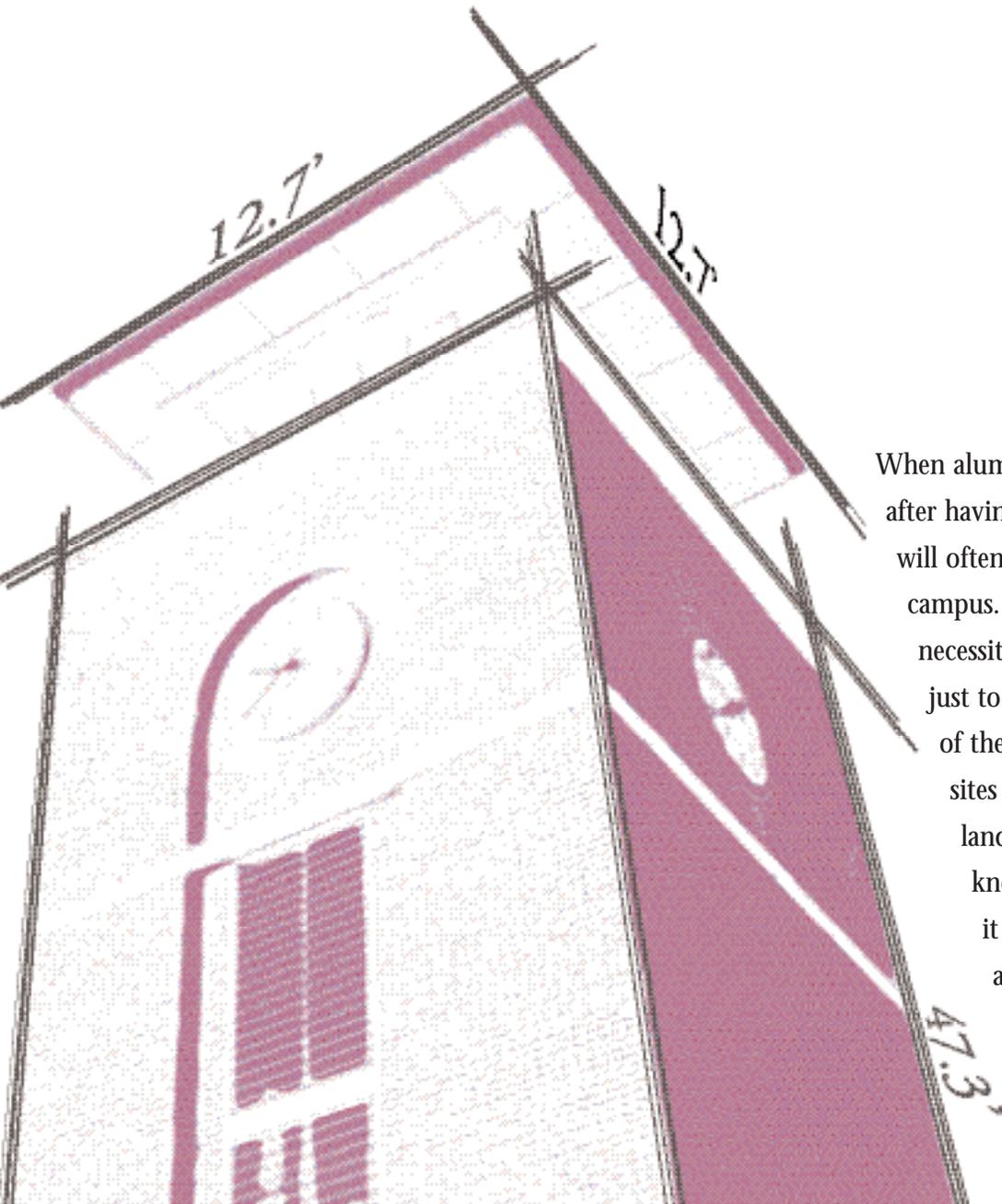


The FORM & FUNCTION of the Campus Landscape

As one steps onto the Truman campus, the beautiful landscape and architectural design merge together so naturally it's easy to overlook the individual spaces and elements. On closer investigation, one can see that each unique feature is the result of careful planning, and behind each element lies a unique story that reveals the richness of the University's history.

By Sasha Rassi

When alumni and friends return to campus after having been away for some time, they will often see several changes on the Truman campus. The shifting landscape arises from necessity, from donations, and sometimes just to improve the aesthetic appearance of the grounds. Today, many of these sites have become familiar campus landmarks. Not only is it important to know what these landmarks stand for, it is also worthwhile to be able to appreciate the unique meaning and history of each one.



Flame to the Second Century

The Flame to the Second Century was first lit and dedicated at the Centennial Convocation on Sept. 2, 1967, to celebrate the University's first 100 years. Originally, the flame burned from a ceramic lamp, atop a 10-foot concrete pillar near the flagpole at the north entrance of the Quadrangle.

Art instructor Richard Miller created this "lamp of knowledge," and the late Col. Robert McKinney, who was assistant to the President at Truman in 1967, dedicated the lamp at the ceremony. The *Index* newspaper covered the event and recorded some of McKinney's remarks, "Lamps of knowledge have for centuries been associated with learning...it is appropriate as we cross the threshold into the second century that we light a torch as a beacon to oncoming generations who will follow in the footsteps of thousands who have preceded them in this college."



Among those in attendance at the first lighting were then-president of the University, Walter H. Ryle, who retired that year; his successor, President F. Clark Elkins; and the Board of Regents President, James R. Reinhard, whose term bridged the two centuries. Ryle commented in 1976 that the fixture and placement of the flame was meant to be temporary, and that the Centennial Celebration Committee had planned on eventually having a more permanent fixture. However, at the time there was no money apportioned for the project.

In February 1977, the Blue Key honor fraternity announced a contest for students to design a new permanent structure for the Flame to the Second Century. President Charles McClain appointed a Second Century Memorial Committee, consisting of Fine Arts faculty member William Unger; the campus planner, Douglas Winicker; and chairman of the committee, Leon Karel, also a Fine Arts faculty member. This committee established the guidelines for the structure and appointed judges for the entries. The stipulations included a central location, preferably between Baldwin Hall and the Ophelia Parrish Building; the size and cost of the structure; and that it contain a place for a time capsule.

Originally, the flame was meant to burn for 24 hours each day, but the month-long contest was interrupted by an apparent energy crisis. A February 1977 *Index* article reported that "due to the increase in gas prices, the flame has been turned off...The new flame will burn for one hour each school day and all day on national holidays."

Ed O'Brian, a graduate assistant in Fine Arts, won first place in the contest, receiving \$150 and a plaque. Today, the Flame to the Second Century can be found on the southern edge of the Quadrangle in front of Kirk Memorial. Due to increasing costs over the years, the University decided to operate the flame less and less. Currently, it operates only on special occasions.

Though the appearance of the landmark and its function have shifted, we can still heed the words of a poem, "Eternal Flame," from the Aug. 29, 1972 *Index*: "The next time you pass by the eternal flame look closely at 'the lamp stuck upon a platform' and remember: new life—new people—a new year."

The Bell Wall

Between Missouri Hall and the Quadrangle stands a brick wall housing a row of five bells. This campus landmark, known most commonly as "the Bell Wall," was added to campus in the 1960s. Though students, faculty, staff, and alumni regularly pass by the bell wall, few know the history behind the five bronze bells.

Joe Burdman, an enthusiastic participant in local civic and philanthropic affairs, donated the bells to the University. Born in southern Russia, Burdman served in the Czar's army during a very tumultuous time. On Dec. 14, 1913, he immigrated to the United States and was reunited with his fiancé who had also emigrated from Russia. They were married and settled in Galveston, Texas, and with only \$127 to his name, Burdman purchased a horse and wagon and began buying and selling scrap metal. The business enterprise was known as the J. Burdman Iron and Metal Co. In 1921, Joe and his wife, along with their two sons, came to Kirksville, after being told, "A veritable gold mine was to be found there." He expanded his business, buying wrecked cars and selling auto parts and accessories. On March 1, 1921, J. Burdman Auto parts came into existence.

Burdman was active in the Kirksville community and served as president of the Kirksville Rotary Club, president of the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce, and became the Mayor of Kirksville in 1960. He was known for being a very civic-minded person, who wanted what was best for the community.



In 1967, Burdman donated the historic bells, which were collected from abandoned churches, schoolhouses and public buildings in northeast Missouri. Each bell was meant to represent the ideals of liberty, justice, religion and education.

The funds to build the wall which houses the bells was provided in large part by contributions from Truman's Spring and Summer Classes of 1967.

Towne Bells

Visitors, students, faculty and staff often pass beneath the large clock tower at the south end of Pickler Memorial Library without knowing the great significance of the bells within it. The story behind the bells begins with Ruth Warner Towne, a well-known name on the Truman campus.



Born on June 19, 1917, Towne attended Kirksville public schools, graduating as the high school's valedictorian. In 1939, she was the first honor graduate of Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University), and she then earned a master's and a doctoral degree in history from the University of Missouri-Columbia. After completing her degrees at the University of Missouri, Towne returned to Kirksville to teach history at the Kirksville Senior High School. In 1952, she

began teaching at Truman. She served as dean of graduate studies from 1983 to 1988. From 1953 to 1987 she also served as the Delta Zeta college chapter director, continuing to be a faculty advisor until the time of her death in 1998. Even after officially retiring from the University in 1988, Towne taught part-time.

The building of the clock tower was part of the renovation of Pickler Memorial Library that took place in the late eighties and early nineties. Though the tower was meant to have bells eventually, there was not enough money to install them when the tower was constructed. The bell tower at the MU campus had taken Towne back to the sound of church bells from her childhood. When she learned that there would not be bells in the tower, she volunteered to make it happen herself. Towne funded the cost of the bells and their installation, as well as the electronic system called the carillon, as a gift to the University.

In September of 1992, four bronze bells purchased from Van Bergen Bell Foundries of South Carolina were hoisted to the top of

the clock tower. The only glitch was that the largest of the bells was too wide to fit through the opening of the tower. Workers had to lift the bell sideways and carefully maneuver it into the opening. The bells have been a unique part of campus since their formal dedication on Oct. 16, 1992, with the brief exception during the summer of 1993, when the carillon computer system was struck by lightning and had to be replaced.

David Nichols, professor emeritus of music, was the music consultant for the bells and also served as the carillonneur until his retirement in 2000. He explains that in addition to the four bronze bells, the carillon has a hi-tech system of 61 digitally sampled sounds representing a full range of 61 bells, which are stored in its computer system. The bronze bells and the digital sampling of the full range of bells make it possible to play nearly anything, though Nichols says that the intonation system is different from that of modern well-tempered piano/organ tuning systems and cannot play full chords.

Many people around campus comment about the contradicting times between when the bells toll and the time displayed on the clock faces. A 1994 *Index* story explained that the clock and the bells have two different operating systems. "[The clock system of the bells] is always accurate, but the clock itself has had its problems," says Nichols.

After Nichols retired in 2000, Shirley McKamie, lecturer in music, has often been asked to play the bells at the request of organizations approved by the Dean of Students Office or planned by the President's Office.

Turning the clock tower into a true campanile was a dream of Towne's. "Dr. Towne truly loved this University and thanks to her generosity, we have bells ringing in our bell tower, reminding us of her support of education and this institution," says Heidi Templeton, director of Public Relations at Truman. In addition to providing funds for the bells and carillon, Towne left a generous bequest of almost \$1 million to the University upon her death.

Virginia Young Stanton Garden

The Virginia Young Stanton Garden begins a few steps west of the Flame to the Second Century.

Virginia Young Stanton was the granddaughter of Samuel M. Pickler, who attended the University in 1867-1868, and became an instructor and member of the Board of Regents. Pickler Memorial Library was named in his honor after Pickler contributed money to help rebuild the library after a fire in January 1924. Though Stanton was born in Kirksville, she spent most of her life in California. Her first return to Kirksville was at the rededication ceremony of the library in 1993, following its renovation and additions. To commemorate her birthplace, the University, and her grandfather, Stanton gave a large monetary contribution to the University through her estate. Her love of gardening spawned the idea of a garden, a beautiful place for people to read, talk, and simply gather.

Half of the money given was used for the construction of the garden, which includes the landscaping along the east side of the library, from the north end to the clock tower, with concrete benches and flower planters immediately outside the entrance to the library at the center of the garden. The other half of the money was set aside for ongoing maintenance. Stanton died in 1994, unable to see the com-

pletion of her project; the garden was completed and dedicated on Aug. 6, 1996, the same day as the summer commencement that year.

When admiring the physical beauty added to the University by the generous donation of Virginia Young Stanton, or when resting on one of the benches in the garden, one can consider the poem which themes the garden and also appears on a plaque in the garden. Entitled "Hyacinths to Feed Thy Soul," it is attributed to the Gulistan of Moslih Eddin Saadi, a Mohammedan sheik and Persian poet who lived around 1184-1291; it reads:



*If of thy mortal goods thou art bereft,
And from thy slender store two loaves
alone to thee are left,
Sell one, and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.*

Campus Gates

As students and visitors walk up the cascading steps and through the gated walkway between Normal Street and the north edge of campus, they may not realize they are stepping through history. In addition to presenting a welcoming entrance to the beautifully landscaped grounds, this gateway represents a picture from the past.

Beginning in 1998, new markers identifying some of the buildings were added to campus. This signage project culminated in the summer of 2002, with the addition of the two large concrete markers located immediately inside this gated entryway that opens onto the Quadrangle. The architecture of each element of the project was carefully matched to the architecture of the buildings on campus, many of which are modeled after Baldwin Hall. In addition, the entire gateway structure was rebuilt as an exact replica of the old main gates to the campus, originally erected in 1937. The same structural blueprints were used, and the construction was even completed by the same company, Sparks Constructors Inc. of Kirksville.

The Board of Governors believed that this facelift would rejuvenate and preserve this special piece of history, and the addition of the two large markers just south of the gateway were carefully planned to further mark the history of the University. Each of these markers is emblazoned with "Truman State University July 1, 1996," commemorating the significant event of renaming the University, and with the new name, a reflection of the new mission of the University as an institution of public liberal arts and sciences. Also on the east marker are all of the former names of the

University –
North Missouri
Normal School
and Commercial

College (1867-1868), North Missouri Normal School (1868-1870), Missouri State Normal School of the First District (1870-1919), Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (1919-1968), Northeast Missouri State College (1968-1972), and Northeast Missouri State University (1972-1996).

An interesting debate concerning these previous names of the University arose from the disagreement concerning the title Kirksville State Teachers College, which was never officially a name of the University. Many alumni return to find that "their school name," Kirksville State Teachers College, has seemingly been omitted from this architectural marker noting the history of the University's names, but this title was merely the shortened name for "Northeast Missouri State Teachers College," replacing the "Northeast Missouri" with "Kirksville." Even letter sweatshirts from this era were printed and remain, with a prominent "K" on the front, but the diploma does not lie; officially, these are graduates of Northeast Missouri State Teachers College.

The marker on the west side of the gateway bears an intriguing quote from Charles W. Eliot, who served as president of Harvard University from 1869 until 1909. The quote, which also adorns Gate One of Harvard Yard, reads: "Enter to grow in wisdom. Depart, better to serve your country and thy kind."



All that remains of the first building on the campus that founder Joseph Baldwin first purchased is the small basin left by the original Baldwin Hall. This spot, which runs the length of the south side of Kirk Memorial Building, is known as the "Sunken Garden."

After a fire destroyed old Baldwin Hall in 1924, the building site was turned into a formal garden, which was completed in the spring of 1927. Over the years, this simple landscape has provided use and enjoyment for many people and for various reasons. The Theatre Department has performed William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the Sunken Garden, and classes can often be found there on nice days.



The Sunken Garden also provides the perfect setting for weddings, and several couples exchange vows in the garden each year. Denise Smith ('79), manager of alumni relations at Truman, remembers a superstition from an old yearbook that says "if a boy kisses a girl in the Sunken Garden, he will eventually marry that girl."

This May, Katie Svoboda, communication coordinator in the Public Relations Office at Truman, plans to hold her wedding in

Sunken Garden

the Sunken Garden. Svoboda and her fiancé, Christopher Best, are both 2000 Truman graduates. Among the reasons that the couple chose to get married in the Sunken Garden is the fact that the couple met there during their freshman year. "We took a long walk one night and ended up at one of the gazebos in the garden," says Svoboda. Though she had planned on transferring to a different school that fall, she ended up staying at Truman and loving it.

The Sunken Garden has also proved to be a proper location to confer the General Honors Medals for graduating students.

As with many of the landmarks on the campus, quotes to ponder accompany the site. During the 25th anniversary of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, the chapter presented a gift to the University that was placed in the Sunken Garden. The bronze lamp and book of knowledge rest atop a stone monument with the following quote from Thomas Wolfe: "This is what knowledge really is. It is finding out something for oneself with pain, with joy, with exultancy, with labor, and with all the little ticking, breathing moments of our lives." ■

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