

Murals Depict History



ABRAHAM LINCOLN GESTURES toward the steps of Old Main from his position in the land-grant mural by artist Henry Poor. The mural which has been called "one of the greatest works of art produced in this country" depicts the founding, aspirations, labor and early personnel of the University. The tree which

Lincoln is handing to the young man in the mural symbolizes the growth of the University and the Land-Grant system. Lincoln is a symbol of hope and faith because of his historic signing of the Morrill Act in 1861.

The Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862 established the means for the Farmers' High School, founded in 1859 with four faculty members and 119 students, to develop into The Pennsylvania State University with approximately 2,000 faculty and staff members and 17,000 students.

Because of this, the central figure of the Henry Varnum Poor murals in the lobby of Old Main is Abraham Lincoln, who signed the act into law in 1862.

These murals which depict the founding, aspirations, labors and people of the University, have been called "one of the greatest works of art produced in this country," by art critic Forbes Watson.

The north-wall mural was presented by the Class of 1932, and money from other classes, alumni and the All-University Cabinet made it possible to complete the work in 1948.

Poor, one of the nation's leading artists started work on the

North Wall in 1940, painting in fresco, a technique which consists of applying water-mixed pigments to freshly trowelled plaster so that pigments become a part of the wall as the plaster dries.

The main mural depicting Lincoln handing a young tree, the symbol of growth, to a student, is framed by two columns. Poor said he wanted Lincoln to be a symbol of hope and faith and more than just a part of the design because of his historic signing of the Morrill Act.

In the background, can be seen the original Old Main, still under construction, a young man on horseback saying farewell to his family before leaving for school and an old man who represents the artist at the age of 70.

At the right students are gathered around a table with Evan Pugh, first president of the University, and behind them three students in military uniform reflect the provision of the Morrill Act concerning military training.

The mural on the east wall, begun in 1948, contains a panel called the "Old Boys", represent-

ing selected individuals who played an important part in the development of the University. In their formal grouping and serious faces, the artists strove to express the determination of all who contributed to the University's growth.

Other panels depict the various areas in which the University offers training: science and engineering, mineral industries, agriculture, home economics and liberal arts.

The last panel illustrates the activities of the students including music drama, and athletics.

PI Office Donates Photos

All the photographs for this special issue were donated through the courtesy of the Public Information Office.

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Weather Expected to Remain Cold

The weather in the Nittany Valley has retained one characteristic through its fluctuations over the past 100 years—it is still changeable.

The next few days will fit into this pattern and frequent weather changes are indicated for the weekend.

Today should be partly cloudy and continued cold. A high tem-

perature of 42 degrees is indicated for this afternoon.

A few light showers and cool weather is forecast for tonight, and a low of 35 is expected.

Tomorrow should be partly cloudy and cool.

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POST



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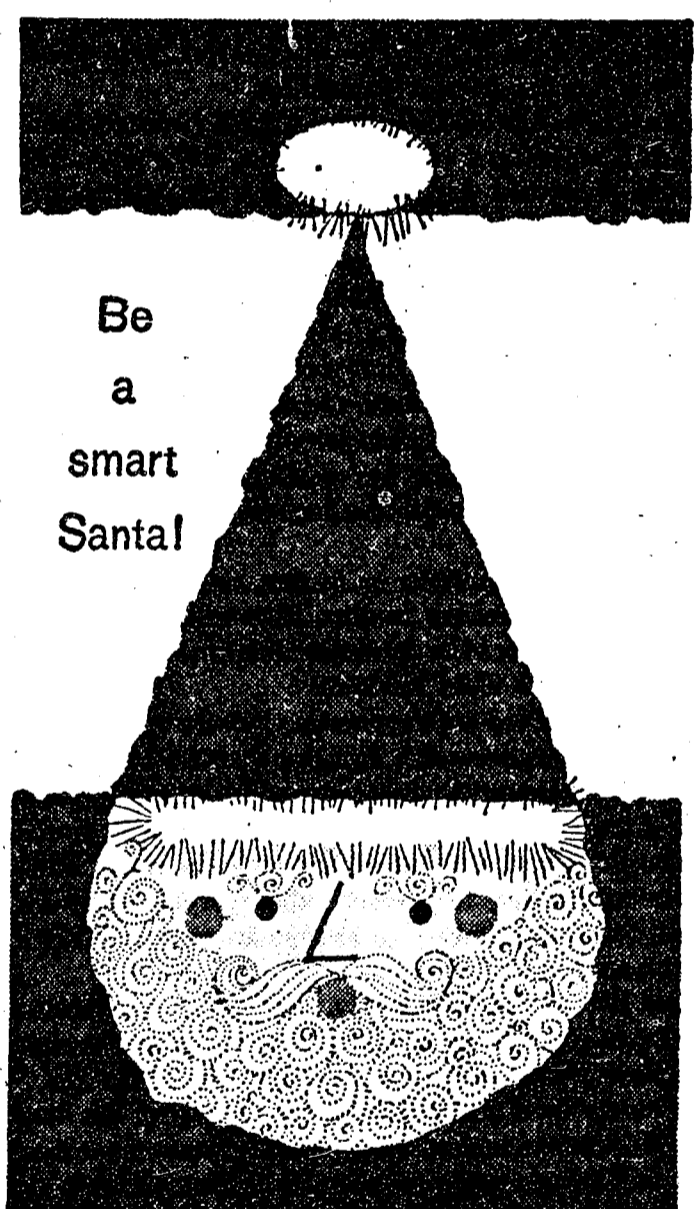
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