1960

Campus Tours, Inc.

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Recommended Citation
Anderson, Patty (1960) "Campus Tours, Inc.," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 40 : No. 1 , Article 5.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol40/iss1/5

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This picturesque former horse barn now is used as a classroom building by Iowa State Landscape Architecture students.

Campus Tours, Inc.

by Patty Anderson, H. Ed. 2

You are now approaching the campus, folks, and on your right we have the . . .” You may be conducting “guided tours” of the campus this spring when friends or parents come for Veishea.

Extra tidbits of information will help to make your tour more interesting and fun for you and your guests. For instance, did you know that the post office building was originally built as a depot for the “Dinky,” a small steam engine with two coaches which used to transport passengers between Ames and the college?

Your tour of the campus might start at Beardshear Hall. Beardshear was built on the site of Old Main, the first all-purpose college building. Legend says that President Welch once tossed potatoes from the steps of Old Main with directions that trees be planted where the potatoes landed.

Looking across from Beardshear to the area where President Welch’s trees may have grown, you can see one of the most beautiful walks on campus. This is the favorite spot of John R. Fitzsimmons, head of the Landscape Architecture Department. He especially likes the group of maples just south of the flagpole, where the “fall light shines through the leaves with a golden glow, making a beautiful frame for Beardshear.” More beautiful trees are found in front of Curtis Hall where a group of larch trees, like many groups of trees on campus, has been designated a memorial to college faculty.

Northeast of this area of the campus is the quaint Landscape Architecture building. Your visitors to the campus might be surprised to learn that the building was once a horse barn and the round Shattuck Theatre, next to the Landscape Architecture building, was a judging pavilion for the Animal Husbandry Department.

How would you like to have the Iowa State victory bell for an alarm clock? If you had been an Iowa State student who lived in Old Main, you would have been awakened and called to meals by this bell, now found west of Beardshear Hall. And don’t forget the Grant Wood murals and sculptures by Christian Petersen on the first floor of the library.

“Lo! I come to the sacred planting.
Lo! the tender shoot breaks through the ground.
Lo! I reap the bountiful harvest.
Lo! these are joy in my house!”

This Osage Indian poem inspired Christian Petersen, sculptor, to do the fountain with four Indian women in front of Memorial Union. Petersen’s sculpture and bas-relief in the Veterinary Medicine quadrangle of a man with an injured puppy in his arms is another beauty spot you might want to show your visitors.

Looking down from the Knoll, President and Mrs. Hilton’s home, named for a baronial castle in England, you and your guests can see one of the loveliest areas of the campus. Here some money thrown from Wishing Bridge, spanning the creek between the Knoll and the Union, may even bring an A on that next psychology test!

Patti Landem, H. Ed. 3, sits pensively under the surveillance of one of Christian Petersen’s two statues of studying students, familiar library landmarks.