The University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture: The First Century Part IX. Student Organizations, Activities and Recreation

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PART IX. Student Organizations, Activities and Recreation

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Chapter 1. The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta (1, 2, 3)

Alpha Zeta is a professional fraternity in agriculture and related sciences, in which membership is honorary. It is a national organization. On February 21, 1986 there were 64 active chapters. As of that date, 88,245 persons had been initiated into the Fraternity.

Alpha Zeta was started with the first chapter at Ohio State University on November 4, 1897. Presently, only the chapters at Ohio State University, Cornell University, and Pennsylvania State University have chapter houses.

The purpose of the fraternity as stated in the Constitution is:

1) to foster high standards of scholarship, character, leadership, and a spirit of fellowship among all its members; 2) to strive for breadth of vision, unity of action, and accomplishment of ideas; 3) to render service to the students and to agricultural divisions of the respective institutions; and 4) to promote the profession of agriculture.

The officers consist of a chancellor, censor, scribe, treasurer, and chronicler.

The Nebraska chapter, the seventh, was installed on January 20, 1904 — the first chapter west of the Mississippi River. H. R. Smith is credited with getting a chapter at Nebraska — later he was made an honorary member. Charter members were Alvin Keyser, Claude R. Kinman, Albert F. Magdanz, Ramon Albert Miller, and Fred J. Pritchard.

As of May 1, 1987, the Nebraska chapter had initiated 2,545 members.

Although some chapters include both undergraduate and graduate students, Nebraska limits active membership to undergraduates. To be eligible for membership a student must have completed at least 44 college credit hours, and must rank scholastically in the upper 30 percent of his/her class. In addition, election to membership is based on the applicant's ability and desire to serve his/her academic community.

At the national conclave held in August 1972, Alpha Zeta amended its constitution to make women eligible for membership. On November 19, 1972, the following had the distinction of being the first women initiated into the Nebraska chapter: Sally (Crist) Seier, Shirley Jean (Dolan) Reeder, Bette (Free) Murphy, Kathleen (Geiger) Wittler, Kathy Liska, and Christine (Votaw) Vinton.

The Nebraska chapter has as its principal activities: 1) sponsorship each fall of an ag careers day, 2) sponsorship each spring of the ag forum, 3) development of visual aids to promote the College of Agriculture, and 4) assisting the dean in various other ways. The fraternity awards annually four scholarships of $100 each to students of sophomore standing in the College of Agriculture.

Since 1967, the Alpha Zeta Foundation's (national) most distinctive undergraduate award has been the Burkett-Cunningham-Dennis Scholarship. Four of the 19 recipients to date were from Nebraska, a record unmatched by any other chapter. They were Charles W. F. Havlicek, 1970-71; Arnold W. Oltmans, 1971-72; Charles M. Oellermann, 1979-80; and Penny S. Stalnaker, 1984-85.

References

Chapter 2. Farmers’ Fair

Student activities, as we know them today, became a significant part of campus life just before the United States entered World War I. Farmers’ Fair was perhaps the best known and attracted the greatest student involvement. First held in the spring of 1916 (9), the Fair became a dominant activity for both agricultural and home economics students until and after World War II.

The Cornhusker Countryman (1) gave Alpha Zeta credit for proposing, in 1914, that a Fair be organized, but it did not materialize until two years later. Because of the War, there was no Fair in 1918 and 1919, but beginning in 1920 it was an annual event (except for the World War II period) until 1959 when the Farmers Fair Board was disbanded (5).

The Fairs of 1920, 1921 and 1922 failed to attract a great deal of interest. “The public did not seem to take to the idea with enthusiasm, nor did the students from the downtown campus show any respect for the event,” according to the Countryman (1).

The 1923 Fair retained the fun of earlier editions, but there was a more serious side — even to the entertainment. The 1923 Fair Board decided that “people had not been given ... (the) genuine entertainment” which (Ag and Home Ec) students were capable of providing. “People resented the fake sideshows and slapstick and crackback sort of amusement,” so the Board insisted that all amusement and shows be on the level.

Board members also realized that the Fair “had been sliding along” without any clearly defined goal, so they adopted a set of purposes: a) the Fair was to be a medium to advertise the College of Agriculture and its activities, b) it was to be a day of celebration, with the students of the College acting as host to the rest of the University, the students of Nebraska high schools, and to the people of Nebraska in general, and c) the Fair was to be designed to give students of the College practical experience in managing a large enterprise (1).

The Fair did, indeed, become a large enterprise — so large that the College administration dismissed classes for two days to allow students and faculty to prepare for it (2).

The Cornhusker (University yearbook) for 1926 described the Fair as the largest (nonathletic) student activity in the University, requiring the largest investment of capital and involving the largest number of students. In later years, the Fair was insured against rain to protect the investment.

Beginning in 1926, according to the Cornhusker, the Fair “has been under a new organization known as the Farmers’ Fair Association, composed of the entire student body of the College of Agriculture, and is independent of all other organizations which have fostered its activity during previous years.” All students were expected to work in preparation for or during the Fair.

Elected to the Fair board that year were Dan Siebold, manager; Lois Jackman, secretary; Wendell Swanson, treasurer; and Betty Bosserman, Walter Tolman, and Erma Collins.

By the mid-twenties, the Fair had begun to attract considerable off-campus interest. A parade that followed a route through the “O” Street business district helped give it identity for Lincoln people. According to the Cornhusker Countryman (April 1926), there had been “eight floats of purely frivolous nature” in 1921. “The 1925 Fair parade ... with over thirty floats was a great improvement ...” By this time, the emphasis was on quality.

Leading the parade was the Goddess of Agriculture float. The Goddess was traditionally a senior in the
By 1924, when this picture was taken, Farmers' Fair had become a big event on the College of Agriculture Campus. The Yellow Dog tent in the background is not a fairgrounds food stand. The Yellow Dogs was a fun organization composed of University professors and other Lincoln men.

College elected by Home Economics students. Following the Goddess came educational floats representing the College departments, with a few comic entries "sandwiched in between..."

Later the parade was replaced by exhibits in the buildings on the College campus. There was a dance or other entertainment on Saturday evening.

A pageant presented on the knoll between Agricultural Hall and the Home Economics Building was a highlight of the 1922, 1923 and 1924 Fairs.

"Hundreds of Lincoln people came to the Fair for the express purpose of seeing this spectacle of beauty and grace," according to a student writer for the March 1926 issue of the Cornhusker Countryman. "When this feature was discontinued last year (1925) in favor of the University players, one of the most representative features of the Fair had been destroyed. The fact that the University players were neither Ags or Home Ecs was reason enough for resentment... so in response to... general dissatisfaction, the girls of the Home Economics Department will again present the pageant. The clothing classes are making the elaborate costumes, and Miss Bess Steele is taking charge of the pageant."

The effort by Miss Steele and the home economics students was apparently successful, and the pageant remained a feature of the Fair for a number of years. The Cornhusker yearbook for 1937 recorded that "this year the traditional order of the two-day program changed. Substituted for the usual pageant was an Ag College review which featured skits, one act plays and the Ag College Chorus."

The pageant was again revived in 1938 "with the Goddess of Agriculture reigning," according to the Cornhusker. There was also a horse show and an intersorority riding contest the night before the Fair.

The 1940 Fair "represented 25 years of progress at the College." In addition to educational exhibits, there was a parade of floats, rodeo, horse show, Kampus Kapers, style show, boxing and wrestling.

A 1952 account of the Fair describes a cotton and denim dance that "started things rolling" on Friday night. By this time, a Whisker King was joining the Goddess of Agriculture as part of the Fair royalty, and the two were presented at the dance. In that year, 108 men registered for the whisker contest seven weeks..."
This 1940 Farmers' Fair parade stops traffic at 15th and "O" Streets. Looking north on 13th Street, the second building is the old Liberty Theater.

before the Fair. The Whisker King honor went to the man with "the longest and most unique of all the beards entered." Judging was by a faculty committee (7).

Students were generally well dressed (for a long period men wore sweaters and corduroy trousers), but on the two days preceding the Fair men were expected to wear overalls and the women wore casual cotton dresses. Wearing overalls was encouraged by a "horse tank" set up on the mall in front of Agricultural Hall and filled with water (2).

A. W. Epp writes that "any student coming on the Campus wearing a suit and necktie was likely to be thrown in the tank. The fellows were considerate of people's good clothes and usually (apparently not always) gathered around the tank to form a screen while the culprit undressed down to his shorts. He was dunked in the tank and then given time to dress and all would go back to work. This was always done in good spirit and the victims seldom complained." Failure to comply with the rule that "everyone works" was also a route to the horse tank.

When the Fair was revived after World War II, the "horse tank" tradition lived again, but only for a few years. Epp tells this story about why the tank was discontinued:

"One day in the late 40's, during the preparation for Farmers' Fair, three students from the City Campus appeared on Ag Campus wearing dress suits and neckties. They started toward Ag Engineering to attend a class taught by Professor Lloyd ("Tuffy")² Hurlbut. The Ag students asked no questions, but grabbed the students and threw them in the tank fully dressed.

"The three angry students immediately went to see Hurlbut to complain. Hurlbut decided to take care of the matter himself and bravely confronted the Ag students to lecture them, but he went into the tank, too, fully dressed." The next complaint was to Dean Burr. The Dean sent a letter to all departments informing staff and students that the horse tank had served its purpose and provided some fun for students over the years, but now it seemed in the best interest of the College to discontinue its use.

The students returned the tank to its owner and so ended a long standing tradition.

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3. Cornhusker (University yearbook), 1938, 32:180. UN, Lincoln.
4. __, 1940, 34:114.
8. Hurlbut, Margaret. Feb 5, 1987. (Correspondence from Lloyd Hurlbut's classmates dated Apr 27, 1955.)
Chapter 3. College Activities Building

Today’s College Activities Building, which from 1946 to 1977 housed a temporary student union for the College of Agriculture, was the first campus structure designed specifically to accommodate student and public activities.

Completed in the fall of 1926, the building was greeted with enthusiasm by both students and faculty. It was obviously a source of pride for Dean E. A. Burnett.

“Students in this College will now be provided with all the necessary social opportunities which can be found in any other college in the University,” Burnett wrote in the May 1926 issue of the *Cornhusker Countryman*.

At that time, there was an athletic field west of the building. Facing the main quadrangle to the east, the building was described as “opposite the Animal Pathology Hall.”

The cornerstone had been laid on Arbor Day of 1926. A sealed copper box in the cornerstone contains a general catalog of the University of Nebraska; a catalog of the College of Agriculture and one of the School of Agriculture; *These Fifty Years*, a history of the College by Robert P. Crawford; the April issue of the *Cornhusker Countryman*; publicity material recently issued by the College; a book of views of the College campus; a copy of G. E. Condra’s “Nebraska Beautiful;” the latest report of the Nebraska Dairymen’s Association; the 1925 report of the Financial Secretary of the University; and a copy of the School Laws of Nebraska.

The Board of Regents awarded the contract for erection of the building to Bickel Construction Company on March 10, 1926, with the cost listed at $94,350 (1). Dean Burnett estimated that when equipped, the building would cost about $125,000.

The exact date of completion was important to both the College, which hoped to have the facility ready for use near the beginning of the fall semester, and to the Bickel Construction Company. The builder was to receive a bonus of $25 a day for each day the building was finished before September 15, but was to pay a $25 penalty for each day after October 1, 1926 that it remained unfinished.

Records do not show the date of completion, but the builder must have satisfied the time requirement — with some special effort. The *Cornhusker Countryman* predicted that “the new Activities Building will be opened about the first of October. Two shifts are now working on the . . . building in order to have it done by that time” (2). Minutes of the University Regents show no gain or loss to the builder because of this stipulation.

The first social event in the Activities Building was a faculty/student reception in November 1926, with entertainment provided by the faculty. About 500 agricultural and home economics students and staff followed Dean and Mrs. Burnett and Chancellor and Mrs. Samuel Avery in a grand march, heard a rapid-fire talk by Newton W. Gaines, and watched Professors T. H. Goodding and Rudolph M. Sandstedt perform in a skit.

S. W. “Cy” Alford ruled over a mixer dance, with music by the Cornhuskers, and H. P. Davis and the Dairy Department served refreshments. The party ended at 11:30 “when university regulations decree that all activities come to a halt” (3).

The Activities Building was initially a combination of a public meeting place and gymnasium, with emphasis on the latter. In 1926, both men and women
students in the College of Agriculture were required to take physical education (ROTC, a requirement for men students, could be substituted for physical education). Ample provision was made in the Activities Building to carry out this requirement. Showers and locker rooms were provided in the southwest portion of the basement for women students and in the northwest corner for men. Most of the remainder of the basement was used for handball courts. A limited number of offices were provided, primarily for the physical education teachers.

The second floor consisted of a regulation-sized basketball court, with retractable basketball goals, and a balcony for spectators. As in many high school gymnasiums, a stage was included. For meetings and entertainment, the goals were retracted and folding chairs were placed on the basketball court, which along with the balconies provided seating space for approximately 1,200 persons — still the largest (though not the best) meeting room on East Campus. The basketball floor was also used for dancing — the famous Ag Mixers were held here.

The locker rooms gave off an aroma which permeated the entire building. Regular attendees came to expect that at least one wooden folding chair would collapse during each meeting.

A major renovation was made in the building basement to accommodate the “temporary Union” which started operation in December 1946. The handball courts were lost as the space was partitioned for offices, student meeting rooms, a lounge, and an eating room. The next major change occurred when the Union was moved to its new quarters in 1977. The partitions were generally left intact except that the south part (the old lounge) was equipped with partial temporary office dividers and the space assigned to the Department of Agricultural Communications. The old eating room has since been converted into a weight exercise room. The offices in what had been the central part of the basement, as well as those in the southeast and northeast corners of the second and balcony floors, have been renovated. What had been the “Union” kitchen is now a Food Science and Technology Department laboratory.

The building served students and faculty well for recreation both within the building and as a dressing-shower-locker room for outdoor activities. The athletic field west of the building was used for football, baseball, and other sports. There was an excellent set of tennis courts north of the building, which gradually went into disrepair, especially during the depression years. Until more recent times, when dormitory space and the Hall of Youth in the Nebraska Center became available, the Activities Building was used to house boys during 4-H Club week and Boys State. The Hall of Youth has now been turned over to other uses.

Occasionally girls also lived in the Activities Building, Roma Regler, Office of the University’s Corporation Secretary, relates that when she came to the State Fair from Jefferson County with a dairy calf, she and other 4-H girls slept in the basement on rows of tightly spaced cots. The girls walked between the East Campus and the Fairgrounds, not a hardship for students who at home walked to school, some for several miles (5).

References
1. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Mar 10, 1926.
3. ______. Nov 1926, pp 14, 28.
4. Minutes of the UN Board of Regents. Jan 6, 1927.

Chapter 4. Other Organizations and Activities

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In this chapter, we are concerned with College of Agriculture campus-wide organizations and activities. Departmental and other administrative unit organizations are covered in those chapters devoted to the respective organizational units. With few exceptions, University-wide activities are not included.

Over the years, the College of Agriculture has had many student organizations and activities, most of which have come and gone. Some were fairly short-lived while others lasted for a considerable period of time.

Of the organizations and activities started at some time during the first century of the life of the College, only Alpha Zeta, the East Union, the Dean's Advisory Board, the Ag College Chorus (now the University Chorus-East) with its Christmas program (now the Holiday Choral Concert), and the living Christmas tree lighting ceremony are still in existence.

It appears that students today feel more loyalty to the University and have less interest in activities in the College than formerly. Activities are centered more in the Nebraska Union (both City and East Campuses) with less College of Agriculture faculty supervision and participation than earlier. However, students' professional interests in the College appear to be greater than ever. Departmental clubs and other departmental activities such as judging teams remain strong — apparently stronger than ever. Perhaps all of this adds up to greater maturity and sophistication on the part of students as time moves on.

Have there been too many or not enough student organizations and activities? Dean W. W. Burr addressed this question rather well in 1937 (75, p 14) as follows: “We are somewhat inclined to say offhand that we need fewer activities . . . Here at the College of Agriculture our activities are constantly changing, and that is undoubtedly a good thing. The important question is, are they getting better? Do they contribute something to the education of the student? Are they properly coordinated and fitted into the general scheme of our college education?”

In the January 1952 issue of the Cornhusker Countryman Clayton Yeutter wrote in an editorial: “I feel that activities are well worth their time when they are teaching students to think, to solve situations, to meet and talk with people, to express themselves smoothly and easily in meetings, and to learn to manage and organize.”

The Agricultural (Ag) Club

The Ag Club was organized in March 19091, the same year the College of Agriculture was re-established as a separate College, i.e., when the Industrial College was terminated. The purposes of the Club were “. . . to draw the agricultural students into closer fellowship, to cultivate the ability in the art of organization, perfecting and maintaining an organization among agricultural students in the University, to afford a means of instruction and entertainment, and to give the Agricultural College more prominence”.

Educational meetings were held fort nightly, and the Club sponsored a banquet, several dances, and “. . . many other entertainments”. In January 1911 the Club, with a membership of 51 students, took over the publishing of the magazine Agriculture. Publication continued until 1921 (1, p 225).

In 1911, the Club met every two weeks on Saturday nights. The program usually featured an address by a faculty member followed by general discussion, but occasionally students made the chief presentation (15). On October 19, 1916, the Club met in the Temple building with an attendance of 175. “To conclude the program the men were turned loose with a barrel of apples and a box of doughnuts” (16, p 49).

The masthead of the Cornhusker Countryman listed the Agricultural Club as its publisher from the inception of the magazine in November 1921 through December 1925. In October 1922, the Countryman stated “As Ag Club has grown, its policies and activities have completely changed. The organization now can correctly be referred to as the Business Manager of student activities among the men of Ag College . . . Through Ag Club the pep and spirit of Ag College is stimulated and kept at a high pitch. Athletics, College orchestra, College publicity, judging teams, weekly convocations, campus conduct, and Farmers' Fair are important activities within the College . . . membership in the Ag Club is an honor and an obligation . . . in order that good old Ag College may keep on climbing the ladder of well-deserved fame” (2, p 18).

The members of the Ag Club enjoyed some interesting social affairs. For example on December 20, 1927, the Club, jointly with the College of Agriculture branch of the YMCA, held a banquet in the Home Economics cafeteria. Entertainment, which was provided largely by the members, consisted of two readings, a boxing match, a wrestling match, and a “between-act” presentation (14, p 16).

As is the case with many student organizations and activities, it is much more difficult to determine the date of termination than the date of beginning. The Club was last written up in the Cornhusker in the 1933 issue, and was last mentioned in the Cornhusker Countryman in March 1933 (12, p 7)2. Apparently the Ag Club was supplanted by the Ag Executive Board which was mentioned as a functioning organization as early as October 1932 (13, p 8).

1A slightly different date of organization and purpose were reported in Agriculture in 1911 (15, p 11). The date of origin was given as 1908 and the purpose as “. . . creating a greater interest in higher Agricultural Education.”

2Publication of the Countryman was suspended at the end of the 1932-33 academic year and started again with the March 1937 issue. Thus there may have been Ag Club activities during this period which have not come to our attention.
Ag Executive Board

Preliminary - the Ag Council

In October 1927, Emil G. Glazer presented a complete plan for the organization of an “All Ag Council of the UN College of Agriculture” (31, p 10) and made a plea for its adoption. The chief functions of the Council were outlined as follows: 1) “to support the work for any function or movement that will advance the interests of the UN College of Agriculture; 2) correlate the work of the various student organizations . . . ; 3) . . . secure publicity for activities of the College of Agriculture”.

After a constitution for an Ag Council had been adopted by the College students, it was rejected by the University Student Council in early 1929 (32, pp 17, 22). The reasons given by the Student Council for rejecting the proposed Ag Council were: 1) “. . . a council within a council would tend to the separation of Ag College students from the main University student body; 2) . . . the amount of power given was unlimited”.

The Ag Executive Board Proper

In April 1929, it was reported: “Under the name of Agricultural Executive Board the long hoped for Ag Council has finally come into existence” (33, p 18). The change in name and obviously some modifications in the wording of the constitution had made possible acceptance by the University Student Council. Purposes of the Ag Executive Board were to: 1) sponsor and correlate activities on Ag Campus; 2) support Ag College and University activities; 3) act as governing board concerning activities of agricultural students; and 4) act as a representative body between the faculty and student body. Members of the Board were elected in the spring of 1929, with activities conducted for the first time during the academic year of 1929-30 (34, p 16).

By 1939, the membership of the Board had increased to 12, plus two faculty sponsors. It was stated (35, p 8): “The board also functions for Ag College as the student council does for the whole University”. The Ag Club and Home Ec Club had disappeared from the list of organizations from which Board members had been elected.

Changes in the representation on the Board continued to take place. Under the revised constitution, which became effective with the spring election of 1952, 21 members replaced the 12 member board of previous years. Membership consisted of representatives of departmental, religious and honorary organizations, the two Ag College student council representatives, three holdover members, and three ex officio, members (without voting powers). The Home Economics Club was once again represented on the Board (36, pp 5, 12).

The Ag Executive Board reported in 1969 that it was no longer sponsoring the Cornhusker barbecue because it involved “too many headaches”. However, using funds earned from the previous year’s barbecue, the Board provided travel expenses for delegates sent to the American Home Economics Association convention, and to the International Agricultural Student Conference. Other activities included sponsoring an agricultural career planning day, recognizing the outstanding East Campus professor for the year, and inviting guests to speak at convocations (82, p 134).

The Ag Exec Board disappeared from the College of Agriculture sometime after 1969 but just when is not known.

Agricultural (Ag) Advisory Board

In April 1967 the students in the College of Agriculture and Home Economics established the Agricultural Advisory Board to serve as an advisory group to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and the Director of Resident Instruction, with respect to curricula, instruction and faculty-student relations. Additional functions had to do with “. . . assistance for students in construction of their own individual curricula, liaison with ASUN (Associated Students of the University of Nebraska), and a general representation of students within the College”. One of the first recommendations of the Board was that students be included as members (without voting privileges) on the following standing College committees: 1) course of study - agriculture; 2) food technology; 3) graduation with distinction; 4) College convocations (already included a student member); and 5) science in agriculture (38).

At their meeting on May 31, 1967, the faculty voted to postpone action on the Board request. On November 17, 1967, a faculty committee which had been appointed to study the Board request recommended that student representation on College committees be limited to the course of study committee, with the student representatives selected by the Ag Advisory Board, and that the students on the committee be without voting power. The recommendation was accepted by the faculty.

Today the Ag Advisory Board is still in existence. It is “An elected body from each Ag College department that serves as a liaison with the Dean, dealing with advising of policy, curriculum, and student appointment to committees” (37, p 2).

The Board was set up with encouragement from Director Eldridge and Dean Frolik. Organizationally it had been preceded earlier in the year by a group known as the “Dean’s Advisory Committee”, an organization established by the Ag Executive Board (81).
The Two Magazines

The *Cornhusker Countryman*, the student publication of the College of Agriculture, first published in December 1921, had its real beginning as *Agriculture*. Publication of the latter was started in March 1902, and through February 1911 was nominally under the management and editorial direction of the Association of Agricultural Students (a School of Agriculture student organization), but during that time it was largely handled by the faculty (see Part VII, Chapter 1). The page size of *Agriculture* was 5 1/4 x 9 1/2 inches.

With the March 1911 issue, the publication was transferred to the Agricultural Club of the College of Agriculture, with H. J. Gramlich and Will Forbes, students in the College of Agriculture, becoming the editor and business manager, respectively. Henceforth, *Agriculture* and, subsequently, the *Cornhusker Countryman*, were edited and managed by College students until publication was terminated. The last issue of *Agriculture* appeared in May 1921.

In 1921 the Ag Club decided to change the name of “Agriculture” to “Cornhusker Countryman”, to increase the page size to 8 1/2 by 11 1/2 inches, and to increase the number of subscribers to 1,000. The latter was necessary to make the publication eligible for membership in the Agricultural Magazines Association, thereby making it possible to get national advertising. Grant E. Lantz was elected the first editor and managed to get out the first issue in December 1921. Understandably, in the early years the publication, depending solely on subscriptions and advertising for financial support, experienced difficult times. Through excellent leadership of the early editors following Lantz, namely Elton Lux '28, Allen Cook '24, Virgil Michael '25, Amos K. Gramlich '26, Glenn A. Buck '27, and Emil G. Glaser '28, the *Countryman* was put on sound footing, editorially and financially. During Michael's term as editor, the *Countryman* was accepted as a member of the Agricultural Magazines Association, which assisted materially in putting the publication on a sound financial basis (17, pp 7, 8, and 33).

Both *Agriculture* and the *Countryman* were published monthly during most of the academic school years. To begin with *Agriculture* was devoted primarily to reports of research results which were written by the faculty. Gradually, more information was included on teaching, including students and their programs and activities. In the early issues of the *Countryman*, research information continued to be included to a considerable extent, with much (but not all) of the material written by the faculty, USDA officials, and others outside of the student body.

In March 1923, a student wrote an article on making ice. He outlined a unique method of freezing ice on the farm, which obviated the need of cutting ice on a pond or creek and often hauling it over considerable distances to the storage pit on the farmstead. Briefly the method consisted of building three sets of racks with trays and placing each along one of three stock watering tanks. Each morning ice which had frozen during the night was cut from the tanks and placed in the trays. Water was then poured on the ice in the trays and allowed to freeze. Thus smooth blocks of ice were produced, following which, as was customary, the ice was stored in the ice pits, lined with wheat straw. The question of sanitation was answered by stating that ice from a stock tank was “purer” than that harvested from a creek or pond in a cattle pasture. Ice stored in properly designed pits would last all summer (39, p 5).

The inclusion of subject matter continued and gradually the students took over more and more of the writing so that in time virtually all material was written by them.

As shown on the mastheads, the Ag Club remained the sponsor of the *Countryman* through the Vol. 5, No. 1, January 1926 issue, with the following February issue showing the students of the College of Agriculture as publishers.

Financial Difficulties and Death of the *Countryman*

The *Countryman* began to face serious financial difficulties as the Great Depression worsened. In December 1932, Editor Arthur F. Kozelka, editorially, bitterly attacked a few students whom he referred to as “demoralizing agents”. Glenn LeDioyt, business manager, in outlining the financial problem stated “... it is more difficult to put out an eight page edition under present conditions that it was to put out a twenty page issue during good times”. Yet both students vowed to keep the publication going (18, p 7). Business conditions continued to worsen, finally catching up with the *Countryman*. Publication was suspended with Vol. XII, No. 7, April 1933.

The next edition to be published was Vol. XIII, No. 1, March 1937. On page seven, Dean Burr stated in part: “... let me say that I am glad the *Cornhusker Countryman* has been revived. All of us, students, alumni, and faculty, should benefit by having it published again ... One of its very important values will be as a record of the student life. A complete file of the numbers issued during one's college life will be of inestimable value later”.

That once again all was not well with the *Countryman* began to become apparent when it was reported in the *Daily Nebraskan* in late December 1949, that the

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3 Ice was important on the farm for refrigeration not only of foodstuffs for home use, but also for storage of dairy products produced for sale. Ice harvested on rivers, ponds, and in this case partially from stock watering tanks, was also used for freezing ice cream and to make cold drinks such as lemonade. Had the ice been very dangerous for use in beverage consumption, many of us who experienced those times would not be here today.
magazine was “dying a slow death”. The *Countryman* staff fought back and said that the moment of truth would come when shortly, thereafter, they would strive to obtain forced, paid circulation among the students of the College (53, p 5). As is obvious from the following paragraph, the attempt failed.

After a half century of existence (including the suspension period of 1933-1937), *Agriculture/The Cornhusker Countryman* met the end with publication of Vol. XXV, No. 2, November 1952. Even though Dean W. V. Lambert and Ralston J. Graham, faculty advisor, had investigated alternative possibilities to keep the *Countryman* going (19, 20), Editor Dale Reynolds and Business Manager Dean Linscott, on January 26, 1953 (21) stated “...we advise that publication of this magazine cease immediately for these reasons”:

1. Lack of student interest
2. Lack of qualified personnel to operate such a magazine
3. Lack of time and interest due to increase of ag activities and conflicting meeting times
4. Increased ag student interest in University-wide activities
5. Loss of $125 to $300 per year for the past four years
6. Increased sales resistance of advertisers
7. Increased student resistance in buying subscriptions
8. Total estimated debt — $287.23
9. Assets consisting of two typewriters, valued at $10 each

The recommendation was accepted by Dean Lambert and publication of the *Countryman* ceased.

**In Retrospect**

In retrospect it can be said that *Agriculture* was useful and that the *Countryman* was an excellent magazine. Much credit is due to the editorial, business and circulation staffs who did most of the work required in keeping the magazines going. The *Countryman* constituted a most useful historical record of the period during which it was published. It has been a valuable source of information for this History, and the authors regret that publication was not continued to the present time. Our coverage for Part IX, after 1952, has been lessened for the lack of the *Countryman*.

**That Good Old Ag College Spirit**

For many years students in the College of Agriculture made a big thing of what they called “The good old Ag College spirit”. That the “spirit” was, of necessity, somewhat nebulous did not detract from its support and popularity.

As early as November 1921, E. Grant Lantz wrote an editorial in the *Cornhusker Countryman* on “College Spirit” which read in part: “Some time ago the majority of the men in the College of Agriculture voted to adopt an Ag hat and in a short time more than a hundred of them made their appearance at the Oklahoma football game. The entire University was astounded at the spirit of the ‘Cow College’ as they lovingly called it.” Then dissension set in. “One man mentioned the fact that the hat ‘makes me so conspicuous’”. Just what the “old Stetson” looked like or how long the custom lasted is not known.

In the December 1923 issue of the *Cornhusker Countryman*, Lantz wrote editorially: “Two years ago our college reminded me of a drowsy and sleepy cat... Last spring it began to wake up and before we could realize it, we had stepped on its tail... After the last issue of the paper the old quiet cat of ours was up in the air and spitting smoke and fire and one man said, ‘You sure have stirred up things. Do you suppose the Dean will kick you out for doing it?’”

That the spirit sometimes lagged was also demonstrated in the December 1925 issue of the *Cornhusker Countryman* when the editors asked “Where is that Ag College spirit?” The editorial read in part: “One feature that seems to be decidedly lacking in the student body of our Ag College this year is college spirit. In the past, one of the strongest talking points for the College of Agriculture has been that a spirit exists here which is somewhat lacking in the other colleges of the university... However, this school year is still comparatively young and there is yet time to produce the ‘old fight’... Why not rejuvenate the old spirit and show the freshmen what Ag College really is” (3, p 12).

In March 1928, Georgia Wilcox, a Home Economics major, wrote: “To me the most unusual and attractive thing on our Campus is the spirit of fellowship and cooperation that seems to prevail. Almost everybody knows everyone else, at least by sight... Often times people that you hardly have a speaking acquaintance with... offer to take you home” (51, p 17).

After being away from the Campus for many years, it seemed to Dean Lambert, in 1950, that there was an absence of unified spirit which he thought was needed. He suggested the first step in developing such spirit was to get students to use the sidewalks instead of making paths. He thought other contributing factors would be greater respect for parking regulations and speed signs, and cultivation of courteous behavior (52, p 2).

**The Performing Arts**

**Ag College Orchestra**

In November 1922, the following appeared in the *Cornhusker Countryman*: “The College of Agriculture at last has a real orchestra.” The orchestra was directed by William (Billie) T. Quick, director of the University band and orchestra, with about 15 students participating. It was also stated: “By the willing cooperation of all concerned, our college can produce...”

*The invitations are understandable. Georgia was an attractive and charming coed.*
a very commendable orchestra during this first year and lay the foundation for an even greater one in the future.  The orchestra was booked to play at convocations and a number of other programs (22, p 27). That the orchestra was still in existence during the ensuing academic year is known through the fact that it played at the Farmers’ Family Fun Feed of the 1923 Organized Agriculture (23, p 9) but how long it survived after that is not known.

Ag College Band

The April 1933 Cornhusker Countryman stated that Director Quick came to the Ag Campus every Tuesday night all year to practice with a half-dozen students constituting the Ag College band. H. E. Bradford was threatening to close out the band course because of the lack of interest. The Countryman strongly urged students, both men and women, to bring their instruments, no matter what, when they came to Lincoln in the fall. It was suggested that the group could function either as a band or an orchestra, as the occasion demanded (24, pp 11, 12).

In 1960, Franklin E. Eldridge, Director of Resident Instruction, explored the possibility of “... developing an instrumental group”, but decided it would be unwise because of a lack of instruments and music stands. He did think small ensembles might be a possibility (25).

The Ag College Chorus

The Ag College chorus was started in the school year of 1926-27 under the directorship of Altinas Tullis7 (26, p 26). This was a mixed chorus, although “the number of male voices exceeds that of the contraltos and sopranos.” The chorus started with 50 members. It has remained, to this day, an activity on the East Campus.

Tullis persevered with her chorus although it was not always easy. On November 7, 1951, Dean Lamberton in order to minimize interference with other classes, restricted chorus practice to certain hours in Ag Hall, the College Activities Building, and Animal Husbandry Hall. The place for practicing in Ag Hall was the auditorium directly above the Library. The Dean suggested to Tullis: “Probably more disturbing to the library and those studying than the music is the keeping time with your foot. No doubt this is something that could easily be corrected” (76).

After Tullis retired in 1957, directorship of the chorus was handled for a number of years by a succession of short-term directors, including graduate students in the School of Music. During this period, lack of continuity and perhaps degree of personal commitment on the part of the directors resulted in a lowering of student interest. However, interest and participation were revived under the directorship of Adelaide Spurgin who served from 1963 to 1976 (27).

Concerts were given in the College Activities Building until 1977, when the Nebraska East Union became available (27). The presentation of a Christmas program which drew large crowds became traditional and remains so to the present.

In 1978, the chorus was transferred administratively from the College of Agriculture to a one credit course in the School of Music. Earlier the course was entitled “Oratorio Chorus” and presently it is “Ensemble 242, 442, University Chorus-East”. The course’s purpose is defined as “The rehearsal and performance of a variety of works for mixed chorus on the East Campus” (28, p 149).

Adelaide Spurgin retired in 1978. Lorraine A. Beadell then took over and remains in charge at this time. The group makes two presentations annually — the Holiday Choral Concert in early December, and the Spring Choral Concert. Sponsorship is under the University Program Council, East Campus, Visual Arts Committee (69).

Coll-Agri-Fun

Coll-Agri-Fun was an annual student dramatic and musical performance produced under the auspices of a Coll-Agri-Fun Student Board. Brought into being largely through the efforts of T. H. Goodding of the Agronomy Department, the first Coll-Agri-Fun show was held in 1927 (7, p 6). A student, Ray Magnuson, organized the show and gave it its name (10, p 9). The presentation held on February 28, 1930 consisted largely of musical numbers. “The dreamer”, presented by the College of Agriculture chorus under the direction of Altinas Tullis “... was one of the big hits of the show”. After 1930 there was a gradual shift to slapstick and other comedy acts. The shows were produced by various campus student organizations, agricultural social fraternities, groups organized for the occasion, and others (7, p 6).

In 1933, an original production, “The Follies”, put on by 16 boys in the Farm Operators Short Course, won first prize. The musical was directed by Altinas Tullis, with rather elaborate dresses and accessories made by Nevada Wheeler8, then secretary in the Vocational Agriculture Department. (11, p 3).

The Constitution adopted by the College of Agriculture student body on May 11, 1936, stated: “The object of Coll-Agri-Fun shall be to create interests and further development of talent in dramatics, music, and leadership ... also to promote entertainment for those interested in the activities of the College of Agriculture ...” Typically a dance followed the performance. The series of shows was interrupted by

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7Our roster shows Altinas Tullis’ employment with the University started in 1921—she had been a staff member in the School of Agriculture, prior to directing the College Chorus.

8Miss Wheeler was the Dean’s secretary from 1936 to 1965.
WW II, but was reinstated after the War with the 16th show being held on October 25, 1947.

In 1952, Love Hall won first place with presentation of the skit "Coll-Agr-Fair," and Loomis Hall won the curtain act with "Return of the Natives". Presentations were also made by the Ag YWCA, Amikutas, FarmHouse, Alpha Gamma Rho, and the Home Ec Club (8, p 7).

Coll-Agr-Fun was last listed in the *Cornhusker* in 1952.

**Dramatics Club**

The Dramatics Club started producing annual performances consisting of three one-act plays in 1936. The plays ranged from light comedy to drama, and in the presentation made on April 15, 1939, consisted of "Say it with Flowers", "Rollo", and "Land's End" (29, p 15).

The format was changed for the production staged on March 30, 1940 to one three-act play, entitled "Bargains". Price of admission was 15 cents, and dancing followed the play (30, p 18).

**Religious Organizations and Activities**

**YWCA and YMCA**

The University YWCA and YMCA had branches on the East Campus, which were active over a considerable time. According to the 1924 *Cornhusker* (p 282), the Ag YWCA was "organized because Home Ec girls were not able to attend vesper services on City Campus... It is now an established force at the Agriculture College for the growth of stronger and more active Christian lives." The YMCA was mentioned in the *Cornhusker Countryman* in February 1928 (14, p 16), and the YWCA in May 1937 (68, p 17).

According to the *Countryman*, March 1939 (p 15), the YWCA was holding vespers during Lent, and the YMCA was holding joint meetings to plan retreats, hikes, and other social activities to be held in the spring. In 1947 it was reported that the annual YM-YW carnival was held on campus to raise funds to help defray expenses of Ag representatives to the annual intercollegiate student faculty Rocky Mountain Conference at Estes Park, Colorado (*Countryman*, May 1947, p 10). In 1949, the YM-YW organizations were devoting one meeting a month to Bible study. Plans were also underway for a special Thanksgiving program and the annual Christmas party (*Countryman*, November 1949, p 13).

The YWCA and YMCA members were doing volunteer work for the University Hospital at Omaha in November 1952, according to the last issue of the *Countryman*, published that month. In 1960, the East Campus YWCA modified its constitution to provide for coeducational membership. The organization also changed its name to "Co-Educational YMCA on East Campus" (83, p 168).

The last sentence above notwithstanding, in 1961 the organization was referred to as the "Ag Y". The annual carnival to raise funds to send delegates to the YM-YW Estes Park Conference was still being held. Other activities included holding daily devotions the week before Christmas and Easter vacations, sponsoring the pre-Easter breakfast, and entertaining children at the LARC school (84, p 222).

How much longer the organization remained active is not known; however, it was not included among the 29 "religious organizations" or 13 "agriculture-related organizations" listed in the 1986-87 CAP student organizations directory published by the Nebraska Union.

**Christmas Services**

Over the years various types of Christmas services were held on Campus. On December 16, 1932, the Salem male chorus of near Seward, under the direction of student Albert J. Ebers, presented a program before a crowd of 300 students and faculty. Santa Claus handed out an array of rubber dolls and hobby horses to "eminent" faculty members and students (64, pp 6, 10).

Annual programs, with singing provided by the College of Agriculture mixed chorus, were begun in 1926 when Altona Tullis started the Ag College Chorus (65, p 5). The presentation is still being continued although it is now called the Holiday Choral Concert. For many years the Ceres Club served punch and cookies to all those attending.
The Living Christmas Tree

The living Christmas tree was planted in December 1964 on East Campus about half a block west of the C. Y. Thompson Library. It is a concolor fir which had been grown at the Marshall Nurseries at Bennington. The tree was about 15 years old at time of planting, hence it is now about 38 years old (1987).

The background for having a living Christmas tree on campus includes the fact that on September 3, 1964, when Dean Frolik, responding to a request for possible uses for gifts to the College, suggested as one possibility enough funds to plant the tree, provide underground wiring for lighting the lights, and an endowment for maintenance (66). That suggestion did not bring forth any funds, but Joseph O. Young subsequently prevailed upon the Nebraska Association of Nurserymen to donate a tree and funds for transporting and planting the tree, and for installing the necessary wiring and lights. Additional funds for an endowment for maintenance were donated by student groups. A slab of concrete from the seat along Holdrege Street which had been donated by the School of Agriculture class of 1925, and which had been partially broken, was resurrected from storage. The broken stone was recut and engraved to serve as a marker for the living Christmas tree, largely through the efforts of Chester B. Billings, University Landscape Architect (67).

Beginning in 1964, and each year since, before students go home for the semester break, an annual Christmas lighting ceremony is held at the living Christmas tree. The ceremony is now sponsored by the University Program Council, East Campus (UPC East), and the Visual Arts Committee. Other activities, varying with the years, accompany the tree lighting ceremony.

Pre-Easter Breakfasts

The Pre-Easter Breakfast held annually on Palm Sunday was started in 1927 through the efforts of T. H. Goodding. It provided a collective religious service for Ag College students and faculty. The breakfast was held on the East Campus except for 1943 when it was moved to the Warren Methodist Church Community House. Throughout most of its existence, the breakfast was sponsored by the Ag Religious Council, an organization made up of representatives from all religious groups on campus.

The breakfast was well attended. For example, in 1948 the number of tickets sold had to be limited to 350 because that was the capacity of the College Activities Building. The service was still being held in 1951 — how much longer is not known (70, p 7, and 71, p 5).

Religious Centers Near the East Campus

The Cotner School of Religion (80) was a part of the Christian Church in Nebraska (Disciples of Christ). One section of the School was at 3513 Holdrege Street (at one time the location of Tillman's Cafe and later Carp's Place). The School was in operation from 1946 to 1955, at which time the program was moved to 12th and R Streets where there had been another section of the School for some years.

The School had an arrangement whereby students could transfer elective credits in religion to the University. The connection with the College of Agriculture was mutually beneficial because the School emphasized training students who might wish to serve small rural churches in the U.S. or rural missions abroad. More recently even the School near the City Campus was closed, following which the Church donated $250,000 to the University Foundation for establishment and maintenance of the Cotner College Chair of Religious Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Ag Student Center (an interdenominational student house) was located at 3357 Holdrege Street. The only record we have been able to find of the House was a short write-up in the April 1950 Countryman (p 13). The House was open to everyone. Possible activities listed were playing of many different games, including pingpong, and the use of the kitchen equipment by those wishing to serve a meal or lunch. More recently the House was razed to make room for an apartment building.

Athletics

Through the efforts of Dean Burnett, a coach was first stationed on the East Campus by the Athletic Department during the second semester of 1921-22. He was Monte Munn of varsity fame. The areas to be covered during that semester were boxing, wrestling, track, and baseball (77, pp 12, 13). Football was started the following fall under Coach Nicholas (2, p 21).

The teams were restricted from scheduling games outside of the University because of endangering eligibility for playing on the varsity teams. According to the October 1927 Countryman: “While Ag College has a football team each year, no regular scheduled games are played. This fact is explained in that the College is a part of the University and, therefore, should any games be played on the regular scheduled basis, it would tend to make any promising freshman ineligible for the varsity” (56, p 12).

Representation on Varsity Teams

In addition to College and intramural sports, the College of Agriculture has been well represented on varsity teams. An outstanding College of Agriculture athlete, and also one of the great football players in the history of the University, was Ed Weir, class of 1926, major in Rural Economics, and a member of the 1923, '24, and '25 football teams. He played on both defensive and offensive teams, and was also the team punter and team captain. He was on the Ne-
The Nebraska team that beat one of the famous Notre Dame teams with the “four horsemen” in 1923, and again in 1925, the latter after the “four horsemen” had graduated. In his senior year, he was a member of the Nebraska team that beat Illinois which team included the famous “Red” Grange. “Ed has been said to be the only man who ever really succeeded in stopping Grange.” For some six years Weir also held the record in the Kansas relay 50 and 120-yard high hurdles. Weir was named all-American in both 1924 and 1925. He is a member of the National Football Hall of Fame (57).

Five other College of Agriculture students were on the 1925 Nebraska football team including Ed’s younger brother, Joe, Willard Dover, Cecil “Red” Molzen, Arnold Oelrich, and Robert Whitmore (57, p 14).

Another example of College of Agriculture students making varsity teams is that of the academic year of 1940-41. Included in the list of those playing varsity football that year (the team that went to the Rose Bowl), were Ed Schwartzkopf (University Regent from 1967 to 1985), Fred Preston, and Wayne Blue; basketball, Don Fitz; track, Bill Cook and Bob Ginn; and baseball Warren “Buck” Gabler, Bernie LeMaster and Oscar Tegmeier (58, p 12).

Athletic Teams within the College of Agriculture

In the fall of 1922, the 30 boys out for College of Agriculture football could not scrimmage at first for lack of football suits (78, p 21). On October 18, they played the Lincoln High second team to a scoreless tie “... with no casualties”. By November the team had 15 suits and three headgears (79, p 29).

Later in the fall of 1922, the Ag College football team, under Coach Nicholas, traveled to Hebron and won 8-0, on a very muddy field with “Jimmy Adams pushing over for a touchdown”. After traveling 13 hours in a truck on muddy roads, the team reached Lincoln at 8:00 a.m. the next morning. Also that team with “... Jimmy Adams, quarterback, as well as three or four other good players out of the game ...” lost to the Biz Ads, 19-0 (65, p 24).

A photograph of the 1924 Ag College football team shows 22 men in uniform. The few players that we could identify included Paul Bass, Lynn Cox, Sam Ling, Harold Millen, Vern Patton, John Roth, Ron Welman, and Robert Whitmore. Coaches were Ruf DeWitz and Hork Hinman. According to Robert Whitmore (89), teams which they played included York College, Omaha University, Wesleyan University (froshmen), and Cotner College. The team beat Omaha University (89) and lost to the York Collegians 8 to 0 (Cornhusker Countryman, Nov 1924, p 24)

The April 1926 issue of the Countryman (p 26) reported that an Ag College basketball tournament was held with 34 men and seven departments participating. The writer of the article was looking forward to a stronger program with the coming of the “new gymnasium”.

Athletics on the East Campus did receive strong impetus with completion of the College Activities Building in the fall of 1926. At that time the Ag College football coaching staff consisted of three individuals. There was an impressive group of men out for the team. The Cornhusker Countryman stated “so far there has been no definite schedule of games given out”, the implication being that there would be such a schedule (59, p 19).

The College of Agriculture intramural program of 1927-28 consisted of tennis, handball, basketball, wrestling, and track (56, p 12). In the fall of 1927, the Athletic Department for the first time permitted white honor letters to be issued to members of the Ag College football team. The letters were attached to scarlet sweaters (60, p 16).

The College of Agriculture athletic program, under the leadership of coach and athletic director W. W. Knight, probably reached its high watermark about 1928-29. A long list of students won football “numerals” that year and “the upper class team from the college won several practice games ...” About 70 men signed up for the basketball program. There were College tournaments in tennis and handball; however, there was no separate College of Agriculture baseball team, because the varsity team played on the Ag College diamond. A faculty committee presided over the programs (61, pp 27, 41).

It appears that the College of Agriculture teams, with coaches provided by the Athletic Department, in addition to giving an opportunity for many students to participate, served the function of “farm” teams for the varsity.

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No pun intended.
Just when they disappeared we do not know but by
the fall of 1947 College of Agriculture teams as such
were gone. So were the members of the coaching staff
for the East Campus. College athletics by this time
consisted of individual competition for the free-throw
tournament (basketball), and singles and doubles in
a pingpong tourney. The 11 teams entered in a bas­
ketball league by November 1947 consisted of rep­
resentatives of organizations such as social fraternities,
religious groups and the Cornhusker Countryman (62,
pp 8, 9).

The situation today is comparable to that of 1947,
except that more kinds of sports are included, and
competition tends to be more on an all-University ba­
sis than merely within the College of Agriculture.

Merrymaking

Social functions have been traditional in the College
of Agriculture both with students and the faculty. The
faculty has had a dancing club for many years. In the
earlier years the dances were formal affairs but more
recently they have become informal in attire. Dancing
and group singing have constituted the principal so­
cial functions of the students. Receptions, chiefly by
faculty for students, have also been hallmarks of the
social activities.

Mixers

Mixers on the Ag campus meant evening dances
with music provided by orchestras. These were highly
informal affairs and very useful in helping to get stu­
dents acquainted. Typically, those attending would
come without dates, although no small number paired
up at the close of the parties. The mixers were very
popular and well attended. Just when or where on
Campus the mixers got started is not known. They
go back at least as far as the time of the horse barn
which was built in 1915. Some of the mixers were held
there until the College Activities Building became
available in 1926, but other buildings had also been
used (54, p 12).

The mixers really had two purposes — to serve as
social functions for the pleasure of the students, and
to raise funds. Various clubs on campus would spon­
sor mixers, primarily to raise money. For example, in
1921 the United Ag Club sponsored an all-ag mixer
each semester (40, p 137).

Following opening of the “temporary” East Campus
Union on December 2, 1946, hour dances became
popular and largely superseded mixers (44, pp 11,
16).

Other Dances

Farmers’ Formal. For many years, the Farmers’ For­
mal was an important social function in the College
of Agriculture. The first annual Formal (dance) was
held on December 4, 1926 in the new College Activ­
ities Building. The boys were attired in overalls and
the girls wore aprons. Music was provided by a nine­
piece orchestra, and the gym was appropriately dec­
orated (4, p 19).

The second Farmers’ Formal was held on Novem­
ber 4, 1927. Cider was the official drink, with more
“delicate” refreshments being served during inter­
mission. Decorations consisted of streamers, with bales
of alfalfa hay and cornstalks scattered around the
room. Lanterns with electric light globes helped pro­
vide the spirit of a barn dance (5, p 16).

Attendance in 1932 was limited to College of Ag­
riculture students and those who had dates with Ag
students. The purpose of the rule was to make the
affair exclusive for Ag students (9, p 8).

The Farmers’ Formal continued to grow in impor­
tance and attendance. In October 1947, attendance
was estimated at 500. As had become traditional, the
College Activities Building gymnasium was decorated
in country style. The girls wore “frilly cotton dresses
and pinafores”. During intermission, a quartet sang
“Tumblin’ Tumbleweed”. There were seven prin­
cesses and, as was customary, a queen was crowned
(6, pp 5, 6).

Special parties. Still other parties (dances) were
sponsored by various student groups. For example,
there was the Coll-Ag night at the Student Union (city
campus) in the fall of 1940 (46, p 6). There were also
the spring parties given by the Ag Executive Board.
Typical was the 1948 spring party where the Campus
Couple elected by all Ag students was formally pre­
sented (41, p. 7). The Amikita Club (Home Ee) held
its annual sweetheart ball on February 13, 1948, in
the College Activities Building, with an orchestra pro­
viding music, and dancing “... under the watchful
eyes of chaperones”. The ball included the presen­
tation of the Amikita sweetheart for 1948 (42, p 8).

Miscellaneous dances and games. Underway every
Thursday evening from seven to eight o’clock in 1940
were social affairs consisting of old time square danc­ing,
waltzing, other dances and games of all kinds.
Everyone was invited including professors (43, pp 3,
16). By April 1949, square dancing on Campus was
being conducted on an organized basis by the Ag Col­
lege Country Dancers club. In the fall of 1949, the
Club was giving instruction on how to direct folk danc­ing
and how to call square dances (44, p 16).

By 1950, the group was calling itself “Ag Country
Dancers Club”. Sessions were held every Friday night,
with the time devoted to learning new dances and

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10 Holding dances in barns may seem somewhat crude by today’s
  standards, but dances were held over the state in barn haylofts as
  late as the first quarter of this century, and in scattered cases even
  later.

Duane Obermier in writing nostalgically of the barn on his par­
stic farm in York County when he was growing up in the late 40’s
and 50’s tells about a dance held in the hayloft for high school
friends. He said this was sort of a farewell to the loft and to the
barn (55, p 31).
Campus was entertained by a German band composed of stu-
dents in November 1926 (see Part IX, Chapter 3).

Campus Sings

The second annual campus sing, sponsored by the
Creative Activities Board, was held on May 13, 1938
at the “twilight hour”. It included both students and
faculty and was reported as “... on its way to being
one of our campus traditions” (47, p 13). The third
annual sing sponsored by the newly created Social
Council\footnote{The Social Council was organized as the result of a recommenda-
dation made by Dr. Regina Wieman, a consultant psychologist of the
University of Chicago, who made a visit to the Campus in May
1938. She encouraged the students to organize to provide “... more
fun for more people” (49, p 12).} was held on May 19, 1939.
Attendance of the annual sing sponsored by the newly created Social
Council was reported as exceeding 250. The group sang old standby songs and
was entertained by a German band composed of students (48, p 7).

Receptions

Receptions, held at the College of Agriculture over
the years, have taken various forms and have been
conducted for various purposes. Perhaps one of the
most outstanding was the faculty reception given for
students in November 1926 (see Part IX, Chapter 3).
The 13th annual Ag Faculty student reception was
held on September 24, 1938. Entertainment consisted
of dancing to Eddie Sheffer's orchestra on the main
floor and games downstairs (50, p 11).

Beginning about 1970, the College of Agriculture
has held receptions annually for the graduating seniors
and their parents on the afternoons of spring Commencement day. These receptions have been well
attended.

Ag Builders

Ag Builders, a branch of the University Builders,
was organized on East Campus during the first se-
mester of the 1950-51 school year. The main purposes
of the student organization were to: 1) publicize the
College; 2) assist visitors with parties and conventions;
3) guide organized tours for campus visitors; and 4)
sell Student Directories and direct all ticket sales on
East Campus (72, p 14). In just two months, April
and May 1952, the Builders tour committee guided
almost 3,000 visitors on East Campus tours (73, p 16).

Creative Activities Organization

The Creative Activities organization was listed as
being “... still in its infancy ...” in May 1937. The
executive board was composed of five people: an ad-
viser; one representative each from the YMCA and
YWCA, and the Home Economics Assn.; and one
student chosen at large. Areas of activity included
dramatics, a camera club, and hobbies (74, p 11).

Rodeo Club

The University of Nebraska Rodeo Club has never
been officially sponsored by the College of Agricul-
ture. In the public mind, however, the Club is gen-
erally associated with the College because of the nature
of the Club and because its headquarters are on East
Campus, many (but by no means all) of the members
are enrolled in the College, and all faculty advisors to
take have been members of the College staff.
The Club was organized in 1948. Its first faculty
advisor was James Dunlap, staff member of the An-
imal Science Department, starting in this capacity in
1950 (92).

The Constitution, revised in February 1968 (85),
contains the following information: The Club advisor
must be a member of the faculty of the University
and he must be approved by the Faculty Senate Com-
mittee on Student Affairs; all money shall be handled
by the Treasurer of the Student Activities Fund of the
University; and the annual spring rodeo must be
approved by the Division of Student Affairs of the
University. Membership in the National Intercolle-
giate Rodeo Association is required. With respect to
amendments, the Constitution states: “All amend-
ments must be approved by the Associated Students of
the UN (ASUN) and the Faculty Senate Committee
on Student Affairs.” The only connection with the
College is an implied one, which is that “The Ag Ex-
ecutive Representative shall represent the club at all
Ag Executive Board meetings ...”

Early rodeos were held on the East Campus as a
part of Farmers’ Fair, the first complete rodeo being
held in 1940. The rodeo, along with the rest of the
Farmers’ Fair, was discontinued during the WW II
years, and reactivated in 1948. Farmers’ Fair was ter-
minated in 1959 but the rodeo has continued to thrive
in the years which followed. The 1959 rodeo, billed
as the 13th annual rodeo at the University, was held,
for the first time, at the Nebraska State Fair Coliseum,
as it has been ever since (86).

The rodeo held on April 13-14, 1973 was billed as
the “... sixth annual intercollegiate rodeo”. The Uni-
versity rodeo is approved by the National Intercolle-
giate Rodeo Association, an organization with 140
member schools and over 2,000 members (87). The
Nebraska student rodeo has become a fairly elaborate
affair, being held for two days annually at the State
Fair grounds, involving many participants, and drawing
large crowds. Students from the NIRA member
schools participate in intercollegiate rodeos at schools
other than their own. The University of Nebraska
Rodeo Club also carries on other activities, such as
making funds available for scholarships and electing
a rodeo queen.
National Agricultural Youth Institute

The first National Agricultural Youth Institute was held at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture on August 14-25, 1967. The Institute constituted a part of the observance of the Centennial of the State of Nebraska. Elvin F. Frolik was chairman of the planning committee with financial support being provided by the Nebraska Centennial Commission.

Delegates from the other 49 states (all were represented) were selected by the Governors of the respective states (cooperating with the deans of the colleges of agriculture). The delegates from Nebraska were chosen by the county extension agents. Transportation to Lincoln for out-of-state delegates was financed by sources within the respective states, with all expenses while in Nebraska being paid by the Nebraska Centennial Commission. Expenses for the Nebraska delegates were paid by organizations and businesses in the communities where the delegates lived. There were 110 delegates, 50 from Nebraska and 60 from the other 49 states.

The purpose of the Institute was to give outstanding young men a chance to broaden their knowledge of agriculture. Attendance was limited to those between their junior and senior years in high school. Selection of delegates was based on high academic achievement, evidence of leadership abilities, and a genuine interest in a career in agriculture.

The Institute was of two weeks duration. Most of the first week was devoted to a seminar at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. Following the seminar, the out-of-state delegates spent the weekend with Nebraska host families. The second week was spent at the State 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, which included a one-day tour of a large sandhills cattle ranch.

A "blue ribbon" group of speakers, both from Nebraska and from over the rest of the United States addressed the delegates. Spearheading these and delivering the keynote address was Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman. Other speakers included D. M. Anderson, General Manager, Sunkist Growers, Inc., Los Angeles, California; K. R. Fitzsimmons, General Manager, Agricultural Chemicals Division, Shell Chemical Company, New York; Morton Adams, President, Curtice-Burns, Inc., Rochester, New York and President, National Canners Association; Gary Swan, National President, Future Farmers of America, Jasper, New York; and William E. Galbraith, farmer-cattle feeder, Beemer, and past Department Commander of the American Legion. Numerous College staff members assisted in planning and conducting the Institute. Donald O. Clifton of the Teachers College was special consultant. Ten college students served as councilors.

Recreation and entertainment were well provided. At a mixer and dance the first week, girls who came by special invitation represented the Lincoln Keen-Time Council and several 4-H Clubs in southeastern Nebraska. Recreation consisted of volleyball, basketball, football, ping-pong, and water sports. The delegates also participated in a talent night.

The Institute was so successful that arrangements were made to make it "permanent". Accordingly, Agricultural Careers, Inc., a nonprofit association was established to raise the necessary funds and to work with the College of Agriculture in sponsoring the national event. Initially, officers of the corporation were Frolik, president; Stanley Matzke, Sr., vice president; and Don H. Shriner, who had been Director of the Nebraska Centennial Commission, secretary-treasurer.

The original format was, for the most part, followed in the ensuing years. In 1968, for the first time, Puerto Rico and Japan also sent delegates.

By 1970, the fourth and last year of the Institute, Edward M. Weaver, Jr., President, Weaver Potato Chip Co., Lincoln, Nebraska, had replaced Frolik as president of Agricultural Careers, Inc. with Shriner continuing as secretary-treasurer. Clifford M. Hardin, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, was Honorary Chairman of the Institute. John Orr, Department of 4-H Youth Development, was Director. William E. Galbraith, who by this time was Under Secretary of Agriculture, was the keynote speaker. W. T. Lane, Division Vice President ofRalston Purina Company, made one of the principal addresses, as he had done at the three previous Institutes. The number of delegates continued at a high level. Of the 10 councilors, nine were past delegates, representing six different states. Responses from the delegates continued to be highly favorable.

Delegates to the National Agricultural Youth Institute in a Nebraska irrigated corn field. Shirt indicates boy on right is from Minnesota.
Preliminary plans were underway for the 1971 Institute but because Ag Careers, Inc. did not provide necessary funds to continue financing the Institute, the plans were canceled and the Institute ceased to exist.

The end of the National Institute ushered in a similar program on a state basis. Glenn Kreuscher, Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, initiated the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute, similar to the former national event, but operated on a within-the-state basis. The first Nebraska Institute was held in 1972 and it has been continued ever since. It is a one week affair, with approximately 180 high school juniors and seniors participating. Delegates are selected by a Council which consists of 22 college age individuals. The event continues to be conducted by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, with the purpose being to facilitate a better understanding of agriculture. Coordinators for the 1987 Institute were Jamey Nygren and Kay Reynolds (91). The IANR and College of Home Economics cooperate closely in staging the annual event.

References

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20. _______ Jan 28, 1953.

*Times have changed — whereas all of the delegates to the national institutes were boys, delegates to the present state institutes include both boys and girls.
64. ________ Dec 1932. Annual Christmas service presented. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
68. Cornhusker Countryman. May 1937. YWCA. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
71. ________ Apr 1951. Pre-Easter breakfast. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
77. Cornhusker Countryman. May 1937. YWCA. Col of Agric, UN, Lincoln.
82. ________ 1969. Ag Exec ends barbeques. UN, Lincoln.
83. ________ 1960. East Campus Y goes co-educational with new name, revised constitution. UN, Lincoln.
84. ________ 1961. Ag YM-YW: Ag students attend Estes Carnival. UN, Lincoln.
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