

The Centennial in Retrospect

The Centennial Year at Iowa State College was a time for summing up accomplishments, for making comparisons between old and new, and also for taking a long look ahead at new responsibilities and opportunities. In the beginning there was instruction in sciences relating particularly to agriculture and industry, plus a farm where research could extend knowledge and where demonstrations could be held. Identical components are found in the program of the College now — teaching, research and extension services.

The differences are in the way the College has grown and adapted itself to the changing needs of the state and of the nation. A farmhouse, a few outbuildings and a single College hall have become a physical plant valued at approximately fifty million dollars. The original College Farm of 648 acres has become a campus of 460 acres, plus more than 6,000 acres of research and demonstration areas at Ames and throughout the state. A handful of professors, a matron and a farm superintendent have become a faculty of approximately one thousand with hundreds of clerical, technical and maintenance helpers.

The five well-defined divisions — Agriculture,

Home Economics, Engineering, Science, and Veterinary Medicine — which emerged early in the twentieth century, have each grown and flourished. A sixth academic division, the Graduate College, is present throughout the work of all the others, and in recent years has risen rapidly in importance. The demands of science and technology have required persons with training well beyond the baccalaureate level, and Iowa State ranks high among technical institutions in the awarding of advanced degrees. At the century mark, it was awarding approximately 125 doctoral degrees, and more than 200 master of science degrees each year.

In fulfilling its second major function, that of research and the finding of new knowledge, the College has organized its efforts into the Iowa Agricultural and Home Economics Experiment Station, the Iowa Engineering Experiment Station, the Industrial Science Research Institute, the Veterinary Medical Research Institute, the Institute for Atomic Research, and the Statistical Laboratory.

The effectiveness of the Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics can be suggested by a few statistics. More than 50,000 boys and girls are enrolled in 4-H work under the College direction in 1958. About 1,000 printed and mimeographed publications are produced in a year, and more than 3,350,000 copies distributed.

County extension workers visited nearly 100,000 farms and homes annually.

Approximately 20,000 people come to the campus each year for conferences and short courses which deal not only with agricultural matters, but with home economics, engineering sciences, veterinary medicine and technology, sponsored officially by the College. Untold thousands more use the campus as headquarters for meetings, or come individually or in small groups. Additional thousands attend field days and meetings held under College auspices in every county in the state.

So thoroughly has the small Agricultural College become a great *University*, that on numerous occasions it has been suggested the name be changed to reflect this fact. Alumni and faculty members, a sentimental and modest group, generally did not favor these suggestions. So while a number of other states have officially designated their colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts by the term "University," the institution at Ames has clung to its College designation.

The Centennial Year itself was observed with quiet dignity by a three-phase celebration. Founders' Day, March 22, was marked by a convocation in the College Armory, at which President James L. Morrill of the University of Minnesota gave the main address, and by a luncheon in Memorial Union for representatives from academic circles, government, the student body, alumni and friends

of the College. This was followed, during the next three days, by a series of academic symposia, conducted in the areas in which the College has paramount interests, and at which leaders in these fields were speakers. The second part of the celebration was later in the spring, and was largely undergraduate in nature. Veishea was keyed to the Centennial theme.

A final phase was the Centennial Commencement when the College honored especially its alumni, staff members and friends whose service to the College had been outstanding, or whose work had reflected honor upon the College.

Said President Hilton at Centennial time:

The record of distinguished service to Iowa and to the world which Iowa State College has made during its first century is but a prologue to what lies ahead of this great institution. Certainly the next 100 years will bring many new responsibilities and many new opportunities.

While the teaching of science and technology is a first responsibility of Iowa State, the faculty recognizes the need of a broad general education. Scientists, engineers, farmers and homemakers are first of all citizens who must be prepared for leadership and living in a complex world.

Iowa State proposes to assume its responsibilities in the next century as it has in the past. In meeting this challenge, I am certain that the College will have the active support of the citizens of Iowa, who traditionally have believed in the benefits to be derived from institutions of higher learning and have willingly made the necessary sacrifices to support them.

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