1965

University of Maine 1865-1965: Special Centennial Edition, The Maine Campus, part 1

The Maine Campus

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—Lloyd H. Elliott
President
SPECIAL CENTENNIAL EDITION

of

THE MAINE CAMPUS

PRIDE IN THE PAST, FAITH IN THE FUTURE

the maine

CAMPUS

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COVER

by

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UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

1865 - 1965
Whacka Lacka...

By Ellen Toomey

Student life in the past, contrary to current beliefs, has not been so drastically different if considered in the light of the paralleling social era from which it arose. However, the restriction and privileges which many of the past students enjoyed seem unrealistic and outrageous when paralleled with those of today.

We have attempted to compile a light, factual history of the traditions and social events which have made Maine spirit what it is and which surely have evoked many a chuckle of delight from reminiscent alumni.
After the decision was made in 1865 to create a corporation to administer the affairs of the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, the institution opened its portals Sept. 21, 1868, to 12 students and two faculty members.

The following account of earliest student activities was found in the 1917 edition of the *Prism*. It was written by E. J. Haskell, '72, of Westbrook, a member of the first graduating class.

"The 12 class members studied Algebra, Universal History, Physical Geography, and Rhetoric." Professor Fernald was their only instructor. At the end of each term the trustees returned to give them examinations.

Manual labor was considered an essential part of their training. Every student was required to work three hours per day and received wages of 8½¢ per hour and from 10-15¢ for overtime. Mr. Haskell refers to the "summer term" when "we ploughed, planted and took care of the vegetable garden. In July we did haying, having dinner at 11:30 so as to get to work in the hayfield at 12, that we might do a good afternoon's work. At this time some of the boys went out and mowed until 10 o'clock by moonlight."

The early athletic association consisted of the boys chipping in to purchase a set of boxing gloves. They were used a great deal "as some of the boys expected to teach during the winter vacation (eight weeks)... And they wished to be able to handle the big boys."

"Our amusements and privileges will seem meager to the boys of today. There was nothing for entertainment at the college, but the people of Orono were very kind and invited us to all the sociables and to a number of parties during the winter. Smoking was not allowed, but it is needless to say that some of the boys did smoke.

"We were expected to ask permission whenever we wished to leave the campus. Dancing was not looked on with favor, and
when some of us went to Stillwater to look on at a dance, we were reminded the next morning that we had broken the rules. One afternoon Professor Fernald chanced to see two of the boys doing a double shuffle in the basement and the next morning we were informed that as far as he was able to judge from what he had seen of our work, we needed all our brains in our heads and had none to spare for our heels.

"We were required to attend church every Sunday unless excused and it took a pretty good excuse to get one off. We could attend any of the four churches in Orono once, but after that we must choose one church and attend that until we could give a good reason for changing."

Two years after the first class graduated, the first fraternity was organized on campus. Or maybe we should say that two years after Maine State College was made co-educational (1872) the first fraternity was established.

QTV was the first group. It was established at Massachusetts Agricultural College and this was the first additional chapter. A group known as the E. C. Society was formed in 1876 by William Haines and evolved into Alpha Sigma Chi and a year later into Beta Theta Pi. QTV was to become what is known today as Phi Gamma Delta.

In a 1917 Prism article, Ralph K. Jones, '86, speaks of the rivalry which existed between these two groups. Originally they had published The Pendulum, the first campus annual, jointly, but due to some misunderstanding in 1885 they began to print rival publications.

Hazing, the tradition which was to snowball into preposterous acts, seems to have had its birth with the military obligations imposed on the students. In the 1880's it already had been established that among freshmen duties were the upkeep of the supply of oil cans, shoeblocking and shoe brush. As the financial burden for this tradition rested with the freshmen, this caused friction between them and the upperclassmen.

Mr. Jones speaks of the "indulgence in pranks of various kinds" such as moving the bell from its tower to fourth floor of the dorm, placing various forms of livestock in the Chapel, and raiding the orchards of the local farmers.
Most of the men lived in a building called Brick Hall (Oak) and boarded at the Commons. The price of board was $2.60 a week. Complaints were already being received at the Campus (then called the cadet) office.

For example:

*Only $2.60 a week, Mother,
Only $2.60 a week,*

*It costs to live at the MSC
Only $2.60 a week.*

*I do not wish to complain, Mother
of hardships I will not speak,*

*But my heart is faint and my soul is sick
When the board is $2.60 a week.*

*Oh, could I only come home, Mother
One moment of respite seek,*

*For I can stand it no longer here
With the board at $2.60 a week.*

*The reply of the mother was harsh, indeed,*

*And it killed that Freshman meek.
'Twas this: "My son, what can you expect
With the board at $2.60 a week?"

The first dance mentioned in the Cadet was the Class Tree Hop given Nov. 6, 1885, by the class of '87 in connection with the observance of Class Tree Day, predecessor of Ivy Day, which in turn evolved into the present Sophomore Outing. The first commencement ball was given in 1886.

Later, in the '90's and at the turn of the century, class spirit and rivalry began to take hold and several new methods of handling unruly freshmen became popular.
The 1895 *Prism* evidences the spirit that ran so high. The class of '96 published its class yell:

whacka lacka, whacka lacka,
whacka lacka lick

*Boom rah Maine State '96*

A section of the 1895 *Prism* was dedicated to a man who seemed to have been a campus character. Benjamin "Uncle Ben" LOUISE H. RAMSDELL, '74

First Coed

Members of the First Class

At

Graduation-1872

GATHERING OF THE CLAN—A group of MSC students congregate in front of White Hall prior to 1890. None of them seem too happy about being photographed.

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GATHERING OF THE CLAN—A group of MSC students congregate in front of White Hall prior to 1890. None of them seem too happy about being photographed.
Athletics Then And Now

By Peter Marks and Kevan Pickens

Before 1879 any athletic endeavors on the Maine campus were strictly intramural. In the fall of that year, however, a group of students organized the first baseball team and a managing 'baseball association' to help defray the costs of keeping the squad in equipment.

The tradition of Maine victories began that spring when the meager band of athletes engaged a local Bangor nine and trimmed them 26-7. In three subsequent games with the 'townies' the Maine boys totaled 72 points to their opponents' 19, and probably began thinking of bigger and better competition.

The next year it was decided that uniforms should be the order of the day. The baseball association was unable to provide sufficient funds, so each player had to buy his own shoes and stockings. The school colors were at that time seal-brown and robin's egg-blue, so the letters MSC and the stockings were brown, and the hats (not caps) were trimmed with blue.

Baseball was in its infant stages in the early 1880's and such modern day matters as conditioning and coaches were virtually unknown. Each player was responsible for his own health, and had free rein when at bat or in the field.

Present day protective devices such as chest protectors, mitts, and the like, also must have been unknown to the MSC players. The catcher did wear a mask, and a pair of buckskin gloves with the fingers removed and the palms padded with grass. But this luxury often impaired his effectiveness, and much of his catching was done barehanded.

Maine played its first interscholastic game with Colby in 1880. The boys from the State College held Colby's veteran team scoreless for six innings, but at that point a...
Maine man misjudged a fly ball and touched off a six-run inning. The game ended in a 6-1 Colby victory.

Colby won another game that year, and Bates took a pair in 1881. But the next year Maine State College won its first contest against another college by whipping Colby, 15-5, and in 1885 we won our first intercollegiate title.

The bats carried at the Village Pharmacy or by Mr. Solomon Gee tended to break, so Alfred J. Keith, '82, had an excellent cherry bat turned in Old Town. After the win at Bates the numerals, 1882, were carved in it, and the bat today can be seen in the trophy room of the Memorial Gymnasium.

Maine State baseball in its formative years was fraught with difficulties, not the least of which was the need for a new gymnasium. The 1896 Prism put it well when it declared "... when the beautiful snow comes down from heaven and covers the potato field with a spotless robe and the rocks in the back pasture are buried too deep to be moved then the baseball enthusiasm wanes and the muscles of the athlete become flabby from want of exercise." Obviously this is reasonable. So in 1898 an old barn was renovated into a well-stocked gym in which one could keep fit throughout the long winter nights.

This was the way that baseball started on the Maine campus. The ensuing years saw more and more fans flocking to watch the teams play and more and more trophies and titles being won. In 1964 the Bears enjoyed possibly their greatest season ever, and were chosen to represent New England in the College World Series at Omaha, Nebraska.

Rarely does a team from New England fare well in the tournament, and nobody expected an unknown team from an obscure corner of the country to catch the hearts of 60,000 Omaha fans.

In the opening game at Rosenblatt Stadium the Bears, an inexperienced ball club which had never played under the lights but which possessed a tremendous desire and an outstanding pitcher, ended Seton Hall's 13-game winning streak. Joe Ferris upset the New Jerseyites 5-1.

Several days later Maine suffered its first setback in the double elimination tournament to Minnesota, Big Ten Champions and eventual series winner.

The "Miraculous Bears" then faced the nation's Number Two team, Arizona State. Again Joe Ferris, the tournament's M.V.P. award winner, was called, this time as a reliever for Dick Dolloff who had gone seven innings, and the unbeaten flash ousted Arizona from the World Series, 4-2.

In the fourth game Joe Ferris and the giant killers from Maine met and defeated the defending champions from the University of Southern California. Ferris' 2-1 victory was the biggest upset in C.W.S. history. But the Bears were to lose a squirer in the final round of the tournament to Missouri, 2-1.

The Maine baseball team was the first U-M nine to play in the District One NCAA
tou nerament and was the first State of Maine team to play in the College World Series. It was the first Y.C. team ever to win two or more games in the C.W.S., and by defeating Seton Hall in the opening rounds, the 1964 Maine team became “Champions of the East.”

The University of Maine is extremely proud of its team and of coach Jack Butterfield, who was named 1964 New England and NCAA coach of the year.

Football

“A certain member of the junior class thinks he could kick the football over Oak Hall if he had a little more practice,” stated the College Reporter in 1878, but as this was the final issue of the student newspaper, his efforts remain unknown. Nevertheless, it was the first reference to football at Maine.

Ten years later a transfer student from Lehigh brought a black, round bladder (the only style of football known at that time) to Maine, and two undergraduates who were guilty of playing “some” football invented a game where any number of players lined up on two sides, each of which endeavored by kicking to get the ball across an imaginary line in the rear of its opponents. One can imagine the difficulties in lining up men who did not know how to do it and did not know any rules. This fray supplemented the Oak Hall game.

The prehistoric days in the annals of U-M football history came to an end when the game was introduced on a civilized level in 1890. (There were only 111 undergraduate men and 1 woman then enrolled at Maine.)

Baseball was the only intercollegiate sport at the time, and it was difficult enough to secure money to run that sport. There were few men with any football experience and there was an absence of a decent football field as well as even a reasonable facsimile of a gymnasium. Thus, football was not inaugurated with much optimistic vigor.

From 1890 to 1895, a preliminary period in our football history, Maine lost five games to Bangor High and four to Colby and Bates, scoring 16 points to their opponents’ 222.

Between 1896 and 1900 Maine met Bowdoin for the first time, beat Bates once, drubbed Colby three times, and scored 98 points to 281 by its rivals. A tilt at Maplewood Park in Bangor in 1896 against the Massachusetts Institute of Technology marked Maine’s first encounter with an out-of-state institution.

In 1901, with a considerable increase in the student body (there were 292 men and 18 women), Wells Farley and a new field house provided the impetus for a championship squad from the same team which had won 1 of 5 games the previous year. Maine took three championships between 1901 and 1905 and outscored the state rivals 185 to 56. These years also saw Maine replace the preparatory schools on their schedule with out-of-state colleges (Harvard, Brown and MIT).

After a losing era from 1906 to 1909 when Maine was outpointed 59-117, an athletic board with administrative power and a business-like manner produced two State Champions in 1910 and 1912, and the scores with out-of-state schools were much more satisfactory.

The gradual development of football to its present stature at Maine was steady. Maine gridders no longer wore knit caps which they carefully replaced after each scrimmage and were not without protection of any kind—padding, shin guards, or helmet.

Two Maine elevens stand in the spotlight of superiority in our modern era, going undefeated during the season. These squads of ’51 and ’61 won the Yankee Conference and produced some stars with the ability to make professional football teams.

Track

The development of track and field athletics at the U. of Maine was gradual with occasional setback, but a consistent improvement in material as well as conditions has brought track to its present strong status.

The first meet, an interclass affair, was held in the spring of 1894 at the Orono Trotting Park, near what is now called Park Street. All competitors were obliged to do their own coaching (with some advice from the captain and managers) and to supply their own suits and shoes.
Tennis

In 1892 Intercollegiate tennis was founded at Maine, but it wasn't until three years later, in 1895, that the sport was given varsity recognition. Varsity tennis was an instant hit, and the 1896 Prism lists tennis as the most successful of Maine's Sports.

The years between 1930 and 1938 saw the advance of tennis from a "backyard pastime" to a recognized sport in which athletes could win the Maine "M." In addition, fraternity courts were modernized, and President Hauck ordered 12 new courts. The erection of the new Field House gave netmen the possibility of indoor winter training, and in 1941 a freshman won the first indoor tournament.

Basketball

Basketball was organized on the Maine campus in 1902, and in 1903 the team played in seven games against local high schools. Spirit in the new gym was strong, and there was a strong wish for an intercollegiate schedule.

By 1911 the University of Maine's strongest rival was Colby, and other schools on the slate included New Hampshire State, Rhode Island State and MIT.

Old issues of the Campus indicate no trace of the sport until 1922, but this may have been due to a discontinuation during the war years. However, the records show that in 1922 Maine was State Champion, and played the likes of Holy Cross, Brown and Colby.

In the late '20s interest in varsity basketball was waning and by 1930 the sport had been dropped. But by 1938 it was back as a varsity sport, and "on its own floor the team was nearly invincible," winning all of its home games and finishing with a 3-4 record.

Basketball gained momentum at Maine and the Bears reached a pinnacle in the 1938-60 era, with the fearsome five of Chappelle, Schiner, Ingalls, Sturgeon and Champion under the mentorship of Maine's winningest basketball coach, Brian McCall.

In 1959 the Bears won 19 and lost 4 against tough competition and were 52-16 overall in three years.

Cross Country

Cross country at the University of Maine was inaugurated when coach Steve Farrell recognized the need for the sport in 1910. His team entered the race for the "Silver Cup" which started at Old Town Post Office and ended at Alumni Field. Maine won the race three times consecutively, retiring the trophy.

In 1911 Maine competed in its first intercollegiate race against Tufts College and emerged victorious, 19 to 36. Later Maine entered and won the first State Championship over Bowdoin, Bates and Colby in 1913 and the Bears were ushered into the limelight with their rapid rise in a new college sport.

SOPH SENSATION—Righty Joe Ferris, unbeaten in regular season play, carried home Most Valuable Player honors after his sparkling performance at Omaha.

HAND IN HAND—Francis Lindsay and Harry Richardson, co-captains of the 1929 cross country team, tie for first place in the 21st annual intercollegiate meet held at Van Cortland Park, N.Y. This unique finish is a rarity in track circles.
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In the “old days” University of Maine male students got up with the sun, hurriedly pulled on their uniforms, did various exercises, armed themselves with 50-caliber muzzle rifles and marched for 15 minutes—all before breakfast.

Military training at U-M is as old as the University itself. The Morrill Act established the University of Maine and stated that male students be given military training. They were.

But all was not hard work for the aspiring military leader of the past. In the beginning the University had only about 21 cadets. Consequently, the cadets enjoyed a certain amount of freedom not normally found today even in the reserves. Cadets elected their own officers and, if they desired, could easily control their superiors with their vote at the ballot box.

But a big change came in 1874. On that date a regular member of the college faculty took over the job of training students how to successfully wage war. By this time 121 students were toting army rifles around the Maine campus.

In 1883 another important change occurred. Lieutenant Edgar W. Howe won the honor of being the first army officer to be appointed to U-M on a regular basis. He set up shop under the title of Professor of Military Science and Tactics and was soon in business.

Lt. Howe’s first report to his boss credited U-M students with an average aptitude for military exercises and “...a more than average interest in military matters.”

However, Lt. Howe probably let his enthusiasm for his new job go to his head when he suggested that “...all students be required to wear the prescribed uniform at all times while at the college, except when engaged in farm work.”

Not much came of Lt. Howe’s suggestion. In fact, it was forgotten as quickly as possible by most people.

In 1876 the cadets officially became the “Coburn Cadets.” They were named after Governor Abner Coburn who had served 12 years as president of the Board of Trustees and who had a sincere interest in the ROTC program.

Cadets really had it bad at times. They had to submit—and most did more or less gracefully—to a thorough military inspection of their rooms. Inspectors used the West Point Blue Book of dormitory regulations as a guide. Apparently the dorms of yesterday were considerably different from those of today.

The annual “Encampment” was “fun time” for most cadets. Each fall a week was set aside for military science students—in those days nearly the entire male enrollment—to sample army life in the field and under canvas.

Old timers remember that military regulations and a daily program of training did not stop students from “whooping it up” whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Patriotism on campus reached an all-time high in 1918 when the cadet band (19 members) left for the Mexican border. The men kept a diary and from it we can take a good look at some of the more interesting parts of the trip.

The diary starts as follows: “Calls began to arrive...” the diary reads. “King is nervous and faints before they get to him. A very simple and painless operation.”

Early in the forenoon came the United States Physical Inspection which most of them were dreading, fearing to be turned down. “Hac Currier mustered enough weight by drinking two quarts of water...”

The band traveled from Bangor to Portland and on to its final destination—Laredo, Texas. The diary describes the band’s brief stop in Peoria, Ill. “A very boozey city... It must have been a strong city for Tim Bonney. He leaned over and remarked to Hac Currier, dead asleep. ‘I can’t play that, I can’t play it.’ A funny remark for a first class musician to make.”

By Ron Parent

THE ENCAMPMEN T
1893
Laredo echoed with the “Stein Song” shortly after the band arrived in that Texan town. It was one of the favorites of the soldiers and other bands often joined in with the cadets from Maine.

The band never did see any combat. About the closest thing to real, live battle was described in the diary as follows: “As we glanced out of the tent door in the middle of the afternoon we were horrified to see a crowd of Mexicans approaching . . . At this moment Captain D. I. Gould of Company G dashed up on his gallant charger and holding them up at the end of his trusty 45, took their side-arms, or shine boxes, away from them. We gathered around the captain with rousing cheers.”

The band broke camp for the return home Oct. 24. When they arrived in Bangor they received a great welcome by Maine citizens. The diary says the crowd was “the biggest crowd ever. So big that it stretched Exchange Street so it is now six inches wider.”

The ROTC program at U-M is now a century old. As time has passed, new and improved methods of waging war have resulted in changes in the U-M military program. The Spanish American War and World Wars I and II meant an increased demand for fighting men.

Thousands of U-M graduates received commissions and served as officers in the three conflicts. Still hundreds more served in the Korean Conflict.

ROTC has long been the largest single source of army officers. It is, in a sense, the fountainhead of the Army officer corps. Nearly 92 percent of company grade officers commanding troops in World War II were ROTC trained and commissioned.

(Continued on Page 18)
SALIBA'S is pleased to offer their

Congratulations to "MAINE" on your 100th Anniversary

Anniversaries are always a time to look back . . . there were difficult times, there were good times but what we see is the many thousands who have come from the University of Maine campus better prepared to serve in so many fields of endeavor, and better prepared to enjoy the “better life” made possible through education. Our most hearty congratulations go to all the faculty and students, who, over the years have made “Maine” one of the most respected centers of higher education. Looking ahead we feel confident that the future holds much more for future expansion to the service of students through broadened programs and expanded facilities.

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(Continued from Page 16)

Since the Board of Trustees decided in June, 1963, to place the ROTC program on a voluntary basis, students no longer are forced to participate.

Consequently, some changes in the military department have occurred. Fewer students enroll in the basic courses. However, Army officials believe that for this reason competition for positions of leadership has become keener as cadets battle among themselves for positions of responsibility.

The U-M military program has changed a great deal over the past 100 years. But its primary objective remains the same—to provide the Army with well-trained officers when the “chips are down.” On reflection, one may easily conclude that the results have been well worth the effort.

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