

# Alumni

*"As I sit sometimes in the twilight  
And call back to life in the coals  
Old faces and hopes and fancies."*

Early in the history of the Michigan State Normal College an Alumni Association was formed for the double purpose of continuing friendships begun in student days and maintaining a bond between the College and its graduates. During the first few years the organization seems to have had an intermittent existence, but for the past seventy years it has functioned continuously.

Until the last twenty-five years the Association was informal in its organization and carried on its work in a desultory manner. It sponsored reunions, supported an alumni day during commencement week, and inaugurated the observance of Founders' Day, which for some years was celebrated in November.

In the early 1920's certain of the alumni conceived the idea of raising funds for erecting a building on the campus that would serve as a center for College social activities. It was evident that a more formal organization would be neces-



## NEWSLETTER



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### CENTENNIAL PREVIEW

By H. L. Wilber, '08,  
Secretary of the Alumni Association

Michigan State Normal College will this year mark the one-hundredth anniversary of its founding. Plans are under way for a Centennial Celebration to extend over a three day period, May 19, 20, and 21. The first of these has been designated as Commemory Day, the theme being "The College Today." On that day, as well as the days following, the College buildings will be open to the public and it is hoped that many will take advantage of the opportunity to become acquainted with the College physical plant. In addition, different departments, so far as possible, will have exhibits illustrative of the work they are doing. At approximately 9:30 in the forenoon there will be a parade from the College and the townships. This will be illustrative of present College activities as well as of incidents related to the century being completed. Following the parade there will be an assembly in Chase Auditorium which will mark the formal opening of the Centennial exercises. The principal feature of the assembly will be an address pertinent to the occasion by a speaker of national repute. Several well-known people are under consideration for this part of the program, one of whom will be chosen.

At 2:00 in the afternoon will occur the dedication of the new College administration and classroom building, John D. Pierce Hall. This will be followed by a May Day Festival on Spriggs Field under the auspices of the Physical Education department. At the conclusion of this May Day exercise, the program calls for a community picnic on the campus in which young women will make merry together. The day's festivities will be concluded by a dramatic presentation of selected episodes from the History of M.S.N.C. by an all-college cast.

The second day of the celebration will be known as Alumni Day, the theme being "The College in the Past." There are to be assemblies in both forenoon and afternoon and a musical production in the evening. The forenoon session at 10:00 o'clock will feature the "Origin and Development of the Teachers' College" by an outstanding speaker. This will be followed by an address on the "Evolution of M.S.N.C." by an alumnus of the College.

At 1:00 in the afternoon the Senior class of 1926 will reproduce the traditional celebration of "ivy day." This was for years a special feature of commencement week and is this year being re-established by the seniors.

The program for the afternoon session will consist of two addresses on general education subjects. It is planned that the speakers will be well-known alumni of the College, who are qualified to speak authoritatively on the subjects considered.

At 8:00 in the evening the Music department of the College will present Joseph's oratorio, "The Creation." This, it is expected, will mark a high point in the celebration and will provide a fitting conclusion to the exercises of the day.

The third and last day of the Centennial observance is designated as Inaugural Day. This, the day of the "Inauguration exercises," has as its theme, "The College Looks to the Future." The day will be devoted to the installation of Dr. Eugene B. Elliott as the fourth President of the College. It is expected that representatives of scores of colleges and other educational bodies, as well as many alumni, will be present and participate in the Inaugural exercises. The exercises will begin with an academic procession featuring the college representative. The Inaugural session will be in charge of the State Board of Education. There will be an introductory address, the formal induction and charge to the new President, and the presidential address by Dr. Elliott.

At the close of the Inaugural exercises, there will be no Inaugural luncheon which will be an individual affair. Followed by a program made up of exercises and felicitation to the new President—thus paving the way for a second century of progress for Michigan State Normal College.

The College is anxious that all alumni shall be kept informed of the progress of these plans. Individual alumni can assist by sending names and addresses of alumni in their localities to whom information may be sent. Also they are requested to write the Centennial Committee stating any suggestions they think will be of value, or requesting any additional information desired. Send all communications of this character to the office of Alumni Association, Charles McKenny Hall, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

sary if this were to be accomplished. Consequently, at the annual meeting of the Association in 1925, the executive committee was instructed to prepare plans for reorganizing the Association on a basis that would increase its effectiveness. This was done, and in January 1926 the Association was reorganized and incorporated under the laws of Michigan. The plan for a student social center was then pushed with vigor, and Charles McKenny Hall is the result.

Under the revised plan the direction of the affairs of the Association is vested in a Board of Directors consisting of fifteen members, chosen by the alumni at the annual meeting in June, together with the President of the College, who is a member ex officio. The elective directors serve for three years, five being elected each year.

The College has recently created an office for compiling alumni records and maintaining field service in order to keep the alumni informed regarding what is taking place on the campus. The directors on their part are studying means of bringing about a fuller cooperation between the College and its representatives in the field, the alumni.

