



**Wilson Hall**  
at the  
**College in Indiana**

ARCHIVES

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Wilson Hall at the State Teachers College, Indiana, Pa., has been serving the public from behind its ivy-covered walls since "1893, (when) the board erected, to the northward of the main building, the Model School, and named it in honor of their third President, the A. W. Wilson Hall. This building contains eight large, airy classrooms, with ample playrooms in the basement for use on a stormy day. . . This building is lighted, heated, ventilated and furnished in the most approved manner."

The training department enrolled about two hundred and seventy-five children divided into eight grades of elementary and junior high school classes. Trained and experienced supervisors and critic teachers were employed. Miss Jennie Ackerman, Miss Hope Stewart and Mrs. Malvina G. Riddle were among those who rendered outstanding service. Classic examples of those who were to become prominent are James Stewart, a student for several years in the Model School, and Agnes Sligh (Turnbull), who did her student teaching as a senior while attending the Normal School.

Specialists from the Normal School faculty provided instruction for the subjects of music, drawing, domestic art, and manual training. The seniors who were student teaching observed and had practice work for a period of twenty weeks. The work patterns and skills of teaching were similar to present day practices of student teachers and critic teachers.

In 1926 the northwest room on the second floor of Wilson Hall was established as an Intermediate Library for the Model School from the various classroom libraries.

During the late 1930's a new laboratory school was erected to replace the Training (Model) School and consideration was then given to the remodeling of Wilson Hall to serve the best of advantage of the college.

The college library had grown in size from a "fine Reference Library" to one of over 15,000 volumes and one hundred fifty regularly received periodicals. This expanding collection had placed a severe strain upon its physical quarters which were then located in the present Reception Lounge.

The crowded conditions were relieved considerably in 1941 with the extensive remodeling of the old Training School building for the housing of the library. The "new" building became Wilson Hall Library with provisions for 50,000 volumes and a seating capacity of 255 students. Four reading rooms on the second floor enabled the newer books in all subjects to be put on open shelves. Located on the first floor was the circulation desk, a combined reference and reserve room, a curriculum materials room, a periodical room and separate quarters for the Indiana Historical Society's collection. Two rooms equipped in the basement with new steel stacks provided added storage.

War time conditions prevented a remodeling program of the library interior, however, progress was made in the purchase of library books and materials. A rental library was established in 1944 to provide current fiction. Grants and gifts from graduating classes, alumni classes and private individuals have continued the supplementing of budget allotments. The library has grown to over 45,000 volumes and is regularly receiving over two hundred fifty periodicals.

Since 1948 many accomplishments have been achieved to further develop the library in Wilson Hall. The outside of the building has been painted and the roof repaired. A definite remodeling program which will completely refurnish each of the eight main rooms has been in process since 1951. Designs and plans have been drawn by Mr. Ralph Reynolds, art department faculty member.

The shelving, tables, and study chairs are finished in light oak, the drapes are of beige monks cloth, and the upholstered furniture and accessories are in keeping with the individual color scheme for each room.

Library  
State College  
Indiana, Penna.

The first room was furnished in 1951 as a Reading Lounge (formerly the Pennsylvania Room) with funds from the re-unioning classes of 1891, 1896, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1926, 1931, 1941, and 1951. The Periodical Room was similarly furnished in 1952 by the re-union classes of 1892, 1897, 1902, 1912, 1922, 1927, 1932, 1942 and 1952. The Curriculum Materials Room was completed in 1953 by the reunion classes of 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1933 and 1943.

Additional steel shelves were provided in 1950 permitting the expansion and re-arrangement of periodicals and documents. At this same time all "book" stacks were opened to the public. Plans are underway to develop the fourth basement room into more storage space, typing and phonograph record listening rooms.

The Reference Room is now being re-designed and will be re-furnished during the summer of 1954. Furniture from the present Reference Room will partially re-furnish a room on the second floor. One of the rooms that will lend itself most attractively to being a memorial room is the Children's Literature Room.

Technical aids and devices are being obtained for better library operational procedures. A micro-film reader is an outstanding example for supplementing the library's periodical holdings and for research purposes.

Concentrated efforts have been made on the part of college administration, the library staff, the departments and their staffs to further develop our resources.