

**Appalachian State University**

**History**

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ASU History

Before there was an established Physical Plant, Dr. Dougherty hired Mr. Ed Culler to do maintenance on the campus. Ed was kind of a jack-of-all-trades here at the school. He hauled coal to provide heat in the dorms which at the time was basically residential type houses. When new dorms were built the thought was to have a boy's dorm on one side of the road and a girls dorm on the other side. The road is today's Rivers Street which was changed from Faculty Street. In 1939 Newland Hall was built as the boy's dorm and Watauga Hall which was located in the area of the Sanford Mall since razed, was the girl's dorm. To my knowledge these were the first dorms set up on the steam heating system.

The present location of the Physical Plant was the State Farm which was managed by the school for support to the school. It was mainly a dairy farm and had mainly Holstein cattle. The milk was transported to the Hillside Dairy for processing which was in the building across Rivers Street from Walker Hall. The milk was processed on the share system so there was no actual cash output. The share the farm got back provided milk to the college and other local public schools. The milk was bottled in a glass returnable bottle with a waxed cardboard top with a cows head label that read "Hillside Dairy Products". The State Farm also provided meat which was inspected, stamped and served in the cafeteria.

Trash was collected by Ed Culler in a wagon pulled by a team of black mules, Kate and Maud, and hauled to the dump which was located in the area along River Street in the upper end of the now Duncan parking lot. The dump was moved from there to the vicinity of the Chancellor's house, and was moved again in 1956 when the chancellor's house was built to the area behind the present Broyhill Inn and Conference Center which is now a parking lot.

The first location of an established Physical Plant was in the basement of the old laundry building since razed for the new steam plant. There were no trucks so the workers walked to the job site. A carpenter would put a lock in his pocket, shoulder up a door and carry it to the building for installation. Sometime later Mont Teague was hired as a locksmith, then Ray Green was hired as his helper. A three wheel vehicle was purchased called a "Cushman" and was used by the locksmiths to travel around the campus. One person would drive and the other would stand in the door and hold on. After Mont went around a curve too fast and sent Ray out the door bouncing over the road they installed a door. Imagine this Cushman on a winter's day with two people inside, a door tied on top, with chains on the 12" tires crossing the campus.

As the time progressed and more people were hired and the campus continued to grow, the Physical Plant had to change in order to meet the needs of the school. Workers had to be skilled in many areas instead of specializing in one field. This has not only increased the productivity of the Physical Plant but also has increased the value of each worker to the University. The Physical Plant has come a long way since the time Ed Culler hauled food, coal, and trash with a wagon pulled by his team of black mules, Old Kate and Maud, and dug the grave for Dr. Dougherty's horse, Bob, with a pick and shovel, to modern motorized vehicles and computers.

As we look back to where we were we hear names like Crader Marsh, Charley Braswell, Ron Hicks, Lewis Thomas, Grant Ayers, Bill Winkler, and Clyde Robbins, all Physical Plant Directors and their contributions in making the Watauga Academy progress to Appalachian Training School, to Appalachian State Teacher's College, to Appalachian State University.