

MU Expands Housing Facilities to Shelter Students, Faculty

BEFORE

To meet an unprecedented enrollment at the University of Missouri, an unprecedented housing effort was needed. This effort was undertaken and is nearing completion.

The fruition of many arduous hours of labor, of many conferences with government officials, and of overcoming many shortages and other obstacles is shown in the trailers, the quonset huts, and the temporary dormitories which stand on the campus today.

Capable of housing over 2800 students and faculty members when complete, the program has made exceptionally good progress despite the difficult housing period the entire country is passing through.

Unlike many other universities that have permanent dormitories or that are able to utilize nearby barracks for housing their overflow of students, the University of Missouri has had to break down existing army surplus barracks, haul the material by truck and trailer, and erect them again on the campus.

Sizable Project

This was and is a tremendous task. One easily gains such an impression by walking through the numerous temporary buildings already standing. The mere fact that it was a three and one-half million-dollar program substantiates the size of the project.

It was early in 1946, when estimates indicated a record high enrollment was due, that the housing emergency was first considered. Plans already under consideration were accelerated. Eight thousand students were expected—a number almost twice any of the University's previous enrollments.

The first efforts to relieve the immediate expected congestion were in establishing trailer camps. Twenty-six trailer houses were obtained before the opening of the fall term in 1946 through the Chicago office of the regional representative of the National Housing Authority.

Erect GI City

These were located, with one privately owned trailer, in a group west of the West Campus, and named GI City by their residents. Coming from Decatur, Ill., where they were used for housing purposes by the army, the khaki-colored trailers were leased on a yearly basis, and will be returned when no longer needed.

Soon other government-owned and privately-owned trailers reached the Columbia campus, and two other trailer villages came into being. One located on the campus of the College of Agriculture has been named Dairy-



Original site of emergency housing for veterans. In the foreground is shown College of Agriculture experimental fields which gave way to 63 of the 66 Emergency Dormitories for single veterans. Just beyond this site can be seen Brewer Field House, Defoe Hall and Memorial Tower. To the right of the experimental fields, is the site where the faculty housing is being constructed.

lawn. It comprises 93 government-owned and 35 privately-owned trailers.

The third, called Fairway Village is set up on the former golf links just north of Memorial Stadium. Here, 46 government and 97 private trailers are located.

In addition, five quonset huts have been built inside the fence in Rollins Field. Each of these huts is divided into four apartments for married veteran athletes.

Dormitories Begun

Preliminary work on 66 dormitories for single men, 58 dormitories forming 199 family units, and 90 demountable houses for faculty use was undertaken simultaneously with the procuring of the first trailers.

Arrangements for the building sites were made, and initial work carried out such as preparing the grounds and moving farm crops. It was planned to locate all these dwellings in the vicinity of Stadium Road, just East of Defoe Hall. However, it was impossible to obtain any buildings from the Federal Public Housing Authority until July 1946, and it was the 14th of that month before installation of necessary utilities could be begun by the University.

Early in the construction, delays hampered the work. Shortages of labor and material, lack of sewer tile, and unforeseen difficulties continued to dog the footsteps of the construction companies.

Cowan Aids Effort

Individuals like Leslie Cowan, vice president of the University in charge of business operations, and Roscoe Anderson, chairman of the dormitory committee of the Board of Curators, put many hours of work into this project.

James M. "Jimmy" Kemper, a 1916 graduate of the University and now chairman of the Board of Directors of the W. S. Dickey Clay Manufacturing Company of Kansas City, helped greatly to break a construction bottleneck by obtaining 900 feet of critically needed vitrified sewer tile.

Co-operation ran rampant. Throughout the summer, many groups offered their unselfish services in order to complete the large task. In Columbia, three local construction companies—the John Epple Company, the B. D. Simon Company, and the J. E. Hathman Company—joined together to form the one firm of ESH, Inc. This is the group which contracted with the Federal Public Housing Authority to erect all but three of these emergency dormitories.

Aid From Others

Vice-president Cowan found more helpful co-operation in Washington and Chicago when he made his numerous trips to these cities to confer with the army, navy, and public housing officials. Further help was received from the H. B. Deal Construction Company

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of St. Louis, the Clark Contracting Company of Eldon, Mo., and the Columbia quarry officials and workers.

As work progressed through the summer, the newly formed ESH, Inc., set up an assembly line system. The old army barracks, being brought from Ft. Leonard Wood, were hauled by trucks and trailers. One truck would work three trailers. In this way one trailer could be on the road, one sitting in Columbia being unloaded, and the third at the army camp being loaded. When unloaded from the trailers, the building sections were immediately erected instead of being stacked on the ground. This saved many unnecessary hours of handling.

Ingenuity Required

Other most difficult obstacles were handled adroitly by University officials working overtime. For instance when it proved impossible to obtain a suitable pump to erect a sewage pumping station, the alternative of a gravity drop sewer was necessary. This called for a huge ditch to be dug—some places going as deep as 25 feet.

As grading began on the ditch, it was soon learned, by the Clark Con-



Shown here are two of the three completed Women's Temporary Dormitories which are located northeast of the Women's Gymnasium. During the fall semester, 60 women were housed in these units. In the right background is the Memorial Tower.

struction Company doing the work, that they would have to cut through solid rock. Blasting was resorted to, and in order to complete the work on time and to protect the students' wives and children living in nearby trailers

from flying rocks, two Columbia quarry firms sent their expert blasting men who could "handle their rock" to help.

Shortages in iron pipe for installing water and sewer lines, and similar shortages with respect to electric transformers, were among the many hindrances in the path of the University's desire to accommodate the onrush of students in the fall. But all difficulties were ably handled by Vice-President Cowan, Mr. Anderson, and other University officials, working with the representatives of the Government and construction companies.

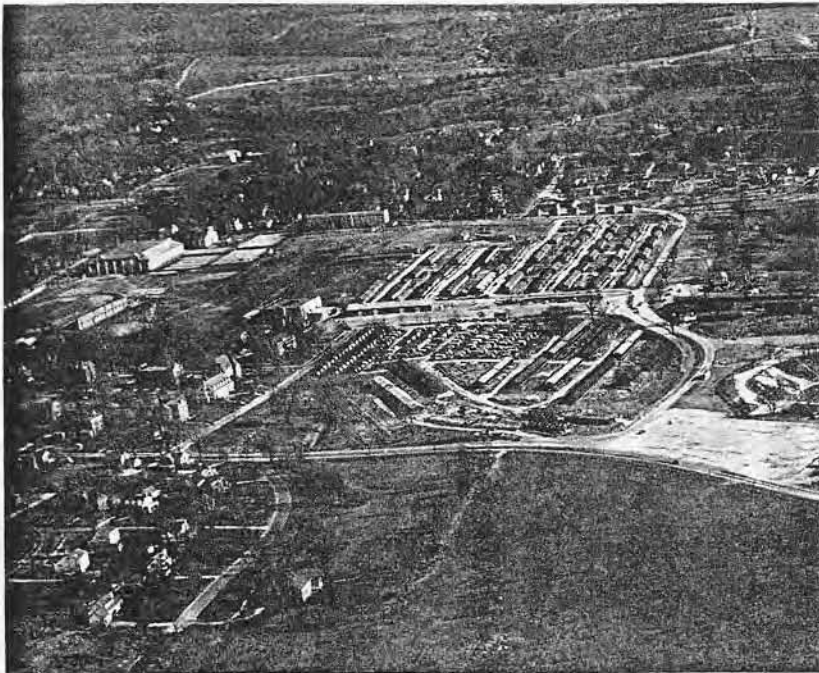
More Dormitories

The three single men's dormitories not erected by ESH, Inc., were constructed by the H. B. Deal Company. These buildings were in use at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., as housing for shipyard workers during the war. Although they are only temporary buildings, the Deal Company installed especially designed heating plants. Each dwelling is 300 feet long, equipped with a sprinkler system for fire control, and fully insulated.

An emergency cafeteria, set up in the first floor of Crowder Hall, replacing the garage and other rooms, can feed 2000 students at one meal. Frame enclosures were built to cover the north and south ramps of the building. The military material formerly stored in Crowder Hall is now temporarily stored in an army building moved here from Vichy, (Mo.) Army Air Base and erected on the ROTC field.

This cafeteria feeds the 2016 veteran students housed in the 63 single-men's dormitories. It has more recently been used also as a study hall for these same students after the evening meal, but with completion of another building on the ROTC drill field especially for

AFTER



Presented here is an overall view of the Emergency Housing as it appeared Nov. 30, 1946.

On the lower right is the whitewashed "M" at the end of Memorial Stadium.

To the left of the stadium and in the center foreground are some of the 58 buildings being converted into 199 family units for married veterans; and just beyond there is Fairway Village, a group of 143 trailers with a large service building at their center. The 63 emergency dormitories housing 2,016 single men lie beyond Crowder Drill Field.

At the immediate left of the housing group is Crowder Hall, part of which now houses the emergency cafeteria. Brewer Field House is visible at upper left, and Defoe Hall, permanent men's dormitory, in upper left center. Several of the completed faculty housing units can be seen in the upper right hand corner.



Shown here in the process of construction are a number of the faculty housing units. There will be 90 units in the Faculty Housing, located in an area southeast of Defoe Hall. Each unit in the faculty home consists of two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, a bath, and a full basement.

use as a study hall, this practice will be discontinued.

Linotype School

Two quonset huts north of the old Service Building are being used as linotype school classrooms and another hut west of Jesse Hall is being used for a veteran's housing and textbook office.

Two other quonset huts have been placed on the West Campus. One is north of Noyes Hospital and the other east of Parker Hospital. The Noyes Hospital quonset hut is being used as a laboratory building, and the Parker Hospital unit is used by the Crippled Childrens Service for its offices.

Along with all this construction, three women's dormitories were erected behind the present permanent women's dormitory just south of Memorial Tower. These were part of 21 Works Progress Administration structures bought outright by the University. Of the remaining 18 buildings, five are also to become women's dormitories, and the rest will be classrooms.

University officials point with due pride to the fact that despite a delay of two weeks in opening, sufficient facilities were available when the University began classes in October, 1946. This delay was necessary in order to install plumbing fixtures in the 63 single-men's dormitories which had been held up due to material shortages.

Deluge Hits Columbia

Nor was it just the 8000 estimated students that entered the University, but rather a deluge of 10,585 poured in on the already over-worked administration at Columbia. With the freshman class in just one school of the University hovering around the size of previous total University enrollments, it was obvious that all the extra hours and hurry-up orders to finish the housing program were not wasted.

Emergency housing was also set up at the School of Mines and Metallurgy at Rolla. To date, 14 dormitories housing 479 veterans, 10 staff housing units, a temporary cafeteria with a capacity of 1500 apartments for married veterans, and a new power plant have been constructed.

Work started at Columbia in the first week of February, 1947, toward erection of 12 emergency classrooms which will provide an additional 65,872 square feet of space to a critically over-taxed classroom capacity.

Emergency Classrooms

The classrooms, surplus army material from Camp Crowder and Vichy, Mo., will be moved to Columbia the same way the emergency barracks were handled—truck and trailer. They will be re-assembled at various locations on the campus. Two are to be placed on the lawn just south of Jesse Hall; six others will lie in an east-west line between Waters and Stewart Halls on the East Campus; two others will cover the grass east of the General Library; one large theater building seating five hundred persons will be set up in the small amphitheater just west of Neff Hall and north of Switzler Hall; and the largest structure will be placed in the vicinity of the Stock Judging Pavilion.

Most of these will be one-story buildings. Some are two-story. Rolla is to receive five similar emergency classrooms—one of which is a two-story classroom structure built over a 20½ by 124 foot concrete basement which will be used as a rifle range. Contracts for both the Rolla and Columbia projects are with the Federal Works Agency.

As the winter semester opens for 1947, the University is able to provide emergency housing for at least 2655

students and faculty. This is about 92 percent of the total which the original plans called for. If it were not for shortages, particularly in kitchen sinks and other such plumbing parts, the 199 family units might be more ready for occupancy now. Fifteen of these are in use at present.

Eventual Demolition

But as huge as this program is, it is only temporary. With the exception of the 90 demountable houses being erected for the faculty members, the entire group of buildings must come down with the end of the housing emergency. This is stipulated by the government in the contracts.

However, it has long been the intention of the University to carry out a permanent program, and the planning stage for such work is well advanced. The last appropriations request for the biennial period 1947-49 for the University to the state legislature, asked for \$2,727,500 for permanent dormitories. An additional \$7,895,000 was requested for new buildings and additions, repairs and remodeling to other buildings.

"Funds needed to finance the University of Missouri are considerable," Dr. Frederick A. Middlebush, President of the University said. "But the total cost is low when the results accomplished are duly considered. In the past, appropriations for buildings have not been sufficient."

The University's housing program at a glance—all occupied except as noted.

298	Trailers	
90	(1) Demountable houses for faculty use.	
66	Dormitories housing single men.	2232
58	(2) Dormitories forming family units.	199
3	Dormitories housing women.	60
5	Quonset huts—four apartments each—for married veteran athletes.	
1	Cafeteria—built in Crowder Hall—capable of feeding men at one time.	2000
(1)	45 not occupied	
(2)	Fifteen occupied.	

A new course, "History of the Movies," is now being offered through the Adult Education Service of the University. This is the first course of its kind at the University, and deals with motion picture as a form of American expression. Veterans enrolled in college under the G.I. Bill may enroll in the course.