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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
Times 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 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 descends his big, formal desk, and he and the student pull up easy chairs before a large window through which they may 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



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

consider a handshake a conference.

His fondness for simplicity is evident in several other ways. He drives a low-priced car. For relaxation he retires to his picturesque cabin in Brown County near Nashville. He owns a farm near that of his father in Boone County.

A bachelor, President Wells lives in the old Woodburn home with Sam Gabriel, campus clothing store proprietor. The house is a quaint old-timer, part of it being built as early as 1821.

It is furnished with cherry and mahogany antiques from Hoosier pioneer homes. Some of the furnishings have been brought to Bloomington from estates of the old South around Natchez, Miss.

Antique rugs, paintings, silverware and china also serve to reflect a hobby which prompted a wag at the recent bankers' conference here to remark:

"Digging in the files to inspect bank notes during the moratorium was right down Herman Wells' alley."

Pals Since High School
Mr. Gabriel and President Wells have been close friends since their high school days in Lebanon. Mr. Gabriel's store is located just across the street from his "roommate's" office in the Administration Building.

The year in which William Lowe Bryan was inaugurated as

president, 1902, also marked the birth of his successor. President Wells was 36 last March 22. He was born in Jamestown, in Boone County, where his father is still a bank executive.

It is said that when he was 10

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Seventeen Plead No Contest in Correspondence School Fraud

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 4 (U. P.).—Seventeen of 48 defendants charged with using the mails to defraud in connection with the operation of the public service institute, a correspondence school, today awaited sentencing after pleading no contest.

The case was called for trial in Federal Court yesterday. Clarence de Montreville of St. Louis, school head, and 15 others pleaded not guilty. A salesman, Leo Johnson of Oklahoma City, pleaded guilty before Judge George H. Moore. Thirteen other defendants are still at large and one is dead.

Judge Moore deferred sentence in the cases of those pleading guilty or no contest.

Those who pleaded no contest were: Joseph Bernstein of St. Joseph, Mo.; C. L. Blackburn, Decatur, Ill.; A. B. Cobb, Sioux City, Ia.; A. G. Hodges, Seattle, Wash.; J. J. McMahon, Jack Friedman, G. O. Miller, Albany, Ga.; J. D. Moore, Ft. Wayne; R. A. Wilkes, Oklahoma City; R. J. Young, Pratt City, Kas.; J. B. Wyatt and Taylor Stewart, Connerville, Ind. Five others live in St. Louis.

The correspondence school, established four years ago by de Montreville, is estimated to have a gross revenue of \$528,000 in the two years operated. The Government has charged that officials of the school misrepresented to students that they would be guaranteed Government jobs upon completion of the correspondence courses.

WHITNEY IS PRISON CLERK
OSSINING, N. Y., Nov. 4 (U. P.).—Richard Whitney, former president of the New York Stock Exchange who is serving a sentence in Sing Sing Prison for grand larceny, became a clerk today in the office of John Sheehy, principal keeper.

TWO NAZI OFFICIALS KILLED
BERLIN, Nov. 4 (U. P.).—Attorney General Parey and First State's Attorney Gebel of the People's Court, which tries only espionage and high treason cases, were killed in an automobile accident today on the highway between Berlin and Hanover.

10 MOTORISTS RECEIVE FINES

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

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.

Two motorists, one of whom police said crashed into two parked cars after he drank two bottles of beer, were convicted on charges of drunken driving and fined in Municipal Court today.

Eight other motorists were fined \$30 for traffic violations by Municipal Judge Charles Karabell. A total of \$60 in fines and costs was suspended.

Harry G. Lederman, 1206 Comer Ave., was fined \$46 and his license suspended for 60 days on charges of drunken driving and failure to stop after an accident. Officers testified that he crashed into two parked cars at Pleasant Run Blvd. and State St.

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.

Two Hurt by Autos
The other convicted motorist was Walter C. Schrier, 309 N. Forest Ave., who was fined \$30 on charges

of drunken driving and drunkenness. 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 Gocher, 28, of 1546 S. Alabama St., and John Jarosinski, 31, of 1443 Gimber 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.

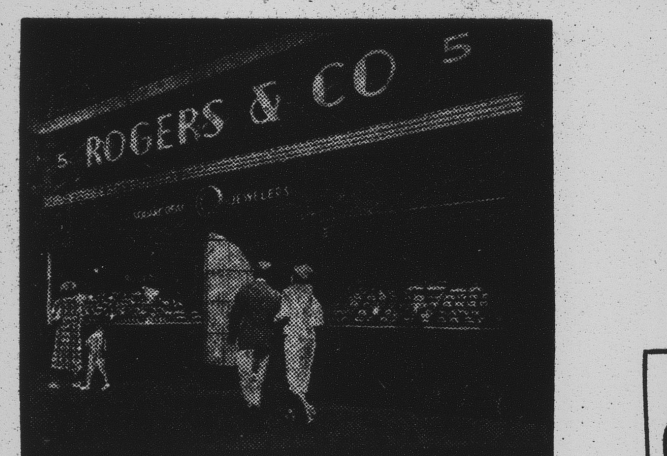
YOUTH FACES JURY AFTER FATAL FIGHT

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 Nolenville, 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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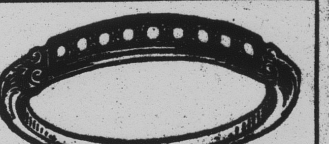
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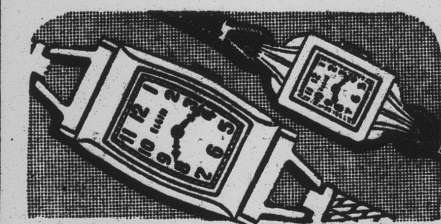
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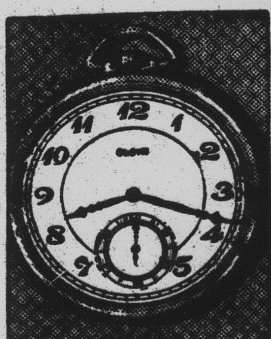
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