THE COMMONER

A Memorial to
William Jennings Bryan
the Great Commoner

and a History of the Conception, Birth, and Establishment of the William Jennings Bryan University.

Published by the
FIRST STUDENT BODY
of the
William Jennings Bryan University
of
DAYTON, TENNESSEE
THE BIRTH

HE William Jennings Bryan University opened its doors for freshman students on September 18, 1930, approximately five years after the renowned anti-evolution trial in Dayton, Tennessee. The inaugural ceremony was held in the courtroom in which Mr. Bryan assisted in the prosecution of Mr. John T. Scopes.

Many thinking men and women feel that this trial and its attendant widespread publicity mark the turning point in the effort to check the swelling tide of materialistic and agnostic philosophy which had made such marked progress toward engulfing the young students in our educational institutions.

At the conclusion of the trial John T. Scopes, the young teacher charged with violating the Tennessee State law against the teaching of evolution, was found guilty. The Supreme Court of Tennessee held that the law was constitutional and that Scopes had been guilty of violating it as charged in the indictment.

On the Thursday preceding his death, on Sunday, July 25, 1925, Mr. Bryan suggested the establishment of a school for young men upon one of the suburban hills.

In consequence of his sudden death in Dayton, on the field of the legal battle, his friends felt that the movement inaugurated by him should be amplified and that a great co-educational, non-sectarian, but thoroughly Christian institution should be built as a national memorial to his life and character.

Nearly a million dollars has been subscribed for this purpose. A most beautiful site of eighty-four acres on a wooded hill overlooking Dayton has been purchased. The Administration Building, planned to accommodate 400 students in all departments of college life, is now under construction.

Dr. George E. Guille, of Athens, Tennessee, for fifteen years Extension Bible Teacher for the Moody Bible Institute, was selected as the first president of the institution. Mr. Malcolm Lockhart, formerly connected in a promotional way with several outstanding Southern colleges, was selected as vice-president. All members of the faculty have at least two academic degrees or their equivalent, thus insuring the highest educational and scholastic standards.
DEDICATION

The first student body of the William Jennings Bryan University reverently dedicates this volume to "The Great Commoner" in memory of whom Bryan University has been founded.
The Great Commoner
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Southwestern University; D.D., Bob Jones College.

President of the University, Professor of Bible, and nationally known Bible Lecturer. For fifteen years connected with the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Co-founder of the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Dallas, Texas.
Faculty

MALCOLM M. LOCKHART
A.B., University of Georgia.

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Professor of Romance Languages
Faculty

Dwight W. Ryther, Jr.

B.S.C. and M.A., University of Georgia.

Professor of English, History, and Commerce. Coach and Director of Student Activities

Julia Anna Yancey

B.S., North Carolina College for Women; Graduate. Student of Peabody Conservatory of Music and of the University of Virginia.

Instructor in Art and Music

THE COMMONER, 1931
Class History

On September 18, 1930, the first class to enter the William Jennings Bryan University began its march into the unknown mysteries of college work. It was at two o'clock that several hundred people gathered at the Rhea County courthouse—a building made famous through the valiant and successful efforts of William Jennings Bryan to uphold the truths of the Bible against the theory of evolution. "Wisdom, Human and Divine," was the subject chosen by Dr. Guille, the president of the University, for his opening address.

The classes started in the old Rhea Central High School building, and although the building is not in the best of condition, it has met the needs for the first year of work. During the first quarter there were twenty-seven students enrolled. At the beginning of the second quarter this number had increased to seventy-four.

The Class of '34 has not had all work and no play. Three plays were given by the Dramatic Club with most satisfactory results. A fifteen-piece orchestra has been formed under the expert direction of Mrs. C. A. Montoya and has played at many of the University and municipal services. A Halloween carnival was given during the Halloween season, and a good time was enjoyed by all who attended. The hall and two rooms of the building were decorated to represent a field of shocked corn completely surrounded by a forest in full autumnal color.

Basketball teams were formed for both the men and the women, and several games were played with—considering the lack of material and facilities—fair success.

Just prior to the closing of the University two picnics were given to the graduating classes of the neighboring high schools. It is expected that these picnics will become an annual event.

Perhaps one of the high spots of the class history is to be found in the marriage of Miss Edwina Wing to Mr. Charles Bailey of Erwin, Tennessee, which is also the home of the bride. The marriage, taking place on the tenth of January, was not announced until the last week of school.

On June the fourth, after a week of final examinations, the University closed a very interesting and most successful year. The students in Bryan's first class are now looking forward to their sophomore year, when they will no longer be lowly freshmen.

Amy Cartright, Historian.
Class of '34

Hazel Allen
Dayton, Tenn.

Elmira Arnold
Dayton, Tenn.

Reba Arnold
"Bea"
Dayton, Tenn.
Class Treasurer; Basketball; Bryan Players; Tennis.

Edwina Wing Bailey
"Eddie"
Erwin, Tenn.
Class Secretary; Bryan Players; Social Editor.

Catherine Beard
"Catrinka"
Spring City, Tenn.
Basketball.
Class of '34

NINA BILLINGSLEY
"Lindy"
DAYTON, TENN.
Basketball, Captain; Bryan Players; Tennis.

ELIZABETH BYRON
"Curly"
DAYTON, TENN.
Bryan Players; Tennis.

AMY CARTRIGHT
"Feek"
DAYTON, TENN.
Class Historian; "Commoner" Editor; Bryan Players.

DOROTHY CAUDLE
"Dodo"
DAYTON, TENN.
Bryan Players; Basketball.

DORA CLARKE
"Dodo"
DAYTON, TENN.
Class of '34

MONTIE COCHRAN
DAYTON, TENN.
Bryan Players.

MILDRED COOLEY
"Mil"
WASHINGTON, TENN.

ROBERT CRAWFORD
"Dooley"
DAYTON, TENN.
Class President; Bryan Players; Basketball; "Commoner" Business Manager; Tennis; Orchestra.

MARION DENTON
"Tag"
EVENSVILLE, TENN.
Basketball; Bryan Players.

AUDREY DUGGAR
"Hen"
DAYTON, TENN.

Class of '34

La Fleda Duggar
"Pete"
Dayton, Tenn.

Harriett Dunlap
"Tillie"
Dayton, Tenn.
Bryan Players; Basketball; Tennis.

Rose Fisher
Dayton, Tenn.
Basketball.

Mona Flerl
Bakewell, Tenn.
Tennis.

Beulah Swafford Gentry
Dayton, Tenn.
Class of '34

Nora Gideon
Washington, Tenn.
"Commoner" Art Editor.

J. M. Hughes
Dayton, Tenn.

Pauline Kidd
Dayton, Tenn.

Ruth Lacewell
"Lacy"
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Basketball, Alternate Captain; Bryan Players; Tennis.

Norman Locke
"Babe"
Dayton, Tenn.
Tennis.
Class of '34

**Sybil Lusk**
“Syb”
Harlan, Ky.
Bryan Players; Bryan Quartette.

**Betty Matthews**
“Bet”
Dayton, Tenn.
Basketball.

**Bertha Ansley Morgan**
“Lady Morgan”
Dayton, Tenn.
Bryan Players; “Commoner” Circulation Manager.

**Howard Morgan**
“Scrappy”
Dayton, Tenn.
Basketball, Captain; Bryan Players; Tennis.

**Amanda Pugh**
“Blondie”
Grandview, Tenn.
Tennis.
Class of '34

Viola Pugh
"Vi"
Grandview, Tenn.
Bryan Players.

B. S. Purser
"Ben"
Dayton, Tenn.
Basketball; Tennis; Bryan Players.

Eloise Purser
"Weezie"
Dayton, Tenn.
Basketball; "Commoner" Photo Editor.

Logan Rector
"Rock"
Evensville, Tenn.

Pearl Reed
"Shorty"
Dayton, Tenn.
Class of '34

Vesta Robinson  
Dayton, Tenn.  
Orchestra.

Hazel Roddy  
Dayton, Tenn.

Madge Shaver  
Dayton, Tenn.

Magnolia Shaver  
"Mag"  
Dayton, Tenn.

Margie Smith  
"Smitty"  
Evensville, Tenn.  
Basketball; Tennis.
Class of '34

Katherine Taylor
PIKEVILLE, TENN.
Basketball.

Viola Thurman
"Vi"
WASHINGTON, TENN.
Tennis.

Queen Trentham
"Madam Queen"
CARP, TENN.
"Commoner" Associate Editor; Basketball.

George Trout
"Fish"
HARRIMAN, TENN.

Nola Watson
SPRING CITY, TENN.
Basketball; "Commoner" Sport Editor.
Class of '34

R. C. Wilbur
"Bloxy"
DAYTON, TENN.

Bryan Players; Basketball, Alternate Captain; "Commoner" Associate.

Virgil Wilkey
"Rosco"
DAYTON, TENN.
Class of '34

Students whose individual pictures are not in "The Commoner"

DOROTHY BLACKBURN ... DAYTON, TENN.
MARI BOWMAN ... DAYTON, TENN.
MRS. JACK BROWN ... DAYTON, TENN.
JAMES CALDWELL ... SPRING CITY, TENN.
Basketball; Bryan Players; Assistant Business Manager "The Commoner".

MRS. PANSY T. COLLINS ... EVANSVILLE, TENN.
GLADYS FINE ... DAYTON, TENN.
HELEN FUGATE ... RHEA SPRINGS, TENN.
R. L. GENTRY ... DAYTON, TENN.

MRS. T. C. KNIGHT ... DAYTON, TENN.
T. C. KNIGHT ... DAYTON, TENN.
MURIEL KNIGHT ... DAYTON, TENN.
JAMES LOCKE ... DAYTON, TENN.

Basketball; Bryan Players.

Cecil McCabe ... Dayton, Tenn.
Leta Miller ... Rhea Springs, Tenn.
Cecil Monday ... Roddy, Tenn.

MRS. A. M. MORGAN ... DAYTON, TENN.
MRS. W. C. HAGGARD ... DAYTON, TENN.

IRENE MOYERS ("Rene"), SPRING CITY, TENN.
UNA RAY ... EVANSVILLE, TENN.
WAYNE SMITH ... RODDY, TENN.
THELMA VAUGHN ... DAYTON, TENN.
ELOISE WILKEY ("El") ... EVANSVILLE, TENN.

Bryan Players; Tennis.

MRS. W. E. MORGAN ... DAYTON, TENN.
IRENE ODOM ... SPRING CITY, TENN.
GILES RYAN ... DAYTON, TENN.
RALPH TALLENT ... DAYTON, TENN.
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Boys’ Basketball Team

It was not the intention of the University authorities that Bryan University should take part in intercollegiate athletics until somewhat better prepared to do so. The students, however, were of a different mind and requested time after time that they be allowed to have a basketball team—a request which was granted.

With great hopes, but with little expectancy—little could be expected from a seven-man basketball squad, only two of whom had participated in high school athletics—for a successful season, basketball was begun. Dressed in Cardinal and New Gold, the boys prepared to meet what might come. And come it did.

From the standpoint of scores, the season was one of little success; from the standpoint of learning to “play the game,” the results were most satisfactory. At least the ball was started and will continue to roll, gathering more and more momentum, down through the years to come.

**Schedule**

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<th>Bryan</th>
<th>6; Rhea High</th>
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<td>Bryan</td>
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<td>16; Hiwassee College</td>
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<td>Bryan</td>
<td>24; Modern Woodmen</td>
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<td>29; Hiwassee College</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>Bryan</td>
<td>25; Burritt College</td>
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<td>Bryan</td>
<td>29; Rhea High</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>36; Burritt College</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>203; Opponents</td>
<td>323</td>
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</table>

THE COMMONER, 1931
Girls' Basketball Team

"What is sauce for the gander, is sauce for the goose"; so it was not long before it was definitely understood that Bryan would put two basketball teams onto the court instead of one. The girls, three of whom had played basketball to some extent in high school, began to organize for war. Recruits were enlisted, and practice began with ten prospective players on deck.

The number of applicants for berths on the team had soon dwindled to some seven or eight, and it was not until the influx of students for the second quarter that much could be accomplished in the way of practice.

As was the result of the boys' work, perhaps the greatest benefit gained from the season lies in the fact that the game has been introduced and that the preliminary organization will at least be less difficult next year.

**Schedule**

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<td>Bryan</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Decatur Independents</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Decatur Independents</td>
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<td>Bryan</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Opponents</td>
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