## Penn State Room reveals Evan Pugh's mischief

- By ELIZABETH FOX Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Where can you find a barn door with former University President Evan Pugh's initials carved on it?

In the Penn State Collection in the Penn State Room on the first floor of Pattee, which holds a mixture of memorabilia and research materials.

The collection is a grouping of furniture, paintings, photographs, books and periodicals which have been donated to the University by alumni in honor of 'dear old State.'

Prior to 1973, the collection was housed in the Pattee tower and in Carnegie when it was the campus library.

Leon Stout, senior assistant librarian of special collections and head of the Penn State Room, said the room is a very special part of the library.

"It is fascinating to work with different types of material. In this one room we have a little of everything — a library, archives and museum — and we take care of it ourselves. We find,

describe and provide reference on all the items in the collection," Stout said.

Desks of former University presidents and staff members make up a large part of the collection. Three are now on display — those of Pugh, Fred Lewis Pattee and A. Howry Epenshade. Epenshade's desk, over 75 years old and made of black walnut wood is a 'stand-up' desk which he used while registrar for working while standing.

Chi Omega sorority donated a tall case clock, circa 1800, to the Penn State Collection on the anniversary of their 50th year at Penn State.

"All Chi Omega chapters nationwide have a tradition of donating something to their University on the chapter's 50th anniversary. A fund is started when the chapter is formed and is built upon by the members each year," said sorority member Sherry Swanson (12th—consumer studies).

Even boats have their place in the room— not your ordinary rowboat but a 'Fiji boat'. The 'boat' belongs to Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and is actually

a hand-carved wooden box filled with items from their pledge classes from as far back as 1895. Some of the memorabilia are reunion pictures, La Vie drawings, pink and green parasols, six pieces of wood from Old Main and an empty wine bottle.

A wire-back chair and apple basket are additions from the horticulture and agriculture departments. Lauren Tukey, professor of pomology, found these articles and added them to the collection.

"Old things aren't uncommon at Penn State. I found the chair out in the old orchard shop up in a corner. The apple basket is one that was actually used in the orchards at the turn of the century," Tukey said.

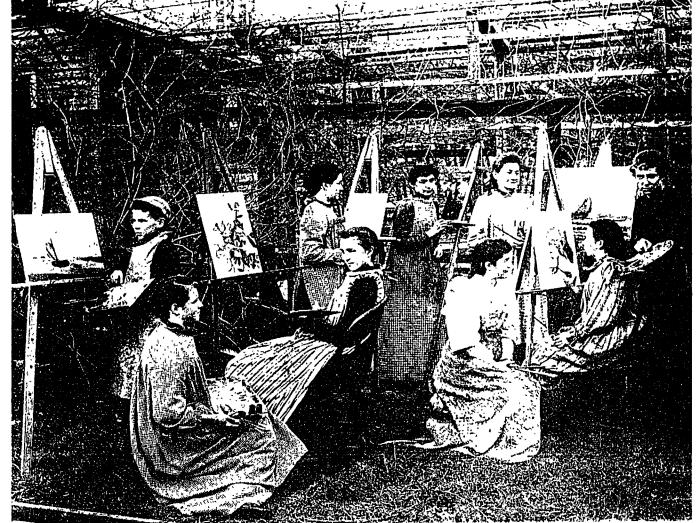
In addition to furniture, research material makes up a large part of the collection. Much of the material in the room is from alumni who have made significant discoveries in their fields and have had works published.

Approximately 6,000 people come into the room per year — half to browse and half to do research. Stout said.

"We get a lot of people wanting to research current events to see how they compare with events of long ago. We try to stay reasonably current because today's current events are tomorrow's history," Stout said.

If the barn door is the largest piece in the collection, the smallest and most unusual piece must be a letter by a student to the faculty written June 23, 1887: "To the president and members of faculty, at the request of my parents I would respectfully ask that I be excused to go home June 28. Very respectfully, Herbert N. Bieuman."

Now that's rare!



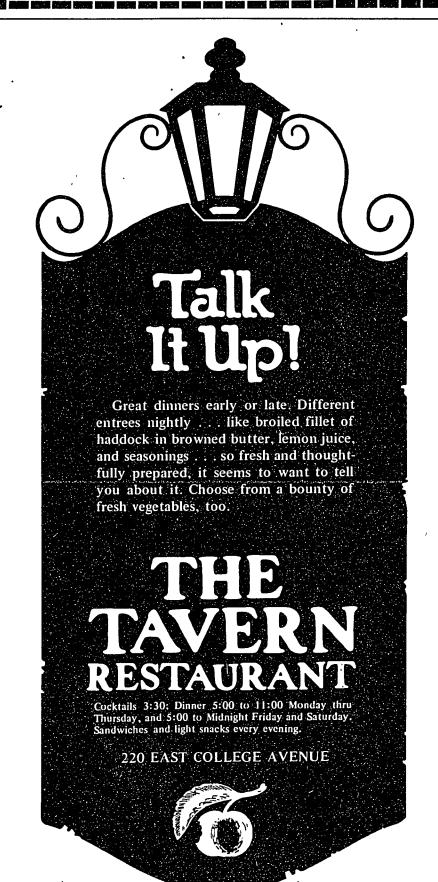
OLD PICTURES: These students are busy with their outdoor painting class in this "informal" photo from the Penn State Collection in Pattee. The class was held for coeds, and this group had it sometime before 1900.

If students today gathered to talk to the University president, it would probably be to get solutions to a problem. But back in 1898, when these students met on the president's porch, it was probably just to chat.

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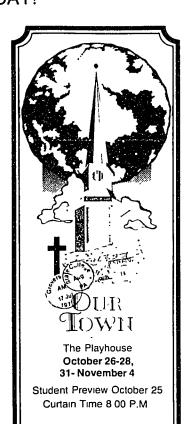


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