WU's 125th Shapes Up Into Big Shebang

Plans for WU's 125th Anniversary celebration—tentative and vague last year—have shaped up into an exciting schedule of events for four weeks in October and November. No matter what your interests, this shebang, which will include everything from high-level academic conferences to a campus-wide birthday party, should have something for you.

As a brief preview, here are a few of the celebration's highlights. Articles on specific events and a full schedule of events will appear in later issues of the Record.

Four Nobel Laureates will be among seven internationally esteemed scientists to discuss their primary research at the "125th Anniversary Biomedical Symposium" on Oct. 16 and 17 at Edison Theatre. The symposium has been arranged by Dr. W. Maxwell Cowan, director of the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences and chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology.

One of the participants in the symposium, Sir Peter Medawar, head of the Division of Surgical Sciences, Medical Research Council, Middlesex, England, Nobel Laureate, 1960, will also be principal speaker, with his scientist-wife, Lady Jean Medawar, at the Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Conference on Oct. 11 at Graham Chapel. They will discuss "What Does Science Have to Say About Women?"

Some of the greatest names in ragtime will be featured in a ragtime festival to be held at Edison Theatre Oct. 26-29. The festival will be unique, said Steven Radecke, WU artist-in-residence who is heading the event, because it will be true to the spirit of ragtime, unlike many other similarly billed festivals which include Dixieland and other forms of jazz. Among the guest artists invited to take part in "Ragtime '78" are such foot-stomping groups as Turk Murphy's Jazz Band of San Francisco and the city's own St. Louis Ragtimers, featuring Trebor Tichenor. Dances, choreographed by the University's Dance Division, will be performed to the music.

On Oct. 20 and 21, some 20 scholars from both sides of the Atlantic will convene at WU for a conference on "Law (continued on page 2)
WU Worker Shunned School But Wrote Scholarly Book on Labor

Washington University is probably the only institution of higher learning in this country that has a scholarly authority on the history of the labor movement as its library building security assistant. He's David Thayer Burbank, a 66-year-old "drop-out," as he chooses to call himself, who left WU's School of Architecture abruptly because he found it "deadly dull." He spent only a few months longer at St. Louis University, which he abandoned at the end of his freshman year.

A member of a patrician family (his grandfather, Amos Thayer, was a federal judge of the Eighth Circuit; his mother, Louise January Thayer, a relative of Mrs. Robert Brookings), Burbank is an unlikely looking maverick. A man of military bearing with white hair and a matching, precisely groomed goatee, he was antiestablishment before it became fashionable.

A bookworm all of his life and active in the labor movement for some of that time, Burbank has devoted more than a decade of his life to the study of the St. Louis general strike of 1877.

He put what he has learned between the hardback covers of a 208-page book called Reign of the Rabble, the St. Louis General Strike of 1877. The title is misleading—the newspapers called the strikers "rabble," but not the author Burbank. Through painstaking research, he has come to know and understand many of them and their cause. Published in 1966 as part of a "Library of American Labor History" by Augustus M. Kelley, Publishers, New York, Reign of the Rabble is a condensation of a much longer microcard publication, City of Little Bread: The St. Louis General Strike of 1877, which Burbank issued himself in 1957.

Until Burbank looked into the subject, the strike, a milestone in labor history, had been all but forgotten. He labored on his work for 10 years, and the result is a book of which any nascent Ph.D. could be proud. Burbank's thesis is put succinctly. He maintains, "The St. Louis general strike of 1877 was certainly one of the first strikes anywhere in the world to paralyze a major industrial city; and without a doubt was the first general strike of the modern, industrial labor movement in the United States."

The general strike is quite a story and an enlightening way of learning about what was, at the time, as Burbank is careful to point out, "The most serious and prolonged economic crisis of its history . . . . The distress of St. Louis workingmen resulted in one of the chain of social explosions that rocked America from coast to coast in the summer of 1877, giving notice of the beginning of a new era of violent and sometimes bloody conflict between workers and employers, out of which American industrial society and its labor movement took form."

In his search for facts, Burbank burrowed into the newspapers of the day and consulted unpublished official papers, which provided information on the military and judicial aspects of the strikes on both sides of the Mississippi at St. Louis.

His book is a scholarly tour de force and a reference on which historians have come to depend ever since Burbank unearthed the details of this strike and focused on its importance. Robert V. Bruce in his book 1877, Year of Violence, Wilfred H. Crook in his Communism and the General Strike, and most recently Philip S. Foner in The Great Labor Uprising of 1877, all cite Burbank's book as an important resource.

Meanwhile, Burbank continues to keep a watchful eye over Olin and its treasures because, he says simply, "I love libraries." Also, he adds mischievously, "Learning firsthand about the American labor movement involved me in life with a capital L and has kept me from becoming a stuffy old man."
U. City Honors WU's 125th

In honor of WU's 125th Anniversary, the University City Chamber of Commerce paid official tribute to the University by declaring the week of July 24 through July 30 as "Salute to Washington University Week" among all chamber members.

John B. Richardson, president of the U. City Chamber, asked all citizens of the city to join the chamber in observing the week. Richardson sent a letter to Chancellor William H. Danforth, in which he announced the official "Salute to Washington University Week." Richardson pointed out that a portion of WU's campus is a part of University City and that the University and the city have had a "close kin" relationship through the years.

Following are excerpts from Richardson's letter: "As 1978 marks the 125th Anniversary of Washington University, permit me to offer my sincere congratulations to you and to all of those concerned with WU on this most significant occasion.

"It is unfortunate, but true, that too often great institutions such as Washington University are taken for granted by citizens who benefit by their presence. While the 50,000 residents of U. City recognize and appreciate what Washington University has meant to their community through many decades, no doubt the occasion is rare when individuals or groups actually pause to express appreciation.

"Because of the latter fact, we believe that it is particularly important that we put down in writing to you our appreciation and recognition of how much your fine university has meant to U. City (and to the rest of Greater St. Louis and the state)."

The WU Record is published weekly during the academic year by the Information Office. Editor, Janet Kelley; calendar editor, Charlotte Boman. Address communications to Box 1142.

News Briefs

THE RED CROSS will be on campus Mon., Sept. 11, for an emergency blood drive. The drive is in addition to annual fall and spring semester drives. Whether you regularly give blood or you are a first-timer, your blood is needed now. The drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Wohl Center Formal Lounge.

HENRY CORTENAY FENN, professor emeritus of Chinese Studies at WU, died Sat., July 22, of a heart attack. Professor Fenn, 84, resided at Kendall Longwood Retirement Community in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. An internationally known authority on the Chinese language, Professor Fenn joined WU's Department of Chinese and Japanese in 1966 and served as its acting chairman during the 1966-67 academic year. He retired in 1968. At WU, he helped reorganize the department's Chinese language program and was instrumental in initiating a Chinese language program in St. Louis secondary schools.

THE ASIAN ART SOCIETY OF WU will sponsor a five-day guided tour of some of New England's finest Oriental art collections Thurs., Sept. 28, through Mon., Oct. 2. Call Jane Jacobs or David Thomas at 725-1633 for further information. Deadline for registration is Thurs., Sept. 14.

Univ. Receives Original Drawings Of Eads Bridge

Eighty original shop drawings used in the construction of Eads Bridge, some of them sketched and signed by its designer and builder James Buchanan Eads, were presented to the University and the National Museum of Transport, St. Louis, at special ceremonies on the University's campus Tues., July 25.

These rare, detailed engineering drawings, under terms of a joint collecting policy between the University and the museum, have been placed on deposit in WU's archives. Long believed to be lost, the 80 documents were only recently discovered in leather pockets at the Ambridge plant of the American Bridge Division, United States Steel.

This cache supplements a collection of some 425 such drawings already housed at WU. They are on permanent loan to the University from the Terminal Railroad Association which retains title to them. WU's collection is believed to be the largest in the country. Some of the larger drawings in the archives are inscribed with pen on starched linen by Eads.

Chancellor William H. Danforth accepted this gift from Arthur P. Arndt, vice president, American Bridge Division, United States Steel, Pittsburgh, Pa. Vernon W. Piper, president of the board of directors of the National Museum of Transport, represented the museum.

Campus Y Offers A-Z

With the advent of a monastic life of study at WU, do you fear that your mind-body communication will become rusty, that your expertise in northern Italian cuisine will curdle like cream on the shelf or that you will return to your favorite disco over winter break, woefully dated by a Spanish hustle? Take heart. The Campus Y is offering an array of courses this fall designed to keep you up to the minute, your body in shape and your mind at peace.

For the spiritual exerciser, the Y will hold workshops in bioenergetics, hatha yoga and holistic health. Nocturnal strollers may wish to enroll in self-defense for women or a hapkido course. For jet-setters, the Y offers "Continental Cuisine for Gourmet Cooks." Other selections include antique collecting, making a family tree and income tax returns.

YMCA/YWCA members and those in the WU community receive a 10 per cent discount and full-time WU students are entitled to a 50 per cent discount on fees. To register, call Ext. 5010.
Calendar
September 8-14

FRI., SEPTEMBER 8

MON., SEPTEMBER 11
11 a.m. Department of Civil Engineering Seminar, “P-Convergent Finite Element Approximations in Linear Elastic Fracture Mechanics,” Anil K. Mehta, engineer, Sverdruz and Parcel and Associates, St. Louis engineering firm. 100 Cuppen II.

4 p.m. School of Fine Arts and Missouri Arts Council Lecture, with John O’Connor, visiting lecturer and painter. 304 Bixby.

WED., SEPTEMBER 13
11 a.m. Academic Committee Reading and Commentary, with James Kirkwood, author playwright and actor who wrote the script for A Chorus Line. Kirkwood received the Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize in drama for 1976, both for A Chorus Line. Graham Chapel.

4 p.m. Department of Physics Colloquium, “Physical Principles of the Polymerization of Sickle-Cell Hemoglobin,” Frank Ferrone, staff fellow, National Institutes of Health. 201 Crow.

Films
FRI., SEPTEMBER 8
7 and 10:30 p.m. WU Filmboard Feature, “Play It Again, Sam” and “Casablanca” (9 and 12:30 p.m.). Brown Hall Theatre. Admission $1.50 for either or both films. (Also Sat., Sept. 9, same times, Brown; and Sun., Sept. 10, 8 p.m., Wohl Center.)


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SAT., SEPTEMBER 9

THE SOCIETY of Professors Emeriti at WU will meet for lunch and a business meeting Mon., Sept. 11, beginning at 12:45 p.m. at Whittemore House. Business will include a report by the Committee on Rights and Privileges. For reservations, call Prof. Saul Rosenzweig at 429-0080.

DAVID BRONSEN, professor of German and comparative literature at WU, was awarded a grant by the American Council of Learned Societies for research for a proposed book, Jewish Ambition in the Old World and in the New. Bronsen was one of 106 scholars in the United States to receive an award following a national competition in January 1978. The idea for the new book, Bronsen said, developed as a result of research conducted for an earlier work, Joseph Roth, Eine Biographie, published in 1974 in Cologne, Germany, and proclaimed by German critics and scholars as one of the best 12 books published in Germany that year. Bronsen, who will be on sabbatical for the 1978-79 academic year, will lecture at a number of universities in Europe.

125th (continued from page 2)

The anniversary celebration will officially begin with an all-campus birthday party on Oct. 13. A huge cake, hot dogs and soft drinks will be served in the Quadrangle, which will be decorated with banners by students at the School of Architecture. Activities will be accompanied by a brass band and the afternoon of the 13th will be a campus holiday.

English Baroque music on instruments of the period. Graham Chapel.

A HOT AIR BALLOON, designed by Claire Seng, WU senior in fine arts, will be launched Wed., Sept. 13, from the soccer field at Big Bend and Forsyth at noon. Seng’s design was one of thirty by WU graphic communications seniors entered in a competition sponsored by the Raven Balloon Co. The balloon is valued at $20,000.

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