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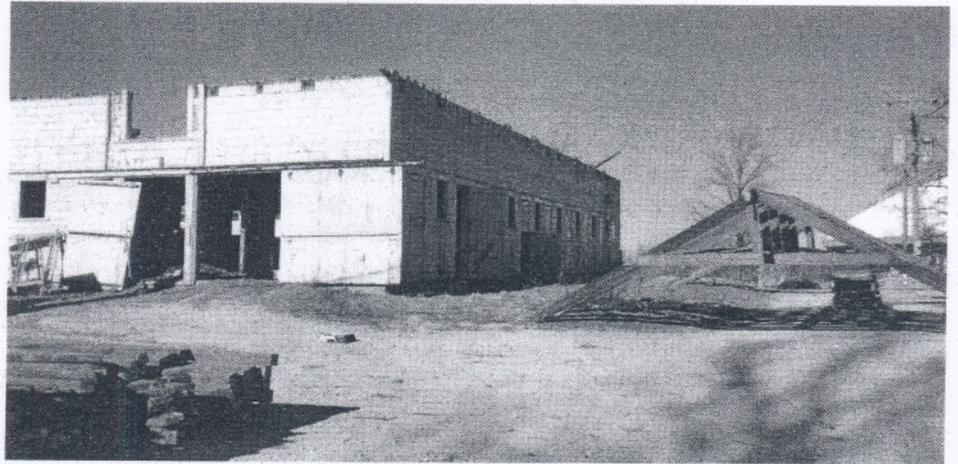
Focus On: The UI Sheep Barn

The College of Agriculture was an important part of the University of Illinois from its beginning; in fact many of the people involved with founding the university felt that the "practical" education of the farmer and mechanic should be the school's only responsibility. However, this feeling did not translate into funding or faculty. The first forty years of the college were years of struggle. It was only after the turn-of-the-twentieth-century that the college began to receive adequate funding and resources, and the College of Agriculture became one of the leading institutions of its kind in the United States.

Enrollment increased from seventeen students in 1877 to 729 in 1911 and to 1,271 in 1920; the staff expanded to 153 people; and state biennial appropriations totaled over \$3.5 million between 1913 and 1921. More than a dozen agricultural buildings were built and over 1,200 acres of land were added to the university's holdings.

The Animal Husbandry Department (renamed the Department of Animal Science in 1947) was organized within the College of Agriculture in 1901 under the direction of Herbert Mumford, who was appointed professor of animal husbandry and head of the department. Professor Mumford succeeded Dean Eugene Davenport, who was actually the first professor of animal husbandry, having been appointed such in 1895; he held that position until the arrival of Mumford. Under both men's leadership, the Animal Husbandry Department grew from a staff of three (in 1901) to thirty in 1916; course registration also grew from 418 to 2,241 during that same time period.

The department was organized into divisions for each type of livestock and for nutrition, genetics, and extension by Mumford. First to be established were the divisions of horse, swine, and meats in



The Sheep Barn is being independently salvaged by PACA member, Jim Sasser. He will reconstruct a section of the barn near Bondville and the rest will be reused in Tennessee. Photo by Cahill.

1903; sheep was added in 1906, beef cattle in 1910, poultry and animal nutrition in 1911, animal genetics in 1912, and lastly, in 1915, livestock extension. Even before the division was established, however, sheep husbandry was part of the agricultural curriculum. Within the first years of the university, it was requested that money be appropriated for the purchase of sheep. When professor of agriculture George Morrow arrived in 1876, the university possessed several breeds of sheep among their animal holdings. However, the demand for information about sheep was growing and Morrow requested additional sheep. The Board of Trustees authorized \$250 for their purchase.

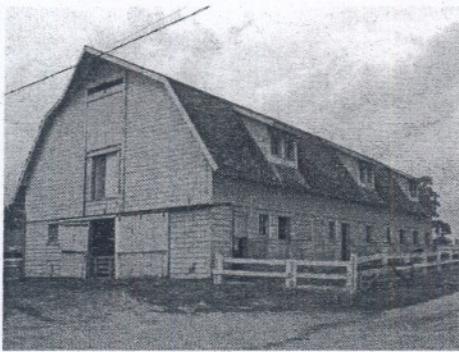
Once organized, the department offered additional courses including three dealing specifically with sheep. With the establishment of the sheep division in 1906, Walter Coffey was hired as an instructor in sheep husbandry and head of the division.

Bulletin 129, Market Classes and Grades of Sheep was written by Coffey in 1908; he also wrote *Productive Sheep Husbandry* in 1918, which was widely used by students. Under Coffey's leadership the Sheep Barn

was constructed in 1912, with the lamb feeding shed added in 1913. The barn was designed by university architect James White under an appropriation of \$2,000; no contractor for the structure has been located, although the concrete work was done by C.J. Welch. The next year, a lamb feeding shed was added to the northwest corner of the barn at a cost of \$800. D.M. Osborne was the contractor for the addition. The *Annual Register, 1913-1914* described the Sheep Barn as follows:

... a wooden structure consisting of a main barn 36 by 90 feet, and a shed, opening to the south, 25 by 100 feet in size. A 6-foot aisle, lined by pens on each side, runs through the center of the barn. This building besides accommodating the University flock is used for experimental work. Its location and construction insures dry footing and ample light and ventilation throughout the year.

In 1915, the university maintained about 250 sheep at the Sheep Barn. Breeds included Southdown, Shropshire, Oxford, Hampshire, and Rambouillet and Coffey was held responsible for bringing the uni-



The UI Sheep Barn was constructed in 1912 with a lamb feeding shed added to the west in 1913. In 1942, an addition was built onto the lamb feeding shed. A final addition was constructed on the southwest corner in the 1950s.

versity's flocks up to a high standard. His Rambouillet specimens, in particular, received very high commendations. The university-bred sheep won many prizes at the International Live Stock Exposition and in that way illustrated what could be accomplished with a small flock. At this time, the flocks were being maintained on restricted forage crop pastures as a research project. Coffey left the university in 1921 to become dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. He was dean until 1941, when he became acting president, then president of the university.

Coffey was succeeded as head of the division by William Kammlade in 1921. Kammlade wrote one of the best known books in the field of sheep production, *Sheep Science*, in 1947 (revised, 1955). Research undertaken at the Sheep Barn under Kammlade's direction developed important principles in breeding, feeding, and management to assist farmers engaged in the sheep business. Although not bred for show purposes, the university's flock continued to win many prizes at the Chicago International Live Stock Exposition including the Champion Rambouillet ewe, 1930; Grand Champion wether, 1936; and Grand Champion wether, 1937. The Rambouillet flock was considered one of the best in the nation and the Shropshire and Southdown flocks ranked among the leading college flocks.

In 1942, an addition was built onto the lamb feeding shed. It added three animal pens, an office, and a tool/shearing room to the complex. King & Petry, Champaign, were awarded the contract at a cost of \$3,971. The addition matched the feeding shed's design and materials.

Upson S. Garrigus became division head after Kammlade in 1949. When Dr. Alvin Neu-mann left the university, the beef cattle and sheep divisions were merged, and Garrigus was appointed head of the new ruminant division in 1964. The southwest corner addition was added to the sheep barn complex about the time that Garrigus assumed the headship of the division.

A university farm report written around 1962 described the sheep research farm as follows.

This part of the University farms contains about 28 acres, 60 head of Rambouillet ewes, 150 head of Hampshire ewes, and 300-500 head of grade ewes are used for teaching and research. The University Rambouillet flock is the oldest continuously owned flock in the country.

Research emphasis is on studying factors leading to intensification of production, improvement of uniformity of product, quality of product and/or quantity of product per ewe.

During the 1960s, the sheep division was very successful in exhibiting wethers at the Chicago International Livestock show. The division showed the "on foot" champion as well as carcass champions. Bennie Doane was the shepherd during this time (1959 to 1975) and carried on the championship tradition begun by the first shepherd, J.W. Hampton (1915 to 1958).

Garrigus' research endeavors emphasized nutrition, specifically the utilization of nitrogen and sulfur by ruminants. His investigations played a prominent part in delineating the potential of inorganic sulfur, urea, tetracyclines, and biuret as feed supplements, all of which are now used commercially. Many of the early ruminant nutrition ideas were tested and developed using sheep as models and then applied to beef cattle studies.

In the late 1970s, Frank Hinds was in charge of the sheep unit. The major emphasis of his research was in the area of ruminant nutrition with special attention on roughage evaluation and utilization, the nutrition of early weaned lambs and calves, as well as the mode of action of growth promotants. He also studied and developed systems of feeding, managing, housing, and breeding sheep. Three expanded-metal floor buildings were erected under his direction.

Following Hinds was David Thomas, who was primarily a breeder and his research involved the genetic improvement of reproduction in sheep and sheep dairying. He was the principal researcher involved in discovering the cause of the "Spider" syndrome in sheep, a skeletal condition that effected purebred Suffolk sheep. Through controlled mating, the genetic cause of the disease was uncovered. In addition, the university's sheep helped to identify the recessive gene responsible and a DNA test to screen carrier sheep was developed.

Besides being used for research, sheep in the Sheep Barn were used for instruction and in laboratories for sheep science to demonstrate various aspects of sheep husbandry. They were also used in livestock and meats judging courses and the university provided sheep for state 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests. According to Thomas, sheep were even provided for the farm exhibit at the Lincoln Park Zoo, where they were used for herding dog demonstrations and as exhibit animals.

Thomas left in 1991 and Neal Merchen became the faculty coordinator for the sheep unit. Most of Merchen's sheep research was conducted in the Sheep Metabolism building, now demolished. During the 1990s, shepherd A. Richard Cobb (1975 to 2000) was in charge of the Sheep Barn, which was used primarily for teaching and extension programs, including the Lambing School (1999-2002).

After Cobb became an extension specialist in 2000, graduate students became responsible for the Sheep Barn. In 2003, the sheep unit was absorbed into the beef unit with Tom Nash as the combined unit manager. According to Cobb, no lambing has taken place at the Sheep Barn since December 2003. All the remaining sheep, primarily Dorsets, were sold to Illinois State University. Under a cooperative agreement, the University of Illinois receives twenty to thirty sheep each year for teaching purposes. The sheep are bred, but are returned to Illinois State for lambing.

The sheep were moved to new quarters on South Race Street in 2004.

This article was taken from information in the Illinois Historic American Building's Survey of the UI Sheep Barn, prepared in 2004. A full copy of the IL HABS report, No. CH-2002-5-A, is available in the University Archives.



PACA Volunteers participated in WILL-TV's telephone fund raiser last March. The group took 108 phone calls that raised \$10,565. PACA plans to help again this year, and we will need eight volunteers over a three-hour period. Call PACA if you are interested in participating this year.

Rich's Meanderings

I'm Back!

I took a break from writing for the last newsletter, having just returned from a 6,500 mile trip that went to Glacier National Park, Colorado National Monument, Arches National Park and Canyon de Chelly in Arizona. I chose to take the scenic route west across Missouri and Kansas on US 36. This route takes you through the Robidoux Historic District of St Joseph Missouri, the starting point of the pony express, and a series of towns in Kansas that followed the pony express route. Many of these towns still have their historic downtowns intact, and frankly the trip is much less hectic than fighting the traffic on I-70 or I-80, the map quest routes west. I visited the 12th Street Historic District in Golden Colorado, and was impressed with the "rebirth" of their downtown. Just south of Cisco, Utah, on

state route 128, the Grand County Historic Commission has preserved a historic truss bridge across the Colorado River. Visiting these sites always serves as an inspiration for me on why preserving our architectural past is as important as seeing the natural wonders of our national parks.

Heritage Award Nominations Needed

The last newsletter included the Heritage Award Nomination form. If you have noticed examples of projects that fit the criteria, please nominate them. Or, if you have seen a project that has caught your interest enough to think, "They really did a nice job on that project to fit into the surroundings," please contact us. The Awards Committee needs your input.

Two PACA Board Members Needed

Dan Leasure and Kathy Reeves will be leaving the PACA board after six years of service. The bylaws of PACA limit the terms of directors to two three-year terms. If you would like to help develop PACA policies and programs, please contact us for more information. The terms will start in May of 2005 and run for three years. This year we are going to change the format of the Annual Membership Meeting. It will be moved to the end of April to avoid many of the conflicts we have had for our March meetings. We will shorten the business portion of the meeting and try to encourage more attendance by PACA members along with Heritage Award winners. Details of the meeting will be announced in the coming months.

Authors wanted

Traditionally, the PACA newsletter has been issued six times a year. The burden of finding articles and stories of interest



PACA Board president, Catherine Barbercheck presented intern Liz Davis with a framed tour poster for her work on organizing the Mount Hope Cemetery tour.

can be difficult at times. Karen Kummer has been responsible for this task for over twenty years, and frankly, she is starting to reach article "burn-out." If you have ideas for articles or are willing to write one, now is the time. Don't be shy; once Karen is done with her editorial work, even I can sound good!

Commission openings

There are generally openings on various city commissions. Currently, the City of Champaign has an open position on their Neighborhood Services Advisory Committee. The City of Urbana has openings on the Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan Commission, but the Mayor is in the process of making these appointments. However, citizen input is important, so PACA urges anyone interested in serving to submit their names and interests to the cities' mayors for future appointment. Get involved and make the community a better place to live.

Rich Cahill, Salvage Co-Chair

P.A.C.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- Adult \$15
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- Senior Citizen \$10
- Family \$20
- Corporate \$75

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Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Local History Online

The Champaign County Archives at the Urbana Free Library now offers the indexes to Urbana municipal government documents and Champaign County history and genealogy at *Local History On line*. The Urbana Municipal Documents index database began in 1979, when the library started microfilming and indexing city documents as a joint program with the city. Documents in the index date from 1855 through 2001. The Historical and Genealogical Index provides access to a mass of information on Champaign County people, places, and events. An ongoing project, the index is expanding at an average of 25,000 entries per month. Check out *Local History Online* at www.urbanfreelibrary.org and follow the link. The Urbana Free Library owns copies of all indexed materials.

Farnsworth House Open

The Farnsworth House, designed by Mies van der Rohe in 1951, is located near Plano, Illinois. It is one of the most celebrated examples of modernist domestic architecture, and was considered unprecedented in its day. Transcending any traditional domestic function or program, the importance of the house lies rather in the absolute purity and consistency of its architectural idea. Historian Franz Schulze remarked, "Certainly the house is more nearly temple than dwelling, and it rewards aesthetic contemplation before it fulfills domestic necessity." After frantic fund raising and a successful auction bid, the house was recently purchased by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The house, at 14520 River Road, Plano, is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, but reservations are required, call 630-552-0052.

PACA Newsletter

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Richard Cahill, Secretary/Treasurer
Karen Lang Kummer, Exec. Director

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Department of the Interior Preservation Websites of Interest

National Park Service: www.cr.nps.gov/whatwedo.htm

Historic American Buildings Survey or
Historic American Engineering Record:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml>

National Register of Historic Places:
www.cr.nps.gov/nr/index.htm

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training: www.ncptt.nps.gov

Historic Landscapes Initiative: www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/

Preservation Briefs: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm

Technical Preservation Services for
Historic Buildings: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tps_t.htm

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for
Rehabilitation: www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/sectan1

Federal Historic Tax Incentives:
http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax_t.htm

Salvage Donations

St. Joseph/Ogden Schools
Mike Walker and Tina Gunsalus

Salvage VIP's

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Bob Swisher
Mike Richards
Brian Duffield
Sam Furrer
Christopher Foste
Suzanne Ashley-Wannemuhler

Dan Leasure
Darrel Foste
Kathy Reeves
Mike Miller

New & Renewing Memberships

(received since the last newsletter)
Charter Members (1981-1983)

Mark & Kirstin Repogle
Anne A. Ehrlich
Mary Blair
Cinema Gallery - Norman & Carolyn
Baxley - Corporate
Rex & Karen Kummer
Sharon Rapp
Ruth Youngerman

Over Ten Year Members

Trent Shepard
Sheryl & Joe DeBarr
Colleen & Bruce Brodie
Alice Berkson
Victoria Corkery
Jerry O'Bryan
Jennifer Putman & Bruce Komadina
David & Jan Sholem
Tony & Mary Graham
Jane C. Anderson
Sharon Irish

Five to Ten Year Members

Marty Sachs
Darcy Bean, Sr.
Bill Rauwolf
Donald Walden
Janus Woods
Ray & Marilyn Harrison
Samuel Furrer
Mary E. Jones
Andrew Phillips & Brenda Koenig
Marya Ryan
W. John Nelson

One to Four Year Members

Larry & Barbara Slanker
Greg Stock
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