



A fateful fire

IN THE SPRING OF 1910, FIRE DESTROYED THE MAIN BUILDING ON TCU'S WACO CAMPUS, FORCING THE STILL-FLEDGLING INSTITUTION TO ONCE AGAIN RETHINK ITS FUTURE. THANKFULLY, THE CALAMITY EMBOLDENED THE AMBITIOUS LITTLE UNIVERSITY AND SET IT ON A COURSE TO FORT WORTH.

PART ONE OF A THREE-PART SERIES ON THE 1910 MOVE FROM WACO TO FORT WORTH

BY RICK WATERS '95

Nearly 100 years has passed, but no one knows exactly what started it. Was it defective electrical wiring, as most on the TCU campus believed? Or could it have begun from sparks from the heating and lighting plant's smokestack, a theory advanced by the university's engineer, Andy Elam, who vouched for the wiring as "modern in every respect."

It's a mystery likely never to be resolved.

History only records that two boys — fourth-floor roommates Roy Tomlinson and Dibrell "Carl" Melton — first discovered the fire in the ceiling in the northwest wing of the campus's Main Building a little after 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 1910.

Supper was finished and students were returning from last-minute excursions to the post office and drug store, ready for the study hour to begin. If there was any blessing in the fire, it was that the timing made it easy for the boys to alert their classmates and, for a time, bravely fight the flames.

But with only buckets of water from the sink to extinguish it, their struggle was in vain. Within minutes, the roof was ablaze and the boys fled for safety.

The boys on the upper floors were fortunate to escape without harm, but their classmates on lower floors had time to save furniture and books from their rooms before it became too dangerous. The *Skiff* reported that some students threw clothing, books and other items out the windows while others dragged mattresses and their enormous trunks down the stairs, working "faithfully in helping one another and caring for one another."

It was soon evident that nothing more could be done at the Main Building, so the boys rushed to the Girls' Home and helped the ladies move their property outside in case the fire spread.

The clamor and rush of those minutes caused both confusion and excitement. One student — a Miss Leta Walker of

Forreston — was hit on the head by a trunk falling down the stairs. Other students suffered only minor scrapes and bruises. Tomlinson, who discovered the fire, was said to have exerted himself to exhaustion and was carried two blocks to the pastor's home.

"Practically all of them lost their personal effects," reported the *Waco Semi-Weekly Tribune*. "It took the flames but a few minutes to eat their way back to the lower floors, and within two hours after the fire was discovered, naught remained of the magnificent building but the charred and blackened walls, part of which had fallen with a thunderous crash during the conflagration."

But they were all safe. "Not a serious fatality occurred among the many students," the *Skiff* would write.

The campus, however, was a mess, strewn with clothing, books, pictures and other belongings amid the smoke and ash. With nothing else to do, the 367 students of Texas Christian University inched back to a far enough distance, sat on their trunks and watched.

Others came to watch too. The *Tribune* reported that the blaze was visible by farmers miles away and hundreds of people eventually arrived at the scene. About 10 p.m., the roof fell in, shooting the fire as high as 200 feet. Meanwhile, firefighters, who arrived late, plied the hose on the Girls' Home and Townsend Hall, which housed the music program and the dining hall. However, in the zeal to preserve the buildings, they nearly flooded the ground floors, adding considerable damage to an otherwise undamaged building.



AFTER THE FIRE TCU's massive Main Building in Waco housed classrooms, two laboratories, the library, the business college, the chapel and residences for students and faculty.

THOUGHT to be fireproof with its drafty stairwells and thick brick walls, the Main Building was among the largest school structures in the southwest, if not the largest. (Even Waco neighbor Baylor University, the state's oldest college, had no building its equal.)

Its lower walls were 18 to 24 inches thick. Even walls between rooms were brick, but the floors, stairs and roof were all wood. It contained classroom space for the business college, two laboratories, the library and university business office — all on the first floor. The chapel, classrooms, offices and a few faculty apartments took up the second floor. In the levels above, male students lived in dormitory rooms and held literary society gatherings in well-appointed parlors. The top floor also had some faculty apartments.

All of these sustained heavy losses. Nearly all of the library's 6,000 cataloged volumes were destroyed. One student did manage to rescue about 50 books, and in the months following, publishers and Waco booksellers donated replacements.

But what could not be brought back, most regrettably, was the unfinished 1910 *Horned Frog* yearbook, which was nearly

Continued on page 40

Continued from page 39

three-quarters completed. While students vowed to publish the annual eventually, it never happened, although the little work that had been submitted to the printer before the fire was added into the 1911 book.

The chemical and physical laboratories, worth \$4,000, also were completely consumed. Luckily, all the records of the business office, except for a large supply of textbooks and the Board of Trustees' minutes from 1902-1910, were saved. Even the old Student Enrollment book from 1889-1902 was preserved.

The business college was not as fortunate, losing its textbooks, typewriters, equipment and classroom furniture in the fire. The painting and drawing department found nearly all its works among the casualties, including some rare pieces owned by department principal Mrs. E.R. Cockrell.

The loss included a pipe organ, a grand piano and nine upright pianos. More than 175 boys were displaced. The damage was determined to exceed \$150,000, but the building only was insured for \$29,000, which included \$4,000 for equipment. The money would make only a paltry contribution toward the debts owed against the property.

But a spirit of perseverance, which had come to characterize the school, remained strong. TCU had moved twice in 37 years, endured enrollment fluctuations and struggled to retain esteemed faculty on meager salaries. It had weathered numerous financial storms and would endure this one. [For more on TCU's early history, read *The Early Days* on page 42.]

EVEN AS the walls were burning, TCU President Clinton Lockhart and Business Manager James F. Anderson announced that "the work of the university would go right on without interruption," according to reports.

The men were right. Before the embers died that night, arrangements were made for housing for the boys in neighboring homes. Sympathetic friends of the institution started a voluntary collection, and within a few minutes, several hundred dollars in cash had been donated.

Chapel was held the next day in the dining hall, and classes resumed the day after that. Despite losing three-fourths of its copy Tuesday night, the *Skiff* published a full edition on Saturday, March 26, 1910, with a lead headline: "Main Building Burns." In his page two column, editor-in-chief G.W. Stevenson asked that readers "kindly bear with the editor in this issue for the many blunders and hastily written articles. We have been forced to work overtime under the stress of fatigue and sorrow." [See the full edition at magazine.tcu.edu.]

Despite the makeshift conditions, TCU would finish the

academic year without further turmoil, even matriculating 15 students at June commencement.

The aftermath

The day after the fire was devoted to planning classes and preparing lecture rooms. Four faculty members, including President Lockhart, "took their classes into their homes and provided everything," the *Skiff* reported. Those living on the fourth floor of Townsend Hall moved out, and rooms on all

floors were used for teaching lessons. Several first-floor residents of the Girls' Home also gave up their lodging for classroom space.

When the weather was nice, faculty taught outside at the athletics grandstand and under shade trees.

Also on that first day's agenda was finding permanent lodging for the boys. Amazingly, not one of the students — male or female — left for home to stay.

In fact, many of the boys relished the opportunity for fraternizing and communal living.

"The pluck, originality and enterprise of the students is shown in no better way than the manner in which they have gone about to provide themselves with new homes," the *Skiff* reported. "Many of them did not wait for the faculty or management to make arrangements for them but went at once into active plans."

Eleven boys found the Morrison house vacant and suitable to rent, adding furnishings and christening it "The White House." The *Skiff* referred to the arrangement as "clubbing in."

"They are now comfortably lodged in their new quarters and live like aristocrats," the student paper wrote. "They have two freshmen, 'Little Steve' and 'Little Mac,' who do all the house cleaning, and one 'senior prep' and one sophomore to run errands and bring water. The rest of them are juniors — which speaks for itself."

The *Skiff* had firsthand knowledge of the conditions as it set up its headquarters at that location, "a fact alone sufficient to give the place notoriety," the paper boasted.

Another group of 16 boys secured a building recently constructed by the school's business manager and biology professor James F. Anderson, who provided furniture and turned it over to the boys. They dubbed it "The Anderson Flats."

The baseball team took up residence at "The Mills Flats" to keep the squad together and remain close to the campus.

Meanwhile, the day also brought much discussion about what TCU would do next. Members of the Board of Trustees were notified of the fire by wire, and several of them came to Waco to give aid and counsel.

Continued on page 43



THE "WHITE HOUSE"



VARSITY BASEBALL SQUAD '10

CLOSE QUARTERS Young men displaced by the fire banded together to find new communal housing, including 11 men (above) who called their new digs "The White House" and the baseball team (at bottom), which hunkered down at a residence they called "The Mills Flats."

The early days

The “frightful havoc” of the fire in the Main Building on TCU’s Waco campus in 1910 was undoubtedly the darkest moment in the 37 years since the school was established in Thorp Spring in 1873 by East Texas brothers Addison and Randolph Clark.

The Clarks were preacher-scholars and products of the Cambellite movement, spiritual predecessors of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). They were strong advocates of education, and after the Civil War they began teaching classes to young men and women in 1868 on a site in downtown Fort Worth where the First Christian Church now stands. In 1869, the brothers took over a local private school and re-named it the Male and Female Seminary of Fort Worth. The following year, their father Joseph Clark bought a plot of land near the site of the present convention center on which to build a school.

Unfortunately the area he chose was soon to be called “Hell’s Half Acre” because of the growing number of saloons, gambling halls and brothels that arrived with word that the railroad would be coming to Fort Worth. The Clarks feared that the proximity of such vices and rough characters staggering into town would be too damaging an influence on the students.

So Randolph found a more suitable location 40 miles southwest in Thorp Spring. Bucolic and quiet, it gave the school room to grow. The Thorp family constructed a spacious building and offered it, and several acres of land, to the Clarks for \$9,000. The brothers accepted and in September 1873 Add-Ran Male and Female Academy opened with 13 students. There was no date for late registration, and the first session closed with an enrollment of 75. The Clarks obtained a charter from the state the next spring, and the school officially became Add-Ran Male and



Female College.

After its first decade, the school’s student body numbered 117.

Yet Add-Ran was as pioneering as it was small. As a coeducational institution, it was among the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River and the very first in Texas. At the time,

consent to it being called a “Christian college. “If it became Christian,” he wrote, “it would be so by the Christian teachers who taught there and would be known by the fruit of their labors.”

During the first year, however, the Clarks secured the endorsement of a convention of delegates from the

new charter changed the name to Add-Ran Christian University.

Financial difficulties continued, but in 1895 the executive committee from the Christian Church in Waco submitted a proposal to move the school to Waco. At a considerable discount, they purchased 15 acres of



FIELD OF DREAMS On the north end of Waco, the 15-acre TCU campus only had three structures — the Girls’ Home (left), Townsend Hall (middle) and the Main Building (right) — but it sat among fields of bluebonnets. At a time when barely 15 percent of college students were female, the school was the first university in Texas and one of the first west of the Mississippi River to enroll women and men in the same classes.

barely 15 percent of college students were female, and almost all of those were schooled in women’s colleges. Colby Hall later called the coeducational school, “a sign of progress,” since practically all schools were for either men or women. “To admit both sexes was a bold adventure.”

As ministers, the brothers were adamant that the school provide an environment where students could study “under Christian influence,” yet they insisted it remain nonsectarian and intellectually open-minded.

According to his memoirs, Addison Clark would not

congregations of the Christian Church in Texas, and every member of the faculty was required to be a member of the Christian Church.

Four years after the move to Thorp Spring, the Clarks struggled to keep up their payments on the property, and “Old Man Thorp” decided to take back his building. But before they were forced to vacate, the Clarks raised \$650, bought six and a half acres nearby and began to construct their own building. The money for the first payment came from the sale of the family homes of Addison and Randolph in Fort Worth and the sale of 320 acres that belonged to Randolph’s wife in Collin County.

Even with these sacrifices, the Clarks had money problems, and in 1889 they turned the young college over to the Christian Church. The

land and the building of the defunct Waco Female College and deeded it over to Add-Ran, along with the promise to contribute up to \$5,000 on the construction of another dormitory.

Add-Ran trustees agreed, and on Christmas Day 1895, the school moved from Thorp Spring into what would be called the Main Building.

By the 1902-03 academic year, the school was renamed Texas Christian University. It constructed the Girls’ Home, Townsend Hall and a heating and lighting plant. By the following year, it added a fourth floor to the Main Building. — RW

** Editor’s note: Add-Ran appears both with and without the hyphen in various historical texts. We chose to follow Colby Hall’s version and include the hyphen.*



POWER PLAYERS Colby Hall, who penned an account of the fire years later in his history of TCU; James Anderson, university business manager; and Chalmers McPherson, university endowment secretary

Continued from page 40

Local merchants and concerned citizens held a rally the morning after the fire in the dining facility of Townsend Hall. Members of the Waco Business Men's Club and the Young Men's Business League met with university Trustees and faculty members to express sympathy for the disaster and promise aid for reconstruction.

The meeting went on through most of the morning as dozens of men stood to praise the university for its value to the city and assure school officials that it would receive generous support. "They talked of plans and hopes which made every heart beat high and happy for TCU, even amid the smoke and ruins," the *Skiff* wrote.

Finally, after considerable discussion, H.H. Shear, president of the Business Men's Club, moved to appoint a special committee to canvass the citizenry and make a bid to help replace the burned building.

That afternoon, a second gathering took place. Earl Gough, president of the student body, called a students-only meeting in the gymnasium.

The *Skiff* described the scene: "The students all showed the proper spirit and all the speakers among the students were unanimous in their appeals for everybody to stay and abide by their school. [Endowment Secretary Chalmers] McPherson and [Trustee Charles W.] Gibson came into the meeting and thanked the student body for their loyalty and college spirit, promising that if the students would stay with them, the trustees would stay with the students."

Also that afternoon, the Waco business committee returned to meet with several members of the executive committee of the TCU Board of Trustees. The Waco group wanted another gathering that evening in the school auditorium for the entire city to entreat the university. Waco wanted to be sure that TCU knew how the city felt about it.

With Baylor and TCU, two of the more prominent universities in the region, Waco fancied itself as the education center of the state, calling itself "The Athens of Texas." Austin had the Capitol. Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston were all bigger

and growing faster. San Antonio was more historical.

Waco needed TCU to stay.

The courtship begins

The night following the fire, a crowd of 1,000 — the *Skiff* said 2,000 — assembled in what would become a citywide pep rally. The Baylor band arrived to provide festive and inspiring music and featured speakers deplored TCU's misfortune and applauded the school's handling of the emergency.

J.C. Lattimore, superintendent of the Waco public schools, called attention to TCU's commercial value to Waco, but declared its greatest work consisted of producing upstanding men and women. He gave assurances that the people of Waco appreciated the presence of the university and believed the citizens would respond.

County Judge T.

L. McCullough praised the noble aim of the school. The university was bound to continue, he said, and Waco could not afford to neglect her.

Tribune editor George C. Robinson asserted that the burning of the building could not destroy TCU. It was an accident indeed, but the school would grow in usefulness with its two unharmed buildings providing the surest foundation to move onward.

The rally culminated in Robinson announcing, on behalf of the business committee, that Waco would raise \$50,000 toward reconstructing the Main Building, but suggesting a much greater sum could be realized. Others in the crowd individually pledged money by the hundreds.

President Lockhart and Thomas E. Tomlinson, president of the Board of Trustees, spoke appreciative words about Waco and rebuilding there but urged patience. "They also

say that they desire and it is their duty to do what may seem to them in the best interest of the school and its future," the *Tribune* wrote.

No decisions would be made, Tomlinson said, until a full meeting of the Board, which would come a week later.

The wooing continued, however, with Baylor offering unique support. Its faculty adopted a resolution to make its laboratories and library available to TCU students until a new building was prepared. The Bears baseball team pro-

Around the time the Clark brothers had started their seminary in Fort Worth, the town was tiny. Waco, however, was the state's fourth largest with more than 3,000 residents in 1870. By 1910, though, Fort Worth was the state's fourth most populous town with 73,312 residents. Waco was more than twice as small at 26,425, ranking sixth. (Source: census.gov.)

1870:

1. Galveston (13,818)
2. San Antonio (12,256)
3. Houston (9,332)
4. Waco (3,008)
5. Dallas (3,000)

1910:

1. San Antonio (96,614)
2. Dallas (92,104)
3. Houston (78,800)
4. Fort Worth (73,312)
5. El Paso (39,279)

Four days after the fire, the *Skiff* reported that Fort Worth, Dallas, Sweetwater, McKinney, Gainesville and other cities had expressed interest in attracting TCU to their communities.

Continued on page 44

posed it play the TCU squad in two exhibition games with the receipts helping the Frogs replace their old equipment, which burned in the fire.

By the weekend, a *Tribune* editorial continued the cries of goodwill and lauded the city's response as "most generous," while acknowledging the burden it would put on Waco, which had allocated \$100,000 to public works project just two months prior.

"Here is the home of TCU. It is part and parcel of Waco. We have stood by it in all its needs and trials and we are ready to do so now. We are ready to share the burden of the loss, of the re-creation, with you. ... TCU knocked at Waco's door nearly 20 years ago, seeking a new home. ... and to this day, this city has taken pride and loving interest in the welfare and progress of the institution. We be near of kin, indeed, and the bond of unity, affection and appreciation is strong. TCU is here, should stay here, and on no account ... would Waco think of letting it go elsewhere. It is a jewel in the diadem of the Central City and we cannot think of losing it — nor will we do so."

But Waco had reason to fret. Word quickly spread of the town's offer of \$50,000, and other ambitious cities promptly offered invitations for the school to move. In its edition four days after the fire, the *Skiff* reported that Fort Worth, Dallas, Sweetwater, McKinney, Gainesville and other cities had expressed interest in attracting TCU to their communities.

With the *Skiff* perhaps expressing the school's conscience,

Waco seemed to be the sentimental favorite. "The buildings left undamaged are valuable, so also are the grounds, the location is ideal," the paper wrote. "The teachers, for the most part, own their homes here, and the resident population

of North Waco own their homes on account of the school. So it would be harmful to many interests to change the location."

But the paper also conceded that many interests would figure into the decision. "If Dallas or Fort Worth should offer something like \$250,000 bonus, a change of location might be considered," it wrote.

Fort Worth emerges

The Trustees met the following week and charged three members — Trustee president Tomlinson, past Trustee president T.E. Shirley and Waxahachie banker Charles W. Gibson — with investigating and selecting the best bid. "The promises of Waco were hearty but vague,"

Colby Hall would write years later in *History of Texas Christian University*.

"So much so that the Board voted, 'We much prefer that the people of Waco make us a definite proposition, which we will give due consideration.'"

By April, Waco sensed it was losing the fight to deeper pockets. Trustees attended the Business Men's Club meeting to assure them that Waco was still being considered, telling them, "It was not the purpose of the Board to sell the uni-

The city of
Fort Worth
offered a plot
of 50 acres, \$200,000
and assurances of
connections to
city utilities and
a street car line.



A DIFFERENT TIME Rules concerning student behavior were strict, as they were in most schools in those days, and school policies would horrify students today. The school catalog of 1883-84 included this statement: "There will be two holidays during the session, Christmas Day and one in April. Parents will please not encourage nor expect their children to return home for Christmas, or any time until the close of school. It is impossible to have children do good work when they lose time from their studies."

THE SKIFF. REDUCED IN SIZE
LIBRARY
WACO, TEXAS
NUMBER 36

SEMI-WEEKLY PUBLISHED UNDER AUSPICES OF THE STUDENT BODY OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY—REduced SIZE
NORTH, WACO, TEXAS JULY 22, 1910.

Students of T. C. U.
When you come to Fort Worth at the opening of your Fall school term, you will find a hearty "welcome to our city—and our store" awaiting you in
"TEXAS GREATEST STORE FOR MEN"

A. and L. AUGUST 7th and Main Sts.
FORT WORTH, TEX.

RALLY TO OLD T. C. U.
Patrons Urged to Visit Fort Worth and Investigate Personally—Prof. Anderson There to Greet You.

We are this day placing the *Skiff* in pleasure in aiding the patrons in se- lecting a home for the young men of lecting a room for the girls. Let us one conclude that better school ad- vantages or enter surroundings may be found than our temporary quarters. The old students will have the same teachers, the same course of instruc- tion and the same careful attention and the same change will be in the be- lieve any should new courses, new ers, new environ- ing up of new friends.

Burton Dry Goods

Fire is Out
Come in boys while the the weather is fine. Every- thing that a man wears.

W. J. Hill

versity to the highest bidder. Every town or city would be given a hearing," the *Skiff* reported. Tomlinson promised Waco the benefit of the last hearing.

At that last hearing, Waco Mayor James B. Baker and Judge Albert Collins Prendergast recalled the history of TCU's arrival in Waco 15 years earlier. Baker recounted how his business had sold brick material on credit to the school's cash-strapped founders. Prendergast also retold how the city had "stood behind TCU with money and other assistance." He concluded his remarks by saying that "he did not think TCU, in the face of all this, should invite other towns and cities in to bid against them for the location. He thought that TCU was morally bound to remain in Waco," according to the *Skiff*.

Waco increased its bid to \$75,000, Colby Hall records, but was only able to raise about \$40,000. "McKinney and Gainesville made bids, but these were not large enough to give promise of success," Hall wrote. "Dallas made a serious effort, despite the fact that it was at the time completing negotiations for the planting of Southern Methodist University there."

Fort Worth, claiming the home of the Clark Brothers' original Add-Ran Male and Female Academy, was superior, Tomlinson and Gibson believed. The city offered a plot of 50 acres, \$200,000 and assurances of connections to city utilities and a street car line.

Half the money was to come from the Board of Trade and the Christian churches of Fort Worth by July 1, and the rest from the sale of lots through the Fairmount Land Company. Fort Worth would make good on \$175,000 of it.

On May 9, the Board of Trustees unanimously accepted Fort Worth's bid. A large and influential contingent of alumni in Dallas were heartbroken when Tomlinson delivered the

Continued on page 46

A funny thing happened

Most of the content for the 1910 *Horned Frog* annual was lost in the Waco fire, but the following events were chronicled in the 1911 year book.

Humorous situations often accompany the most trying scenes. Moving is an experience looked upon by most people as a very trying ordeal—a whole day, maybe two, given over to confusion between an old home and a new one. But did you ever have to move, in five minutes, from your old home with no new one to which you could go?

Well, that's what we did on the night of March 22, 1910. It would be quite amusing if you had to move in such haste, wouldn't it? Then imagine the great amount of fun three hundred of us frightened, half crazy students had when we moved from the burning dormitory.

Who could refrain from laughing when those slightly-dressed figures rushed from the bathhouse, screaming in the most anguishing tone; "Conflagration is consuming my domicile!"

Then, too, there was Miss Nell Andrew. No artist could present the picture on canvas — not even Joe Murray, who witnessed the whole scene — but we all felt like joining Una Jackson in saying: "Nell, for pity's sake, put on my coat." Fuzzy was calling loudly for something to wrap Dixie Logan in. If he had not been rattled he might have used, to a very good advantage, the sheet, which some modest maiden had thoughtfully thrown around the inadequately clothed Madonna, rescued from the Art Studio.

Just at this moment Abernathy came up and took the swooning figure of Miss Watson, the matron, in his arms. Pete Wright bowed in Alfonso-Gaston style, and inquired of the agitated matron if he might have the great honor of removing her dresser from her room.

"Oh, no," said Miss Watson, "don't bother with the dresser, but

do bring my bell, quick. See those couple soireeing! I can't do a thing with them."

Pete started for the bell, but a bundle of clothes, dropped from a third-story window, mashed him flat, and he lost, at once, his ambition to serve the matron.



Willie Ben Irby was pacing up and down the front walk. Suddenly she stopped, cast a glance toward the fourth floor of the main building and wrung

her hands.

"I know Clyde Hackney is burned up," she lamented. "He is up there trying to save those loud hose — those hose that are so loud that they sometimes keep me from hearing his heart beat. I hope they will not be saved."

But her hopes for the destruction of the hose were in vain, for the heroic Hack escaped the flames, and as he approached the weeping girl with a happy smile on his face, he held up a string of gay-colored ties—and there, too, were the sox. Several of the girls, in their rescue work, made a specialty of property just as valuable. Clara Townsend, after securing her many detachable fixtures, exclaimed: "Oh, Mr. Dabbs, I want my cologne; five bottles in my top dresser drawer, and where are my diamonds?"

Ada Culpepper just barely did save her blue satin uniform and graduation gown. Coming up to a bunch of students, in the midst of which Major Bush was boo-hooing like a baby, she blurted forth: "Gee, but this is tough on a sweet girl graduate. I don't guess there will be any Commencement, now, so here is where I have my own little graduation exercises.

And suiting her actions to her words, she jerked from a box she was lugging, a dark robe and cap. Quickly donning them, she mounted a trunk and began an address on "The rescue of Little Tommy."



MEET US IN FT. WORTH NEXT FALL
WASHER BROTHERS
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS
 GOOD CLOTHES For COLLEGE FELLOWS

ler is always a welcome visitor. Miss Ethel Webb, one of our popular darts, assisted the Brooks meeting rendering some beautiful solos. Mr. Fitzroy, our waltz music director, who has been with typhoid fever, is rapidly recovering. Mrs. Fitzroy is attending her

college at T. C. U. this Fall and that about as many new ones in addition. The move does not scare anybody, but rather cheers every patron of the school. Prof. Parks has just returned from a trip to Hubbard

TIMELY MESSAGES Retail advertisers in the *Skiff* welcomed TCU students to Fort Worth, appealing those who had lost clothing and personal belongings in the fire.



Continued from page 45

news two days later at the Texas Christian Convention.

Waco was disappointed, Hall wrote, but by this time had come to realize the inevitable. The May 11 issue of the *Waco Times-Herald* carried a three-inch banner headline: "Waco gets the Hebrew University — the establishment of this school somewhat softens the blow of the loss of TCU." At the bottom of the page, a small article reported "Fort Worth will get Texas Christian University."

The Hebrew University would never materialize.

Over the summer, the *Skiff* published photos of the future, albeit temporary, campus downtown and ran stories urging students and their families to visit Fort Worth with TCU administrators their as guides. The paper also became flush with advertisements from Fort Worth, peddling shoes, furniture, pianos, dry goods and more, all mentioning a hearty welcome to town.

For Tomlinson and Gibson, the move was wearisome. While Gibson negotiated contracts for temporary housing, Tomlinson worked with city officials on the street car line and plans for the future buildings.

"By July 15, a contract was closed, leasing "the Ingram Flats" at \$5,000 for the year," Hall wrote in *History*. "This was a series of two-story brick buildings on the corner of Weatherford and Commerce Streets, diagonal from the county courthouse. The Commerce Street building contained classrooms, chapel and music rooms on the first floor, and boys' rooms on the second. The Weatherford Street side housed the offices, print shop, dining room and Business College on the ground floor and girls' rooms on the second. On nearby streets were homes for the teachers, one additional home for girls and several for boys."

The *Skiff* published its last Waco-based issue in August. In September, the datelines would all read Fort Worth.

The insurance money and the bid money cleared all of TCU's debts, giving the school a fresh start in Fort Worth. But it had no savings, no endowment and no idea how many students would enroll.

Years later, Hall summarized the ordeal thusly: "An old saw says that three moves are as disastrous as a fire. Counting the first move from Fort Worth to Thorp Spring, the old school had endured both calamities; three moves and a fire! Its mettle was thoroughly tried; it faced the challenge with hopefulness and great expectation, on its return to its original home in Fort Worth. It remained to be seen how the city of cattle fortunes and the big packing houses would take to the exponent of Christian culture."

The school had a home again and an indomitable spirit for what lie ahead. ✍

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Around the world in 1910

Orville Wright begins instruction of five student aviators at the first flying school, located on Washington Ferry Road in Montgomery, Alabama.

Halley's Comet is visible from Earth.

George V becomes King of the United Kingdom upon the death of his father, Edward VII.

A wireless telegraph sent from the SS Montrose results in the identification and later arrest and execution of murderer Dr. Hawley

Crippen. He was the first criminal to be captured with the aid of wireless communication.

Henry Ford sells 10,000 automobiles.

The first air flight for the purpose of delivering commercial freight takes place in the U.S..

The Thanhouser Company released the first — "The Actor's Children," a 12-minute feature — of the more than 1,000 motion pictures that it produced between 1910 and 1917.



BACK IN THE DAY The 1911 *Horned Frog* showed a number of women's sports teams, including girls' basketball, above. Below: Many of the men on campus formed groups according to their living arrangements. A portion of the yearbook was devoted to the news of the fire and the 1909-10 school year. Right: Classrooms in Waco that were lost in the fire.



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

