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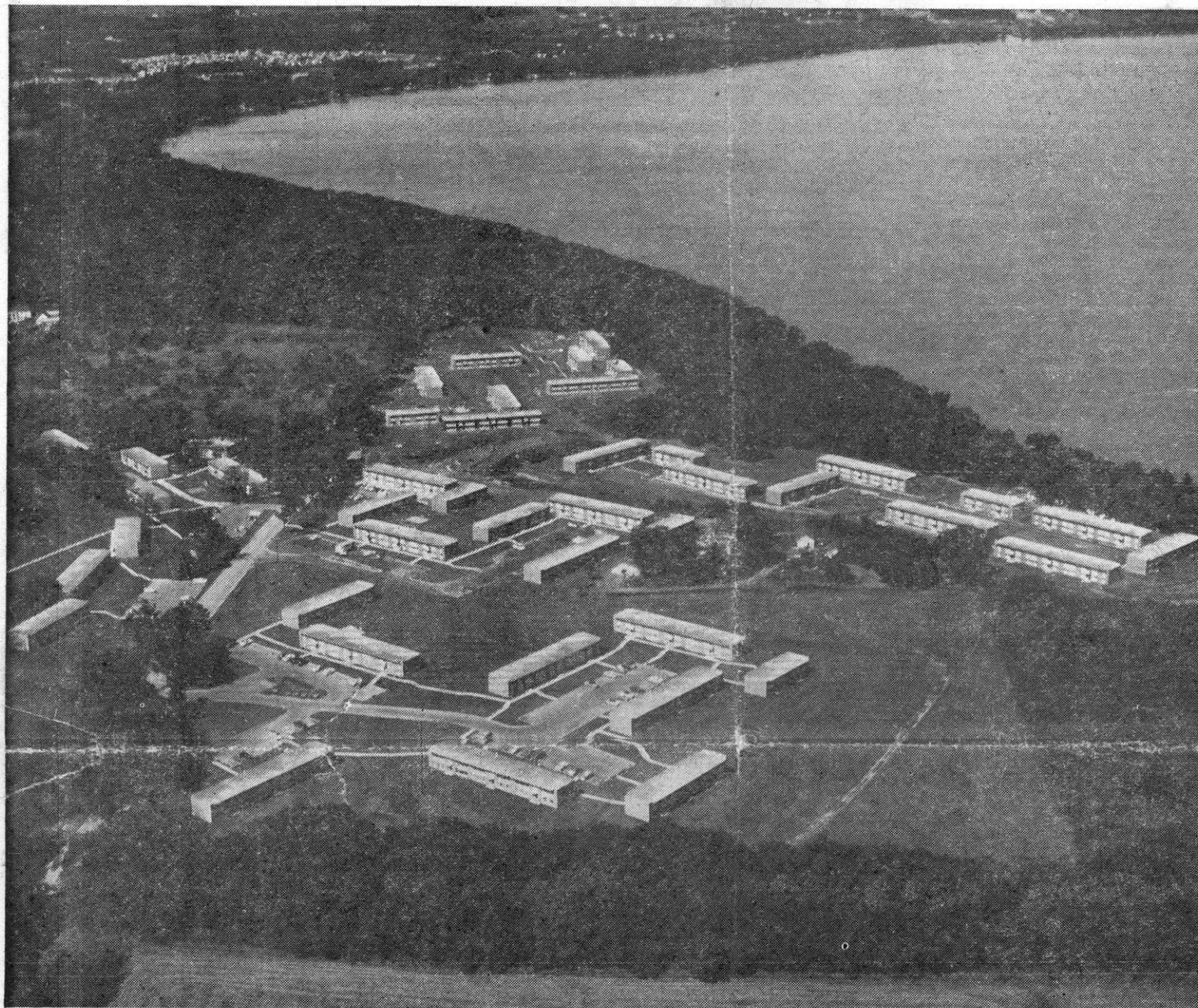
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Growth Rapid Since 1849



EAGLE HEIGHTS—Opening this month for the first time is this addition to the university's apartments for married students, located just west of Picnic Point along Lake Mendota. The first Eagle Heights project, in University bay, was first occupied by married couples in 1957. Two other projects were completed up through last spring, and

projects were completed in July and August. Each of the new projects will house approximately 90 married couples. The apartments have as their objective providing married students with inexpensive housing.

20 Enrolled In 1st 'U' Class

The university, which today ranks among the leading institutions of higher learning in the country, had its humble beginnings more than a century ago in a borrowed room with an enrollment of 20 and a faculty of one.

It was on Feb. 4, 1849, that Prof. John W. Sterling rapped for order in the Madison Female Academy Building and launched what over 100 years later was to be a university with a \$70,000 physical plant, a teaching staff of 3,200, an annual resident and extension enrollment of some 50,000, and an international reputation as a center of deep research and broad public service.

BACK OF PROF. Sterling were 60 years of striving toward the pioneering step at which he presided in 1849. The Federal Ordinance of 1787 had encouraged the establishment of "schools and the means of education" on the north-west frontier. Wisconsin's Territorial Legislature in 1837 looked ahead to the founding of a Badger university by securing two townships of federal land for its support. Wisconsin's state constitution, adopted in 1848, provided for the setting up of a university. And Gov. Nelson Dewey, on July 26, 1848, signed into law a bill calling for "the establishment of a state university at or near the seat of government."

So it was that Prof. Sterling came from Princeton to open a preparatory department in February, 1849. A freshman university class was assembled at Madison in the fall of 1850 and four years later the infant university presented diplomas to its first two graduates.

The first chancellor, as he was then called, was John H. Lathrop, a graduate of Yale University and former president of the University of Missouri. He served from the summer of 1849 until 1858. During his tenure the university bought what is now known as Bascom hall—the heart of the campus, built North and South halls (which are still doing duty on the hill), and limped along financially on the income from the sale of its federal lands.

Lathrop was succeeded by Henry Barnard, an eastern educator of great reputation who spent only a few months in Wisconsin, then left because of ill health. During the Civil War, the university was kept alive in the face of shrinking enrollments and budgets by the sheer tenacity of Prof. Sterling, acting as chancellor.

THE RETURNING soldiers took up their studies after the war's close, and by 1870 there were nearly 500 students in residence. In 1866 the university was designated as a land-grant college under the Federal Morrill Act, setting the pattern for the three contiguous Colleges of Letters and Science, Agriculture, and Engineering. The same year Dr. Paul A. Chadbourne of Williams College was called to the presidency (continued on page 2)

Wisconsin Union Theater Begins 20th Year Recalling Rich History, Planning Big Future

Not quite as old as the average college student, but with two decades of campus experience behind it, the Wisconsin Union Theater will reach 20 years this fall.

It opened just before World War II with "The Taming of the Shrew" by Shakespeare, starring Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine on Oct. 9, 1939.

SINCE THAT date in the months before war engulfed the world, the Union Theater has reflected in its programs the changing world in which the present generation of college students has grown up.

The artists, the statesmen, the world famous personalities who have crossed this platform have addressed some three and a quarter million people. More than once a day for 20 years something has happened at the Wisconsin Union Theater: a major speaker, a memorable concert, a stage play, one of the Wisconsin Players productions, a rehearsal, a gathering of 4-H members, a graduation for the Banking school, a meeting of educators,

or Louis Armstrong playing "The Saints Go Marching In."

Virtually every point of view, has found expression here; every facet of dramatic and musical interpretation has been explored.

AMONG THE renowned men and women who have greeted students there are Prime Minister Nehru of India, Lord Halifax of Great Britain, Trygve Lie of the United Nations, Vice-president of the United States Alben Barkley, Senator Robert Kennedy, Senator Estes Kefauver, Norman Thomas, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Gov. Gaylord Nelson, former governors Walter Kohler, Vernon Thompson, and others.

Great names in the theater, concert, and art world have also appeared here: Andres Segovia, Marian Anderson, Martha Graham, Duke Ellington, Carl Sandburg, Frank Lloyd Wright, Fritz Kreisler, Kirsten Flagstad, Henry Fonda, Judith Anderson, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Jascha Heifetz, Charles Laughton, Charles Boyer, Helen Traubel, Paul Robeson, Patrice Munsel, Vladimir Horowitz, T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Katherine Anne Porter, Burl Ives, Alicia Alonso, Igor Youskevitch, Jose Greco, Ogdon Nash, Harry Belafonte, Ella Fitzgerald, George

Shearing, Artur Rubinstein, and hundreds of others.

They like what they find, too.

LAST YEAR Artur Rubinstein turned to his secretary and said, "This is a marvelous hall, the right size for a piano."

The great Norwegian soprano, Kirsten Flagstad, singing one of her final American concerts, remarked to her pianist, "It is a good place to sing."

In spite of two decades of service to the campus and Madison community, the Union theater is still a model of auditorium design, and students of architecture come from all over the world to see it. Far in advance of theater architecture when it was erected, it is still one of the most functional and frequently copied theaters in the country. The 1,300 seat hall was planned for many different uses, as a theater for professional and local dramatic productions, as a music hall, and an auditorium for lectures and meetings.

STUDENTS TAKE an active part in the Theater. The entire usher staff is made up of student volunteers who may apply Sept. 16 at 7:15 p.m. in the front of the Theater for interviews. Students also have paid jobs as doormen, backstage assistants, technicians,

film operators, and box office workers.

Student volunteers who are members of the Wisconsin Union music, film, forum, literary, and theater committees help to select the programs to be booked into the Theater. Wisconsin Players productions are operated as a part of the speech department and are not included in the Union program, although the groups work closely together, and many of the same students are often involved in both.

The Theater operates as part of the Union, being a wing of the Union building. It functions under the Union's general membership policy, in which all university students, regularly enrolled, have a fee card which gives them membership privileges in the Union, including first opportunity as members to reserve theater tickets at a special student price, and for certain events, free admission.

Prof. Fannie T. Taylor is the theater director, with James Wockenuss as theater manager, and Prof. Frederick A. Buerki as technical director. Both Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Buerki have been with the theater staff since the building opened in 1939.

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