

Coeds Now Have Equal Rights



PERCHING on Prexy porch are these cheerful students of 1898.

Cow College Welcomed Female Students But Look What Happened Since Then!

If you should be asked what made 1947 significant on the Penn State campus, you might give many replies. You might tell about Windcrest, the Thespian show, the football team, and the lack of good movies.

But how many would remember it marked the 75th year since women arrived on this campus? What has happened in those years? What has the fairer sex brought to the College? Who were some of the first student?

Let us imagine that it is August 29, 1871. Miss Ellen A. Cross, now Mrs. Ellen Cross Copp, has just registered at the College. She was the first woman student.

From some of her writings she tells us about her early college days. "My understanding of the origin of the women's department of the College is this. Dr. James Calder, president, believed in co-education and proposed it for the Pennsylvania State College. He invited two young women of Hillsdale to go with him to 'start the department.' I was fortunate in being one of the two invited." **First Chem Student**

Mrs. Copp gives us an account of her work. "My principle studies were Greek and chemistry. The facts of the four-year's course in chemistry and the vast importance and thoroughness of the course made a lasting impression on my mind."

Sara Ellen Robinson followed Miss Cross. Her father was Rev. Francis A. Robinson, M.A., Ph.D. At that time, he was professor of mathematics and civil engineering at the College. She says this is the reason for her attendance at a man's school. In early catalogs she is named as an instructor in music from 1871-73. She is now Mrs. J. H. Pillsbury, formerly of Waban, Mass.

Rebecca Hannah Ewing, Angola, Ind., was the first woman to receive a degree from the College. She was a member of the class of 1873.

Domestic Economy came to the campus in 1891. The course was introduced to give the women a knowledge of the application of science to the work of the kitchen and laundry. It also acquainted them with the principles of interior decoration. The Home Ec. depart. was established in 1907. Miss Lovejoy was the first dean. There were 20 coeds enrolled in October 1907.

Women in Journalism
Up until the 1900s women took very little part in activities. Caroline R. Hunter, '88, was named an associate editor of the Free Lance. According to Collegian, Nov. 5, 1926, the first women's debate team was organized.

In March 1918 "It Pays to Advertise" was the Thespian production. The program states: "On



BACK IN the '60s was Minerva Whitman, who attended botany classes of her father, Professor J. S. Whitman.

account of war conditions, it has been necessary for women to take the place of men in the female roles and the management hopes that the audience will note how satisfactorily the women do the work of men in these difficult parts. Verily, the war worked wonderful changes."

Honor women at the College were started in 1922. Bow, slipper, and fan were the names selected symbolic of the girls who will not become obsolete.

In the early days physical education was not required for women until 1882. Then 1893 marked the beginning of organized gym classes. The costumes consisted of heavy, blue wool serge bloomers, middie blouses, black

stockings and white tennis shoes. **Secret Sororities**

Greek letter societies started in 1911. One was organized at that time and kept a secret until 1912 when the organization was forced to disband. In June 1926, the Student Welfare Committee gave clubs permission to petition women's national fraternities. Chi Omega was the first one established in 1926. Today there are 19 sororities on the campus.

In 1871 six women were enrolled at the College. In 1918 there were 278 and in 1945 it grew to over 2300. More than 7,000 women have received degrees from this institution.

There have been 12 women who have served as Dean of Women. The first one was Jane W. Hoyt, preceptress and instructor in German and French. Her service lasted from 1872 to 1874. Charlotte E. Ray served from 1923 until 1946.

75 Years From Now?

With the passing of this anniversary one might ask, what will the next 5 years bring? Will the College return to a men's school or will women continue to prove their abilities as students?

From 1886 to 1890, some of the outstanding memories took place in the chapel. The girls sat one side and the boys on the other.

In a survey made by Miss Edith P. Chace, past head of the Home Economics School, 13 years after the first women students had been admitted to the College, it was discovered that 76.6% of all home economics women graduates of the first ten years obtained a Mrs. degree.

Room and board for women at the College was \$2 to \$3 a week in 1872.

Coeds Take Over All Dorms After Old Main Debut in 1872

Coeds on the campus in 75 years have not only taken over many of the College activities, but have also taken charge of all regular campus dormitories, as well as many town houses.

They started off in 1872 with the top floors of Old Main, and by 1947 had complete control of McAllister Hall, Women's Buildings, Grange Memorial Dormitory, Frances Atherton Hall and the Irvin Jordan, Watts Tri-Dorms.

There is quite a difference between the first rooms on the top floors of Old Main which were furnished with an iron single bed, two chairs, a table, a bureau, and a washstand, and the proposed new dormitories which will be provided with pastel colored rooms, bright curtains, large closet and desk space and all of the home luxuries.

WRA Activities Include All Coeds

Women's Recreation Association, which includes all undergraduate women in its membership, cooperates with the School of Physical Education and Athletics in establishing and promoting an extensive program of intramural and recreational activities for the entire women student body.

WRA was organized in 1919 to promote sports for girls. In 1920-21 a full athletic program was arranged, with teams competing in hockey, volleyball, basketball and track; and opportunity was given for individual competition in tennis and golf. The Association gradually strengthened its organization and improved its facilities.

By 1927, athletics for women developed rapidly and began to play an important part in student life. An intramural program for women was developed, with teams representing the sororities, dormitories and independent units under the direction of an intramural board consisting of a head manager and a representative from each of the constituent units.

In 1938-39 women's athletics entered upon a new era of progress, owing mainly to completion of Mary Beaver White Recreation Hall. WRA was organized, promoting a program of intramural and recreational activities for women students.

There are 11 organized clubs including archery, bowling, badminton, dancing, fencing, golf, rifle, swimming, tennis and riding clubs.

First Dorm "Ladies' Cottage"

The women's dormitory building program began back in 1888 when the College administration decided that the accommodations in Old Main were not sufficient for the women students, and the first permanent dormitory for women known as "The Ladies' Cottage," now called "Women's Building," was constructed.

The Ladies' Cottage had to be enlarged twice and then in 1915 McAllister Hall, a men's dormitory, was taken over and refurnished for women's occupancy.

During World War I many men and faculty went into the service, enabling some of the girls to live temporarily in the University Club. After the war, and the men came back to claim their quarters, women students were scattered in campus houses originally built for faculty families.

Freshmen Placed in Town

During the 1920's women applicants increased steadily; in fact more women students were refused admission each year than were admitted owing to lack of housing facilities. This situation was remedied partly by placing freshmen in town houses, and later by erection of the Grange Memorial Dormitory in 1930.

Because the Dormitory did not in any way reduce the number of town houses required for girls, the College officers decided on the building of Frances Atherton Hall in 1937.

Ex-Wac Enrolls in Ag

Among the group of former servicemen of Mifflin County enrolled in the Veterans Training in Agriculture program is one lone female, Miss Lillian Lane, ex-WAC.

STATE PARTY MIXER

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ALSO

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PRESENTS

AN INFORMAL DANCE

Saturday, March 15, 8 p. m.

at Woodman Hall (Cor. W. Hamilton and Allen)

for Members of X-GI Club,

Residents of Pollock Circle and Their Dates

are invited guests of the club this week