

LINK MAGAZINE

Legends of Southwestern College



Volume 1 Issue 1 March 2001

Behind the Magazine



Our Crew *Front row:* Mandy Lampe, Kasey Dumler, and Tracy Crockett. *Second Row:* Kim Hockenbury, Julie Morgan, and Amy Govert. (photo by Kathy Wilgers edited by Julie Morgan)

This magazine is a project of the Advanced Journalism class for the Spring of 2001 semester and is not a continuous publication.

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Cover Photo is Courtesy of the Moundbuilder 1911.

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Did You Know...

- * Southwestern College was founded in 1885.
- * On June 3, 1889, the first class to graduate from Southwestern Methodist Episcopal College consisted of three students.
- * In 1909 its name was changed from Southwest Kansas Conference College to Southwestern College
- * The hill on which Christy Hall (formerly Richardson Hall) now sits is often called Sunset Hill.

* There were many elaborate plans for the college until the plans fell through in 1949 with the condemnation of North Hall and the fire in Richardson in 1950. The plans called for a campus which was symmetrical. There was to be a replica of North Hall on the south side of campus, two wings on Richardson Hall, and also matching men and women's dorms on opposite sides of campus.



* September 13, 1910: Humorous. "Eata Bita Thigh" organized at SC and affiliated with the National Fraternity, Eta Beta Pi.

* During WWII, there were only about eight men left on campus because of the war draft. For this reason, the lobby of Richardson Hall held a large blackboard listing all of the Southwestern men who were killed in the War.

* Under Sunset Hill, where the Student Center now stands, an "ancient cave" was once found. In a 1932 Southwestern College Review, "On the Campus of the Purple," Dean Leroy Allen wrote of the cave, "who dug it or why no one now remembers. Perhaps the ancient moundbuilders or cave men lurked here in early days and pounced on unsuspecting maids whom they bore away as their brides." The cave was presumably bulldozed to make room for the Student Center.

* The nickname "Moundbuilder" came about in 1910 after Jesse R. Derby wrote an editorial on deciding a suitable nickname for the college and its athletes. He wrote, "Would it not be a good thing to associate the name of 'Moundbuilder' with Southwestern and her affairs? Why not call her various teams 'Moundbuilders' rather than 'Preachers' or 'Methodists'? Our building is on a mound and since we, as students, dwell largely thereon, we may consistently call ourselves Moundbuilders - and what is more it will probably live.

Harry Hart also wrote editorials for the *Winfield Courier* on the matter, saying that "Moudbuilders" were better than "Cliffdwellers" because, "anybody could just dwell there, but 'Builders' show action." It was through his editorials that the nickname "Moundbuilder" became popular for Southwestern.

* Southwestern College was once home to a Lover's Lane. It ran from College Street to the foot of Sunset Hill, ending at the site of the first women's dormitory, which was destroyed by fire in 1894.

* In Lover's Lane, one would could find a stone bench, courtesy of the class of 1912. Students soon dubbed it, "The Spoonholder." In the fall of 1996, the Spoonholder was moved from south of the President's House (now the Welcome Center) to Allen Plaza, in front of Wroten Hall.



The "Spoonholder" was moved to the area outside Wroten Hall. (photo by Kasey Dunlavy)

* Another trail was also found at SC. The Trail of the Lonesome Pine ran from the south end of campus and headed towards the seventy-seven. The name came from a huge tree that stood by the side of the trail, near Smith Hall. It was said to be the sole guardian of the hall "against the northern blasts of winter."

Did You Know (Continued on page 23)

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Burning Torch

Rocky hill, and climbing steps,
Spreading fir trees, pebbled walks,
Old stone building, looking down
On the valley and the town;
There the sunset lingers long
In a glowing evensong,
And the valley sees a cup,
A waiting chalice lifted up
Wherein Beauty comes to sup.

Sunset Hill, your founders knew
You would stand, grow beautiful,
Serve your purpose, truly great,
Inspire the youth you educate;
Yet they scarcely could have known,
What rich treasures time has sown
May they see, this golden year,
That the torch they fashioned here
Burns toward God--a challenger
clear.

--Maxine Gresham and Charlotte
Landon (page 38 of the 1935
Moundbuilder)

Old North Hall

By Julie Morgan

Constructed in 1886, North Hall became the pillar of the Southwestern Community. At the time, the college's name was Southwestern Methodist Episcopal College, and the stones above the front entrance proudly displayed this name. Before North Hall was built, the college classes were held in downtown Winfield. Once this beautiful gothic structure was finished all classes moved in, and it became the sole building of the Southwestern College Campus until 1910, when Richardson Hall was constructed. This building also was just called the college building until 1910, when it adapted the name North Hall because of its location on the north side of campus.

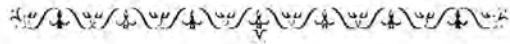
The Hall was a 118 by 79-foot structure with four stories. It was made of white limestone, which was native to the area.

Since this building is a legend in itself, there are several stories surrounding the old North Hall. This building was known as "the Hall of Smells and Yells" because it was home to the Home Economics, Chemistry, and the Music Departments. The smells came from the Home Ec. and the Chemistry while the yells came from the sound of the musicians on the fourth floor (and perhaps a few from the Chemistry lab because of explosions).

This building had its share of fires and explosions. Many were messy and aggravated the caretakers of the building, but none were too ruinous.

There are many interesting stories about this former landmark, but one tale with a great twist

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The gothic look of Old North Hall at Night.
(photo courtesy of the Moundbuilder)



did not come around until the destruction of this luminous structure.

In 1949, this building was condemned and scheduled to be torn down. The plan was to build Mossman Hall in its place. Equipment was removed to Richardson Hall and preparations were made for the destruction. Then, all of the sudden, the campus was hit by a big disaster. Richardson Hall caught on fire. The only things salvaged were the records and other such items kept in the vault.

Then, in 1950, when they were dismantling the condemned building, there were several problems. It seemed that the structure did not want to give up its wonderful life as a part of the Southwestern Campus because, as the crew was trying to raze the landmark, many of the winch lines used were broken. Finally the structure did give up its fight, but not without a few oddities.

"The winch trucks were located to the northeast of the column and it was expected that the stone would fall in that direction. However the rubble fell almost straight north in the direction of a college-housing unit."

A cry went up and spectators standing directly north of the falling stone scurried to safety as the rocks started rolling toward them. None of the rocks hit the buildings however." (Winfield Daily Courier, June 6, 1950)



It was also said in this same article that the two columns on the north end of the building remained almost intact until hitting the ground.

There were several pigeons living in the towers of this old edifice, so when it was destroyed, many of them were killed and others were left swarming around the remains, mourning for their old home. The only pieces of this structure which were kept were the stone nameplate and the stone with the date, which were located above the doorway on the old hall. These stones were placed on the west side of Sunset Hill, forming the "Outdoor Stage."

Remembering SC...Al Hodges

(former student, '36, and Band Director)



Albert Wilfred Hodges

by Julie Morgan

In an interview with Al Hodges, he told an interesting story about his classes on the fourth floor of North Hall.

Hodges remembers having his band classes on the top floor of North Hall. From there, he and his classmates could look out the window and look straight at Richardson Hall where they were required to lug their instruments down the four flights of stairs then back up the 77 steps in order to practice on the stage in Richardson Auditorium. After class was over, they had to carry their instruments all the way back to store them.

He says, "the music students were in better shape after all of that climbing than even the members of the track team."

In addition to this, they were required to take a physical education class. There were many times when these students wished there was a bridge from the top floor of North Hall to the top of Sunset Hill.

Old North Hall

Firmly you stand
In the afternoon sunlight;
Aging stone
And stained-glass windows,
Relic of the old,
Symbol of the new Southwestern!

Mystically you stand
In the twilight
Diffused with the glow
Of a fading sunset,
Form of the old,
Spirit of the new Southwestern!

Lonely you stand,
For a newer, less noble
Structure has supplanted you
On the hill,
Memento of the old,
Part of the new Southwestern!

--Gradon Wilson (page 38 of the
1935 *Moundbuilder*)

Richardson Hall

By Kim Hockenbury

Named after area resident, Uncle Jimmie Richardson, Richardson Hall was established in the Spring of 1910.



Uncle Jimmie Richardson

Richardson gave the generous gift of \$35,000 to Southwestern making him the chief donor of funds for the new building.

Richardson was a bachelor farmer who supported the education of young people, having never had children of his own. He enjoyed having gospel singers from Southwestern come to his home to sing for him. He also had opinions on science courses he would like to see offered at Southwestern, such as craniology, the study of the shape of the head.

Take a walk sometime through the lower level of Christy. The small cubicle containing the vending machines is the very space in which the fire that destroyed Richardson Hall began.

Around midnight on April 10, 1950 combustible matter stored within the walls of a custodial closet in the basement of Richardson burst into flames. The beautiful building, with its wooden floors and doors was engulfed. Science labs located on the ground floor of Richardson only fueled the flames. Two students noticed the flames and called the fire department.

Richardson Hall had a history of fires threatening its existence starting in 1910. The above headline

"FIRE!"
**"RICHARDSON HALL
BURNS TO GROUND
TRUSTEES, FACULTY
MOURN LOSS"**

appeared in a September 1949 edition of the Collegian in which the author envisioned what could have happened to the building.

Winfield Fire Department received the call at 12:19 am but, it was too late. Assistance from the

Arkansas City and Wellington fire departments could not stop the destruction.

By morning, people gathered from miles around to look at a thick-walled shell of what had once been one of the area's most beautiful buildings.

At the same time Richardson was engulfed in flames, North Hall was being condemned. This was a great blow to the school. The major buildings on the campus were either now condemned or destroyed by the fire.



Richardson Hall

Tuesday, April 18, 1950 classes resume on the Southwestern campus. The fire may have destroyed a building, but the school would not be moved. The music hall was left and Grace Methodist Church served as classrooms for the 35 remaining days of class. The President of SC, Alvin W. Murray and the board of trustees decided to rebuild.

While the fire came unexpectedly, SC was prepared. President and trustees had been preparing the groundwork on the building projects of a library and science facility during this time. It became a time of renewal.

Christy Administration Building was constructed out of the remnants of Richardson Hall and was finished in September of 1953.

While today's Christy lacks some of the prestige of wooden floors, the balcony in the auditorium, and the majestic silver dome of old Richardson Hall, it is functional.

With rebuilding came modernization of heating, cooling and electrical systems, lengthening of the theater, and the building we know today.



Christy Administration Building



Former Student, R. B. Christy pledged \$500,000 to Southwestern College endowment. Christy, like Richardson had no children but believed in youth. His gift was the largest gift ever given by an individual. Trustees dedicated and named the building Christy after him on March 13, 1956. SC President C. Orville Strohl honored Christy stating:

"No one can estimate the far-reaching influence of his life through this great gift to a Christian College."

Smith Hall

My Memories of Smith Hall

By Judith Charlton

Smith Hall, the oldest dormitory on campus, was located at the site of the parking lot west of Wallingford Hall. It was a three story building with an above grade basement. The door faced south to Warren Street. The first floor opened into a large hall with corridors running to either side. The only phone available to the students was here, and we were summoned by a bell system both for a call or visitors. The lobby ran straight on through and out onto the wide porch at the back.

To the east were the nurse's office and the lounge. The lounge ran the full width of the building with a fireplace facing a person coming in. It was there that we had dorm meetings and engagement parties in addition to the usual things that a



living room was used for. It had window seats at some of the windows.

Down the west hall was the dorm mother's room, two students' rooms with two students per room, a kitchen, a laundry room, and a bathroom. It was there that I lived my first year. Our rooms were larger than the ones in Broadhurst Hall, but we had less closet space. We had fewer clothes than many students do today.

I remember my year as happy, and the four of us students became close friends. I really enjoyed getting to know the housemother, Mrs.

Sowder, and I kept in contact with her until her death.

At that time, 1956, we had closed hours. That meant that freshmen women had to be in the dorm by 7:30 or so, and couldn't leave the dorm until the next morning without permission. The only exceptions to that were that we were allowed to go to Wednesday evening church (provided we



really go!) and having some of our family visit us. Permission could be gotten for other special events like dances. We had to sign in at night. The dorm closed for all of the students at 10:30 p.m. It must be noted here that men did not have dorms or closed hours. Boo!

The four of us couldn't get into much mischief since the housemother lived across the hall. I do remember an occasion or two when we would roll up our pajama legs, put on a coat, crawl out the window and go over to Mom and Pop's, a soda shop. We had to hope that there were upper classmen on the porch when we went back, because the windows were too high for us to climb into without a boost. If there were none on the porch, we would hide in the bushes around the fishpond that was several yards from the back porch. We could have gotten into a lot of trouble if we had been caught—we would be pulled up to the Dean of Women (she scared us to death) and be given a talking to at the very least. That may not seem like much now, but then we had a lot of fearful respect for authority and we shivered in our shoes often when we had gone against a rule. It didn't matter if the rule seemed stupid or not—Yes, Ma'am, No Ma'am, I'm sorry, Ma'am.

We went upstairs by a stair in the hall. Second floor was student rooms and a big gang bathroom. I lived on this floor my sophomore year. My room was over the lounge. My roommate was a chemistry major, and that was the only way that I managed to scrape a D from Gen. Chem.

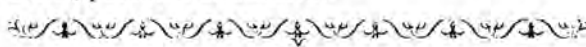
One thing I remember was that our rooms were quiet. The walls were very thick, not like Broadhurst where two pieces of plywood separated the closets. New Hall (Sutton) was built the same as Broadhurst had been, and it was not until I moved there that I became aware of the advantages of thick walls.

The first year I lived at Smith, a number of the girls got pregnant. That was considered very shameful. One of the girls had been disowned by her family, and would have had no where to go if she had been forced to leave. I have always

been proud of our president, Orville Strohl, that he and the Trustees allowed the girls to finish the year. Many other church-related schools would have ousted them for such flagrant flaunting of the rules.

The third floor was an open dormitory room with gang closet and bathroom. Almost everyone who lived up there was not too happy to begin with, but as they were mostly upper classmen, they developed strong bonds.

I had a great deal of sorrow when they pulled the old hall down. It needed more repairs than it was worth. I remember it as homey, only 50 students, personal and warm.



Mr. and Mrs. Levi S. Smith
(photo from 1921 Moundbuilder)



Smith Hall was the first dormitory that was built on Southwestern's campus. It was made possible due to an annuity gift of \$50,000.00 by Mr. and Mrs. Levi S. Smith. The building was thoroughly modern in its conveniences and was beautifully furnished. It was built to accommodate and house sixty women. The basement was used as the only cafeteria on campus and could hold two hundred students. (24th Annual Catalog: 1920-21 March 1921). After fifty-seven years of service to the campus Smith Hall was torn down in 1978 due to deteriorating condition (SC Collegian 1978).

Japanese-American Students Come to Campus



Southwestern College student Jane Clift (left) watches while one of the Japanese-American students registers for classes in 1944. (photo courtesy of Jane Clift)

By Mandy Lampe

During World War II, Southwestern College took in 16 Japanese-American students from the Gila Relocation Project. They consisted of six females and ten males from Hunt, Idaho; Rivers, Arizona; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Concord,

California; Denson, Arkansas; and Honolulu, Hawaii. The girls were housed in East Hall and the boys in the International House (Moundbuilder 1944).

One of these students rose to great importance after leaving Southwestern. His name was Paul Hagiya and he was relocated from Rivers, Arizona. When Paul was at Southwestern, he was a senior. He was a member of the basketball team, Phi Eps, and *Collegian* staff. He was also a Masterbuilder and SC Carnival King.

In 1977, Dr. Hagiya was the senior minister of the largest Asian United Methodist Church in the U.S.-Centenary Church in Los Angeles. Southwestern awarded him an honorary doctorate of divinity degree. Hagiya states his gratitude to his education at Southwestern, "I never dreamed I could have it. So I serve the church to the best of my ability." (Crossfire 1977)

A Wartime Election

It has now been nearly forty years since Bill Poundstone (known on campus as Poudy) recounted to me his version of the election of the president of the student body in 1943.

One of the candidates was the popular Paul Hagiya, an American-Japanese ancestry who was one of the several students who came to Southwestern from the government relocation center. According to Poundstone, as the election neared, the American Legion put more and more pressure on the college administration to disqualify Paul because he was an American of Japanese ancestry. Dean Lyman Johnson was reluctant to bow to this pressure yet should Paul win, feared the loss of needed funding and other support for the college from the Winfield community. He discussed this threat to Poudy, then registrar, and together they decided to talk the matter over with Paul. Before they had the conversation with Paul, the election took place, but the votes had not been counted. Paul readily volunteered to withdraw from candidacy. However, curiosity got the better of Poudy—he counted the votes and found that Paul had won the election. Of course, this unofficial count was never announced and Paul did not become student body president.

(The interface of the American Legion may still be a subject to be treated cautiously although it was confirmed both by what Mr. Poundstone told me and in Rev. Hagiya's sermon: Times and attitudes do change.)

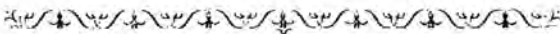
—Ina Turner Gray, April 19, 2000

(Story compliments of Southwestern College Archives)

Remembering SC...Norman Callison

By Tracy Crockett

Norman Callison has a long history with Southwestern. He graduated in 1963 and returned to teach in the theatre department from 1965-1978.



Freshmen wear their beanies as they walk down the 77 stairs before they are allowed to kiss the Jinx.



During his freshman year he recalled going through freshman initiation. He did not live on campus so did not get the entire experience, but did have to wear a beanie while on campus. He also said that he heard that the upper classmen made freshman do such activities as cleaning the parking lot with their toothbrushes. His greatest feeling came during the Moundbuilding Ceremony when the freshmen were allowed to take off the beanies. This symbolized the unity that all of the students then had.

His senior year, he served as class president. The school had decided to move the Mound from its old location to where it is currently. The senior class president was put in charge of the transferring the Mound. A new mound was built. The hole was around 30 feet wide and 6-8 feet



Norman Callison Senior 1963. (photo courtesy of 1963 Moundbuilder)

deep. Many students were searching for the box that was said to be at the bottom of the Mound containing a check along with several other items. After searching long into the night the box was found, however the contents inside were decayed. They decided to put it at the bottom of the new mound. They pretended to place each one of the items that was supposed to be in the box into the box and then put it in the new Mound. Callison also said that while the box was in his room, some of his friends stuck some items in the box that they thought represented college life.

He also recalls memories of Helen Graham. Graham was the Associate Professor of Expression and Dramatics. He describes her as a flamboyant grand lady. She taught her students more than just drama.

He remembers her often inviting students over to her house after working on sets on Saturdays. She would make the students use proper etiquette and use manners. He said that she taught valuable life lessons such as responsibility, how to meet deadlines, and how to live better. Graham was a very aggressive woman, yet had a grand way of handling herself like a lady. She would often yell across the theatre to project, and was also known to break pencils when things were not going very well.



Helen Graham in 1962. (photo courtesy of 1962 Moundbuilder)

SC links to the Past

Cemetery

*"The paths of glory lead
but to the grave."
—Thomas Gray, Elegy
Written in a Country
Churchyard*

By Jerry Wallace

Once upon a time, Southwestern College had its own cemetery. This may strike you as unusual, for colleges, after all, are home to the young and vital in whom Death has only an occasional interest. Southwestern's graveyard, however, was a very special one. Its narrow cells contained not human bones, but the institutional spirit of our vanquished foe: "the conquered enemies of Southwestern." Whenever the Builders won a particularly glorious victory, students, faculty, and staff came together in the College chapel (auditorium) for an impressive ceremony. There were speeches appropriate to the occasion, followed by a procession down the path to the graveyard and the internment of the defeated: "the living dead." The last, and most important act, was raising a tombstone, which students had especially designed for the occasion, with wording to commemorate the famous victory. These victories were by no means limited to traditional sporting events—football, basketball, track and field, tennis, and golf—although such victories accounted for an impressive number of stones. Builders also excelled in oratory, debate, and music, and there were many storied stones to mark these triumphs.

Cemetery is source of pride

This peculiar cemetery became a popular College site and the burial ceremony a College tradition. While Southwestern's cemetery may not have been unique, for other schools had plots, too, I know of no other school that developed the

concept to such an extent and made it such an integral part of its college life. For around a quarter of a century, from 1910 to 1935, the cemetery was a source of pride to all Builders and their friends; an enduring, galling reminder of defeat to its foes; and always a point of curiosity to campus visitors. Its tombstones, with uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculpture decked, memorializing, not the fallen, but the triumphs of the victor, remain its most well known and remembered feature.

What follows is a description of a typical Builder burial ceremony. It was held on Saturday morning, March 30, 1912, to mark Howard H. Finley's ('14) first place win in the Kansas State Oratorical Contest, with his oration, "Rienzi, Patron of Law." This was Southwestern's third such victory and was especially meaningful in that it took place before its students in the College chapel. The pages of the *Collegian* for April 5, 1912, offer this account:

The chapel services began at the regular time and was taken charge of by Lloyd Wells, president of the Rooters Club. "Hail, Hail the Gang's All Here," was the first hymn and was sung very softly while a casket was brought in, followed by the mourners. It was a very solemn occasion. The mourners were determined not to leave the remains, so deep were their feelings. A number of speakers were called on and each expressed in his own way what the entire student body felt....One of the features of the program occurred

when Finley was carried in on the shoulders of a couple of fellows and placed in the big chair on the platform....After the big chapel service the students, visitors and faculty repaired to the cemetery where Prof. McCulloch pronounced the final



wordsover the "remains" of the other schools and unveiled the monument which had so promptly been provided. After these ceremonies were completed the procession started downtown.

Here is another account of the burial from the *Moundbuilder*: 1912.

This joyful news [of Finley's victory] flashed over town and set the bells to ringing, and bon-fires to blazing. On the next day school was dismissed and the day given over to unbounded rejoicing. But before the grand jubilee, the funeral had to be attended to. College dirges were sung, funeral orations delivered and the fond hopes of six colleges, ruthlessly slain by our little giant, were buried beneath a beautiful tombstone. These rites were followed by another of the famous parades [to downtown Winfield].

In 1910, with great ceremony, Southwestern College dedicated its cemetery. Physically, the cemetery was located to the south of Richardson Hall (now Christy). It is hard to place exactly today that spot where heaved the turf, due to changes in the landscape, but the cemetery appears to have been located on a gentle slope nearby to where the Student Center now stands. It dominated that portion of the campus and was seen by all who drove up the hill (on a road no longer there) to Richardson. The Student Council had approved its establishment and put its care into the hand of the recently organized Rooter Club. William J. Poundstone ('10), Senior class president, assisted by Walter E. Myer ('10), an excellent speaker, presided at the unveiling of the first monument. (Poundstone would go on to become a prominent member of the Southwestern faculty, registrar, and long-time editor of the *Alumni News*. Myer became a noted journalist and publisher and received in 1934 an honorary Doctor of Laws from his Alma Mater.)

Why was the cemetery established? It occurred at a time when Richardson Hall was being com-



pleted and the College department was expanding and becoming the central focus of the school. The term "Moundbuilder" was just coming into popular use. School spirit had never been higher. Students were proud of Southwestern's accomplishments and confident of its future. Both the College administration and students were looking for ways to express their pride in Southwestern's prowess. In 1910, Southwestern College was named Kansas State Basketball Champion by the Topeka Conference. A big celebration and bonfire greeted the news. It is said that the desire to commemorate this victory led to the idea for the establishment of the cemetery. Leonard Bacon ('12), who had managed the 1910 basketball team, painted a special tombstone for the occasion. (Bacon went on to become a nationally known educator and writer.)

Where did the idea for a permanent cemetery on campus come from and who first suggested it? It appears that the answers to both questions went to the grave with the participants. I would suggest, however, that Leonard Bacon might have conceived the idea of a Southwestern cemetery, as he did for naming the College annual the "Moundbuilder." He was a man blessed with a fertile imagination. But why a cemetery? We do know that the students were familiar with a real cemetery, Winfield's Union Cemetery, located only six-tenths of a mile away, near Timber Creek, an area popular among early students for outings and picnics. This cemetery, along with the State Asylum to the north of the College, played a prominent role in student humor. (In the

Cemetery (Continued on page 22)

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Societies and Organizations

By Amy Govert

Southwestern College has been home to a rich history of individuals coming together for the sake of a common interest or goal. This tradition began with the establishment of the college and has continued through the present day. Jerry Wallace, Archivist, stated, "It's important to remember that the school exists in time and relates to the history being made off campus." Thus, it's important to note the rise and fall of various campus organizations. While some have been lost in time, others continue to shape the campus community. It's impossible to mention them all, but those highlighted below are worth remembering.

In December of 1886, three years before the first class of students would graduate from the college, a society formed under the name of Cadmus. Considered a literary society, an adjunct to the curriculum, Cadmus was open to the public. The organization competed for debate and oratorical honors and existed until the late 1890's. In its later years, the organization became more of a social society before losing members to the Athens.

The Athens grew out of a secret impromptu speakers club in 1889. It was formally organized as a men's literary society in February of 1890 and was the second society to form within the college. The Athens competed for oratorical and debate honors within their organization and against outside competitors. By 1913, 70 percent of the male population enrolled in the college were members of the or-

ganization and continued to establish themselves throughout the college departments.

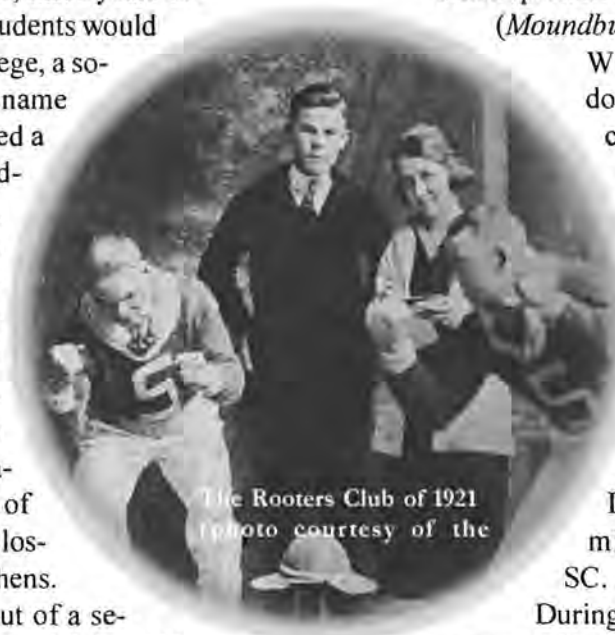
In January of 1890 the sister society of the Athens was organized, the Belles Lettres. The first female literary society, the group hosted weekly meetings in which they presented papers, debated issues, and sought oratory honors. The society also hosted the popular May Day Festival.

"Athens open the day with a May morning breakfast in the park; in the afternoon the outdoor fete begins with processional, play, crowning of the queen, and chorus, ending in the May-pole dance. At night the festival closes with the annual Shakesperian May-Day play and chorus."

(*Moundbuilder* 1913, 124)

While the literary societies dominated the activities on campus through the 19th century, their purpose was challenged in 1910 as they began to grow into social societies. At the same time, however, similar organizations continued to emerge on campus. Even so, the Athens and the Belle Lettres remained the premiere literary societies at SC.

During this time, the turn of the century, the college experienced numerous changes. Not only did the name change, but the Normal school divided from the campus and the Business school merged with the college. Under the leadership of President Frank Mossman, Southwestern College flourished and departmental societies took on a bigger role in daily campus life.



The Rooters Club of 1921
(photo courtesy of the

The Science Club was started in 1909, "...and was not considered a popular organization in any sense of the word." (*The Collegian*, May 1909, 14-15). Such organizations would pave the way, however, for the departmental societies that exist today.

The Campus Players were organized in 1919 in order to honor the outstanding accomplishments and dedication to sponsoring quality theatre at SC. Miss Martha Lee, instructor of Dramatics, laid the foundation for the organization.

Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Science was founded in 1924. The organization was established by Dean Leroy Allen of Southwestern College and Dean William A. Hamilton of the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

Tri-Beta has been an organization on the SC campus since 1922. The National Biological Honorary Fraternity was established to promote the biology department and the advancement of science through new discoveries.

Southwestern College was also made up of clubs that weren't sponsored by any particular department. Such organizations were created by the interests of students and faculty members. One such group, the Rooters' Club, was designed to unite the students on the sidelines. The *Students Handbook* of 1925-1926 reads:

"If any student comes here with the idea that everything connected with college is serious and dignified, an introduction to the Rooters

Club will soon dispel that illusion." (14)

The club rallied team spirit with pep rallies, chapel stunts, bonfires, movie raids, and a popular train trip to Wichita.

Pi Sigma Phi was established in 1924 under Professor David MacFarlane. Formerly known as the "S" club, the group was open to any athlete who had lettered in a sport. The group was organized to help maintain the high level of SC sportsmanship. Most important, however, the club wanted to "Beat Fairmount!"

Southwestern College has consisted of a hodgepodge of organizations, clubs, and societies throughout the history of the school. Perhaps one of the most dynamic clubs to form on campus, however, was the Cosmopolitan Club.

"Above all nations is humanity," was the logo of the Cosmopolitan Club. Established in 1927 by SC graduate Miss Lucy Gray Wright, the organization was designed to maintain healthy race relations on campus. For every minority or international student in the club, 10 Caucasian students were invited to join. In 1935 the club joined the National Association of Cosmopolitan Clubs.

While the organizations, clubs, and societies continue to change with the interests of the student body, one thing remains constant in the life of the college -- student participation. There hasn't been a short- age of interest for participation and the challenge has been determining which

Societies (Continued on page 23)



The Cosmopolitan Club of 1939

Story of the Jinx

Excerpt from
The History of Fairmount College
By John Rydjord

Following its 41 to 3 victory over Fairmount (now Wichita State University) in 1912, the Moundbuilders made a limestone slab on which the score of that glorious game was inscribed. On this sinister slab was pictured a smug, black cat, wearing a black bow tie; and below the cat, the score that humiliated Fairmount. The memorial became a tombstone, and "the most sacred possession of Southwestern students." It was set up in a pseudo-serious ceremonial, with appointed officials burying Fairmount in a black and yellow coffin. The "preacher" gave a most "heart gripping" sermon. The Southwestern College yell was substituted for prayer. The students were given a final look into the coffin, which contained a skull, possibly a bovine skull from the laboratory. Then came the torchlight parade, after which the students, according to their "inalienable right," stormed a theater without paying.

After Southwestern defeated Fairmount 29 to 7 in 1913, several loyal Fairmount students, led by Harold Chance, made a midnight raid on the Hoodoo cemetery and "spirited" away the slab with the record of Fairmount's defeat. The word "spirited" was appropriate. Shortly after the obnoxious stone had been stored in Fiske Hall (on the Fairmount Campus), the boys in the dorm were afflicted with smallpox. The memorial stone was a hoodoo, a jinx. Then the memorial was relegated to the library. Southwestern students, unhappy about the loss of their memorial monument, broke into the library, rescued it, and took it back to Winfield. But they did not return it to the Hoodoo cemetery; it was placed in a se-

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The heroes pose with the Jinx stone after rescuing it from Fairmount College. (photo courtesy of the Southwestern College archives)

cret spot, safe from the pilfering fingers of the Fairmounters. That depressing memorial had caused so much distress and so many defeats that it would be the duty of loyal Fairmount fans to remove its evil influence.

The conflict over the Hoodoo slab became a sort of cause celebre. (S. Carnot) Brennan, (J. Linn) Beebe, Red Davis, and others made several nocturnal reconnoitering expeditions to Winfield. Lincoln LaPaz and Miss Phil Hanna went to Southwestern and posed as prospective students during registration in 1917. They pretended to be the children of a wealthy oilman from the Augusta area. Their father had insisted that they go to Southwestern College, they said, and here they were registering. They did not pay their fees but said that their father would write out a check for the whole amount. They appeared to have plenty of spending money and treated the students to ice cream. Then they said that they had heard a jolly good story about a Jinx and wanted to know what it was all about. In apparent innocence, they asked to see this powerful stone which had jinxed the Fairmounters. Completely taken in, the Southwestern students showed them the stone in the college vault. While Miss Hanna asked dumb questions, LaPaz "cased the joint" and discovered a ventilator shaft to the vault that could be sprung from within. Then they all went out and had more ice cream.

at the expense of the two "wealthy" greenhorns from the oil fields of Augusta.

The Fairmounters wasted no time. The next night a group of Fairmount students drove to Winfield. Worried over a couple "spooning" in a parked car, they hid in the shadows until midnight. LaPaz knew his way to the ventilator, lowered himself to the floor, sprung open the lock, which opened the safe, and opened the door. The treasure was there. So back to Fairmount came the flying squadron with the jinx in their possession. The raiders waited for chapel to assemble on Monday; then the "dishelved, tattered, and haggard men struggled up the aisle bearing a huge stone and singing Fairmount shall shine." Pandemonium broke loose. Never in the history of Fairmount had there been a more exciting chapel. It was contagious; all class conflicts were forgotten and the whole of Fairmount was united into one jubilant and rejoicing melting-pot. Even the faculty reacted with unprecedented glee and "jigged with joy." Arthur Hoare, that dignified and dutiful dean, lost his cool and is reported to have said: "I don't give a hang if we don't have school for a week." That "give a hang" was surely a bold euphemism for stronger words. The jinx was safely stored in a bank vault. Fairmount would no longer have to fight "against the uncanny, inexplicable, enervating, and baleful influence of the Hoodoo.

The twelve boys and girls who participated in the purloined Jinx escapade were students of distinction on the Fairmount campus, and they organized the Jinx Club. The club was a secret group and a source of school spirit, possibly on the sinister side. The 1919 *Parnassus* published a picture of the club, with Lincoln LaPaz in the center, his pompadour hair raising in great waves as if it were charged with electricity. It also pictured the Hoodoo tombstone with its humiliating score of 41 to 3.

Yet, the possession of the diabolical Hoodoo failed to protect Fairmount from its traditional foe at Winfield. After the war, President (Walter

H.) Rollins felt that peace in Europe should be followed by peace in Kansas. He suggested that the Hoodoo memorial be made an annual trophy for the winner. But the Fairmount Jinx Gang would share it with no one. It must be destroyed.

Before meeting the Moundbuilders in the fall of 1919, Fairmount fans took the sinister stone to a place on the Cannonball highway, west of Wichita, and blew it to bits with nine sticks of dynamite. It was to no avail. Southwestern defeated Fairmount 20 to 0. LaPaz, or "Link" as he was called, could only give the lame excuse that one of the sticks of dynamite must not have exploded. In 1920 neither team scored. In eight years, half of the Shocker-Builder games had ended in a scoreless tie, and in 1923 the score was 13 to 13, a jinx number for both. A copy of the original Hoodoo memorial was restored by Southwestern in 1921.



The spirit was strong and this flyer helped Fairmount to see just that! (Flyer courtesy of Southwestern College archives)

SC Spirit

By Tracy Crockett

Cheerleading and school spirit at Southwestern have a very interesting, yet open past. During the 1920s there were many groups on campus promoting spirit. There is mentioning of cheerleaders and yell leaders in several early yearbooks; however no concrete information can be found on their formation. Many pep clubs were present on campus. These clubs were said to be like fraternities and sororities; they held rush activities and held formal dinners after rush week for the new members. It is said that the reason why the organizations were called pep clubs rather than Greek organizations was that Greek systems were not allowed on campus.

**"Hip hip for our Call
Boomer -rah!
Hawker-jay!
What d'ye say?
TEAM!"**

The Rooters Club was organized in 1910. The object of the Rooters Club was to put in the hearts of Southwestern students a dynamic, explosive urge to boost for the home team. They sponsored many activities around campus such as parades, pep chapels, trips, rallies, and decorating houses for Homecoming. They are also accredited for starting the intercollegiate cemetery. The cemetery contained remains of



KK Pep Club in 1943 (photo Courtesy of Jane Clift)



the defeated SC rivals. The group was then responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the graves. They also held funerals for the fallen opponents.

The Bull Club was established in 1926. This club was made up of male members. Their purpose was to promote and further the cause of school spirit and good sportsmanship. The Bull Club's membership was closed to freshmen who participated in a major sport.

The Builderettes were organized in 1927 by Miss Lillian Cloud. Miss Cloud served as the Director of Physical Education for Women. The purpose of the organization was to better the athletic enthusiasm and friendliness among the women athletes.

The KK's were organized in 1928. The selections for membership were based on personality, friendliness, attendance at games, and general enthusiasm. The members worked with



Jinx Junes in 1939 (photo courtesy of the Moundbuilder 1939)

personality, friendliness, attendance at games, and general enthusiasm. The members worked with



Builderettes in 1940 (photo courtesy of the Moundbuilder 1940)

the cheerleaders to perform pep stunts and hold assemblies. They also performed skits. They held a rush week for their prospective members that ended with a dinner. The initials KK was kept a secret, and only the girls in the club knew it stood for "Knights of Knives".

Helen Graham, Associate Professor of Expression and Dramatics, started the Jinx Janes. The objective of the club was to promote pep in the student body by being peppy. They were also responsible for keeping alive the spirit of the Jinx. They held a rush week with a banquet in the spring. As part of rush week, the pledges had to paint the Jinx on the 77 steps with fresh black paint. The mem-



KK Pep Club Sleepover

bers wore white sweaters, skirts, caps, and gloves. They sat in a special reserved section near the center of the lower bleachers during basketball games. They provided vocal encouragement as well as performing snappy drills for a parade at half time. They also displayed a purple kitty at games.

Other pep clubs mentioned were the Pep Pilots, Kappa Rho Pepsters, and the Pi Epsilon pep club. The Pep Pilots were a group of freshmen men. The Kappa Rho Pepsters was a men's pep

club. Their duties were to see that the vim, vigor, and vitality never run low on the campus of Southwestern. The Pi Epsilon pep club was organized in 1942 to stimulate pep among students.

In the year 2001 Southwestern has a cheerleading squad as well as a dance team.

The cheerleaders cheer for both



KK Pep Club in 1941 (photo courtesy of Jane Clift)



Kappa Rho in 1939 (photo courtesy of the Moundbuilder 1939)

the football and basketball games. They also participate in activities around campus to help promote spirit.

They perform cheers, chants, and stunts during the games. SC's dance team, the "Black Cats," perform routines during the half times as well as providing spirit and support for the teams. Southwestern does not have any pep clubs at the present time.

The Mound and The Ceremony Behind it

By Kasey Dumler

"I propose the inauguration of a new college custom, absolutely unique among all the colleges of the world. This ceremony is to be known as 'The Building of the Mound.' Nobody but Mound-builders can build mounds. So no other college has now, or is ever likely to have such a custom. It is highly appropriate to Moundbuilders, but would have little meaning to others. There is a decided advantage, I think, in having at least one custom that is absolutely distinctive of this institution. So many of our customs are copied, not only by us, but by a thousand other colleges. Such customs, being mere imitations, come to have little significance. But I challenge any one to point to a college that has anything like what is proposed in the building of the mound."

Dean Leroy Allen spoke those words at the first regular assembly of the year on September 8, 1927. Later on that day, the ceremony that sets Southwestern apart from any other college in the

nation was founded.

Dean Allen proposed the ceremony at the morning chapel, and that evening, students and faculty gathered around the proposed spot to inaugurate the tradition. Torches led the procession up the hill, around Richardson Hall, and stopped on the north side. The band serenaded the group

along their path.

Dean Allen placed the first stone and then student body president Joe Neville dedicated the Mound. Difficulty soon arose when the crowd attempted to place their stones.

Trying to place them all at once, stones started flying through the air, in an attempt

to sail over the heads and onto the Mound. However, only one "casualty" resulted from the chaos — Donald Teed had the unfortunate job of shoveling mortar into the pile when a rock struck his head. He only received a cut, but his head was bandaged for the rest of the ceremony.



Speaking at the ceremony was Dewey Short, professor of philosophy. He would later move to Springfield, Missouri, to become a pastor, and eventually, a Congressman. During one election against Franklin Roosevelt, Short was considered as a vice-presidential nominee for the Republicans. The former SC professor was even credited with coining the phrase, "That man in the White House," referring to FDR.

At the bottom of the mound, an iron box was placed. Included in the box was a list of all school alumni, a college catalog, copies of the student newspaper and yearbook, absence regulations, and a "fake" check for \$1,000,000, drawn on the State Bank of Winfield in favor of the 1927 student council.

The Mound tradition continued until 1962, when it was determined that the Mound had to be moved. The spot the Mound occupied was deemed a perfect spot for the new Darbeth Fine Arts building. On September 7, 1962, the Mound was moved down campus, in front of Mossman science building.

"The building of the mound is a type of tradition created out of whole cloth by the fertile brain of one who long ago fell in love with Southwestern and its ideals," wrote Allen in a 1943 *Collegian* article. "As we build into the mound of loyalty, the rocks bearing our names or initials, so by building our hearts and lives into the institution, we can gradually make Southwestern, not the largest, but the finest college in the land."



The first Moundbuilding ceremony took place September 8, 1927, where Darbeth Fine Arts Building now stands. The lights circling the dome of Richardson can be observed in the background. Key players in Southwestern's history are pictured here, including President Albert E. Kirk, in the dark suit and tie, with his daughter standing next to him; Dean Leroy Allen in a white shirt and tie, who formed the ceremony; Orville Strohl, whom one can barely spot his glasses behind the crowd on the right side of the group, who would later become president of the college. Pictured on the left is Donald Teed, who was the only casualty of the first ceremony, receiving a blow to his head when participants heaved their rocks randomly onto the Mound. (Photo courtesy Jerry Wallace, SC Archivist.)

Cemetery (Continued From page 13)

early days, when fields of sunflowers still dominated around the campus and houses and tall trees were few, from the westward-facing windows of the College Building [later known as North Hall and located where Mossman stands today] one could see Union Cemetery, where slept the forefathers of Winfield. The story is told that on one opening day in September, very early in the life of the College, an upperclassman saw a group of new students peering out the window toward the cemetery. He observed to them, "Great outlook we have here—cemetery over there, and the imbecile asylum off yonder. If we don't make one, we can't miss the other.")

For the source of the idea, I think we must go back a few years earlier to 1899, when there was another Southwestern cemetery. This graveyard was even more specialized and was also much smaller. In this instance, Professor George F. Cook's trigonometry class celebrated the end of the course (trigonometry was not then, nor now, I am told, a favorite subject of all) by burning and burying "poor Trig" (i.e., the textbook) on the hill back of the College. It is reported that there was a "carefully carved monument" and ceremony too. "No one can forget the little black casket, the black caps of mourning worn by the entire class." One student presented a funeral oration, while another acted as chief mourner. "After the ashes were laid to rest," a participant wrote, "we marched to the home of Prof. Cook where we spent a most delightful evening." Such ceremonies involving "Trig" were not unique to Southwestern, but found in schools wherever there were students who had to suffer through trigonometry. (Professor Cook later served as Southwestern's first layman President from 1903 to 1905. Students and faculty loved him, but the trustees did not.)

The most famous gravestone to grace Southwestern's cemetery was that of the Jinx, which was put in place about two years after the cemetery was established. It commemorates the

Builders' football victory (41-3) over Fairmount (now Wichita State University) on Nov. 11, 1912. As part of the celebration, Ralph Kantz ('14) created a tombstone. According to one first hand account, "It was a rough stone like these out here in our cemetery. He smoothed off one side, painted a black cat on it, wrote Hoodoo at the top and date and score below. This stone was then erected with great ceremony in the cemetery." So it was that Southwestern's graveyard gave us our mascot, the Jinx, "one of the most unique, picturesque, and inspiring myths in American student lore," as Dr. Leroy Allen, long-time Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, put it.

In the Spring of 1936, due to road construction, the cemetery was moved from the south side of Richardson Hall to the north. By then interest in the cemetery had waned considerably. Indeed, it had taken on an abandoned look. (One can see this by comparing a 1922 annual photo of it with one taken in 1932.) Its move was its death. In a few years the Southwestern cemetery returned to Kansas dust and its moldering heaps were nothing more than a memory, imploring the passing tribute of a sigh. Dean Allen—the father of the Mound Ceremony—appears to have encouraged its demise. Writing in 1942, Dr. Allen said, "Another tradition that has fallen into disuse is the graveyard. But I don't care! The idea was to bury our defeated foes. This was always done with proper ceremony but I don't like the idea of a cemetery on our campus! We have room here for nothing dead! Let our rivals bury their own dead on their own campuses!" Perhaps a more important factor was that by the mid-1930s, the world was becoming a violent and bloody place. Communists, Fascists, and Nazis, along with Japanese imperialists, were putting their real life opponents into real graves. The idea of a Methodist college having on its campus a cemetery, if only a fake one, in which to bury the school's opponents had lost its appeal. But the cemetery idea did not die out totally. Its shade reappears, if only briefly, from time to time. For instance,

in a homecoming scene depicting a football player with shovel and two gravestones, one identifying the place as "SC Boot Hill" and another with the name of the opposition team and "Trampled to Death, Nov. 15."

Societies (Continued from page 15)

party or parties to join. This has been an issue throughout the history of the college and continues through the present day. An excerpt from a *Students Handbook*, dated 1925-1926, best describes the challenges of participating in multiple organizations:

"Practically every new student entering SC, no matter what may be his or her individual interest or talent, will find some organization within the school for that particular interest. The student cannot expect to belong to all of these organizations but should choose only those of which he feels he can contribute the most and from which he can derive the most good." (14)

Did You Know (Continued from page 3)

* They were called the Flying Builders. During the 1940s Southwestern had an aviation program. They flew out of Strother Field Airport. The first woman to receive her licence from this program was Vivian Compton (now Vivian Glenn). She said the only time she could get away with wearing pants to her classes was when she had her flying instruction directly before or after her class, otherwise, she would have gotten in trouble with the Dean of Women, Chalcea White.

* Alvin the Alligator came to SC in 1960 as a baby along with another alligator. It was meant as a joke,

but became a well known college legend. They were named Pi and Ep (after the Pi Epsilon fraternity.) But, one of the alligators got hungry and ate the other one, so the living one came to be known as "Alvin." When he died, in January of 2000, it was found that "he" was really a "she."

* Winfield was a huge oil community. SC campus was not exempt. SC had at least three oil derricks. One was approximately where Wroten Hall is currently, another was on top of the hill where the Richardson Auditorium stage is now, and the last one was down by the Admissions Building (the old President's House).

* The big "S" used to be north of town on a hill. In 1965 the students decided that it needed to be on campus and moved it to "SC" hill where it is located now and added the "C" to the "S".

* May Fete festival used to be a big deal on campus including a queen and her court that she picked. It was set up like a wedding where the participants would parade down the 77 Steps to the May Fete Green which is located at the top of the hill. (You can see it from the library.) In



1967, theatre students found stones from old north hall and in 1980 the stones were placed behind the green as a stage to make it stand out since the tradition of the May Fete was stopped in 1965 due to changing times.

* While we have the Sunday Sundae as a campus mixer, the tradition used to be a Tug-of-War between the classes. They would have freshmen on one side of the moat at Island Park and upper classmen on the other, and the losing class would end up in the moat.

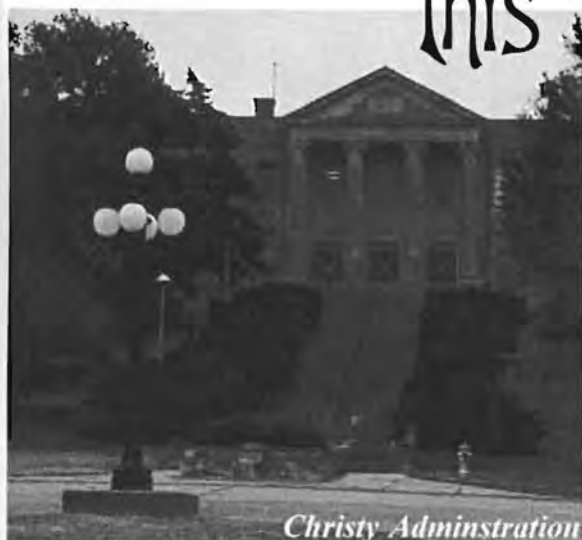
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That Was Then, This Is Now...

Southwestern College 2001



Christy Administration



Welcome Center



*Construction of
new women's
dorm*



2000-2001 Tri-Beta



Warren Apartments



Beech Science Center and Mabee Laboratory Complex

