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1926 Founder's Day Article

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Founder's Day

On February 18, 1857, an Act was passed by the State Legislature establishing a Normal University, but the location was not decided. Hon. Jesse W. Fell, a prominent resident of McLean County was very anxious to have this school located near Bloomington, Illinois. Through the efforts of Mr. Fell, the Illinois State Normal University was located on its present site. Perhaps it will be of interest to many to know that Abraham Lincoln was appointed to handle the legal processes necessary to establish without a doubt the location of our own I. S. N. U.

How many of you know that President Hovey, our Normal's first president became General Hovey in the Civil War, and that the Normal Regiment, Company A, 33rd was composed of members of the Faculty and students of this institution? Read the inscription on the marble tablet placed on the wall of the room once occupied by Lieutenant Howell, and stop to think what I. S. N. U. means to you. Many anniversaries of Founder's Day have passed, many feet have trod the steps you follow every day. Memories cling about these clustered walls that mean much and so in 1926 on February 18th we again celebrated Founder's Day. In the address given by Mr. Elmer Cavins he reviewed thirty-five years of our school's history. He called attention to the growth of the school and told of the various members who had been here and those who are here now.

Founders' Day means much to us as Mr. Cavins said, "Interwoven with all are the sentiments, friendships, and affections engendered and nurtured here, and deep-rooted in the hearts of I. S. N. U. students wherever they may be."

OUR PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

Since the year 1906, it has been the custom to show our respect and our esteem for our beloved president, by presenting him upon the occasion of his birthday with a bouquet of red and white roses, symbolic of our school. One for each milestone that he has passed.

This year, President Felmley spent the month of April in Arizona with his daughter Miss Mildred. Now it so happened that there was living in Tucson, Arizona, Mrs. George W. Martin, who will be remembered at Normal as Fannie Emery, who had not forgotten the custom, so she gathered twenty guests, all of whom with the exception of two who were relatives of President Felmley, were former residents of Normal and of whom the following: Lyndon Wilson, Mrs. Marjorie (Brand) Pearce, Mrs. Mildred (Brand) Wilson, Mrs. Fanny (Emery) Martin, Mrs. Nelle (Rice) Meyer, Mrs. Agnes (Hanks) Guthrie, Miss Mina Hanks, and Mrs. Alice (Quinn) Hale were alumni of our I. S. N. U. After a delicious supper, the evening was spent in discussing reminiscences of old Normal. Dr. Felmley was presented with a beautiful souvenir of Arizona, made of native copper, which will not only remind him of the esteem in which former students hold him but also of the pleasant days spent in Arizona.

However the students of I. S. N. U. were not to be deprived of the pleasure of presenting our president with the roses of red and white. So upon the morning of his first appearance at general assembly after we greeted him with our loyalty song, two students presented him with a large basket of roses.

"Flowers will bloom over and over again in poems, as in the summer fields, to the end of time, always old and always new."

And thus will tender thought of our gracious and highly esteemed president repeat themselves in the hearts of all loyal students of the I. S. N. U.