

# GONE INTO HISTORY

90 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ARCHIVES

## TEMPORARY MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING

The 1946-1948 President's Report included a succinct description of provisions made for married student housing.

### UNIVERSITY VILLAGE AND UNIVERSITY GROVE EAST

This biennium saw the completion of the installation of trailers, prefabricated houses, quonset huts, and metal barracks for the housing of married veterans. There are 214 trailer units, 48 prefabricated buildings, 50 quonset huts, and 250 metal barracks type. Each of the prefabricated buildings, quonset huts, and metal barracks is divided into two apartments. All dwellings, except the trailers, are modern.—WILLIAM F. HOLMAN, supervising engineer.

### The Minnesota Daily

The World's Largest College Newspaper

The University of Minnesota, Wednesday, January 16, 1946

### Prefabs Built But Unshipped

By Kevin Murphy

Ninety-six prefabricated living units, ordered by the University for its Como avenue housing project, now are crated but unshipped at the Shakopee plant where they were constructed, it was revealed last night.

An official of the Page and Hill company, constructors of the prefabs, said last night that they are all ready to be shipped, but the company has received no order to ship them.

Several days ago J. H. Balcken, business representative of the district council AFL Carpenters union, announced that Minneapolis carpenters would refuse to erect the prefabs because they were constructed in a non-union plant.

The Page and Hill official maintained last night that the plant has a contract with the Carpenters union, that it runs continuously unless it is renegotiated and this has not been done.

The representative stated that the union's funds are still in the bank and that union activity fell off to nothing of its own volition when the workers lost confidence in the union.

Page and Hill feels in no way implicated in the present union trouble, according to the official. It merely sells the prefabs to Gamble-Skogmo Inc. of Minneapolis which in turn sells them to the University.

A Gamble-Skogmo Inc. representative, meanwhile, has stated that it must await instructions from the University to have the prefabs shipped to the city and

### PREFABS (Continued on Page 2)

### What's Doing

- TODAY
- 11:30 A.M.—Union news, Union main hall.
- 12:30 P.M.—Hill luncheon, Hill house.
- 2:30 P.M.—Union record reading library opens, 215 Union.
- 3 P.M.—Ag Union coffee hour, Ag Union main lounge.
- 3:30 P.M.—Intercollegiate steering committee, YMCA.
- 4 P.M.—White dance, Union main hall.
- 7:15 P.M.—Y.W. marriage seminar, 215 Union.
- 7:30 P.M.—Veterans club, 249 Union.
- 8 P.M.—Variety dance, Union main hall.

### Inauguration Set for April 25

Dr. J. L. Moore

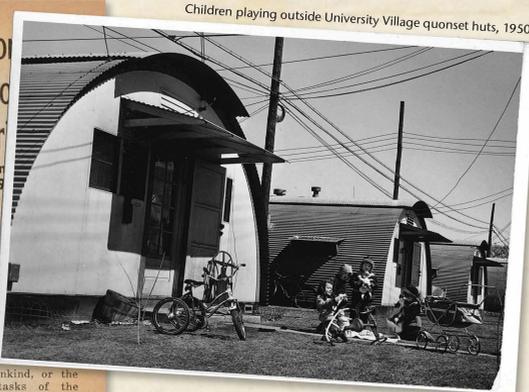
Formal Ceremony First Since 1919

Formal inaugurations for Dr. J. L. Moore will take place April 25, according to preliminary announcements made yesterday by Henry Schmitz, College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

"The crisis of mankind, or the urgent educational tasks of the University in our time," will be the subject of several educational conferences which will precede the inauguration on April 25.

Guests from this country, Canada and other nations, and members of the faculty in academic dress will attend the inauguration in Northrop auditorium.

"It is the hope of the committee that the most important and significant



Children playing outside University Village quonset huts, 1950



University Village trailers, 1946

JANUARY, 1946

### Temporary Housing Units Installed

MINNESOTA weather, which consistently rates high hereabouts as a topic of conversation during the winter months, has dropped to a secondary position in private or group discussions in the face of current campus events and problems, especially the matter of housing.

Faculty members returning from war service, as well as incoming students, have difficulty finding a place in which to live.

The administration has studied every possibility which offered hope for relief of the housing shortage and important progress has been made. In a statement last month, President Morrill said: "Our urgent housing problems are of two types. We must construct permanent dormitories, along the lines of those we now have, and we must provide temporary emergency housing to be available at the earliest possible moment."

The question regarding the right of the University to use its funds to build student housing facilities in the face of a legislative rider forbidding such action was cleared when Attorney General J. A. A. Burnquist ruled that the University is not bound by the rider. Appended to the act appropriating funds for the maintenance and support of the University for the current biennium is the following: "The foregoing appropriations to the University of Minnesota are based upon the condition that the Board of Regents do not, during the biennium ending June 30, 1947, erect from any funds whatsoever any housing facilities or dormitories in Minneapolis or St. Paul."

The question was raised as to whether the legislature had the right to limit the power of the Board of Regents to erect housing facilities on dormitories which would be paid for by funds other than those appropriated by the legislature. In considering this question, Attorney General Burnquist referred to the frequently cited decision of the state supreme court in 1928 in which the court held that:

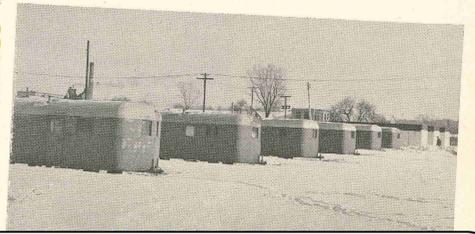
"The people by their constitution chose to perpetuate the government of the University which had been created by their territorial legislature in a Board of Regents."

He pointed out that "Among the powers so given the Board of Regents by the original University charter in 1851 and perpetuated by the state constitution in 1858 is the expressed authority to construct buildings. In the case of Fanning vs. University of Minnesota, 183 Minn. 222, it was held that without a legislative appropriation, if the University has other funds available therefor, it may use them for the construction of dormitories."

Mr. Burnquist concluded his statement to the Board of Regents on the matter with the following summary:

"For the reasons above stated it is my opinion that the proviso here involved is invalid in so far as it applies to funds not part of the Board of Regents is a power of the Board of Regents in the construction of housing facilities or dormitories from available funds that are not derived from the appropriation under consideration."

The University has scheduled the installation of 214 trailer homes in the area recently acquired on Como Avenue between the main campus and University Farm. Transportation difficulties have delayed the delivery of all the trailers but several are being placed on foundations and some may be ready in February.



The January 1946 issue of *Minnesota Alumnus* outlined the difficulties that came with the arrival of "trailers, prefabricated houses, Quonset huts, and metal barracks" and the planning for permanent dormitories.

### THREE IN TWENTY-TWO BY SEVEN

by CHARLES HURLEY

LAST March Dick and Betty Luther loaded year-old Jo Anne and supplies necessary for life in a trailer house (seven by 22 feet, outside measurements) into the family car and drove from Waseca to University Village, Minneapolis 14, to make their home for the next few years—if necessary.

At first, like every other veteran student family moving into the Village, they found the small standard type units crowded. If a pair of socks was left out of a drawer, the whole house looked messy. After they learned to

move without bumping into one another, and to duck low when going out the door, trailer life became slightly less cramped and almost cozy.

Anything was better than living apart all week with Dick commuting weekends to Waseca where Betty and Jo Anne lived with his folks. Having a baby became one of the pleasures of family life, rather than something to be apologized for when landlords always answered with the same "Well, I personally like kids, but what about my tenants?"

Although they appreciate these compensations to the fullest, the Luthers, like all Village residents, found some definite disadvantages to life in a trailer. Water had to be carried in a pail at a time, and out again.

Small oil stove heated the ceiling better than the rest of the room until Dick rigged up a fan system to solve the circulation problem. Betty made curtains for eight small windows out of a pastel blue bedspread when the original curtains were too faded and ragged to use. The department stores just didn't have any at all.

Since small trailers have no book-shelf space, Dick built in a case over the dining and study table. In place of the baby's high chair (it wouldn't fit anywhere) he put a small chair and table into a corner space, out of the way.

Dick and Betty combined efforts in painting the worn linoleum flooring with ivory enamel. Betty, the artist in the family, added small blue and red designs to the furniture which Dick made.

Like most families in the Village, the Luthers have neither the time nor the money for an extensive social life. They spend an occasional evening of conversation and coffee with the neighbors. But Betty is too busy for much recreation, taking care of Jo Anne, doing two washings a week and keeping the trailer home clean and Dick fed. She does have time to paint in water colors—airplanes for Dick, dogs and cats for Jo Anne. She was an art major at Coe college, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when she met Dick who convinced her to hurry through school to get married.

Dick, who went on to become a marine bomber pilot in the Pacific, has recreation along more mechanical lines—building model airplanes and radios. He and neighbor Jack Bloom set up a transmitting receiving set between their trailers. At first they practiced code on study nights but now they compare freshmen engineering by radio.

Dick also does all the mechanics on the car which he explains while pointing to the battered grill. "I bought it cheap from a guy who had had depth perception."

Study and finances are two of the Luther's main problems. Studying has to be done in the kitchen end of the house after the baby goes to bed. Two closet doors, one on each side of the trailer, are opened, forming a partition. A community house to provide study facilities is being sought by the Village. Like other families, the Luther's problem of living on \$90 a month is just as difficult. They rattle it by cutting the budget, eating economy when they can find it, buying staple groceries at the Village Co-op Buying club store, and belonging to a cooperative health insurance group.

Weather is also a slight problem. The sea of mud which surrounded the trailers in March turned into a dust bowl by June. Then the eye crop came up to hold the soil down, only to be followed by the August sun which burned it to a crisp, and the fall rains which—well, here we are again. The Village, which covered one square block in those days, has tripled in size and is about to expand into the Quonset area across Como avenue.

IN the early days the Village council emerged as the representative government, solving local problems and prodding the University administration into action on such matters as play pens for the 130 children, traffic signs and the community house which they still need. Differences of opinion concerning Village government divided the community into two political parties—the progressives and conservatives as they call themselves, or the radicals and reactionaries as they call each other. The council appointed a health commission to gather information on public health services. As a result, monthly checkups and immunization shots for the children cost them only a dime. The council kept the community informed during the polio epidemic with information about symptoms, precautions and action in case of an attack. The Village had two slight cases which—well, here we are again. The Village, which covered one square block in those days, has tripled in size and is about to expand into the Quonset area across Como avenue.

Things have changed for the Luthers. They are now living in a large expandable unit (20 by 22, outside measurements). It is divided into three rooms, has eight-foot ceilings and circulation blowers on the oil heater. They have doors through which Dick can walk without stooping.

Comforts of home have increased, but there is still room for Village improvement. Its citizens need a place to study, a place to chat and to play cards and, most of all, running water in the kitchen sink.



The Luther family in their trailer.