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Annotated article by Stanley Dearman to The Meridian Star, 29 September 1962

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The University of Mississippi campus is a study in contrasts between the old and the new.

It is an institution anchored in tradition and etched in plans for the future.

The old Confederate statue at the foot of University avenue symbolizes the old days. The solitary figure perched on his marble pedestal stands as a tribute to the courageous dead of Lafayette county whose valor and courage glorified many a battlefield.

During the last few days the old Rebel has been casting his stony gaze on events that might not seem very different from the drama he symbolizes.

Just across from the statue a new science center is going up, where atom-splitting and research will hail the future.

Through the tree-shaded grove stands the majestic white-columned lyceum, built by slaves and once occupied by federal troops. Those were the last military forces to set foot on the Ole Miss campus.

Since coming back to the campus after a three-year absence, I have been looking around for changes.

There are more students now, and the coeds consistently beautiful than when I was a student here.

All the temporary buildings constructed after World War II during the overflow of veterans have all been demolished. New concrete and steel structures have taken their place.

New buildings include a cafeteria, music and home economics hall, and several new dormitories, including one seven stories high.
Most of the administration and teaching staff are the same, with several new additions to take care of the student increase.

Altogether, there are more than 170 buildings on the Oxford campus. Next to the lyceum, the building now used as the YMCA is the oldest. Both the lyceum were used as hospitals by both sides during the Civil War.

Of the 170 buildings on the campus, 99 were built at no cost to the state for the construction. Gifts, grants, and loans financed them.

The original campus provided for by the 1841 legislature consists of 640 acres has now expanded to 1,174 acres.

Besides the Oxford campus there is the University Medical Center in Jackson which houses the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing. In the southern part of Mississippi, the university owns over 23,000 acres of forest land.

The present crisis posed by the Meredith case, is the third in its 144-year history the university has had only two major crises approaching the Meredith case. The first was the Civil War, when the university was closed for five years. The other was when Gov. Theodore G. Bilbo fired the chancellor and 24 faculty members in 1930. Although Ole Miss survived these crises, the school and the state suffered. University officials and students do not want that to happen again.