

How the Campus Came to K.U.

MARVIN LEWIS

As one of the older colored residents of Lawrence remarked recently, in giving his vision of the growth of the University: "The campus begun to 'cumulate and jest shoved herself along."

A dignified member of the faculty who has several small, noisy children, when questioned on the subject, replied in a manner that suggested nightly sessions with Kipling's "How the Elephant got His Trunk," saying:

"Once upon a time there was a man named Amos. His last name was Lawrence. He was a New Englander. He was used to the Alleghanies and knew a good site when he saw one. His prophecy forecasted a campus on the rugged ridge west of town and when certain of the leading lights couldn't see things his way, and suggested that the college be kept down and pushed back, he told them where to head in."

Mr. Lawrence's remarks on the matter were found recorded in a history of the University prepared by Professor M. W. Sterling. He said:

"I should suppose (the proposed site) is not comparable with the high lands above the town. Trade will not go up the hills except to get prospect of a good bargain and there is no risk in locating a college or a church on a hill, even in a large city. The Romanists have understood this, and we see in Europe their institutions on the pinnacles over the cities, unless occupied by a fortress, always. It insures a good view and seclusion. The spot originally selected in Lawrence is the right one." This was written Feb. 11, 1857.

Mr. Lawrence was right. His vision of a fortress or a college on the Hill came to pass. The fort came first. Remains of the old fortifications may be seen where the lilac hedge is, just east of Fraser Hall. The fort was erected to protect the town. Blue Mound also was fortified. Dean Olin Templin said it was not so many years ago that he kicked up an old bullet in front of Fraser.

An alumnus or two have suggested that these front line trenches be preserved. It isn't every college, they say, that has a battle front in its dooryard.

To go back to Mr. Lawrence's letter—the spot mentioned by him later became the ten acre patch, known as North College Campus. It was called the "Old University" up to the day Chancellor J. A. Lippincott used the term "North College" in a public address.

Tilts with the State legislature have been too numerous and too sad to mention, but it seems necessary to recall one or two.

Life for the University began when the legislature back in 1863 passed a bill bestowing the state institution for higher education upon Lawrence. Once the legislature had given the same gift to Manhattan, only to have the governor veto the decision. In the last fight, K. U. missed going to Emporia by one vote. It was a tie until Ed. Russell of Doniphan, who was in the chair, cast his vote for Mount Oread. He too, had visions of a campus.

Lawrence was a little alarmed to find it had adopted a penniless waif when it tried to establish a home for the University. The city had promised a forty-acre campus and a \$15,000 endowment fund. Neither seemed to be forthcoming until Charles Robinson offered the city forty acres on Mount Oread in exchange for a half block of land south of the school foundation. The exchange was made. Obtaining an endowment fund was not so easy. Lawrence did not have the money, but it financed the project just the same. Almost this entire amount was sent to Lawrence by outsiders to relieve survivors of Quantrell's raid. This borrowed capital was to be paid back to the city of Lawrence and then converted into a fund to maintain a home for the orphans of the victims of the raid. The need for an orphans' home was not urgent, while a school for the orphans proved to be necessary, so the endowment fund prospered.

That the campus actually shoved itself along is proved by talking to old-timers who can remember the first windy trips ever made up the slopes of Mount Oread. Aunt Carrie Watson, librarian, who doesn't even pretend to be sixteen, was one. She entered K. U. as it was passing the colicky

stage. She spent three years in the preparatory school at North College and moved from there to the new campus when Fraser Hall opened its doors in 1873. The building was named in honor of General John Fraser, the first active chancellor of the University. There the campus decided to rest, satisfied that it was the show place of western civilization—and so it was, for it extended as far west as Robinson Gymnasium and as far north as Twelfth Street. Beyond these limits was a wilderness. A hedge cut off the unexplored territory from the campus proper, at the place where the car line now passes the Gymnasium.

Up to a very recent date, Fraser Hall was spoken of by old-timers as the New University.

So great was the inspiration created by the new building that Chancellor James Marvin, about 1877, suggested a reproduction of Fraser Hall, in trees. For some reason part of the trees which were planted did not mature. A faint outline of the old building may be seen in the few scattered trees between the Chemistry Building and Flower Shops by using the imagination to fill in the blank spaces.

It was Chancellor Marvin who declared a holiday in 1877 for the planting of trees to cover the bald spots on the campus.

The holiday also proved an opportunity for class rivalry. The senior class, of which Miss Watson was a member, fastened its future hopes to a healthy elm. A choice spot for the planting was chosen. It was the philanthropic belief of the seniors that the tree in time would shade persons passing in and out of Fraser. The juniors doubted it and succeeded in dipping the roots of the tree in acid. A kind-hearted janitor, in the dead of night, replaced the acid soaked tree with one that had not been subjected to such harsh treatment. Both classes were a little mystified when the elm grew up to be a hackberry.

Marvin Grove, also, was the outgrowth of that holiday. The farmers took an interest in the event and brought loads of trees. These were set out by student volunteers. Walnut trees were planted in a haphazard fashion by students who walked along dropping walnuts as they went and kicking them in to bury them. Among

the trees found on the campus today are hard maple, cottonwood, sycamore, black locust, Osage orange, burr oak, red mulberry, buckthorn, ash, elm and hackberry.

It was Miss Watson, who, on class day in 1877, stood on a barrel and made the senior class address. And the same day she planted an ivy vine that later covered the south wall of Fraser. Vine planting originated with the class of '73, the first class to be graduated from the University. Mrs. Flora Coleman of Lawrence, a member, said a Virginia creeper was planted to the north of the entrance on the east side of Fraser. Other classes carried out the idea, including the class of Hannah Oliver, '74, but for some reason, vine planting never became an established tradition.

Until the trees and the vines grew up, will grass and board walks were the principal features of the campus. As soon as a third building was granted, it was placed as near Fraser as possible, probably to avoid extending the board walks farther than necessary. That was the Medical Building, now the Journalism Building. Other buildings came as they were needed. Snow Hall was erected in 1886 and was named in honor of Professor F. H. Snow, who later became chancellor of the University. Spooner Library and the chancellor's residence, built in 1894, were gifts to the University from William B. Spooner of Boston. The Physics Building, erected in 1895, was named Blake Hall in honor of Professor Lucius I. Blake. Fowler Shops, completed in 1899, was the gift of G. A. Fowler of Kansas City, Mo. Dyche Museum, named for Professor Lewis L. Dyche, was built in 1902. The Law Building, erected in 1905, was given the name Green Hall in honor of the late Dean James W. Green. Robinson Gymnasium was named for Charles Robinson, first governor of Kansas, who left an estate of about one thousand two hundred acres to the University.

Marvin Hall, built in 1907, and Haworth Hall, 1909, were given their names in recognition of the services of Frank O. Marvin, dean of the School of Engineering, and Erasmus Haworth, professor of geology.

The new observatory which is now being built between Haworth and Marvin Halls,

University can look back over a period of fifty years and say, "I remember—I remember—"—then they will know to the fullest what traditions are. Although they must wait so long for the complete realization to come to them, they must not remain idle in the meantime. Indeed, here is a very important task facing these students now. They must do two things: they must keep up the traditions of the past; and they must make new traditions for the future. On each student is laid the obligation of making the new traditions such that they will be proud to remember fifty years from now.

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(Continued from page 16.)

for the astronomy department, is said to be an improvement over a similar "shack" which once occupied the Watkins' site. That corner of the campus was transferred, many years ago, to Robinson for the block of ground extending north from the Museum. Dean Templin was one of the star pupils who used that early observatory.

Along with the years, the campus acquired a street car line and a lake. The street car line at first was mapped to follow around the west side of Potter, to pass through a tunnel, and to come out on the campus somewhere back of Fraser.

Potter Lake is credited with being the most utilitarian feature of the campus. As a freshman once said:

"It's a nice little pool for a plunge."

The money for the excavation was given about ten years ago, by D. M. Potter of Peabody, a former regent of the University. The pool serves as a reservoir from which water may be forced from the lake to the Hill in case of fire.

McCook Field was added to the campus in the early nineties. It was the gift of John J. McCook of New York City who was asked to deliver a commencement address at K. U., about 1890. He was given an honorary degree at the time and likewise witnessed a game of baseball, played under the umpirage of Professor M. W. Sterling. That same night the announcement was made that McCook had given \$1500 to be used for an athletic field. Later he contributed \$1,000 to complete the fund found to be necessary. There is still some doubt as to whether it was the

degree or the game that won the field. McCook said he was highly pleased with the athletic spirit of K. U.; no one recalls exactly what he said about the degree.

More than one hundred acres of land were added to the campus in 1904-5 when the state purchased several tracts of land, including the ten-acre tract owned by Ridenour and Baker, which lay between McCook Field and Marvin Grove. The campus proper now covers one hundred sixty acres.

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