Part VIII. The Faculty

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Chapter 1. Faculty Involvement in Overall College Matters

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Governance and the IANR Bylaws

Faculty meetings have been held in the College for many years. Earlier the Dean presided, reports were made by the College administrators, and much of the business consisted of matters having to do with the instructional program, such as approval of proposed new courses. Gradually, the meetings became concerned with numerous other matters, and the faculty became more and more involved in helping to decide important matters concerning the College.

On May 21, 1971, Dean Frolik (1) reported that there was no written statement on organization of the faculty and conduct of faculty meetings. He pointed out the need for formalizing such an organization which he said was important for the following reasons:

1) increasing faculty participation in University matters;
2) increasing student participation in the governance of the University;
3) procedures for rating the Faculty and for handling promotions is becoming more formalized and detailed.

Specifically, Frolik recommended that a mechanism be developed for establishing rules on the conduct of faculty government for the College. In response the faculty passed the following motion: "... that the Dean, with the counsel of the Directors, appoint a committee to make a recommendation(s) on a procedure and perhaps establishment of a constitutional convention, or whatever the committee deems appropriate, and report back to the Faculty".

At the same meeting the faculty passed the following motion "... that the Faculty go on record approving the request of the Ag Advisory Board (student) that they designate the undergraduate representatives on Committees of the College when representation of students is involved."

The Committee was appointed as reported in a memorandum from Frolik to the faculty dated September 2, 1971. It consisted of 12 faculty members with R. Burt Maxcy as chairman, plus one graduate student, and two undergraduate students named by the Ag Advisory Board. On December 17, 1971, Chairman Maxcy (1) reported that the Committee, consisting of 16 members (one more must have been added), "... is very widely representative of the Faculty", and that meetings had started being held. On October 6, 1972, it was reported that the Governance Committee was meeting with staff over the state to explain their proposed plan (1). On November 3, 1972, Chairman Maxcy presented, on behalf of the Governance Committee, an 11-page (double spaced) report entitled "Bylaws of the Faculty of the College of Agriculture — for discussion purposes only" (1). No action was taken by the faculty at that time pending further study.

The next step in establishment of the bylaws was approval by the entire faculty. On October 19, 1973 Acting Dean Ottoson (1) reminded the faculty "... proposed college bylaws have to be approved by the Board of Regents. The Board will hold a public hearing on the bylaws submitted and modify them if deemed necessary, and then approve them." At the same meeting of the faculty, Chairman Maxcy stated that "... the interim bylaws ... were simply to carry over until the new IANR is established."

The faculty took action to have the proposed bylaws submitted for approval or rejection through a mail ballot. The mail ballots were distributed to the faculty by Acting Dean Ottoson on October 22, 1973. In the accompanying letter, Ottoson stated "In accordance with the bylaws of the University Board of Regents filed with Secretary of State on August 20, 1973, the colleges must recommend bylaws for their respective colleges within 90 days of the effective date of the University Bylaws." He also explained that the bylaws, if adopted, would cover the period "from the present time" until the IANR was established. Names of the tellers had been announced.

In a letter dated November 6, 1973, Acting Dean
Ottoson submitted a set of recommended bylaws for the College of Agriculture which he stated had been approved by the faculty through a mail ballot by a vote of 219 to 4 of properly validated ballots, with the request that the bylaws be submitted to the Board of Regents for approval. Ottoson also stated that the bylaws would be in effect "... for the period ending June 30, 1974, when the IANR supersedes the College". Thus it took approximately two and one-half years to bring Frolik's recommendation of May 21, 1971 to fruition.

In a letter dated March 11, 1974, Acting Dean Ottoson asked the Maxcy Committee, with additions of representatives from the Conservation and Survey Division and the Water Resources Research Institute, to continue their work by adapting the bylaws to the forthcoming Institute. The revised bylaws were adopted by the IANR Faculty in July 1974 (2), and have since been amended on May 30, 1979 and February 1, 1983 and by mail ballot in October 1985 and March 1987 (2, 3).

Promotions in Rank and Granting of Tenure
On May 21, 1971 Frolik (1) reported to the faculty that "The current statement setting forth the duties of the College of Agriculture Committee (on principles and policies on promotion in rank) has not been brought up-to-date since 1950... It is necessary that specific guidelines... be spelled out". The faculty agreed and a committee, composed of Ernest R. Peo, Jr., chairman, Dermot P. Coyne, and Philip A. Henderson, was appointed to draw up a revised proposal.

On November 18, 1971 (1), the committee distributed at the faculty meeting a "Code of practices for staff selection, evaluation and recommendations for promotion and tenure for the College of Agriculture...", along with a request for suggested changes. Following action taken at a faculty meeting on January 28, 1972 (1), and in accordance with the request from Chairman Peo, Frolik distributed copies of the proposed code to all members of the faculty and asked for a vote for or against to be cast by mail ballot.

Ballots were counted by the faculty tellers, Esther E. Kriefels and Norman J. Rosenberg, the results were favorable, and Frolik declared the code adopted by the staff. On May 3, 1972, in accordance with action taken previously by the faculty (1), Frolik distributed copies of "Criteria for appointment and promotion in rank" which had been drawn up for each Division, respectively, by the associate deans. Based on suggestions received, the "criteria" were further revised and approved by the faculty in a meeting on June 16, 1972 (1).

A summary of the procedures followed in recommending promotions in rank and tenure was:
1) Recommendations were initiated in the departments and transmitted by the chairman to the dean; 2) the recommended advancements and supporting material were reviewed in detail by the directors and members of the Committee; 3) the faculty Committee on Promotions in Rank and Tenure met with the dean and directors present as resource persons, passed judgment on each individual case, recommending either approval or rejection; 4) subsequently, the dean and directors made the final decision for the College — in no case did they fail to honor the Committee's recommendations for approval and in very few cases did they overrule the Committee by approving the departmental recommendation which the Committee had rejected; 5) the recommendations along with supporting material were transmitted to the chancellor; and 6) the chancellor reviewed the College recommendations with the dean and submitted his recommendations to the president and the Board of Regents who made the final decisions. Thus, the procedure involved all levels of administration from the department chairmen to the Board of Regents, as well as the faculty at the department level and at the dean's (College) level through the faculty committee.

Attempts to Obtain Equitable Salaries
During 1973-74, a good deal of attention was given to faculty salaries, the main consideration being that there existed an inequity of staff salaries in the College of Agriculture compared to those of the rest of the UNL. The Ag faculty was pretty much "up in arms" not so much over the fact that salaries overall were too low but rather over the inequity. At various times Frolik, Charles O. Gardner and Robert M. Koch were members of the University Salary Study Committee (5), but were unable to obtain any redress through that channel. Resolutions were passed by the College of Agriculture faculty, letters were written, and much discussion ensued.

On August 31, 1973, Frolik reported as follows: "... we are asking for the full $1,131,460 in the 1974-75 budget as needed to attain equity for the College of Agriculture staff with other University staff on 'work-day' basis... from the Legislature as a specific item and one which is of great importance." Chancellor Zumberge, who had met with the College of Agriculture faculty on the matter, stated in his budget request to the Legislature: "There has been a long standing concern about the inequity between the 1 month and 9-month staff appointments. Feeling run high and morale is low". However, he asked for on

1These bylaws are subject to and in accordance with the Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, as revised, effective June 17, 1984.
2Philip S. Sutton (1, June 16, 1972) reported that "President Varner called upon the Colleges to review and revise, if necessary, their procedures for recommending promotion in rank."
3This fact came to light when an analysis was made of faculty salaries for all colleges. How the discrepancy came about is not fully known. An important contributing factor may have been that College of Agriculture staff were on 12 months appointments whereas most other academic staff were on nine months appointments.
justifying proposed salary increases to the University administra-
retirement benefits.

history with respect to both age of individuals and
it would be
reduced one year annually until 1941-42 at which time

Actions by the University Administration.

Cooperative Extension Service - a Special

Comparisons with salaries in other Colleges where ap-

A Different Policy at the Federal Level

Currently the emphasis on staff salaries appears to
be on comparisons with those of peers in comparable
institutions, rather than on comparing IANR salaries
with those of other colleges within the UNL. Salary
studies in the University are made on the basis of
listing IANR salaries on a 9/12-3/12 basis, which is

Prior to 1974 a list of state experiment station salaries, published
annually by the USDA Cooperative State Research Service consti-
tuted an important source of information for determining and
justifying proposed salary increases to the University administra-
tion and to the Legislature.

Chapter 2. Retirement: University of Nebraska Policies and Relevant Legislation

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Retirement at the University of Nebraska has a long
history with respect to both age of individuals and
retirement benefits.

Actions by the UN Board of Regents

June 17, 1933: Departmental chairmanships to be
terminated at age 70, at which time said person would
return to his professorship duties (15).

June 15, 1935 Retirement age set at 75, but to be
reduced one year annually until 1941-42 at which time
it would be 70. A person reaching retirement age
would receive one-half of the average of his salary for
the previous five years. The Regents could extend the
service on a year-to-year basis when the interests of
the University would be better served. A person with
25 years of service could apply for retirement and
compensation at age 65 (15).

April 6, 1939: Retirement age set at 72, to be
reduced annually until 1946, at which time "... it shall
be 65 years ..." Board could extend service of any
individual when "... interests of the University will
be better served by such action . . . ."

Retirement benefits at time of retirement, because
of either age or disability, were to be the income which
would accrue if all earnings at 5 percent, compounded
at 3 percent were to be used to purchase an annuity,
calculated on the American Expectancy Table of Morta-
ity, with due regard to sex and age of the benefici-
ary.

The Regents also planned to investigate the possi-
bilities of a compulsory contributory retirement an-
uity plan, and a compulsory group death benefit plan (15).

July 3, 1939: Increased the 5 percent to 8 percent
and noted "... that this plan is intended to continue
only during a transition period until the University
may have in operation a joint contributory plan . . .
In no case shall the retirement allowance exceed $2,400
per year . . . ." (15).

April 13, 1940: Took action to the effect that "... the
Retirement Program of the University (passed July
3, 1939) shall be binding upon all persons eligible for

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June 28, 1941: Reiterated action taken on April 13, 1940, and added “However, when the best interests of the University may be served ... the Regents may wish to offer ... a yearly appointment ...” (after age 65) (15).

1949: During the 1949 Legislative session, the Board of Regents had legislation introduced which would have provided for a fully funded and vested retirement plan. The Legislature asked the Attorney General if the Board of Regents needed legislation to develop a retirement plan. He ruled that without express approval of the Legislature, the Board of Regents had no authority to have a retirement plan (of any kind). This ruling wiped out the 1939 Interim Plan of Retirement under which the University had been operating. Senator Victor Anderson (later Governor) then introduced the 1939 Interim Plan of Retirement as a Legislative Bill, which was subsequently passed by the Legislature and signed into law. Thus, what the University had been doing became legal, but with no improvement, which had been sought by the Board (2).


1959 - At the request of the Board of Regents, the Legislature, under the leadership of Senator Otto H. Liebers, passed enabling legislation for the University to develop a funded, vested retirement plan.

1959-1960. University Faculty Senate Committee of Benefit Plans under chairmanship of Cecil Vanderzee developed a plan, which was approved by the Board (2).

1961 - The Legislature funded the plan which was activated by the Board on September 1, 1961. It is the present TIAA/CREF compulsory, contributory, matching, vested, retirement plan (2).

June 23, 1961: Repeated the age 65 retirement age, with extension on yearly or monthly basis “When the best interests of the University may be served ...” (15).

Thus, beginning in 1961, the University, for the first time, had an acceptable retirement plan, one which was reasonably competitive with other educational institutions. There remained one shortfall — it would take perhaps 20 years under the new plan for a person to be able to retire on a reasonable pension. No provision was made for persons retiring during the interim period.

Retirement after age 65 seriously questioned. On June 11, 1971 D. B. Varner, who became chancellor of the University in February 1970, (3) wrote to the campus presidents as follows: “I am writing to reflect a growing concern over the number of people we are reappointing after age 65. I am afraid we are getting into a situation where this is almost a routine matter ... make certain that those persons who are reappointed after age 65 are reappointed for extraordinary reasons.” On July 2, 1971, Interim President C. Peter Magrath in calling attention to the “... great concern on this subject (appointments of staff beyond

The length of time given is arbitrary, but it is considered reasonable, even though minimal, as noted by the fact that a person starting with the University in 1961 at age 25, and retiring in the year 2006 at age 70, will have a pension based on 45 years of earnings (in addition to Social Security).

Policies, Attitudes and Procedures on Retirement

Within the University

Up to 1971. For many years the University had been rather liberal with respect to retaining staff until they passed the age of 68, if that was the individual's wish and typically it was. However, there were exceptions, and how the 65 to 68 year-to-year appointment was applied varied with colleges and administrators. Chancellor Hardin left the decisions largely up to the colleges. In the College of Agriculture, Lambert was selective and required proof that retaining the person in question would be in the best interest of the University. Frolik encouraged department chairmen to recommend retention of staff to age 68.

The first step in determining retirement depended on the chairman of the department involved. Unless he or she recommended continuation beyond age 65, it was virtually impossible to continue the staff member. Here, again, there was marked variation in interpreting the regulation. Thus, retirement depended on the department, division and college in which the person was employed. Those who were forced to retire at age 65 because they were in the “wrong part” of the University, with respect to retirement, were understandably embittered.

The College of Agriculture chairmen's recommendations, when Frolik was dean, were referred to the College Committee on Promotion and Tenure, the members of which were elected by the faculty. The Committee reviewed departmental submissions and, in turn, made their recommendations. Without exception, the Committee recommendations were accepted by the college administrators and transmitted to the president (chancellor).

In spite of all the regulations and policies to the contrary, the vast majority of staff members were retained beyond age 65.

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age 65), by both the Regents and the State administration stated that justification for recommending such appointments would require “...explaining why the staff member is being recommended for further appointment and indicating the precise attributes that he has and the contribution he can make to the program” (4).

In the fall of 1971, the College of Agriculture Committee on Promotion and Tenure recommended that six persons who would be 65 or over by the beginning of the next fiscal year be continued on the yearly appointment basis, that four staff members who elected to retire be permitted to do so, and that one Extension employee who would have preferred to continue working, be retired because her supervisor did not think that the person’s health was good enough to do the amount of traveling that was required in the position.

The 1971 report submitted to Magrath to meet his requirement for outlining the “precise attributes and contributions”, consisted of 42 pages of various types of supporting material. The College staff and administrators had responded literally and voluminously to Magrath’s directive (5). Subsequently, the recommendations from the College of Agriculture were approved by higher administration.

The following year, in October 1972, Virginia Trotter, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, continued with the administrative directives, in part as follows: “... future recommendations for appointment to One Year Service Contracts should include, in addition to a fully completed appointment form, a strong written justification for the recommendation. A justification must be made by the faculty member’s department chairman, his dean, and/or his director, indicating that his continuation on the faculty is in the best interest of the programs of the University” (7). Once again the College of Agriculture mustered its forces, duly followed the established procedures, and submitted another detailed report to the chancellor’s office.

Attempts to liberalize the policies. Meanwhile there were also attempts within the University to liberalize the retirement policy. On December 12, 1966 Dean Walter E. Militzer, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, wrote to Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin, requesting that “... mandatory retirement for faculty members be extended to 70 years from the present age of 68 ... many very eminent and respected institutions have established the age of 70 as the mandatory age” (8).

The Governance Committee of the UNL also recommended changes in the bylaws (11).

In 1971 or 1972, the Nebraska Chapter of the American Association of University Professors asked that the maximum retirement age be raised from 68 to 70, that the bylaws which read “A member of the University staff who has reached the age of sixty-five shall be retired” be revised to read “... may be retired” (10).

Dean Frolik, in September 1972, made a plea to Chancellor James H. Zumberge for more flexibility, including “... going to a maximum of 70 years of age, and lowering the minimum age to 55 years (primarily for Extension personnel who, in some cases, wanted to take early retirement) ...” (9). He had also made requests earlier for lowering or eliminating the maximum age (5, 12).

In 1984, Guy Ames, lobbyist, asked the Legislature’s Retirement Systems Committee to allow University faculty members to retire before 65 with full benefits (13).

A Different Policy at the Federal Level

Even as the University was tightening up its policies on retaining staff beyond the age of 65, an opposite stance was being taken by the Federal Government. For example, on September 13, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon wrote: “For many years, the Federal Government has been fighting against discrimination in employment. On the basis of age ... discrimination is an affront to our society ... I also ask that you review your agency’s (U.S. Departments and Agencies) employment practices and take immediate steps to eliminate any which may ... stand as a barrier to equal opportunity for older persons” (6).

Cooperative Extension Service - A Special Case

During the many years of uncertainty and inadequate retirement programs in the University, there was one group which was faring very well in this respect — this was the Cooperative Extension Service. In 1942 Congress passed, and the President approved, PL 480 which made it possible for Extension Service personnel to participate in the Civil Service retirement program. On September 12, 1945, the Civil Service Commission made an interpretation of the Law to the effect that Extension employees could get credit for past years employment in Extension if they “paid what would have been contributed plus interest”. In 1946, the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service started hiring staff on federal appointments so that they could have the benefit of the Civil Service program (18).

The Civil Service program was an excellent one, including, in time, health benefits and life insurance with annuities based on years in service, which included any other time on federal appointment such as military service. Also included were cost-of-living increases after retirement. With these retirement benefits, Extension staff members in some cases elected to retire before age 65 (as soon as this was permitted under University regulations).

Presently, new Extension employees at Nebraska

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3In 1955 Congress passed a bill which would have extended similar benefits to agricultural experiment station staff members; however, President Eisenhower vetoed the bill (14).
are no longer placed on the federal retirement program but instead on the University TIAA/CREF program. Employees already on the federal retirement program are permitted to continue under that plan if they so desire.

The Problem of Age Retirement Solved by Federal and State Statutes

The retirement age problem has been largely solved, both by federal legislation and state legislation, to help clarify federal requirements. The federal law, after which the state law was patterned, was the Age Discrimination in Employment Act enacted in 1967. That Act was amended by 1978 through PL 95-256, wherein the retirement age was raised to 70, to be effective January 1, 1979 (16, 19)*. Nebraska’s LB 287 (introduced by Senator Myron Rumery, a retired College of Agriculture staff member), passed by the Legislature and approved by the Governor on February 19, 1982, states: “No faculty member of the University shall have his or her tenure status revoked before age seventy without due process” (17).

On November 1, 1986, President Reagan signed a bill, passed by Congress, which bans mandatory retirement based on age, except for an amendment to the bill which exempts “... for seven years college professors and state and local police officers, firefighters and prison guards”. In signing the bill, President Reagan said, “Discrimination against older workers is a matter of great concern to this nation because of the need to sustain and enhance our productive capacity and attain the goal of fairness in employment opportunity for all American workers” (20).

As pointed out in the Sunday Journal-Star (21), there was some disagreement among a number of major organizations relative to the above legislation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposed eliminating mandatory age requirements for retirement, whereas the AFL-CIO favored the legislation. The American Council on Education favored an exemption so that professors over age 70 could be dismissed. Herbert Brown retired from Purdue University in 1978 at age 66, and the next year after continuing to carry on research at Purdue without pay, won the Nobel Prize for medicine. Brown testified that in the 1930’s “conventional wisdom was that one did his most creative work by age 35. I have now come to the conclusion that this 35 age limit is sheer nonsense.”

The bylaws of the Board of Regents of the University (1, p 41) contain the statement: “The normal retirement age for all members of the University staff shall be 65 years. Retirement shall be mandatory at age 70. Employees may retire at age 55 after ten years of service ... A member of the University professional staff, who has reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, may be permitted to continue employment ... beyond the mandatory retirement date on an annual reappointment basis ... (when) ... such reappointment is in the best interests of the University.” The sum and substance of the above is that the staff member, unless he (she) becomes physically or mentally disabled, selects his (her) time of retirement, from age 55 after 10 years of service, up to age 70, and that any extension beyond 70 is up to the Board.

With the TIAA/CREF program earning base now being 26 years in length and with the staff members having the option of working to age 70, forced retirement because of age has become a minor problem and, of course, will be no problem when the 1986 federal legislation becomes fully operative.

In 1977, following a request made by the University and strongly supported by the University Emeriti Association, the Legislature removed the $2,400 ceiling from the old (1939) University retirement program and liberalized the retirement benefits. The amount of increase was weighed in favor of the older retirees, particularly those who had retired-prior to 1955 at which time the University came under Social Security. A second factor taken into consideration was the year 1961 at which time the University started participating in the TIAA/CREF program. Repeated attempts since 1977 to “modernize” the old University retirement program through the Legislature, to take into account cost-of-living increases, have failed.

It is now over a quarter of a century since retirement “earnings” under the old University retirement program were terminated (2). Cost of benefits provided by the state reached an apex in about 1981 and have remained on a plateau since. As time goes on and more retirees die, the cost will begin going down and ultimately reach zero.

Was Von Bismark Right?

Was the retirement age of 65 ever really sound, and secondly, on what was this particular age based? Lewis and Swendiman (19, p CRS-14) have stated: “The choice of 65 as the age for retirement reportedly had its origin in the Old Age and Survivors Pension Act which Otto Von Bismark established as the first chancellor of the German Empire in 1889 ... age 65 does not seem to have been chosen because of any particular social or scientific reason ...”. However, somewhat like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, Von Bismark came to have a very large following on his retirement policy.

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Chapter 3. The Honor Society of Agriculture-Gamma Sigma Delta

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Name, Organization and Objectives

The name of the organization is “The Honor Society of Agriculture-Gamma Sigma Delta”. It “... is international ... and (stated in the Constitution) shall consist of local chapters at ... universities and colleges offering degrees in agriculture. The field of agriculture is considered to include the traditional agricultural sciences and such areas of study as forestry, home economics, wildlife, and veterinary sciences. Local chapters may also be established in governmental organizations specializing in agricultural research or service” (1). Earlier versions of the Constitution referred only to agriculture. The present interpretation of “agriculture” was first spelled out in the Constitution in 1976 as follows (2, p 5):

“The broad objective of the Society is to encourage advancement in all branches of the agricultural sciences and agricultural industry. This is accomplished by: 1) encouraging high standards of scholarship and leadership; 2) encouraging high quality achievement, professional ethics, and devotion to service; and 3) rendering service” (1).

The international Constitution spells out eligibility for election to membership as: 1) undergraduate juniors in agriculture in the upper five percent of their class scholastically, undergraduate seniors in agriculture in the upper 15 percent of their class with not over 15 percent of the senior class being members (including those who might have come in as juniors); 2) graduate students in agriculture who have attained a grade average of at least B; 3) outstanding agricultural faculty members of the initiating institution; and 4) alumni of the institution where the chapter is located, who have rendered signal service to the cause of agriculture (1).

Early History Nationally

The Society came into existence at Ohio State University on December 1, 1905, under the name of Delta Theta Sigma. Subsequently, chapters were installed at the agricultural colleges at these universities: Iowa State, Pennsylvania State, Missouri, Utah State, and Oregon State. Dissension arose because of the fact that a chapter house was maintained at Ohio State while the other chapters were strictly honorary in nature. They did not have chapter houses and did not think any chapter should have. The result was that in 1913 all chapters except Ohio State withdrew from Delta Theta Sigma and formed a new society under the name of Gamma Sigma Delta. Additional chapters were installed at Kansas State in 1914, and Alabama in 1916. In 1916 another honorary was established at the University of Minnesota, under the name of “The Honor Society of Agriculture”. In 1917 the two societies were merged under the name of “The Honor Society of Agriculture-Gamma Sigma Delta”. There are presently 44 chapters, 43 in the U.S. and one in the Philippines (2, 3, 4).
Charter Members at the University of Nebraska

The Nebraska Chapter was installed May 25, 1918. The 27 charter members were: Harry E. Bradford; Edgar A. Burnett; William W. Burr; Leon W. Chase; Franklin D. Keim; Theodore A. Kiesselbach; Howard J. Gramlich; Charles E. Gunnels; Robert E. Holland; Edgar A. Burnett; William W. Burr; Leon W. Chase; Skinner; George W. Hood; Ernest H. Hoppert; Robert F. Howard; Franklin D. Keim; Theodore A. Kiesselbach; Frank E. Frandsen, president; Porter Wilcox, vice president; and Horace J. Young.

Programs of the Nebraska Chapter

The programs conducted by the Nebraska Chapter have varied somewhat over the years. Currently, there are two recognition events held annually, one in the spring and one in the fall of the year. At the fall initiation and awards banquet, new members are initiated and one Award of Merit is awarded to one faculty member each year for demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and extension, respectively. In addition, the Chapter makes Awards of Merit to UN alumni for Distinguished Service to Agriculture.

The spring scholarship dinner is devoted to recognizing scholarship attainments of undergraduates in the College of Agriculture. The sophomore with the highest attained grade average is awarded a monetary scholarship (in case of a tie, the scholarship fund is divided equally between the winners). Recognition is also made of the highest ranking senior(s). In addition, juniors ranking in the upper 25 percent of their class scholastically are invited to be guests at the dinner and given special recognition.

The Special Role of Charles H. Adams

Charles H. Adams is an unofficial “honorary chairman” of the board of the Nebraska chapter. He has held all of the Chapter offices and since 1965 has been the official Historian. He is keeper of the Society historical records and maintains a roster of current members and alumni. He is an excellent source of information on the Nebraska Chapter, past and present.

International Recognition of Nebraska Chapter Members

Beginning with 1951, the Society has presented annually the International Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Members of the UN College of Agriculture staff who have received the award have been as follows: George A. Young, 1961; Khem M. Shahani, 1965; John W. Schmidt and Virgil A. Johnson, 1969; and Charles O. Gardner, 1977.

Nebraska was named the “Outstanding Chapter” for 1982-83.

Members who were initiated at the UN and have served as International Society presidents are: Arden A. Baltensperger, (1948 initiate) NM, 1972-74; Dale W. Bohmont, (1951 initiate) NV, 1974-76; and W. Vincent Lambert, (1921 initiate) NE, 1954-56. Others who have served in this capacity while on the staff at Nebraska have been: Duane C. Acker, (1952 Iowa State initiate) 1974-76; and Lowell E. Moser, (1961 Ohio State initiate) 1986-88.

Distinguished Nebraska Initiates

Many who were initiated into the Honor Society of Agriculture-Gamma Sigma Delta have distinguished themselves in their respective professional fields. Included among these are George W. Beadle (1926 initiate), one of three recipients of the 1958 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine, president of the University of Chicago, 1961-68, and recipient of 35 honorary doctorate degrees; and Clifford M. Hardin (1963 initiate) who served as the first Secretary of Agriculture in the Nixon administration, beginning in January 1969.

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In addition to many faculty accomplishments over the years, some members are written about here as colorful characters or unsung heroes. Obviously the choice of individuals on these bases is highly subjective. Nevertheless, those selected and the basis for each follow.

Colorful Characters

Newton W. Gaines (1, 2, 3)

Newton W. Gaines started his career with Extension on December 1, 1918 and retired on June 30, 1945. He was born at Arlington, Nebraska, on May 29, 1876 and died while on a visit to California shortly after his retirement. He was reared on a farm in Washington County, graduated from Midland College in 1905, taught in public schools, returned to Midland as Chairman of the English Department from 1909 to 1912, and then went into lyceum and chautauqua work. He worked for a time with Fibber and Mollie Magee who later rose to radio fame.

Why did he leave the chautauqua circuit, where he had appeared in 27 different states, to settle down as a community organization specialist in Extension? He said the thing that anchored him was the opportunity to help people.

Public speaking was Newt’s (as he was commonly known) forte. During his 27 years at the University, he averaged giving 300 talks a year. He claimed to have spoken in every village, hamlet, town, and city in Nebraska, as well as in thousands of rural communities.

Lux (3) said: “There was only one Newton W. Gaines in all Nebraska Extension history . . . he was a character that people never forgot. His rapid fire delivery, with appropriate gestures, made him a combination of lecturer, entertainer and spellbinder that Nebraska people appreciated. Mrs. Gaines (Lura) said Newt got that way ‘down cellar’ by practicing his delivery and gestures in front of a big mirror and with the help of an old Edison Graphophone. He could get out more words per minute than any auctioneer. One of his good friends once said, ‘I tried to think fast enough to keep up with what he was telling us, but I gave up and just waited to see when the darned fool was going to come up for air’.”

Although given the assignment of community organization specialist, Gaines’ contributions to ongoing Extension programs were a bit nebulous. He reported having prepared educational programs for 4-H clubs, rural youth organizations of all kinds, women’s groups, and rural churches. He stated that in 1933 he sensed a growing need for an organization of farm youth, built on members from the age of “retirement” from 4-H clubs to about 30 years of age. This idea led to the organization of the Rural Youth program (see Part V, Chapter 13). He also prepared a series of hometown plays, complete with stage settings, costume suggestions and dialogue. Several communities used the plays for winter entertainment (3). In 1929 Gaines authored a book of fiction entitled Under the Shadow of the Wigwam (25, p 27).

In the course of his career, Newt had many interesting experiences. One he reported was when he was asked to come to York to speak at a Chamber of Commerce entertainment for 4-H Club members. When he arrived, the Governor had just finished speaking. Someone recognized Newt and took him to the platform. He was surprised at the size of the crowd and also at its makeup — he didn’t think they looked like any 4-H group he had spoken to previously. But he went ahead with his talk. The next day the president of the Chamber of Commerce telephoned Newt and asked where he had been the day before, stating that the crowd had waited for an hour for him to arrive. It turned out that there had been two meetings in York that day, that Newt missed the meeting he was supposed to attend, and instead addressed a Democratic party rally. The reaction of the Democrats to the talk is not known, however, likely they were somewhat perplexed.

Gaines’ philosophy was on the optimistic side. He believed that people need to laugh, to forget their troubles during the hour or so that a speech was in progress. He told about going to Beatrice in 1934 and visiting a farm prior to making a speech. Crops were “burned up” and Gaines was so affected by the tragic situation that he decided to give a sympathy talk to the farmers instead of his customary inspirational type of speech. After the meeting, the farmer whom Gaines had visited responded, when asked how he liked the talk, “Well, the talk was all right, but we’d rather you’d tell the kind of stories you usually tell”. Gaines said that experience taught him a lesson — “folks want to be lifted out of themselves.” And he resumed making his inspirational, humorous and entertaining speeches.

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Newt Gaines filled an important role in Extension. His rapid-fire, inspirational speeches will never be forgotten by the many thousands who heard him.

Howard J. Gramlich

Howard J. Gramlich was born in Omaha, Nebraska on January 26, 1889. He graduated from the University School of Agriculture in 1908 and from the College of Agriculture in 1910. He served on the staff of the College of Agriculture from 1910 until 1938, first in Extension, including having charge of the Farmers' Institutes; starting in 1913 as teacher and researcher in the Department of Animal Husbandry; and starting in 1919 as head/chairman of the Department.

Gramlich was truly a raconteur. He was able to hold the full attention of an audience by starting with a few stories and then interspersing his entire speech with additional ones. He was inspirational and, although not a great scholar, he was sound and very successful in getting his message across to the audiences. He was a prime public relations representative.

Gramlich tended to be self-deprecatory in his stories, but he managed to be entertaining without doing harm to either himself or the institution. A few examples of his stories were:

"Today a farmer has to be both smart and intelligent — smart enough to understand all of the advice the experts give him, and intelligent enough to use only that which will do him the least harm."

He once stated: "Recently while I was giving a talk a man in the back of the room stood up and said 'I can't hear you back here'. A man near the front then stood up and said 'I can hear every word and I'll be glad to change places with you.'"

"Recently I gave a speech at Wahoo. When I had finished, the man presiding presented me with a watch which had no works. I said 'I appreciate the gift but I am a little puzzled as to why you would give me a watch without any works'. The reply was 'If you ever show up here again, we'll give you the works'."

"A man who owns a Jersey cow is someone who is too lazy to milk a Holstein and too proud to milk a goat".

Gramlich also had an unusual ability to extemporize. Never was this better illustrated than at a meeting being held in Franklin, Nebraska, on February 22, 1938. With a number of speakers seated on the platform, Ashton C. Shallenberger (who had been Governor of Nebraska from 1909-1911) was giving a speech when he suddenly collapsed and fell to the floor. Gramlich who was seated on the stage, took charge, calmed the crowd and held the meeting in abeyance until medical attention was provided and Governor Shallenberger was removed from the stage. When word came back to the platform, in about half an hour, that the Governor had died, Gramlich reported the sad news to the audience and delivered an effective eulogy on the Governor. Few people could have handled the situation as effectively as Gramlich did.

Still another outstanding quality of Gramlich's was his ability to empathize with whomever he came in contact. To visit with him, even casually, was to like him. The senior author recalls a farm couple who briefly visited with Gramlich after he had given a talk and who felt ever afterwards that he was their friend, even though their sons who were attending the College of Agriculture at the time did not major in animal husbandry nor had they taken any courses under Gramlich.

Understandably, Gramlich was in great demand as an after dinner speaker. During the drought years he strongly advocated the use of trench silos and the growing of Atlas sorgo as a forage crop. A dynamic individual, he was called on to judge livestock shows throughout the U.S., including the International Livestock Show at Chicago and the American Royal Show at Kansas City. He also headed the federal cattle buying program in Nebraska in 1934 and 1935.
In 1938, Gramlich resigned his position at the University to accept the position of Secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeders’ Association in Chicago. Four years later he accepted a position as agriculturist with the Northwestern Railroad. He retired from that position at age 66, only to accept an assignment with a lecture bureau. In this capacity he gave two or three lectures per week until he took final retirement seven years later (8).

He spent his final retirement years living in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, where he died November 30, 1985, at the age of 96.

Earl G. Maxwell

Earl G. Maxwell could best be characterized as the Nebraska Hoosier Philosopher. He was born at Knightstown, Indiana in 1884 and died in November of 1966 at age 82. Having grown up 14 miles from the home of James Whitcomb Riley at Greenfield, Indiana, Maxwell could recite by the hour, from memory, poems written by “The Hoosier Poet”. Maxwell also enjoyed quoting (from memory) many of the pointed observations of “Abe Martin”.

Maxwell started with Extension in 1917 being the first county extension agent in Douglas County. He served as extension forester from 1934 until his retirement in 1952. He was administrator of the Clarke-McNary Tree Distribution program in Nebraska for 18 years. The Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum on East Campus was dedicated in his honor on June 8, 1969 and in about 1960 the Lincoln Kiwanis Club planted and dedicated the Kiwanis Maxwell Arboretum in the Interstate Park, located west of Interstate Highway No. 180 in Lincoln.

Maxwell was much in demand at various meetings to recite James Whitcomb Riley poems and “Abe Martin” sayings. Also, he would work in a few of these quotations in educational meetings and would recite some poetry when conversing with someone. At one time he conducted a radio program consisting of poetry. The Lincoln Kiwanis Club made and distributed a record of him reciting some of his favorite poems.

It is not difficult to understand why Maxwell became enamored with the works of James Whitcomb Riley. Riley, born in Indiana in 1849, died in 1916. He wrote a great deal of poetry, much of it in “Hoosier dialect”. He was highly knowledgeable of Hoosier characteristics. In his writing he emphasized humor, sentiment, and simplicity. In reciting Riley’s poetry, Maxwell effectively imitated the Hoosier dialect.

Two of Maxwell’s favorite Riley poems were “Out to Old Aunt Mary’s” and “When the frost is on the pumpkin”.

“Abe Martin” was a cartoon character created by Frank McKinney “Kin” Hubbard. The character “Abe Martin” and “Abe’s” pungent short sayings were syndicated and appeared daily for years in many newspapers, until Hubbard died in 1930.

Those who can remember reading newspapers in the 1920’s will recall that at least one Nebraska newspaper carried the cartoon of the ungainly character “Abe Martin” along side of the daily quotation. Hubbard and Riley had in common the fact that at one time both worked on Indianapolis newspapers. Examples of “Abe Martin’s” quotations are:

“It’s no disgrace t’ be poor, but it might as well be.”

“When a fellow says it hain’t the money but the principle o’ the thing, it’s the money.”

“Miss Tawney Apple is confined t’ her home by a swollen dress drawer.”

At the dedicatory service of the Earl G. Maxwell Arboretum, Frolik (6) stated that Maxwell was “…a true and wonderful naturalist, intertwining his love of nature with a love of poetry.” Frolik compared Maxwell with early New England poets like William Cullen Bryant “…who wrote so beautifully and with such feeling about nature.”

Glenn Viehmeyer

Glenn Viehmeyer was a self-made man. Even though he never attended college he was a very productive scientist and he was as colorful as he was capable and productive.

Viehmeyer was born on December 3, 1900 in Logan County near Stapleton, Nebraska. He grew up in the sandhills, attended country school and completed his formal education with graduation from the Stapleton High School.

He appears to have been a born naturalist. His interest in growing flowers stems back to when he was a boy of six or seven years. By the time he was in high school he selected a few red colored ears of corn from his father’s crop and planted the seed to see what the offspring would look like. Later he paid $4.50 for a bushel of Minnesota 13 seed corn, from which, after a few years of selection, he developed a variety, the seed of which he sold over the country.

Viehmeyer was a complex individual. He was not a calorie counter, was careless in attire, and chewed tobacco. Yet intellectually he was the opposite. He was highly intelligent and possessed very nearly photographic memory. His thinking was precise. He was inspirational, extremely industrious, and typically in the forefront in experimenting with new products and concepts. He has been described as a “diamond-in-the-rough”, and the term “a modern Luther Burbank” could also be applied. He was bold, candid, forward in conversing with the mighty as well as the meek, and self-confident to the point of being

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2One had the feeling that Viehmeyer enjoyed playing the part of a unique character.
egotistical³, provocative, and appeared to enjoy “putting the other fellow down” in a discussion or argument. Because of his great power of retention, it was almost impossible to best him in an argument — he could always draw upon his almost unlimited store of knowledge for one more point to support his position.

Viehmeyer gained his knowledge of plant breeding and other scientific disciplines largely through extensive, selective reading. He developed contacts with many scientists both within Nebraska and nationally, and frequently he called upon top authorities in the respective fields to get suggestions on the most useful books and other scientific literature available. Thus if he wanted to become proficient in plant physiology, he would obtain the names of a few of the most informative publications on the subject, and then carefully read them. He devoted much time in the winter, when he couldn’t be in the field, to such self-studies. By the time he completed his reading on a subject he probably could have bested his mentors on many of the details on the subject.

Among Viehmeyer’s scientific accomplishments were: 1) he did some of the very early work in Nebraska on the insecticide DDT and cooperatively on the herbicide 2,4-D; 2) he carried on a tree ring study with Harry Weakly from which historical drought periods were identified; 3) he cooperated in research on increasing yields of sub-irrigated meadows in the sandhills; and 4) he developed and released the following numbers of new varieties - two strawberries (cooperatively with the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station), 50 chrysanthemums, and six penstemons. He did basic research on interspecific crosses, producing breeding materials of roses and asters from which further selections could be made (12, 13).

As he looked back over the years, Viehmeyer said the project he enjoyed most was the plant exploration (collection) which he started in 1962 under a University contract with the USDA Office of Plant Introduction. Although no longer in the best of health, he traveled some 30,000 miles in the Rocky Mountains, the Southwest Desert, and the Great Basin areas of North America, collecting native plants for possible ornamental use. The exploration resulted in collecting over a thousand accessions for evaluation for landscape and highway plantings. He never stopped collecting, even after he retired in 1966 (12, 13).

Viehmeyer and his wife Catherine operated the boarding house at the North Platte Station (where they also lived) for a period of 12 to 14 years. He reported to George Round (12): “We had a lot of odd-balls come in, even some of you professors”. When the boarding house was closed, the Viehmeyers built a home about one-half mile north of the Station. There they established many beautiful plantings and the home remained a show place as long as Viehmeyer lived.

Nowhere was Viehmeyer more respected than among the members of garden clubs — in fact, he was the “darling” of the approximately 3,000 members of the 125 Nebraska Federated Garden Clubs. He succeeded in getting the North Platte Garden Club to establish and maintain beautiful landscape flowers and ornamentals at the North Platte airport. He also received a certificate for horticultural achievement from the National Council of State Garden Clubs (12, 13).

In spite of not being a particularly polished public speaker, nor projecting too effectively over television, after he retired in 1966 he ran successfully for the State legislature. He was elected in the fall of 1966 and served during the years 1967 and 1968 (5). He said he ran “half-heartedly” for a second term, but was defeated (12).

Viehmeyer died at Gunnison, Colorado on June 10, 1974.

Wayne C. Whitney (10, 11)

Wayne C. Whitney served on the Extension staff of the Department of Horticulture and Forestry from 1947 until he retired in 1975. He was born in Kansas on March 8, 1909. He was down to earth, bucolic, strong physically ⁵, customarily somewhat overweight, dynamic, friendly and commonly used colloquialisms in his speeches. His approach to horticultural problems was consistently practical, and he was extremely knowledgeable about a broad array of subjects. He was one of the best known and most popular Extension specialists of his time. He was never at a loss for words, and he was a natural and effective story teller. He traveled many miles over the entire state and worked hard in conducting meetings, giving demonstrations, and assisting fruit and vegetable growers with their problems.

A charter member of the Backyard Farmer panel⁶, a television show which was started in 1953, Whitney incorporated a humorous and entertaining flavor into the program. Many people tuned in not only to gain knowledge but also to hear Whitney’s amusing retorts. For instance when a lady called in to find out what she should do to make her papaw ⁷ tree bloom, Whitney advised her “... get a mamaw tree”; and when someone called, asking what to do about a bush eaten down by a cow, Whitney suggested turning the cow around.

⁵Viehmeyer ran for the unexpired term of Senator Cecil Craft who died in office on March 1, 1966. At that time (prior to 1970) the Legislature met on odd-numbered years.

⁶He had been a member of the varsity wrestling team while a student at Kansas State University.

⁷A call-in television show on growing of vegetables, fruit, flowers, shrubbery, trees and lawns.

³Papaw is a tree which bears edible fruit. It was made famous through the nursery song “Way down yonder in the papaw patch”.

⁸An example of which was his statement “Yes, I ran for the state legislature . . . I was sort of aggravated that we didn’t have a candidate on the slate that I approved of, so I ran” (12).
One of Whitney’s many capabilities included taffy pulling. He enjoyed giving demonstrations on this art at church and neighborhood groups and in one year (from November 1, 1948 to November 1, 1949) he pulled 160 pounds of sugar into taffy. He used the demonstration to get his audience interested in horticulture.

One of his speciality talks was on the subject of the old fashioned privy. This talk, patterned after the Chic Sale’s book (4), was illustrated with a large collection of colored slides. Typically he had his audience laughing during the entire presentation of this topic.

Two organizations to which Whitney gave considerable attention were the Nebraska State Fair and the Nebraska State Horticulture Society. He served as superintendent of the horticulture section of the Fair where he put up the famed apple board for 28 years. He also served as secretary of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society during his 28 years as extension horticulturist.

Two groups to which Whitney devoted particular attention in his Extension work were the watermelon growers in the St. Libory area and the approximately 40 growers (at the high water mark) of tomatoes hydroponically. The watermelon growers who had been in the business for many years before Whitney’s coming to Nebraska and who were known for growing of high quality melons on the sandy soils of the area, gained significantly from Whitney’s help. Growing tomatoes hydroponically under greenhouse conditions proved to be a rather complex undertaking, and only a few growers who were equal to the task, both financially and in the intricate production procedures, survived.

Although having grown up and having worked for some years in Kansas, Whitney became a most ardent Cornhusker. He loved his home, his family, the people of the state, and all things having to do with horticulture. He gardened extensively, in connection with which he operated a 10 X 13 foot greenhouse at his home. For years he and his wife, Lucille, grew tomato plants and sold tomatoes. And, as might be expected, he was an ardent Cornhusker football fan.

When people asked Whitney where he was going to retire, his reply would be “Why would I leave?” After he retired in 1975, the Whitneys remained in Lincoln, continuing to operate their greenhouse and to garden. He also conducted a garden program on one of the local radio stations. Active to the end, he met with a sudden death on January 7, 1977.

Honorable Mention

Carl Dale, a prime humorist, was Valley County agent from 1919 until 1955. In spite of his high voice, he was an expert at mimicry, especially in imitating persons who had difficulty expressing themselves in the English language. A condensation of his best known anecdote had to do with the man who related his experiences with catching carp, which his wife dressed and fried, after which he said “... is that good — I would as rather have chicken”.

J. P. Ross was a successful county agent in Nebraska counties from 1920 until 1936. He was a rather droll individual who attained fame of a sort among other Extension staff because of the following: A state specialist visiting Scotts Bluff county said, “J. P. you are doing excellent work here in this county”. Ross’s reply was “I have to do good work because if I don’t they’ll transfer me to Lincoln and make a state specialist out of me.” He became Assistant Director in 1936.

William W. Marshall (9) was executive clerk of the Station from 1895 until he was retired in 1941. He was a highly dignified individual who continued to wear white, stiff, detachable shirt collars until he died.

Hazel Perin Reeder, daughter of S. W. Perin has written: “Mr. Marshall, who became a legendary figure at the farm, was a tall, thin man whose greying hair was worn in a ‘butch’ haircut, very unusual in those days. From the first day he always had dinner at our house. A black suit and white shirt was practically a uniform with him ... There was a lot of kidding among the boys (students) at the table and he would show his amusement by making a peculiar sound in his throat, a sort of ‘Harumumum’. He was a very religious man ... He was a kind, gentle man and we always thought of him as a good friend ...” (21, p 4).

Marshall was well read and an authority on the English language. On his own he gained a reading knowledge of several other languages, learned the touch system of typing, and developed his own system of shorthand. He spent much of his spare time in church work, including serving as organist. He also owned his own organ. For many years he made regular Sunday visits to the county poor farm, making numerous financial contributions to the residents (22, p 7).

In his later years Marshall officed in Agricultural Hall, with Rena Schnurr who was finance secretary. As a result of tending the counter in her absence and also because of his unique appearance and demeanor, he was known to most students of that time. Completely unselfish, he once asked the Dean to lower his salary, and died nearly penniless because of his generosity to charity. Although retired in 1941, he continued to come to the office and work regularly at his job until a week before his death on March 7, 1947, just short of 84 years of age.

Beaman Q. Smith. One can scarcely think of a greater change than having been reared in Washington, D. C. to becoming a county agent in Frontier County, a position which Beaman Q. Smith filled from 1930 to 1934. Although a most sincere individual to Nebraskans, he was also somewhat idiosyncratic. There

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*This set a record which has probably never been equaled in the history of the College of Agriculture.
were amusing anecdotes told on him. He would customarily start educational meetings by playing a few selections on his violin, not uncommonly to the discomfiture of the state specialists in attendance. Smith maintained his friendly attitude, worked conscientiously and resigned in 1934 to take graduate work at Cornell University. He left many good friends in Nebraska.

D. D. Whitney was professor of zoology in the University from 1916 until 1948. Whitney was a native New Englander who never lost his heavy native accent. Every student was called upon to recite at every one of his class sessions, with a grade being recorded each time. To the students who had prepared their lessons, Whitney's classes were more entertaining than a movie — to those who came unprepared, there were a few uncomfortable moments. Whitney announced at the beginning of each semester that he was “death on sleepers”. And he proved it by requiring any student caught sleeping in his class to write a 1,000 word essay on the subject of “sleep”. Whitney was rated as an excellent teacher.

Unnamed county agent was known for scolding the people who attended his meetings because more were not present. Commonly, when a client called at the office the agent would pull out his pocket watch and say “I can give you exactly 10 (or 15) minutes — no more.”

Unsung Heroes

Elton Lux (18, 19).

Elton Lux was born on September 4, 1900 at Chapman, Nebraska. He was reared on a farm in Hall county, graduated from the Wood River High School, and from the College of Agriculture in 1923. As a youngster on the farm, he conducted a corn project and was a member of a 4-H club. Beginning at age 17 and including his freshman year in college, he husked by hand all of the corn on the home farm.

That he was pragmatic, individualistic, and not easily placed in a mold of standard operating procedures, was evident. With full intentions of being a farmer, he registered only for applied courses in his freshman year in the College of Agriculture. By the time he was to enter his sophomore year he ran into a problem in registering because of having to take required basic courses. He ascertained that a person over 21 years of age could register as an adult special and thus take any courses he wished. So as Elton stated (19) “I skipped a year of age right quick...No one thought to check my birth certificate...and I went through the second year of college as an adult special...I piled up a lot of the practical courses like blacksmithing". Because of Elton's good record, his father insisted that he finish college, believing that “Elton was too smart to be a farmer” (19). The result was that Elton had to make up the beginning basic courses as an upperclassman. He said taking such courses with underclassmen did hurt his pride somewhat, but in time he came to be good friends with the freshman and sophomore fellow classmen.

Lux took an active role in many activities and had the friendship and respect of his fellow students as shown by the fact that he was elected to numerous offices in student organizations.

Lux's entire professional career was with Extension. He started his employment with the College of Agriculture in the basement of Agricultural Hall upon graduation from College in 1923 and except for short leaves-of-absence to work in Washington, D. C. and to take graduate work, he continued to office in the same location until he retired in 1961.

Some of his working titles during the period of 1923 to 1961 were (18): 

"I can give you exactly 10 (or 15) minutes — no more."

Assistant County Extension Agent
Editorial Assistant
Editor, Extension Service
State Extension Editor
State Extension Agent - Agriculture Conservation
Associate Extension Agriculturist, Agriculture Conservation Supervisor, Subject Matter Materials
Extension Agriculturist
Administrative Assistant to the Director
Acting Assistant Director, Extension Service
State Leader, Finance and Personnel

Lux was the “Rock of Gibraltar” in Extension. He was stable, knowledgeable, sincere, helpful, dependable, hard working, and basically an excellent team member. That he was versatile is shown by the variety of positions that he held. As noted above, these varied from editorial work to carrying out heavy responsibilities in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (now ASCS) program 10, supervising subject matter materials, holding minor administrative positions, and finally as state leader for finance and personnel. Among his fellow workers he was in great demand for information, consultation and advice.

Lux maintained a rather low profile throughout his Extension career. His numerous and important contributions to the organization would have indicated more prominence and greater recognition. However, he was unobtrusive and perhaps to a certain extent he was taken for granted.

To those who did not know him well, Lux gave the impression, primarily through his demeanor, of being a dour individual. Someone has said he could laugh easily but never smiled. Actually, he was a warm individual and ever ready to help his fellowman. He was, however, rather direct in conversation and would commonly come to the heart of the matter without

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9He was also heavily involved in formal classroom teaching of Extension courses and inservice training.

10Recorded as Agricultural Conservation in the listings above.
many preliminaries — a characteristic that not everyone appreciates. Also he was a logical thinker and could rapidly reach a logical conclusion to a complex problem or controversial matter. This too is a quality which is not always appreciated, especially when someone is trying to prove a point which he does not wish understood. But wherever Lux was involved, understanding and right generally prevailed.

In summary, it can be said that in his 38 years with Extension, Lux was an invaluable staff member. He contributed a great deal and throughout his tenure helped to keep the ship of state of Extension on a sound, productive and progressive course. His imprint on Extension will be felt for many years to come.

Elton Lux died June 30, 1979 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Neils Frederick Petersen (15, 16).

Neils Frederick Petersen was born in Faxe, Denmark on April 22, 1877. When he was four years old his family immigrated to the United States and settled on a farm in Antelope County near Brunswick with the post office address of Plainview, Nebraska. After attending local schools, he graduated from the Fremont Normal College in 1902; received the BS degree from the University of Nebraska and a MS degree in 1911; and completed all requirements except for the completion of a dissertation, for the PhD degree at the University of Chicago in 1916.

“Pete”, as he was commonly known, was highly intelligent, witty, intuitive, industrious, and a sincere and highly capable botanical and agronomic scientist. He was well read on a wide variety of subjects. He was a true naturalist. In addition to being employed full time by the University, he conducted research on two small tracts of land near Lincoln, which he owned. One of these was north of the East Campus, which now belongs to the University, and the other was a timbered area located along Salt Creek and the old Rock Island Railroad right-of-way, south of Lincoln.

He grew cultivated crops of special scientific interest to him on the tract north of the city, and conducted studies on the native vegetation in the wooded area near Salt Creek, all of which he did on his own time on holidays, weekends and evenings. He had no automobile, reaching his private research areas principally by walking and riding on the street car/bus.

Petersen’s career was varied. From 1909 to 1913 he was an instructor in botany at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge; and in 1914 he held an appointment with the Isthmian Canal Commission in Ancon, Panama Canal Zone. For a time he was curator of the herbarium at the University; he served for a short time as botany instructor at Wayne State Normal at Wayne, Nebraska; and from 1917 to 1920 he was with the Department of Range Management at the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station in Reno. He returned to Nebraska in 1921 as assistant to T. A. Kiesselbach in the Department of Agronomy. In about 1934 he returned to the old family farm at Plainview.

Petersen was both a field and laboratory scientist, and was an excellent microscopist. As an assistant to Kiesselbach, he did much of the anatomical, morphological, and cytological work on corn11. He also assisted Kiesselbach in studies on the use of sodium chlorate to control common bindweed12. In his earlier days at the University of Nebraska, Petersen, when he was Curator of the Herbarium, produced and published the first botanical key of the native flora of Nebraska (17), a mammoth and painstaking undertaking. This was an excellent book which was well received by taxonomists, especially for use in their courses of instruction. Persons in academic work who have need to key out plants for identification purposes, such as Professors John D. Furrer and Emery W. Nelson of the IANR, still make use of Petersen’s book.

Although respected for his scientific capabilities, Petersen never attained the fame to which he was entitled. One of the reasons may have been that he

11This work was partially published in scientific journals and later included in Nebraska AES Research Bulletin 161, The structure and reproduction of corn which is still in use today. It was reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press in 1980 with a foreword by William A. Compton, professor of agronomy.

12This was before the days of modern herbicides which had their beginning with 2,4-D.
was somewhat of a nonconformist, a quality which was
more of a handicap in his time than it would be today.
He was far from being an accomplished socialite, yet
he was a likable and interesting individual. He did
not enjoy the best of health. In his laboratory he would
eat agar (a gelatinous material used as a culture me­
dium) for health reasons. Instead of gum he regularly
chewed paraffin, used in his laboratory as an embed­
ing medium for microscopic slide preparations.

Petersen was noted for his witticisms. Once he was
asked by a graduate student who had scarcely been
outside of the borders of Nebraska: “Pete, you’ve lived
in various places in North and Central America, where
would you say would be the ideal place to live?” Pete,
as he was wont to do, leaned back on his microscope
stool, pondered a while, and said: “That is some place
I haven’t been yet.”

He enjoyed discussing politics, and in the 1930’s he
labeled a Democrat, he would reply emphatically: “I am
not a Democrat — I’m a Republican. I’m just trying
to get my Party straightened out.”
Petersen died on October 28, 1940 due to injuries
suffered in a farm accident.

Charles E. Booth (20, 24)

Charles E. Booth was a student in the University
School of Agriculture in Lincoln and taking ROTC
when he was drafted into the United States Army on
September 17, 1917. He trained in Camp Funston
and went overseas in June 1918 as a member of the
2nd Battalion, 355th Regiment, 89th Infantry Divi­
ision. Within a week after landing in Liverpool, Eng­
land, he was at LeHavre, France, then going on to St.
Mihiel and finally to the Meuse Argonne battle fronts.

Three days before the Armistice, Charlie (as he was
known among his friends) was struck in his left arm
by a piece of shrapnel. It completely shattered the
wrist of his left arm, and went completely through his
right arm. His left arm was amputated between the
elbow and wrist, and ultimately replaced with an ar­
thritic limb. The injury also resulted in his having
only partial use of his right arm. Some days after being
wounded, he noted a strange feeling in his foot —
the upshot of which was that the doctors removed a
piece of shrapnel from it also.

After returning to the U.S. he spent 21 months in
the Ft. Sheraton Hospital in Illinois. After that he
reentered the School of Agriculture, getting his di­
ploma in 1922. Also, in 1921-22 he became an assist­
ant to Prof. A. A. Baer in woodworking courses taught
in both the School and College. In 1923 Booth re­
ceived his bachelor of science degree.

When Baer was killed in an auto accident in 1926,
Booth resigned from his position with the University
and started his own custom woodworking business.
Shortly afterwards, F. D. Keim persuaded Charlie to
come back to the University, to be in charge of student
employment for the College of Agriculture. The po­
Position was headquartered in the Department of
Agronomy, where Charlie also performed other du­
ties for the Department.

Student employment consisted chiefly of yard and
house work. In time Charlie developed a list of 200
homes from which temporary student help would be
requested from time to time. There was never a lack
of students to fill the calls for help.

In 1940, for personal reasons, Booth left the Uni­
versity to return full time to his woodworking business.
What is almost unbelievable is that in spite of
his serious physical handicaps, Charlie was an unusu­
al skilled woodworking craftsman. When he was
initiated into Alpha Zeta he, like all other initiates,
had to make his own paddle. The workmanship
was so far superior to that of the other initiates that they
asked him to make their paddles also. This resulted,
in ensuing years, in the Fraternity arranging for him
to make paddles for all initiates, an assignment which
he continued for 47 years.

As it became known that Charlie did superior wood­
work, the demand on his time far exceeded what he
could do — there was always a waiting list. During
WW II the Veterans Administration asked him to train
another disabled veteran. The man remained as an
assistant to Booth for five and one-half years. Charlie
gradually retired from his woodworking business but
was still doing a limited amount of commercial work
as late as 1982. He also continued to make articles for
the Booth home, for his children and grandchildren.

One cannot help wondering what fame Charlie
might have acquired if he had had the use of even
one good hand. But Charlie never complained about
what had happened to him. Actually the opposite was
true. He was always pleasant, cheerful and kind. He
enjoyed listening to and telling anecdotes and was
always willing to be of help to his fellowman.

Booth died at his Lincoln home December 10, 1983,
at the age of 88.

References
2. Newspaper clipping. 1945. (Name of newspaper not known).
Ces, Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
7. Annual reports of the CES. Col of Agric, UNL.
Chapter 5. Women in Agricultural Research

The extent to which women held professional appointments in the Station is of interest since agricultural research for many years was considered primarily a man's field. The fact that there were any in the earlier years may come as a surprise to some since undergraduate enrollment in the College through 1961-62 was recorded on a male (agriculture) and female (home economics) basis. A girl who attempted to take agriculture in 1926 was ordered by the Dean to change to home economics (see Part II, Chapter 2).

At the University of Nebraska the role of women in agriculture was recognized much earlier by the Station than by the College (Resident Instruction). As noted in the table, Rachel Lloyd was the first woman appointed to the Station staff in 1889. From that time until 1972, 20 women held positions of various lengths of time in the Station.

M. Rosalind Morris has the distinction of being the woman who served for the longest period of time on the Station/Research Division staff, 40 years to date. She also holds the signal honor of being the first woman to be named a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy (1979).

Anne K. Vidaver, member of the Station/Division staff since 1967, has the distinction of being the first woman to be named head of an agricultural department, plant pathology, in 1984.

---

Women who served on the Station staff through 1972:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Discipline/Department</th>
<th>Highest Academic Rank Obtained</th>
<th>Highest Academic degree</th>
<th>Years Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Lloyd</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1889-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stella Hartzell</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>1907-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalind Morris</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>1907-08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venus Pool</td>
<td>Agricultural Botany</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>1934-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Allen</td>
<td>Seed Testing (USDA)</td>
<td>Scientific Assistant</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>1913-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelle Scott</td>
<td>Seed Testing (USDA)</td>
<td>Scientific Assistant</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence McCormick</td>
<td>Agricultural Botany</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>1943-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Hinman</td>
<td>Rural Economics</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1947-present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doris Gates</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1947-present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen R. Bengston</td>
<td>Animal Pathology</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>1948-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida Blore</td>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>1948-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Morehead Ball</td>
<td>Plant Pathology (USDA)</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1954-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Jakway</td>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1958-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia P. Weymouth</td>
<td>Biochem and Nutrition</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1958-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeLoris Clouse</td>
<td>Ag Communications</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>1953-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret C. Drenowatz</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
<td>(N.A.)</td>
<td>MLSc</td>
<td>1963-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neva Pruess</td>
<td>Entomology (No. Platte Sta.)</td>
<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1964-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardis B. Welch</td>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>BS</td>
<td>1965-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne K. Vidaver</td>
<td>Plant Pathology</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>1967-present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne M. Parkhurst</td>
<td>Biometrics Information Systems</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>1972-present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the fiscal year 1985-86, there were 12 women listed on the Agricultural Research Division staff, in nine different departments. Only four of these were included in the list of 20 above, indicating there has been an increase in the number of women faculty members in the Station/Division during the past 10 years.

Chapter 6. War-time Contributions

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World Wars I and II both brought dramatic and disruptive change to students, faculty, and programs of the University.

World War I

With the declaration of war on Germany in 1917, attendance immediately declined as students began to withdraw to enlist in the Armed Forces. The University of Nebraska was fourth among all universities in percentage of student enlistments. The service flag of the College of Agriculture, embracing both the School of Agriculture and the College, carried 550 stars representing students, members of the faculty, and alumni serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Red Cross (1, p 124).

Chancellor Samuel Avery became a major in the Chemical Warfare Service. L. W. Chase of the Department of Agricultural Engineering was commissioned a major in the Ordnance Department. Dean E. A. Burnett was sent to Europe early in 1919 for service in the Army Overseas Educational Commission (1 p 124).

Twenty-six students, faculty and alumni are known to have died in the service during World War I — 14 from the College and 12 from the School of Agriculture at Lincoln (1, p 125). They are listed below.

Although enrollment declined, the University — at the request of the federal government — soon began to train hundreds of men in vocational work and in the Students' Army Training Corps (SATC). Temporary barracks and buildings were constructed at the north edge of the College of Agriculture campus and practical courses were given in tractors, wheelwrighting, and automobiles (1, p 125).

The Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919

In the fall of 1918, the influenza epidemic struck students, staff and trainees, as it did the American Expeditionary Forces in France and civilian populations here and abroad. According to William J. Loeffel's history of the Animal Husbandry Department, "The campus was placed under military guard and no one was permitted to visit any building without a pass from the medical officer who was stationed in Experiment Station Hall. Animal Husbandry Hall (then called Livestock Judging Pavilion) was used as

College of Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roy B. Berryman, ex-'21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Colcord, faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Forbes, '18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Kelley, ex-'18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward H. Larson, ex-'20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor E. Lewis, ex-'19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivanhoe K. Metz, '17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph F. Perso, ex-'20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marvin Race, ex-'22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank B. Sloan, ex-'15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward W. Stirk, ex-'22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey E. Vasey, '13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floyd Wambeam, faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles R. Wright, ex-'19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

School of Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Benham, '14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Berryhill, '15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norris Burford, ex-'19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Hager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reuben Larson, ex-'19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Moseman, '16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. O. Schoenbeck, '10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August Sudbeck, '15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean C. Walker, '14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raymond White, ex-'17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemuel Wilcox, '14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Williams, '10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Ex-" means the student was a member of that class but did not complete schooling.

References

1. Annual reports of the AES. Nos. 1 through 80. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
2. Annual report of the Agric Res Division. No. 100. IANR, UNL.
3. Centex directory. 1987-88. UNL.
a hospital. The nurses were faculty wives” (2, p 53).

The hospital in Animal Husbandry Hall was apparently one of at least eight set up on the two Lincoln campuses.

Because of the epidemic the University was closed on October 12, 1918. At the School of Agriculture, this was the day after school had opened that fall (3, p 38). The University reopened on November 2 and the School of Agriculture on November 4. Because of practice time lost, the School’s football team — The Aggies — canceled all of its games for the 1918 season (3, p 112).

On December 11, the Daily Nebraskan noted a resurgence of influenza — “forty cases being reported in the infirmary at the state farm, 16 in the hospital on the city campus and about 50 others isolated in barracks or under observation” (4) — but by December 16 the Nebraskan reported somewhat fewer cases and noted that disbanding the SATC had improved (health) conditions in the University (5).

World War II

In terms of numbers of men and women in the Armed Forces and in war-related industry, World War II was America’s largest war. It also had more impact on the University than any other military conflict.

Enrollment in the College of Agriculture dropped from 981 in 1940-41 to 304 in 1943-44. In the latter year only 48 were men. By 1945-46 enrollment had risen to 432 — 126 men and 306 women. In 1946-47, enrollment was about the same as at the beginning of the War — 665 men and 283 women, for a total of 948 (6). Three of these were given in absentia (9).

Some reservists were called into the service as early as 1940 for one year, and the University gave them one-year leaves of absence (7). In January 1942, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the one-year leave limit was rescinded and the Board of Regents ruled that “all leaves of absence for service in the armed forces or with federal agencies participating in the War program be granted for the duration of the emergency . . .” (8). “For the duration” became a common phrase throughout the nation.

Students trying to complete the college term before “they are required to enter military, agricultural, or industrial service” were given some help by the University. Commencement was moved ahead from June 8 to May 25 in 1942. Final examinations were given during the week of May 18-23. The Regents ruled that there be no spring vacation and no “college days” and that Ivy Day be set for Saturday, May 2 rather than May 7 (8).

Even before Pearl Harbor, the University began to add educational services to assist in the War effort that was expected to come. For example, the Regents approved contracts with the Civil Aeronautics Authority for civilian pilot training courses for the second semester 1940-41. Two courses were at Lincoln and one at Norfolk.

The number of students permitted to register for the evening course in drafting under the National Defense Program was increased, and a noncredit course in engineering was offered in cooperation with the University of Omaha (10).

Later in 1941, National Defense courses were expanded to include aircraft assembly inspection at Omaha and Lincoln, soil mechanics at Lincoln, and a
noncredit vocational training course in engineering in cooperation with Hastings College.

Of the military training activities at the University during World War II, the STAR unit probably was the one best known by College of Agriculture staff and students. Although the Food and Nutrition Building (now Ruth Leverton Hall) was built for use by the Department of Home Economics, the STAR unit was its first occupant

STAR (Specialized Training and Reassignment) classified and selected soldiers to receive highly specialized training in various disciplines at the college level. More than 8,000 men were classified by the unit at Nebraska (11, p 13). As men were classified they were given refresher courses taught by University faculty and then moved on to their next assignments. While here they were housed in the Food and Nutrition Building. The regular College of Agriculture Cafeteria provided the Unit with a mess. Classification offices were in the Agricultural Engineering Building.

The War took a heavy toll of lives among College of Agriculture students, alumni and faculty. Three faculty members died in the service.

Anton L. Frolik, an agronomist and a reserve of-
Marine in World War I.

Ivan D. Wood, agricultural engineering, is known to have served in the Army Air Corps in World War I. Everett T. Winter, discharged from the Navy in 1919, was assigned to Butler County as an extension agent. K. C. Fouts joined the Cooperative Extension Service following service in World War I.

In the first years after the War, returning veterans brought a new attitude to college classrooms and campuses everywhere. Many of these young men had entered the armed forces midstream in their college careers. They returned as mature students, little interested in social activities and intent on serious study. Others who had been called into the service following high school entered college, for the first time, with the same attitude. All had valuable financial assistance from the so-called GI Bill administered by the Veterans Administration. Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars have received the same assistance (15).4

In December 1945, Gerald Abbenhaus of Bloomfield, Nebraska expressed the “new” attitude succinctly in a letter from Nuremberg, Germany to Mrs. Frances Pelton, house mother at FarmHouse Fraternity. He wrote: “Hutch, Biggs, Sahs, Broberg, myself and maybe Rauner are all planning to return to Nebraska University next fall, this time to really study” (Broberg says)” (16, p 14). Apparently they did study. He was referring to Warren Hutchinson of Albion who at this writing heads the Swine Research Division of Walnut Grove Co., Atlantic, Iowa; Lee Biggs of Humboldt, Nebraska who at the time of his death in the late 1950’s was district manager for an insurance company in Denver; Warren W. Sahs of Carroll, Nebraska who is superintendent of the University’s Agricultural Research and Development Center at Mead and assistant director-operations for the IANR Agricultural Research Division; Roy Broberg of Newman Grove, Nebraska who returned to his home town to operate a meat market but has since moved away (no record of him at this date); and Robert Rauner of Sidney, Nebraska, now a wheat farmer in Cheyenne County and southeast Wyoming, a cattle feeder and a member of the Nebraska Wheat Board.

Abbenhaus is now Dr. G. R. Abbenhaus who operated his own business, then became a consultant to a number of packing plants, and now is senior advisor to A. G. Edwards Co., St. Louis, Missouri on pork bellies and meat inventories (17).

According to the FarmHouse News Bulletin for January 1946 (16, p 1), more than 1,400 veterans were in school at the University of Nebraska for the second semester. “They come from all over,” the News Bulletin continued. “Housing is still a problem but apparently single veterans have found housing. University probably will take over hospital area at Lincoln Army Air Field for housing shortly. Will reconvert into apartments for married veterans…” This area was soon to be known as Huskerville.

Although most veterans returned to civilian life after the War, some made a career of the military. Earl C. Hedlund of Chappell, Nebraska, a 1938 graduate in animal science, retired from the Air Force as a lieutenant general. Hedlund flew 67 missions against the Japanese in the Aleutians, and later became commander of the 474th Fighter-Bomber Group in Europe. Among other combat missions in Europe, he helped to provide cover at the Remagen Bridge (18, p 2). Later he was shot down over Germany, was seriously wounded, and for a time was a prisoner of war (32). He reportedly gave his captors a dressing down for not providing proper medical attention. It worked, and conditions improved. Hedlund escaped about three weeks before the War was over.

He now lives at Annandale, Virginia.

The Korean War

Five years after VJ Day (August 14, 1945), the United States was engaged in another war. The Korean Conflict (1950-1953) brought the same hardships to our Armed Forces as World War II, but fewer troops were involved and fewer college careers were interrupted5. In some cases, however, lives were disrupted a second time when World War II veterans were recalled to serve again in Korea.

Enrollment of men in the College of Agriculture was not greatly affected. It dropped from 688 in 1950-51 to 573 in 1951-52, but climbed back to 686 in 1952-53. Enrollment of women showed an opposite trend, increasing from 296 to 318 from 1950-51 to 1951-52 and then dropping back the next year to 292 (6). Even though enrollment did not suffer, the University experienced difficulty in hiring staff. In December of 1950, the Board of Regents reduced the biennial budget (1951-1953) “in view of the apparent inability of the University to secure sufficient personnel to carry on proposed activities during the period of national emergency.”

At least 10 staff members of the College (and probably more) entered the service directly from University employment. They were:

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1These two wars are officially termed the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Era. GI Bill benefits to Vietnam veterans were extended by legislation called the Veterans Administration Educational Assistance Act.

2The Korean Conflict, also referred to as a “police action” by United Nations forces, was a real war for those who served. More than six million Americans were in the military, more than 54,000 gave their lives, and more than 100,000 were wounded (25).
Wayne Bath  
Wilbur L. Bluhm  
Herbert J. Cast  
Roy L. Derose  
James V. Dunlap  
Herbert H. “Harry” Hecht  
Donald S. Lodge  
Roy Stohler  
Norman Tooker  
Kenneth R. VanSkike

Records do not show that any College faculty members died in military service during the Korean War. Like World War II, Korea inspired greater effort in the classroom. In an article for the *Cornhusker Countryman* in 1950, Dean W. V. Lambert wrote that “as a result of the present international situation most students have a more serious attitude toward college work.” He advised that “all of us must be in a position to render the best possible service to our country . . .” (20).

In the same issue of the *Countryman*, Clyde Mitchell used his prewar experience in Korea to put in a plug specifically for agricultural education. Mitchell, who before the War worked for the U.S. Military Government as administrator of the National Land Administration of Korea, told a student writer about opportunities for agricultural graduates in international aid and education programs (21).

He said his chief problem in Korea was in hiring young technicians at good salaries to help in the overseas programs. He emphasized the need for trained technicians produced in accredited colleges and schools, and expressed the hope that Nebraska could furnish several graduates each year.

Following World War II but prior to the Korean War, William W. (Bill) Fager — former Madison County extension agent — provided agricultural help to the U.S. Military Government in Korea. Among other duties, Fager worked out operational procedures for control of large acreages of farmland, some of it formerly owned by Japanese (22).

Departments, fraternities and other campus support groups supplied members who were away in the service with news from home. Elton Lux (described elsewhere in this book) made some special efforts in behalf of Extension staff members on military leave. Norman Tooker, agricultural extension agent at large before the war and later assistant director of International Programs, recalls that while he was waiting in Japan to come home from Korean service, he received a five-page handwritten letter from Lux telling him what was happening in the Extension Service. Lux probably wrote similar letters to many others. It was characteristic of this caring personnel administrator.

The Vietnam War

The Vietnam War was never officially declared but started, depending on what criteria are used in setting the date, sometime in the early 60’s. For the United States it ended when the last U.S. troops departed the country in April 1973, and for Vietnam when the Saigon forces surrendered on April 30, 1975. From 1961 through 1975, 56,500 U.S. troops (all services) died and 303,600 were wounded. Available records do not show how many College of Agriculture students and alumni were included in these totals.

Contrary to the situation in the two World Wars, student enrollment was not decreased because for the most part men were deferred from military duty pending completion of a college education. In fact, enrollment of men in the College of Agriculture increased steadily during the Vietnam War. In 1961-62, there were 621 men students in agriculture compared with 1,517 in 1975-76. Each year showed an increase over the year before through 1971-72. Enrollment of women showed a similar increase (6).

There were no serious shortages during this War, and few College of Agriculture faculty members participated in military duty.

Even so, the Vietnam War produced tensions on the University of Nebraska campus. On April 30, 1970, President Nixon announced that American troops had been ordered across the Cambodian border from South Vietnam to stem infiltration of enemy men and materiel. The announcement touched off nationwide antiwar demonstrations, primarily among students who considered the action an expansion of the total war effort (24).

The Vietnam Moratorium Committee, a recognized organization on the UNL campus, called for a protest rally to be held on May 4, 1970. On the afternoon of that day the rally began north of the Nebraska Union.

That evening about 100 protesters forced their way into the Military and Naval Science Building (then called the ROTC building). Vice Chancellor G. Robert Ross, who was also dean of Student Affairs on the Lincoln campus, happened to be in the building when it was seized. During the evening an estimated 1,800 students and faculty members took part in the demonstration. The building was vacated the next day.

A student strike was in effect for three full class days, May 6, 7, and 8. On May 9 a peace rally, attended by an estimated 5,000 persons, was held on the women’s athletic field. On Sunday, May 10, an all-university meeting was called to discuss and vote on possible extension of the strike. The vote was 1,357 to 1,030 against continuation of the strike (24).

During the strike and the disorder at the Military and Naval Science Building, the College of Agriculture was generally calm — a fact which drew some criticism from the other campus. During an East Campus meeting, some City Campus students and faculty chided agricultural students for their conservatism. One agricultural student faction asked Dean Frolik to take some action against the protest. He declined, suggesting that any action should be on the part of the students themselves. The strike had a minimal, if any, effect on College of Agriculture classes.

Military Training

Military training of some kind was offered to ag-
Agricultural students soon after the College was started. A report issued in 1880 carried this terse statement (under “Military Drill”): “An opportunity for drill and tactics is given to all” (25).

In 1891, Lieutenant John J. Pershing was assigned to the University as Commandant of Cadets. Robert Manley writes that Pershing, later to lead the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I, “instilled in his students a sense of duty and pride” and at the same time made military training popular during his tenure. The Pershing Rifles, which originated on the University of Nebraska campus in 1893, and grew into a national organization, became a symbol of his demand for perfection” (26, pp 131-132).

Pershing's military influence on young men was so strong that it carried over to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898 when 30 members of the Pershing Rifles voluntarily enlisted as privates (27).

Pershing’s assignment at the University ended in 1895. In 1901, the University Regents ruled that no (male) student could graduate until he had completed two years of military training; exceptions were granted only for physical defects or to conscientious objectors (26, p 268).

The University's 2nd Cadet Battalion was established on the College of Agriculture campus in 1904. Initially, the battalion consisted of only two companies — E and F. By December 1907, Companies G and H had been added (29, p 239).

How generally popular military drill was in 1904 is not known, but not everyone liked it. The December issue of Agriculture that year carried “Some Remarks on Military Drill,” by Erwin Hopt, Class of 1905. Hopt wrote the following:

“I understand that military drill is now an established fact ... many of us do not like this thing of military drill as it came to us ... it is good for our boys physically ... It is good for him mentally ... In a moral way it may do much good ... the school prospectus for 1904-05 made no mention whatever of the proposed military drill ... The October issue of Agriculture, which appeared about November 1st, had not the slightest intimation of what was in store for us ... we were told, after getting here, that each of us must buy suit, cap and other accouterments to the amount of $17 or $18 worth. It was an easy matter for our commandant to tell us: ‘You MUST be in military dress by December 1st ... have it five hours a week ... Between 5 and 6 is the only hour in the day when all the boys can drill ...’” (28).

Military training at the University was first started in 1876 with Lieutenant Edgar S. Dudley serving as the professor of Military Science and Tactics; however, the National Defense Act of 1916 actually established the ROTC (31). On January 5, 1917, the federal government granted the University of Nebraska a division of the ROTC, a “program implemented as part of the national preparedness campaign” (26, p 213).

As a lieutenant and commandant of cadets at the University of Nebraska, John J. Pershing instilled a sense of duty and pride in his students. Later, as General Pershing, he led the AEF in France.

In today's Reserve Officers Training Corps, cadets are provided with uniforms. Students in advanced classes (junior and senior years) are paid by the government for participation and are commissioned as reserve or regular officers in one of the armed services at time of graduation. In 1904, military drill did not automatically lead to a reserve commission (31).

Beginning in 1907, agricultural students had their own honor drill organization — the Workizer Rifles named in honor of Captain John G. Workizer who was professor of Military Science and Tactics and commandant of cadets from 1905 to 1909 (3, p 90). The Workizers were organized by Cadet Major C. J. Frankforter. Later, as an active duty Army officer, Frankforter was commandant of the University of Nebraska ROTC unit. He also had a long academic career as a professor of chemistry at the University, retiring in 1954.

Membership in the Workizer Rifles was limited to students who had one or more years of military training. They held one hour of extra drill every week throughout the school year. Each spring the Workizers and the Pershings competed on the same parade.

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6 Students may also apply for scholarships, some providing financial assistance for as long as four years.
grounds. A student journalist in 1913 wrote that "In this competitive drill the Workizers have shown up exceptionally well when we consider that their time for drill is much less than that on the (city) campus" (29, p 239).

Apparently the Workizers did not win often. In 1919 another student wrote that "If we cannot defeat the Pershings this year, we hope at least to make a credibly showing of our knowledge and skill in military science" (3, p 90).

In 1936, Colonel W. H. Oury initiated plans for a ROTC field artillery unit to be housed on East Campus in the new Motor Truck Laboratory (now Mussel Hall). Oury had enthusiastic help from Chancellor Burnett and Dean Burr.

Of eight new motorized field artillery units established that year, Nebraska ranked first in number of students (468). They were assigned to the unit from both campuses. Of the basic students, about half were from the College of Agriculture and the rest from the City Campus (30, p 9).

References
5. ——— , 18:57. Dec 16, 1918.
6. Registration and Records, UNL: IANR Fin and Pers Office; and the Col of Home Ec.
7. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Apr 23, 1941. UN.
8. ——— Jan 31, 1942.
9. ——— May 22, 1944.
10. ——— Feb 22, 1941.

Chapter 7. Loyalty Authentications and Resistance Thereto

The question of loyalty to the United States during the "McCarthyism" era of the early 1950's was not the first time such a phenomenon had occurred. An analogous situation developed during World War I, and the University of Nebraska — including the College of Agriculture — did not escape.

On April 18, 1917, Governor Keith Neville signed a bill which provided for the establishment of a State Council of Defense "... to supervise Nebraska's war effort" (1, p 213). The United States had declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. Pro-German sympathies had been expressed rather openly by some of the University of Nebraska faculty (as well as by many other people) prior to the declaration of War. Follow-

\*1 A term referring to investigative methods used by Senator Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., in the early 1950's, ostensibly in the suppression of communism. The McCarthy investigations were televised and watched by a large national audience (2).

11. Colbert, J. P. A History of the STAR Unit of the U.S. Army at the Univ of Nebr. Unpubl and undated. UN Archives.
13. Personnel records. Col of Agric. IANR, UNL.
19. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Dec 23, 1950. UN.
25. Harvey Delberton, Farm Sup't. Report of Experiments at College Farm, p 30. UN, Lincoln.
27. The Cornhusker. 1907. 1:223. UN Lincoln.
29. School of Agriculture Annual. 1913. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
Hopt, first appointed to the University in June 1909 (3). Hopt had served the College of Agriculture in the Departments of Horticulture and Agronomy at both North Platte and Lincoln, in teaching and research. He was known as a popular teacher. The three, including Hopt, were asked to resign (1, p 224).

A delayed but official reaction to German-language instruction in private schools during World War I came in the form of a 1920 amendment to Nebraska's Constitution. Because of action by Nebraska voters that year, Section 27 of Nebraska's Bill of Rights reads: "The English language is hereby declared to be the official language of this state, and all official proceedings, records and publications shall be in such language, and the common school branches shall be taught in said language in public, private, denominational and parochial schools" (11).

Twenty-two years after the armistice, the Regents tried to head off any faculty or student actions that might again raise doubts about University loyalty. On October 12, 1940, more than a year before the United States entered World War II, they adopted the following unequivocal and forceful resolution: 

"... In order that there may be no doubt now, or at any time in the future, regarding the attitude of the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska (in respect to the present national defense program) the Board wishes it to be known that if any student or employee of the University of Nebraska should be so misguided as to violate any federal or state law regarding subversive activities he will thereby give cause for severance of his connection with the University. We prefer to make such a statement before, rather than after, any specific reason for it may have arisen" (5).

A few months later, after the University Senate recommended that the Regents reconsider their action declaring Armistice Day a legal holiday, the Board quickly directed the chancellor to inform the Senate that "it is the wish of the Board of Regents to have an observance of Armistice Day included in the University catalog."

A few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Regents reflected the mood of an angry nation when they took special precautions concerning students with Japanese names. According to the Board minutes for March 28, 1942, "Regent (Marion) Shaw moved that hereafter when Japanese students appear for registration in any of the departments of the University of Nebraska the officials of the University shall refer each student to the FBI for clearance before they can be accepted as students." The motion was seconded by Regent Robert W. Devoe and carried (6).

Academically, the University demonstrated its support for students entering the service in the most meaningful way possible. The Regents decreed that students called into or enlisting in the armed forces would receive credit without examination for courses in which they were enrolled. One-half credit was to be recorded after eight weeks of attendance, and full credit after 12 weeks of attendance. Good standing and a "record of 70 percent or better" was a requirement for credit in each course. Students entering employment in defense activities were accorded similar privileges. In the case of Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Pharmacy and the Graduate College, specific action by the College was required (7).

The possibility of campus subversion — especially through textbooks — remained a concern of the Regents after World War II. In May 1949, Regent Frank M. Johnson proposed adoption of a resolution on subversion made earlier by the Association of Governing Boards of State Universities and Allied Institutions.

The resolution urged administrators and faculty members "to be on the alert and bar from classrooms textbooks that either openly or surreptitiously endorse directly or indirectly or by implication systems of government other than the representative government provided for under our own constitution."

The resolution made it clear that there was no objection to "honest, impartial or analytical discussion of various forms of government of other peoples so long as the author does not take advantage of his position to plant the seeds of subversive doctrines."

It denounced political communism and insisted that "our state supported institutions be free, and remain free, from subversive and un-American influences."

After seconding by Regent Stanley D. Long, Regent Johnson's motion was put to a vote and carried (12).

In 1951 the Nebraska Legislature attempted to assure, by law, the loyalty of public employees to the United States and the State of Nebraska. All state, district, county, precinct, township and municipal employees were required to swear to a loyalty oath.

The law stood for 15 years until it was challenged by Mrs. George (Killeen) Spangler, a secretary hired to work in the College of Agriculture's Department of Information.

Mrs. Spangler had worked about two weeks when she was asked to sign the oath. A week later she formally refused, and was discharged.

In addition to swearing to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska against all enemies, foreign and domestic," signers of the oath swore that they did not advocate, nor were they members of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of Nebraska by force or violence; "and that during such time as I am in this position I will not advocate nor become a
member of any political party or organization that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States or of this state by force or violence."

The oath ended with the statement: "So help me God."

In a letter to Roy V. Loudon, Jr., then University director of personnel, Mrs. Spangler indicated a number of grounds for refusing to swear to the oath. "My disbelief in God would make signing hypocritical," the letter advised Loudon.

Also, Mrs. Spangler reportedly said the Nebraska oath was vague and without definition, and that it defied freedom of expression, assembly and association (8).

On April 17, 1967, Lancaster District Judge Herbert A. Ronin declared the loyalty oath "unconstitutional and void" and ruled that it could no longer be lawfully required of public employees.

Judge Ronin declared the oath "unconstitutionally vague and indefinite and failing to furnish a precise statement of the conduct which might be construed to violate the oath." He said it also violated the freedoms of speech, expression and association (9).

According to the Lincoln Star (9), Judge Ronin's order "stated that Mrs. Spangler was hired by the University by the month at the rate of $225 and was discharged before completion of the monthly term of employment."

He ruled that "the discharge was solely by reason of Mrs. Spangler's refusal to sign the oath and that she was entitled to the unpaid portion of the full month's salary which he determined at $65.11" (9).

The Board of Regents directed the University's legal counsel not to pursue the case. Vice Chancellor Joseph Soshnik said this was "mainly because of recent adverse decisions in similar cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and in other states" (10).

References
2. Recollections of the junior author, one of the millions who watched the hearings.
5. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Oct 12, 1940.
7. ______. Jan 10, 1942.
11. ______ Nov 4, 1986. Waves from California, p 2C.