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Looking at Record of I. U.'s President—

Wells Scorns All Pomp and Pageantry;
Likes Man-to-Man Chats With Students

\$2500 Set Up for Inauguration Will Be Devoted to Research Work.

By PAUL BOXELL
BLOOMINGTON Correspondent
BLOOMINGTON, Nov. 4.—The inauguration of Herman B. Wells as 11th president of Indiana University some time before the first of the year will be, at his own request, a "simple family ceremony."

Soon after school resumed this fall, President Wells announced that the \$2500 set aside by the University trustees for a formal inauguration would be devoted instead to the field of research "where much can be done with benefit to the University and in service to the people of Indiana."

He was unwilling, he said, that "ceremony and pageantry" should consume funds needed for "vital and urgent functions."

Friends of Mr. Wells know how sincere he is in this unprecedented action, but they also know that an additional reason lies behind it.

This youngest of major University presidents dislikes "pomp and pageantry" in general, but most particularly when he is the center of it.

President Since March

At 35, he was named president last March 22, but he made no formal appearance before the student body until May 4. And then he took to the rostrum only to introduce Wendell L. Willkie of Commonwealth and Southern as principal speaker for Foundation Day exercises.

It was September before he donned cap and gown again to welcome new students at the beginning of the current school year. He led the students in an oath of allegiance—and President Emeritus William Lowe Bryan gave the principal address.

The young president's speeches are almost always brief; nevertheless he is considered one of the best speakers in the country and is in constant demand. Bankers' meetings, business conventions, civic and women's groups and other universities besiege him with invitations to lecture.

President Wells prefers to contact his students through informal personal meetings.

"Then both of us may talk," he says.

Tuesday Student Day

Consequently, every Tuesday afternoon is student day. Students may go to the president's office without appointment to confer with Mr. Wells on any subject of their choosing.

"This period is one in which students take precedence over all others—visitors from out of town, faculty and even deans and administration," he explains. "During this time, with or without appointments, as long as they will come the time is theirs."

"No student need leave Indiana University after four years without warm, personal friendships with those of us under whose guidance his academic interests lie."

Usually, during these "chats," the president deserts his big, formal desk and he and the student pull up easy chairs before a large window through which they look out over the campus.

Students have been quick to take advantage of his offer. He has had an average of a dozen callers for each conference afternoon. He might have many more, but the president does not contest.



President Wells prefers to contact I. U. students through informal personal meetings. Above he confers with James Huston, of Fairmount. At 6 Herman Wells started to school (lower left). At 36 he is the youngest president of a major university.

he determined to buy a newspaper route, but his father refused, for the moment, to provide the necessary cash.

Undaunted, the future banking expert went to the bank where his father was an officer and borrowed \$8 on his own personal note.

Goes in Bank at 13

His father must have been somewhat impressed, because at 13 Herman went to work in the bank.

After graduation from Lebanon High School, young Herman attended the University of Illinois one year, then changed to Indiana University, where he received the Bachelor of Science degree in 1924.

Three years later he was awarded the Master of Arts degree here, and he continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin.

While in school here Mr. Wells was, among other things, business manager of the Red Book student directory, treasurer of the Union Board, Y. M. C. A. cabinet member, member of Blue Key, Beta Gamma Sigma, Alpha Kappa Psi and Kappa Kappa Psi, the latter being direct proof of his ability as a horn-tooter in the University band.

Fellow students say that he didn't allow his banking practice to lag while he was on the campus. If it was a short-term loan you wanted, Herman Wells was the fellow to see.

Sometime after leaving school he became field secretary for the Indiana Bankers Association. In 1930 he returned here as professor of economics. Three years later he left again to become a supervisor in the State Department of Financial Institutions, a position in which he won national recognition through his drafting of special bank legislation.

Back on the campus in 1935, he became dean of the Business Administration school and two years later was named acting president when Dr. Bryan retired.

The new executive hardly took time to roll up his shirt sleeves.

He approved the addition of 20 acres of land to the campus.

He took over direction of the University's three-million dollar building program, which has placed almost a dozen new structures on the campus, with five more in construction now.

Hunted New Talent

He set out on a nation-wide search for faculty talent, and brought home with him 30 new teachers in almost as many different fields.

He added a radio division to the curriculum and developed an arrangement whereby University programs are broadcast over Indianapolis station WIRE four times weekly.

He fostered the forming of a student religious council.

President Wells is popular with the students. He purposely avoids

being formal when he is in their presence, but he doesn't fraternize with them to the extent that he's "just one of the boys."

President Wells often attends the meetings and luncheons of student groups on the campus, but he cannot be found sitting in a campus eat-and-run spot with a round of student "pals," as some writers have reported.

Good Memory

He is actually seen less on the school paths than is Mr. Bryan, for the reason that his house is away from the campus, while the president-emeritus has to cut directly across the campus in walking to and from his home.

But if President Wells happens to be walking on the campus, and if he ever has met you—in one of his conferences or otherwise—he will greet you by name as you pass. And he will touch his hat—just the way President Bryan used to do.

Mr. Lederman denied that he was drunk.

He said he had had only one bottle of beer but did not remember hitting the two cars.

10 MOTORISTS RECEIVE FINES

Two Convicted on Charges
Of Drunken Driving;
Cyclist Hurts Boy.

of drunken driving and drunkenness. Officers and other witnesses testified that he struck a safety zone at Rural and Washington Sts. Clarence Pryor, 6, of 2817 Baltimore Ave. was recovering at his home today from injuries received when a hit-and-run cyclist knocked him down in front of his home yesterday. He was treated by a private physician.

Meanwhile, two persons received injuries in auto accidents reported by police overnight. Eighteen persons were arrested on traffic violation charges.

Louis Gehrke, 26, of 1546 S. Alabama St., and John Jarosinski, 31, of 1443 Glomer St., were injured slightly yesterday when a car in which they were riding struck a telephone pole in the 1000 block of S. Warman St., police reported.

YOUTH FACES JURY

AFTER FATAL FIGHT

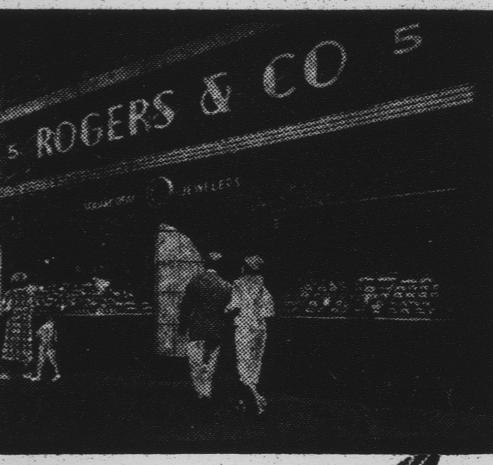
MIAMI, Fla., Nov. 4 (U. P.)—The State Attorney's office today ordered Smith Irwin, 24, held for Grand Jury action in connection with the death of L. W. Holt of Minneapolis, despite a coroner's jury verdict clearing Irwin of any blame in Mr. Holt's death.

Irwin, an unemployed youth from Nolensville, Tenn., said he hit Mr. Holt when the latter made a suggestion which Irwin resented.

The coroner's jury held that Mr. Holt died from a blow struck by Irwin but recorded the death as justifiable homicide.

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