Ecology is a hot term . . .

at Ol' Mizzou, as well as on other campuses across the land. People everywhere are justifiably concerned about pollution, a concern that was expressed on the Columbia campus at an environmental teach-in.

Marine Captain David D. Bradley (BS Agr '66) pointed out a pertinent contradiction in all of this ecology talk on a visit to the campus last month to, we're happy to report, pay his alumni dues.

He was concerned about the "mundane maneuver of (students) walking on the grass . . . Perhaps my midwestern middleclass mind could more readily accept such behavior if the offenders were wild-eyed revolutionaries. But no, these offenders are clean-cut young men and frail little girls braving the chilly winds in their miniskirts.

"The most ridiculous sight to which I have been treated in a long while was a young man, eyes bright with idealism, green ecology button displayed proudly on his chest, striding purposefully across the quadrangle grass. While this lad talks a great game of clean water and unpolluted air, he is stamping out the grass that manufactures the oxygen that purifies the air.

"Ecology my foot!" —S.S.

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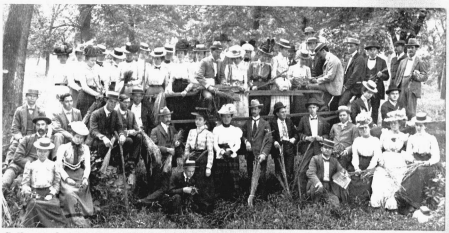


College of Agriculture short courses long have been popular. The picture of a summer session was taken in 1901 on the southwest corner of the Red Campus.

YEAR OF THE AGGIE

By Cordell Tindall

The shouting, milling students greeted the special legislative committee from Jefferson City, then formed a protest parade which moved to the downtown district of Columbia. The demonstrators carried signs and posters, and one large picture of the administration building was edged in black crepe paper.

The date: June 1, 1886. The protest was prompted by the new catalog of the University, entitled "The Forty-fourth Catalogue of the Missouri Agricultural College and the University." Joining in the demonstration were academic, normal, law, medical and military students. The parade was made up of a threshing machine, a load of hay and students with pitchforks, hoes, shovels, spades, cowbells, and wheelbarrows.

This stormy scene indicates the attitude of students of other divisions of the University to the struggling new College of Agriculture. Perhaps this helps explain why ag students through the years have never quite integrated with the rest of the campus, holding themselves somewhat apart to enjoy their own activities.

Doubtless this has contributed to the *esprit de corps* of aggies, who are able to muster some 700-1000 loyal alumni each "Ag Day."

During the thirties ag students took special pride in their "White Campus" and trespassing on the green grass of that area brought prompt action with punishment to fit the seriousness of the crime — a dash down a paddle line that magically formed as the first notes of the "Whoooeee" battle cry were sounded.

But the years have brought respectability to the students of agriculture. And so in this centennial year of the College, the historic occasion of its founding in 1870 is being observed with special seminars and quiet, modest activity.

This approach scarcely is in keeping with the stormy years that preceded establishment of the agricultural school, nor the frustrating first 25 years of its tenuous existence.

Missouri, by rights, should have made an earlier start in giving its agricultural students their own college training. Controversy delayed the start of the school.

The Morrill Act of 1862, signed by President Abraham Lincoln, provided grants of public land for the establishment of schools to teach agriculture and the mechanic arts and military science.

This was the basis for the system of land grant colleges across the nation which developed new concepts in education — training at a university level in applied sciences for the many in contrast to a liberal arts education for a favored few.

Later, the Hatch Act set up a plan by which agricultural experiment stations were established to provide research that could be applied on actual farms of the state. Thanks to this novel scheme, we Americans are blessed with a bounty of food at relatively low prices. But our agricultural school was far from being an immediate success.

Typically, a hassle developed over the location of the land grant college. Have you ever wondered why so many of our adversaries in the Big Eight have such names as Oklahoma State or Kansas State?

Had there been any degree of agreement on a new location, doubtless we would have a Missouri State University. Efforts were made to locate the proposed new school in Cole, St. Charles, Pettis, Franklin, Callaway, and Jackson counties.

The influential Missouri Horticultural Society, as well as the powerful State Board of Agriculture, was of the opinion that the agricultural school should be a separate institution.

But the curators of the University, with support from Boone Countians, persisted and so the General Assembly was unable to reach any decision until January 1870. The vote to put the school at Columbia was 79 to 41 in the House, 19 to 10 in the Senate. One-fourth of the land grant funds (which amounted to more than $300,000) was to go to establish a school of mines, later located at Rolla.

Boone County put up some $30,000 and a 640-acre farm as insurance to get the school. The farm land was to be the exclusive property of the ag school for all time, an agreement since frequently ignored by University officials.

Just as the Indians have reoccupied Alcatraz, aggies may some day repossess the new multi-purpose auditorium. As aggies are wont to observe, it will hold a sight of hay!

Just about everybody, except farmers, were pretty excited about the prospects of the new school. But the great plans and promises failed to materialize. The first dean of the new school, George C. Swallow, was an imminent geologist but somewhat of a dreamer. He complained that it was mostly the fault of the University officials, but he was unable to get the school off the ground.

While claiming to have 100 students enrolled in agriculture, the truth boiled down to the fact they might have had one bona fide aggie. Swallow was invited to resume his career in geology in 1882.

Next, J. W. Sanborn was imported from New England. He has since been immortalized by Sanborn Field, oldest continuous research crops and soils farm west of the Mississippi. Remarkably, this valuable piece of real estate remains devoted to its original use.

Sanborn set up a two-year course and offered any farm boy with "common school education" the privilege of getting a college education. Later the liberal admission policy was almost the school's undoing, students from time immemorial have had the ability to recognize instantly a "snap" course.

Colman's Rural World, the farm magazine watchdog of agricultural activities in that day, commended Sanborn for his energy in getting the farm back to a state of respectability.

But some groups still were clamoring for separation of the ag school from the University, and these people were after Sanborn's scalp. Finally, the

The 1916 Farmers' Fair and Horse Show was held at old Rollins Field.

General Assembly voted to withhold any appropriation from the University until Sanborn was dismissed.

Literally, the last straw came when Sanborn's fine barn burned. Sanborn made a two-hour address to the General Assembly and attacked personally the president of the Board of Curators and some of its members. The position of curator has been under attack for some years, it would seem.

Anyway, Sanborn was forced out, and Edward E. Porter took over. He was another New England native, and his biggest asset was to win arguments by appearing to agree with his adversary. During his regime more progress was made, especially in establishing a true agricultural curriculum. But talk of separating the school from the University lingered. Porter died after serving six years as dean.

Next, a graduate of the University of Missouri, was asked to take over the helm of the college — Henry J. Waters. The school got three major buildings during his administration, Waters Hall, Whitten Hall, and the Dairy Building. At least the college was showing progress in delivering on the promises made so many years — of teaching the science of farming.

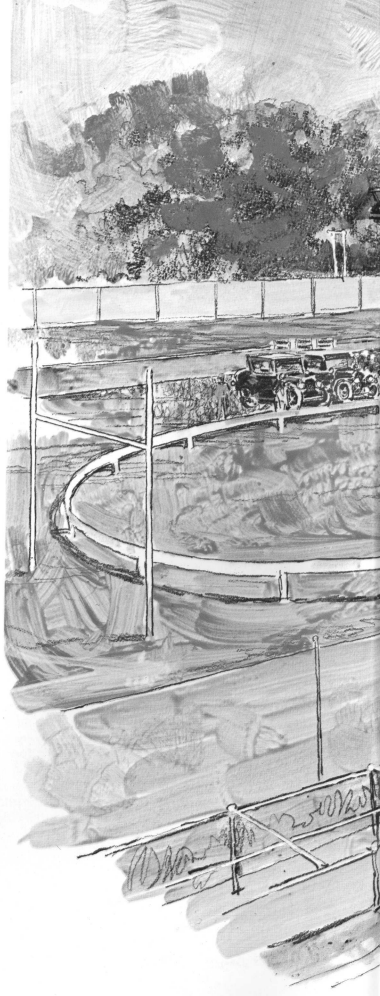
The Experiment Station was beginning to make its contributions, too. Dr. J. W. Connaway was a member of the team to develop an inoculation for preventing Texas fever. Later he was to gain fame for his hog cholera serum.

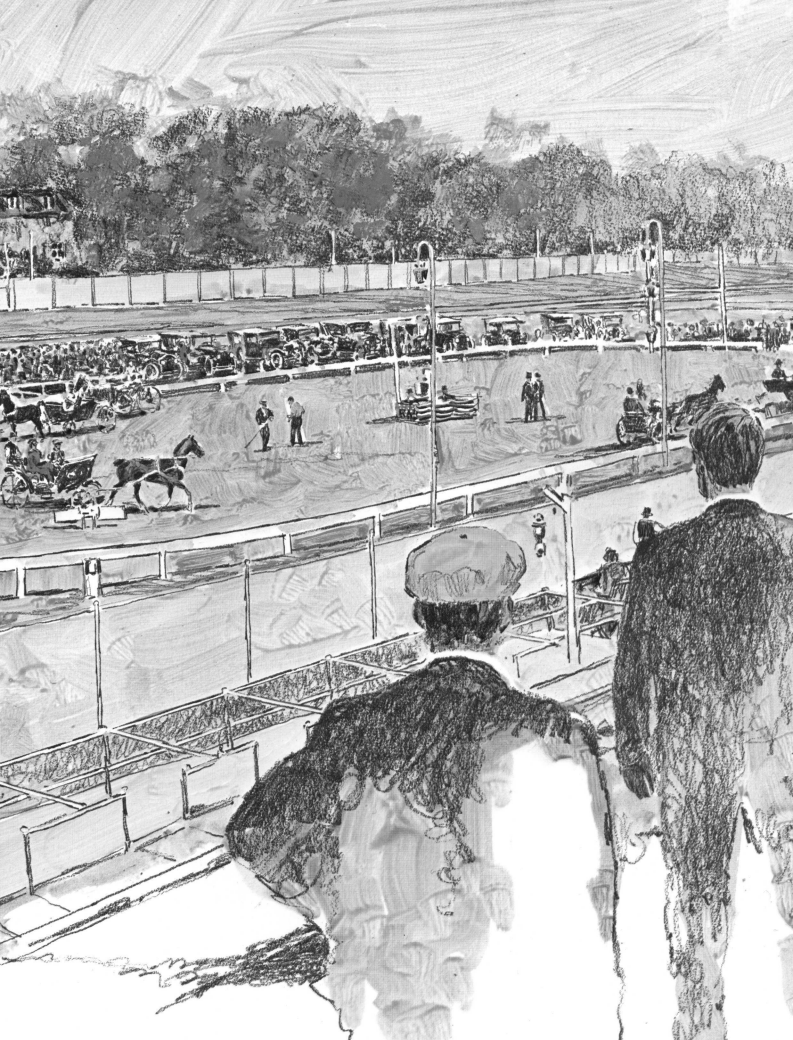
The station also promised to study reservoirs for irrigating crops, a project that just last year got another start at the Southwest Research Center at Mt. Vernon.

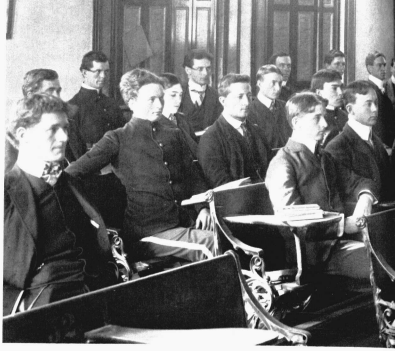
In 1909 Dean Waters resigned to go to Kansas State, and young F. B. Mumford took over. It was rumored that Waters went to Kansas State because it was a separate institution and offered more possibilities. Old controversies in academic circles die hard.

It is impossible to list here all of the accomplishments of all the deans. But most observers credit Mumford with putting the Missouri College of Agriculture "on the map." His was a long term, from 1909 to 1938, and he was in charge during the period when agriculture itself was making rapid progress.

Mumford was a stern, reserved but sincere man. He had little rapport with students, and he could never understand why his graduates did not choose







Dean F. B. Mumford, pictured teaching in the early 1900s, long was the guiding force of the College.

The proclamation at right announced the first Farmers' Fair. By 1920 pretty girls had been added.

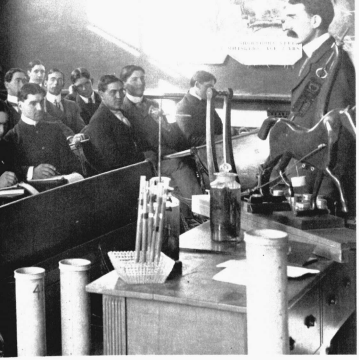
PROCLAMATION!

WHEREAS: The dark of the moon in March is the time at which every effort of the farmer is attended with the greatest of success; Potatoes planted at this time make the largest yield; Rail fences will not sink into the ground; Cattle dehorned will not bleed; Grafts are successful.

THEREFORE: One day during this magic period should be and hereby is, set apart as a holiday for the College of Agriculture.

This day falls upon Saturday the 11th day of March, 1905.

N. B.---Professors are excused from classes. Parade at the usual hour. Subscribe for the "Farmer." Yours Truly.



to return to the farm. Most of all, he was an able administrator and was skillful in selecting good men to surround him.

Outstanding in their fields were E. A. Trowbridge (animal husbandry), W. C. Etheridge, (field crops), W. A. Albrecht (soils), and M. F. Miller (soils), to name just a few. In the system that rewarded veteran department chairmen, Trowbridge and Miller were later elevated to the position of dean. But that system changed (alumnus John Longwell was "imported" from North Dakota), and nowadays the position of department chairman has been de-emphasized so that chairmen are "rotated," much as crops were in the good old days. In these times of budgets, federal and industry grants and everything in quadruplicate, the chairmanship is an administrative job. Not so in the days when department chairmen were out to win the respect of the farmers of the state. Each chairman had his personal following, who faithfully flocked to the campus for "Farmers Week" and other events.

In reviewing the accomplishments of the College of Agriculture, perhaps the greatest of all is the general acceptance by the men who till the soil of "book learning."

Specific accomplishments, such as the introduction of Korean lespedeza, a thrifty legume for not-so-fertile soil, can be listed. The work of Samuel Brody in basic metabolism was not so well understood by the man-on-the-farm, but this type of research brought worldwide recognition to the ag campus faculty. Today, for example, an agricultural chemist, Dr. Charles W. Gehrke, is on the team examining moon rock specimens, a signal honor.

The natural conservatism of college faculty sometimes meant that the College opposed new ideas. A notable example is hybrid corn. Charles Helm, a fiery crops expert who made many notable contributions (example: winter barley) vigorously opposed hybrids and faithfully defended his favorite open-pollinated variety, Midland Yellow Dent.

E. A. Trowbridge's enthusiasm for fine horseflesh somewhat blinded him to the economies of mechanical tractors; so he was busy setting up multiple-hitch demonstrations for draft horses until it was difficult to find enough horses for the hitches.

But such classic miscalculations can be forgiven for they are far outweighed by the practical, sound advice offered through the years.

Under the leadership of J. W. Burch, a statewide Agricultural Extension Service was developed to take this technical information out in the state. Burch was a man to get a lot for his money, his devoted crop of dedicated workers took the crusade of improved farming techniques to the people. Keys to the program's success were on-the-farm demonstrations and local leaders. County agents showed the housewife how to cull the hens that did not lay, the corn grower how to pour on the fertilizer to boost yields and to correct the acidity of the soil with lime. Local leaders were trained for programs for women and for farm boys and girls (called 4-H Clubs).

This extension of university knowledge proved so successful that now the same principles are being applied to all divisions of the University, and the Extension agents represent all four campuses. This development has been viewed with some suspicion by aggies, who still are sensitive to any suggestion of dilution of the agricultural effort.

Today, the Missouri College of Agriculture stands proud and esteemed by the farm families of the state. Dean Elmer Kiehl recalls, with some envy, the days when Dean Mumford ran the College out of two file cabinet drawers. It's a complex college now, with a reorganized structure which takes in such subjects as atmospheric science and food technology as well as agronomy and livestock.

But "the College still is people," Dean Kiehl says, "and the College stands ready to serve the people." □

Long-time editor of the Missouri-Ruralist *magazine, Cordell Tindall is a recognized authority on national agricultural trends and an interested observer of the College of Agriculture, from which he was graduated in 1936.*