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**A history of diversity at CU-Boulder**  
See story, page 2



# Carillon

Carillon is named for the carillon bells that have rung out across campus for decades.

A publication of the University of Colorado at Boulder • April 20, 2001



## The University of Colorado at Boulder celebrates 125 years of academic excellence

**O**n Sept. 5, 1877, a brass band marched from the town of Boulder to the University of Colorado campus. The state governor and the university regents followed in an open barouche drawn by two horses, while Old Main's bell rang on the steps of the building — the famous bell had not yet been hung in the tower. Fire engines and a crowd of enthusiastic locals completed the parade.

CU President Joseph Sewall gave the inaugural address for the new university, then joined the gathered crowd in singing the school anthem, "We Hail Thee! Great Fountain of Learning and Light."

The community's hard work had finally yielded the reward they had dreamed of — a University of Colorado at Boulder. The 125th anniversary celebration of CU-Boulder provides an opportunity to look back on a century and a quarter of academic excellence, outstanding faculty accomplishments, community outreach efforts, and the individual choices, successes, and achievements that have contributed to the evolution of a small frontier university into the world-class research institution CU-Boulder is today.

### A university is born

In 1861, a bill passed by Colorado's Territorial Legislature established the University of Colorado. Boulder beat out a handful of other cities, including Georgia Gulch, Silver City, Denver, Pueblo and Cañon City, to be chosen as the location of the new university.

Old Main was completed on April 18, 1876, and the university opened its doors on Sept. 5, 1877, with 44 students and one instructor. The entire campus — including classrooms and living quarters for President Joseph Sewall and his family — was housed in Old Main.

Two courses of study were offered in 1878 — the Classical Course and the Scientific Course. The four-year courses were modeled on rigid college course curricula of the time. The Classical Course required two years of Greek, three years of Latin and two years of mathematics. President Sewall taught botany and chemistry for the Scientific Course.

By 1879, the university had 78 students.

In 1883, the Department of Medicine and Surgery opened at CU

1190 KVCU.

In 1905, the Regents changed the name of the School of Applied Science to the College of Engineering. The new college had an enrollment of about 215 students and was energized by the appointment of a new dean, Milo Ketchum, professor of civil engineering. All of the faculty in the college were given nicknames by the students, and he was known as "Uncle Milo," or "Mile High Ketchum." The college offered undergraduate and graduate courses leading to professional degrees in civil, electrical, mechanical, and chemical engineering.

In 1906, the Regents founded a College of Commerce within the College of Liberal Arts for students who wanted to combine higher education with preparation for the business world. CU was one of the first institutions in the country, along with Harvard and Northwestern, to establish such a program. Four lines of study led to a degree — students could concentrate in banking; manufacturing; journalism; or trade, transportation, and consular service.

In 1923 the College of Commerce became the School of Business Administration. Its Bureau of Business Research, founded in 1915, was one of the earliest organized state service bureaus in the country.

In 1908, a College of Education was authorized by the Regents as a division of the College of Liberal Arts. It was designed to "meet a very definite demand for advanced professional training for teachers and the more serious study of educational problems." There was a growing need for teachers in Colorado, and, at the time, more alumni of the College of Liberal Arts entered the teaching profession than any other occupation.

The School of Pharmacy was founded on the Boulder campus in 1911, with two students, one professor, and a small laboratory. Initial enrollment was low because from the school's founding, the entrance requirements were intended to be equal to the best schools in the country. CU was the second pharmacy school in the nation to admit only college graduates and set the course of study at three rather than two years.

### Location, location, location

CU-Boulder's spot at the foot of the Rockies has often been heralded for its beauty, but in the 1920s, faculty researchers began to take advantage of the research opportunities offered by the university's location. The Mountain Research Station (MRS), established in 1921, has served as an outstanding facility in field education and research. Nearby Niwot Ridge is internationally known as a unique site for research on the biology, geology, and atmospheric environment of alpine ecosystems.

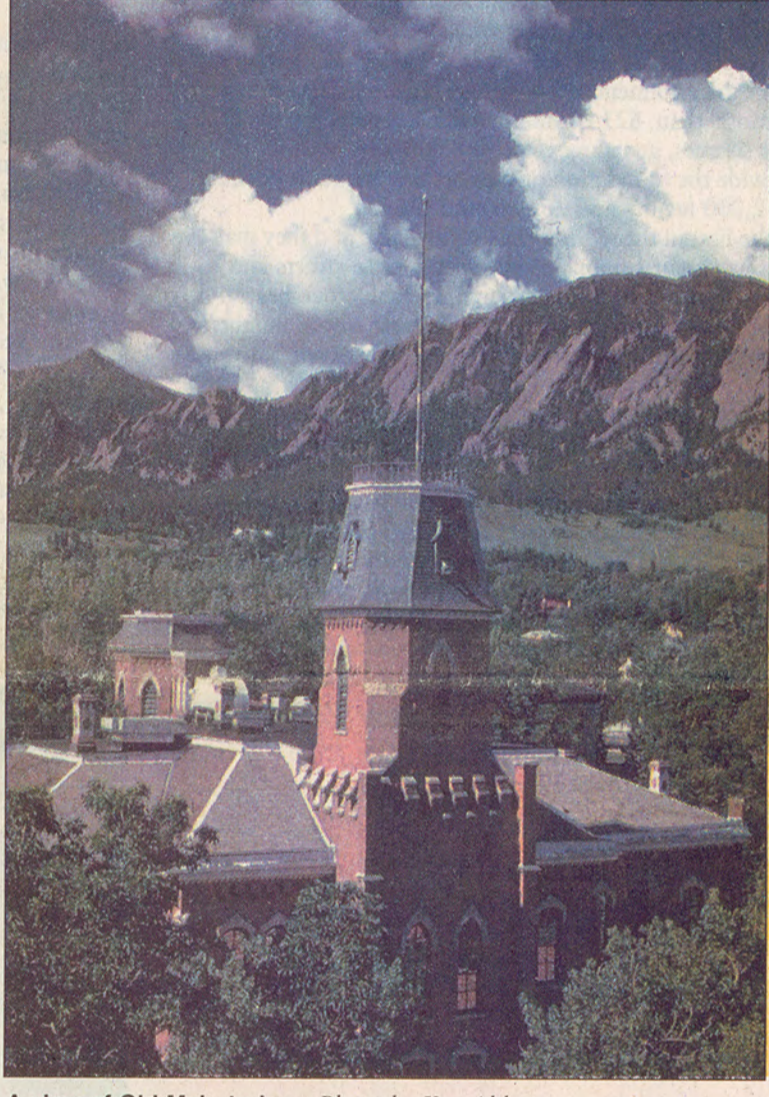
Approximately 40 researchers use the MRS as a base of operations each year, including CU faculty and students and others from universities around the world. With the Rockies as a lab and one of the world's largest concentrations of earth scientists, CU-Boulder has become known as a world-class center for the study of the environment.

Classes in journalism have been offered at CU since 1909. A Department of Journalism was created in 1922 in recognition of the need for a four-year course for students wanting to prepare themselves for a career in newspaper reporting and related fields. The department was also put in charge of the university's publications and publicity. In 1937, it was called the College of Journalism, still within the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1962, it gained its independent status as the School of Journalism — and has since been counted among the leading journalism schools in the country.

Music courses have been offered at CU since 1883, but it wasn't until 1920 that the College of Music was established. At that time, CU's was the only program of collegiate rank in the area to offer the

bachelor of music degree. By 1928, more than 100 students were taking music instruction, 53 of whom were music majors.

The very popular University Band was formed by 14 students in 1909. After the band heroically played in a blinding snowstorm, the Regents voted to buy the band members uniforms. Hugh McMillan, appointed director of the marching band in 1936, brought the band to national prominence.



A view of Old Main today. Photo by Ken Abbott

At 50 years, CU had 2,913 students, and an Extension Division enrollment of 3,552.

### Annapolis of the West

University community members at all levels contributed to the winning of World War II. CU became known as the "Annapolis of the West," with the addition of a Naval ROTC training unit, the Navy Radio School, and the Navy Japanese Language School.

The School of Medicine mobilized a General Hospital Unit, and the School of Nursing expanded to train more students. Between 5,500 and 6,000 members of the university community served in the war.

In 1962, architecture, which had been a part of the Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering, became an independent School of Architecture. Today, the College of Architecture and Planning offers the only graduate and undergraduate education in the fields of architecture, planning, landscape architecture and urban design in Colorado. Undergraduates may obtain an environmental design degree on the Boulder campus and then pursue graduate study at the Denver campus, where the College of Architecture and Planning is ranked as one of the top programs in the country.

In 1967, CU was invited to join the American Association of Universities, giving it recognition as one of the nation's premier public and private research universities.

Tom Cech, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at CU-Boulder, became the first Coloradan to win a Nobel Prize when he was honored in 1989 for discovering that RNA can act as a catalyst in living cells.

CU was among the first institutions in the country to launch a comprehensive online program, offering students learning opportunities and services via the Web beginning in 1996. Today, CU's catalog of online courses includes more than 200 core curriculum, elective, and professional development courses in various disciplines and seven complete online degree-certificates.

John C. Buechner, the 18th president of CU, began an initiative called the Total Learning Environment in 1997. The initiative, carried forward by the two subsequent presidents, Sandy Bracken and Elizabeth Hoffman, has four objectives — supporting innovations in learning; being more responsive to students and other constituents; using technology to improve teaching, learning, research and management; and enhancing the university's infrastructure. Some important TLE achievements include streamlining of administration, reducing costs and improving management efficiency; utilizing technology to improve information management; creating resource goals; and initiating the largest fundraising campaign in CU history (\$650 million).

The University of Colorado Board of Regents named Elizabeth "Betsy" Hoffman the 20th president of the CU system in September 2000.

"I believe the four-campus CU system is one of the great public universities in the country," Hoffman said. "I see exciting opportunities for the system to move forward and build upon its legacy of teaching, research, public service, patient care and overall academic excellence."

Story based on "125 Ways CU Has Transformed the Future." The complete document can be found at [www.cu.edu/125](http://www.cu.edu/125).



CU-Boulder's Cottage #2, circa 1895. Photo by Dean Raymond Brackett

with two faculty members, President Sewall and Dr. W.R. Whitehead. A hospital built on the southeast corner of the campus could accommodate 30 patients. Volunteer faculty made up of practicing physicians taught the first students. The Anatomy Building was constructed in 1888 to supplement the hospital facilities. Among graduation requirements in those early days, students had to "present evidence of having dissected the whole human body."

In 1911, the Denver and Gross College of Medicine in Denver merged with CU's School of Medicine, paving the way for the school's move to Denver, where the clinical facilities were more extensive. The American Medical Association gave the newly formed college a Class A rating.

The School of Law, which opened in 1893, quickly became one of the most distinguished divisions of the university, as graduates pursued careers that reflected favorably on CU. Entrance requirements included possessing a high school diploma — and a good moral character. Special attention was paid to jurisprudence particularly related to the West, such as mining and irrigation law. Today, the CU law school faculty rank 15th in the nation in academic and professional quality.

### Student involvement flourishes

Student involvement in university life began early in CU's history. The first mention of the Associated Students of the University of Colorado (ASUC) was recorded in the University Catalogue of 1902-03. Its membership included every student enrolled at the university and its purpose was "to form a more efficient government for the conducting ... of all matters of general student concern." Today, the University of Colorado Student Union (UCSU) is the nation's largest student government and operates facilities such as the Wardenburg Health Center, the University Memorial Center, the Student Recreation Center and the campus radio station, Radio



A turn-of-the-century couple enjoys a horse-and-carriage ride by Old Main. Photo courtesy of the CU Heritage Center

# Plains cottonwoods trees tell the story of a university

**S**tanding in front of the University Theatre, look across Norlin Quadrangle to Old Main, and let your gaze pass over the green lawn beyond a large cottonwood tree.

Now imagine the same setting that historic day 125 years ago when the Board of Trustees accepted Old Main from the contractor. It was April 22, 1876, and as the Board surveyed the brand-new Old Main as it stood alone, tall and proud under Colorado's deep-blue sky, they looked across not a lush green lawn but a dry, treeless mesa that was home to yucca, buffalo grass and cacti.

The large cottonwood standing in front of Old Main today was planted in the first landscaping attempt undertaken on the campus. The *Colorado Banner* of March 6, 1879, recorded the first attempts to transform the dry mesa surrounding Old Main.

"The University grounds are being covered with rich loam, preparatory to making a good soil for grasses, etc., that are to be planted there. A goodly number of trees will also be set out near the building, and the place be made as attractive as nature can make it," the article read.

Further accounts note that, in no time, Boulder winds had blown the rich loam away, as if to instruct the newcomers on the nature of their new home. But rich loam was one thing, and planting trees was another. So it was that despite the loss of the rich loam, the planting of a goodly number of trees occurred as planned in April 1879.

Then, as today, a tree was selected as a particular landscaping solution or effect. Little wonder the first trees to be set into the dry mesa were plains cottonwoods (*Populus sargentii* Dode). After all, the immigrants in prairie schooners had early discovered that the plains cottonwood, a native tree found in groves along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains from north Texas to Saskatchewan, offered water, fuel and shade on a burning summer's day.

Accustomed to a dry, subhumid to semiarid climate, a plains cottonwood can withstand extremes of temperature, precipitation and drought. Commonly planted for shade and windbreaks, the trees are also accustomed to persistent, high-velocity winds, as their widespread, shallow root system helps to make them wind-firm. Though a short-lived tree, the plains cottonwood compensates by being the fastest-growing tree on the plains.

Plains cottonwoods are also among the few trees that grow in arid regions without coddling. Rightfully called the "pioneer tree of the plains," they settle in their natural bottomlands habitat on new sandbars and in bare floodplains where their roots can find water.

For these trees, access to moisture is of greater importance than soil texture and fertility. With irrigation and full sunlight, young plains cottonwoods can grow on ground where no other trees have settled.

A voucher in the archives in Norlin Library records that the University of Colorado paid \$35 to one W.C. Robeson on April 30, 1879, for the first planting of trees — 42 plains cottonwoods. It

length of providing the attention and water that 42 cottonwoods needed to thrive.

Timothy W. Stanton, who entered the preparatory school at Old Main in 1877 and graduated from CU in 1883, recalled the significant effort put forth by the president to help the college's newest sylvan residents.

"His tall slender figure with a hoe or shovel guiding the water to the cottonwood trees, some of which he had himself planted around the University, was a familiar sight," Stanton wrote in *Reminiscences of a University 65 Years Ago*.

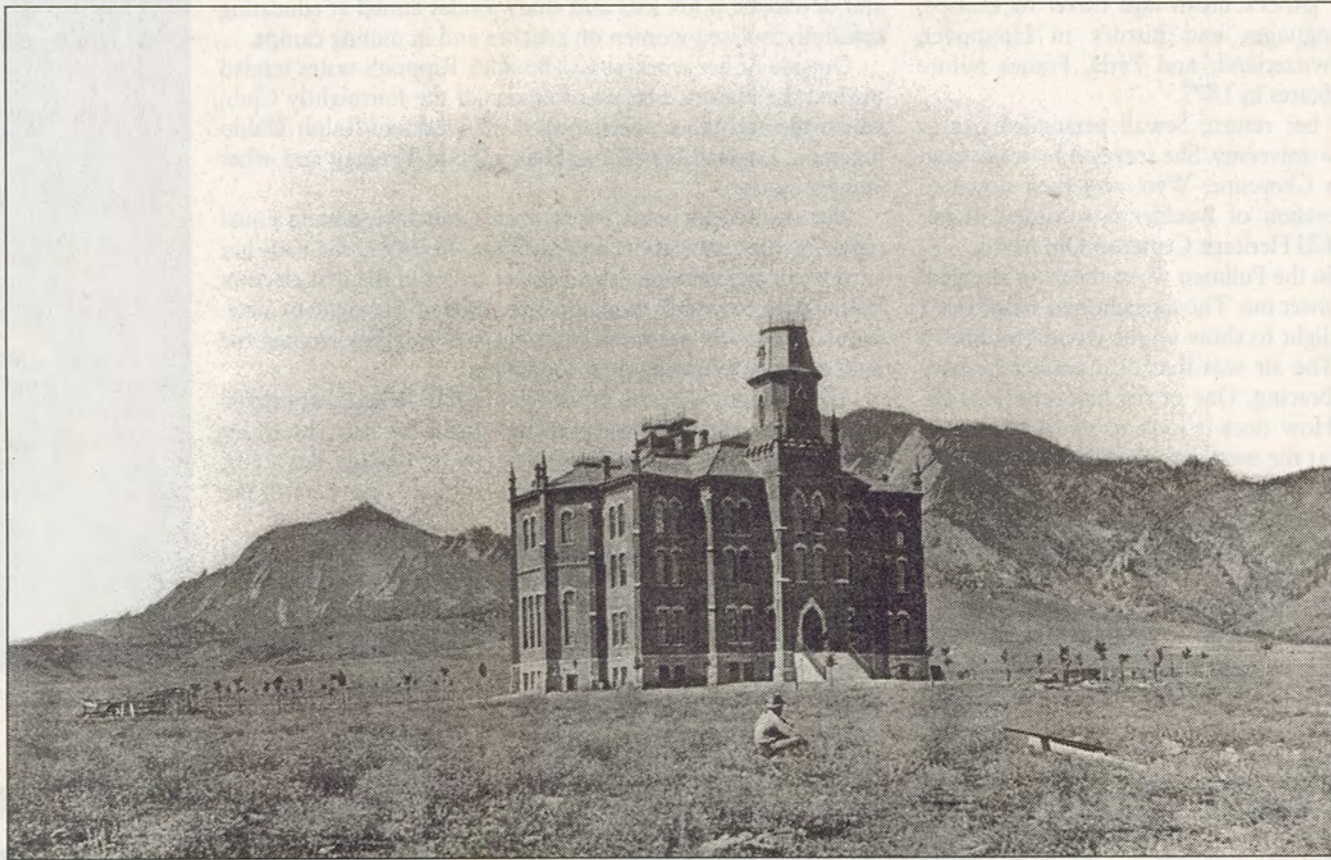
On May 30, 1880, a second voucher notes that the university purchased for \$17.50, from Robeson, 43 more plains cottonwoods.

Obviously, a number of the trees planted in 1879 did not survive, though the cause of their demise is not recorded. The second voucher does reveal that the university and Robeson split the cost of the cottonwoods purchased, each party seemingly acknowledging some responsibility for the trees' inability to survive their first winter atop the formerly treeless mesa.

Planted in 1879 or 1880, the old plains cottonwood spreading its protective canopy over the south entrance to Old Main is not only living history but also a survivor, a real pioneer, of these earliest attempts to create a pleasing and hospitable campus landscape.

The following photographs illustrate the life of Old Main's pioneer plains cottonwood, while testifying to the incredible transformation of the campus over the last 125 years.

By Harvey N. Gardiner, archivist, and Phyllis Hunt



1. This photograph, taken in 1879 by Alex Martin, clearly shows the original mesa around Old Main. Many small plains cottonwood trees surround the building. Photo courtesy of CU Archives

seems that there was every expectation these trees would soon provide the campus with an established mien and protection from Boulder's unforgiving winds and the bright Colorado sun.

"I hereby Warrant for the term of one (1) year — if secured from stock and well taken care of — and all trees which may not live will be replaced inside of one (1) year — free of charge," reads the bill of sale, signed by Mr. Robeson.

Relying on water from the Anderson Ditch, CU President Joseph Sewall, Mrs. Sewall and Professor Mary Rippon took on the chal-



2. This early photo of the south entrance to Old Main shows rocks and the original ground cover in the foreground. Originally, the north entrance to Old Main served as the women's entrance. The south entrance was reserved for men.

In this photo, the plains cottonwoods look well-established and are gaining height. There seems to be a lawn immediately surrounding Old Main. The President's house is at left. Photo courtesy of CU Archives



4. Taken in 1904, this photo shows the sidewalk leading from the newly completed University Library (today's University Theatre) to Old Main. The foreground is vastly different from the old dry mesa. Young trees now stand in front of the plains cottonwoods at Old Main. The cottonwood to the left of the sidewalk, about 25 years old when this photo was taken, is the plains cottonwood survivor. Photo courtesy of CU Archives



3. This photo, first published in the 1902 *Coloradoan* and taken from Hale, is the first to clearly show the plains cottonwood tree that today still stands at the entrance to Old Main. The tree, distinguished by an obvious fork in its trunk, stands to the right of the building.



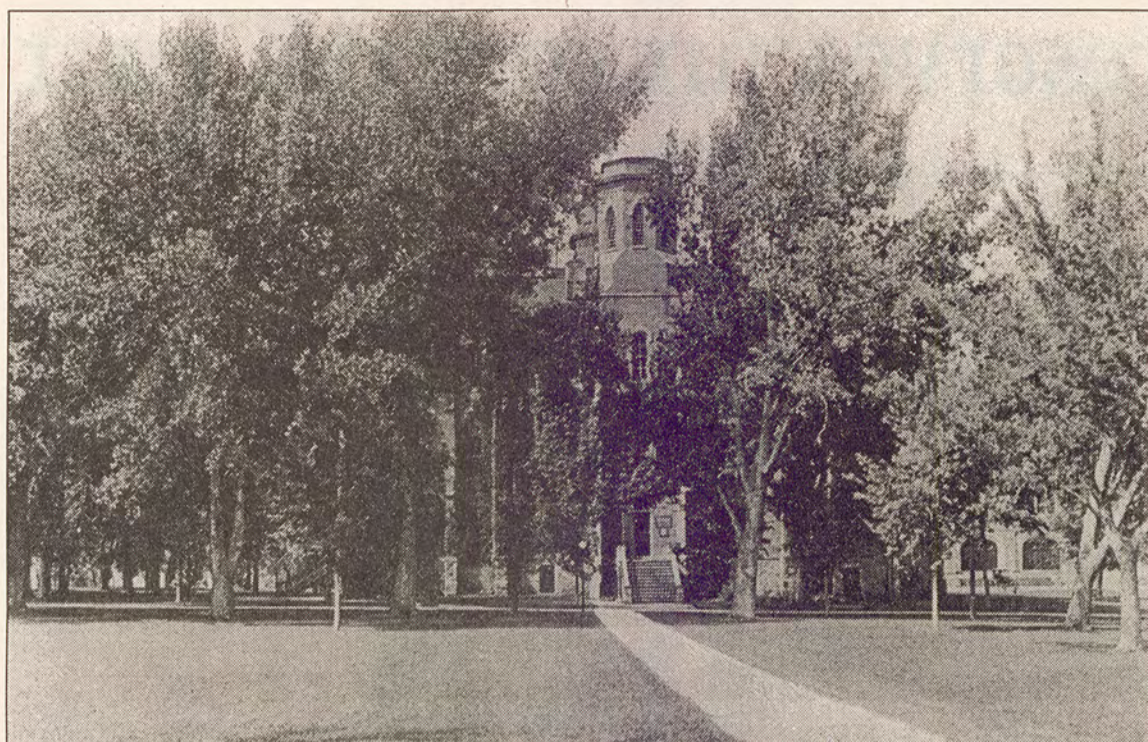
5. Illustrating a campus made hospitable for the university's activities, this photo, taken from Guggenheim, is of the Woman's League's first May Fete on May 4, 1912. In its description of the festival, the *Silver and Gold* of May 6, 1912, poetically noted that "The queen clad in an exquisite embroidered gown of white voile rode in state in a carriage of pink chrysanthemums drawn by ponies tandem style ... When they reached a point opposite the throne the queen descended from the carriage ... The throne was of pink and white flowers against a lattice works of green up which green vines with pink flowers clambered."

Following her coronation, the queen seated herself on her throne, surrounded by her court. Then came dancers representing a variety of cultural backgrounds, each in costume. First Swedish dancers, then Scottish dancers, then Irish dancers, and finally Dutch dancers in wooden clogs. The highlight of the event was the May Pole dance, as shown in this photograph. The May Fete throne is located beneath a grouping of plains cottonwoods in front of Old Main. Photo courtesy of CU Archives

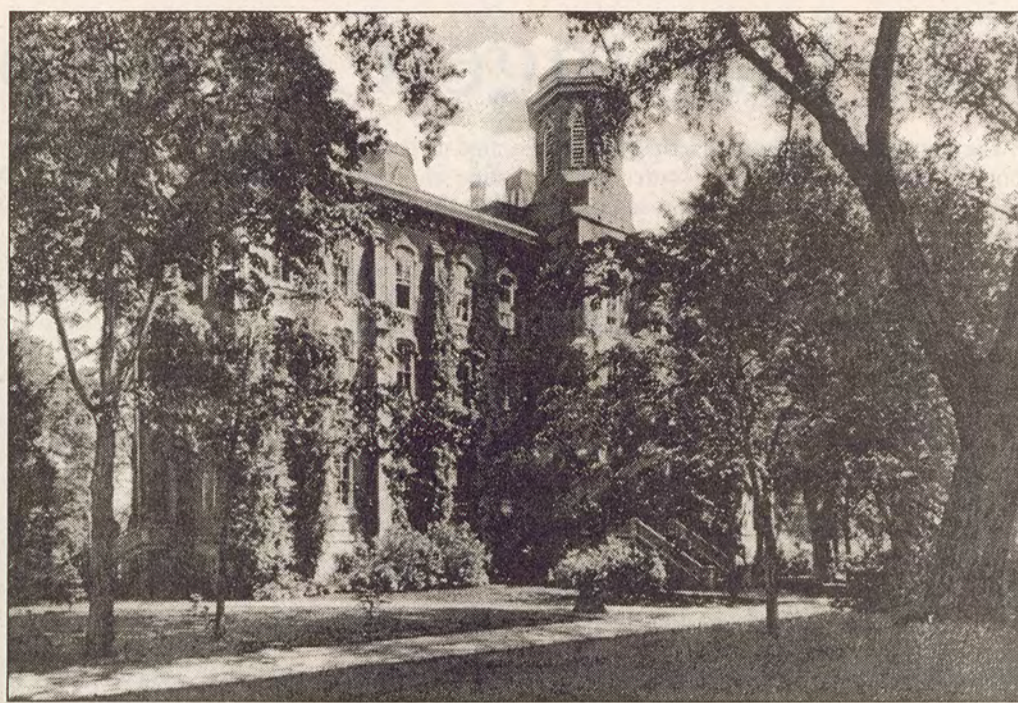
For comments or questions regarding



Contact Dee Martinez at 303-492-4151 or [deem@stripe.colorado.edu](mailto:deem@stripe.colorado.edu)



6. The rapid growth of a plains cottonwood tree begins to decline after 30 or 40 years. This photo, which appeared in the *War Coloradoan* 1918, shows the plains cottonwood still at Old Main on the left of the sidewalk. The four cottonwoods at the left of the photo are about 38 years old.



7. Periodically, the university published untitled promotional booklets, commonly referred to as "University Views." This undated publication, circa 1930, shows the plains cottonwood at the right of the photo — only the base and trunk of the tree are visible. Central to this photo are the university grounds, with verdant lawn, shrubs, and vines reaching to Old Main's third story. *Photo courtesy of CU Archives*



8. This undated photo, taken decades ago, shows the setting of the plains cottonwoods on the south side of Old Main. The surviving cottonwood is the tree at right center. The cottonwoods to its left have since been removed. *Photo courtesy of CU Archives*



9. This winter scene of Old Main, taken in December 1980, shows two plains cottonwoods, on either side of the walk. Both trees are the same age, about 101 years old at the time of this photo; the surviving plains cottonwood is on the left. The cottonwood to the right of the sidewalk was removed in 1991. *Photo by Phyllis Hunt*

## 125th Anniversary Campus Celebration Calendar



**Years**  
**CU-Boulder**  
1876 • 2001

*Minds to Match Our Mountains*

The University at Colorado at Boulder community will celebrate the university's anniversary beginning this month and continuing throughout the coming year. For more information about the events of the 125th anniversary celebration, visit [www.colorado.edu/125years](http://www.colorado.edu/125years).

### April 22

Colorado Shakespeare Festival Annual Meeting and Tea — more than 175 Colorado Shakespeare Guild members will join members of the community for an annual meeting and tea in honor of William Shakespeare's birthday. Entertainment will include the educational outreach troupe "Living Shakespeare" and street performers Bill and Crystal Atkinson. "Will Shakespeare" and "Queen Elizabeth" will also attend. 2 - 4 p.m., Koenig Alumni Center on the CU-Boulder campus. Free and open to the public; please R.S.V.P. to 303-440-6868.

### April 29

Army Jazz Ambassadors Concert — the internationally renowned jazz ensemble will perform a tribute to CU alumnus Glenn Miller, 3 p.m., Macky Auditorium. Though the performance is free and open to the public, tickets are required. Tickets are available at the door or through the Boulder *Daily Camera*, or by calling 303-791-3197.

### May 11

CU-Boulder commencement — remarks will be given by Jim Collins, an internationally known management educator, author and motivational speaker. The ceremony will also include a celebration of the 125th anniversary of the university and the investiture of its 20th president, Elizabeth Hoffman, 9:30 a.m., Folsom Stadium.

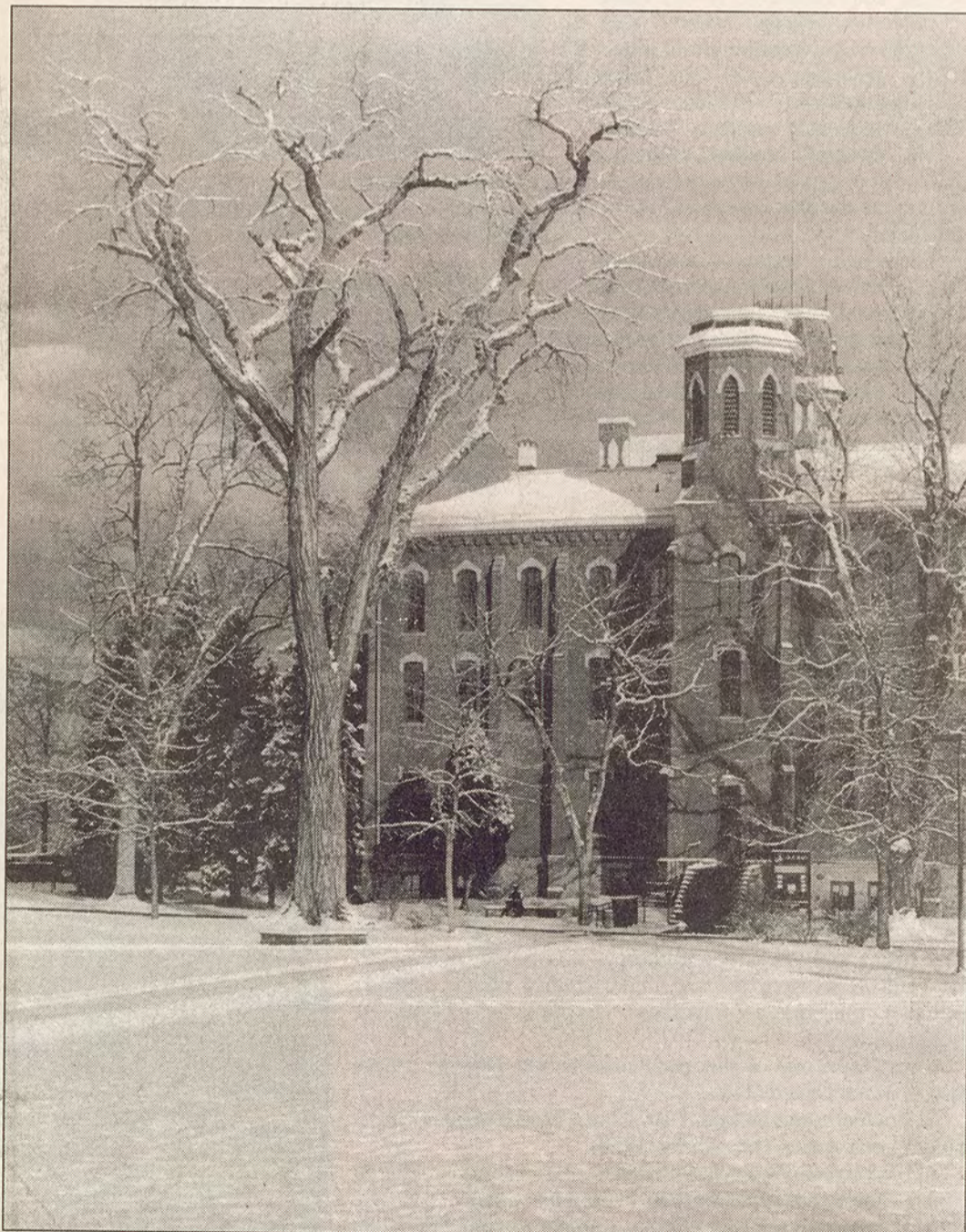
### May 26 - 28

Boulder Creek Festival — events and activities for the whole family include an art show, the Boulder Creek Bazaar, children's events, performances, a creek cleanup and a Memorial Day Recognition Service. The Great Rubber Duck Race, benefiting the Boulder Expand program, will be held Monday at 4 p.m. The festival is held in downtown Boulder along Boulder Creek, from 9th to 14th Streets, between Arapahoe and Canyon. For information see the festival Web site at [www.bouldercreekfestival.com](http://www.bouldercreekfestival.com).

### May 28

Bolder Boulder. One of the largest road races in the world, the Bolder Boulder 10k attracts more than 45,000 runners, walkers and wheelchair racers and draws professional racing teams from all over the world.

For information or to register, visit the race Web site at [www.bolderboulder.com](http://www.bolderboulder.com).



10. This photo, taken on January 29, 2001, shows the plains cottonwood as it stands today by the south entrance to Old Main. During the 122-year life of this plains cottonwood, the university campus has undergone tremendous change, and the tree itself stands as living testimony to the transformation.

At the far right of this photo stands a silver maple planted by the Class of 1894.

*Photo by Harvey N. Gardiner*