

## THE GREATEST COLLEGE YELL IN AMERICA

What justly may be termed the most famous college yell in America is the Rock Chalk, Jayhawk yell of the University of Kansas. The agitating call of the Rock Chalk has encircled the globe, and has been answered in all parts of the world, wherever Kansans meet.

In the spring of 1898, Company H of the Twentieth Kansas Infantry, composed largely of former students and graduates of the University of Kansas, introduced the Rock Chalk yell to the United States Volunteers who were stationed at San Francisco. At this particular time the yell was used at football games between the team of the Twenties Kansas and the teams of the University of California and Leland Stanford.



Later in the Philippines the stirring tones of "Rock-Chalk-Jayhawk-K. U." became the battle cry of the soldiers in the trenches.

During the World War the Jayhawk cheer was heard on the battle fields of France as well as at various athletic contests and gatherings of American soldiers in Europe. Although six thousand miles from home, the men of the 137th Infantry of the Thirty-fifth Division observed Kansas Day on Jan. 29, 1919. As reported by the "Jayhawk News," unofficial organ of the 137th Infantry, a large meeting was held at Sampigny, France, at which W. Y. Morgan, former lieutenant-governor of Kansas, presided. The Rock Chalk yell opened and closed the meeting.

During athletic meets both at Commercy Field, Commercy, France, and the Inter-Allied Games at Paris, participants representing the United States and Kansas were cheered to victory by the immortal "Rock-Chalk-Jayhawk-K. U." During the Olympics at Antwerp, the nobility assembled there requested that a typical American college yell be given. This group of athletes gathered from every quarter

of the United States decided that the honor should go to the University of Kansas with its Rock Chalk, Jayhawk yell.

Strangely enough, the inspiring cry, which now kindles fire in the hearts of Kansas athletes, originally was in no way associated with athletics. In fact, athletic teams were not organized at Kansas until 1890, four years after the advent of the Rock Chalk yell. On May 21, 1886, E. H. S. Bailey, professor of chemistry, submitted the yell to the Science Club, which immediately adopted it.

As yelled by the Science Club, before being taken over for general university use in 1887, the "Rock Chalk," was "Rah, Rah! Jayhawk, K.U.!" given three times with a quick staccato accent. But soon it was suggested that "Rock Chalk might well be substituted for "Rah, Rah." Rock Chalk, it was observed, rhymed with Jayhawk and was also symbolic of the chalk strata of the Cretaceous geological period which covers much of Kansas and of which there are several outcroppings on Mount Oread, the campus of the University of Kansas.

By 1899 constant usage of the yell had developed a new technique. In lieu of the staccato accent, the first three lines (which then had been changed to two) were given more slowly and drawn out into the present day "Rock-Chalk-Jayhawk-K.U."

But even then the "K.U." at the end was given quickly. It was not until about 1905 that the students and fans began elongating the "K" and the "U," adding the intonation of three steps down the scale on the "U." To the two elongated lines were added three short staccato lines, thus putting the final touches to what today is the most famous yell in America.

Thus we have:

ROCK CHALK, JAYHAWK, K. U.

ROCK CHALK, JAYHAWK, K. U.

ROCK CHALK! JAYHAWK! K.U.!

ROCK CHALK! JAYHAWK! K.U.!

ROCK CHALK! JAYHAWK! K.U.!