

Dedication
Kate Milner Rabb Hall
Indiana University

Teter Quadrangle

1:00 p.m.

May 7, 1961

(Remarks by President Wells, presiding)

I am happy to welcome you.

Flowers - Miss Martha McBride

Menu - Mrs. Nelson

George Olsen

Indiana University, through this simple ceremony marked by the unveiling of a tablet, pays its tribute to an outstanding alumna and to a family which has contributed much to the State and to this institution.

Our ceremony to be held here dedicates today a building that will bear the name of Kate Milner Rabb, distinguished Hoosier, brilliant writer, loyal alumna of the University, and member of a family that is an Indiana University tradition. It is appropriate that we do this though her achievements need no memorial. They are preserved in the State's history which was the subject of many of her writings.

Many here today knew Kate Milner Rabb better than I, and we shall ask several to speak of her. However, I wish because of my great respect for her and my admiration for her family to say a few words.

The life and career of Mrs. Rabb is set forth briefly in the dedication program. I have mentioned her keen interest in the history of Indiana. It has been related by one of her contemporaries that "it was when she was detailed to write the historical pageant of Spencer County, her native county, upon the occasion of the Indiana Centennial that Mrs. Rabb began to flirt with Indiana History." She was appointed a member of the Indiana Centennial Commission and one of her fellow commission members at the time wrote that she was "up early and off

and away to different parts of the State inciting natives to historical riots."

Kate Milner Rabb had a consuming interest in pioneer life and a feeling, akin to reverence, for the early settlers whose hard lives made easier ones for us. She through her writings and many activities aroused a flagging interest in Indiana history. I found joy in reading day after day "A Hoosier Listening Post."

Her column, which appeared in The Indianapolis Star, was most widely read. When she died in 1937, Arthur B. Leible, Professor of English at Indiana University and the University's poet laureate, since deceased, wrote a poem which appeared in The Star on July, 1937.

I wish to read Professor Leible's poem which was entitled, "In Memory of The Listener":

"The Listening Post is still, its guard away.
Its ghostly voices now are mute indeed.
The spirits of another time are freed
To join their comrade. She alone could say
What Hoosierdom, in that now distant day,
Possessed of charm and witchery, when greed
Was still remote, and beauty was a need
To cheer the pioneer along his way.
We listen now in vain. The lines are down
That brought us visions of what once was ours.
From most, Nature withholds her treasures, and her frown
Can veil the past, despite our eager powers.
But to the Listener, Nature gave the wit
To paint the past, and make us one with it."--

Arthur B. Leible

(Introduction of Family)

We are happy that members of Mrs. Rabb's distinguished family are here with us today. I should like to introduce them and ask each of them to stand as introduced:

Mrs. Albert L. Rabb, whose husband, the son of Kate Milner Rabb, served with distinction as a member of the Board of Trustees of Indiana University; Mrs. Rabb's father, Dr. Frank Morrison, was a member of the Medical School faculty and the distinguished Chairman of the Department.

Dr. Frank Morrison Rabb, a grandson of Kate Milner Rabb, and a graduate in 1947 of our School of Medicine;

Mr. Albert L. Rabb, also a grandson, who was graduated with honors from this University in 1949.

There are many here who might be introduced: Members of the Press Club, representatives of active and alumni of Phi Beta Kappa and Kappa Alpha Theta, officers of the University, and members of the Medical School faculty.

The University is happy to have joining with it for this dedication a number of members of the Woman's Press Club of Indiana. We welcome them and their husbands and friends to the University and this ceremony. Kate Milner Rabb was an honored and active member of the Club and served as its president.

(Introduction of Miss Conner)

To speak on behalf of the Woman's Press Club of Indiana, I present Miss Lola Blount Conner, of Indianapolis, a writer of wide recognition.

(Miss Conner speaks)

Introduce Jeannette Nolan

(Introduction of Miss Beckort)

This ceremony would be wholly incomplete without the presence of representatives of the more than 1,000 students who have in this residence center "a home away from home" and who now and in the years to come find enjoyment in the use of the facilities of this structure. Members of the student governing board of this residence center will please stand.

(Students stand)

The students wish to pay their tribute to Kate Milner Rabb and I now introduce Miss Betty Jane Beckort, a sophomore from Laconia, Harrison County, which, incidentally, is not far from Mrs. Rabb's native county of Spencer. Miss Beckort is vice president of the Tower Quadrangle Student Council.

(Miss Beckort speaks)

(Introduction of Mr. Feltus)

As I have mentioned, Kate Milner Rabb in the much that she did for her Alma Mater reared a distinguished son, Albert L. Rabb, who served on the University's Board of Trustees. A member of the Board with whom he served is here today and I am happy to present Mr. Paul L. Feltus, Publisher of The Bloomington Star-Courier.

(Mr. Feltus speaks)

(Introduction of Mrs. Maurer)

Each succeeding Board of Trustees of the University is the heir to the wisdom of its predecessors. Mrs. Mary Rieman Maurer, of Indianapolis, knew Kate Milner Rabb and they were sisters in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. To speak for the University's governing Board I introduce Mrs. Maurer.

(Mrs. Maurer speaks)

We now shall perform the final act in this dedication, the unveiling of the memorial plaque. To do this I call on _____
_____.

(Person to be chosen by Mrs. Albert Rabb).

May the generations of students to come as they pass this way remember with reverence and respect the name of Kate Milner Rabb, a great Hoosier and a loyal alumna of Indiana University. We stand adjourned.