

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

### ILLINOIS SONG-BOOKS, 1908-1926.

The 1908 Song-Book, issued under the auspices of the Woman's League (Hinds, Hayden & Eldredge, Inc., Publishers) was published "in response to an urgent demand from both the faculty and the student body".

Also, there was "a need of rousing songs which belong solely to our University". The Committee in charge was composed of Willabelle Wilson '08 and Louise Shipman '08.

Acknowledgments of assistance were tendered to Professor Frederick Locke Lawrence, Mrs. Constance Barlow Smith and Thatcher Howland Guild, who judged the songs in a contest on their merit. Thanks were extended to Guild for permission to include his song, "Illinois Loyalty", to Miss Winifred Forbes and Dr. John Hancock McClellan for rearranging material, and to Victor George, Jr., for cover design and frontispage.

This volume was "slightly revised" a few years later, with "a foreword to the revised edition". Thanks were extended to Professor Stephen Sheldon Colvin, Department of Psychology and F.K.W. Drury, University Library, for use of their new composition, "The Illinois Sunset Song". Colvin wrote the words, and Drury "the melody". The piece was "harmonized" by O.W. Schreiber '07. This Revised Edition was apparently published in 1912, with Mary C. Berry '12 and Agnes N. Porter '13, serving as "Committee".

#### Third Revised Edition.

There was a Third Revised Edition in 1918, "The Committee on Revision" being composed of Ruth Wickoff, chairman, Mynetta Engelland, Susan Schaffer, Lois Evans, Francella Sargent, Rex R. Thompson, Phil P. Young, Louis Selzer and Neil Caldwell. The Third Edition was also sponsored by the Woman's League. The First World War was then raging. Therefore, "Illinois songs rang truest. The old spirit is alive and Illinois students want to sing".

First place was assigned to "Alma Mater" with the words by R.E. Holch '10, the music by A.E. Holch '13.

"We're Loyal to You", ("Words and Music by T.H. Guild") held second place in the volume. "Oskee-Wow-Wow" by H.R. Green '11 and H.V. Hill '11, came next, followed by "Cheer, Illini", the words by Howard R. Green '11 and the music by Howard V. Hill '11.

We are using names and class numerals precisely as given in the book, to preserve the historical accuracy, or rather, inaccuracy, of this fine little song-book. "Cheer Illini" was followed by "The Illinois Sunset Song", as noted, "Dedicated to the First Fall Home-Coming, October, 1910". Once more, we follow the exact terminology on the book, with "Home-Coming" different from our "Homecoming" in 1951. "Our University" was written by Mary E. Mann, '09, daughter of the late Frank I. Mann, and a sister of Charles J. Mann '04, baritone horn player in the Band. Mary Mann married Jack Hepburn '07, prominent student, later instructor in agriculture, deceased November 17, 1945. Mrs. Hepburn lives at 6815 Jeffrey Avenue, Chicago 49.

D.H. Rich '07 wrote both words and music for "A Toast to the Orange and Blue". Lucia A. Stevens '03 wrote the words for "The Girl of Illinois" to the tune of "Solomon Levi". E.G. Oldefest '06 composed words and music for "Come, All Ye Faithful Rooters". Vernon T. Stevens wrote the words, and he and Lewis Daly the music for "It's the System (That They Have at Illinois)." Stevens also wrote both words and music for "Illinois, We Love You", as well as both words and music for "Those Good Old Songs They Sing at Illinois", and also for the song, "For Good Old Illinois".

World War I called for "Have Courage, Illinois", dedicated to "The Illini in France", the lyrics by E. Swalm and the music by L. Daley. "Sons of Loyalty" carried words by "Walter E. Hayne & Harold J. Orr", with the music by Ralph A. Carlsen, who became a member of the original Paul Whiteman Band, the organization which made Whiteman a millionaire. "Illinois Pep" was apparently written by a Stanford University man, Allen A. Stearn, Stanford '16. The lyrics to "Take Me Back to Illinois" were written by J.E. Davis and the words by H.B. Fites. Words for "On Forever, Illinois" were written by W.C. Langdon, with the music by J. Lawrence Erb, then University Organist and Director of the School of Music. "Illinois Seniors' Greetings" carried words by Eunice Louise Badger '18 and music by Elizabeth Adelle McClure '18.

One of the prominent Band members of the immediate post-World War I period was Richard E. Kent '21, who later played in the Sousa Band. Dick Kent wrote the music and Edmund D. Swanberg, the words of "Hail, Illinois" which was "Dedicated to the Illini Boys in France". Carlsen also wrote the music for "All Alone", with lyrics by R. E. Hill, also the music, with words by R.E. Denz, and the music for the title song, "Keep To The Right", with "lyric" by Carleton Healy, taken from the then popular show, "Keep To The

Right". Carlsen and Healy also collaborated in "Lazy Blues", "Egypt", "The Love Melody", "Colorado", and "Some Day", all from "Keep To The Right".

Floyd Mohlman, pianist, and member of the Band and Orchestra, wrote the music for "The Man From Illinois", with the words by H. W. Weis and Willing Ramsey. W.H. Bennett prepared the words and R.F. Field "the lyric" for "Little Bit O'Lady", from the campus show, "A Maid and A Myth". Bennett also wrote the music and R.F. Field and W.L. Sant, the words for "The Last Waltz", while Field wrote the words, and Hale N. Byers the music for "That Saxophone Rag", the last two from "A Maid and A Myth".

Also included were two arrangements of that old-time state song, "Illinois"--one entitled "By Thy Rivers Gently Flowing", and the other, just "Illinois", each by Walter Howe Jones, formerly Director of the School of Music. Frances Keese Wynkoop Drury '05, contributed the words of a song, "My Illinois" to the tune of "Baby Mine".

University Hymns were included, one being "A Commencement Hymn", without composer being named. Other hymns in the collection were "Alma Mater", for male voices, by R.G. Mills '03, and "University Anthem", with the words by Dr. John Milton Gregory, First Regent of Illinois Industrial University, to the tune of "Adeste Fideles". The volume closed with an assortment of patriotic, popular and folk songs.

But of all the Illinois songs mentioned in this book, only two, "Illinois Loyalty" and "Oskee-Wow-Wow" are heard, by and large, to-day. This 1908 volume of songs, of course, preceded the writing and singing of "Hail To the Orange".

"Pride of the Illini" remains, in 1951, the favorite of the great Marching and Singing Band in the Illinois Memorial Stadium.

Small wonder, with a myriad of songs offered for a "try-out" by the University Band, few could even be used, in the hope that some student composer would hit upon another song which would really "click".

## ILLINOIS SONG BOOK--1926 Edition.

### Foreword

"The Illini spirit is exuberantly filled with the songs of our campus and when we hear that victorious cry of "Oskee-wow-wow" or the stirring chords of "Hail to the Orange" we are thrilled with "Illinois Loyalty".

"Illinois sings these with deepest sentiment and when "The Broadwalk" is but a memory, the old Illini Spirit is still prevalent. At the evening supper, besides the hospitable fire-place, or on the sorority lawns these songs are immortal. To fill the need for the words and music of our favorites, the Illinois Union publishes this book.

Raymond Dvorak, Editor.

H.G. Roberts, Chairman.

D.B. Farnsworth, Business Manager.

(Published by the Illinois Union, University of Illinois, 1926)

This Edition carried, of course, the several songs which had become fully established by 1926, such as--yes, you recognize them, of course-- "Illinois Loyalty", "Hail to the Orange", "Oskee-Wow-Wow"; and Cheer, Illini".

There was also "For Good Old Illinois", and "Fight, Illini", the words by Sam Raphaelson '20 and the music by Rose Olstasky '22; and "By Thy Waters Gently Flowing", for male voices, arranged by Walter Howe Jones. Without the music, there were the words of "The Girl of Illinois", to the tune of "Solomon Levi", by Lucia Stevens '03; "My Girl" and "My Medley", composers not given; and "Dad's Day", to the tune of "What's the Matter With Father". The little volume closed with a group of "Other College Songs", and finally, that favorite of many years on the Illinois campus, "College days" to the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad", with the chorus:-

"Sing me a song of college days,  
Tell me where to go;  
Northwestern for her pretty girls,  
Wisconsin where they row;  
Michigan for chappies,  
Purdue for jolly boys;  
Chicago for her Standard Oil,  
For good fellows, Illinois".

In the early 1900s, before "Illinois Loyalty" was written, crowds at "Mass-Meetings" and on other occasions when pepping it up for games, sang a never ending song, which could go on and on forever:-

"And when we're up, we're up,  
And when we're down, we're down,  
And when we're only half way up,  
We're neither up nor down".



There were many songs without terminal facilities of any kind, which can be sung forever, all day, if desired, by a group. Burford recalls that his father, a Union veteran in the Civil War, often spoke within his son's hearing, of a song which soldiers in camp and on the march in the Deep South, sang for hours at a time:-

"The old cow--she crossed the road--just because she crossed the road,

The old cow--she crossed the road--just because she crossed the road",

And so on, ad infinitum, forever, it seemed.

Burford plans publication of a volume based upon his father's reminiscences of service as a private volunteer soldier in the Union Army. There are now many such books, but Burford has many treasures, handed to him by his soldier boy father which have never been published. These stories are unique, fully accurate and historical. The father, William T. Burford, was a private in the 111th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, served almost three years, was home and discharged before he was 21 years old, was wounded and carried his wound, much of the time a running sore, for 58 years. Such a fund of experiences should be recorded and preserved.

### "The Big Collection of Illinois Songs"

The U. of I. Supply Store, "The Co-Op" advertised in 1926, "The University of Illinois Song Book, The New and Revised Edition, the Big Collection of Illinois Songs. 150 pages. Published under the auspices of "The Woman's League". Beautifully Bound in Orange, Gold and Blue. \$3.

### Illinois Songs at Alumni Meetings

"Illinois Loyalty" and "Hail to the Orange" from the appropriate setting for rousing alumni groups--East, West, North, South, no matter where, as Illini meet hither and thither and yon to renew campus experiences. Alumni meetings, from Boston to Los Angeles, and from Miami to Duluth, are never complete without these beloved oldtime Illinois Songs. If this volume stirs constant renewal of what we cherish as "The Illinois Spirit", it will have served at least one of its major objectives.