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September 4, 1935

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.

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Vol. 30, No. 46

Alaska Is Study Topic For Clubs Using U.W. Aids

Outline Issued By Extension Department Is Offered For Group Use

The interest of women's clubs in the study of Alaska, given stimulus by federal activities in colonizing the land, is served by an organized study program furnished by the department of debating and public discussion of the University of Wisconsin Extension division. This program is supplied in pamphlet form for clubs and other groups desiring to center their attention on this phase of geography and travel.

The program covers the principal phases of Alaskan life and the economic possibilities. These include the geography, inhabitants, history, industries and resources, means of communication, natural beauty, and modern movements.

Alaska, according to this outline, is no longer considered a "No man's land." In 1932 alone Alaska produced gold to the value of \$10,200,000 or \$3,000,000 more than the total price paid for the territory. Its fisheries brought \$230,000,000 in five years, its furs \$25,000,000.

"The increased demand for accommodations along tourist routes in Alaska indicates the increasing popularity of Alaska," says the study outline, "and just as rapidly as the truth of climate, travel, and other Alaska conditions becomes known will the traffic of this north land become one of the most attractive sections of the United States for pleasure seekers, hunters, fishermen, and all nature lovers."

An early Wisconsin naturalist, John Muir, educated at the University of Wisconsin, who later discovered the Muir glacier, figures frequently in the references to the subject.

U. W. Association Continues Search for 'Lost' Alumnus

Although one of the most famous of the University of Wisconsin's alumni, Pat O'Dea, immortal Badger football hero, has dramatically resurrected a year ago after a tireless man hunt which reached in every corner of the globe, the State University's alumni association methodically goes on searching for the other 16,152 former University students who have vanished to leave no trace of their whereabouts in the past half century.

Many of these former students are not properly "missing," for they have merely done the very prosaic thing of forgetting to leave their new addresses when they move on to new places. Others have completely disappeared from sight, and occasionally one turns up preaching to and converting pagans in Africa, or fighting in one of China's multiple armies, or just selling shoes in Bagdad.

Badger Is Migratory Bird

A cursory examination of alumni records reveals the Badger an extremely migratory bird. While Wisconsin contributes more than 80 per cent of the enrollment of her State University, not much more than 50 per cent settle down in the state after graduation.

The records reveal them constantly wandering about, and there are Wisconsin graduates living in every state in the union, in every good-sized city in the country, and in more than 50 foreign lands. More than two per cent of the 70,000 alumni whose records are on file with the association live abroad. It is indeed a fact that the sun never sets on Wisconsin alumni.

Some of the alumni have found their niches in life in the strangest places and do the most curious things. Earl Hanson, formerly of Milwaukee, who was graduated in 1922, for instance, has the dubious title of terrestrial magnetism expert for the Carnegie Institute in South America.

Looks for El Dorado

But in his more imaginative moments Mr. Hanson spends his time speculating about and searching in the torrid jungles for legendary El Dorado, whose fabulous jeweled towers Sir Walter Raleigh wistfully and zealously sought in his adventurous career.

But there are few terrestrial magnetism experts whose flights of fancy bring them almost within sight of treasured El Dorado. The great rank and file of University alumni is busily engaged in the hum-drum task of making a living—or looking for jobs.

They are teaching, preaching, pleading, building, curing, selling, sailing, farming, writing, talking, singing, fighting, legislating, administering, cooking, sewing, washing, and doing the countless things which bring pay shels on Saturdays.

Search Goes On

Frequently when they stray from Wisconsin, alumni make but a short trip, for the records show Illinois standing second in total number of graduates. Ohio is third, and then come New York, Minnesota, California, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri.

But those who are far away and who develop a habit of dropping out of sight continue to be a source of major concern to the State University's bureau of missing persons—the alumni association—which goes on searching for the 16,152 others—even though Pat O'Dea has been found at last.

Wisconsin Schools Need Aggressive Leadership State P. T. A. Head Says

More aggressive leadership on the part of school administrators, designed to accomplish even greater community service, is needed more than ever in Wisconsin today, Emma Brookmire, secretary of the state Parent-Teachers association, told educators attending sessions of the annual Institute for Superintendents and Principals at the University of Wisconsin recently.

Speaking on parent participation in the formulation of administrative policies, Miss Brookmire told the schoolmen that parents should cooperate with but not try to operate the schools. She defined spheres in which the schools should have absolute dictatorship, and other spheres in which the home should be supreme.

"The home is side by side with the school in gaining educational progress," Miss Brookmire said, "and contact between the home and the school is needed for educational progress. A majority of school disputes in Wisconsin are not due to over-informing of parents about school problems, but are due to a lack of information until the dispute has risen."

Journalism Students at University Write 740 Columns of News

Students in University of Wisconsin's school of journalism classes in news reporting have established an excellent record in the number of their news stories that have appeared in print during the past semester. Computation from the "string books" of 86 student reporters showed a total of 14,806 column inches of news matter which they wrote appeared in print.

This is equivalent to 740.3 columns or 92.5 pages of an average newspaper. During the past semester the average student string was 172.1 column inches, or 8.6 columns. This represents considerable increase over the average for the first semester when 125 students published 9,806 column inches with an average of 78.5.

The total for the year is 24,612 column inches, equivalent to 1230.6 columns, or 153.8 newspaper pages. The average per student during the year was 125 column inches or 6.3 columns.

During the second semester last year, 51 students had 6,103 inches published—averaging 139.3 inches each. During both semesters last year 1933-34, the class had 13,838 inches published—averaging 91 inches each.

Gaining practical experience in news writing at the same time that they earn University credit for their work, the student reporters of the Wisconsin journalism school "cover" stories and write news for Madison newspapers and the Daily Cardinal, University student newspaper.

Youth Overcomes Big Handicaps to Study at State University

Nine cents in his pocket, one hand gone as the result of a dynamite explosion in his childhood and with his vision seriously damaged in the same accident, a young man from a Wisconsin Rapids farm came to Madison a little over a year ago. Today, through his own efforts, he is entirely self-supporting and has set out to put himself through the University of Wisconsin.

He is William Van Lysel, a freshman student in the college of letters and science and son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Van Lysel, Route 2, Wisconsin Rapids.

He came to Madison for treatment at the Wisconsin general hospital at the State University. Specialists there improved his vision to the extent that he is now able to read. He was practically blind during most of his youth.

During eight consecutive months at the hospital Van Lysel won the friendship of the staff, nurses and student employees. He began to run errands for officials and became widely known and liked.

Discharged from the hospital in mid-winter, he was faced with the necessity of earning a living. One of the oldest of a family of 11 children, whose parents were having their own financial troubles, he could expect no aid from home. He decided to stay in Madison and conceived the idea of selling small articles of everyday use at the hospital where he had been a patient.

Beginning with candies, cigarettes, soap, tooth paste and similar items, he gradually expanded his little business until in February, at the opening of the second semester of the university session he had saved enough for fees and books.

The blast which handicapped the boy's life occurred on the home farm when he was 13. With a brother Van Lysel was experimenting with a stick of dynamite when it ignited prematurely. The brother escaped injury but William was seriously hurt. On his recovery he was sent to the state school for the blind at Janesville where he finished his grade school work and went on through high school.

With three and one-half years of study at his State University before him, he plans to enter the school of commerce and to specialize in accounting.

Agriculture Leads As Occupation of Students' Parents

Survey Shows U. W. Frosh Don't Follow Parents' Occupation

Farming still leads as the largest single occupation of freshmen students entering the University of Wisconsin, according to compilations recently completed by the University statistician's office.

Figures compiled by the office reveal that the parents or guardians of 225 men and women first year students last year were engaged in farming, dairy farming, or stock raising, and that parents or guardians of 247 were engaged in some phase of agriculture, forestry, or animal husbandry.

Although farming continues to lead as the largest single occupation of parents of Wisconsin students, among the nine general fields into which all occupations are classified in the survey, trade leads by a wide margin. The survey shows that the parents or guardians of 451 students are engaged in some form of trade.

4 Engaged in Mining

Other general fields in which the parents or guardians of students are occupied are: manufacturing and mechanical industries, 342; professional service, 228; domestic and personal service, 121; transportation, 82; clerical occupations, 62; public service, 36; and extraction of minerals, four. Miscellaneous occupations not clearly classified take up the time of parents or guardians of 194 other students, the survey shows.

The single occupation that occupies the attention of the largest number of parents of first year students next to farming is manufacturers, the compilation reveals. The parents of 74 freshmen are either manufacturers or manufacturing officials, it is shown, while the next largest number of parents or guardians, 64, are listed as housewives. Proprietors, officials, and managers constitute the next largest parental occupational group, with 61 parents or guardians thus engaged, while 48 other students listed their parents or guardians as lawyers, judges, or justices in the next largest occupational group.

The figures showed that parents or guardians of 35 members of last year's freshman class are retired; only nine are unemployed; and that 25 others have no occupation.

Don't Follow Parents

The figures also reveal that most of the freshmen, at least on their entrance into the University, do not intend to follow the occupations of their parents or guardians. For instance, of the 247 men and women students who listed the general field of occupation of their parents or guardians as agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry, only 70 were majoring in agriculture, while 123 were listed in the general letters and science course, 42 in engineering, and 12 in education.

Again, of the four students who gave extraction of minerals as the occupation of their parents, three were listed in the general letters and science course, and one in agriculture. Unusual occupations listed by the freshmen for their parents included filers, grinders, polishers, oilers of machinery, dock keeper, undertakers, and soldiers.

Students who receive an average of 2.5 in their studies, which is equivalent to grades one half of which are A, and the other half B, become candidates for membership in the Phi Eta Sigma. In the spring of the year soon after the first semester grades have been filed, the society holds its first initiation ceremony, at which new and old members are present.

Hold Initiations

A second initiation is held in the fall of the following school year for sophomores whose second semester records as freshmen are high enough to entitle them to membership.

Students whose mid-semester grades indicate that they have an opportunity to win the Phi Eta Sigma key are called to a meeting by Dean Scott H. Goodnight, national president of the fraternity and faculty adviser, who encourages the students to continue their scholastic progress until it leads to membership in the society.

The Wisconsin chapter was organized under the leadership of Dean Goodnight, May 16, 1917. The national chapter was founded March 22, 1923, by the late Dean Thomas A. Clark of Illinois, and has grown to include 11 active chapters.

Have Honorary Members

Among the honorary members admitted to the organization are President Glenn Frank, Assistant Dean A. V. Millar of the Engineering School; Assistant Dean F. W. Roe, Letters and Science; Junior Dean Harry Glicksman, Letters and Science; Assistant Dean John James, College of

U. W. Man Doubts That Schools Should Seek Social Reconstruction

Doubt that schools should seek the reconstruction of society was expressed by H. H. Ryan, associate professor of education and principal of the Wisconsin high school at the State University, in a discussion before Wisconsin teachers and school administrators attending the recent annual Institute for Superintendents and Principals held at the University of Wisconsin.

Discussing current issues in secondary education at one of the round-table sessions of the Institute, Prof. Ryan agreed that schools should try to improve society and the conditions of life in their communities, but asserted that schools could hardly seek the reconstruction of society when there was no agreement as to what kind of social order should be set up.

"Secondary schools are set up by the public not in an effort to give some children advantages over other children in life, but to improve the conditions of community life," he maintained. "But schools should not seek the reconstruction of society. I doubt if we could do such a thing when we are still waiting for someone to devise a better social order to set up. We are, as teachers, agents of the community which exercises the right to supervise what we teach."

Enrollment Increases In U. of W. Ag College

That an increasing number of Wisconsin farm boys are becoming interested in farming and related lines is shown by the promise for increased enrollment this fall in the college of agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. Dean I. L. Baldwin reports a very greatly increased interest in all of the courses of the institution and has already received an advanced enrollment for the coming year much in excess of that of a year ago.

Freshmen registration for the coming year will take place from September 18 to September 24. Registration days for old students will be September 21 to September 24.

A program of special addresses, exercises and recreation has been planned for freshman week which begins Wednesday, September 18.

This special period is arranged to enable freshmen to adjust themselves to the environment of student life. Mr. Baldwin reports that graduates of the college of agriculture are being employed in increasing numbers not only in farming but in teaching and research professions and also in business related to farming in its various lines.

Badger Social Worker Joins U. S. Bureau

Miss Lita Bane, formerly engaged in home economics extension work in Wisconsin, has been employed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Council of Child Education, to aid in child care and development and parent education.

Miss Bane is well known to extension workers, having served as home demonstration leader in Illinois, then as a member of the home economics staff at the University of Wisconsin and later as one of the editors of a well known women's magazine.

Gradual Merging of Town, Country Is New Problem

Sociologist Discusses Challenge of Modern Trend Toward Town-Country Unit

This is the second in a series of articles on present-day trends in rural communities. It is based upon investigations made by Mr. Kolb, well-known in this and other states for his interest and work in this field.—Editor.

By J. H. KOLB

A gradual overlapping of town and country interests is forming an enlarged rural or town-country community. C. J. Galpin, in his now truly famous study of Walworth county, Wisconsin, made in 1913-14, foresaw this trend. It has become more generally evident since that time. The increased proportions of farmer members in town or village schools, churches, social and fraternal organizations imply it. The larger number of joint enterprises of town and country people indicate it. The freer mingling of the villager and the farmer in social and business activity shows it.

The challenge is, can and will the social, educational and business institutions adjust themselves quickly enough to provide adequate leadership for this trend. Such institutions as the high school, library, hospital, newspaper, recreation hall or opera house, have always been in possession of the town or village.

It is true that farmers and their families have used many of these institutions, but only by permission. Can transformation be made whereby the people in larger town-country communities may work together to have joint trade and service facilities?

Farmers and villagers are actually working together in the larger community. Their children are in the same high schools but the legal and institutional arrangements lag far behind the social practice. It would seem that an organic relationship must be worked out between the elementary school and community high school before the educational system can really be put on a satisfactory basis.

Let us not lose sight of the fact that less than 17 per cent of Wisconsin lies in any legal high school area. In other words, farmers today do not have a high school of their own. They hire, on a township tuition plan, the town or village to teach their boys and girls, and naturally have no voice in the policy of the management. Although this condition is not the sole cause, it is a contributing factor to the wide discrepancy between high school attendance of farm and village youth.

Can we build an adequate rural civilization unless we somehow re-open the channels of education to give farm boys and girls an equal chance with village and ultimately with city boys and girls?

(The next in this series of rural community articles will be on Rethinking Education.)

Clark County Boys Lead In State Tests

Farm boys in four Wisconsin counties have won highest awards in the freshman scholarship contest at the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. These are: Gilbert Grieger, Colby, Clark county; Robert Niedermeyer, Waukesha county; Owen Owens, Montello, Marquette county; Lester Schade, Abbotsford, Marathon county and Archie Stockwell, Neillsville, Clark county.

Besides winning in the state-wide essay contest, the successful candidates attained high scholarship rating in their local high schools and were recommended by the faculty of their respective institutions.

Because of the excellence of their work, both during their high school courses and in the state competition, the following alternates were chosen: Glen Page, Berlin, Green Lake county; Raymond Hesprich, Lomira, Dodge county; James Yanke, Burlington, Kenosha county; Alvin Vogt, Mt. Hope, Grant county, and Richard Ranney, Boyceville, Dunn county.

State Schools, Teachers Are Doing Good Job for Youth, U. W. Man Says

The schools and teachers of Wisconsin are doing a good job in their work of educating the youth of the state, Dr. Curtis Merriman, professor of education at the University of Wisconsin, told Wisconsin schoolmen recently at the annual Institute for Superintendents and Principals meeting at the State University.

Leading discussion on the general subject of the relation between administrative policies and modern psychology, Prof. Merriman condemned "clock-punching" and lazy school teachers who make inadequate workbooks the backbone of their teaching procedure.

He told the schoolmen that if a teacher gets off on the wrong foot in the first five minutes of teaching at the beginning of the school year in the fall, she has a terrible handicap to overcome.