

# The Skirmisher

ST. JOHN'S MILITARY SCHOOL, SALINA, KANSAS

Vol. IV.

FEBRUARY 10, 1921

No. 3.

## KAPPA DELTA PHI

### MANY NEW MEMBERS ADDED IN REORGANIZATION

The Kappa Delta Phi Fraternity, an old organization in St. John's, but one which, we are sorry to say, has been inactive for some time, has been reorganized. Corporal Blaney and Lieut. Fulwider, the only old members of the fraternity now in school, were instrumental in its reorganization and in securing fifteen fine goats, with long horns and shaggy wool, for the brotherhood. The horns have all been sawed off, and the wool all clipped now, and Kappa Delta Phi has fifteen members of whom any fraternity might well be proud.

Through the kindness of Major Ganssle two rooms were secured in the Tower for use as club-rooms. These rooms have been wired for electricity, the woodwork painted, the walls tinted, and both rooms nicely furnished to meet the needs of the fraternity. The upper room is used as a Chapter Room and the lower as a Lounging Room.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 1st, the Fraternity entertained its members with a dinner party. The caterer in charge of the affair was somewhat embarrassed at the last moment by a strike of the Waiters and Cooks Union. While the hour for dinner had to be postponed, the meal itself met the high standards set by the St. John's Dining Hall. Altogether the affair was an entire success.

We hope to put on more entertainments of a social nature as the school year progresses.

The names of the members of Kappa Delta Phi follow:

Capt. R. E. Bernard, St. Joseph, Mo.  
Frank E. Blaney, Tulsa, Okla.  
Howard Fulwider, Winner, So Dak.  
Daniel Schaffner, Emporia, Kans.  
Kenneth Harris, Wichita, Kans.  
Waldron Sanders, Concordia, Kans.  
Frank Gotte, Kimball, Kans.  
Ronald McDonald, Denver, Colo.  
Elliott Putnam, Salina, Kans.

Harold Shellenberger, Lyons, Kans.  
Lloyd McWhinney, Loveland, Colo.  
Harry T. Gray, Platte So. Dak.  
Robert Snedden, Wichita Falls, Tex.  
Edward Sudendorf, Salina, Kans.  
Merritt L. Stiles, Denver, Colo.  
Harold Condon, Geneseo, Kans.  
Luroff Holdren, Hutchinson, Kans.  
Melvin L. Jackson, Denver, Colo.

### CADETS TAKE PART IN PLAY

On Jan. 13 and 14 several cadets took part in a play, "The Wishing Ring," given at the Convention Hall in aid of the Cathedral Guild House Fund to help pay for a new kitchen. The talent was recruited from the young folk of Salina generally and included many gifted exponents of histrionic and terpsichorean art.

The play consisted of a charming presentation of the Mother Goose Stories, and afforded ample scope for artistic talent.

The following cadets took part in the play:

Cadet Sr. Capt. Bigelow—King Cole.

Cadet Capt. Lippincott—King's Messenger.

Sergt. Wood—Pieman.

Corporal Jackson—Gardener.

Smith, G. and Gray—Make-up Artists.

St. John's also furnished the orchestra for the play, with the exception of the Musical Director, Mrs. Martin. Those playing in the orchestra were:

Capt. Allen—Violin.

Corporal Brewer—Cornet.

Private Becker—Clarinet.

Private Dougherty—Drums.

Major Ganssle was scheduled for the part of King Cole, but found it impossible to make the rehearsals. While Major's King Cole laugh is imitable, yet Biggy kept everybody roaring. A better Messenger, Pieman, or Gardener, too, would have been hard to find.

The Italian barbers have gone on a strike, they refuse to handle Turkish towels.

## THE CRACK SQUAD

### AFTER ONE YEAR OF IDLENESS, PREPARING FOR EXHIBITIONS

The Crack Squad of St. John's has once more been reorganized. In the past years the Crack Squad has given exhibitions at school entertainments, at various events in Salina and in other towns. Two years ago the Squad drilled, under Captain Oliver, at the Y. M. C. A. Circus, Convention Hall, Country Club, and various other places. Three years ago a series of dates for the Squad was arranged for some of the county fair circuits in Kansas, but the engagements were not filled, as several cadets, after going home were unable to return to Salina in time to make the circuit. Captain Stubbs of Kansas City was in charge.

The First Crack Squad was organized in 1915 by Major W. L. Ganssle, who had been a member of a similar organization at Racine College and at the University of Minnesota. He and Capt. W. G. Crimp, Commandant, trained the men in the various movements.

The members are recruited annually from the old members and from new cadets who show the most aptitude for military drill. The drill itself does not follow the drill as prescribed in the Infantry Drill Regulations entirely, but adds many of what might be termed "fancy movements."

In the manual of arms, pieces are tossed through the air from rank to rank and many movements very difficult of execution are made. The steps are twice as fast as in the regulation 120-a-minute cadence.

In fact each man does 240 very short steps, some four or five inches long, in each minute. Eight, twelve, or sixteen men, with a Captain and a bugler in addition, make up the squad.

Major W. L. Ganssle, assisted by Lieut. Jay F. Fleming, the only old member of the squad, have been busy

instructing new members.

Among the cadets who are now trying out for the squad are:

Lynn Christensen, Platte, So. Dak.  
Lincoln Benson, Denver, Colo.  
Dan Schaffner, Emporia, Kans.  
Harry Gray, Platte, So. Dakota.  
Walton Hart, Colo. Springs, Colo.  
Melvin Jackson, Denver, Colo.  
Albert Freeman, Eldorado, Kans.  
Robert Snedden, Wichita Falls, Tex.  
Clyde McCormick, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.  
Luroff Holdren, Hutchinson, Kans.  
Joe Hines, Spring Hill, Kans.

#### Examination Exemptions

All cadets making an average of 90 per cent. or over are from now on exempted from the monthly examinations. This plan was put into effect during January and February, and is already bearing fruit. Cadets Stiles, Ross, Schaffner and Christensen were exempted from all examinations in January, and many others were exempted from one or more of the tests.

The list of those earning exemptions from examinations follows:

Brazleton—Reading.  
Becker—Science, English and Geometry.  
Bovill—English and Spelling.  
Bigelow—History.  
Brewer—Typewriting and Commercial Arithmetic.  
Cory—History.  
Dougherty—Geometry.  
Erwin—Algebra.  
Farley—Arithmetic, History and Geography.  
Frederickson—Arithmetic, Spelling and Reading.  
Gray—Typewriting.  
Hammitt—Algebra and Commercial Arithmetic.  
Hart—Algebra and English.  
Hartnett—Reading.  
Hendershot—Arithmetic and Spelling.  
Hill—Commercial Law.  
Hopper—Typewriting.  
Jackson—Algebra and Geometry.  
Marrs, A.—Arithmetic, English, Geography and History.  
Marrs, H.—English.  
McDonald—Typewriting.  
Meyers—English, History, Geography and Reading.  
Mize, R.—Algebra and Science.  
Pattison—Geometry and History.  
Price, T.—Spelling, Reading and Arithmetic.  
Sanders—Commercial Arithmetic.  
Shellenberger—History and Typewriting.

Shaffer—Science.  
Smith, D.—Spanish and Bookkeeping.  
Sanger—History and Reading.  
Snedden—Commercial Law.  
Smith, E.—Algebra.  
Shields—Geometry.  
Schlesinger — English, Geometry and Typewriting.  
Tanner—Arithmetic, English, Geography and Spelling.  
Titzell—Geography and Spelling.  
Wheeler, C.—Algebra, Science and Typewriting.  
Wheeler, D.—Algebra, English, Science and Typewriting.  
Wiles—History, Reading and Spelling.  
Wiley—Algebra.  
Wilson—English and M. & M. History.

#### Old Cadets Enroll

Cadet John McNair, of Hutchinson, Kansas, and cadet Davis Bland, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, have again enrolled. John McNair was here in 1918-19 but did not return until the spring semester of this year. He has been assigned to A Company.

Davis Bland has been here from 1916-20, but remained at home during the fall, semester, returning about February 1.

Both boys find it very pleasant in renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. McNair is taking up sophomore work with the idea of specializing in English in preparation for a course in journalism in college. Bland is continuing his work in the freshman class.

#### Tennis Popular at St. John's

Like all branches of athletics, tennis has made a place for itself among both the cadets and members of the faculty. A court has been made, and there are usually several fellows waiting for a chance to play. Among those with whom the game is most popular are Captains Allen, Thronson, Bernard and Barker, and cadets Pattison, Bigelow, Schaffner, Becker, Smith A., Myers, Bunnell and Holdren.

#### Nightly Inspections

Now that the days are growing longer, the cadets have a new source of worry. Retreat inspection is held nightly and the bull ring is growing popular among some of the no-shine and out-of-uniform fellows. The retreat inspection is conducted solely by the cadet officers.

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**THE PETITION FOR A HOLIDAY**

The St. John's annual catch petition, instituted some years ago, went the rounds again recently and the usual number of signatures were obtained. It certainly seems strange that such a petition could be repeated from year to year and catch so many unwary cadets. As pointed out on previous occasions, this serves to show how careless most people are in the matter of affixing their signatures to anything that is presented to them, without taking the little trouble to read and understand the document they are signing.

This year Captain Bernard and Cadet Sr. Capt. Bigelow, succeeded in getting more than 50 signatures in an incredibly short time.

In order to give those who signed the petition so blindly an opportunity of learning the nature of the document they signed and how heavily they committed themselves by so doing, also as a warning for the future.

**To the Faculty of St. John's Military School:**

We, the undersigned, do hereby respectfully submit the following petition:

That in view of the fact that the Cadet Corps has been unusually conscientious in the performance of its duties and obligations, and that the school spirit heretofore displayed has been a great credit to the institution, and since the officers have been very punctilious in the discharge of their duties to the great assistance and relief of the faculty,

Be it hereby respectfully petitioned that if

**A HOLIDAY**

be considered on Friday, January 28th, the faculty postpone the same indefinitely as an unworthy reward for the above mentioned excellencies and virtues.

As a more fitting recognition of our achievement, we beg that something be granted that will not soon be forgotten. On the date aforementioned, we request that we, the undersigned, be conducted to the rear of the gymnasium and there be noisily decapitated.

The formality of notifying our parents can be done away with, as it will not be worth while. All of our belongings, such as text-books, old shoes, pants, jerseys, kite-strings, photographs, marbles, shinny-clubs, pennants paper airplanes and chewing gum, we dedicate to the school, hop-

ing thereby to preserve the memory of otherwise useless lives.

All of the above we humbly petition.

The following cadets signed the petition on this occasion:

Barnett, Becker, Benest, Benson, Booth, Brazleton, Clark, Cline, Cory, Erwin, Farley, Freeman, Gotte, Grayson, Harris J., Herman, Hartnett, Hammitt, Hendershot, Holdren, Hatcher, Houser, Hopper, Hyde, Kreipke, Marrs A., Marrs H., Marts, McDonald, McCormick, McBride, McWhinney, Nelson, Price H., Price J., Scott, Sanger, Shaffer, Shields, Smith D., Smith E., Snedden, Schlesinger, Stoner, Swanson, Titzell, Tanner, Utterback, Watkins, Webb, Wheeler C., Wheeler D., White, Woulfe.

**Baseball**

Major Wier recently called a meeting of all the boys in the school who were interested in organizing a baseball team, and about 20 were present. This is the first time in several years that there has been any move made to organize a team; other years the cadets engaged wholly in track work. This year, however, with much promising material in the school, the prospects have been bright enough to make possible a winning team. Regular practice will start about the first of March, and if the team comes up to the present expectations, the school will provide first-class equipment for the team.

**Cadets Enjoy Dance**

The pre-Lenten dance was keenly enjoyed by the young ladies of Salina, as well as by their cadet escorts. The dance was given in the school gymnasium on Friday, February 7th. The decorating was done by cadets Blaney and Bland. Major and Mrs. Ganssle, Major and Mrs. Wier, and other members of the faculty chaperoned the entertainment, which lasted from 8:30 till 12 o'clock. The next dance will be given as soon after Lent as possible.

**Bigelow Operated On**

Senior Cadet Captain Bigelow was absent from school for over a week in January on account of having to go to his home in Augusta, Kansas, to have his tonsils removed. Capt. Bigelow has now returned and is again in charge of formations. Cadet Captain Ross has been in charge of the battalion during Capt. Bigelow's absence.

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# The Skirmisher

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St. John's continues to improve, and we are making greater headway in our classes and military training than ever before. The new honor system installed in September is working out nicely and the cadets are appreciating the privileges and opportunities extended them.

Major Wier's aim seems to be a square deal for all and he is carrying his plan into effect backed up by the rest of the faculty.

The St. John's spirit is growing among all the new cadets and the pride of uniform and regularity is making itself felt.

Only a few of the cadets failed to return at Christmas, and their places have already been taken by new men. St. John's is filled to capacity and the enrollment has never been as large as it is at present.

he boy who finds life hard here is indeed hard to please as nowhere else are boys allowed the opportunities and given the privileges that St. John's holds out.

## Change in Editorial Staff

Owing to the withdrawal from school of Advertising Manager Wood, the position has been vacant. It is now being filled by cadet Snedden. Snedden is from Wichita Falls, Texas. Another vacancy, was occasioned by Society Editor Kirkpatrick's withdrawal at Christmas. Cadet Frank Gotte has been elected to fill this vacancy.

We hear that cadets Wood and Kirkpatrick intend to return next fall and graduate with their class, if possible.

## ALUMNI NOTES

"Jew" Graybill, of Newton, Kansas, returned for a very short visit recently. He has lost none of his wit, and entertained the officers with many stories during the night which he spent with them in their cottage. He was on his way to Hutchinson, where he plans to take a parachute drop from the skies. We knew that he was somewhat of a high flier, and he also managed to keep other people up in the air most of the time. Graybill will be remembered in the Pattison-Graybill Eating School contest, where he carried away the honors by establishing a record for eating "Wienies". We are confident that he will ever hold this championship.

Mr. and Mrs. Ganssle have just received the announcement of the marriage of Miss Florence Swartz, of Wichita, Kansas to former cadet Lieut. Lawrence W. Oakes, who graduated from St. John's in 1918. Mr. Oakes is connected with an Electrical Supply business in Wichita. The Skirmisher wishes the bride and groom all happiness and prosperity.

While in Tulsa on a business trip for the school, Major Ganssle met a former football man of St. John's. This was Penn Phillips ('18-'20). He is working for the Tidal Oil Co. in Tulsa. Penn reports that he sees John Bland frequently, and that Jim Bragassa is working for his father with the Hughes Quarry Co. of Tulsa.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McCandless (Class of 1908), of Florence, Colo., visited at St. John's last week. He is one of those who won a place on the Crack Drill Company that carried off the banner at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. It was interesting to hear him tell of the preparatory drills which were necessary under Major Oldham in fitting the Company for this competition. Mr. McCandless was delighted to learn of the return of Bishop Mize to this District.

## Stiles' Secret Discovered

Cadet Stiles, who has been making the highest averages in the Sixth Form has at last been found out. Upon hearing strange noises about 3 a. m. on the morning of the examinations, Smith, who is his room-mate, awoke to find him earnestly working on a ouija board. We wish to advise our advertisers that a run on ouja

boards is expected, following this discovery, and that they had best lay in a plentiful supply.

## Pattison's Buisest Year in School

Cadet Donald Pattison, of Ranger, Texas, is perhaps the busiest cadet at St. John's. He is carrying Geometry, advanced algebra, trigonometry, physics, Spanish, and American History, as a scholastic program, and along with this is a forward on the Basket Ball Team, is Second Lieutenant of B Company, and Business Manager of the Skirmisher. The best part of it is that "Pat" is getting away with it and doing good work in all of his various occupations.

"Dynamite" Thompson is a non-commissioned officer at Kelley Military Academy this year and wishes to be remembered to the boys.

It will be recalled that he earned his nickname while at camp, last spring when he secured a free pass to visit the Gentleman from Marrs. He was on the point of departure when someone learned that he was trying to blow up a nest of skunks near Bob Whites 'farm with a stick of dynamite which he had found in the field. It had been used for blasting stumps and he thought it might be easily applied to remove the rocks which formed a shelter for his small pets. This plan of his was detected just in time to prevent his being reported A. W. O. L. This would have been a terrible blow to all concerned.

A letter has recently been received from Cecil Straub of Lenape, Kansas, in which he says that Richard Poin-dexter was planning to return to St. John's after a year's absence.

Henry Perry, a member of last year's graduating class, is now located in Parsons, Kansas. His father has sold the Chalmers Hotel of Hutchinson and returned to their old home in Parsons. Henry has been assisting his father in managing the hotel.

A short visit was made to the school by Paul Gardiner ('18-'20) of Hutchinson, Kansas. Come again, and stay longer, Paul, the next time you are in this territory.

Virgil Ryberg is attending the Kansas Wesleyan University this year.

## AN INTERESTING LETTER

During November the School shared with Major and Mrs. Ganssle the pleasure of an extended visit of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Pierce, of Racine, Wis. Mrs. Pierce's visit was enjoyed the more because most of us had had the pleasure of meeting her when she visited the school last spring. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce made the journey from Chicago by automobile and were on their way to California via Texas and the southern route.

While at St. John's they received a letter from Mrs. Pierce's brother, Mr. H. C. Case, of Racine, Wis., which was written in rhyme and of such an interesting nature that the "Skirmisher" has asked permission to reproduce it. It reads as follows:

Dear Folks, en route;

We are pleased to say, your letters and cards, from along the way, are all received, day after day, and always treasured dearly. As a usual thing they have found us well, but a day or two back I had a poor spell, with aches and pains, which caused me to yell—or nearly. A terrible cold got into my head, and with brains a-wobble and feet like lead, I spent half a day, and two nights, in bed, on the point of becoming dippy. I thought my head was stuck on with glue, and I was trying, along with you, on a rickety scow, with a cannibal crew, to cross the Mississippi. We finally reached the Western bank, the Ford was there and I gave it a crank, and started off with a clankety clank, along the frozen ruts, and I thought the old thing jolted so, I finally said I would like to go, to Gatliff a while, and shovel snow, along with the other nuts. Well, when morning finally broke, and one by one the family woke, I saw it was more or less a joke, which had made me so distressed, so I decided then and there to sit right down in an easy chair, and that you might my troubles share, write while I convalesced. I told Henrietta and Ethel and Bud, and Anna that frozen Missouri mud, would put a hot thrill in a snow man's blood, if he traversed it in a fliver. Would joggle the teeth from a gas pipe wrench, wiggle the legs off a concrete bench, and cause the strongest cannibal wench to throw up her lungs and liver. Anna's blood, I could see, was beginning to boil, she stopped right short in her morning toil and gave me hot water and castor oil, before I could raise a finger, and said, with

a sort of ironical grin, "the prize for hot air you certainly win, I'll see this thing doesn't happen 'agin," or long in your system linger. After the "draft" from that terrible cup I saw I could live with my mouth closed up, except when I used it to dine or sup, in a manner much safer and saner. I think if I cease to grunt and growl, hoot and holler, hurrah and howl, but sit and look wise the same as the owl, I will probably be the gainer. We are pleased to know that wherever you go the people such kindness and homeage show, but there may be, perhaps, a reason. For I know they meet a courteous smile, a pleasant word and a grip worth while, these little things beat style a mile, and never are out of season.

November 18th, a dandy day, I stopped last night and my muse flew away, so I may have to finish some other way, or murmur in some other meter. I am glad you tarried and scouted a bit, with George and his wife, in Kansas Cit. It will help our Cousinly ties to knit, and make their winter sweeter. Your postals are pretty, your letters fine, and we follow the Ford along each line, and I say to myself "a sister of mine is making this long, long trip," and I hope and trust that the Ford won't bust, or the radiator corrode and rust, but reach old Cal. as it started "fust" with never a backward slip.

I think, perhaps, it might be best, in making a trip so far out West, and give one much more pleasant rest, if started in September. I wonder, when it is cold outside, if your feet keep warm through the lengthy ride, and if your Ford has heat inside? I really can't remember. Now when you cross the desert long, be sure your battery's full and strong, and that anything won't go wrong, so far from friendly neighbors. Having oil and grease and gasoline and water enough in your little machine and keeping your sparks and timer clean may much curtail your labors. We expect a goose to adorn the board, when we feed our dear little hungry horde, on Thursday next, with goodies stored, and served without fuss or feather. I presume that you will likely stay with Wal. and Anna on Turkey Day, and I sincerely hope you may, for its bound to be fowl weather. We wish you a pleasant and Joyous trip, with friendly greetings from every lip, as you sail across in your little Ford ship, and cover yourselves with glory. But, wherever you are, remember this, you

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 ferent."

Basket Ball

The St. John's team has had bad luck from the start of the season. Of course, the team has been very much handicapped by the loss of all of last year's letter men, and this together with the fact that the boys on the present team have not played together before, made it hard for Major Wier to organize a team of St. John's usual strength. While we have suffered several defeats during the early part of the season, yet the team is showing better form and putting on better fights now and may yet redeem itself in the next few games. At any rate the school is behind them and believes they can come back if they keep plugging. The few losses so far suffered simply are an indication that they have not yet found their stride.

The first game resulted in a defeat for the Cadets, the score being 34 to 17 in favor of Ellsworth. McCoy made the most points for Ellsworth with a score of 13 to his credit. Pattison made the best showing for St. John's, scoring 10 points.

The second game was lost to Minneapolis by a 27 to 12 score. Pattison again made the most points for the cadets, scoring in all 7 points.

The third game was played with Abilene, the cadets showing much better form but, however, coming out on the short end of the score after a hard game in which they were ahead until about the last five minutes.

The fourth game went to Chapman by a 16 to 39 score for the visitors. Chapman's good shooting was greatly superior to that of the cadets, who missed many chances.

The second team has played two games, one of which they lost and the other they won. They lost to Kip 18 to 11 and won from Bavaria 32 to 25.

Cadet Harris J., who has been in the school infirmary for the past week, is now on the road to recovery, and will soon be on his feet again. Harris has been critically ill with arterial rheumatism caused by the bad condition of his tonsils. He expects to have them removed as soon as his condition will permit. Mrs. J. T. Harris, John's mother, has returned from California where she was visiting and contemplates taking John home to Wichita unless he recovers.

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Dist. Agent., Salina, Kansas

Patronize Our Advertisers



If you think these jokes are stale  
And should be put upon the shelf  
Just shake a wicked foot  
And hand some in yourself.

It has been rumored around the  
school that the faculty is giving a  
holiday the Fourth of July, because of  
W. V. Hart's encouraging abstinence  
from the wicked weed.

Wanted a man to write music for  
the well-known ballad, "Chloroform  
me doctor, I am too sweet to live."

Sanders wants some Denver fellow  
to tell him who runs the hotel and  
Opera House there.

### High or Low Pitch?

In the Hallway—Brewer sounds a  
high note on the bugle.

"What note is that?" asks Lippin-  
cott.

"Sounds like G" says Smith.

"Sounds more like H" says Gray.

"Sounds like L" says Sanders.

### New Instructor at St. John's

St. John's is fortunate in securing  
as an instructor Capt. R. E. Bernard.  
Capt. Bernard is a graduate of Wil-  
liam Jewell College of Liberty, Mo.,  
and is engaged in teaching Physics,  
General Science, Mediaeval and Mod-  
ern History and American History.  
Capt. Bernard saw service in the late  
war, having enlisted in the Infan'y.  
He came here the second week in Jan-  
uary, and is exceedingly popular with  
the cadet corps.

### Dancing Classes to be Held

Owing to the large number of ca-  
dets who wish to get the "syncopa-  
tion blues" and undergo the worry  
and financial depression caused by  
making dance dates, the faculty is  
considering the opening of dancing  
classes. About thirty cadets have  
signified their intention of joining.

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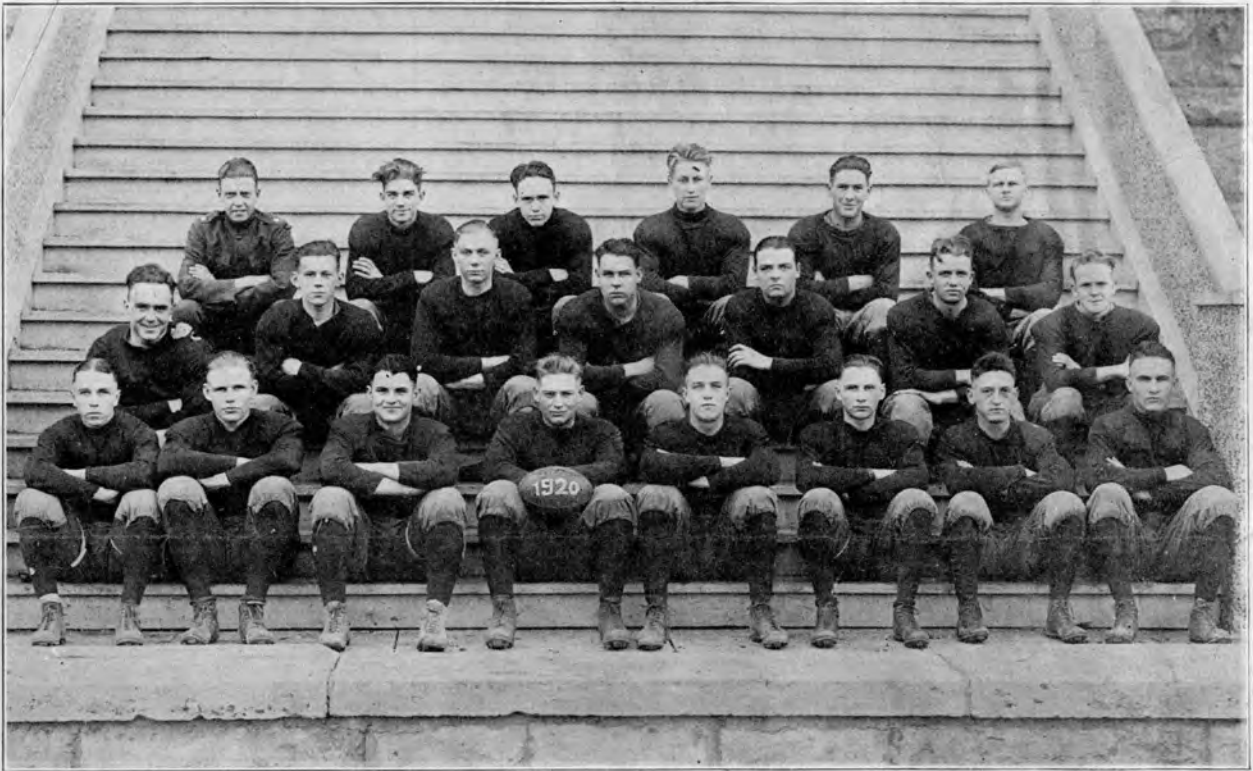
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