



# **The University of Wisconsin press bulletin.**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**PRESS BULLETIN**

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

August 23, 1933

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 29, No. 8

**Small Towns Hold Own in Competition With Urban Areas****State Needs New Kind of Leadership to Promote Town-Country Life**

The small rural town is holding its own in competition with more urban areas throughout the country in respect to population, retail trade, and extent of trade areas which they serve, J. H. Kolb, professor of rural sociology at the University of Wisconsin, recently declared.

"The small town is maintaining its proportionate share of growth and wealth when compared with the national rate of growth," he explained. "A comparison of figures for 1930 with those back in 1910 has not only revealed the small towns ability to hold its population, but also shows that the number of retail outlets in small towns have increased 43 per cent, and that the small town's trade area has remained the same that it was two decades ago."

**Trade Not Alone**

It is no longer merely trade which is binding town and country together, Prof. Kolb pointed out, but a whole lot of other functions, such as social activities, fire protection, and county fairs.

"The rural life of the future is going to be more and more centered in the town," he predicted. "There is now a real intermingling between town and country people. And more farm boys and girls are going to high schools and colleges—a factor which we think will further promote the town-country relationships."

**Need New Leadership**

Rural communities and farms of Wisconsin need a new kind of professional leadership, Prof. Kolb asserted, and this leadership, in all kinds of social activities such as music, drama, and recreation, can be furnished by the high school administrators and teachers of the state.

Pointing out that the high school as a community institution is the most important single factor in the promotion of good will between town and country people, Prof. Kolb urged all high school administrators and teachers in the state to do all they can to bring about a true town-country relationship in Wisconsin.

**Make Better Communities**

Schoolmen of Wisconsin, especially those living in areas where the milk strike occurred last spring, were urged to promote better feeling between neighbor and neighbor and town and country by Prof. Kolb.

"We need your help in providing leadership in rural town-country life, and there is a chance here for you to contribute to the larger good, and to make better communities in Wisconsin," he said.

**Add Chimes Tower to Long List of U. Gifts from Classes**

To the long list of gifts which grateful alumni have given to the University of Wisconsin during the past half-century or so will be added a new and out-of-the-ordinary one soon. This new gift will be a bell tower which it is expected will be built on a knoll just northwest of Bascom hall within the next year.

With funds supplied entirely by contributions received from graduating classes from 1917 to 1926, the carillon, sometimes referred to as the "singing bells tower", will be approximately 85 feet high and 20 feet square. The total cost of the tower and the 35 bells which it will house will be approximately \$30,000, all of which has been supplied by the classes.

**Class Gifts Numerous**

Gifts ranging from simple bronze tablets, stone benches, and like monuments to substantial sums of money have been given to the state University by various graduating classes in the past, records of University gifts have revealed. Most of the financial gifts have gone into loan funds from which aid is extended to needy students.

No University or state funds whatever are to be used in the building of the carillon, according to M. E. McCaffrey, secretary of the board of regents, who received the contributions from the graduating classes during the years past and placed them in trust until enough had been raised to complete the structure.

**Site Being Considered**

Designs and specifications for the bell tower were shown to the board of regents by Arthur L. Peabody at their annual meeting. Tentative approval was given the project at that time. But several sites for the tower were proposed to the regents, and the problem was referred to the constructional development committee of the board for recommendation.

One of the sites proposed is the knoll on which the Blackhawk marker now stands just northwest of Bascom hall. Local history maintains that it was across this knoll, about 100 years ago, that a small band of Sauk Indians, led by the fiery Chief Blackhawk, retreated before an army composed of state militia and federal soldiers during the state's famous Blackhawk war.

**Wisconsin Murderer is not Professional Criminal, but Rather a Killer by Passion, U. W. Man's Survey Shows****Study of 92 "Lifers" in State Prison Reveals Picture of State Killer**

The Wisconsin murderer, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment in the state's prison at Waupun for the crime which he has committed against society, is not a professional criminal, but rather is largely a murderer by passion.

This is the revelation made by John L. Gillin, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin, following a detailed study which he has made of the individual and social backgrounds of 92 unfortunate men now serving life terms for murder in Wisconsin's state prison.

A composite picture of the murderer in Wisconsin is drawn by Prof. Gillin in the report of his study. Such a picture, he says, is that of:

"A boy born of not very good heritage, into a home rather poor, with many opportunities for adjustment to a complex situation denied him in the formative years, thrust by economic necessity early out into the economic struggle, denied in some measure an education, forced both by capacity and by lack of training to low earnings, unhappy in his domestic relations, or without the social ties of the family, somewhat emotionally unstable, and under the stress of a tangle in his life unable to solve the riddle except by violence."

**Family Conditions Bad**

Prof. Gillin's study is considered important by those who are wrestling with the state's and the nation's crime problem since it reveals much of the tangled and haphazard social, economic, and individual background of those unfortunates who are led to commit crimes—even unto murder—against society.

The Wisconsin murderer's home was a farm home in 56 per cent of the cases studied by Prof. Gillin. The family participated in church activities as a whole in 72 per cent of the cases, and in recreational activities as a whole in 53 per cent, it was

revealed.

"In seven cases out of 10 the Wisconsin murderer came from a family in which there were unfavorable conditions," he said. "For example, his mother worked outside the home almost twice as much as the average of all mothers in the United States during the time of his boyhood. He stood 34 times the chance of being born a negro, and 11 times the chance of being born an Indian than of being born a white."

**Education is Stunted**

"The Wisconsin murderer came from a home in which he contributed to the family budget early," he continued. "The chances were three out of five that he and his brothers and sisters contributed to the family's support before they were 14 years of age, and over four out of five that they contributed before they were of age."

"The prisoner himself contributed in wages to family support before 14 years of age in seven out of 10 of the cases, and in over nine out of 10 of the cases before he was of age. In other words, he came from a home in which the children early were shouldered with economic responsibility. This situation led him to drop out of school for economic reasons much earlier than other children."

"He stood not more than one chance out of two of feeling that his parents were affectionate towards him. In at least one case out of five he felt that his parents were cruel, fault-finding, moody, domineering or indifferent. There was more than one chance out of three that in his family there was a history of intemperance. There was at least one chance out of six that in his ancestry he knew of a history of insanity, epilepsy, mental defect or queerness."

**Grudges Cause Murder**

The Wisconsin lifer was not a professional criminal, Prof. Gillin revealed, pointing out that in two chances out of three he had never had an institutional experience, not even that of an orphanage. In two chances out of five this Wisconsin

**Murderers Need Better Training for Life's Situations, Prof. Gillin Declares**

lifer killed as an incident in connection with some other crime, in more than one out of five as the result of an immediate quarrel, and in almost two out of five as a result of long-standing marital difficulties or of a long-time grudge. Hence, the Wisconsin murderer is largely a criminal by passion, he explained.

Abnormal mental conditions characterize the Wisconsin killer to a much greater degree than the other people of the state or even the other inmates of the prison, the survey showed. In over one chance out of four he was committed as insane or became insane after incarceration. Moreover, there was not quite one chance out of three that his intelligence quotient was over seventy. And there was more than one chance out of four that he was drunk at the time he committed the crime.

**Need Life Training**

"It is clear that if such individuals are to meet the crises of life satisfactorily they must have a much better training for life than they now receive," Prof. Gillin said, in discussing results of his study. "The mentally deficient individuals under the proper circumstances can be trained to respond to life situations in accordance with the demands of society."

"Most of the explosive, emotionally unbalanced individuals by proper care and advice, could, with modern methods, have been oriented to the difficulties which they faced. With proper organization of their recreational and vocational lives, those without great handicaps in mental capacity or with impulsive emotional natures might have been directed into channels of social usefulness. Those who could not be handled by these social measures could early have been placed in restraint for the protection of society."

**Recovery Act to Help Beat Depression, U. W. Economist Tells Workers**

There is at least an even chance that the Roosevelt recovery program will succeed to the extent of bringing back much more prosperous times, Harold M. Groves, professor of economics at the University of Wisconsin, told more than 100 persons who attended the annual Labor Institute at the state University recently.

"This depression probably is unique in many respects, but it is not unlike others in that there are natural forces making for recovery as the depression runs on," he said. "The government's program of prospective inflation, of sharing employment, and of public works cannot fail to assist these natural forces."

On the other hand, Prof. Groves warned, there is danger in the possibility that what new purchasing power is gained through these measures may be dissipated through a more rapid rise of prices than wages, and we may learn that any control of wages is ineffective as long as prices are not also controlled.

The "New Deal" with its policy of

controlled inflation, restriction of output in agriculture, and its codes of fair competition must be acclaimed the most prodigious attack upon laissez faire—the idea of absolutely free competition—ever made by a single administration, Prof. Groves declared. We have probably not said a final farewell to laissez faire, he said, but at any rate, laissez faire has had a first rate beating at the hands of the depression.

"Probably the most important consequence of the Industrial Recovery Act is the new recognition of the right of labor to organize and the new impetus this can hardly fail to give the labor movement," Prof. Groves said. "If the Industrial Recovery Act restores to labor its industrial franchise, it will go down in history as the magna carta of labor. However, no one need suppose that the key industries of this country are going to surrender their autocratic control without a first class struggle."

The University of Wisconsin home economics course is represented by graduates in leading positions in almost every state in the Union as well as Porto Rico and other countries, Miss Abby L. Marlatt, director of the course, recently revealed.

**U. W. Student Seeks Solution to Mystery of Science—Baffling Bacteria Killer**

Ultimate solution of a scientific mystery on which she herself has labored many hours, and which has completely "stumped" scientists in New York City for the past 19 months, is the goal which Miss Cherry Biba, agricultural bacteriology student at the University of Wisconsin, is aiming at.

Miss Biba, whose home is at Muscoda, received her master's degree in her chosen field at the annual commencement exercises of the University last June. After she had received her bachelor's degree several years ago, she went to New York to do work in bacteriology at St. Luke's hospital in that city.

She had been at the hospital about six months, when officials of the city aquarium requested medical authorities at the hospital to aid them in solving the mystery of a new type of bacteriophage or bacteria-eater that was accidentally discovered in the fish tanks at the aquarium by the curator, a man named C. W. Coates.

Miss Biba was assigned to the problem, and worked on it for nearly eight months with little success. Last September she returned to the state University to gain a wider knowledge in her field, under the direction of W. D. Frost, professor of agricultural bacteriology.

**Destroys All Bacteria**

The new bacteria-eating agent which Miss Biba has been investigating seems to be what is scientifically called a "polyphage", that is, it destroys all kinds of bacteria. The regular known bacteriophage are specific, each type devouring only one specific kind of bacteria.

Discovery of the new bacteria-eating agent was made by accident about two years ago, at about the same time that Miss Biba arrived in New York.

The water in one of the aquarium's still-water tanks, known as small balanced aquaria, became unexpectedly

stagnant and the fish died. The water was then treated chemically to clear it up again, but the expected result did not occur. This led to further investigation by the aquarium's curator and his assistants.

**Cured Cut on Hand**

During the investigation, a glass tube broke in the curator's hand while in the water and he was severely cut. He continued his work for several days, often with his hand in the water, and to his surprise found that his wound healed much more quickly than was expected.

Later, during the investigations conducted at the hospital by Miss Biba and others, at least nineteen volunteers suffering from some form of skin disease have submitted to external applications of the solution containing the mysterious bacteria-eating agent, and in all of them the results could be described as encouraging.

One man, described to have been suffering from a skin affliction on his hand which made it impossible for him to close it, is said to have reported that he has been able to grasp a golf club for the first time in 20 years. The new type of bacteriophage is said to have cured such a skin disease as eczema also, according to Miss Biba.

**Effective Germ Killer**

During the investigations, the bacteriologists fed this new germ-killing agent many types of known bacteria, such as Bacillus coli, streptococci, Staphylococci, and others, and have not yet found a single type of bacteria that this agent, whatever it is, does not devour, it was explained by Miss Biba.

According to Miss Biba, it is not even definitely known just how this bacteria-eating agent is produced, except that it is produced from the body of fish, probably from some kind of secretion which the fish is able to accumulate and then give off into the water.

**Wisconsin Talent To Hold Spotlight at State Fair****Community Music Organizations Will Entertain Visitors at Milwaukee**

Wisconsin is discovering a wealth of musical and dramatic talent in its home communities.

Community bands and orchestras, adult and children's choirs and choruses, folk song and dance groups are being found in local towns and in country sides. A sampling of such home-talent will be heard in the State Fair Music program, August 27 to September 1.

These groups, made up of more than 800 people representing many Wisconsin counties will give their program as part of the cooperative plan worked out by the Wisconsin college of agriculture, Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs, and the fair management to encourage home talent and to give enjoyment to Wisconsin audiences.

On Monday, August 28, children's choruses from Racine and Waukesha counties will sing. Included on the program is a cantata "The Childhood of Hiawatha" by the Waukesha county children under the direction of Mrs. A. L. Hase, Waukesha county music supervisor. This program starts at 10 o'clock in the morning. At the close of the day's program there will be a massed chorus of nearly six hundred school children singing under the direction of E. B. Gordon, of the University of Wisconsin School of Music.

On Tuesday adult choral groups from Dahe, Clark, Sauk and Vernon counties will entertain state fair audiences. Two well-known quartets—the Eastman-Buddies of Hillsboro, and the Bad Axe quartet from Viroqua will appear as well as a sextet from Clark county with W. J. Landry, of Neilsville in charge.

On Tuesday afternoon the Witwen Male Chorus, of Sauk county will be heard, led by John Mael of Madison. Dane county will send the Cottage Grove male quartet under the direction of Julius Witte of Cottage Grove, and the Mazomanie Civic Chorus of fifty members under the leadership of Mrs. H. E. Trager.

On Friday bands and orchestras from rural areas all over the state will play. Vernon county will send as its representative the Wild Cats orchestra. Racine county will be represented by the Trinity Lutheran Band of Caledonia, with the Rev. M. L. Buenger, directing. In the afternoon program will be the Witwen orchestra from Sauk county under the leadership of Toby Clavatcher, of Plain. Green county will send the Spring Grove Farm Bureau Band of Juda, with Alonzo Gagesby leading the group in band music. Mrs. R. J. Douglas will act as chairman for this group.

A development in home talent will be illustrated by the Tainter Community Band from Dunn County. This strictly rural group will use original compositions by their leader, D. W. Cartwright of Menominee.

Each day a special program of folk dancing and songs will be given in native costume following the music programs in the Little Theatre. One of these groups known as the Elm-dale Norwegian dancers, is from Shawano county. The other folk groups are from Milwaukee county.

**American Pharmacists to View Oldtime Drugstore at University Museum**

Hundreds of delegates attending the 81st annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical association in Madison from Aug. 28 to Sept. 2 will see the nationally known Historical Drug Store exhibit in the state historical museum at the University of Wisconsin.

Pharmacists attending the meeting from towns and cities throughout the United States will view the exhibit as part of their program during the week-long meet. The Historical Drug Store was installed in the museum in 1913 with material collected from all over the state by students and faculty of the University department of pharmacy. All of the objects in the exhibit were used in Wisconsin drug stores between the years 1848 and 1898, the first half-century of statehood.

Members of the staff of the pharmacology department are aiding in preparations for the meeting. Pharmacists attending the meeting will visit the University, attend a plant seminar in addition to many other meetings, and will visit several places in Wisconsin famous for their natural beauty.

**Badger Sociologist Chosen Advisor for Rural Relief Program**

Another Wisconsin man has been chosen by the Federal Government to help administer its rural emergency relief program.

E. L. Kirkpatrick, of the Wisconsin college of agriculture, has been relieved of his duties for one semester to permit him to assist in the federal program where he will serve as rural relief analyst and advisor to the various groups engaged in that work.

An important part of his work will be that of helping to coordinate the various relief plans.