



ISC

Beauty That's Planned

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FROM A BARREN PRAIRIE to a great informally landscaped campus, all within the short span of 60 years — that is the record of achievement of Iowa State College.

It was in 1893 that the first overall landscaping plans for the campus were drawn up by a company from Massachusetts. Ever since then Iowa State has had the expert help of landscape architects as well as its own specialists to plan the sweeping lawns and lofty spreading canopies of trees as well as the shady walks and drives.

Planning

The campus was apportioned into divisional areas by the State Board of Education with a great "central campus" to be left open. Around that area the State Board proposed to put the principal general and divisional buildings such as Beardshear Hall, Agriculture Hall, Home Economics Building and Engineering Hall. Several years later the stone library was added at one corner of the central campus as was the Dairy Industry Building on the other side.

Not only the arrangement of the buildings was well planned; landscaping was designed to fit each building into the area as a whole.

In 1915 the original dam for Lake LaVerne was built but it was found that mud piled up behind it quite rapidly. Several years later (1933) the lake was improved by adding a by-pass channel to let the flood water by without depositing mud in the lake.

Then it was seen that recreational facilities were needed, so the golf course was planned. The Landscape Architecture Department designed the area with the assistance of an expert on golf courses.

People who have watched the campus over the years say it is not only the enlarging of the area and the facilities which has altered its appearance, but the changing of roads and paths. Roads were removed from the central campus area where they cut off some of the buildings. At one time a road cut in front of the Home Economics Building, separating it from the other divisional buildings.

Each time a new building has gone up, or something

has been changed, the landscape architects have started planning again. They constantly adapt the trees and shrubs to the buildings and the overall appearance of the campus. They plan both for color and for view, seeing that the campus remains balanced. There are just enough evergreen trees to give the area strength, but not darkness. Deciduous trees which turn to bright and moving colors in the fall are interspaced with the evergreens to give the appearance which is so familiar and inspiring to all who know it.

In the spring the stone wall along Union Hill abounds with flowers which seem to come from nowhere. But they didn't "just happen." There are perennials planted for their color and vibrance. Each spring a few annuals are added to give the wall its peaceful and casual nature. No, the easy, informal beauty of Iowa State campus isn't just by accident. It is planned to the last detail to give that atmosphere.

The college beauty once established doesn't perpetuate itself either. Every year, and all year, there is work done to maintain and improve the appearance of the campus. There are new plantings each year, some replacing shrubs and grass which have died out, and some planting to be done in new places. When the home management houses were built they constituted a major project for the year. The Landscape Architecture Department had to see that the houses didn't rest on barren ground and planned suitable landscaping for them.

Repair Work

Then there is the constant and unceasing repair work. Trees must be pruned, grass must be mowed and watered in the summer and there is always a need for reseeding and fertilizing. To do this never-ending job there is a staff of 10 to 12 men who are year-round employees, plus the temporary employees who are hired for special jobs.

Planning and thought over the years by both students and professional people have made our campus what it is today — a master of beauty as well as a master of education.