

IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY

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APR 29 1992

Department of
Physical Education
and Leisure Studies
235 P.E. Building

Ames, Iowa 50011
(515) 294-8009

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Jeschke -

Would you be willing to
write a letter in support
of this project?

We will be completing the
official paperwork to submit
to this committee in the
near future and would
appreciate any support you
could provide.

Thank you!

Cindy Frederickson

DATE: April 28, 1992

TO: Patricia Swan, Chair
Advisory Committee on the Naming of Buildings and Streets

FROM: Cindy Frederickson, Chair
University Committee on Women

Cindy Frederickson

The University Committee on Women recommends that consideration be given to naming Alumni Hall in honor of Carrie Chapman Catt, one of Iowa State University's most illustrious alumna. Efforts to name a building to honor the achievements of Catt began several years ago when the Ames League of Women Voters sought to have Old Botany named in her honor after its restoration. In addition, the Board of Regents passed a resolution in 1990 to name Old Botany (upon restoration) the Carrie Chapman Catt Hall. As financial limitations now stall the restoration of Old Botany, UCW is concerned that the initiative to name a building to honor Catt may be faltering.

Alumni Hall has a rich history and a prominent position on the Iowa State campus. It was built in 1904 through the initiative of the YMCA and jointly supported through fund-raising efforts of both the YMCA and YWCA. It has served as the home of these organizations since 1907. The YWCA and Carrie Chapman Catt have both fought for equity and social justice; it therefore seems appropriate that Alumni Hall bear the name of this illustrious suffragette. Because of its central location, prominence within university function and the legacy of Catt, this building should proudly be entitled Carrie Chapman Catt Alumni Hall.

University Committee on Women encourages your committee to review the enclosed materials regarding Carrie Chapman Catt. You will find her mark in history is indeed an important one. A great deal of media attention has already been given to the naming of a building in her honor. The name of Catt Alumni Hall is appropriate and timely and we suggest that these efforts not be placed on "hold" any longer. The ISU community and entire country is awaiting your action.

In the next few weeks, your committee will receive supporting information and the appropriate paperwork that is required for action. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

✓ cc: President Jischke

Honoring a great woman

Iowans have two reasons to applaud Iowa State University's decision to renovate Old Botany Hall. Not only will an architectural gem be preserved, but its renaming will enshrine the memory of a great but under-recognized Iowa woman.

The university plans to name the building after Carrie Chapman Catt, an ISU graduate and a leader in securing the vote for women. In Carver Hall, named after George

Catt opened first door to equality of sexes

Washington Carver, ISU already has one building honoring the memory of an alumnus who advanced the cause of human dignity. Now it will have two.

Catt, who was reared on a farm near Charles City, graduated from Iowa State in 1878, a time when few women received higher education. She became a schoolteacher and principal, then an activist in the women's suffrage movement after the death of her first husband, Leo Chapman, a Mason City newspaper editor. She later moved from Iowa after marrying George

Catt, an engineer and ISU classmate, but she kept ties to Iowa.

Catt's strength was political organization. She was Susan B. Anthony's hand-picked successor as president of the National Woman Suffrage Association, and it was she who spearheaded the nitty-gritty, state-by-state work of getting the 19th Amendment ratified in 1920. She went on to found the League of Women Voters.

The women's suffrage movement often is lampooned with the caricature of the "suffragette." That's a false picture. Leaders of the movement, such as Catt, were tough-minded organizers with piercing intellect. Articles written by Catt nearly three-quarters of a century ago made the same case that is made by feminists today.

Catt wanted more than the right to vote; she wanted equality for women. She believed that equality in all things would flow from having the vote, and in that she was wrong. American women have had the vote for 70 years yet still struggle for equality.

Catt nevertheless opened the first door toward equality of the sexes. She fully deserves the remembrance ISU is planning.

*D. M. Register
June 25, 1990*

ISU honors a famous graduate

historical building on campus will be restored and renamed to honor one of ISU's most famous graduates—Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the woman suffrage movement and founder of the League of Women Voters.

The announcement that Old Botany will become Carrie Chapman Catt Hall caps a campaign by university archivist Laura Kline and the Ames League of Women Voters to garner more recognition for the woman who graduated from Iowa State as valedictorian in 1880.

Catt is best known for leading the National American Woman Suffrage Association to success with the passage of the 19th Amendment, ensuring women the right to vote.

Catt also founded the League of Women Voters and International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, worked to establish the League of Nations and later, the United Nations, was featured on a 1926

cover of *Time* magazine, and was voted among the most admired women in the world numerous times.

Catt was active on the ISU campus during her student days, initiating military exercises for women, and remained interested



Carrie Chapman Catt

in the university throughout her life, Kline said. She was the first woman to deliver a commencement address at ISU in 1921 and gave another in 1930. She donated \$100,000 to a scholarship fund, which has grown, with interest, to \$270,000, providing several hundred ISU students with Catt Scholarships. She also left her entire estate to ISU, including her furniture, art and more than 1,000 books from her peace library.

The Old Botany building, designed in 1892 and originally called Agricultural Hall, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Funds for the restoration will be sought as part of ISU's Partnership for Prominence capital campaign, which is officially scheduled to begin in the fall. Those interested in donating to the building fund should contact Harriette F. Roller at (515) 294-6984.

—Diana Pounds
News Service

A fitting tribute to distinguished alum

ADJ
6/26/90

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A landmark building on the Iowa State University campus that some maintain has been ignored too long will soon bear the name of a distinguished ISU alumna who's also not received the recognition she's long deserved.

The building is known as Old Botany, a stately brick structure at the north edge of central campus, which has fallen into disrepair and has been closed for several years. The ISU graduate is Carrie Chapman Catt, Class of 1880, one of the most important figures in bringing the vote to American women, and the founder of the League of Women Voters.

The renaming of Old Botany caps a year-and-a-half-long effort by the Ames League of Women Voters and ISU archivist Laura Kline, a student of Catt and her accomplishments.



Carrie Chapman Catt

The renaming will ensure that Catt's name stands beside those of other prominent figures with ISU ties, such as George Washington Carver and computer pioneer John Vincent Atanasoff.

After growing up on a farm near Charles City, Catt graduated from Iowa State and moved on to a career as an educator and social activist. She was a superintendent of schools in the Mason City area, and became involved in the women's suffrage movement. She twice led the National American Woman Suffrage Association, first in 1900 (following her friend and mentor, Susan B. Anthony) and again in 1915. Her second term culminated in 1920 with the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which finally granted women the right to vote. In 1921, Catt became the first woman to deliver a commencement address at ISU.

And, to add to her legacy, Catt founded the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan educational organization that focuses its efforts on voter registration, candidates' forums and other matters of public interest. The effectiveness of the group can be seen from the national level (where the League has sponsored numerous presidential de-

bates) all the way down to Mid-Iowa issues such as potential uses for the Ames Depot, which have been studied extensively by the local chapter.

The Ames League of Women Voters also instrumental in the push for naming a campus building after with archivist Kline, the effort of League members will ensure

The Ames League of Women Voters also was instrumental in the push for naming a campus building after Catt. Along with archivist Kline, the effort of League members will ensure that Catt's name stands beside those of other prominent figures with ISU ties, such as George Washington Carver and computer pioneer John Vincent Atanasoff.

And Old Botany is an appropriate building on which to hang Catt's name. An attractive structure once targeted for demolition, Old Botany will be the target of renovation funded by the ISU capital campaign, in an amount up to \$5 million. It's unclear what use the building will be put to, but at least one suggestion nicely fits the spirit of Catt: some students and other activists have suggested establishing a multi-cultural center in Old Botany, to educate the university community and celebrate the diversity that's key in making Iowa State a world-class university.

The State Board of Regents will consider the renaming proposal at its meeting Wednesday; approval is expected. As it should be. It's difficult to imagine a more worthy example of ISU-related excellence than Carrie Chapman Catt.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Carrie Chapman Catt Chronology

- 1859 - Born to Lucius Lane and Maria Clinton. Ripon, Wisconsin.
- 1865 - Moves to farm outside Charles City, Iowa.
- 1876 - Graduates from high school in 3 yrs. Passes exam, receives certificate to teach to earn money toward college expenses.
- 1877 - Enrolls at Iowa Agricultural College & Farm.
- 1878 - Teaches in Maudville between semesters to earn money. Sixteen students ranging in age from 6 through 18.
- 1880 - Graduates in 3 yrs. Valedictorian. Earns bachelor of science degree.
While at Iowa State, initiates military exercise drills for women. ✱ Becomes the 1st woman to give an oration at literary societies. Earns money washing dishes, later as asst. to librarian.
- 1881 - Works for lawyer in Charles City as well as studying law on her own.
- 1882 - Becomes principal of Mason City High School.
- 1883 - Recommended and becomes Superintendent of Mason City schools. Also lectures at teachers' institutes.
- 1885 - Becomes asst. editor of Mason City Republican. Establishes column entitled "Woman's World" which deals with political, economical, social and legal issues rather than food/fashion.
- 1887 - Appointed State Organizer, Iowa Woman Suffrage Association.
- 1892 - Sets up annual Nat'l American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) mtg. in Des Moines.
Susan B. Anthony appoints Catt as Finance Chair.
- 1895 - Becomes Chair of the Organization Committee of NAWSA.
- ✱ 1900 - Last year as Chair travels to 20 states, attends 15 conventions, makes 51 speeches.
Becomes President of the Nat'l American Woman Suffrage Association.
- 1902 - Arranges an internat'l conference in conjunction with NAWSA.
- 1903 - Becomes President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.
- 1904 - Retires as President of NAWSA.
✱ Continues work with International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Establishes biennial world conferences.
- 1909 - Begins the New York Woman Suffrage Party.

- 1911 - World tour promoting woman suffrage and internat'l peace. Visits Norway, Sweden, South Africa (meets with Gandhi), Egypt, Ceylon, India, Malaya, Hong Kong, Philippines, and China.
- 1913 - Retires as President of Int'l Woman Suffrage Alliance. Devotes full time to New York State Suffrage Party.
- ★ 1915 - Becomes President again of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.
- ★ 1919 - Suffrage amendment passes in House and Senate. Catt continues work to ensure ratification by 36 states. Catt establishes the League of Women Voters.
- 1920 - Amendment ratified.
- ★ 1921 - Delivers Commencement Address at Iowa State. (1st woman)
- 1921 - Becomes active supporter of League of Nations. Retires as President of Int'l Woman Suffrage Alliance.
- ★ 1922 - Receives honorary awards and degrees from Iowa State, University of Wyoming, Smith College, Moravian College. Receives New York Alumni Award.
- ★ 1922 - Gives \$100,000 to Iowa State as endowment fund. Income from the fund to be used for undergraduate scholarships. (Now totals over \$270,000)
- 1923 - With N. Shuler writes "Women Suffrage and Politics."
- 1925 - Forms Committee on the Cause and Cure of War.
- ★ 1926 - Cover of Time magazine.
- 1928 - Alda Wilson, fellow ISU alumna, becomes companion.
- ★ 1930 - Becomes honorary Vice Pres. of League of Nations Association. Receives Pictorial Review Achievement Award for international disarmament work.
- ★ 1931 - Gives Commencement Address at Iowa State.
- ★ Elected nationally as one of 12 greatest American women.
- 1936 - Delivers dedication address at Des Moines Capitol for the memorial plaque honoring pioneer suffragists.
- ★ 1937 - Elected nationally as one of 10 greatest American women.
- 1939 - Speaks at the World's Fair in New York. Portrait hung in the Smithsonian Institute.
- ★ 1940 - Woman's Centennial Congress (helps to organize. Held 8 yrs. early to ensure Catt's attendance. Peers want to honor her.) Receives National Social Sciences Institute award.
- ★ 1941 - Receives the Chi Omega award at the White House from long time friend, Eleanor Roosevelt.
- 1944 - Works toward establishment of the United Nations.
- ★ 1947 - Dies at her home in New Rochelle.
- ★ Entire estate given to Iowa State University. Includes over 1000 volumes from her Peace Library, furniture, statuary, paintings.
- ★ 1975 - One of first inductees into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.