Views of Millersville State Teachers College

1928-1959
Millersville State Teacher’s College

HISTORY

Millersville enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Normal School in Pennsylvania, its first class having been graduated in 1858. Bridgewater in Massachusetts, Oswego in New York, and Millersville in Pennsylvania represented three distinct types of teacher training institutions and each enjoyed a national reputation. Three of Millersville’s early Principals, James Pyle Wickersham, Edward E. Brooks, and E. Oran Lyte, attained marked distinction as authors, platform speakers, and administrators. Each was fully abreast of his time in educational thought.

In many respects, Millersville became the model for later Normal Schools in Pennsylvania and other states. Until 1917, like all other Pennsylvania Normals, Millersville was partly a private institution. Since 1917 it has been entirely under state ownership and state control.

DEGREE CONFERRING POWER

In 1927 Millersville received authority from the State Council of Education to grant to students satisfactorily completing the new four-year course the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S. in Ed.). This gives the school collegiate rank.

LOCATION

To the question “Where is Millersville?” the answer is “In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania”—justly famed as the Garden Spot of America.

The village is situated four miles from Lancaster, a city of 60,000, thirty-six miles east of Harrisburg and sixty-eight miles from Philadelphia on the main line of the P. R. R. The Reading system also enters the city. Half-hour trolley service connects Millersville with Lancaster. The village is reached by automobile over a branch of the Lincoln Highway, thus offering to tourists excellent hard-surfaced roads from all directions.

The close proximity of Millersville to Lancaster affords teachers and students most excellent shopping facilities, as well as unusual opportunities to hear the very best in musical, platform, and pulpit talent. Special trolley service can always be secured for such occasions. Visits are also made to the many industrial plants that make Lancaster one of the most thriving cities in the state.

GROUND

Millersville enjoys the reputation of having the most beautiful campus in the state. The grounds, covering many acres, have been beautified by a well-known landscape gardener. Grand old historic trees, planted in early days, are still standing. To these have been added mass effects of evergreens and flowering shrubs, a picturesque artificial lake, terraces, walks, etc. An outdoor theater in a beautiful setting is now under construction. This will be used for pageants, Class Day exercises, etc. As an enthusiastic visitor from a distant state remarked after a tour of the grounds—“Millersville the Beautiful.”

BUILDINGS

DORMITORIES

Students are housed in two large dormitories, separated by the administration building. All rooms have been newly furnished in recent years, and made attractive and healthful by hard-wood floors, single beds and abundance of light and air. Rooms are both single and en suite. New lavatories were installed a few years ago in the gentlemen’s dormitory. During the past year, the lavatories in the ladies’ building have been rebuilt. Entirely new equipment of latest design has been installed with tiled floors and walls, both showers and tubs, electric pressing and curling irons, etc.

All students room in the dormitories, except those living with parents or other very near relatives. Registration automatically ceases when all rooms are taken. Experience and observation show this to be the part of wisdom, and thousands of parents have expressed their appreciation of this policy.

TRAINING SCHOOL

The training school building, located just across the street from the College buildings and on its own grounds, affords an excellent opportunity for student teaching. It is modern and well equipped with class-rooms, offices, kindergarten, cafeteria, library, auditorium, playrooms, etc. As it accommodates 450 pupils, seniors do not need to go to a distant city to secure their teacher training. A few seniors, however, go to Lancaster, arrangements having been made for their teaching under expert supervision. All senior teachers enjoy the close supervision of experienced and highly trained experts, one for each grade.
Student Life was vibrant at MSTC. The Page and Normal Literary Societies continued to be an important part of life on campus until 1956 when they were disbanded. Now there was also Library Science Club, Glee Club, Citamard, College Choir, Band, Dolphin Club and English Club, to name just a few. Greek life was becoming part of the student life as well.
Senior Class Play, 1928
Marching Band, 1937
May Day, 1939
In the classroom, 1940s
Dolphin Club, 1943
Bonfire, 1950
Student hangout: The Rat Race

Rat Race

A cup of coffee and a doughnut may mean little to an average colian, but to a Milwaukee student they mean that campus hangout, the Rat Race. Sponsored by the Student Council and run by Mick and Flora Lehr, the Rat Race also acts as a ballroom, a motion picture theater and, to those hungry day students, a lunch room.

To many a Marauder the day is not complete unless he stops in at the Old Gym for a quick card game, a gab session or a talk about academic problems with faculty members who also make Rat Race a regular coffee stop.

An atmosphere of friendliness and welcome gives this building its inviting air, and the colian who do not make a point of returning. The Student Council and the Lehrs together make Rat Race an essential part of college life.

From the 1954 Touchstone
Homecoming Queen, 1957
Dorm Life
Athletics

- Athletics continued to expand at MSTC.
Women’s Basketball Team, 1926
Cheerleaders, 1942-43
Archery, 1943
Men’s Basketball, 1943
Field Hockey, 1950
Wrestling, 1950
Football, 1957
Baseball, 1957
Dances were held on campus

1944

1950
Buildings and Landmarks

- Between 1928 and 1959 the following buildings were added:
  - President’s Residence
  - Brooks Hall
  - Laboratory School
  - Wickersham
  - Lyte Auditorium
  - Lyle Hall
  - Roddy Hall
Presidents House, 1931
Library, 1937
Laboratory School, 1944

Present day Byerly Hall
Lake, 1944
Brooks Hall, 1945
Campus, 1948
Wickersham Hall, 1952
Model School, 1954
Gymnasium, 1955

Present day Dutcher Hall
Industarial Arts building, 1957

Originally, Science Hall
Lyle Hall, 1950s
Lyte Auditorium, 1957

From the George Stauffer Slide Collection
Old Main, 1958
Description and History

From the 1960 Catalogue