.

His restaurant was not his only "first." He was chairman of the first organized American Red Cross drive during World War I. He was also instrumental in forming the State College Area Chamber of Commerce, and was a founder and served as the first president of the Alpha Fire Company.

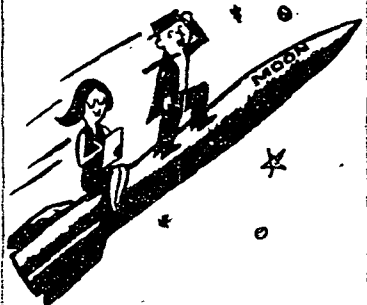
Graham will celebrate his 85th birthday today with a family dinner at his home.

Lowenfeld's Art Book Published in Germany

"Die Kunst des Kindes, (The Art of the Child)," by Victor Lowenfeld, head of the Department of Art Education, has just been published in Frankfurt, Germany.

The book emphasizes the art of the child from scribbling to mature expressions of adolescence and discusses the methodology used to motivate creative expression in the visual arts on these levels.

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WSGA Names School of Arts Tribunal Warns Publicity Heads Receives Grant BusAd Junior

Barbara Martino, junior in arts and letters from Wheeling, W. Va., and Phoebe Humphrey, junior in arts and letters from State College, have been appointed chairmen of the publicity committee for May Day.

Lois Henderson, chairman of the Women's Student Government Association House of Representatives, said other May Day chairmen cannot be appointed until elections of unit officers are held next semester.

Elections will be held again because many coeds will move from their present residence halls to new ones.

•The Japanese believe one sneeze means someone is praising you, two sneezes mean you are being criticized, and three sneezes mean someone loves you.

A grant of \$1000 has been received by the School of the Arts from the Grit Publishing Co., Williamsport, to expand their program in graphics, better known as printmaking.

From the initial grant of \$1000, the Grit Graphics Room was established, and annual grants of \$100 from the same company help to buy materials used in the program.

George S Zoretich, who is conducting the work, explains that the wide variety of processes used allows for considerable experimentation and expansion of the creative effort.

With present facilities, art students are receiving training in lithography, woodcutting, linocutting, dry-point and etching processes.

Tribunal warning has been given to Gary Hershelman, junior in business administration from Meadville, who was fined by State College police for speeding and reckless driving.

Hershelman was fined \$10 for speeding and \$5 costs and \$25 for reckless driving plus \$5 costs after being arrested by police Nov. 21.

Police said they chased the student at speeds from 50 to 55 miles per hour over streets in the southern part of the borough.

Hershelman told Tribunal he didn't know the police were following him, but that he thought it was "buddies who wanted to chase." He said he stopped his car when he realized a police car was following.

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