

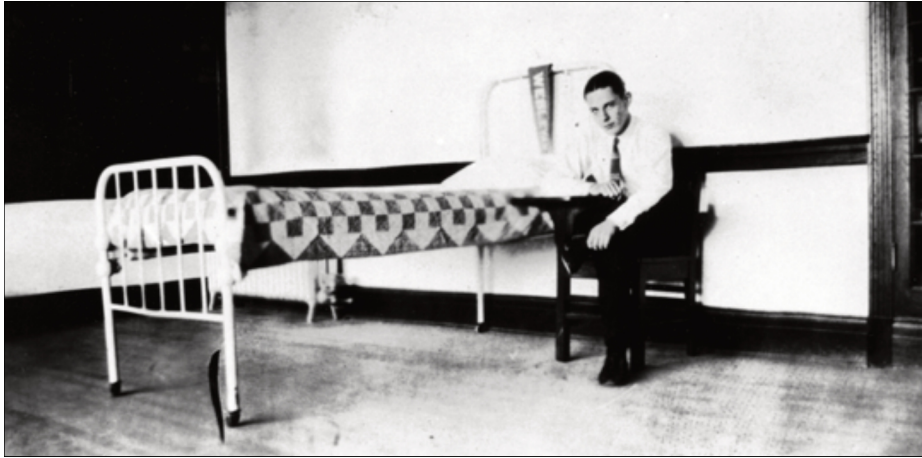
This Week in Eden History  
December 3 | "The First Book of the Chronicles"



Construction on the new Webster Groves campus for Eden Theological Seminary began in 1924. The campus was far from inhabitable when the new academic year began in Fall of that year, so the administration rented space in the previous campus that had been sold to the Normandy school system. High school students had classes in the building during the day; seminary students lived on the upper floors in crowded conditions and had classes in the evening. Everyone was ready for a change!

When the second session began (Eden had three class sessions at that time), everyone moved to Webster Groves, even though the campus was still under construction. Some

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*Classrooms served as temporary accommodations for student*

unidentified students decided to record the informal highlights of seminary life in this new setting in “The Chronicle,” which ran for several years. The following is the initial entry in “The First Book of the Chronicle:”

*December 3, 1924—After several postponements New Eden opened its school year today. From the looks of things it appears almost impossible to begin school. The only building completed is the dining hall. The classrooms in the Main building are ready for use, and the guest rooms are in condition to be used by the students as living rooms. Three men are assigned to each of the guest rooms and about fifteen to each of the two East classrooms on the second floor. In spite of these crowded conditions everybody seems anxious to go ahead. The entrance to the main building is obstructed by scaffolding which extends in toward the library and forces all the pedestrian traffic to move over the second floor. Workmen are all over the place in full force. The two dormitories are far from finished. Dr. Press’s house also has much work to look forward to. We had opening exercises in the dining hall. Rev. Hackmann preached in German, Rev. Jaeger and Dr. Press in English. It rained fiercely all day, and as there are no walks and the clay is of a tenacious nature, the gang stayed nicely at home and swapped yarns. Prof. Schneider has a room on the first floor of the Main building. Prof. Mayer will come in daily from his home in the city. Prof. Vollmer has rooms in a house on Lockwood. Profs. Baur and Wherli live in the houses northeast of the campus. Dr. Press and family live over the kitchen.*