1926

How the Buzzer Got Its Name

Utah State University

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Recommended Citation
Utah State University, "How the Buzzer Got Its Name" (1926). USU Buzzer Yearbook. 67.
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HOW THE BUZZER GOT ITS NAME

The Class of 1910 decided late in the year 1908, to initiate an annual for the U. S. A. C. The matter of giving it a suitable name became a real problem. Especially was this so, with the art editors, who had to do with the illustrating of the book.

The Sego Lilly, was first adopted. It was supposed from all intents and purposes, to be made permanent, until Joe Grue and his associates Agnes Lewis and Nettie Wade, met to consider their job. They exchanged every idea that came to their minds as they deliberated upon their task. The only positive features they could find were: it was the Utah state flower and a nice picture could be made of it. Further than that, they were unable to go. And they gave the matter all the serious thought possible under the then situation before them.

They appealed to Professor of Art, Calvin Fletcher, for a way out of their dilemma, not once thinking but what he could suggest how to illustrate with this beautiful flower. But after he gave it a serious thought he suggested a change of name. "I don't care what you name it," said he, "so long as you can utilize the bees and the bee-hive, for illustrating."

With that in mind the matter was brought to the attention of other members of the Editorial Staff. Some one said: "When opposites are placed side by side, they become strikingly emphasized—for instance when black comes against white, the black is blacker and white whiter." And so the idea developed that by hitting upon a name which would be entirely opposite from industry, would be unique. By contacting Prof. E. W. Robinson with this idea and casting about for a new name, it occurred that the drone, was the antithesis of industry. Nothing could fill the bill quite so well. That idea prevailed for a time until some one reminded us of the necessity of making an explanation for such a name. "how many," asked he, "will take the trouble to read such an elaborate explanation? Do we Aggies want to dub ourselves as drones?"
That put a new angle to the situation and everyone concerned bestirred himself in order to dig up a worthy name from somewhere. In the meantime someone happened to mention "Buzzer" to Editor Lloyd, who in turn whispered it to Grue and asked him what he thought of it. "I don't like it." was his quick reply.

"Now Grue," opined Lloyd, "pronounce it aloud to yourself and think about it until you are convinced that it is the name we should adopt. I won't mention it to anyone else until you are ready to go. Then we'll call a meeting and decide."

"Well," interposed Grue, "I'll do that, but I have my doubts about my ever falling for that name."

Grue was loyal to the cause. He was not easily swayed one way or the other. One thing he was anxious about, was to discover a name that would serve well the purpose for all time, if that were possible. And so he followed the suggestion of his chief, uttered the peculiar name Buzzer over and over and studied about it. The more he repeated Buzzer, the more it buzzed in his mind and finally he was completely sold on the idea.

A meeting convened, when a stormy discussion ensued. Grue championed the new cause and gave substantial reasons there for. A vote was taken, overwhelmingly in favor of the BUZZER. And so it was adopted. That's how it all happened.

The BUZZER Vol. 1 was published in the spring of 1909 by the Juniors of that year. 500 copies came off the press, 100 of which were taken by Pres. John A. Widstoe and the board of trustees. Most of the balance were sold by Joe Grue and what's more he got the money for them, before the students went home for their vacation. The editorial staff consisted of the following:

Editor in chief       Orson G. Lloyd       Associate Editor       Josephine West
Business Manager  W. L. Peterson  Assistant Business Manager  W. C. Riter
Secretary  Ray B. Curtis  Treasurer  A. F. Rasmussen
Assistant Editors
Art  Joseph Grue  Department  Ethel Bennion
    Agnes Lewis
    Nettie Wade
Class  Margaret Morrell
      Veda Dixon
      V. A. Sadler
Faculty  A. B. Ballantyne
        R. H. Stewart
        Photography
        Socials
Athletics  D. F. Peterson
          W. L. Jones
          Societies
Humerous  Erastus Peterson
          A. E. Aldous