



Photo courtesy of Special Collections Department

Custodial engineer Roger Johnson has worked in Ophelia Parrish for 21 years and recalls the changes the hall and students have undertaken throughout the years.

Ophelia Parrish changes throughout the years

Historical Places

BY SHANNON WALTER
Staff Reporter

Although music can be heard drifting through the corridors of Ophelia Parrish, the building didn't always cater to the arts.

Ophelia Parrish was built in 1923 along with the Kirk Building under the administration of former University President John Kirk. Ophelia Parrish was part of Kirk's plan to revitalize the University and is now home for music, theater, art and visual communication students.

It was built to be a demonstration school where the University's students could practice teaching. At the time, the mission of the school (then Northeast Missouri State Teacher's College) was devoted to teaching its students to become teachers. Kirk was devoted to restoring the importance of teacher education that was so important to Joseph Baldwin, the University's first president, when the school was founded, according to "Centennial History of the Northeast Missouri State Teachers College" by Walter H. Ryle.

Kirk's first appointment to his faculty was Ophelia A. Parrish as supervisor of the Teacher Training Depart-

ment and later as the head librarian. Parrish was well-loved throughout campus because of her devotion to all of her students. In Ryle's book, Kirk said, "She was the most unselfish, and the most ready, under every possible condition, to help others of all the people that I have ever known."

The building was named after Parrish because of her dedication to the demonstration school and her effect on the students. The building was used for all grades before being converted to Kirksville's junior high school until 1982. It was then used for storage for several years. During the 1990s, president Jack Magruder began plans to renovate and add onto Ophelia Parrish for the fine arts division.

Bob Jones, special assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs, was a chair of the Ophelia Parrish building committee in charge of planning the renovations for Ophelia Parrish in 1996. The committee surveyed faculty members from the fine arts department about their needs for the building.

The building renovations were completed in three phases by 2002. The south end of the building was renovated first for the art classrooms and studios. The west wing was renovated second to refinish the classrooms, build main offices and turn the gymnasium into the art gallery. The east wing was built at the same time for theater and music needs.

Jones said it was important to

retain the historical integrity of the building while maintaining practicality for the faculty and students.

"We wanted the exterior of the building to fit in with the rest of campus," Jones said. "For the new wing, many of the measurements of the windows and the bricks, they are almost identical to the old parts of the building. There were conscious efforts to meld the three buildings together."

Custodial engineer Roger Johnson has been a part of Truman's campus since 1975 as a junior high student at Ophelia Parrish, then as a college student for one year and for the last 21 years as an employee. He has worked in several buildings as a custodian but said he most enjoys working in the academic buildings, especially Ophelia Parrish.

Johnson attended seventh through ninth grades in the building, and then he transferred to the current Kirksville High School.

"The old part of this building has primarily stayed the same as it was when it was a junior high school," Johnson said. "The art gallery used to be the boys' gym and there were lockers up and down the walls."

The south wing, which is now home to art and visual communication, had the girls' locker rooms and gym, which was used as the cafeteria as well.

Johnson said having school on campus was a fun advantage. He and his friends used to spend time bowl-



ing in the Student Union Building when there was a bowling alley in the basement.

"I used to hang out on campus a lot because that was about the only thing to do during the summers other than Upward Bound and riding my bicycle around," he said. "When it was a junior high, there was a chain link fence around the Quad, but we always used to jump over it to play and cut across."

After junior high, Johnson finished school at Kirksville High School and

went to Truman (then Northeast Missouri State University) for one year and dropped out to get married. Soon after in 1988, he became a custodian and has worked in almost every building since then.

"It's a good place to work and interact with new people," he said. "It's interesting to see how much the fads have changed from pet rocks and mood rings to cell phones and iPods. I've seen everything over the years."

Orchestra gives impressive performance



BY RUSS BECKMAN
Reviewer

To most college students, an orchestra performance might not seem very entertaining. However, this could not be further from the truth. Much of Truman's student population does not take advantage of the exciting opportunities to experience the sophisticated talents of their fellow students.

On March 4, the Truman State University Symphony Orchestra performed excellently in the Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall despite their dismal audience.

A college student's activities do not usually revolve around classy events, making it all the more important for students to go to these events. It was sad to see that more people did not appreciate this group's talent and dedication.

The orchestra, conducted by Sam McClure, performed three pieces. The first piece was titled "Overture to Euryanthe" by romantic artist Carl von Weber. This piece was typical of romantic music. It was emotional and flowed well. The first movement of the song reminded the audience of spring time. It was very happy and bouncy. For large portions of this song all of the strings were in unison, which was appealing in both an auditory and visual manner because all the bows of the instruments were moving as one. The second movement was much slower and had very little percussion. The musicians built up suspense throughout the song as the music became faster, and the conductor waved his baton in sweeping motions. The anticipation eventually came to a head as McClure excitedly hopped around his small conductor's platform and led the group to the big finish at the end of the song. Then the waves of music calmed and set the stage for the next piece.

The orchestra's next song, by modern composer Menachem Wiesenberg, was much darker. The song was titled "Reflections," but whoever's reflections they were must have led a scary life. A larger percussion section added shadowy undertones to the ominous feel. During this song, each section of instruments seemed largely inde-

pendent of the other sections. This was evident even at the beginning when the sections usually add to the music one at a time. Two elements of the song created a chaotic scene that made this song particularly different from the earlier song. First, while one group of instruments was playing a technically difficult and fast-paced section of music, the other instruments played deep, slow tones. Secondly, throughout the song the melody and counter melody constantly clashed but in an interestingly pleasant way. The instruments were played in interesting ways. For instance, the busy violins sounded like a swarm of bees, and the deep basses sounded like thunder rolling in.

The last song was the "Piano Concerto No. 23" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, famous pianist Giuseppe Bruno accompanied the orchestra. Maestro Bruno is originally from Italy and has been awarded at competitions, honored in his home country and has collaborated with other famous musicians on numerous projects. His performance did not disappoint. The maestro played gorgeously. At times he dominated the song and stood out from the rest of the symphony. But other times he faded into the background as other sections played with him. He was very fluid and emotional, and this seemed to

transfer to the rest of the group. Each musician seemed to rely on the piano's sound to play his or her own music. Another impressive aspect of Bruno's playing was the long difficult solos that were extremely fast paced and clean sounding. During a few of his solos, some of the other musicians broke their stoic poses to watch Bruno play. Furthermore, the maestro did all of this without one page of music to read. Bruno's skills were extraordinary, and it was a pleasure when, even after the rest of the orchestra had finished playing, he showcased his talents with an astonishing solo piece.

This last song had three different movements. The first was soft and gentle, revolving mostly around the strings section and the piano. The second movement was light and airy like a summer breeze. During part of the song the violinists entertained the audience by putting down their bows and plucking their strings, a skill that sounds interesting and is a break from their usual playing style. The last movement was very happy and incorporated almost the whole orchestra. During this section, Bruno would sometimes lead and the other members would echo him. This joyful feeling was a great way to end the concert, earning a standing ovation.

Vista Heights Apartments

Now Leasing
1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments for the
2010-2011 School Year
May or August move in dates available

- On site 24 hour laundry
- On site manager
- On site maintenance with 24 hour on call services
- Off street parking
- Recently updated units
- Free daily shuttle to Truman Campus
- Clean and quiet living

For more information visit our website at vistaheightspts.com
For availability and showing appointments call
Kelli Nigh at 665-9224 or 626-3914



710 W. Potter Avenue
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-8464
660-665-0838

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Used cars & trucks for sale

Complete Automotive Service & Repair

-Computer Diagnostic & Scanning Capabilities	-Air Conditioning Service
-Engine & Transmission Repairs	-2 & 4 Wheel Alignments
-Brakes, Exhaust, etc...	-Tires and Wheels.
-Interstate Battery Dealer	-Towing Service
	-Pick-up and Delivery

All Major Brands!

Mention this ad & receive:
A free tire rotation with oil change & service

