As They Celebrate Anniversary

Class of '83 Spent Dates In Parlors

By MARILYN JACOBSON

How would you like to spend your Saturday nights entertaining your date in the parlor, chaperoned by the Dean of Women?

According to the Frosh bible of 1883, that is exactly what you would do, and what's more, you would politely bid your young man good night promptly at 10:15.

In 1883, when the introduction of coeds to the campus was only a dozen years old, the Frosh bible states:

1. All requests to call on or accompany young ladies, and all requests on the part of young ladies to receive or accompany young gentlemen must be presented to the lady principal (dean of women) in the ladies' parlor between 6:45 and 7 p. m. daily except Sunday.

Get It in Writing!

2. No young lady is allowed to receive visits from gentlemen in the parlor or elsewhere or to accompany them outside the building without the previous permission of the lady principal. Gentlemen desiring to accompany young ladies outside of the building must first obtain written permission from the president.

Another stipulation of the old handbook says, "Young ladies are absolutely forbidden to hold any communication out of the windows or by means of the steam pipes."

Six Coeds vs. Fifty Men

From 1886 to 1890 some of the outstanding memories took place in the chapel. The girls sat on one side and the boys on the other. After chapel the boys scrambled to open the women's exit so that they could make dates with the coeds, as they passed, for the next literary society meeting. It was confusing as there were only six girls in the college and the society had 50 or more members.

There was no dancing before 1890. After that dances were among the most popular events. But only men who did not visit the Ladies' Cottage (Women's Bldg.) were allowed to attend.

Women Unchained

Excerpts from WSGA regulations in 1923 were pretty lenient. Seniors were allowed to walk off campus during the week, and all girls were allowed to walk in town unchaperoned Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights.

Even in those days there was considerable objection to women wearing trousers, for the regulations stated in no uncertain terms, "Knickers may be worn for athletic activities only."

Way back in 1871, the Board of Trustees at the College was confronted with a tremendous problem. Controversies, arguments, and debates ensued but finally by September of the same year, the question was decided. Women would be admitted to Penn State with the same general conditions men were subject to.

This decision seems to have been a wise one, for the number of women graduates of the College through February 1947 totals more than 5000.

1887 COEDS pose for glamor shot in button-trimmed, black silk

ALL SET for a hay ride are these coeds of 1914. What, no men?

Coeds Enforce Self-Rule 32 Years; Recent Laws Show Liberal Change

Government of women students was first under care of the faculty. In the fall of 1915 the Women's Student Government Association was formed, operating in the beginning through a council, which was superseded in 1920-21 by the establishment of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

To the Women's Association was entrusted control of women in residence halls, on the campus, at social functions, and at public places in town or in the vicinity of State College, according to regulations enacted.

Disobdience of these regulations was dealt with by the Judicial Committee, in conjunction with the Senate. There was no connection between men's and women's student governments.

All College Cabinet

Complete reorganization of the constitution of Men's Student Government came in March 1939. The WSGA accepted this constitution, thereby uniting all students under one government. Both organizations kept their identity; simply joined hands in the All College Cabinet, which legislates on common problems.

Privileges were much restricted in 1915-16, though they became more liberal as time passed. "Quiet Hours" were maintained in the dorms practically all the time. Girls were required to be in the dorms by 10 p.m. and the telephone could not be used after 8 p.m.

College Has Right to Boast About Its Coed Graduates

By Janet Adler

Penn State has a right to boast about its women graduates of the past 75 years if records prove anything! The College can claim women eminent in the fields of psychiatry ,physics, journalism, education, and many others.

The School of Chemistry and Physics has contributed a prominent psychiatrist in Dr. Florence Powdermaker, '15. She is now Associate in Psychiatry at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and attending physician at Vanderbilt University.

Famous Journalist

A foreign correspondent for the Associated Press, Helen Camp Palmer, '40, is the contribution of the journalism department. She has achieved nation-wide recognition for her human-interest feature stories.

Miss Elvira A. Burdick, '23, from the School of Education, is now Dean of Women at Connecticut College for Women.

The music department is proud of Miss Barbara Troxell, '37, who has become a concert, opera, and oratorio singer, and has won the Lucius Pryor award for outstanding singing.

Dr. Laura White Murphy, '32, who graduated in Arts and Letters, is now County Supervisor of special education in Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

Psychology Councilor

Dr. Margaret Mercer, '34, also graduating in Arts and Letters, holds the position of Psychology Councilor at Lock Haven State Teachers College.

The School of Home Economics offers as one of its outstanding graduates, Pauline Sanders, '20. Miss Sanders is the chief of the Division of Home Economics in the Department of Public Instruction at Harrisburg.

And there are prominent woman graduates right in "our own back yard." Acting Dean of Women at the College, Miss Pearl O. Weston, is a graduate of the School of Education in the class of '29.

Hetzel Commends Place of Women In Commonwealth

"Our present point of view on the education of women is such that it is difficult to envision the early years of this institution when no provision was made for the admission of women students. In fact, it seems almost that instead of celebrating the logical action taken to admit them seventy-five years ago, we might be regretting that it could not have been done sooner.

"Yet this college was among the first to make collegiate education available to women in a general movement that culminated in the 1870s and 1880s in the establishment of many of our leading women's colleges and in the development of co-education.

"We take for granted now that educational opportunities at the college level not only should be made available to women, but that in the interests of everyone they must be made available. Education is not just vocational training. It is a preparation for living.

"The responsibilities of women in our homes, our schools, the business world, and as citizens, make it imperative that they be well prepared with a 'liberal and practical education....in the several pursuits and professions of life,' a goal set forth in the Morrill Land-Grant Act.

"We look back with satisfaction on the day this fact was realized and the opportunities offered here, and we look forward to ever increasing opportunities for educational development of the women of this great Commonwealth."

R. D. HETZEL
President

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