

Eva J. Case Hall

Eva J. Case Hall was the first residence hall to be built on the campus. The first building to be used as a residence hall, Green Terrace Hall, was already in existence upon the founding of Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney in 1905, and Case Hall was built just to the east of Green Terrace Hall on the campus of Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney in 1930.

Bids for constructing Case Hall were opened on May 12, 1930, and the building's cornerstone was laid on June 9, 1930. The building was completed on August 15, 1930, some 20 days ahead of schedule. It was called, at the time, a "90-day wonder." A public reception and open house was held on Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, 1930, which was attended by more than 700 people.

Case Hall opened in September, 1930, and housed 180 freshman women. Room and board initially cost \$6.50 a week. A typical room included two beds that folded up into closets, a dresser, two desks, two chairs, a rocking chair, and lavatory facilities. There were two bathrooms on each of the three floors, each with two showers and two bathtubs.

Case Hall was named for Eva J. Case, the first preceptress of Green Terrace Hall, who served in that capacity from the opening of Green Terrace as a college residence hall in June, 1905, until her death in November, 1907. She had been a teacher and administrator in Red Cloud and Webster County. She had been one of Willa Cather's teachers, and is the Miss Knightly in Cather's story "The Best Years."

In October 1932 the College Women's League donated an oil painting for display in Case Hall, and in December the residents bought two more oil paintings by the Rocky Mountain artist Sterling, for \$200.

Case Hall bought its first television in July 1954.

In 1972, coed living was introduced into Case Hall, and thirty women members of the sorority Alpha Omicron Pi occupied thirty rooms on the second floor. Roger and Bev Mathiesen moved into an apartment on the first floor and served as houseparents.

The Hall was renovated in 1978/79.

Eva J. Case Hall was demolished in 2006 in order to make room for the new residence hall named William R Nester Hall built on the same site. Demolition took about two weeks.

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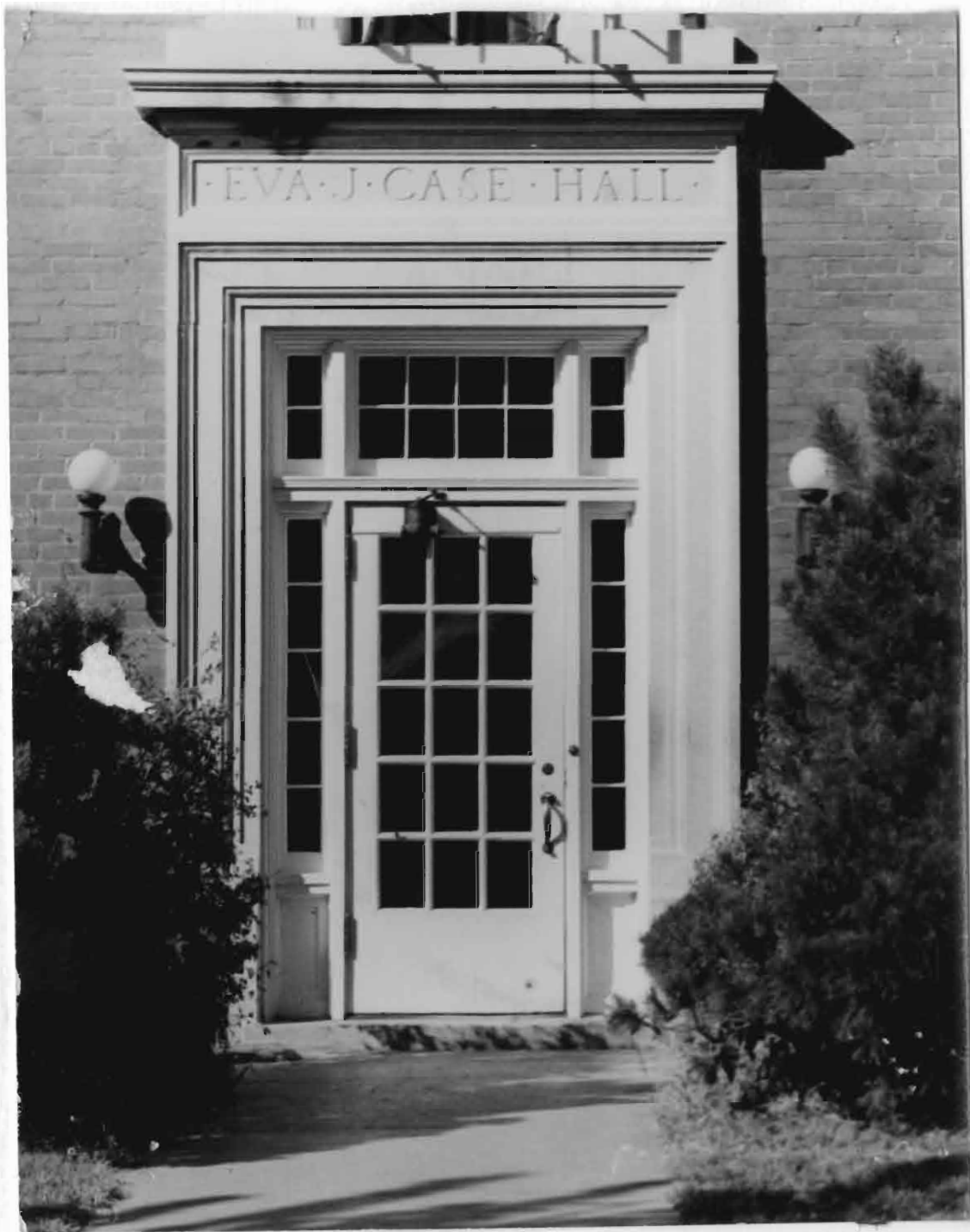
Eva J. Case Hall Cornerstone



Eva J. Case Hall, Early 1950's



Eva J. Case Hall, Main Door, Early 1950's



Eva J. Case Hall, Front Door, Early 1950's



Residents in a Room in Case Hall, 1950's

By This Time the Original Folding Beds Had Been Replaced by Bedsteads



Case Hall in September 1956, Seen From the Southeast



Singing Christmas Carols in Case Hall in December 1960



Eva J. Case Hall, Snow Scene, 1974



Case Hall in 1978, Seen From the Southeast



Eva J. Case Hall in April, 2005



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Regarding the demolition of Case and Ludden Halls, the demolition contractor, Blessing Construction, is on site and working within the construction zone. Following is the work schedule:

Week of January 9 - Case Hall asbestos abatement was completed.

Week of January 16 - Interior demolition began by Blessing Construction. This included the removal of interior metal, coils, window casings, etc.

Week of January 23 - Hard demolition will begin. This means the structure will start coming down. The method of demolition will be that heavy equipment will be used to "pull" the building down. We do not anticipate the use of a wrecking ball. Explosives will not be used. **We expect hard demolition to begin on Tuesday morning, January 24** starting on the east side of Case Hall and progressing westward. The process will be slow - possibly taking two weeks. Materials taken from the building will be sorted on site and approximately 85% of it will be recycled. . .metal, aluminum, concrete and brick.

Many of the artifacts from Case and Ludden, such as the 2 lion heads from Ludden Hall (originally on our first residence hall, Green Terrace), the limestone "CASE" above the entry, the Masonic cornerstone, etc. have been preserved as important artifacts of UNK. Other items removed from the buildings, such as doors, furniture, etc will be put on an auction to be held March 11.

When or if we have more exact timing, additional information will be provided.

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Eva J. Case Hall, Demolition Just Begun, 2006