

UNIVERSITY of KANSAS

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1950

GRADUATE MAGAZINE

April-May, 1950



Nature's
Own
Laboratory

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY NOW you have received your ballot for the 1950 alumni election. If you have not already voted, I urge you to do so immediately. The Alumni Association adopted the mail ballot form of election 24 years ago because it was felt to be the democratic way of choosing alumni officers, rather than to have them chosen by a small group of people attending the annual alumni meeting.

A few months ago I appointed two splendid nominating committees and told them to get the strongest candidates possible. I am sure you will agree with me that the "Crimson" and "Blue" tickets composed of Kenneth A. Spencer for President, Dr. Charles K. Shofstall for Vice President, with August W. Lauterbach and Laura Harkrader Campbell for Directors on the "Crimson" ticket; and Dolph Simons for President, Paul Adam for Vice President, with Margaret Heizer O'Neil and Henry Bubb for Directors on the "Blue" ticket, are excellent slates—except that we would not comment on the last name. It seems customary to nominate the outgoing president for a place on the board.

I would like also to call your attention to Commencement on June 3, 4, and 5, particularly to Alumni Day which will be Sunday, June 4. On that day we will have the annual alumni meeting in the afternoon and the annual alumni commencement supper that evening. The Class of 1900 will have more than 50 members back for their golden anniversary. This will be twice as many as we have ever had at a 50-year reunion before. The Class of '25 will probably break all records for a quarter century reunion. The Class of '40 is making plans for a grand ten-year meeting, the '10 folks are to have a 40-year celebration and some of the other classes are also planning activities.

I think you will be proud to see our 1950 class. They have done a great job in planning their activities through the year, to culminate in Commencement exercises, and it will be a glorious sight to watch some 2400 of them receive their degrees. May I urge you again to vote and to attend the Commencement exercises.

Henry A. Bubb

Graduate Magazine

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
Published by the Alumni Association

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MILDRED CLODFELTER, b'41, Assistant Secretary; MARVIN B. SMALL, '49, Assistant Secretary
JANICE JOHNSON, '49, Assistant Editor.

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CLAUDE CHALFANT, f'27, First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Hutchinson.	VIRGINIA HUTSON GETTO, '28, 1021 Maine, Lawrence.

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More Life Members

Both nominees for alumni president have sent in joint Life Memberships to boost the big Life Membership campaign being conducted by George Nettels, 1948-49 president. Regardless of who wins, be it Dolph Simons or Ken Spencer, next year's number one alumni couple will have their names on the permanent honor roll of the Alumni Association. All those who have been added to the list since the February 1 count include:

Susan Monroe Alexander, '25; F. C. "Tim" Bannon, fs'28; Beverly Jean Stucker Bennett, '46; F. Ransom Bennett, Jr., b'45; Josephine Marshall Berry, '35; Dr. M. G. Berry, '31, m'33; Glenn H. Bramwell, e'07; Ruby Phillips Bramwell, '09; Leland W. Browne, e'25, g'29; Maud Ellsworth, fa'33; Robert H. English, b'36; Hugh Clair Gillin, Jr., '50; Frank Weston Goodnow, e'22; Lowell L. Grady, '28; Herman Hangen, '19; Charles F. Heath, '24; W. Allen Mansfield, b'39, g'41; Miller Nichols, '33; John F. Patt, '26; Ruth Richardson Patt, fs'28; Roy A. Roberts, fs'08; Dolph Simons, '25; Marie Nelson Simons, '28; Harold H. Spencer, fs'20; Hazel Cook Spencer, fs'21; Helen Foresman Spencer, fs'26; Kenneth A. Spencer, '26; William C. Spencer, e'49; Lester Suhler, '30; Thomas M. Van Cleave, '08; Thomas M. Van Cleave, Jr., '36, f'38; Caroline Brink Van Cleave, '36; Nell DeHart Weaver, fs'19.

Cover Picture

It was hoped that the title "No Man's Land" could be used for the feature story this month, but when the cover picture chosen was one showing the author picking her way through a woody path on the reservation, that title appeared a little ridiculous. "Nature's Own Laboratory" therefore appears in big type on page five.

Represent K.U.

The following have represented the University of Kansas at academic ceremonies, including one anniversary celebration:

Lois Lawson Meigs, '33, inauguration of Thomas Lafayette Popejoy as president of University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N. M., June 4.

Frank A. Hartman, '05, g'09, inauguration of Arthur Sherwood Flemming as president of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, June 11.

Dr. Orcena F. Knepper, '26, m'30, inauguration of Riley Benjamin Montgomery as president of the College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky., Sept. 27.

Dean George B. Smith, Dean of the School of Education, inauguration of Morton Christy Cunningham as president of Fort Hays State College, Sept. 30.

Kirk Hilton, '15, 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo., Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1.

C. H. Mullen, '39, inauguration of John Scott Everton as president of Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Mich., Oct. 7.

Warren V. Moody, '22, inauguration of James Roscoe Miller as president of Northwestern University, Oct. 7.

R. M. Stimmel, '20, inauguration of Frank Bringle McIntosh as president of Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, Oct. 9.

George B. Hamilton, e'37, inauguration of John J. Theobald as president of Queens College, Flushing, N.Y., Oct. 11.

Kathryn Challiss Pollock, '24, inauguration of Will W. Orr as president of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., Oct. 14.

Lou Kinne Hawes, '06, inauguration of William Bay Irvine as president of Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, Oct. 15.

Dorothy Gayford Zimmerman, '24, g'25, inauguration of Clarence Charles Stoughton as president of Wittenburg College, Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 21.

Milton S. Health, '20, inauguration of Arthur Hollis Edens as president of Duke University, Durham, N.C., Oct. 22.

REUNION EVERY DAY

The Hutchinson News-Herald should be a rattling good paper. Dixie Gilliland, '47, and Cleo Norris, j'46, are on the society desk; Frank Lane, j'48, and James B. "Bert" Morris, j'48, are ad men; Clarke Thomas, '48, and Fred Brooks, j'50, do reporting. News of this aggregation of "Shack" people came to the alumni office via Clarke, who stopped in for a chat. E. Lawson May, fs'20, is managing editor.

Nature's Own Laboratory

To Find How Man Can Use His Natural Resources More Wisely, University Zoologists Strive To Restore 590 Acres To A Primitive Habitat

This is one in a series of articles about unusual educational projects at the University

By JAN JOHNSON, '49

It is easy to forget civilization. Just a few minutes outside of Lawrence, for instance, on land north of the river, near the airport, one can walk into the woods and as easily as if a magical wand had been waved, imagine himself in the era before the University was founded, before the Kansas border war, before anyone but Indians knew the country. If he has a really good imagination, he might even see an Indian stepping through the trees.

The "Indian" is dressed in khaki field clothes and high-topped leather shoes. The observer's mind snaps its early 1800's vision shut, and the "Indian" is transformed into a resident naturalist. His name, as is likely in an academic age, turns out to be Dr. Henry S. Fitch, in charge of the University Natural History Reservation located on 590 acres of the old Robinson farm, 5 miles north and 1½ miles east of the University campus.

The wildlife reservation is a "back to nature" project. The aim of the place, according to Dr. E. Raymond Hall, chairman of the Department of Zoology and conceiver of the idea of the reservation, is to provide a permanent station for development of a long-time program of basic research. The research concerns the population dynamics of native animals and plants under natural conditions. The "under natural conditions" phrase excludes man, most often the deadliest enemy of animals.

NATIVE ANIMALS ARE STUDIED

The reservation provides an area easily accessible from the campus where qualified students in the natural sciences may pursue, with guidance, original research. Their findings may often be material for theses required for advanced degrees. Individual research projects underway at the reservation at the present time include a study of chiggers, a study of the cardinal or red bird, and a tricky research involving skunks.

Our "Indian" leads the way back along the trail into the woods of mixed hardwoods, and stops along a rocky



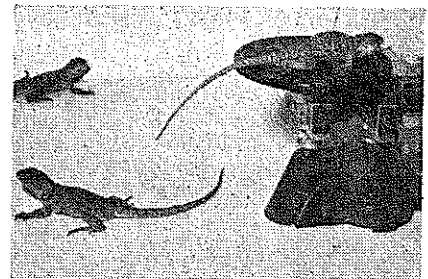
A SNAKE-TRAP invented by Dr. Henry S. Fitch is examined by him for prey. The ingenious live-traps are scattered along rocky ledges on the reservation. Dr. Fitch, a native Oregon Stater, had experience at the wild life reservation of the University of California, and after that time did extensive field work for the Department of Agriculture. He came to Kansas in 1947. Dr. Fitch's son, tired from hiking along the trap lines, sat down for the shot.

ledge to inspect a snake trap. A big black snake is coiled inside the wire, resting easily in the sun. Dr. Fitch lifts the snake out, inspecting it with interest, and drops it into a cloth bag. He notes the location of the catch: "50 feet east of squirrel stump in skunk woods." The snake is to be carried back to the laboratory, where it will be weighed and measured. If this particular snake has been trapped before, it will already have a card in a long file with its previous measurements recorded. If the snake is a new one, its scales will be marked in an individual way, and a card made out for it before the snake is released at the place of capture. The records and specimens are kept in a small laboratory. A much larger fireproof building is needed for the mounting number of projects, records and paraphernalia. A quick look at the fact that Dr. Fitch has "live traps" along a ten-mile line over the 590 acres—traps for all kinds of animals—and that he keeps minute data on each one, will give some idea of the staggering amount of accurate zoological data

which will be collected on the reservation over a number of years!

LAND APPEARANCE IS CHANGING

Our naturalist-scholar has a real Thoreau-can retreat on the Kansas prairie. A modern one-story house for himself and his family is snuggled down at the foot of a hill on the land, and the peace there is broken only by the woodland sounds. Dr.

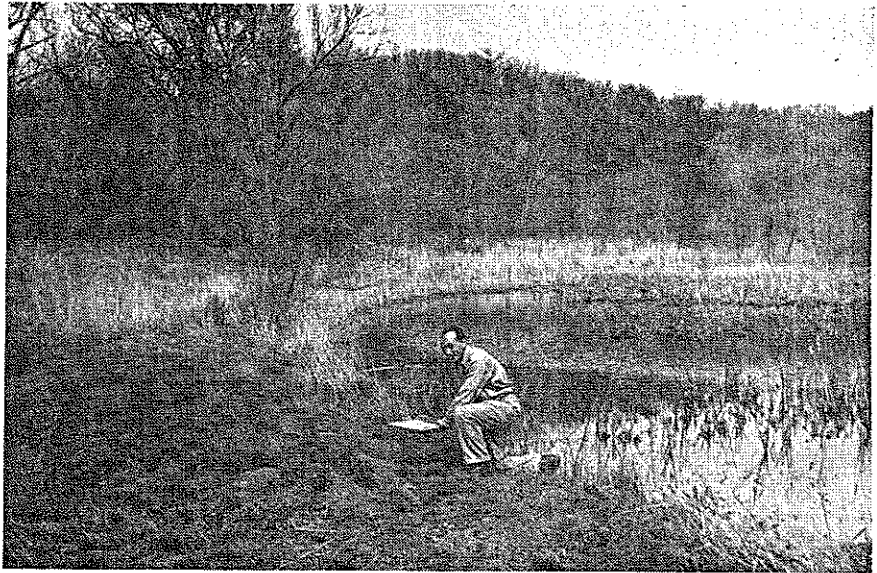


WEIGHING IN, a lizard has his size recorded and his toes clipped in order to mark him from all the other little lizards. Complete growth and habitat information is gathered on each animal trapped on the reservation before the animal is released to go about its natural life.

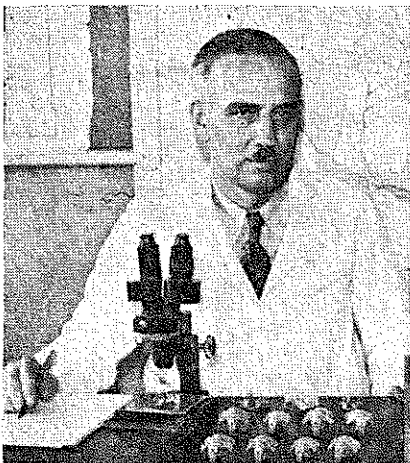
Fitch's days are interrupted, of course, by frequent field trips to the reservation made by classes in such subjects as ornithology, vertebrate natural history, animal ecology, and invertebrate zoology.

The appearance of the section of land, which has been a wildlife reservation only since 1948, has already begun to change. The grass is taller and thicker—the land looks shaggy. At one point, the brushy hillside meets a formerly cleared portion, which when cleared grew up in grass. What will happen now that man will not interfere further? Will the brush encroach upon the grass, or will the grasslands take over the brush? No one knows the answer because it has never been demonstrated.

Why does anyone want to know the answers to such questions as what



WILD DUCKS COME AND GO undisturbed on this natural pond on the reservation. Dr. Fitch kneels to renew the bait in an opossum trap. All traps on the place contain enough food to allow the animal, live-trapped, to feed amply till the researcher interested in it can study it and get its vital information down on numerous, detailed records.



AMERICAN MAN OF SCIENCE, Dr. E. Raymond Hall is nationally known for his work in vertebrate zoology. An alumnus of the University in '24, he received his Ph.D. from the University of California. He was awarded in 1942 a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship for study in zoology. The Guggenheim Fellowship is one of the highest recognitions that can come to a scientist. He was for a time in charge of the University of California zoological farm and when he returned to Kansas in 1944, began working on plans to set up such a reservation at Kansas with the added feature of use for teaching purposes.

happens when brush and grassland meet in Kansas? To reply to that, it is necessary to remember that one must know the "why" and "how" of happenings before he can control those happenings. The University reservation, it is hoped, will give practical knowledge of the benefits to be derived by protection of the land from abuse and exploitation. It will show control of erosion by natural vegetation after cultivation and grazing are stopped; it will demonstrate the gradual natural restoration of fertility and

disappearance of noxious weeds after discontinuance of overgrazing.

MORE PRACTICAL INFORMATION

With the accumulation and synthesis of data over periods of years, it may be expected also that the findings will have unforeseen practical applications such as revealing means of "biological control" of certain undesirable species such as weeds and rodent pests; revealing beneficial roles of certain animals in maintaining or restoring soil fertility; and revealing certain kinds of animals in the role of carriers and transmitters of diseases of man. Something in the latter category may be on the way to accomplishment. "Histoplasmosis" is a less dangerous disease than tuberculosis, though its leaves spotty lungs very similar to the lung indications caused by tuberculosis. Many patients diagnosed as tuberculosis cases and consigned to near-invalidism, may have had merely histoplasmosis. Recently, animals with histoplasmosis have been found on the reservation. The specimens have been turned over to the Public Health Service, and the scientists on the wildlife reservation will continue to cooperate in research on the disease. A kind of poetic justice would be worked if the reservation were instrumental in medical discoveries. Governor Charles Robinson, first governor of Kansas and a far-sighted believer in education, left his entire farm to the University in the hope that it might be used for a medical school.

It is certain that Governor Robinson, who could not possibly have im-

agined the worth of a wildlife reservation at the time that he lived, would be pleased to see a portion of the free soil of Kansas which he loved so much, protected and conserved, and used to help man find out how he can live with his land and his fellow creatures more wisely and well.

Advice for Carillon

Most of the country's leading carillonners have been consulted, in preparation for the installation of the Carillon for the University of Kansas. These included:

Arthur Bigelow—Princeton University
Robert Donnell, Peace Tower, Ottawa, Canada, president, American Guild of Carillonners.

Dr. Percival Price, University of Michigan.
Frederick Marriott, University of Chicago.
Anton Brees, Bok Tower, Florida.
Ira Schroeder, Iowa State College.
Ronald Barnes, Lincoln, Nebr.
Kamiel Lefevere, The Riverside Church, New York, past president, American Guild of Carillonners.

Staf Nees, International School of Carillonners, Mechlin, Belgium.
Robert Kleinschmidt, Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Dean Swarthout was sent on a special trip for consultation and consideration before the final choice of bell caster was made. He went to the University of Michigan, The Peace Tower at the Houses of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada, and the University of Chicago. The committee was determined to make every effort to insure that the Kansas carillon shall be the best obtainable in the world today.