

Student Building IU trademark

If any building on the Indiana University campus could be said to be a trademark of the school, it would probably be the Student Building. Like true Cockneys, who must be born within the sound of bow bells in London, there are native Bloomingtonians, who have literally been born within the sound of the Student Building chimes.

AS ORIGINALLY conceived, the structure was to be called the Women's Building, instead of the Student Building. It was the wife of IU's ninth president, Joseph Swain, who felt that women students should have a building of their own. From that notion evolved an extraordinary outpouring of cooperation between town and gown and the first solicitation of financial help from alumni of the university.

One of the most compelling reasons for a women's building was that female students were scattered around Bloomington in rooming houses. The problem, according to Mrs. Swain, could be alleviated somewhat if the women had a building of their own, where they could meet on appropriate occasions. Her starting place for the project

Looking Back

By Rose H. McIlveen

was approval in principle by the university Trustees.

Unfortunately approval was all she was able to get in that quarter, since annual appropriations from the Legislature barely kept pace with the needs of an ever-increasing student body, and there just wasn't enough money for a new building.

UNDAUNTED, Mrs. Swain took her cause to Bloomington women's clubs, including the Local Council of Women, who had been responsible for the construction of the Bloomington Hospital. In response, the club and council women donated a sum of money to get the building fund started. She then went farther afield by accompanying President Swain to alumni meetings in Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, Evansville and Vincennes.

Her message at those meetings was

a simple one — alumni had the opportunity to return the favor of their IU education by contributing money for a new building. Though the solicitation of money from alumni raised some eyebrows, pledges began trickling into the fund.

The resignation of President Swain (to accept the presidency of Swarthmore College) caused only a minor setback in the campaign, and one of his last official acts was to write John D. Rockefeller to ask for help. The millionaire's reply, written June 9, 1902, said in part, "Understanding that \$60,000 is required to build and furnish a building for the social and religious needs of the men and women students at Indiana University . . . providing that, including that amount (\$14,000 already raised) a total of \$30,000 is subscribed in good responsible pledges, on or before Jan. 1, 1903, Mr. John D. Rockefeller will give \$30,000."

IT WAS UP to IU's next president, William Lowe Bryan, to take up the challenge, and he more than met it. In the end, Rockefeller gave an additional \$30,000 in matching funds. Ten

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