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PPLEDAY
CONVOCATION

Commemoration Day
March 1, 1979, 10:30 AM
Pittsburg State University

The Apple Day Tradition

Pittsburg State University is the youngest of the state institutions of higher learning in Kansas. Founded in 1903, Pitt State opened as the Auxiliary Manual Training Normal School. Russell Station Russ, then superintendent of the Pittsburg schools, was elected to be principal of the new normal school which he helped to found. The school opened Tuesday, September 8, 1903 with 54 students and five faculty members in temporary quarters.

Mr. Russ spent considerable time in the state legislature of 1907 during the debate for an appropriation for the first school building. As the issue was drawing to a close, the legislators lightheartedly reviewed the problem of nonmembers of the house appearing on the floor, and the motion was made that the next offender be fined a barrel of apples. Shortly after, Russ appeared to inquire about the progress of the bill and was duly fined a barrel of apples.

The incident was reported in Pittsburg, and Russ, discussing this with students, suggested that they fine the faculty a barrel of apples. The motion passed unanimously, and a bewildered faculty paid the fine. Since that first observance on March 8, 1907, Apple Day or Commemoration Day has become a festivity to be noted on the Pitt State campus. Annually this traditional fine is assessed by the student body, and apples furnished by the faculty are passed out to all those present at the Apple Day Convocation.

Welcome **Shirley Edmonds**
President, PSU Student Senate

From The Pages Of History **Mr. Gene DeGruson**

**Greetings From
The Board** **The Honorable Frank Lowman**
Chairman,
The Kansas State Board of Regents

Remarks **Dr. James B. Appleberry**
President,
Pittsburg State University

**Commemoration
Day Address** **The Honorable John Carlin**
Governor, State of Kansas

**Presentation
Of Faculty Awards** **Shirley Edmonds**

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Their help and cooperation made this convocation possible.



75 Years