

Reminiscence

ENTWINED deep in the history of Drake university are numerous traditions, dear to the hearts of past graduates. While we plan for the future, too few of us hesitate and turn back to learn of the past, where insignificant incidents have become worthy of repetition throughout the years.

Each day thousands of people, faculty and students, pass Chancellor's Elm, little knowing that it was from among the branches of the old tree that George T. Carpenter, then on the faculty of Oskaloosa college, looked out over the timber and decided that the site would be admirable for the establishment of Drake university. For it had long been the dream of a group of men to bring a school of higher learning to this, the capital city of Iowa. Mr. Carpenter was so thrilled by the site that he knelt at the base of the tree and offered up the prayer that Drake might become the institution that it is today. The school, when organized, was named after Francis Marion Drake, of Centerville, one of the school's earliest benefactors. Mr. Drake later became governor of Iowa.

Perhaps there is no time that brings back memories and practices of old traditions as do the days of graduation. The senior class play, generally the opening event of the celebrations, is followed by a senior class serenade for the professors. In 1914 the practice which has since become so traditional, began without forethought or plan. During a reception, after, at the home of Dr. Bell, then president of Drake, the seniors remarked to their class father, Daniel W. Morehouse that they wished the party could continue, so they were invited to go to Dr. Morehouses' to partake of sandwiches, after which a serenade was suggested. Now not only the serenade but the party at the class father's home has become a yearly event.

During the afternoon following the graduation exercises, various colleges hold meetings long since become traditional. The Liberal Art's graduates carry the Ivy Chain, cut from the vines upon the Administration building, about the campus from hall to hall, pausing before each to review their past work within the rooms of the structure. At the end of the procession, Dr. Morehouse cuts the chain, separating the class after their four years of unity. In preceding years, the class has been addressed by their class father, who bids them farewell.

At the same time, the College of Education has been wont to hold a meeting in the chapel auditorium in appreciation of its seniors. Here the symbols of education, the ring and book, are honored.

Later in the afternoon, the entire senior class gathers about to pass the Peace Pipe around. This ceremony was inaugurated in 1903 by the graduating class of that year and carries upon its stem the original colors of that class. Each year the outgoing seniors have added their class colors to the stem. The ceremony in 1928 was unusually interesting in that members of the class originating the ceremony were presented on the campus for a reunion and participated in the ritual. Emma Scott, registrar, is custodian of the pipe.

Immediately following the presentation of diplomas since 1923, each graduating group has assembled before the steps of the administration building, there to be welcomed into the alumni circle by Robert Finch, alumni secretary and originator of the idea, and by other prominent alumni.

It has become a custom in the past years to designate one day each year in chapel as a day of recognition for the various colleges of the university. As early as 1898, the Liberal Arts college recognized their seniors in a chapel service and address. Within a few years other colleges had adopted the idea.—Law with its Green Bag day, Fine Arts, Education and Bible with their distinct days.

Perhaps not exactly a tradition, yet of unique interest, is the fact that all of the diplomas ever awarded by Drake university have born the signature of George A. Jewett, treasurer. In order that this might be an absolute truth, Mr. Jewett, upon learning that one diploma issued to a member of the second graduating class of this university, failed to carry his signature, searched for the man and traveled across the continent to California, that he might add his name to the list of signatures.

One of the earliest social events of the school year is the annual Grind in the women's gymnasium, sponsored by the Drake Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. This get-together party is as old as the school, though once it was but a reception. But since the custom of having a "Grind Card" upon which those attending scratch their signatures has come into use, the term "Grind" has gradually come into being as an appropriate name for the affair.

It may be a bit inappropriate to speak of the blue and white freshmen caps as a legendary heritage of this campus, for there has been many a year that the incoming freshmen boys have so rebelled at the very thoughts of wearing so cognizable and significant a trade mark, that the idea has often been given up.

Perhaps few visitors really notice the fact that they see no smoking on the campus, yet it is almost certain that if, in the midst of abstainers, some daring fellow would take a drag on a Lucky, it would be noted by all. For it has been a tradition since the beginning of Drake that neither faculty and authorities nor the students themselves who have grown to reverence a custom born with the founding of the university, would tolerate smoking on the campus.

In 1899 the senior class for the first time left behind them upon graduation some marker of their presence here, for upon that date the Cornerstone of the present chapel and auditorium was laid, a tribute from the outgoing class. Since then many such gifts have been made, as a walk about the campus would prove. In the auditorium there are large statues, among them "Diana, the Huntress" presented by the class of 1900. Even the very clock beside the stage is a memorial. Each day we pass up the steps on the southwest corner of the campus which bear the numerals of the class of 1920. But it would become wearisome to write or to read of the whole of these gifts, so it must suffice to mention but the few.

The cannons which so threateningly guard the campus saw service for their country during the Spanish American war. They were later presented to this institution by Congressman A. T. Hull. Several years earlier than the memories of the present students can carry them back, there swung a bell from the tower of the Administration building. And the students in the earlier days of this century would listen yearningly to hear the peals of the great bell. For they said to the listener "WE'VE WON—WE'VE WON"—they represented a victorious football team—another victory for Drake in some field. But there came a time when the old bell became cracked and some marauder found a better use for the hammer. Yet even then the bell persisted to in a broken voice pitched by a hammer in the hands of a human, to exclaim over triumphs. Then came the recent World War and the government called for gifts of bell metal, to be made into ammunition. And the old bell was lifted from its place in the tower and in the clamor of shell fire, sounded another victory of greater importance than ever before.

Some years ago, during the time when Miss Given was head of the women's athletic department, a May Day festival was sponsored each May 1 by the W. A. A. It has since become impossible to hold the event in the spring because of other activities, so the Womens' Musical Comedy was later inaugurated in its place. Each year all girls of the university are asked to try their skill at writing a plot for the musical skit and original plots are often used. The parts and chorus places are open to all young women students.

One of the best known traditions in Drake's history is the annual Homecoming celebrations and all of its traditional events. It has become a custom for the homecoming football game to be played with Grinnell and Ames on alternate years. There has long been in possession of Drake and Grinnell a replica of the Old Oaken Bucket, which remains in the guardianship of the winning school the remainder of the year after the important game is played. Upon its side are painted the date and scores of the annual games from 1898 to the present time. The Barbecue and Circus which are always a part of the Homecoming ceremonies, were originated in 1915 by Arthur Kirk and Lawrence Lane, students of the university.

Each edition of the Quax carries within its pages the pictures of six representative junior and senior students of the university. There has come to be a yearly election by all the student body to select these six to appear in the "Who's Who" section, the names of which are not divulged until distribution of the year-book.

Not least among the list of Drake traditions come those concerning the school sports. Each year we cry "Chew 'em up, BULLDOGS" and we are instructed by our cheerleader to end a yell with three rousing "BULLDOGS" never thinking where our team acquired such a name.

So in delving deep into history, we have found that one—Major Griffith was coach of the football team in 1915. In his possession he had two very fine bulldogs whom he greatly loved. With every invasion of the field by the team, there stood on the sidelines with the coach these dogs in leash, mascots of the boys in blue. Until at last the team themselves, because of their fighting qualities, came to be known by the term "BULLDOGS".

With the coming of Ossie Solem as coach in 1920, another incident occurred which has become traditional in the past nine years. At the close of Ossie's first season here, the boys held a celebration before a huge bonfire on the football field. The captain led the squad around the fire, and as they halted, threw an old football shoe over his shoulder. According to the direction that the shoe falls, it is said that the luck of the team for next years' games may be determined. And modern history this fall tells us that the shoe foretold the best of luck for 1929.

There are few who have attended Drake who will ever fail to thrill to the tune of the traditional song of the university, whose words express the ideals of youth—

"Here's to the man who wears the "D"
 Makes a good fight for Varsity
 Here's to the man who's fought and won,
 Made a good fight as a true Drake son;
 Here's to the man who's brave and bold,
 Ready to battle as knights of old;
 Fights like a bulldog for victory!
 Oh, here's to the man who wears the "D".