In the early days of the University, the student body was comparatively small. As legend has it, in order to exercise, they had to think up something to do, for when the West Wing was put on the Main College building they could no longer use the bare surface of the Main Building against which to play ball, Summers they had used that as a background against which they threw the ball so that it would rebound to someone playing on the other side. They also had a log suspended between two oak trees about where Carnegie Library now stands and from the log were suspended rings by means of ropes on which the students would swing from one to the other and this exercised their arms. They also pitched horses' shoes but some of them specialized in jumping. These became expert in running up behind a man, giving a leap, and landing on his shoulders with their legs around his neck. This was a common sport. One night, coming from town, a number of students were on University Avenue when they saw a figure ahead whom they supposed to be a student for few, except students, went over this road, especially at night. One of them stepped forward and taking a little run, leaped upon the man and, when he had recovered from the shock, the man said in a quiet voice, "Well, young man, what do you want up there?" This was one of the most gentle and quiet professors on the college faculty. He never got mad and never said anything to anyone that would give offense, so when he said this, the student decided that he did not want anything and quickly disappeared in the darkness.

Sometimes though the students performed tricks that were thought out beforehand. Legend has it that the President's house had a shed at the back in which he kept his carriage which had curtains that could be lowered. By some means or magic that college presidents sometimes possess he realized that something was about to happen and, seeing a number of young men passing to and fro before the house one evening looking carefully at the shed in which his carriage was kept, he concluded that he had better "keep an eye out." When time to go to bed had come he had the lights put out in the house and he watched in the darkness. Some students began to assemble so the president went out, got into the carriage, and closed the curtains. In a short time the students approached, carefully opened the door, and quietly pushed the carriage out into the street. Then they started pulling and pushing the carriage up the hill making such remarks as they went, as "Won't the old boy be surprised when he finds his carriage gone in the morning?" "He'll wish he'd been in for a ride, won't he?" "Jim, I don't think you are pushing, are you?" "Oh, it is Tom that is pulling back, well push!" "I'm getting tired pulling this thing." "Joe, what's the matter with you, you're not doing your share". There were various other remarks, most using names, thereby giving the president a full inventory of those participating in the prank. When they got to the top of the hill they stopped to take a rest. Some said, "Suppose we leave it here and let him get it", while others said, "No, let's push it down the other side into the elderberry bushes. Before they could reach any decision a voice from inside said, "I am very much obliged to you young men for the ride and I was very much entertained by the conversation as we came up the hill. If you will kindly turn me around and take me back I'll be glad to also enjoy the return trip." At this of course, the students, who had given themselves away by calling out each other's names, had no recourse but to turn the carriage around and haul the president back to his home and put the carriage back in the shed. By the time the president got out the students had disappeared in the darkness and the joke was on them.

The students furnished their own food at some of the boarding clubs and the lady of the house prepared it for them for their meals. One of the professors had some chickens which roosted in an apple tree just back of his house. Some of the students seeing the chickens on the trees in the evenings said, "How would it be to come around and get a supply of chicken meat?" So they laid their plans to furnish their larder in this way. The professor was sitting in his room late when he heard the chickens making a fuss. The night was dark so, going quietly out the side door, he approached the source of the noise and could just discern someone climbing up the tree. He stood quietly for a few moments and then the young man in the tree began to
hand down the chickens to someone standing below. They had a hard time to keep them from making a noise which gave the professor an opportunity to approach the tree and there was just light enough for the boys to realize that the intruder was none other than the professor. They dropped the chickens and disappeared without telling the boy in the tree what was happening below. He caught hold of a good large rooster and, handing it down said, "This is Prof. Blank. He is good and juicy." Then handing down an old hen, said, "This is Mrs. Blank, she's getting old and fat, but she'll be good and juicy." Handing down a young cockerel he remarked, "Here is Jim, he'll be a little tough." Passing on a pullet he said, "Here comes Amanda, she is nice and tender. We now have half a dozen so that will be enough for this time. I think I'll come down now." The professor dropped his chickens and the chickens took care of themselves. When the fellow from the tree came down he started home when he found nobody there and found that none of the boys had any of the chickens and they would have to look somewhere else to fill their larder. Some weeks later all these fellows were invited to the Professor's home for dinner. When they came to the table and the professor began to fill their plates, he said, to the leader of the gang, "Do you prefer a piece of Professor Blank or Mrs. Blank?" and to the second one he said, "Now, do you prefer a piece of Jim or do you think Amanda will be more juicy?" And so on until they were all served. When the serving was over nothing more was said about chickens. It is possible that they enjoyed the meal, but they surely realized that the professor had turned the joke on them.

Halloween was a night on which a great many young people in Lewisburg thought they had to play tricks in the community so the college boys thought it necessary that they follow their example. One morning after Halloween the Prof. of Mathematics found a horse in his room when he opened the door to enter for class. It was never told what he said. Perhaps he wasn't as quick as a prof. at another institution who, on a similar occasion, found a sheep tied to his chair with the students all present in the classroom. He looked at the sheep and said, "I see you have an instructor corresponding to your abilities." He left the room and closed the door. On the day after another Halloween when the chapel door was opened it was found that every professor had an image sitting in his chair. There were only about eight professors in those days. Some of them could be easily recognized from the image that represented them, especially the Professor of Chemistry who always wore a long gown that had once been white. He had a beard which looked very much like corn silk when it is getting ripe, so they fixed him up with corn silk and an apron. When the president came in he took his image in one hand, laid it on the floor, stepped over it, sat down in his chair, and conducted chapel exercises as though nothing had happened.

Another year it was different. When the professors came into this same chapel, which was located in Old Main just where the Dean's Office is now, they found a farm wagon with the box and all the wheels on it sitting on the benches. The students gathered around and partly under the wagon. When the president came in the tongue reached over beyond his desk. He attempted to raise the tongue because he would not stoop and go under it, but his strength was not enough and he had to bend over to get into his seat. Here again the chapel exercises were carried on as though nothing had happened. When it came to the janitor's job of getting the wagon out it was another proposition. The wheels were fastened with immense burrs which could be opened with a wrench that formed part of the wagon, but the students had taken the wrench and put it beside a tree some distance from the door and when the janitor tried to take off the wheels he found it impossible to remove the burrs. The students gathered around to see the fun made suggestions as to how this could be done. Finally, about the middle of the forenoon the janitor found the wrench and the students helped him take off the wheels and take it out so the farmer could take it home.

Years later, when chapel was moved to Bucknell Hall, another animal visited
the building. Many people kept cows in Lewisburg and among them was a professor who
sometimes tethered them out in a vacant lot now occupied by the Sigma Chi House
(Seventh St. House). The morning after Halloween his son reported that the cow and
the chain had disappeared but that the pin by which she was held was still there in
the ground, which indicated that she had not run off or broken the chain, so there
would have to be another reason for her disappearance. She was located in Bucknell
Hall, up in front, right next to a radiator with several shocks of corn fodder to
make her feel at home. When the young man went in he untied her, took her home, and
notified the janitor. When chapel assembled there was no sign of her having been
there except a damp place on the floor. The corn fodder had been removed and every
thing else. Hardly any one of the students knew that anything had happened. About
ten years later an old graduate returning for commencement said to a professor,
"Professor I have been wondering for ten years how you got that cow out of Bucknell
Hall." "Oh", replied the professor, "that was easy. My son loosened her from the
radiator, put his arm around her neck and said, 'Come on Brownie' and down the
steps she walked and never gave him any trouble at all". Well", remarked the old
graduate, "I've often wondered for when we took her in we had to carry her up the
steps. She wouldn't move an inch."