

Elmer Manley: Life in Old Science Hall.

I came here in 1882. That was just a little while ago. Rev. C. G. Manley, my uncle, was financial secretary of this institution. He came down to Augusta where I lived, preached on Sunday and in the meantime went around taking subscriptions for Ottawa University. He came down and talked to my mother about coming up here and starting a boarding club for the University in the building. That appealed to me, a kid of 7 years, so I persuaded her to come up and we opened up a boarding club in the basement of the Old Science Hall. We ate in the north corner room and did the cooking in the south corner room. We had rooms on the second floor. Just across the hall was the room of the young lady who helped my mother cook ~~the~~ for the club. On the first floor of the east end of the building was one big room. That was the chapel. Just across the hall south of that was the class room. The north half of the building was the room devoted to a society known as the Olympian Society. We had a hard time finding that school. Sunflowers were 95 feet high. We walked out. They didn't have any side walks from 5th street out and we had to take the middle of the road. We dug through the sun flowers and found the school and went back and told the folks about it.

Professor Stewart was acting president that year. He got some fellows and axes and cut down the sun flowers. My mother started the boarding school and we lived there three years. At the age of 9 I had joined the Olympian Society. I can remember the names of a few of these fellows. In those days one half of the faculty brought her lunch to school and the other man went home. There were two teachers. I attended school at Ottawa University when I was 9 years old. I got barred from the public school on account of some of the boys up here having measles so they took me in up here and let me finish the school. They taught everything from A, B

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to Biblical Literature. I went to this school in 1883.

Dr. Hetrick:

I came in 1867. I didn't go to Ottawa University. I do know something about the old literary societies. It was ahead of the Olympian, called Calippean. They didn't have students enough to have a society so they called in from the brush those literary people from the town and one of our deacons from the church was one of the bright and shining lights. He had some powerful debates. We thought we would vary the program. Some bright lad suggested we have a symposium. We didn't know whether that was something good to ear or what it was so we referred it to the ministerial students. They had the only dictionary in town.

We didn't have any city water. We had just two wells in this town, an old town pump at the corner of first and Locust, and that spring down under the bridge. That was the source of supply.

The Caliopean Society referred this to the Ministerial Society.

Your boys and girls think you are so very much different from what us fellows were. You aren't much different, some of your girls are a little prettier than our girls were and some of you boys are wearing your hair in a different style from what I can wear mine. I can name some fellows that the school turned out that we can be proud of yet. One of the members of the Caliopean was a sargeant of the army, and he was sargeant in this way. The roughnecks turned him out instead of his throwing them out.

I saw the three thousand Indians that gave the war dance



Dr. Hetrick #2.

and it was a pretty thrilling thing but it was not anything compared to the thrilling things we had in the Caliopean Society. We had an orchestra and some pretty girls in the orchestra. One played a clarinet and one a flageolet, and they could pucker their lips the prettiest of any two girls I ever saw. Finally we decided that there should be two societies, a young ladies' society and a young gentlemen's society. Some of us old fellows quit.

We did learn by experience and it was the forerunner of the other splendid societies we have had since. We didn't have any religious societies. We had to get up a dog fight for amusement. I look back to those old days and I see Fred Dicklow and Fred Lewis and A. Holt and afterwards Billie Wilson. We didn't call him Dean Wilson then but we call him Dean Wilson now. When I think of these days, what did it do for the boys and girls of those days? What does it do for the boys and girls today. Did it teach them to get up before the people. We learned that other folks were just like us so we debated all the important problems of state. We settled the tariff question and the railroad problems and they are still working at them yet, but we had them settled. I did like to mingle around with the boys and girls and I like to keep in touch with them yet. I want to indorse one thing that Dean Emerson said. May Old Science Hall stand out. I would hate to come up there and not see Old Science Hall with all of its memories. I look at it and see it as I first saw it without any roof. Then I see it as I saw it 4 miles away when it burned that day. I hope that I can have some small part in restoring it once more. I hope that it may stand there for years to come, just like a church debt. I helped pay off the church debt three years ago and they still have it yet.

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