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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.

To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

August 30, 1933

MADISON, WISCONSIN

U. Students Build Piano Which Plays Notes in Colors

Interesting 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 into 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, 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 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 what 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-

To The Editor:

Wisconsin has taken another step in its land use program. It has asked Aldo Leopold, nationally known authority in conservation, to take charge of a program to develop game as a land crop.

This is the first of a series of significant statements about wild game cropping by Mr. Leopold. These will be of interest to both farmers and sportsmen in your community.

Wild Game—Another Wisconsin Farm Crop

"Every countryside proclaims the fact that we have, today, less control in the field of conservation than in any other contact with surrounding nature. We patrol the air and the ether, but we do not keep filth out of our creeks and rivers. We stand guard over works of art, but wild species representing the work of aeons are stolen from under our noses. We stamp out the diseases of crops and livestock, but we do not know what ails the grouse, or the ducks, or the antelope. In a certain sense we are learning more rapidly about the fires that burn in the spiral nebulae than those that burn in our forests. We aspire to build a mechanical cow before we know how to build a fishway, or control a flood, or handle a woodlot so it will produce a covey of grouse."—Aldo Leopold, game manager, Wisconsin college of agriculture.

Rural Recreation Is Featured at Fair

Few features of the Wisconsin State fair will be of greater interest, particularly to rural visitors, than the folks songs and dances which are being presented in The Little Theater on the fair grounds at West Allis this week. Fully 800 rural people are in the groups providing this entertainment. Each year the fair becomes more of a rallying point for Wisconsin's finest farm people as well as its finest cattle and grain.

In the State fair tournament are teams representing Waushara, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Iowa, Jefferson, Rock, Manitowoc, Kenosha, Dunn, Wood, Racine, Marinette, Dane, Winnebago, St. Croix, Marathon, Columbia, Dodge, Pierce, La Fayette, and Sheboygan counties.

U. W. Men's Dormitory Students Learn to Shoot— And Shoot Straight

University of Wisconsin students who live in the men's dormitories while attending the University are learning to shoot and shoot straight.

Realizing that the residents of the dormitories have many different recreational interests, several rooms in the basements of the two halls have been arranged for use of students living there. One of the most popular rooms is the Rifle Range, which is completely governed by members of the University Rifle club, composed of residents of the houses interested in this sport.

At the end of the school year last June, the club had about 25 members. Robert Ashton, Eagle River, is president, and Gerald Kron, Milwaukee, is secretary-treasurer. The club buys its ammunition in large quantities, thus obtaining it cheaply.

The annual tournament is held during March of each year. Among the best marksmen in the club last year was James Van Vleet, Milwaukee.

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, Zenophon'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 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.

The annual tournament is held during March of each year. Among the best marksmen in the club last year was James Van Vleet, Milwaukee.

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, used 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 bare 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.

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

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Ten Per Cent of State's Dairy Cows Return No Profit

Survey 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,