

State College Unique; Owes Existence to University



SITE OF STATE COLLEGE lies in background of picture taken from foundations of Old Main in 1859. The fence row at right center runs along present path of Pugh Street.

University, Town Maintain Close Political, Social Ties

The Borough of State College occupies a unique position among the communities of Pennsylvania: It is the only town in the state that owes its existence to an institution of higher learning.

This is one of the main reasons for the close relations—politically, socially and economically—between the University and State College since the town's founding.

The men who were sent in early 1859 by Governor James Pollock to survey the future location of the University described its location as "a cross-roads near Boalsburg." There was nothing in the area but trees and fields.

of facilities on the campus. Between 1896 and 1906 the college had grown with the addition of Schwab Auditorium, Carnegie Building, McAllister Hall and the Agriculture Building (now Armsby).

When the Farmers High School, as the University was then called, opened its doors to students in 1859, a few farmers moved near the campus and soon a small community was started. The town and the University had begun their growth together.

The town and the college experienced some problems of "growing pains" at about the same time. The increase in the use of the automobile was one of the problems with which both had to cope and which both still (Continued on page eighteen)

In 1896 the town of State College was incorporated and a decade of expansion was begun. Between 1896 and 1906 the town added a fire company, a high school, a library, a water company, public utilities and a board of health.

This growth of the town corresponded with the rapid enlargement



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS from Farmers' High School was comprised of 13 men. The class graduated in 1861, after arriving at the new campus in February of 1859.

Eleven Graduate in 1861

(Continued from page three) cation in December and January but classes continued throughout the summer because of the work needed to be done on the farms.

Most of the members of the first graduating class had received previous training at other schools before coming to the Farmers' School and therefore graduated in three years.

Dr. Evan Pugh became the University's first president in October 1859 and served on a \$1500 salary which included a \$500 rebate to the school for the purchase of engineering supplies.

C. Alfred Smith, a graduate of '61, returned to the school several years later to receive the school's first graduate degree, in chemistry and physics. Smith entered the Farmers' School when he was barely 16 years old and graduated when he was 18. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Chemistry-Physics School faculty.

The admission requirements to the first class were a "good knowledge of reading, writing, geography, arithmetic and English grammar." Only one course of study was provided in the original curriculum and its primary aim was instruction in the theory and application of farming principles.

Fees were fixed at \$100 and students were required to furnish textbooks and light for their rooms.

Until 1905 the University catalogues gave the school's founding date as 1859 the year the first students were admitted. The date was changed by the trustees to establish it as the year in which the law chartering the school was signed—Feb. 22, 1855.

In its 104 years, the University has changed its name three times. Following the name of the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, it was called the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania. It was

later called the Pennsylvania State College and in 1953 was named the Pennsylvania State University.

Eleven students were graduated in 1861—Milton S. Lytle, James Miles, C. Alfred Smith, John D. Isett, John W. Eckman, Lynn C. Troutman, Samuel Holiday, A. C. Church, John W. Banks, Charles E. Troutman and E. P. McCormick.

Over 1500 students were graduated last June and a record 2200 students were graduated in 1950.

The University has grown in size and stature—if Banks could see it after another 50 years of progress he would be even prouder of having seen it "in its infancy."



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