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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 30, 1933

MADISON, WISCONSIN

U. Students Build  
Piano Which Plays  
Notes in ColorsInteresting Research Project  
Presents Possibilities  
For Stage Use

Musical notes from a piano may be seen as well as heard at a laboratory in the Industrial Arts building at the University of Wisconsin.

For three years, Prof. W. H. Varnum of the art education department and a group of graduate students have been busily converting an old \$10 piano instrument that plays "color notes", an instrument that plays "color notes".

## For Miniature Stage

Thus far the color piano has been adapted only to a miniature stage, but preliminary experiments have demonstrated that synchronization of music and colors presents possibilities for the stage of the future.

The stage used for experimental purposes has 195 vari-colored electric lights, arranged on the inner side of a frame about 12 by five feet, and corresponding to a proscenium arch.

## Colored Lights Employed

Electric contact that operates the lights is provided by the piano keys and nine switches arranged above the key board. Every octave on the piano has a complete color cycle. The nine switches, corresponding to stops on an organ, provide major color chords.

These major chords lay a base which permits a smooth transition from one color to another of great contrast. For example, when a purple color base is used, the operator can introduce a vivid yellow without effecting an irritating color change.

## "Colored" Notes Produced

Several glass tubes, ranged in groups of three, are suspended from the ceiling of the stage. Reflection of the lights in them produces "color notes". This reflection, Prof. Varnum believes, adds to the beauty of the stage lighting.

By means of the color piano he hopes to make an application of color to the dance drama. Color would be shifted to fit varying aspects of the action.

## Chart Shows "Influences"

A chart has been constructed to show the "influence" of colors, with their reactions listed as follows:

Violet—solemn, melancholy, neutral; Purple—neutral, solemn, stately, pompous, impressive; Red—warm, exciting, patient; Orange—warm, exciting, suffocating, flowing, lively; Green—neutral, tranquil, peaceful, soothing; Blue-Green—sober, sedate; Blue—cold, grave, tranquil, and sedate.

New Microscope  
Aids U. W. Men to  
Identify Minerals

Modern ways of diagnosing and identifying minerals and crystals in powdered form are described in a recent article by R. C. Emmons, professor of mineralogy at the University of Wisconsin.

In his article, Prof. Emmons describes the work of the optical mineralogist and petrographer, whose main tool is the petrographic microscope. Where x-ray and chemical methods of diagnosis and identification frequently fail, this microscope offers the only available solution.

The petrographic microscope contains two polarizing prisms, one below and one above the stage of the instrument. The prism below serves to provide the crystal being studied with light which is all vibrating in one plane, while the one above analyses some of the effects of the crystal on such transmitted light.

## Characteristics Tell

Because each mineral crystal has certain unchanging characteristics when exhibited to light, such analysis reveals the true identity of the mineral being studied, according to Prof. Emmons.

These unchanging characteristics are known as "optical constants" of minerals. There are several but they are based on comparatively few concepts. In general, where light ordinarily may pass in all directions through such substances as glass with equal velocity, and vibrate with equal facility in all directions normal to the path of the rays, the velocity of light through transparent crystals depends upon the direction of the path and upon the vibration direction as well as upon the specific nature of the crystal itself.

## Light Vibrates

Furthermore, for a given direction of path only certain vibration directions are possible, each represented by rays of specific velocity. These velocities are some of the most valuable determinative criteria of all. Their many variations reveal a fund of information about a given crystal.

Inter-relationship of these and other definite properties of minerals still further strengthens them as diagnostic criteria for the identification of various minerals, including all kinds of gems, through use of the petrographic or optical method.

Ray L. Cuff Re-Named  
to Kansas City Post

Ray L. Cuff, former Wisconsin county agent, has been continued as Live Stock Commissioner of the Kansas City Live Stock Exchange. In this position he has much to do with live-stock affairs in the southwest. Before coming to this section, Cuff was county agent in Barron, county, Wisconsin. He is a native of Waupaca county.

University is Oldest of State Institutions;  
Born Decade before Wisconsin Became State

The University of Wisconsin does not only have the distinction of being the oldest among all of the state's institutions. It appears now that the state's major educational institution is even older than the state itself, since its birth goes back a whole decade before Wisconsin reached statehood.

Ninety-six years ago, while Wisconsin was yet a territory, the territorial legislature passed an act for the establishment of the Wisconsin University to be located at Belmont, which was then the capital, according to Prof. W. J. Chase of the department of education. Two years later, in 1838, this act was superseded by another which created "The University of the Territory of Wisconsin", and located it at the "City of the Four Lakes."

## Federal Aid Helps

"During that same year the federal congress and Pres. Van Buren granted for the support of the University that was to be 72 sections of government land, the proceeds from the sale of which were to be used as a source of income," he explains. "There could be selected from any public land areas in the territory, and about all that was done in the interest of the enterprise in the next 10 years was to select this land. As there were in 1838 throughout all of what is now Wisconsin less than 15,000 white people, delays are not to be wondered at."

## People Approve U.

"By 1846, however, there was population enough to justify a petition to congress for statehood which was granted in 1848. In the state's constitution which the people approved that year Section 6, Article 10 pro-

vided for a state university at or near the seat of state government. The organization of this was begun when Gov. Dewey appointed a board of regents who were empowered to create four university departments—one of science, literature, and arts, another of law, a third of medicine, and the fourth, the theory and practice of elementary instruction.

"The first regulations passed by the board of regents set as entrance requirements the following: Latin grammar and reader, Caesar's Commentaries, the first six books of Virgil's Aeneid, Cicero's Selected Orations, Greek grammar and reader, Xenophon's Anabasis, arithmetic, and the elements of algebra, antiquities of Greece and Rome, ancient and modern geography, and English grammar.

## First Buildings in '50s

"In 1849 the land now comprising College hill and the territory round about, consisting in all of a little more than 157 acres, was bought from a New York City man at \$15 per acre. All of this except what is now the Upper campus, consisting of about 40 acres, was laid out in lots and sold. The first building erected on this land was North dormitory, now North hall, completed in 1851 at a cost of \$19,000. This was opened in September of that year for the preparatory department and the classes of the freshmen and sophomores. Besides recitation rooms and library, it afforded sleeping rooms for 50 to 55 students together with a mess hall where, according to the chancellor's announcement, board was to be supplied at 80 cents per week. His announcement also declared that all the rooms were visited daily by the faculty.

Men's Co-op Houses  
Prove Popular at  
State University

Men's cooperative houses which last year provided University "homes" for more than 60 students have proved their popularity at the University of Wisconsin.

Fifty students have either made reservations or have tentatively spoken for rooms in the three houses which are owned and operated by the University on a non-profit, cost basis. More than half of this number, returning to the University this year, lived in the houses last year.

Men students lived in the houses last year at a total average cost of only 93 cents per day for both board and room. The three houses provide room for 66 men students, according to James D. Phillips, University business manager, under whose direction the houses are operated, and with whom reservations may be made.

Students living in the houses are not confined to the privacy of their rooms, but, just as if they were living at home, they have free access to the entire house. The students have also organized their own social club—the Badger Club—which has charge of all entertainment and social affairs in the houses.

Low cost of living in the houses is due to the non-profit cost basis on which they are operated, plus the aid which the students are expected to give in taking care of their own rooms. All of the rooms—either double or single—are comfortably furnished, and the students eat substantial food in a central dining room.

U. of W. Department  
Begin Search for Ten  
"Prodigies of Learning"

Members of the classics department at the University of Wisconsin recently started a search for at least 10 "prodigies of learning" which they hoped to find "somewhere in Wisconsin and the nation."

The "prodigies of learning" are needed to enroll in a new course in classical humanities which the University is starting when the regular fall term begins in September. The course constitutes a demonstration in the training of a few of the best students for intelligent public leadership.

The new course will consist of a four-year study of Greek and Roman civilization, and at the same time provide the student with an indirect attack upon present-day American problems. Students enrolled in it will be trained in language, literature, art, philosophy, history, economics, politics, and religion. Teaching will be done by means of the tutorial method, and a comprehensive examination at the end of the four-year period will be given the student.

Only 10 students will be enrolled in the course the first year, with 10 more added each year, so that at the end of four years, 40 students will be studying in it. Enrollment is necessarily limited because members of the classics department are devoting only their spare time to the course, which thus is being offered at no additional cost whatever to the University.

In order to be eligible for the course, students must have had four years of Latin in high school, and must have excellent all-around preparatory school records. In addition, students must maintain a straight "B" or "good" average in his University courses, or he will be dropped from the course at any time.

English Schoolmasters  
of 18th Century Ended  
'You is-you was' Craze

If the English schoolmasters of the 18th century had not been so stubborn and bullheaded, the English-speaking peoples of the world today would be saying "you is" and "you was" instead of the thoroughly ungrammatical "you are" and "you were" when speaking in the singular person, R. C. Pooley, professor in the teaching of English at the University of Wisconsin recently declared.

Prof. Pooley asserted that many 18th century novelists, including Jonathan Swift, wanted to use the singular verb when speaking in the singular person, but the hardheaded old English schoolmasters "killed" the idea so thoroughly that today we use the plural form when we mean singular.

Asserting that the primary task of the school is to relieve from the child's speech those incorrect forms of language which deter him from clear, simple, and concise communication with his fellows, Prof. Pooley declared that on that basis, "we would be cutting out nine-tenths of the unessential details in the English grammar textbooks of the schools."

"Our objective is to strive for simple, clear communication," he said, "and in attaining that, we should attempt to cut English grammar down to the barest essentials."

The only rule of correctness that holds true in modern English is that if a speaker uses a grammatical form that pictures his idea without prejudice to his audience or to himself, it is correct, he maintained. He pointed out that the problem which educators now face as far as English instruction is concerned arises from the fact that "we are now using a socially aristocratic program of language corrections in a democratic educational system."

Literature instruction in American public schools is not accomplishing its aims of getting children to read and love good books because, "unless children will read the books we bring to their attention of their own free will, they can't get anything from literature, and if we can't get the children to read the old English classics, then we might as well throw such books overboard, and substitute books that they will read," Prof. Pooley declared.

History Museum at U. W. Grows from Small  
Glass Case; Now has Over 100,000 Exhibits

From a small glass case on a table in the governor's office at the state capitol in 1855 to 12 spacious rooms on the fourth floor of the state historical library building at the University of Wisconsin in 1933 is the story of the growth of one of Wisconsin's most widely known institutions—the state's historical museum.

The museum was established in 1855, more than three-quarters of a century ago. At that time a small glass case in the governor's office in the capitol held all of its exhibits, which included four silver medals struck in Napoleon's era, some continental paper money and personal memorials of George Washington, Daniel Webster, DeWitt Clinton, and William Henry Harrison.

In 1933, its seventy-eighth anniversary, the historical museum fills 12 spacious rooms on the fourth floor of the historical library building located at the west end of the lower campus of the state University. The museum now contains more than 100,000 exhibits, valued at more than \$500,000.

## Museum Widely Popular

Collectors and historians consider it one of the outstanding historical museums in the country. In recent years its visiting list has contained more than 175,000 names each year.

The growth and advancement of the state historical museum has been linked inseparably with that of the state historical society. This society was organized in 1849, but made no progress until 1854, when Lyman C. Draper was named director. Under Dr. Draper both the society and the museum made amazing progress.

For many years the museum collection, in its cabinets in the governor's office, was known as the cabinet and gallery. 1884 the society moved its library and museum into the new south transverse wing of the capitol. It was then the exhibits earned the title of museum. In 1900 the museum was moved to its present quarters.

## Many Collections Donated

Strange to say, this museum, which contains some of the outstanding historical collections in America, has cost the people of Wisconsin very little. The legislature of 1855 gave \$500 to be used for both library and museum purposes. The 1929 legislature gave \$5,000 to the museum to be used for purchase of worthwhile additions to the exhibits.

"The museum owes its growth and its present status to the bounty of the people of Wisconsin," says Charles E. Brown, present director. "They have been so free in giving to us their own belongings and those of their forefathers that we have collected many of our most interesting exhibits without cost. Many men and women have been so gracious as to spend their lives building collections, only to turn them over to us before their deaths. Citizens of Wisconsin are proud of the state and its history; this perhaps accounts for their willingness to assist in building up the state museum."

Mr. Brown estimates that 90 per cent of the exhibits on display are gifts, 5 per cent have been purchases

Ten Per Cent of  
State's Dairy Cows  
Return No ProfitSurvey of Herd Improvement  
Associations Reveals Farm  
"Deadheads"

If Wisconsin dairymen sent the lower one-tenth of their herds to the stockyards they could still net as much money from the products of their herds as at present.

This was revealed in a report of Badger dairy herd improvement associations recently made by A. J. Cramer, extension dairyman, who found that nine per cent of all cows tested in association work were culled out because their production was too low to return their owners' a profit. Of course, only a percentage of the cows of the state are enrolled in cow testing associations.

Of the total number of cows disposed of in the association herds last year, 38 per cent were sold for slaughter because of low production; 26 per cent were sold for dairy purposes; 28 per cent were sold for slaughter because of old age, accident, or other cause; and the remainder either died or were disposed of for other purposes.

U. W. Dorms Students  
Believe in Recreation

If good wholesome recreation brings health, students living in the men's dormitories at the University of Wisconsin should develop into perfect physical specimens, reports coming from students living in the halls indicate.

Every able-bodied student living in the two halls is taking part in one or more outdoor or indoor sports, the reports reveal. Plans are already going forward for the organization of the touch-football league for this fall, with each of the 14 houses in the dormitories represented by at least one team.

Touch-football games are not the only forms of recreation in which the residents of the halls indulge during the year. During winter, basketball, hockey, iceboating and skating become the most attractive sports, while in the spring and summer, tennis, baseball, and kittenball are popular.

## Civil War Relics Nucleus

The museum in its early days was built about exhibits of interest because of their connection with the Civil War. Old Abe, the body of the famous eagle that accompanied the 8th Wisconsin regiment, was the center of the entire display. When the museum was moved to its present quarters the Grand Army of the Republic opened ing, keeping Old Abe and many other its own museum in the capitol building Civil war relics.

Much of the growth of the museum has come since 1910, Mr. Brown explains. The Milwaukee public museum at that time began to interest school children in the exhibits. The 1911 report shows that the museum had only 25,000 exhibits. Mr. Brown estimates that double that many have come into the museum's possession solely through the interest that was created in the children of the state through trips to the museum.

## School Interest Grows

"During the last school year we had nearly 15,000 children visiting the exhibits," Mr. Brown explains. "Entire school groups and classes came from points throughout the state. We asked them to come, arranged exhibits and demonstrations for them and we know from reports of their teachers that the visits were of much help to those children. They saw the things they had read about in their histories, and it reawakened their interest in American history and Wisconsin history."

The museum officials have not restricted their activities to the museum at Madison. Several years ago they undertook to preserve things of historical interest outside the museum walls. Indian mounds, in which Wisconsin abunds, were discovered, preserved, marked and publicized. All plans to preserve places prominent in the pioneer days are helped by the museum authorities. Efforts to establish county historical museums also are supported. Pamphlets are issued regularly to further work in historical research in the state.

## National Treasures Here

Certain collections and exhibits the museum possesses are of national interest, Mr. Brown explains. Daniel Webster's carriage, John Muir's clock, the gun and powder horn of Daniel Boone and flags of the 32d division frequently receive national mention. Druggists from distant states come to Madison to see the historical drug store the museum maintains.

"The university's Randall field of today was then Camp Randall, where recruiting for the army went on and soldiers drilled. College classes of course dwindled as the students left to enlist. In 1862-63 there were but 29 students in attendance. At commencement time 1864, there was only one senior. Only male students had been admitted up to Civil War times. That which brought the women to the university was the normal course which received the support of the university officials in this Civil War period."