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Monkey Business at the K.S.T.C.

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Wooster Gorilla (designed by Larry Wooster)

Monkey Business at the K.S.T.C.: The Scopes of Kansas

Donald Wayne Viney
Pittsburg State University

The Scopes Monkey Trial

July 1925: John T. Scopes, of Dayton, Tennessee, agreed to be a guinea pig to test the state's Butler Act that prohibits the teaching of any theory of origins that contradicts the Genesis account.



Converging on Dayton were two well-known personalities

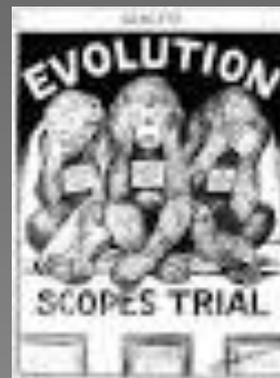
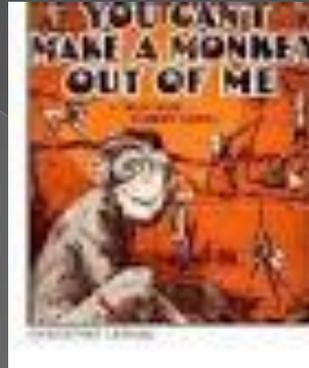
For the Prosecution:
Three-time presidential
candidate, and
fundamentalist, William
Jennings Bryan



For the Defense:
America's best known
defense attorney and
agnostic, Clarence Darrow

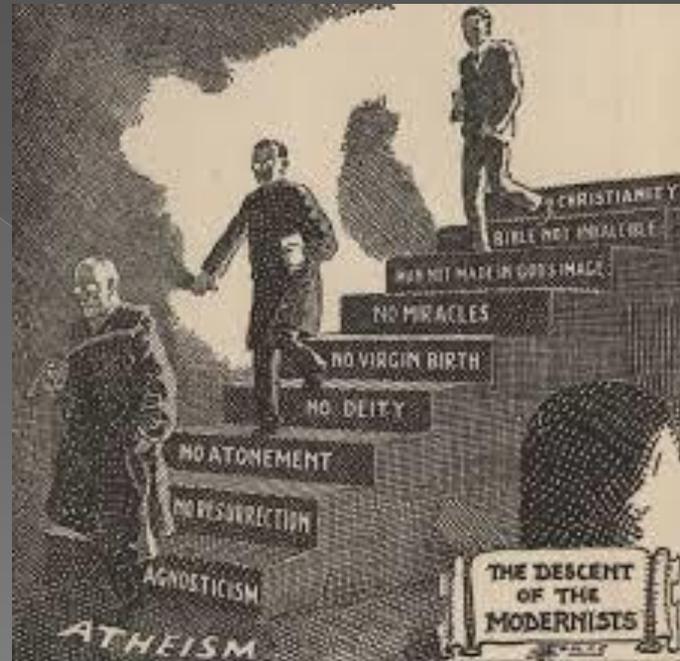


Dayton was suddenly front page news world-wide and a media circus ensued.



Despite the fun, there was the sense that momentous issues were at stake.

Does human descent from non-human ancestors undermine moral and religious values?



Bryan's Fundamentalism

In 1922, Bryan attacked Darwinism in the *New York Times* as mere guess work and as damaging to Christian values.

The famed modernist Baptist preacher, Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote the response to Bryan.

Bryan was an important voice calling for Fosdick's removal from a Presbyterian pulpit. Over protests from the congregation, Fosdick stepped down.

THE PRESBYTERIAN ATTACK ON DR. FOSDICK

HERESY HUNTERS are on the war-path again, we are told, their latest attack being directed against Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, a Baptist minister preaching in a Presbyterian pulpit, who is charged with rejecting the four great doctrines of Christianity—the virgin birth, the inspiration of the Scriptures, the atonement of Jesus, and Christ's second coming. In the face of this "infamy," the Rev. Harold J. Hamilton, of Rochester, Mich., declares that "it is time for the Protestant churches to clean house and banish every modernist minister from his pulpit." Our churches, he says, as he is quoted in the *New York Tribune*, "have become hotbeds of infidelity, higher criticism and evolution. The monkey gospel is to-day predominant in the Protestant Church. The Bible has been reduced to a classic. The blood atonement is called a slaughter-house religion and a religion of gore."

The occasion of the onslaught on Dr. Fosdick is a sermon delivered by him in the First Presbyterian Church, New York, of which he is pastor. In this sermon he accuses the Fundamentalists of attempting to run out of the evangelical churches all who do not believe in the literal interpretation of the Bible and in the four cardinal doctrines of the Protestant creeds, and bespeaks a larger Church in which people of all beliefs may work and worship. But his real object, replies one traditionalist, is "to make Unitarians and rationalists of his generation." *The Continent* (Presbyterian), on the other hand, views the eminent preacher's attitude in a far different light, averring that any one who reads the sermon with an unclouded desire to be fair will see that he is attempting only "to propagate in the Church a spirit of tolerance and fellowship toward varying views of Christian fact and faith. He is laboring to establish friendly recognition of the equal right of all men to find a place in the Church who take Jesus for Lord and Master and desire to preach for him and live for him as the only Savior of a sinning world." But many other Presbyterian leaders and journals indignantly repudiate Dr. Fosdick, and the agitation was brought to a head when the Presbytery of Philadelphia recently sent a formal protest to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church against the kind of preaching in the First Presbyterian Church in New York. The General Assembly does not meet until next May, and in the meantime one of the trustees of Dr. Fosdick's church is quoted in the *New York press* as saying that he "has the undivided support of our church. His Philadelphia critics have not fully stated his principles." He was not pleading for the

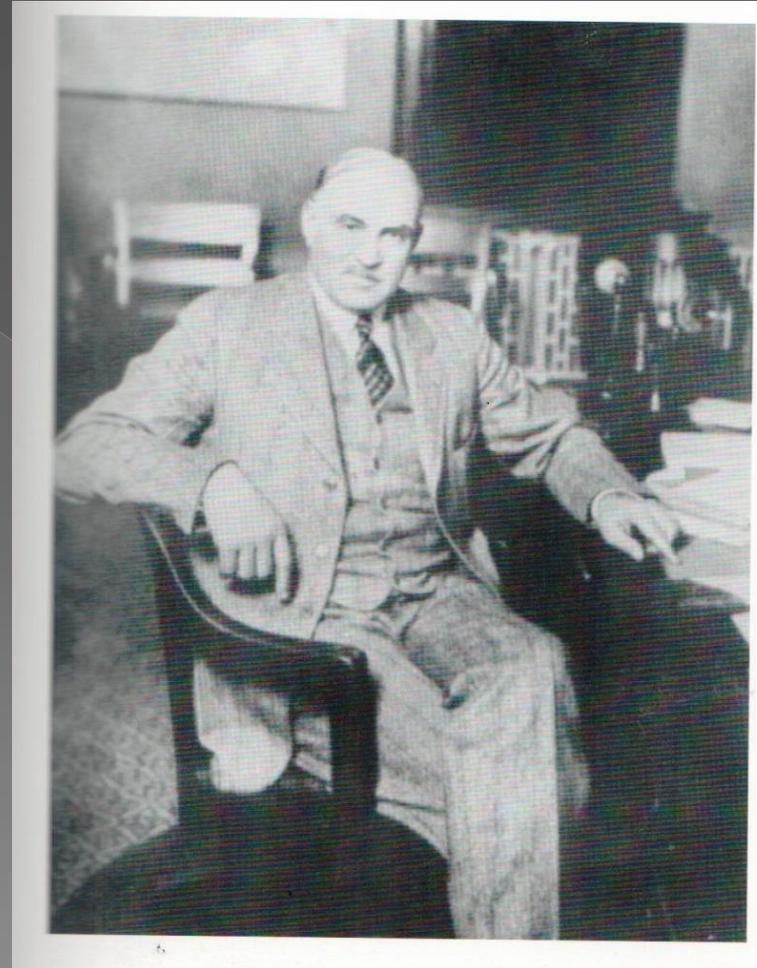
THE LITERARY
DIGEST
November, 1922
p. 35



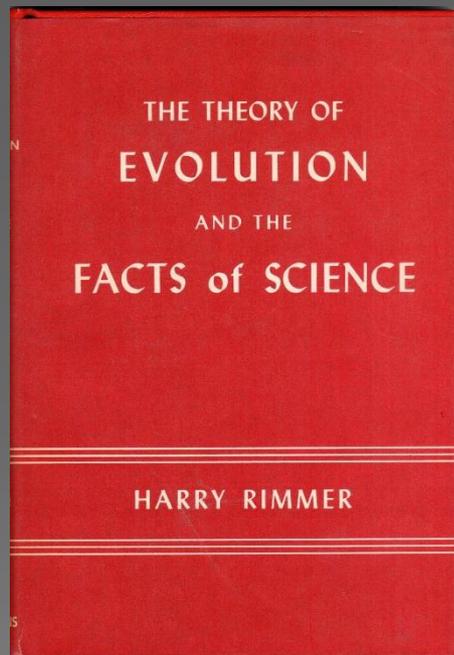
Photo from Keratan-Vivier Co.
A MORE "HOSPITABLE" CHURCH.
This is the object of
Dr. Harry E. Fosdick, who says
"intolerance solves no problems."

The residents of Pittsburg, Kansas closely followed the events in Dayton.

W. A. Brandenburg (pictured here), president of the Kansas State Teacher's College, was a close friend of Harry Rimmer, an outspoken opponent of evolution.



Brandenburg invited Rimmer on three occasions to join the faculty at K.S.T.C.



IT'S THE CRISIS HOUR IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
CHRISTIANS MUST DO SOMETHING!
AND HERE'S WHAT CAN BE DONE!
THEREFORE DO IT NOW!

CHRISTIANS loyal to the Bible are everywhere faced with the problem of how to stem the tide of unbelief sweeping from schools and colleges (yes, even churches) and sweeping off hundreds of young people SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE PERMITTED TO HEAR BUT ONE SIDE OF THE ISSUE.



Can these materialistic and often positively atheistic teachings acquired in schools, be met? Must we throw up our hands and say the Bible is a bunch of fables and the Christian Faith a delusion after all?

DR. HARRY RIMMER is a young man widely known both as a competent Bible scholar and a well-informed scientist and research worker. With this happy combination he is endowed also with remarkable ability to write his findings in a style especially appealing to young people, and at the same time forceful and convincing to all.

Monkeyshines
FAKES
FABLES
FACTS
Concerning Evolution



By Harry Rimmer, President
RESEARCH SCIENCE BUREAU, Inc.

Rimmer spoke
at K.S.T.C. in
July 1924 at
President
Brandenburg's
invitation.

THE COLLEGIO

THE JOURNALISM CLASSES are
a feature of the Department of
English.

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, PITTSBURG, KANSAS, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1924

NUMBER 49

“EVOLUTION IS
ABUSED TERM”

Dr. Rimmer in Speech Yesterday
His Darwin's Theory Some
Hard Blows

“Evolution is one of the most abused terms in my vocabulary,” declared Dr. Harry Rimmer, head of the Science Service Bureau in anthropology and biology in speaking on the topic “Modern Science and Research” before a large audience in Carney Hall auditorium yesterday morning at 8 o'clock. The audience was mostly composed of biology students at about a surprisingly large number of other new persons.

Dr. Rimmer pointed out that the invention of the automobile as it is now called is a misnomer. He said, “There is no such thing as the evolution of the automobile,” he said. “It is improved and developed but that is not evolution.”

“I am not an evolutionist,” he continued. “I am a scientist. It is the scientific method of science to which I adhere regardless of preconceived ideas. That is what we are trying to do.”

Dr. Rimmer refuted an evolutionary argument against evolution by the fact that acquired characteristics are not inherited. For instance, he related an experiment performed on the rabbit family.

A rabbit's feet was strapped to the breast of the female rabbit to prevent the use of fur for the lining of the nest. In the place covered was used. After ten generations it was found that the rabbit did not inherit the so-called habit. The fur was thrust upon its ancestors.

Dr. Rimmer cited as another instance that acquired characteristics are not inherited, the so-called Chinese custom of binding the feet. After three thousand years of this custom we find the Chinese children are born with perfectly shaped feet. Other instances of this were those of the acrobat and the “fish-bone” Indians of Java.

Mr. Rimmer also demonstrated the fall theory saying that man is an embryonic form, never possesses gills and that in only five of the fourteen pairs through which the embryo passes is there any resemblance to any other animal. The process of mitosis, which makes impossible the fusion of different genes, and the ontogenetic development which is separate and individual for each point he cited to support his belief.

Dr. Rimmer's lecture was well received by the First Presbyterian church on the location of the Evolution Scientific Society. He is also scheduled to speak at the same place tomorrow night and at the United Presbyterian church at 11 o'clock Sunday morning and at the Methodist church at 8 o'clock Sunday night.

MONKEY AND MAN DECLARED NO KIN

In Lecture on “Antiquity of Man” Dr. Rimmer Denies Any Relation to Lower Animals

Last evening Mr. Rimmer spoke to a large and appreciative audience in Carney Hall regarding the “Antiquity of Man.”

He stated that man is the most recent of God's creations and that as a creation he stands separate and alone from all other forms of life. Regardless of this, he charged that modern scientists have willfully endeavored to connect man with all manner of animals. He showed several stereotypical views to illustrate this. In one instance, he stated that faked pictures were placed in a school text which represented the gorilla's skull far taller than it should be. He showed other views from school texts which pretended that there was a structural resemblance between the skeletons of man and the gorilla. Mr. Rimmer pointed out the ridiculousness of such pretensions asserting that such text books would be far more accurate if they would show the resemblance between the horse and the gorilla, which in many ways are quite real.

Mr. Rimmer dwelt much in this speech upon the inconsistencies of scientists. To illustrate this he told of some bones which were pronounced a hundred and fifty thousand years old by a scientist. However, an old man living in the neighborhood said that they were only fifty years old representing the remains of some bandits who had been killed and buried when he was a young man.

Mr. Rimmer pointed out almost innumerable inconsistencies of the scientists and it was with a sigh of relief that his happy audience poured out of the great auditorium at the close of his lecture, each individual feeling relieved of the odious burden that science has been endeavoring to impose upon man by connecting him some way or other with the horrid creatures of the animal kingdom.

Mr. Rimmer has been delivering a series of lectures at Sulphur Springs. He will be a regular lecturer at the university that is being established there. He represents a scientific bureau with headquarters in California.

Rimmer set up an archaeology museum on the third floor of the newly constructed Porter Hall in 1927

THE COLLEGIO

ALL-SCHOOL PIONEER LINCOLN FAIR
First Weekday

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, PITTSBURG, KANSAS, FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1927

Page 10

DR. RIMMER HERE TO OPEN MUSEUM

Archaeologist Has Brought Many Specimens to Be Placed on Third Floor of Porter Library

Archaeologist—elderly, thin, spectacled man, partaking of the fossil-like nature of his discoveries, with his sense of humor blunted by the gruesome things he handles and the ever-present vision of the inevitable fate of man?—found!

At least, this does not at all describe Dr. Harry Rimmer, president of the Research Science Bureau, Inc., who is supervising the establishment of a museum on the third floor of Porter Library. Not at all soberly or suggestively of the nature of his discoveries, Mr. Rimmer, who has been engaged in scientific work since 1908, tells of his work with a ready fund of quiet humor.

Travels Six Months in Year
Dr. Rimmer, who is an ordained Presbyterian minister, spends six months of the year in evangelistic work and six in scientific research.

The Research Science Bureau, Inc., whose headquarters are in Denver, has about 225 members engaged in active research work and about 1000 who do not work but contribute to the support of the society. Funds are provided for the work entirely by the corporation's savings. There are members of this bureau in practically every country in the world. The purpose of the association is to concentrate the Scriptures by means of sciences. Dr. Rimmer lectured in Pittsburg about three years ago, at which time he said that so far as he could discover, man had always been man.

Assistant to Arrive Friday.
Dr. K. H. Stuart, technician, will arrive Friday from Dallas, Texas, to aid Dr. Rimmer in his work here. Paul Cameron and Richard Marsh, former students, and Leland J. Grey, student, are helping to get the exhibit ready for display.

Find Many Specimens.

The forty Indian skulls in the collection come from California, Mexico, Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee and Missouri. They vary in age, some from Tappelo being a thousand years old, while those from Oklahoma are several hundred years old.

The discovery of some specimens in a sand ridge about three miles from the bank of the Arkansas river and about thirty miles from Muskogee, Okla., was peculiar. The owner decided to clear the ridge. Entangled in the roots of a dislodged stump was found a human skull. Further investigation disclosed a burying ground of about 150 people.

The skulls when found are full of dirt and teeth. The teeth are referred to the skull, to which they belong.

These early Indians had a wide system of dentistry. The tooth was usually left in until it was abscessed. A hardwood wedge was then placed against it and lit with a stone to remove it. Ninety-eight per cent of the specimens show evidence of tooth trouble.

The Tulare specimens were found in the bed of an extinct lake in California. They were buried in emery-like pastures. From one mound eight feet square, 200 specimens were taken. In this exhibit are included dishes made of soapstone, burial urns 600 years old, primitive chisels, arrowheads of obsidian or volcanic glass, needles made from bird claws, and an idol of a hunchback king whom the Indians had raised to a deity.

A dish found buried between an old squaw and a papoose shows a peculiar custom. Food was buried with the dead and shells with which to eat.

This dish contained a large shell for the squaw and a small one for the papoose.

There are fetish stones of various kinds which were thought to bring fortune to the Indians as the rabbit's foot was thought to bring luck to the negro.

A doll shows the tribal marks which were tattooed on the chins of Mojave women.

This summer Dr. Rimmer will go on an expedition to secure dinosaurs. These may be found in Montana and Utah. He said that if a room was given for it, he would send one to K. S. T. C.



NO. 213
Scientific Museum, K. S. T. C., Pittsburg
Common Name: Skull
Locality: Donor: Dr. Harry Rimmer

Porter Hall, Then and Now



†The main reading room on the second floor of Porter Library as it appeared in 1932.



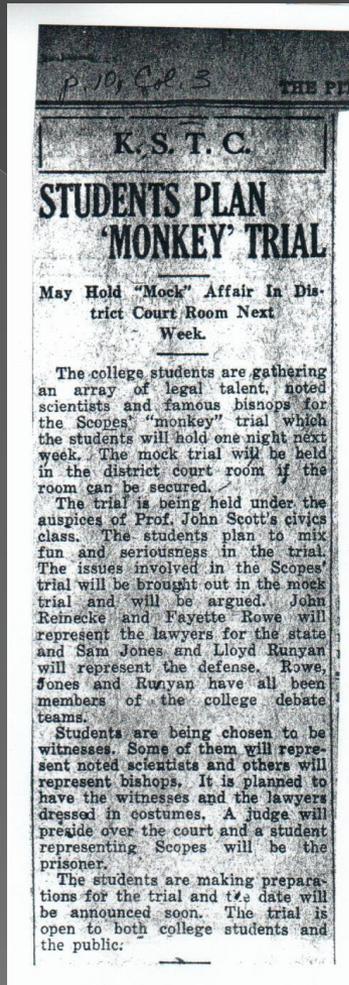
JOHN G. SCOTT, A. B., B. S., A. M., Assistant Professor of History.

A. B., B. S., and Phi Beta Kappa, University of Missouri, 1909; A. M., 1920. Experience: Rural, Two Years; Grades, One Year; High School, Five Years; College, One Year; Shop Mechanic, Three Years; Practical Farming, Three Years; Assistant Professor of History, Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, 1923—.

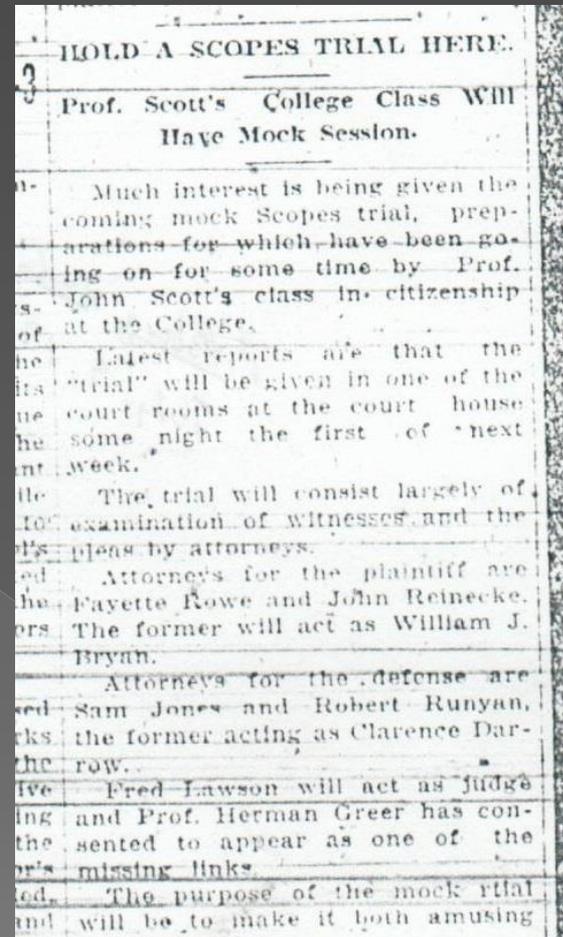
John Scott, Assistant Professor of History, came to K.S.T.C. in 1923.

He was a popular and innovative teacher who encouraged role playing in his classes.

His Civic's class decided to hold a "mock monkey trial" downtown in the courthouse.



Pittsburg Sun
July 9, 1925



Pittsburg Daily Headlight
July 9, 1925

As happened at Dayton, local business got involved.

This ad is from the college paper, the Collegio July 10, 1925

Live FACTS On Local EVOLUTION!

If Evolution is Progress, then these advertisers surely have built up an enviable record for Progress in this community. Whatever the Tennessee evolution trial may develop, there isn't the slightest doubt that the firms represented here have earned YOUR patronage by their unexampled service.

Primitive Man Ate With His Hands

But we wouldn't like to see glancing at overcoats, knowing how greatly it adds to the economy of doing.

Here are a few special values:

Men, Suits, 20 pieces \$12.50
 Old Home Suits, 25 pieces \$12.50
 Children Suits \$22.00
 The Albin, 20 pieces \$22.00
 Suspenders, 20 pieces \$15.00

M. S. Lanoy Jewelry Co.
 421 North Broadway

Men Used to Sweat and Swelter—

But that was before Dege's began selling

Palm Beach Suits

New Brown Suits are best and the whole summer long, and the cost is only

\$16.50

Dege's
 421 North Broadway

Women Used to Sweat and Swelter, Too—

But out of the present times, for they can get their hair bobbed and styled at the Campus Barber Shop. They are still dressing our men

Get in line, at the

Campus Beauty and Barber Shop

Primitive Women

Little is known of primitive women, but will venture to say that a few thousand years ago women must have looked for us for a steve as Kennedy's to sleep in.

Kennedy's
 421 North Broadway

How \$5.00 Grew to \$1,000.00

A little over three years ago one of our depositors opened a savings account with \$5.00 and today it is a lady's fortune with \$1,000.00. Also a full line of Watches, Jewelry, and Optical Goods.

"Safety" that's sure—
 "Service" that's reliable.

FIRST STATE BANK
 417 North Broadway

No Monkey Business About It

Our watch repair work stands the test of time.

RICHARDS
 The Jeweler
 (Retail store in Colonial Theatre entrance)

ALL ARE AGREED

That there was a beginning. Why not begin to eat here?

THE BOB-A-DEL INN
 "Best for Lunch"

Women Used to Slave All Day in Kitchens

But happily, they've learned how to retain youth and charm. No longer do they look worn and "tired" as they greet today.

Olto's Cafeteria, 429 North Broadway
The Bee Hive Cafe, 524 N. Broadway

Warning!

Don't Eat

LIN-GRAY Ice Cream

It makes people feel too happy!

Our shareholders never leave the city of a plate of Lin-Gray Cream. Why should WE? We'd like to be so "rightful" a treat!

Those disregarding this warning will probably phone 12 or 100 and get Lin-Gray Ice Cream in pints and quarts.

The Evolution of Style

Style is in a constant state of evolution and will aid the development of beauty.

When our stock runs we find the latest styles evolved by manufacturers such as these girls and are ready to wear yours.

This, our summer dresses

\$2.95, \$4.95, \$1.00

MUMMEY'S
 419 North Broadway

WHAT A HUGE DIFFERENCE

between the old-time muddy heavy rubber and the modernly modern

C. & A. Auto Supply Co.

Motorists who avail themselves of our efficient, courteous service realize that it must be of economy.

C. & A. AUTO SUPPLY COMPANY
 404-N. Laurel

DESCENT OF MAN - DARWIN

ORIGIN OF SPECIES - DARWIN

Brandenburg said, "No monkey business"



President William Brandenburg takes a spin with a faithful companion in 1935.

"NO MONKEY BUSINESS" AT TEACHERS COLLEGE

"There'll be no monkey business" at the state teachers college here, according to present indications. Last week elaborate preparations were under way for the members of Prof. John Scott's civics class to hold a "mock" trial in the district courtroom here. John Scopes, famous Dayton, Tenn., evolution instructor, whose trial for violation of a Tennessee statute is now in progress, was to have been tried here in mock fashion.

The hearing is said to have been suggested by Professor Scott, and the boys of his class became enthusiastic. But Dr. W. A. Brand-

burg and Dean Trout were not so enthusiastic.

Believing the students should not participate in any proceedings that might in any way endanger their future scholastic activities, Doctor Brandenburg reasoned with a number of them, and the students, on their own volition, called off the proposed mock trial.

"I have always been unqualifiedly against creating a disturbance during a show and I believe our students should not make too much noise, but rather should be content to sit on the sidelines and watch the performance at Dayton," Doctor Brandenburg said yesterday.

Pittsburg Sun
July 14, 1925

Scott was relieved of the class and Dean Trout took his place.

Students expressed support for Scott and dissatisfaction with Brandenburg's decision.

Kansas City Post
July 24, 1925

STUDENTS RALLY FOR EVOLUTION

Pittsburg Class Defends Teachings of Dismissed Instructor.

By CEDRIC WORTH,

Journal Staff Writer.

PITTSBURGH, KAN., July 24.—There's work cut out for William Jennings Bryan here in Pittsburg. The students of John G. Scott, civics instructor dismissed by heads of the Kansas State Teachers college because they believed he taught evolution and championed free love, have taken up the torch of "revolution" where their professor dropped it.

In the citizenship class from which Scott was removed because of his advanced views, a bitter controversy arose today between the students and Dean G. W. Trout, who supplanted Scott as instructor of the class.

Students Defend Teachings.

Yesterday the students charged Dean Trout openly accused Scott of advocating promiscuity in his alleged championing of free love. The student body rose en masse in protest and several of the members of the class loudly denounced Scott's teachings on the ground that free love, they say, as he taught it, was a beautiful and practical ideal with no tendency toward licentiousness and promiscuity.

Today Dean Trout called upon each member of the class to make a "yes" or "no" answer to the question of whether they believed in free love.

Several of the class stated positively they believed in such an institution and a bitter argument arose between Dean Trout and those who professed to approve of free love. Dean Trout became highly incensed and there was high feeling among the students before the class came to an end.

While Mr. Scott is making his plans to leave the college, students who have circulated a petition championing his teachings and protesting his removal are wondering what to do with the petition now that it has been signed.

Fear for Grades.

The first semester of the school term is over July 31 and the students fear the effect on their grades and the revoking of their diplomas if the protesting petition is turned in to Dr. W. A. Brandenburg, president of the school.

Mr. Scott has charged Brandenburg holds over the heads of the students the threat that they will not get their diplomas or desired places as teachers if "they monkey with the monkey business."

Scott still is left in charge of his less advanced classes in civics. His removal has affected only the citizenship class in which were taught advanced theories of all phases of modern life.

"The students in my citizenship class are all mature men and women," the professor said today. "They asked nothing be omitted in the course—that all the theories and problems of life be discussed frankly. I gave them my theories, knowing they were old enough and experienced enough to take them or leave them alone. I did no proselyting. I gave them my theories on free love and evolution simply for their consideration."

"Such theories would not be taught elementary classes, but where you are dealing with intelligent men and women, I hold that they have the right to know all phases of life and



George W. Trout in 1933

Brandenburg denied that Scott's dismissal was connected to the question of evolution.

THE PITTSBURG DAILY HEADLIGHT.

Friday, June 24, 1925, p. 4

DENIES EVOLUTION DISPUTE

Brandenburg Explains Prof. J. G. Scott's Removal From Class.

No controversy over evolution is involved in the transfer of a class in citizenship at the Teachers College from Prof. John G. Scott to Dean G. W. Trout, President, Brandenburg said this afternoon.

"From numerous reports which had reached us from different members of the class in citizenship, we felt reasonably sure that the class was not receiving that particular content in citizenship which would be expected of them as teachers in our state," President Brandenburg said.

"Mr. Scott had had charge of the class about seven weeks. I talked with the dean of the College, head of Mr. Scott's department and decided inasmuch as he had frequently handled the courses

in citizenship and civics, that he should give a few lectures and his outline to the class.

Says Class Likes Course.

"We notified Professor Scott of our desire and asked him to see the dean of the college and make the necessary arrangements to have this done. I purposely asked Dean Trout to make no reference to the things which the class had received from Professor Scott. The dean is giving the course and from reports received from members of the class it is being received with profit.

"This action on our part has positively no connection with, or reference to, 'the mock trial affair'" President Brandenburg stated.

"I have never discussed the question of evolution with Mr. Scott and have no knowledge as to his view on the subject. Recent controversies going on over evolution and faith, modernism and fundamentalism, have given the faculty of this institution no particular trouble whatever.

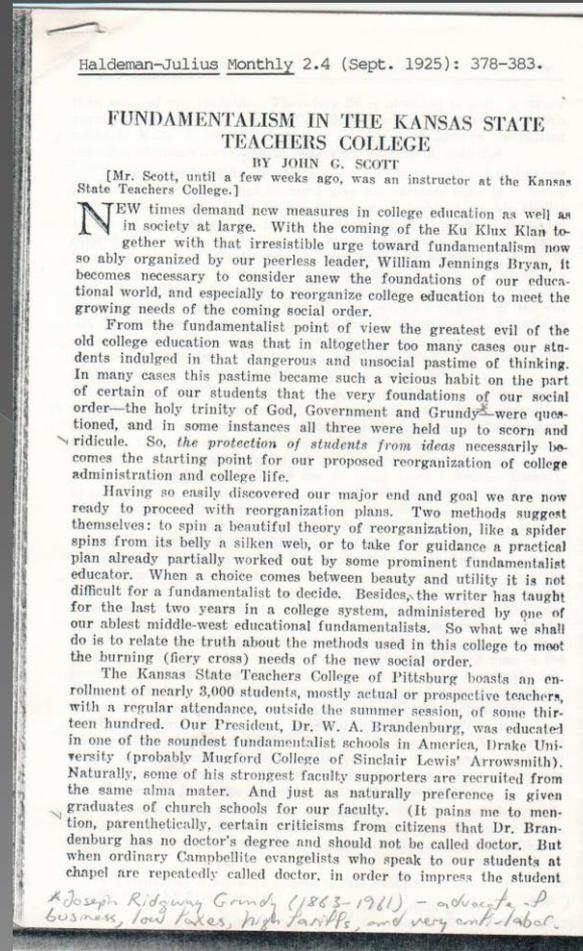
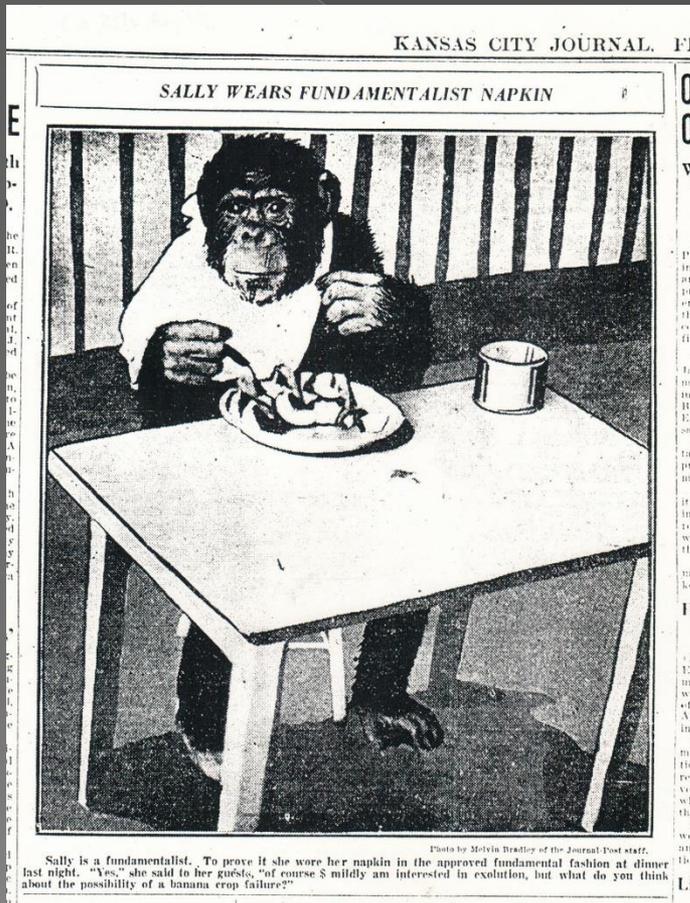
Seek to Strengthen Faith.

"It is our policy to have all subjects, as well as science, taught in such a way as to strengthen faith and belief in Christian civilization. I believe our faculty is doing this in a very broad, scholarly way."

Professor Scott's comment on the situation was this: "It is educational prophylaxis. The students were exposed to ideas and are being given treatment to counteract this."

Professor Scott was not reemployed for next year and his connection with the school will cease with the close of the summer term a week from today.

Scott had the last word in the form of the Haldeman-Julius Monthly



In Dayton, Scopes was convicted. Darrow came to Southeast, Kansas in August 1925.



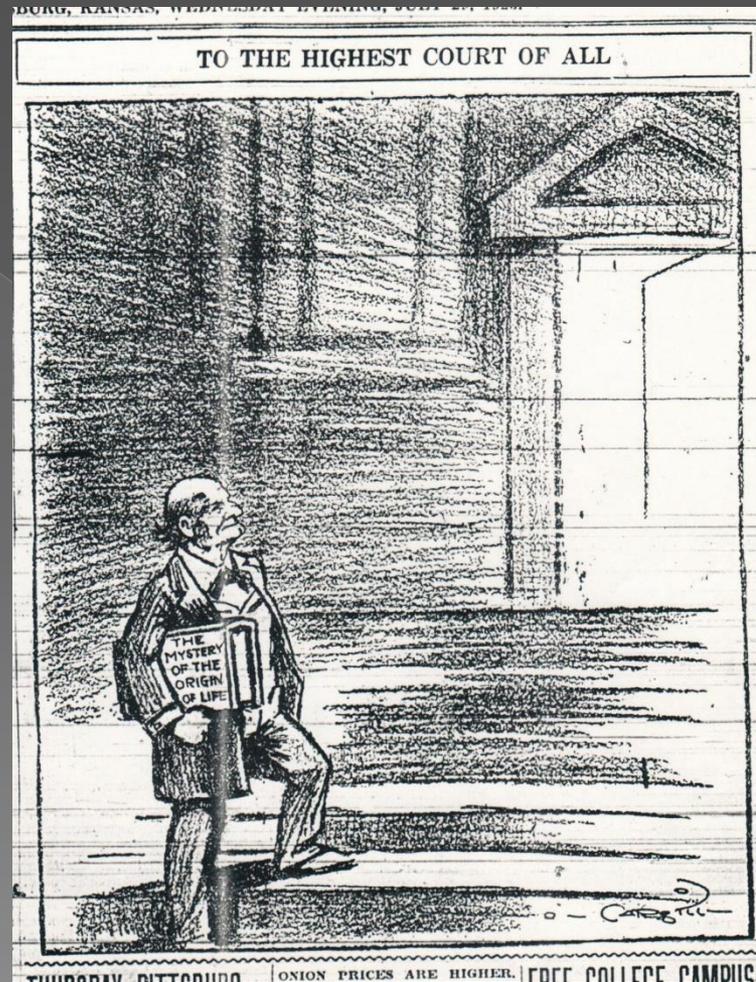
Emanuel and Anna
Haldeman-Julius with Clarence
and Ruby Darrow in Girard, Kansas



Stilwell Hotel where Darrow
answered questions from the
Scopes' trial judge.

William Jennings Bryan died shortly after the Scopes trial.

Pittsburg Daily
Headlight,
Front page,
July 29, 1925



The Scopes trial was fictionalized in the play “Inherit the Wind”

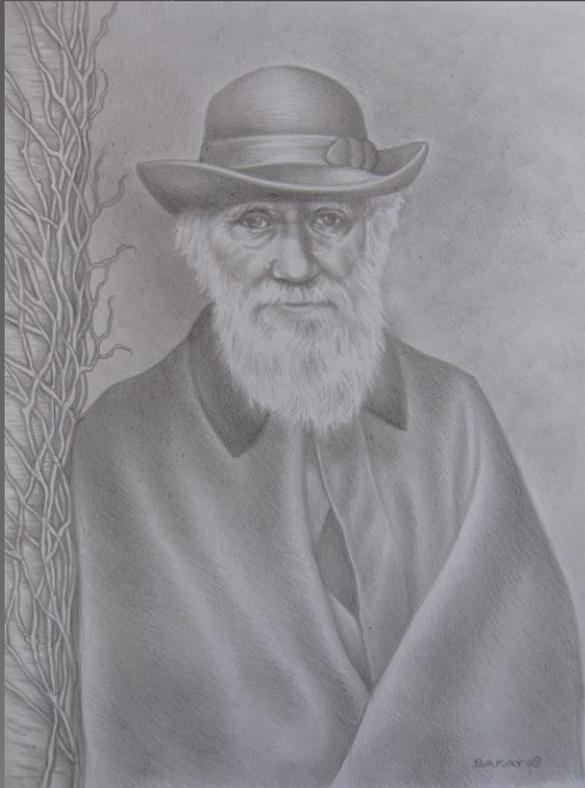


Darrow and Bryan in Dayton



Spencer Tracy and Frederick March in “Inherit the Wind”

Evolution is now a standard subject of study at Pittsburg State University, as one would expect from Gorillas.



Charles Darwin
by Michelle Bakay



Gus and Gussie



Gene DeGruson
(left) and
Dudley Cornish
at Mostly Books
on 6th Street in
Pittsburg, Kansas

Thanks to the late Gene DeGruson for first alerting me to the Scott case and to Randy Roberts and Janette Mauk for help in finding sources for this talk.