The year 1968 is a significant one for Iowa State University because it is the 100th anniversary of the first preparatory class of 75 students to enter Iowa State and also represents 100 years of experience in residential housing.

The first regular sessions began in March of 1869, and although the total enrollment was 173, the records show only 160 students were housed in what was known as the College Building.

During this period of 100 years, the physical plant of residential housing has grown from a section of one building housing 160 students to 19 residence halls housing approximately 8000 single students and over 1300 apartments housing married students. From one building valued at $196,000 to the present plant valued at over $30,000,000 and from one dining room providing food service for 160 students to six dining rooms providing food service for over 8000 students, and from a housing staff of a matron and a handful of full-time helpers to a housing staff of over 400 full-time people and over 900 part-time students.

Even with this growth, residential housing for students has not been quite enough. The lack of rooms for students which plagued the University from the opening year, also plagued it at the opening of the fall quarter 1968 and promises to be one of the pressing
problems of the next 100 years.

When Iowa State University began its first regular session on March 17, 1869, the village of Ames was only five years old and had a population of 650 souls. It took great courage to establish a college on a bleak Iowa prairie farm which was some three miles from this small village.

There were many problems involved in establishing the Hawkeye venture in the new education of that day. Among the many problems involved was that of housing students. It is doubtful that President Welch had any thought of a residential college, such as the English philosophy. Actually, a residential college was established, but of necessity rather than of any housing philosophy. When the original committee made its eight recommendations of organization for the new college, it included the appointment of a steward. The statement by the committee said that "The boarding department was to be under the supervision of a steward selected by the trustees who shall make all purchases and furnish supplies for the table, keep the accounts of the department under proper guards, and have general control of everything pertaining to the boarding hall."

Transportation was a real problem too. In fact, when President Welch first visited the College in the fall of 1868, he arrived on campus from the railroad station in a farmer's lumber wagon drawn by a mule team.

Dr. Welch was officially installed as president on March 17, 1869. In less than a month after the opening day, every available
room was filled and there were 15 day scholars. Eight vacancies occurring during the first term were immediately filled and 22 applicants were refused because of lack of housing.

President Welch had many problems other than those involved with housing, however his housing problems included the physical plant, the housing administration, and student life.

The Physical Plant

Welch early recognized the need for more housing and among his recommendations in his first report to the Board of Trustees was the construction of cottages to house students. The housing facilities constructed or expanded during Welch's administration included Old Main, West Cottage and East Cottage.

Old Main

The first residence hall at Iowa State was in the original building known as the Main Building or the College. After many building troubles including a change of architects, Old Main was finally ready for occupancy in the fall of 1868. The original structure had cost approximately $196,000, later with the addition of two wings and various alterations and repairs, the expenditure amounted to about $230,000.

Old Main has a unique place in the history of Iowa State. In the first few years it housed the whole college. It was four stories
high with a basement in which were located the dining room, kitchen and laundry. On the first floor were the chapel, president's office, cashier's office and library. The second floor contained several class rooms and rooms for students. The third and fourth floors contained student rooms and the museum. The living quarters were divided into sections and the men and women were organized separately. The architecture of the building conformed to the prevailing standards of collegiate architecture and it probably was one of the best examples of the Mansard Period of Architecture.

When the first regular session of Iowa State began on March 17, 1869, Old Main had housing space for 160 students. Later, when the two wings were added, it had housing space for 220 students. President Welch, in his report to the Board of Trustees on January 10, 1870, reported that when the first regular session opened in March 1869, that 158 students were housed in the building and 15 out of the building.

The student rooms were scantily furnished. The equipment included two straight back chairs, a wardrobe, a study table, pitcher, wash bowl, and waste receptacle. Carpets were permitted but not furnished, shelves were fastened to the walls for toilet articles. An assortment of brushes, bootjacks and even a vase of flowers were evident in many of the rooms. The students brought their own bed ticks and a supply of clean straw was piled at the entrance and from this the ticks were filled and dragged to the rooms.

In the first years, living conditions were none to convenient.
One of the early students described the conditions as follows.

"The building was heated by hot air which came from a furnace in the sub-basement, and the impossibility of heating a large building to the fifth story above was demonstrated everytime a cold blast swept from the Northwest. One part of the building would be too warm and windows would be thrown open while on the windward side, it would be uncomfortably cold."

Even with changes made in the heating system it was still inadequate. The Aurora of August 1876, mentions that "steam is now installed" much to the delight of the students. Almost 100 years later, the students in Knapp-Storms and Wallace Halls were also suffering from faulty heating which had to be corrected.

Light was furnished by gas generated from naphtha. The light was inferior to that furnished by the kerosene lamp in the home and during the first year there were times when the gas wouldn't work and so candles were distributed every night. The gas light often flickered and was unsteady.

In August 1884, an electric light system was installed by the Edison Light Company. Water was pumped by a windmill from a spring north of the farm barns to a tank in the top story of the south wing, but apparently was not too well distributed throughout the quarters because congestion often occurred when too many appeared to fill their pitchers. Toilet facilities were maintained within the building and when everything worked the system was sanitary. Eventually, the sewer system was completely modernized.
Bathing facilities consisted mainly of bowl and pitcher and this was as good as most students had at home for bathtubs were still strangers in private homes in Iowa.

Old Main served well throughout the formative years. In 1891, the Museum, Chapel and Library were moved to Morrill Hall and the available space was then used for additional classrooms and dining room. In 1895, the old dining room in the basement was given to the military department for an Armory and the old kitchen for storage. The old dining room had been used by a club for assistant teachers. In 1896, the botany department was assigned to the east dining room and also the space formerly occupied by the bakery and the remainder of the old dining room and kitchen were used as a general recreation room for boys.

The first fire occurred in December 1900, and destroyed the north wing. A later fire in 1902, destroyed the south wing and the building beyond repair.

West Boarding Cottage (Stanton)

The need for more housing was evident from the first year that the University opened, but numerous requests were refused by the legislature.

The West Boarding Cottage was completed in 1881 at a cost of $3706. F. S. Westing was the contractor. It contained 16 sleeping rooms - 15 double rooms for the men and one for the matron. The first matron was Mother Fogarty from Fort Dodge. She understood boys
throughly and was a splendid cook. No boy ever went to bed hungry because she always fed the late comers. West Boarding Cottage had many uses during its existence. It housed athletes, other than the football team, from about 1901 to 1907. In 1896, the basement was made into an electrical lab. From 1908 - 1915, it was remodelled for a hospital and before this it was used by the superintendent of buildings and grounds for a year. It was an isolation ward up to 1934 when it was torn down.

East Boarding Cottage (Kirkwood)

This building was completed in 1882 at a cost of $6500. V. Tomlinson was the contractor. It housed approximately 60 students. In 1895, the basement was fixed up as a boarding department for staff assistants and in 1897, it was used as teacher's living quarters. From 1901 to 1907, it was used to house the football team and provided the boarding facilities for athletes living in both West and East Cottages. It was torn down in 1907, when Alumni Hall was built.

Housing Administration

Many individuals were involved in the administration of the housing program during this period and several made memorable contributions to the history of Iowa State University. Names included during the formative years from 1869 to 1883 are: Catherine Potter, Albert E. Foote, John Stevens, General James L. Geddes, Mary Lovelace,
Margaret McDonald, Mrs. A. Thompson, H. D. Harlow, Mary B. Welch, Martha Sinclair, J. C. Hainer, S. A. Knapp, F. E. L. Beal.

During the formative years when the enrollment was small, the housing assignments of individual staff members were in addition to teaching assignments and more than one title is usually noted in the early catalogues.

Catherine Potter served as matron during the first regular session. She arranged the squads of young ladies for work in the dining room, kitchen, laundry and bakery and in those days it was a compulsory labor system for students. With the help of the superintendent of the kitchen and dining room, she planned a system of rotation by which every girl had practice in these departments of labor. She reported directly to the President on the quality of work and the rate, which was usually nine or ten cents per hour, for each girl. Mrs. Potter's influence on the students is indicated in a letter written by one of the students (Lucy McAllister Whitney) who was enrolled in the first class. Her remarks were as follows, "Mrs. Potter, our matron, sat at the next table. If she saw any of us leaning against the back of our chair she would send her waitress to touch us and say we must sit up straight and not touch the chair back. Every since then, I have remembered that rule every time I have sat at a meal. Nearly every day she would send a waitress to our table to see if we had placed our knives and forks in the right position when we were through eating. Every few days, she would request young ladies to
come to the drawing room. She would tell us how we should do this, or that, in order to behave properly. We certainly appreciated her good advice." Mrs. Potter also helped on room inspection. She served as matron only during the first regular year of the University.

Albert E. Foote was a member of the first faculty and served as both proctor and assistant professor of chemistry. He came to the University with an M.D. from the University of Michigan at the age of twenty-four. He apparently had an irascible temper and was forced to resign. He eventually established the well known Foote Chemical Company of Philadelphia.

John L. Stevens apparently served as food manager for a period of time but no mention is made of him in any of the records other than the comment in Mrs. Whitney's letter.

General James L. Geddes was the first steward and was appointed as steward and professor of military science and tactics in 1870. He organized the student body in their new quarters and outlined the schedule for their lives while they dwelt together in a new relationship. It was no small task in those days to evolve a system that provided living conditions with new contacts and new associations for boys and girls to dwell together under new surroundings. As steward, he also had charge of buildings and grounds, the boarding department and dormitories. General Geddes served as steward from 1870 to 1882.

The Aurora of November 1881 noted that Professor Knapp would
fill the position of steward for 1882 and thus relieve General Geddes of the arduous duties of providing hash and cornbread for the hungry students, a position he had filled so creditably for a long time.

General Geddes helped select the name for the first student publication, the *Aurora*, and also contributed many articles to this publication. The *Aurora* of November 1882, records the following upon his removal, "He is an old and faithful servant of the institution and has filled in the most efficient manner the offices of vice-president, professor, treasurer and steward and has held the highest place in the esteem and confidence of the students and all who knew him."

James Lorain Geddes was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, March 19, 1827. He had a distinguished career in both the English Army in India and in the Union Army during the Civil War. Hungerford, in his "Sketches of Iowa State College", says that at the time of his removal in November 1882, that he was popular with the students and performed his duties with satisfaction to the College and the people of the state, but that newly elected trustees changed the political complexion of the Board and that political debts had to be paid off. General Geddes was a victim of the adjustment. Later, a place was made for the General and his later years were spent in the employment of the College. He was forced to resign as professor of military science and tactics at the November 1882 meeting of the Board. He was later appointed treasurer.
Mary Lovelace of Iowa City was appointed preceptress, instructor in mathematics and geography and director of the dining room and kitchen in January 1870. Although relieved of part of her duties when Margaret McDonald came to the institution in 1871, she continued on the staff until 1875 resigning in January of that year.

Margaret McDonald was first appointed to the staff as matron for the year 1871. She retained the title of matron until 1875 when she was appointed preceptress. During these years, she also taught French and English. She became an assistant in mathematics in 1875. Miss McDonald was respected by the students and did much to solve the problems of co-education, which was not looked upon too favorably by many citizens of Iowa. While she was in charge of women students as preceptress, the Board of Trustees ordered that the preceptress of the College should be placed on the Judiciary or Ruling Committee. This was considered a distinct honor.

She married E. W. Stanton in 1877, but continued to remain influential in the early history of the College. She died on July 25, 1895. Margaret Hall, the first women's residence hall, which was destroyed by fire in 1938 was named in her honor.

Mrs. A. Thompson, wife of a professor of mechanical engineering, took over the supervision of food service in 1873. Her title was listed as housekeeper and assistant in the experimental kitchen at first, but after this she was listed as housekeeper in all the records through 1890, when she resigned. She apparently was very capable in selecting cooks and seeing that palatable meals were
furnished because there are numerous complimentary references to her in the *Aurora* of the early days.

H. D. Harlow, who served as proctor from 1877 through 1881, was first employed as a farm laborer and as a janitor. He must have been well liked because the students presented him with a watch when he resigned and the Board of Trustees passed a resolution thanking him for his services. The *Aurora* of March 1882 says, "Mr. Harlow, formerly proctor, is with us no more - gone to Nebraska for a rural life. We are satisfied that you made a change for the better and are no longer to be thumbed around by powers of superiority."

He was tall and vigorous and able to stand up to any trouble-maker, but also a man of tact and understanding. He saved many a student from serious trouble by timely advice. He attended most student meetings and spent most of his spare time in the library. He was a college character and the alumni of the period referred to him with respect and affection. The young College would have been relieved of many tense situations with the students during the pioneer days had they continued such a liaison officer between students and faculty.

Mary B. Welch, wife of President Welch, made her greatest contribution as the first teacher of domestic economy and was the original founder of the present college of home economics. She did serve, however, for two years as preceptress in 1879 and again in 1880. She was respected by the students and was a person that the women students wanted to imitate.
Martha Sinclair was appointed assistant preceptress and instructor in English and Speech in 1879. She was appointed preceptress in 1881 and was on the staff through the year 1884.

J. C. Hainer served as proctor for a few years beginning in 1882, but he made his real contribution as a strong teacher of physics.

S. A. Knapp was appointed head of the agricultural work in 1879. He is best remembered, of course, as President of the College from December 1, 1883 until December 5, 1884. However, he was a man of many facets and not only was instrumental in reorganizing the management of the boarding department, but also served as manager of the boarding department in 1882 in addition to his duties as professor of agriculture.

In November 1880, Professors Stanton, Knapp, Budd, Geddes, and Mrs. Welch were appointed to a committee to consider and propose plans for the management of the college boarding department. They made a list of seven recommendations which were adopted at the Board Meeting in December 1880. Perhaps the most important was that the department be placed in charge of a superintendent who should be responsible to the Board of Trustees for its successful management and that a housekeeper be employed who should give her whole time and attention to the details of the department, consulting with the superintendent on all matters in its general welfare or financial interests.
Surprisingly, Knapp had the title of professor of agriculture and manager of the boarding department for the year, 1882.

F. E. L. Beal was changed from professor of civil engineering and zoology to professor of geology and manager of the college boarding department at the annual board meeting in November, 1882. Beal was an M.I.T. graduate who came from teaching at the Naval Academy. After serving one year as manager of the boarding department and professor of geology, Beal apparently was forced to resign.

Student Life

Most of the students attending Iowa State during the formative years came from rural homes and were accustomed to hard work and inconveniences in their homes. Consequently, manual labor and simple living conditions were accepted. However, discussions of those days can be put in more or less the same categories as the discussions of today. A few of these categories include - student government, cost of room and board, social life, athletics, fraternities and sororities, complaints about food and evaluations of teachers.

Student Government

President Welch was always interested in student government and in his second year started an experiment. The complete statement as it occurred in the 1871 catalog is given in the following paragraphs.
"No institution of learning can accomplish its object fully without the aid of wholesome regulations. By reason of the introduction of manual labor and military drill, the organization of the Agricultural College is exceedingly complicated. Hence, the necessity in its management of accurate system and of prompt and punctual movement. Moreover, because our students, board, lodge, study and recite in the same building, the maintenance of uniform order and quiet is indispensable. For these reasons it is required that no disorder shall ever distract the attention of the student from the matter in hand, whether it be study, recitation or manual labor. The faculty will inflict no penalties for any offenses or delinquencies, neither do they impose unwholesome restraint by petty actions. In sustaining the government, they rely solely on moral influences. So long as the student attends to his duties with regularity and promptness, the officers will give him their confidence, sympathy and help; but, whenever neglect of duty, disregard of law, render his stay no longer profitable either to himself or to the college, they will require him to withdraw."

"The success of the College in sustaining good order and steady progress is due largely to a system of self-government which has been in operation for nearly two years. The control of order and quiet in the rooms and halls is entrusted entirely to the students. The occupants of the building are divided into seven sections - two of ladies and five of gentlemen; the sections corresponding with the halls in which they room. At the opening of the term, each section meets, ratifies the rules of order, and chooses a judicial officer. The seven officers so chosen constitute a council or court. A captain and lieutenant are next chosen, who have charge of the section and report any violation of law to the Council. The Council, at a regular meeting, tries the offender and if he is found guilty, the offender is punished by means of certain demerit marks. The minutes of the Council are read to the faculty at their regular meetings. The result of this system is that disorder in the rooms and halls was of rare occurrence. The subjoined laws passed by the faculty regulate the election and define the duties of the officers of the sections and of the Council."

"At the beginning of each term there shall be elected, from each section, one councilman, one
captain, and one lieutenant. No student who is a law breaker shall be eligible for any office of trust nor honor in the College."

"It shall be the duty of the Council to try all offenses reported by the captains of the sections and to report their proceedings to the faculty at such times as the faculty may require. The Council shall hold two regular meetings each week for the purpose above named and at such times and places as may be convenient. The Council shall organize by choosing a president and a secretary from their own number. Their duties shall be the ordinary duties of such officers in deliberative assemblies."

"The business of the Council shall be limited to the trial of the offenses reported by the captains of the sections. The president of the Council, shall in every trial, preside as judge and he shall appoint one member thereof to conduct the prosecution and one for the defense of the accused and the trial shall be confined strictly to the offense reported."

"The accused shall be present during his trial and shall have the privilege of cross questioning witnesses in person or by his attorney. The verdict and the number indicating the degree of the demerit shall each be given by vote of the Council in which the president shall have the only casting vote."

"It shall be the duty of each captain and of his lieutenant, in the captain's absence, to preserve order in his section according to law, and to report all violations of law to the councilman of his section, who shall file such report in the president's office for the secretary of the council. The captains of sections and their lieutenants shall meet once each week with the President at his office for informal report as to the condition of the government in their sections and to consult as to the best means of securing harmony and efficiency of action."

"When the demerit marks of any student reach five in number, he will be warned by the President in private. When the demerits reach ten, the President will again warn him and advise his friends of such action with the reasons therefore and for fifteen demerits, he shall be required to withdraw from the College."

"The faculty reserves the right to expunge the demerit marks of any student when less than five in number, upon his subsequent blameless conduct."
This system was devised to administer no less than twenty-seven headings of regulations which dealt with such matters as study hours, hours for sleep, Saturday and Sunday evenings, general order in the college buildings, communication between the sexes, leave of absence, the library, the dining hall, lectures and recitations, work, examinations, kitchen, supply rooms and fields, the use of tobacco and intoxicating liquor, college dues, chapel exercises, excuses and public property.

Often regulations were issued, as they are today, without consulting everyone that might be affected. For example, in 1870, the steward issued an order that slippers or noiseless shoes be worn by both students and faculty in the dining hall, chapel and library. The steward and librarian were to enforce the rule and to exclude people from entering the designated places without proper footgear. First the chapel was eliminated from the regulation and after a few months the entire regulation was rescinded.

The elaborate system of enforcement of regulations did not meet with the approval of all people involved and there were contradictory reports as to its effectiveness. One student who witnessed the operations in the initial stages thought that the method was just and satisfactory. Another who lived under the system for several years thought the student body regarded the system with slight respect. He felt that the captains were timid and were fearful to give offense by doing their duty. He felt that the government was uncertain and generally inefficient.
The student council went out of existence in 1877, mainly because of lack of interest rather than from conflict with the faculty or administration.

Cost of Room and Board

Every effort was made to keep the costs to the student in this new venture in education to a minimum. Both tuition and room were free during the first year, and board was based on cost at $3.00 per week for 36 weeks or $108 for the year. The report for 1870-71 estimated a total cost for the year of $123 to $149 for expenses. Students could earn $50 per year in labor for the College, and then with teaching during the winter vacation, he could earn his entire expense of going to the College.

In 1876, a rental charge of $3 to $4 per term of one semester was placed on rooms and the charge for board was reduced to $2.50 per week.

In December 1880, the board approved the following recommendation from a committee composed of Stanton, Knapp, Budd, Geddes and Mrs. Welch, that the price of board be reduced from $2.50 to $2.25 per week; that the room rent charged students boarding in the College building be reduced to $1.50, $1.25 or 75¢ per term of one semester upon the location of the room; that the College furnish each room with a wardrobe, a bedstead, a wash stand, two chairs and a table and students be required to supply the rooms with all other furniture and that the charge to students outside the building be reduced from $5 to $3 per term.
Toward the end of Welch's administration in 1883, the catalog had the following information pertaining to room and board:

- Board per week: $2.25
- Lighting and heating per week: $0.40
- Incidentals per week: $0.21
- Room rent per term (semester): $0.75 to $1.50
- Washing average per dozen: $0.50
- Janitors fee for students not boarding in building per term: $3.00
- Board in boarding cottages (including fires and lights): $2.00
- Security deposit to be paid steward at the beginning of each term: $20.00

The dining room will be opened in the evening preceding the respective days on which spring and fall terms convene. No allowance for absence of less than one week's duration. Students and others bringing friends are required to pay for such meals at 25¢ per meal.

Social Life

The social life in the early years was simple and rudimentary. The following quotations from J. B. Hungerford's "Sketches of Iowa State" give a little background.

"The white collared class was in a minority among the boys who, for the most part, came from farms and workshops. They were accustomed to the open spaces and cared less for the satorial excellence than comfort and were satisfied with what was merely conventional. They all wore boots, derby, and sometimes stovepipe hats, string ties, red flannel underclothes, paper or celluloid collars and boiled shirts, with sizeable solitaires in the bosom, also scarfs
two feet wide and ten feet long and woolen socks."

"While the student body was much of a family group and students dwelt together in a community spirit, the system was distinctly a segregation of the sexes. Laws were laid down as immutable as those of the Medes and Persians... 'thus far shalt thou go and no further'. Young men and young women were under certain restrictions that must not be ignored. In the class rooms and in the dining hall there was no bar, they were seated promiscuously and went to classes and returned from the same without taboos. But there was no social intercourse nor passing hither and back in restricted areas. There was a social hour after the evening meal and restrictions were raised, within certain limits, on the grounds. Saturday afternoon, taboos were withdrawn and young people were granted social privileges on campus. Then there were divisions in groups and couples. 'Campus Lab' was the order and on such occasions, matches were made on campus and not in heaven. Saturday afternoons, by the way, were signalized by boys entering Old Main by the front entrance when at all other times they were obliged to enter by the side or back doors. Supervision over social conduct was exercised with rigid discipline, but not too much so for it was vital to the welfare of the College."

Another glimpse of the conservatism is indicated in the following description of a part that was reported in the Aurora of March 1880.

"A pleasant feature of the Saturday evening sociables has been inaugurated by one of the society halls. They afford an oppor-
tunity for new students to become acquainted and for the old ones to improve their social qualities. At the one last week, after a short time employed in conversation, a game of "Jacob and Ruth" was proposed and the ease with which the staid juniors and seniors laid aside their dignity and participated in the play was truly amazing."

Organized literary societies were promoted in the formative years. These societies existed from the beginning and four of them were quite active at the end of Welch's administration. The directory of the Aurora, in the October issue of 1883, included the following descriptions.

The Cliolian.....The Cliolian Literary Society is the only ladies society of the Iowa Agricultural College. The Society holds literary sessions every Saturday evening. Its object is the improvement and culture of ladies in literary work. Visitors are cordially welcome.

Philomathcean.....The Philomathean Literary Society is a society admitting to membership both ladies and gentlemen. Its regular meetings are held each Saturday evening of the college year.

Bachelor.....The Bachelor is the only exclusively gentlemen's society of this College. It was organized July 16, 1870. Its object is the mutual improvement of its members in science, literature and the art of speaking. It meets every Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Bachelor Hall.
Crescent.....This is a society admitting both men and women to membership. Its object is the improvement of its members in literary work and parliamentary law. Its sessions are held every Saturday evening in Crescent Hall.

The Aurora, the first student paper, was an enterprise of these societies and in the August 1882 issue, advised all freshmen to become members of a literary society.

The halls referred to in the directory were classrooms assigned to the various societies. These societies were outlets for the student energy and initiative of that day and incidental to the literary training, probably imparted some polish and suavity to the student of that period. It is difficult to imagine students of the present day spending Saturday evening in literary society meetings.

The legislature on April 7, 1868, approved code section 1620 that prevented the sale of alcoholic beverages within three miles of the College. The Board of Trustees, not to be outdone then, passed a regulation prohibiting the use of tobacco and all intoxicating drinks. An attempt was made in 1877 to forbid dancing, but the resolution was defeated by the faculty by a vote of eleven to three. However, in 1882, the Board voted that dancing by students on the College grounds be forbidden.

Athletics

Athletics were very rudimentary in these early years and dis-
cussions about hanging a coach in effigy or supporting the football team did not exist. There was very little time and energy for sports. Although the initial class had a baseball team composed of such well known names as Macomber, Cessna, Stanton, Noyes, Stevens and Grant, the main interest was in interclass contests and an occasional game with the faculty. The main competitive game was baseball. Football was given some attention in 1878 but it came into prominence many years later.

Fraternities and Sororities

The Greek system is accepted today as an integral part of the University and student discussions usually concern the advantages and disadvantages of the system. This was not true, however, during the first years of the University. The students of that day objected to any marked departure from the norm of the typical western attitude and the formation of any group that might give the impression of being superior or special was resented. This democratic attitude was manifested in opposition to secret fraternities. Surprisingly, the opposition came from the students rather than the administration. The early members of the Greek system were usually on the defensive and were forced to have their meetings at early hours and had to have permission to use the rooms that might be designated for meetings.

The real controversy concerning the Greek system came later in the history of the University and was to cause unpleasant moments
for both President Chamberlain and President Beardshear. During
Welch's administration, both Delta Tau Delta (1875) and Pi Beta Phi
(1877) were approved. In fact, President Welch granted permission
for meetings to be held in his classroom.

The ousting of fraternities under Beardshear and their return
under Storms will be discussed in the next chapter which covers
the period, 1884-1912.

Complaints About Food

The perennial complaint about resident hall food of each suc-
cessive student generation throughout the years also existed with
the first students to attend Iowa State. The description of com-
plaints recorded by Hungerford in "Sketches of Iowa State College"
cover the early years - but how similar to those of today. A few
paragraphs taken from his discussion of the boarding department
follow:

"When the time came that was necessary to reduce the menu, when
fresh things could not be procurred in the market, most students un-
derstanding the situation made the best of it. But there were others
not so well disposed. Their appetites blinded them to other things
and drove them to extreme and ridiculous complaints. Because the
trimmings were reduced and the bill of fare included only the staples,
they found fault with the cooking and service in the dining hall.
Assertedly, the bread was only partially baked, the meats were under-
done or overdone, the butter rancid, there were hairs in the hash,
the milk was sour or diluted with water, and most of the time the quantity of food was insufficient. These complaints were written home and found their way into the columns of the local paper and the College was in many quarters known better through asserted atrocities of the boarding department than the merit of instruction in its curricular accomplishments.

Today, occasional letters occur in the Iowa State Daily complaining about residence hall food. Similarly, in the early days, there were no letters in the Aurora but there were many comments about the food. A few of the comments of those formative years are of interest.

May 1875...."Mrs. Thompson says that every day there is enough bread wasted, the cost of which would buy us cakes for tea. To talk sense, this is a serious matter and is one which every student should have an interest. To waste even a small thing is neither smart, etiquette or business like." "Our supper reminds us of the man when he had company set milk and bread before them and told his guests to help themselves to whatever they liked best."

May 1880....."The trustees are here, prepare for extra hash."

September 1881....."Supper hour changed from 5:30 to 6:15. You must now take your recreation before supper." "Table mates are loud in their praises of the excellent cooking done by the Junior Domestic Economy girls."

March 1882....."Molasses with a spoon in it is one of our delicacies." "Three meals a day on Sunday and a banquet for supper -
knives, spoons and water. Last Sunday was a slow day. We waited for breakfast, waited for dinner, waited for supper, waited for the waiter, and still we wait. "When a student is seen pacing his room with frantic strides, holding the side of his face in his hands, and uttering moans of bitterest anguish, he has not the mumps, but these are the effects of a wrestle with the Sunday evening fried cake."

The crisis that occurred in the boarding department with the typhoid scourge of 1900 will be discussed in the next chapter.

Student Evaluation of Teachers

The first generation of students at Iowa State University, like the successive generations that followed, not only complained about the food but also about the administration and unpopular instruction. An 1874 investigation revealed two cases in which classes had been boycotted and protests made to the President. Other cases of petitions to remove a professor are reported during the early years. The students of today are busy making out evaluation sheets on professors and also talk of boycotting certain classes. The present generation of students has more of a spirit of revolt, however, than the first generation.