

Make K. U. Campus Mid West Show Place . . . Kansas News

Redesigning Plan Would Make It Spot of Beauty

Lawrence, Kan., Dec. 25.—(Special)—Long-range plans for the redesigning of the K. U. campus to make it one of the show places in the Middle West call for the removal of the two paved streets thru the center of the hill. One street runs the length of the campus, the other intersects to carry north and south traffic. This would leave a long alley of trees and green grass, remove cars from the campus proper and eliminate traffic hazards.

The redesigning calls for a new highway to skirt about the hill on the outside. Faculty members would park their cars behind each building, students would use lots at each end of the campus.

This is just one of the many ideas incorporated in the long-range plans of Donald Durell, landscape architect and instructor in botany, who has had great plans for the university since he came here four years ago.

Only One Better

Durell says that the view from the K. U. campus is topped by just one other college or university in the nation. That is Cornell, known the country over as being "Far above Cayuga's waters."

Mount Oread, bulging up from the Kaw and Wakarusa valleys, falls away abruptly. On either side the view stretches miles across the valleys to smoke-blue hills. As Durell's plans are carried out, the university would capitalize on this view as never before.

For years trees have been scattered haphazardly over the grounds so that much of the "golden valley" cannot be seen from the hill. Gradually these trees will be transplanted. When new ones are set out they will frame and not obstruct the view.

Alumni may have a prominent part in these growing improvements. Various classes of the university will take chosen spots on the campus "under the wing." The class of 1915 has set aside a fund to landscape part of the campus.

Start Planting Soon

Planting of the Paul Dinsmoor Memorial Grove is to begin as soon as conditions are favorable. Container manufacturers of the Southwest established a fund which will plant approximately twenty burr oaks from two and three to five inches in diameter. The grove will be planted southwest of Potter Lake on the hillside sloping up from Memorial Stadium. The burr oak is a long lived tree, and in fifty to 100 years the grove will be a campus feature.

"The aim should be to make the campus a beautiful and functional area as well as an aboretum," says Durell observes. New genera and species which have never been grown here before will be brought to the campus for trial periods. This should bring many new plants to Kansas.

One of the problems in growing plants on Mount Oread is finding enough earth. The Oread limestone comes as close as eight inches to the surface in some places. When necessary to blast this limestone away, earth from the university farm is brought to fill in.

Valuable Timber Tree

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