

Jack Trice Stadium

title

JackTrice

artist

Christopher Bennett

Location:
**Jack Trice Stadium
(North east entrance)**
Material:
bronze
Size:
15.5 ft. by 11.3 ft. by 6.5ft
Date:
1988
Made possible by:
**Iowa State University
Government of the
Student Body**
Collection:
**Art on Campus Collection,
University Museums,
Iowa State University**



The Legend

To whom it may concern,

Oct.5, 1923

My thoughts just before the first real college game of my life. The honor of my race, family, and self is at stake. Everyone is expecting me to do big things. I will! My whole body and soul are to be thrown recklessly about the field tomorrow. Everytime the ball is snapped, I will be trying to do more than my part.

On all defensive plays I must break thru the opponents' line and stop the play in their territory. Beware of mass interference - - fight low with your eyes open and toward the play. Roll-back the interference. Watch out for cross bucks and reverse end runs. Be on your toes every minute if you expect to make good.

7:45 Jack

This letter was written by Jack Trice in his room at the Curtis Motel in Minneapolis, Minnesota the night before his first major college football game.

**University Museums/Art on Campus Program
Iowa State University Ames, Iowa**

1. Jack Trice (A)

Material: Bronze

Dimensions: 32" x 45" x 79"



The classically rendered bronze depicts Jack Trice dressed in collegiate wear of the 1920's. His right foot is raised onto a concrete circular bench, his elbow on his knee. In his hand is a letter he has just written, his mind consumed in reading it.

2. Books (B)

Materials: Bronze

Dimensions: 10" x 14" x 6"

A symbol of Jack Trice's accomplishments as a student. The books emphasize the importance of academics above all else. The cover of a closed book reads, *Animal Husbandry, Iowa State College by C. Sehn*. One book rests open as if he has been interrupted from his studies.

3. Bronze Shoes (C)

Materials: Bronze

Dimensions: 15" x 15" x 9"

His football shoes rest on the floor beside him. A reminder of the fatal game he played in 1923.

4. Plaque/ Letter (D)

Materials: Bronze

Dimensions: 19" x 14"

The left panel of the plaque has Jack Trice's famous letter engraved in it. The letter is the one he wrote in his motel room the night before the game with Minnesota. The right panel is engraved:

On October 6, 1923 Jack Trice played his only major college football game, a game in which he was fatally injured. Its first black athlete became the only student to die competing for Iowa State. Jack's strong character and values were attested to by his fine brief record as an athlete and student, by the praise of all who knew him and by the letter he wrote on the night before his one tragic game. This statue was erected by the students of Iowa State to memorialize the ideals of moral courage and ethical competition so embodied in the story of Jack Trice.

1987: SCULPTURE BY
CHRISTOPHER BENNETT

Christopher Bennett

About the Artist

Christopher Bennett, a native Iowan, specializes in classically rendered sculptures of human figures and animal wildlife. Christopher Bennett has degrees from Luther College, University of Colorado, University of Iowa, and the Naguib School of Sculpture. In 1979, Bennett established a studio in Fairfield, Iowa. He has spent his non-studio time teaching, giving lectures and conducting workshops. He has over 45 public commissioned works of art to his credit - - including a portrait of the mayor of Kofu, for the Kofu City Hall, Kofu, Japan.

Selected Commissions

Story County Community Life Center, Ames, Iowa
Central Lee Elementary Schools, Donnellson, Iowa
Denison High School Auditorium, Denison, Iowa
Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa
Public Library, Fairfield, Iowa
St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa
Warren County Courthouse Courtyard, Indianola, Iowa
Rolscreen, Inc., Pella, Iowa
Tama Civic Center, Tama, Iowa
Central Park, Fairfield, Iowa
Harlan Public Library, Harlan, Iowa
Audubon Elementary School, Dubuque, Iowa

*The **Iowa Art in State Buildings Program** was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa (Chapter 304A, Code 1979. Sections 8-14) to provide for the inclusion of fine arts projects in state building construction projects in cooperation with the Iowa Arts Council. At Iowa State University, the Art in State Buildings Program is administered by University Museums.

Jack Trice

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Additional information on *Jack Trice*, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps are available at the University Museums office 290 Scheman Building (2nd Floor) 515/294-3342, or visit us online at <http://www.museums.iastate.edu/>

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person!

Jack Trice was Iowa State College's first African American athlete. At the time, Jack was one of twenty African Americans on campus. Jack was raised on a farm near Hiram, Ohio and entered Iowa State College after his high school coach, Sam Willaman, became Iowa State's coach in 1922. Jack pursued a major in animal husbandry, earning a 90 percent average in the 45 college credits he completed. Athletic scholarships did not exist in 1922, so Jack worked odd jobs to support his wife (Cora Mae) and his mother. Being African American led Jack into intercollegiate discrimination; "some schools on Iowa State College's schedule expressed their wish not to play against a black." The night before Jack's fatal game, he was forced to stay at a different motel than the rest of the team.

Jack Trice suffered a broken collarbone during the first half of the October 6, 1923 game at Minnesota. He continued to play during the third quarter, when he was thrown on his back and trampled by three Minnesota players. He was taken to a Minneapolis hospital and released with the condition of "fit to travel." In Ames, Jack was taken to the university hospital where specialists determined that surgery was too dangerous. Jack Trice died of hemorrhaged lungs and internal bleeding at 3 PM on Monday, October 8, 1923. Four thousand students and faculty members attended his funeral service on central campus the following Tuesday. Jack's story has inspired generations of students since his tragic death.

The Honor

After seventy-five years, many dedications have been developed to honor the accomplishments of Jack Trice. A memorial scholarship was created, Iowa State's football stadium was renamed the Jack Trice Stadium, a memorial was established in the Jacobson Athletic Building's Gary Thompson Hall of Honor and a memorial sculpture was created in Jack's honor. The sculpture was unveiled in 1984, after three years planning and development. Sculptor, Christopher Bennett of Fairfield, Iowa, created the 1000 pound memorial. The creation and installation of the work was funded entirely by the Government of the Student Body. The Jack Trice Memorial Statue was originally installed in 1988 between Beardshear Hall and Carver Hall on Iowa State's central campus. In 1997, the sculpture was sent to Connecticut for restoration and, upon its return, installed at the north entrance to the Jack Trice Stadium.