

Table of contents

Message from the President of the University of Manitoba _____ **iv**

Message from the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences _____ **iv**

Forward _____ **vii**

Deans/presidents of the Manitoba Agricultural College and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences _____ **v**

Directors of the School of Agriculture _____ **v**

Chapter 1: **A new century, a new beginning** _____ **1**

Chapter 2: **War and a new home** _____ **13**

Chapter 3: **Roaring 20s and a new faculty** _____ **34**

Chapter 4: **The winds of change** _____ **49**

Chapter 5: **A time to regroup – the dawn breaks** _____ **65**

Chapter 6: **Setting the stage for growth** _____ **81**

Chapter 7: **The decade of experimentation and expansion** _____ **94**

Chapter 8: **Agriculture comes of age** _____ **107**

Chapter 9: **The technology era** _____ **121**

Chapter 10: **A new age** _____ **133**

Chapter 11: **Building bridges into the future** _____ **147**

Chapter 12: **The celebration of the century** _____ **147**

Chapter 13: **A century of research** _____ **147**

Faculty and graduates of the Manitoba Agricultural College and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences _____ **194**

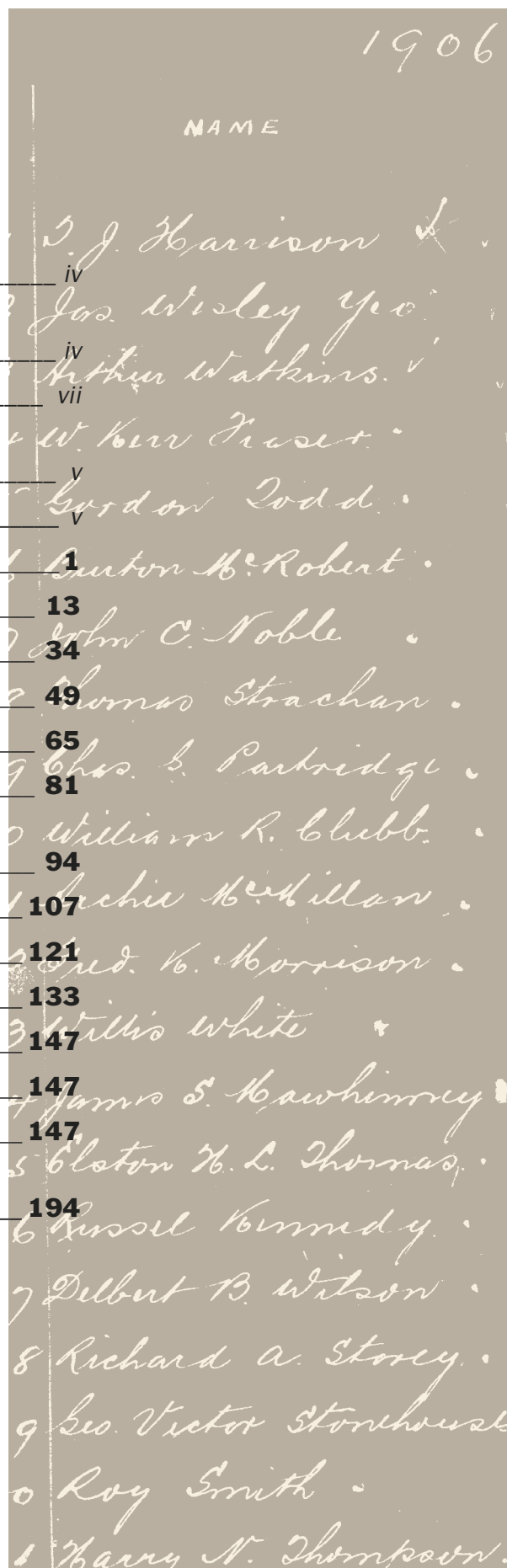
Roll of faculty

Roll of diploma graduates

Roll of degree graduates

Roll of Masters & PhD graduates

Photo credits _____



Life as an early Aggie

Since the student residence wasn't finished the first year of classes, students were housed on the top floor of the Administration Building and on cots in the library. Roblin Hall opened more than a year later with a residence capacity of 250 students. A midnight fire on the first night drove the students out into the cold temporarily.

Although Roblin Hall was more agreeable for the students in residence, *student life was still a rather Spartan existence. Sunday supper of apples, bread, cheese and milk was avoided by all who could afford a trip to the city.*⁸ Yet, with board and room at just \$3 per week (payable in advance), one could not be too fussy. Those who could not pay at the beginning of each month were charged \$3.75 per week.

It was estimated that students would require about \$100 for the entire term. Between \$60 and \$75 would be for room and board for the year, \$5 to \$10 for necessary books, and \$10 for laundry expenses. Students were also required to give a \$5 damage deposit. Annual tuition fees for the two-year diploma course were \$10 for a resident of Manitoba; \$25 for British subject outside of Manitoba; and \$50 for a resident of a foreign country. (Obviously higher fees for foreign students have a long history.)

Rooms in the dormitory were provided with necessary furniture, but each student had to bring a pillow, two pillowcases, four sheets, four towels and a laundry bag.

The first student executive or student council president, R.D. Colquette (Dip 1908), wrote about the life and times of the first class at the Tuxedo site. *The first morning we wrote off a preliminary examination in which we had to figure out how much it was going to cost a prospective homeowner to have a cellar so big and so deep dug at so much a cubic yard. This and other questions were to discover the extent of our primary education...*⁹

Early college documents note that the test was to determine students' knowledge of English and mathematics. The test was given the first day, and the students were divided into two classes. *All who show a certain standard will be placed in Class A and those who may require special training in the fundamental principles of these subjects will become members of class B.*¹⁰ For the other subjects, the same lectures were given to both classes.

Colquette noted that for exercise the students could use the gym, a small room in the basement of the Administration Building in which basketball was the chief diversion. Some tried football (soccer), and when winter came... *we made an outdoor rink, which gave more exercise with snow shovels than with skates.*

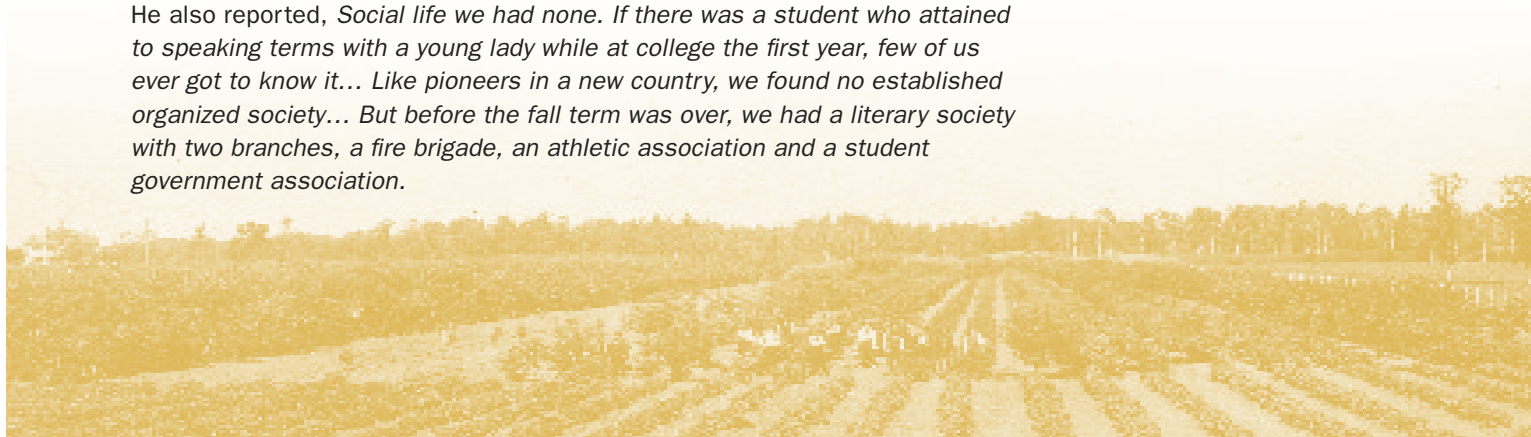
He also reported, *Social life we had none. If there was a student who attained to speaking terms with a young lady while at college the first year, few of us ever got to know it... Like pioneers in a new country, we found no established organized society... But before the fall term was over, we had a literary society with two branches, a fire brigade, an athletic association and a student government association.*



Residence room in Roblin Hall. (MAC Calendar 1908/09)

... the college aims to give the student a training in the "why" and the "what" of agriculture that will enable him to find out the "how".

1906/07 MAC Calendar



Frederick (Walter) Crawford Holder of the purse strings

Walter Crawford was born and raised near Brandon.

At age 15, he left school to work on his father's farm, and at 17 he entered MAC. Crawford was the very first student to graduate from the MAC degree course. Students were called to receive their degree parchment in alphabetical order; since there were no "As" or "Bs", he was the first person to receive an agricultural degree west of the Great Lakes.

We had classes in animal husbandry, field husbandry, horticulture, dairying, mathematics and English. We got a lot of English, and God knows we needed it. We started right off in public speaking. Being brought up on a farm, I had never been in a large group before. The first time I was asked to stand and talk, I couldn't say a word. I couldn't even say "good afternoon."

I do believe that the young people who came into the first few years received education with much more seriousness than a good deal many others I have seen in later years. The reason for this was the pioneer community and atmosphere in which we lived.¹

After graduation in 1911, Crawford went to work on his father's farm. One year later, he was back at the college as an instructor in animal husbandry. In 1914, he went overseas with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and later served with the Royal Flying Corps. He was awarded the Military Medal at Vimy in 1917.

In 1918, he returned with his English bride and joined the editorial staff of the *Farmers' Advocate*. A short time later, he became the secretary of the Canadian Aberdeen Angus Association. He wrote the book *Aberdeen Angus Cattle in Canada* and became known internationally as a livestock judge and an authority on Angus cattle.

In 1933, Crawford became a member of the board of governors of the University of Manitoba and that same year was hired as the university's first comptroller, a position he held for 21 years. He became almost as infamous as his predecessor, John Machray, but not for losing money – rather for holding onto it too tightly.

Known as "The Boss", he *had absolute control over expenditures and resolutely refused to authorize any of which he did not approve.*² Because he had so much control over the purse strings, he effectively had more power than the president. *A no-nonsense man, Crawford once told President Sidney Smith, "Here are the facts you wanted for those letters you're going to send out, Sid. You put in the bullshit."*³

His penny-pinching backfired one weekend in the late 30s when the university payroll was stolen. Back then, every time a cheque was written, the issuer had to affix a three cent stamp if the amount were under \$100 and a six cent



Walter Crawford (l) and Archie MacMillan just back from the stock judging competition at Chicago, 1910. They must have won given their satisfied expressions.

stamp if it were more. To save money, Crawford decided to pay employees in cash. One Friday the cash arrived too late to pay the employees, so it was put in the vault until Monday. Over the weekend, thieves broke in, took their time to eat lunch amongst the rubble of the brick walls they burrowed through, and then made off with the money!⁴

At many lunches, Crawford presided over a table that normally included a group of eight or ten university staff. Discussion often centred around one of his favourite subjects, politics. Not surprisingly, not everyone was of his political persuasion. One year, during his federal party's bid for re-election, he invited the local candidate to attend a lunch meeting. Following the candidate's speech, a Crawford dissident thanked the candidate and concluded, "We all appreciate receiving this information from the horse's mouth. What we usually hear around here emerges from the other end of the horse."

After leaving the university, Crawford was elected as an alderman to Winnipeg city council. Due to his powers of persuasion, he commanded respect and garnered considerable influence, even outside his particular area of responsibility. For example, he was brought in to oversee an increasingly contentious issue – the disposal of unclaimed dogs from the city of Winnipeg pound. The city proposed to donate the dogs to the university's Faculty of Medicine. This aroused the ire of animal welfare activists who launched a vigorous campaign to defeat the proposal. They targeted Crawford because of his previous association with the university. He was subjected to a wide range of harassments including a variety of services and goods (taxis, ambulances, prepared meals and flowers) arriving at his home, none of which had been ordered.

¹ *Manitoba Co-operator*, June 21, 1956.

² *The University of Manitoba An Illustrated History*. J. M. Bumsted. The University of Manitoba Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 2001. pg 77

³ *The University of Manitoba An Illustrated History*

⁴ Bob Ireland interview, audio tape recorded January 17, 2007 by Shelley Sweeney, Head, Archives and Special Collections, University of Manitoba .

A new animal science building followed in 1962. It sits directly to the west of the old animal science building (Lecture Block) on the southeast corner of University Crescent and Dafoe Road. The symmetrical, rectangular, two-story building, reflects the international or modernist style, and is similar in design to the J.A. Russell Building, which houses the Faculty of Architecture further up the street. Faced with Manitoba limestone and precast and aggregate panels on the exterior, it has a two-storey courtyard in the core of the interior. The landscaping of the courtyard, which is surrounded by a reflecting glass curtain wall of dark-tinted glass, was designed by the Canadian horticulturalist Stan Westaway. Entomology joined animal science in the new building.



Interior courtyard of animal science building, c. early 60s.

From a teaching and research perspective, the new building had laboratories that had been unavailable previously. It included a small animal laboratory with feed preparation and storage room, a surgery and climate-controlled rooms.

What became the Ellis Building, eventually housing the soil and food science departments, was completed in two stages. In 1966, a single-storey building was built followed by a second-storey addition as well as a new two-storey wing in 1969/70. Not only is the Ellis Building the most distant of the agriculture buildings physically, it has also strayed the furthest in terms of exterior finish with its rough hewn, patterned, vertical facing in limestone and concrete. For several years after it was built, it was rented to the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to provide it sufficient time to build its own building across the road for the Freshwater Institute. In late 1972, the building was vacated and turned over to the Faculty. It was renamed the Ellis Building in April 1975 in honor of Dr. Joe H. Ellis.

To accommodate the new construction, the fur farm building was removed in 1960 and a series of poultry barns were demolished to make way for the Ellis Building and parking lots.

On the animal side, two, two-storey poultry buildings (for laying hens and broilers) were erected in 1961 west of University Crescent, but torn down only 11 years later to allow the construction of the Freshwater Institute. One of the two buildings had a unique distinction. "When we asked for permission to build that building, Hugh Saunderson was the president. He didn't want to stop us from going ahead with the research we were planning, but he said, 'You know I'm sweating in my office, and you are going to have air-conditioning for chickens!' I had the privilege of planning the first air-conditioned building on campus," recalled Peter Kondra (BSA 1934).

The poultry research facilities were relocated to an area 500 m west of the existing animal science building, to the rear of the Freshwater Institute. Opened in 1976, the barns cost \$375,000 and were still in use in 2007. One barn can house 4,200 caged layers and a small breeding flock. The second barn can hold up to 5,120 broilers. The Manitoba Department of Agriculture assumed the \$375,000 cost of the project.

Developments occurred off campus too in the 60s. The Glenlea Research Station was established in 1966, but not without some consternation on the part of a few staff members. There had been a strong suggestion made that a ranch in the Interlake should be considered to allow for more extensive beef cattle research. The purchase of the new site was made possible through the sale of Faculty land on south Waverley Street to developers. The station



The transom area over the main entrance has a mosaic and metal sculpture, symbolic of the sun and wheat, designed by S. G. Elsey and produced by the world famous sculptor Leo Mol.



Premier Duff Roblin opens Glenlea Research Station, June 25, 1966.

Chapter 10

A new age



Research facility in Carman. Credit (Luit)

In 1990, the board of governors approved a name change for the Faculty. In July 1991, the Faculty of Agriculture officially became the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. The change was made to better reflect the Faculty's broad scope and to acknowledge its food science component. Additionally, the new name would aid in putting to rest some of the misperception that had dogged the Faculty for much of its history. After all, there was more to the faculty than just farming.

The change did not come easily. Interestingly, solid opposition arose from the Faculty of Human Ecology, the group that had once been such an integral part of the Faculty and had changed its own name in 1982. The difficulty stemmed from the use of the word food. Members of the Faculty of Human Ecology believed their faculty had sole rights to any reference to food. At the time, Jim Elliot was just newly installed in the dean's office in agriculture, and he was under the impression all that was left to do was the formality of Senate approval. When heated discussion between the two deans occurred on the floor of Senate, President Naimark suggested the deans come back when they had reached a consensus.

Elliot met with the dean and department heads of the Faculty of Human Ecology, but they could not come to an agreement. Neither would budge on the word food. Elliot decided to bide his time, taking almost six months to meet with each dean of the university's faculties over lunch to explain his case and garner support. He had the name change put on the agenda of the last meeting of Senate for the academic year, the meeting when there is a changeover of representatives. The Faculty got its new name.

Professor W. Southworth was responsible for developing 10 cultivars of five forage species from Macsel alfalfa (with greater seed-setting ability than previous strains) to Dural timothy and Sturdy meadow fescue for improved production. A hybrid corn, Manitoba Amber, was produced by Southworth from strains of Manitoba Flint and North Western Dent which he had developed. The hybrid grew taller, tillered less and yielded better than other varieties tested.

The first fertility field trials began in 1919, but likely the most important were the Junior Co-operator Fertilizer Trials initiated and supervised by the college's soils division from 1929 to 1931, with financial support from Manitoba Pool Elevators. The results demonstrated the advantages of drilling in a small amount of fertilizer with the seed (compared to broadcast) and the kind of fertilizers regionally required. It influenced the formulation and pelleting of fertilizers manufactured and used in the plains region.



Bill Schafer, farm foreman, in experimental sunflower plots at MAC, c. 1927



E.W. Atkins (BSA 1928) beside experimental hemp plots at MAC, 1927.