ONU’s COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

1911-1925

College’s commemorative window formerly in Lehr Auditorium
AGRICULTURE!?
Ohio Northern University, especially in its early years under president Lehr, pursued an adventurous curriculum. Numerous programs were tried.
Some, like the College of Commerce evolved into permanent parts of ONU
School of Expression, absorbed by Speech & Theater Dept. – Currently Communication Arts
Unsuccessful attempt at a Medical School with Ft. Wayne Med. School
A brief collaboration with the Northwestern Ohio School of Piano Tuning
In 1912 the university decided to form a College of Agriculture. Initially 50 acres – later expanded to 90 acres – were purchased for the university farm. The shaded area below shows the farm’s extent.
Looking west – Future McIntosh Center to left and Future Heterick Library to right
Same View in 1970’s
University Farm Facilities - 1921

1 - Farm Stock Barn
2 - Farm Barn
3 - Farm Residence
4 - Creamery
5 - Storehouse
University farm had some minor drainage problems – looking west
But, in all fairness, so did downtown Ada
First Class of Students
ONU’s “Aggies” at work
Hopes for the future
THE DIE IS CAST. WE HAVE CROSSED THE RUBICON

The U. S. Senate has voted war with Germany 82 to 6. The Congress followed this morning with a vote of 373 for war and 50 against. Grim visaged War is now upon us!

THE WAR RESOLUTION

"Joint resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the imperial German government and the people of the United States and making provision to prosecute the same;

"WHEREAS, the imperial German government has committed repeated acts of war against the government and the people of the United States of America, therefore be it,

"RESOLVED by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that the state of war between the United States and the imperial German government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the president be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on the war against the imperial German government and to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States."

Setback for further development of the Ag. College - 1917
“Over the Top”

Farm being used for training
War’s end and an alternative use for the farm
Another baseball diamond and additional tennis courts have been added to the athletic field the past two weeks. The north football bleachers have been moved to the east end of the field to make room for the teams and workmen. Due to lack of interest the golf course has been abandoned and grounds are being plowed for corn.

1925
Golf Course plans in the rough.....
Former farm in 1939 as athletic facility

Former university farm buildings
Future site of Heterick Memorial Library
Future site of McIntosh Center and Faculty Housing
Further development of athletic facilities on hold during WWII
After the war, behind Taft Gym – and a trailer camp for returning servicemen
Why don’t you do something to HELP me?

And their families
Looking west from Taft – faculty houses on the far side of W. University Ave. Trailers removed.
Part of the farm was leased to Mr. Rockwell, a local farmer – on site of English Chapel
Circa 1950 – looking East

University Archives - Heterick Memorial Library
Circa 1950 – looking East

University Archives - Heterick Memorial Library
Circa 1950 – looking East

University Archives - Heterick Memorial Library
Proposed Campus Plan 1955
1970’s – still a few drainage issues
After 1989, 120 more acres were added south of the former farm which allowed for the Dial-Roberson Stadium and more dorms ......
As well as a solution for all that water – decorative lakes