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The Brittingham Trust

Students and alumni of the University of Wisconsin are happy over the announcement that Eagle Heights, a 28-acre tract overlooking Lake Mendota, has been added to the university's campus.

This wooded area, northwest of University Houses where many faculty members reside, is the highest elevation on the south side of the lake. It makes an ideal picnic and recreation spot and is a logical addition to one of this country's most beautiful campuses.

Formerly the property of the university, this tract was traded to the E. J. Young estate when Picnic Point was purchased several years ago. At that time it was feared that private interests would use the point for commercial purposes. As there was little possibility of such a development on Eagle Heights, the board of regents arranged for the exchange of property.

Recently, Thomas E. Brittingham, Jr., and Mrs. Margaret Brittingham Reid, trustees for the Brittingham trust fund, purchased the Eagle Heights tract and last Saturday they formally presented the tract to the university.

This was not the first time that the university has received a substantial gift from the Brittingham trust. A whole series of gifts was made possible by a trust fund established in the will of the senior Brittingham, a Missourian who came to Wisconsin in 1885 to engage in the lumber business. He served from 1907 to 1909 as chairman of the university board of visitors and two years later served as chairman of the executive committee of the board of regents. After his death in 1924, it was learned that he had set up a trust fund of some \$240,000 for the university and another fund of \$44,000 for the city of Madison. Today, despite the many gifts made from these funds, the combined value is \$1,042,000. The university's fund is more than \$900,000, nearly four times the original amount.

Income from the trust fund has been used to finance many important pieces of work at the university, including limnology research conducted by the late Emeritus President Edward A. Birge and Prof. Chancey Juday, the musical work of Professor Gunnar Johansen, and research in the fields of biology, medicine, biochemistry and enzymes. A grant from the fund was used in bringing to the university the first artist-in-residence, John Steuart Curry. Later, Prof. Aaron Bohrod was brought to the university under a similar arrangement. Two years ago the purchase of a \$14,000 isotope-ratio mass spectrometer was financed through this fund. Last June the executors earmarked \$30,000 to support instruction and service in the university industrial management project, \$20,000 to continue support of the lake research program, and \$2,500 each for a U. W. parking survey and for graduate research in biochemistry.

The trustees have followed the principle of carrying a new project during the experimental stage and allowing the university to take over the support after it proves successful. This plan has made possible the starting of a great many worthwhile projects that otherwise would be laid aside because of the lack of financing.

The growth of the fund is the result of wise handling by the younger Brittingham. A nationally recognized investment economist, he has retained deep interest in the university's welfare since his graduation in 1921.

The university and the people of Wisconsin are deeply indebted to the trustees of the Brittingham fund for the benefits that have been derived from this source. The contributions have made possible a great deal of research — one of the main functions of such an institution — and have speeded the developments of projects that otherwise might have been delayed for years. The Brittingham fund is an example of the good that can be accomplished through private sources in furthering the public welfare.