THE BLUE HEN
foreword...

To record and epitomize in permanent form the people, places, and organizations which have made up Delaware College during the past two years; to assemble criticisms and comments of Delaware's activities by those who know most about these activities; to produce a book of sufficient literary and artistic merit that all those connected with Delaware College might be proud to call it their record—such have been the purposes of the 1937-38 Blue Hen Staff.
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Dedication

This volume of the Blue Hen is dedicated to the fond memory of

Thaddeus Blair Ely, Jr.

a popular member of the graduating class of June, 1937, whose untimely death on April 7, 1937, brought to a premature end an active collegiate career just two months before he was to be graduated.
THE Blue Hen has had its name attached to quite a few institutions in Delaware. In fact, back in 1907, the staff of the Delaware College yearbook even decided to designate its publication by that name.

Just why did we have to penetrate into the realm of pigmented poultry to scare up a mascot for our otherwise conservative state? The writer has made a little investigation beyond the hen-coops and incubators of the contemporary domestic fowl back to the very Eve of Chickendom, and is still not quite sure about the reason.

Under no circumstances will the writer be egged into a debate as to which came first, the hen or the egg. You either take the chicken and the egg for granted or he won't waste any more time on you.

Obviously the first hen, basking in the sun in Eden, could not have been a blue hen. Why should she be blue? She had no egg quota and no ax in the background to make her downcast. However, the hour of wreckening arrived. Eve's sin put her into a world where the fruits of her labors were not even her own. Her eggs were all confiscated and either marketed in groups of twelve or used to subdue incompetent actors. This was one of the inevitable trials that her race had to endure in order that she might eventually gain the distinction of being the label for Delaware's somewhat annual yearbook.

But where did the blue hue crop up? That can be blamed on any one of several plausible explanations. Exposure to cold turns humans blue, and hens are no better than humans or at least not much better. Then of course disappointed lovers write blues songs. Perhaps the hen became frustrated in love too. Finally the dumb bird might have entered the world blue, which is likely and self-explanatory.

Thus by fair means or fowl, we have brought the Blue Hen up to the time of the American Revolution. The reader won't be going off half-cocked if he concludes that the Blue Hen and the Revolution are hooked up in some way. It seems that the grit and dash of the Delaware soldiers under one Captain Caldwell earned for them the name of "Caldwell's Game cocks." Because of their blue uniforms they later came to be called the "Blue Hen's Chickens." Finally the appellation Blue Hen was extended to the small state which mothered so many aggressive children. Anyway, it was only fitting and proper that the year book of the State University should bear the title Blue Hen.

And haven't the sons of Delaware earned the right to be called Blue Hen's Chicks. Grit, dash, and unlimited gameness have been in evidence wherever Delawareans have gamboled.

The reader must be warned against passing judgment on the chicks by the harassed demeanor of the hen which presides at the football games. That faded, jaded Blue Hen is at a disadvantage. What would you do if you were a chicken with ink all over you, before several thousand otherwise human beings going crazy at the slightest agitation of the inflated epidermis of some hapless...
Old College

Its white porticoes, its stately pillars, and the contrast of the lindens' dark foliage in front of it all combine to give Old College the effect of an etching of a colonial scene rather than of part of a modern campus. The oldest building of the University, it has served many purposes during its long life and is now the social center of Delaware College.
Although not as magnificent as Old College, Purnell Hall is likewise a colonial structure and helps balance the new with the old at Delaware. This building houses the offices of the History and English Departments.
Mitchell Hall

One of the more modern buildings on the campus, Mitchell Hall is an imposing structure characteristic of the general architectural style of the center campus. Its low dome and three arched doorway lend it a particular beauty. The auditorium, with a seating capacity of about 1000, is well equipped for college use.
Wolf Hall

WOLF HALL, first of the newer buildings, is built in the Georgian style. It is the home of the Department of Agriculture as well as of several other natural sciences.
Evans Hall

The engineering building, Evans Hall, is in the Georgian style. A note of unusual simplicity is given this large structure by the use of pilasters in contrast to the columns of the other buildings.
Chemistry Building

Designed to conform with the general architectural plan of the campus, the Chemistry Building is the newest addition to the campus. Funds for the construction of this building were donated by a friend of the University in response to the needs of a rapidly growing department.