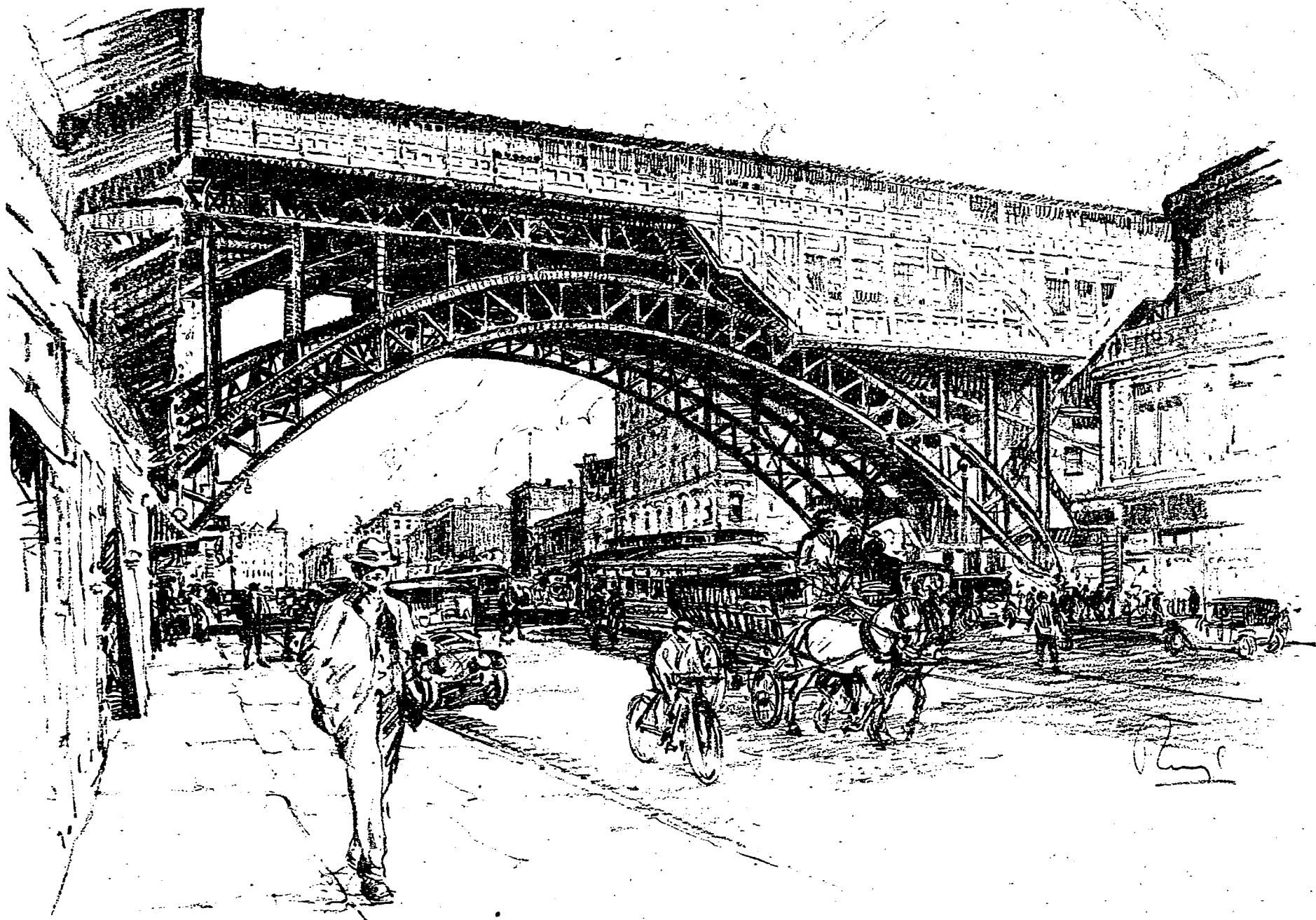


WHERE THE SUBWAY TAKES THE AIR



Drawn by Louis Ruyt.

The Arched Span Across 125th Street at Broadway.

Democracy By Lot—A College Experiment

AN interesting experiment designed to bring solidarity and equality to undergraduate college life has survived its first academic year at Knox College, Galesburg, Ill., the college which counts Eugene Field and Don Marquis among its literary alumni.

Knox College is a conservative school, with a curriculum limited to the humanities and the standard courses in science. Its attendance is limited to 550, 60 per cent. of which are men. It was founded in 1837 by a group of men from New York who decided that there ought to be a college in the Middle West. They got out a map, stuck a pin in at a point they thought would be a good agricultural and commercial centre, and packing up bag and baggage moved to the point they had selected and started Galesburg, Ill., and Knox College at the same time.

Today Knox is one of the best known small colleges west of the Alleghenies. Although it has been in existence for nearly ninety years, it has had no dormitory for men and no social rallying point. Fraternities had their own houses off the campus, scattered about town, and the men whose homes were in Galesburg kept their own local social interests. The rest of the men solved their problem as best they could, meaning usually not at all.

In the Fall of 1917 a new President came to Knox. He was a Yale man with a background composite of Yale, Bowdoin and Dartmouth. He saw the problem, and a picture

grew in his mind of a building and a student home that should provide living quarters and a social hall for the men then scattered about the town. None of the plans that have been worked out at other colleges seemed to him quite to meet the need at Knox. The problem was peculiar and the solution must be individual. First, it must be democratic, to provide for all classes, from the son of the farmer to the son of the bank president or the Governor. It must be reasonable in cost. It must offer more than the ordinary dormitory and commons accommodations. Finally, it must fit in with the co-educational life of the college.

Seymour Hall stands today as the realization, in brick and stone and college life, of the picture that Dr. McConaughy saw in his mind four years ago.

About two hundred men students, including the residents of the Hall and the members of six social fraternities, find there, not only their home, but the centre of the social life desired by the young human animal. Here, in a dining hall seating 200 men, they come together three times a day, as a part of a deliberate plan for developing democratic spirit and avoiding the formation of cliques. Each man draws lots each week to determine at which of the twenty ten-man tables he shall eat with nine other chance comrades. In this way there is a general shaking up every seven days, and a different group of undergraduates is assembled at each table.

Knox is co-educational. In order

that the men and the co-eds may get the opportunity to look each other over at meals occasionally, every Thursday twenty-five men are chosen by lot to take dinner with the women at Whiting Hall, across the campus. At the same time, twenty-five co-eds are selected to have dinner with the men at Seymour, which by the way is not run by the traditional college commons man, but has a "house mother," who presides in the dining room and at social functions. This house mother has a suite of rooms in the building.

When the men enter the dining room, the last to arrive at each table finds the server's place vacant, and it is up to him to dispense food and set the pace in table manners. Men students working for their board serve as waiters, but it is so arranged that during the year all of these boys have a chance to sit down and eat with their fellows.

The fraternity houses that adjoin the campus near Seymour Hall are without kitchens, but the democratic ideal is so far tempered that on Monday nights, when the club chapter meetings are held, the members may carry their dinners over from the commons in containers and dine in their clubs.

The commons is a large, well-lighted room, with great walnut beams across the ceilings. In the centre of the many-paned windows is a small purple and gold Knox seal. The tables are spread with linen and the dishes bear the college seal. At one end of the room, cov-

ered by a velvet curtain in the daytime, is a screen for moving pictures. The college shows pictures there every Friday night, when there is no other all-college function. As a theatre it is a gathering place for both men and women students, and after the movies the tables are pushed back into an adjoining room, an orchestra is provided, and the students dance until the closing hour prescribed by the Student Council.

Self-government is the plan. The men are strictly on their honor. No time for "lights out" is prescribed, and the front door hasn't any lock.

The hall has a rifle range in the basement for the use of the military unit. There is a small but well-equipped infirmary suite, besides an ultra-modern kitchen with the latest sanitary and labor-saving equipment and a hotel chef. The rooms for the men are plain and sanitary, and are furnished with mission chairs, study table and small rugs and curtains. There are sleeping quarters for more than a hundred men. In addition to the commons and the house mother's suite, there is a roomy lounge with many tables and easy chairs. A massive fireplace covers nearly one whole end of this clubroom.

"The system has had a good trial year and has met with complete success," President McConaughy said in a recent interview. "It is supplying that intangible something without which no student's education is complete, but which must be got outside the classroom. It brings all the men of the college together on

terms of equality and fosters friendships which cannot be gained through any group association."

Seymour Hall was made possible by the gift of Mrs. Lyman K. Seymour in honor of her husband. Mr. Seymour, a student in Knox with the class of 1884, was an unassuming farmer, with his lands near Payson, Ill.

Among the alumni of Knox College, besides those already mentioned, are Frederic Bancroft, the historian, of Washington, and Francis H. Sisson of The Guaranty Trust Company of New York; Dr. John H. Finley, S. S. McClure, N. Dean Jay, partner in J. P. Morgan & Co.; Ralph Waldo Trine, the poet; John S. Phillips, founder and former editor of the American Magazine; Otto Harbach, author of musical comedies; Don Marquis, Albert Britt, editor of the Outing publications; Allan C. Rearick and Dr. Jeremiah W. Jenks. Edgar Lee Masters, whose "Spoon River Anthology"—Spoon River is near Galesburg—made him fame and fortune, and George Fitch, who put Knox in his "Old Siwash" college stories, are others.

Eugene Field, when a student at Knox, was under the guardianship of John W. Burgess, then a professor at Knox and now Dean of the School of Political Science at Columbia University. On the Knox campus Abraham Lincoln delivered one of the most important speeches in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates in 1858, and later received an honorary degree from the college.