Part IV. Shelter, Bodily Sustenance, and Coffee Breaks

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Chapter 1. University Facilities on or Near the Campus

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Dormitories and Apartments

Burr and Fedde Halls

College of Agriculture students have lived under a variety of circumstances and in all sorts of accommodations — from livestock barns to cooperative residences to fraternity houses.

One of the earliest buildings on the campus — a wooden frame structure — was erected in 1875 to house “farm students.” There was dormitory space for girls in the first Home Economics (Woman’s) Building.

The first major dormitories built on the East Campus by the University, however, were not available until 1957. Franklin Eldridge deserves a large share of the credit for bringing them about.

When Eldridge was interviewed for the position of Associate Director of Resident Instruction in 1954, he specified that he would not want to come to the University of Nebraska unless dormitories were built on the Ag Campus. He was assured that plans were already underway to build dormitories.

Shortly after Eldridge arrived at Nebraska, he received word that plans for the dormitories had been deferred. When he called attention to the earlier agreement, the decision to defer was reconsidered and the University proceeded with the necessary planning.

When bids for the dormitories were opened, it was found they were low enough to permit use of better quality materials in the buildings than originally planned. For example, all of the woodwork, such as banisters on the stairs, was changed to solid oak.

On November 2, 1956, while construction was underway, the College of Agriculture faculty approved naming the residence halls Margaret Fedde for the south building and W. W. Burr for the north building, which then housed only boys.

Soon after the dormitories were filled, the occupants named each floor after other faculty members.

Construction costs were $501,848 for Burr Hall and $187,848 for Fedde Hall.

Married Student Housing

Apartments for married students and faculty are available in two areas on or near East Campus. Colonial Terrace Apartments comprise 11 buildings on the north and south sides of Starr Street (from 33rd to 100 feet east of 34th). There are seven fourplexes and four duplexes for a total of 36 apartments, four with three bedrooms and the others with two. The two buildings east of 34th Street (with eight units) are designated for faculty. All of the other units are for married students.

Some of the buildings are two-story structures and all have basements. Some are of brick construction and some are of stone. The buildings and the 2.6 acres of land they occupy were bought from the Colonial Terrace Corporation in 1956 for $105,000.

University Park Apartments, built in 1957 for $398,012, are just north of Holdrege Street between 42nd and 43rd Sts. There are four red brick buildings, none with basements, containing a total of 40 units. Ten of the apartments have two bedrooms, all of which are for married students. The other 30 have only one bedroom. Of these, 25 are for married students and 5 are for faculty.

Both apartment complexes are available to married students and faculty on either the East Campus or City Campus.

Ag College Cafeteria

Probably everyone who attended or worked at the College of Agriculture during most of this century remembers “the cafeteria,” in one of several locations. Some students who lived in Burr and Fedde Halls recall eating their meals in the Youth Wing of the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. But there was food service of some kind for students more than 30 years before the first Home Economics cafeteria became a part of the campus scene.
In 1875 the University built a large frame house at the farm to provide rooms for students. A Mrs. McGowan lived in the original campus stone house nearby and “boarded the boys.” At first, board was $3 per week, but it was later lowered to $2.

The S. W. Perin family moved into the frame house in 1896 and Mrs. Perin “boarded and roomed the boys.” She also provided meals for University employees.

Industrial college faculty men from the City Campus were frequent visitors at the farm, and often had dinner at the Perin house. Meals were substantial — meat, potatoes, gravy, a vegetable, coleslaw or pickles, home-baked bread and butter, jelly and jam, either pie or pudding, and “all the coffee they could drink” (4, 5, pp i, ii and 1). (See also S. W. “Dad” Perin in College of Agriculture/Overall - Part II, Chapter 1.)

Since at least 1909 there has been a cafeteria on the campus. According to the Journal of Home Economics (6), the Woman's Building, dedicated in January of that year had "dormitory space for some 60 to 80 students" and among other features, "two protein kitchens and a protein dining room."

A separate faculty dining room — also called the practice dining room — was served by students as part of their classwork. Both dining rooms were on the first floor. The students also did laboratory work in two foods laboratories on the same floor (7).

The cafeteria was popular with Lincoln people as a place to eat Sunday dinners. On some Sundays, people lined up outside the building and into the street waiting for the cafeteria to open for the noon meal. It was reopened for supper on Sunday evening. The junior author recalls many summer Sunday outings with his parents in the 1920's that included dinner at the “state farm.”

Both women and men students were hired to work in the cafeteria — some in the serving line and, in the case of men, often as dishwashers. Some waited tables (at the northeast corner of the cafeteria dining room) for the Cafeteria Boarding Club after it was formed in the fall of 1933. A typical wage for students working in the cafeteria in the mid-30's was 20 cents per hour.

In addition to earning money in those depression years, students appreciated the cafeteria as an economical place to eat.

Student employees in that era included Paul Sindt, Ray Cruise, Byron Sadle, Agnes Arthaud, Esther Wiechert, Mel Beermann, Lois Lichliter, Harry Holdt, Al Moseman, Mylan Ross, Donna Hiatt, Sanford Downs, Darrel Rippeteau, and many others. Maurice Peterson, Ramona Hilton, Al Pearl and Dorothy Ziegenbusch were cashiers (8). Helen Hengstler worked in the cafeteria as a student and later was assistant manager.

The cafeteria and food and nutrition laboratories were scheduled to move to the Food and Nutrition Building when it was completed in 1943 but with the location of the military STAR Unit on the campus that year, the move was delayed. The STAR personnel were housed in Food and Nutrition and took their meals in the cafeteria in the Housing Building along with College students and staff, although at slightly different times. One of the students working in the STAR serving line was Hazel Anthony who later became Dean of the College of Home Economics.

When the Food and Nutrition Building was finally made available to Home Economics, the cafeteria and food and nutrition laboratories were established there.

From the beginning, education for home economics students was an important function of the cafeteria. In 1922, the Cornhusker Countryman described the course in institutional work as "extremely interesting and practical. At present there are two courses dealing directly with the Institutional work, namely, Large Quantity Cookery and Practical Cafeteria Management. . . One cannot become a very successful manager unless she has the knowledge of cooking in large quantities and still retain(s) the ability of giving foods their best savor" . . . and can serve them “in the most efficient and attractive ways possible” (9). In those days, men apparently were not expected to become cafeteria managers.

In the summer of 1957, the cafeteria facilities were remodeled and its services reorganized in order to provide meals for students who would be living in two new residences on campus — Burr and Fedde Halls. The operation was sound financially, and the cafeteria remained an excellent laboratory for students in institutional management.

Plans had to be changed, however, and serious financial problems arose after the Center for Continuing Education was opened at the corner of 33rd and Holdrege Streets in the summer of 1961. On August 1, four days before the close of the summer session, the University administration decided to transfer the food service for Fedde and Burr Halls to the Hall of Youth in the new Center.

Withdrawing 300 people who had been served three meals daily resulted in a cafeteria operating loss that year (10).

During the ensuing school year, a number of employee positions had to be discontinued. In the spring of 1962, a letter was sent to patrons announcing elimination of the evening meal. Three hundred families signed the guest book, requesting that they be notified if evening meal service was resumed. It never was.

Despite its problems, the teaching role of the cafeteria was retained.

In 1977 the long awaited new East Union opened
The Cafeteria Boarding Club had its tables in the northeast corner of the Cafeteria dining room in the Home Economics Building. This picture of the Club was taken in the spring of 1934. At table on the right are Lloyd Hurlbut, nearest on right; Urban Wendorff, second man beyond Hurlbut; Mildred Tickler at far end of table; Helen Hengstler, across from Hurlbut; Martha Park, director of the cafeteria, looking around Hengstler; and Wayne Thurman, third from far end at left. At left table are Ross Greenawalt, first man on right; Dorothy Ziegenbusch (now Mrs. Greenawalt) across from Ross Greenawalt; and May Staneck, far end of table. Waiter for this table is Al Pearl. Readers will be able to identify many others. (See also The Cafeteria Boarding Club in Part IV, Chapter 2.)

and the cafeteria in Food and Nutrition was closed. With cooperation between the Union and the College of Home Economics, the Union cafeteria was used — and still is — as a laboratory for both undergraduate and graduate programs in Food Service Management.

The Nebraska Center dining room remains open to the public and is used extensively by campus visitors. The East Union cafeteria provides food service for university-related events that are scheduled for its meeting rooms, and is available to any campus visitors. It also provides food service for Burr and Fedde Halls. That function was transferred there from the Youth Wing at the Center when the Union opened in 1977.

The East Union

In September 1972, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents authorized construction of a new student union on the East Campus and transferred $2.5 million from a student-supported bond fund for its construction.

On January 17, 1977 the East Union was opened for student, faculty and public use. Finally, agricultural and home economics students — and others who studied and worked on the East Campus — had an attractive, wholly functional and accessible union facility.

The new Union had been a long time in coming. Successive delays over the years caused periods of frustration, sometimes intense, for both faculty and students in the College of Agriculture. When funds were made available in 1972, construction was accepted as reality. In the Daily Nebraskan for September 14 of that year, John Russnogle wrote that "after...years of being housed 'temporarily' in the Activities Building, East Union personnel now can look forward to a permanent home."

A Union had been opened on the City Campus in 1938, but agricultural students felt it was not a convenient meeting place for them. In an editorial in the November 1940 issue of the Cornhusker Countryman, Jack Carter wrote that the prevailing attitude among
Ag students was that they did not share the advantages of the Union equally with students on the City Campus. This "attitude is obvious in the number of Ag students who feel they should pay less towards support of a student union on the other campus or have some way to enjoy the facilities."

There is evidence that the management of the Union did attempt to serve agricultural students. There was an "All-Ag nite" in 1939 and the next year November 29 was again designated "All-Ag nite." There was a complete evening's entertainment, free of charge, which included dancing, movies open to Ag students only, and use of the Music Room exclusively for Ag students. Kenneth VanSant, Manager of the Union at this time, called for students to get involved in the Union.

But Ag students still wanted a Union on their own campus. The *Cornhusker Countryman* for December 1941 said plans for a social room in the Food and Nutrition Building1 had been scrapped and students will not get their "stompin' ground". The *Countryman* called for a "parlor or social room on the campus" to accommodate students. The editorial said that "it is inconvenient for Ag students to go 34 blocks to meet" and mentioned the $3 per semester fee that supported a Union while "Ag students are using the library for the same purposes".

Dean W. W. Burr and H. C. Filley appeared before the Regents on December 20, 1941 to make a final appeal to have Union facilities included in the basement of the Food and Nutrition building (11). The Regents took favorable action (with some stipulations about financing), but rescinded the action at their next meeting, January 10, 1942 (12).

In the spring of 1946, College of Agriculture students initiated a petition movement to hasten the opening of a Union branch on their campus. On March 8, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported that the "petition calls for establishment of (a) recreational center in the Student Activities Building. Eighty percent of the Ag students have signed. It is addressed to the Board of Regents, University officials, and the Student Union Board."

By this time, interest in the Food and Nutrition Building had cooled, even though some progress had been made in acquiring space in the basement.

"More than a year ago," the *Omaha World-Herald* reported, "the Regents loaned the Student Union twenty thousand dollars . . . for the establishment of an Ag Union. Without sanction of the Student Union Board, the basement of the Food and Nutrition Building was excavated for the Union's use."

"Students and members of the Union board complain that the basement is too small and would cost too much to convert. The Student Activities Building, they point out, is centrally located and already has heating, lighting, and other facilities the recreation center would need."

On December 2, 1946, a "temporary" Union was opened in the Student Activities Building at an approximate cost of $30,000, and student attitudes became more positive, even though patronage of the facility was very limited for the first few months.

In a *Cornhusker Countryman* editorial titled, "Union Now" (March 1947), Berl Damkroger wrote, perhaps with some exaggeration, that the December 2 opening "was to mark a new era for students on the Ag Campus," but that only "five people (were) there — four waiters and a cashier."

Interest in the "temporary" Union began to pick up when activities including bridge lessons, dancing lessons, Sunday coffee hour, and a variety hour were added, "but still not as much as expected."

"Students who were questioned about (the lack of interest) expressed a variety of opinions," Damkroger wrote. "Some thought the (Ag Union's) program was patterned too much on that of the downtown Student Union. They believed more attention should be given to it from an Ag student viewpoint. There were some who felt the . . . very organizations which backed the idea strongly failed to use its facilities."

So a formal opening was scheduled for March 21, 1947, and the results convinced student writer Doug Hemenway that the Ag Union was "Here to Stay" — the title of his article in the April issue of the *Cornhusker Countryman*.

"The opening . . . attracted the largest Ag College crowd on record as far as present day students are concerned," he wrote. Dave Haun's orchestra played for dancing upstairs, brownies and punch were served in the lounge by co-ed members of the Union Board, and the recreation room had "standing room only" for two exhibitions by "Houdini, Jr." (alias John Carson). Carson was a student at the University. He spent much of his early life in Norfolk, Nebraska but was born in Corning, Iowa on October 23, 1925 (23). Some years later he was to become famous as a television personality.

Although most of the Activities Building was utilized for the grand opening, only the lower floor of the building was devoted to the Union. Features included a check room, three meeting rooms that the organizations backing the Union wanted, a large lounge, a music room with a number of albums, and a large soda fountain and grill room for lunches and between-class snacks. This was called "The Dell", named by Lewis Kremer after "The Farmer in the Dell". Kremer won ten dollars in the contest to name the grill.

The gymnasium, on the second floor, remained under control of the Physical Education Department.

There seemed to be general agreement that the Union in the Activities Building was temporary. On November 1, 1948, the University Building Commit-

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1 Later to become Ruth Leverton Hall, named for Ruth M. Leverton, a nutritionist on the Home Economics staff from 1937 to 1954.
A committee reported to the Chancellor and Board of Regents that the Student Union had two major plans for expansion, the “first and most urgent” of which was “to supply facilities for a student union on the Agricultural College Campus. The present arrangement . . . is but temporary and the Student Union Board has promised that in the next four years other facilities will be built.” The second plan was to expand the City Campus Union. Animal Science Professor Marvel L. Baker and Graduate Dean Robert W. Goss served on this building committee.

But in the following years, the temporary facilities were not replaced by a new structure, even though two additions for the Union on the City Campus were approved in 1956 and 1967 (13), and completed in 1959 and 1968 respectively.

In 1955, student fees and tuition were increased from $80 to $90 per semester, with $5 of the increase to be used for an addition to the Union building on the City Campus (14). In 1969, student fees for operation of the Union were increased $1.50, and $2.50 was designated for a Building and Equipment Fund for additional Union facilities (15).

During the years that a Union for Ag Campus was put on hold, College of Agriculture administrators shared the feeling of students that their campus deserved quicker action. Franklin E. Eldridge was one of those administrators. Coming to the University in 1954 as Director of Resident Instruction, he believed that some sort of balance between academic programs and recreation was essential. Among other priorities, he insisted on a Union, but it would still be 20 years before he would see a structure on the East Campus built for that purpose.

“It was clearly understood in 1955 that the $5 increase in student fees and tuition was to be applied to the new addition of the Union on City Campus,” according to Eldridge (16). “It was also clearly understood by the Ag faculty representative on the Union Board that the ‘next’ building of union facilities would be on the East Campus . . . both students and faculty were disgruntled at that time since they had been led to believe that the previous increase in fees would be accumulated toward the building of a new Ag Union. However, they accepted this first expansion of the Union on City Campus since they felt confident that in a few years the Ag Union would become a reality.”

Because an Ag Union seemed just around the corner, neither faculty or students applied active pressure for several years following the 1956 approval of a City Union expansion. With completion of Burr and Fedde dormitories on East Campus, it appeared obvious that Union facilities were needed in the very near future. But still an Ag Union did not materialize.

Hopes were raised again in the early 1960’s, according to Eldridge, when “surveys of the Union needs were made on Ag Campus through questionnaires to both students and faculty. The relative importance of bowling alleys, meeting rooms, eating facilities, ballroom, and even a swimming pool was evaluated.

“These plans were discussed with . . . the Union Manager and staff, and with G. Robert Ross, Dean of Student Affairs, and Ag Campus personnel felt quite confident that the new Ag Union was imminent. Tentative building plan sketches were made, locations on campus were evaluated, and it appeared that excellent, normal progress was being made toward a new Ag Campus Union.” Then, without consultation with people on Ag Campus, “. . . the administration approved plans again to enlarge the Union on City Campus and these were submitted to the Board of Regents.”

“Once again,” Eldridge writes, “Ag Campus students and faculty were depressed over the inability to replace the ‘temporary’ union.”

T. H. Goodding, an agronomy professor who was close to student needs and activities, recalled in a 1974 interview with George Round (17) the effort to get a union building on Ag Campus. He also recalled there was even a possibility that the temporary Union in the Activities Building might be closed because “the University felt (it) couldn’t keep two of these going.” However, according to Goodding, “we had about 1,000 students, each paying $3 a semester, $6 a year. That was about $6,000 a year — quite an amount. So Dean Lambert said (to the University), ‘No, we are not going to let you drop it.’ The temporary union continued to operate.

In the late 50’s, Ag student leaders proposed to the Union Board that union facilities be combined with the library being planned for East Campus. Library planners and the Union Board gave the idea serious consideration, but it was eventually turned down by the administration (18).

Shortly after coming to the University, Chancellor James H. Zumberge asked Charles H. Adams to chair an ad hoc committee that was to review a program statement about a Union for East Campus.

Adams was a strong supporter of the effort to put a Union on the Campus, and he was popular with students both as an academic advisor and as a teacher in the Animal Science Department.

In the letter to Adams, dated April 26, 1972, Zumberge wrote that “I understand that the need for a student center located on the East Campus has been discussed for a number of years, but for various reasons has not progressed beyond the discussion stage.”

Among those reasons, of course, was the failure to arrange financing that would give each of the two campuses a Union building. The bonds from which the funds for the East Union were finally derived were 1964 and 1966 bond series, totaling $26.9 million for student housing and facilities construction. The bonds were to be retired, primarily, by revenue from board and room charges at UNL dormitories. Tax funds were not involved (19).

2The library was completed in 1964 and later named for former Regent C. Y. Thompson of West Point, Nebraska.
Whatever the financing and other problems were, it appears that over a number of years there was no lack of commitment to College of Agriculture students and concern about their feelings on the part of the University’s Union Board, or of Union managers.

In 1950, Manager Duane Lake had reported to the Union Board that “a misunderstanding is developing relative to the College of Agriculture Union”. He said he “would not like to have any misunderstanding start trouble that would halt moves for Unions at both campuses” (20).

At the same meeting, Manager John Killean of the College of Agriculture Student Union, “reported on the attitude of students at the College (on) the question of previous commitment to build a Union at the College of Agriculture before expanding the Student Union building (on the City Campus). . . .”

Much later, Adams’ ad hoc committee noted in its report to Chancellor Zumberge that Allen Bennett, Director of the Nebraska Union at the time, was present during its discussions and “was most cooperative. He was very willing to accept whatever arrangements this ad hoc committee might recommend concerning food service on East Campus . . .” and was also willing to cooperate with the Department of Food and Nutrition2 on the operation of the East Union cafeteria as a teaching laboratory.

The cafeteria in the Food and Nutrition Building provided a teaching laboratory for dietetics majors in Home Economics, but the cafeteria was closed at about the time the East Union opened in 1977. Concern over loss of the laboratory was put to rest when the East Union and Home Economics cooperated in giving students experience in the new Union cafeteria (21).

Daryl Swanson, Bennett’s successor as Union Director, provided leadership for planning the Union that was opened on East Campus in 1977. He describes the facility as “a good example of functional design and exciting architecture” (22).

“Everything finally came together for the East Union project,” Swanson writes, “. . . 30 years after the ‘temporary facilities’ in the Activities Building had been occupied. We had all waited so long . . .

“The student, faculty, and staff planning committee under the chairmanship of architecture student Ken Wiseman did an excellent job of determining the needs of the campus and writing the building program.”

Eldridge writes that “the moving of the Colleges of Dentistry and Law to this campus strengthened greatly the apparent need for the East Union. Relatively rapid expansion of student numbers in agriculture (and) separation of home economics into a College in 1970 . . . also were important in reaching the decision to proceed with the new Union” (16).

After bids were let in the spring of 1975, the Board of Regents had to add money to the original building fund total of $2.5 million. Altogether $3.8 million in bond reserves were used for construction of the East Union. That “loan” is currently being paid back by students at the rate of $3.50 per student per semester.

The $2.50 designated in 1969 as set-aside student fees had accumulated nearly $700,000 for furnishings. The $2.50 set-aside, plus an additional $1.00, was reallocated to continue as operating money, according to Swanson (22).

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11. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Dec 20, 1941.
12. _____, Jan 10, 1942.
20. Minutes of the Nebraska Union Board. Mar 2, 1950. UN, Lincoln.
21. Brandt, Lorraine, Asst Dean of the Col of Home Ec; Dean W. Young; East Union Mgr; and Agnes Arthaud, History staff. Feb 1984. Personal communications. UNL.
22. Swanson, Daryl. Feb 7, 1984. Personal communication. UNL.

2Renamed the Department of Human Nutrition and Food Service Management in 1978.

4Total cost of the building and furnishings was $4,460,291.
Chapter 2. Social Fraternities, Boarding Clubs, Cafes and Facilities in Private Homes

The Fraternities

Students in the College of Agriculture — as in the rest of the University — have always had the privilege of joining any social fraternity that invited them.

Social fraternities, in addition to furnishing room and board for the members, serve numerous other purposes. Typically, fraternities stress service, fellowship, loyalty, leadership, a balanced social life, student activities, character-building, good citizenship, individual accomplishment, high scholarship, and concern for one's fellowman. Fraternities help students develop a sense of "belonging" in a large organization such as the University. They also assist in maintaining interest in the University after graduation through their respective alumni organizations.

Although there have never been sororities identifying themselves as pledging only, or primarily, students in the College of Agriculture or the College of Home Economics, four fraternities known as "Ag" fraternities initially limited their membership principally to students in the College of Agriculture. The four are Ag Men Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Gamma Sigma, and FarmHouse Fraternity. All have houses near East Campus.

Although all four of the fraternities at Lincoln were initially almost exclusively agricultural, only Alpha Gamma Rho and Alpha Gamma Sigma remain so today. In answer to our inquiry in this regard, the fraternity presidents provided this information:

1) Ag Men Fraternity: "We have a goal of pledging one-fourth or more of our members who are non-agriculture in order to maintain diversity" (3).

2) Alpha Gamma Sigma: "We feel strongly that agriculture gives us a common bond, therefore, we rush only those with agricultural majors or agricultural backgrounds" (3).

3) Alpha Gamma Rho: "We are a social/professional agricultural fraternity. We rush agricultural majors or those with agricultural related interests" (3).

4) FarmHouse Fraternity: "We place no restrictions on a prospective member's planned area of study. We believe that diversity is a strength" (3).

Following is additional information about the fraternities at Lincoln:

Ag Men Fraternity. 3248 Starr Street, was started as the Ag Men's Social Club on October 11, 1943, with student Dave Sander as temporary president and T. H. Goodding as faculty adviser. Membership was restricted to unaffiliated male students in the College of Agriculture. The purpose of the Club was "to stimulate friendship among all Ag men students, promote social and athletic activities, and thrive for a higher level of scholarship." Meetings were held Monday evenings in the College Activities Building (4, p 9). By the spring of 1947 membership had increased to nearly 100 (5, p 10).

In 1952 the club leased a house at 3259 Holdrege Street, which was occupied until 1953 when the members moved to their present location. The organization did not join the Interfraternity Council until January 29, 1976. It is a local fraternity. Urban E. and Mrs. (Jane) Wendorff spent many hours over a 30-year period counseling and assisting the organization in various ways.

Alpha Gamma Rho, Kappa Chapter, has been at its present location at 1430 Idylwild Drive since 1928. When the Kappa Chapter was started the members lived together in rooming houses, the first located at 3210 Dudley Street and the second at 3228 R Street. In October 1919, the fraternity's first house was organized at 2530 Q Street. One year later the fraternity moved to 435 North 15th Street, where it remained until 1928 when it moved to its present location. Alpha Gamma Rho is a national fraternity with 57 chapters, dating its origin to April 4, 1908, when the first chapter was installed in the Claypool Hotel in Indianapolis. The Kappa Chapter was installed at the University of Nebraska on April 11, 1908 (1, 3).

Alpha Gamma Sigma. Gamma Chapter, is located at 4001 Holdrege Street. The fraternity was located at 3256 Holdrege Street from 1935 to 1954, and has been at its present location since 1954. Alpha Gamma Sigma is a national fraternity with seven chapters, the first one being installed at Columbus, Ohio on January 28, 1923. The Gamma Chapter at Nebraska was installed on November 7, 1953 (3).

FarmHouse Fraternity. 3610 Apple Street, has had five locations in Lincoln: 1911-14 at 1436 S Street; 1914-22 at 307 North 24th Street; 1922-1943 at 2545 O Street; 1946-1954 at 4013 Holdrege Street; and

1The fraternity closed during WW II, selling its property at 2545 O Street shortly after closing.
The annual Christmas dinner at FarmHouse in 1916. This was in the house at 307 North 24th Street. Paul Stewart is second from end at top right.

1954 to present at 3601 Apple Street. FarmHouse has 30 chapters in the United States and one in Canada. The first chapter was installed at the University of Missouri in 1905, with the Nebraska chapter dating back to 1911 (2, 3).

At Curtis - FarmHouse Fraternity (6).

A second chapter of FarmHouse Fraternity in Nebraska was installed at the School of Technical Agriculture at Curtis in February 1985. Prior to installation, the group had operated under a club status for about one and one-half years. It is the first and, to date, only FarmHouse chapter to be chartered on a two-year campus.

The fraternity members live in a leased house at 101 Center Ave., Curtis. Presently, the House is filled to capacity with 16 members.

The Boarding Clubs

Boarding clubs were started principally because students wanted to get good meals at a reasonable price. The agricultural boarding clubs included ACBC (Ag College Boarding Club), Baldwin Hall, and the Agrarian. They were in operation long before there was a modern men’s dormitory on East Campus. The longer a boarding club stayed in existence, the more it became like a social fraternity, as exemplified best by the ACBC.

The ACBC (7, pp 11, 15).

Professor T. H. Goodding and student Ralph Copenhaver are credited with originating the ACBC in 1930. The club was started at 4631 Holdrege Street at the home of Mrs. B. C. Wilson, who served as cook. The initial group consisted of 12 members which in two weeks increased to 20. In four years the membership outgrew the facilities. To accommodate the group, arrangements were worked out for Mrs. Wilson to rent a larger house at 3430 Starr Street. One year later a second move was made, this time to 1401 North 33rd Street. Again, Mrs. Wilson moved with the boys and continued to serve as “mother.”

By 1936, the number of applications so far exceeded the number that could be accommodated that restrictions had to be instituted on membership; henceforth graduate students, fraternity men, and short course students were barred. By 1939 the purpose of the club was “to provide an economical living and furnish social life for barb men”. There were now 57 members of whom 13 roomed in the house. It was reported to be the largest cooperative in the entire University.

The fraternal spirit grew as the years went by. Meetings were held on Monday nights. The club participated as a group in intramural athletics and Coll-Agri-Fun (often winning first place), and held hour dances with organized girls’ groups.

Baldwin Hall

To provide accommodations for the surplus of students who wanted to become members of ACBC, but for whom there was not room, the club helped organize another cooperative in 1938 — Baldwin Hall.
Soon that club had 25 members and the ACBC reported that it “...bids fair to become a strong competitor of the club that fostered it” (7, p 15).

Baldwin Hall was located at 3268 Orchard Street. It was named after Mrs. P. L. Baldwin who furnished the house and necessary equipment, and did the cooking. Board charges the first year were $4 per week, from which the club was able to make a refund of seven percent. Membership consisted primarily of undergraduates, but also included some graduate and short course students. The club participated in intramural athletics, held hour dances with organized girls’ groups, and in the fall of 1938 cooperated with the ACBC in holding a fall party (8, p 15).

The Agrarian (9, p 14)

The Agrarian was described as a cooperative boarding and rooming club. It came about after a boarding house, where a group of students were taking their meals, closed its doors in October 1938. The deposed boarders decided to establish their own boarding and rooming house. Perfecting their organization in October 1938, they started a boarding operation in “…an old cafe building on the east side of 35th Street” (most likely what had at one time been “Winne’s Cafe”, about one-half block south of Holdrege Street). The club hired a former home economics student to do the meal planning and cooking. When, in January 1939, it became necessary to vacate the cafe building, the club moved to the first floor of a house at 3435 Holdrege Street. Five of the 16 members were able to room at this new home. The members made plans to participate in various activities, similar to those enjoyed by the ACBC. The Agrarian was fairly short-lived.

The Cafeteria Boarding Club

A Cafeteria Boarding Club was organized in the fall of 1933, for both men and women (10). Members ate their meals in the College Cafeteria, but housing was not provided through the club. John Bengtson, later to become a Lincoln physician, was a member of the club, waited tables for it, and at one time was club manager. A group picture of club members appeared in the June 1937 issue of the Cornhusker Countryman. Mrs. Wayne Smiley of Merced, California (Esther Wiechert when in college) remembers that the boarding club was still in existence in 1939. We have not been able to determine how much longer it operated.

What Happened to the Boarding Clubs?

Although the records are not entirely clear, it is probable that like the social fraternities, the men’s boarding clubs, still in existence when WW II came, had to suspend operations as most young men were called into the Service. To the best of our knowledge, and in contrast to the social fraternities, none of the men’s boarding clubs resumed operation after the War was over.

Cafes and Facilities in Private Homes

Prior to the advent of boarding clubs and University dormitories, students obtained meals at fraternities; at private homes which took in boarders; at the College of Agriculture cafeteria; at their apartments\(^2\); and at cafes, primarily those near the East and City campuses.

During the 20’s there were two main cafes directly south of East Campus. One of these was A. C. “Hamburger” Brown’s cafe south of Holdrege and west of 35th Street, where Valentino’s Ristorante (pizza place) is now located. Mr. Brown was generally not a happy individual, but he took a sincere interest in students and served excellent hamburgers.

The other cafe was C. V. Tillman’s Student’s Supply Store, located at 3513 Holdrege Street in the area now used as a parking lot by Valentino’s. Tillman’s not only sold school supplies but also served food. C. V. Tillman’s was still listed in the 1931-32 Lincoln Telephone Directory.

Early in the 30’s a new cafe known as Winne’s opened up about one-half block south of Holdrege Street on the east side of 35th Street. Winne had been a school teacher and attempted to avoid the fury of the depression by operating the cafe. The Winnes operated as a family and served simple but good food. By about the middle 30’s, Winne’s Cafe had closed. Another cafe opened at the same location after World War II. However, the building has been gone for a considerable period of time.

During the second half of the 30’s a Mr. Carpenter operated a cafe, starting at the location which had formerly been Tillman’s. Later he moved his business to what had been Brown’s Cafe. He called his cafe “Carp’s Place”\(^3\). “Carp”, as the owner was commonly known, enjoyed giving his opinions on political issues, especially the “New Deal”.

The 1939, 1940 and 1941 Lincoln Telephone Directories listed a Kan’s Cafe at what had been the Tillman location.

Not primarily an eating place but popular for “coffee breaks” and light refreshments was the business on the northwest corner of the intersection of 33rd & Holdrege Streets. For many years it was the location of Baughn’s Pharmacy. In 1946 it ceased to operate

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\(^{2}\)For many years numerous private homes, located within walking distance of the Ag Campus, rented rooms to students and single employees of the College. Some homes also furnished meals. In addition, some of the homes included apartments, commonly in the basements, which were rented primarily to single students. These latter living quarters, where the occupants did their own cooking, probably provided the lowest cost living quarters available — a big factor in being able to afford college prior to WW II.

\(^{3}\)An ad for Carp’s Place in the March 1939 issue of the Countryman (p 14), referred to “Mrs. Carp’s home made pies”, which were known to be very good.
as a pharmacy and became Shinn's Sundries. Mr. Shinn conducted what might today be called a "convenience" store.

In 1949 Shinn sold his business to William G. Murphy who reinstalled the pharmacy which he operated until 1963. "Bill Murphy's Pharmacy" served cold beverages, coffee, ice cream and other light refreshments. Murphy was a kind and likable person. Some college staff patronized Bill Murphy's pharmacy for coffee breaks.

A most successful chain of restaurants had its beginning at 35th and Holdrege Streets, where A. C. Brown's Cafe had once been located. After operating a fruit market at the location for some years, Val and Zena Weiler opened a pizza business there in July 1957. They used a recipe which had been in Mrs. Weiler's family for years, and which is still kept secret. The business proved to be an immediate success. Over the years the menu was broadened and other units were established. In 1971 the business was sold to Tony and Ron Messineo. Today Valentino's Ristorante consists of 30 franchised and company-owned restaurants scattered from North Dakota to Texas and east as far as Ohio (11).

Success could not have come to a more deserving person than Val. He was a most kind and honest individual, as illustrated by the following incident. One day a long time ago a little boy named Larry, aged four or five, accompanied his mother to Val's Campus Fruit Market. He found a dime on the floor and, all on his own, gave it to Val. Val was so moved by the honesty of the child that, in turn, he gave Larry over twice as much candy as the dime would have purchased.

Today the privately operated eating places near the main part of the East Campus are Valentino's Ristorante and the Kwik Shop on the southeast intersection of 33rd & Holdrege Streets. No longer do students have to depend on private business places for their meals, but they do consume considerable food in between times. Valentino's is especially popular for pizzas, and the Kwik Shop is patronized for snacks and beverages.

References
3. John, Russ; Jamey Nygren; Rick Gestring; and Dan Dentzinger; presidents, respectively, of Ag Men Fraternity, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Gamma Sigma, and FarmHouse Fraternity. Apr 1986. Responses to Col of Agric history questionnaire. UN, Lincoln.