

## WRA Open House To Acquaint New Coeds with White Hall

Women's Recreational Association invites all Sophomore women to attend its annual Open House in White Hall from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, September 24.

The purpose of the Open House will be to acquaint new students with the recreational facilities of White Hall and the general organization of women's activities. A recreation period will also be provided, according to Pauline Globisch, WRA president.

The activities of WRA, which is composed of every undergraduate student, are headed by the Executive Board. Under it are the Club President's Board, the Intramural Board and the Social Activities Board. The general aim of these organizations is to promote and maintain an extensive program of intramural and recreational activities for the women student body. Opportunities for the development of team and individual skills are offered to all women interested in the various sports and activities.

### WRA Began in 1919

WRA started in 1919 when an athletic program was arranged to include teams and individuals competing in hockey, volleyball, basketball, track, tennis, and golf. In 1927 the present intramural program was developed with teams representing the sororities, dormitories and independent units. When the Mary Beaver White Recreational Hall was built in 1938, women's athletics entered upon a new era.

### 10 WRA Clubs

Ten clubs are organized under the Club President's Board and give instruction to beginners and advanced members in the particular field for which each is organized. Intramural tournaments, novelty matches, and exhibitions are given to encourage participation in these clubs which meet once a week on regularly scheduled nights. Clubs are badminton, bowling, bridge, dance, fencing, golf, outing, rifle, swimming and tennis.

The Intramural Board is in charge of all intramural competi-

## WRA Greet New Students

Dear Sophomores:

The Women's Recreation Association welcomes you to Penn State, and hopes you will spend many leisure hours in "our" White Hall.

Here "bluebook blues" are forgotten in the environment of the beautiful swimming pool, bowling alleys, gyms, dance rooms, and rifle range. Here, also, is wholesome fellowship among classmates, and a chance to improve one's skill in many games and sports, for WRA provides instruction in 10 recreative clubs.

So, dear sophs, come on down to White Hall and join the gang!

—Pauline Globisch, President WRA.

tion including hockey, basketball, volleyball, softball, tennis, table tennis, bowling and badminton. The group winning the most points in intramural competition is awarded an intramural cup.

Included among WRA activities are a Christmas party for needy children, the annual WRA Sweetheart Dance, the swimming aquacade, Modern Dance Club concert and swimming telegraphics.

## Coeds... Then and Now

It was in 1872 that Ellen A. Cross Copp of Janesville, Wis., the first coed at the College was graduated. She is believed to be the first woman in this country to be ordained into the ministry. Previously she had qualified for a doctor philosophy degree, and was the first woman to earn this distinction.

Mrs. Copp was brought to the College by Dr. James Calder, president at that time, who believed in co-education. Her principle studies were Greek and chemistry.

Just 65 years ago in 1883 if a gentleman wished to call or accompany a young lady he had first to present a request to the Lady Principal.

But the young ldy had her say, also, and before our hero could meet the coed of his dreams, she had to present a request to receive him to the Lady Principal. Even after all this trouble, our young student friend and his blushing coed could only see each other in the Ladies' Parlor between 6:45 and 7 p.m., daily except Sunday.

The strictness of these rules must have been interfering with the academic work of both the women and men students, because in a very few years the dating code was altered slightly. Permission was still required and the Lady Principal chaperoned all parlor dates, but a coed could remain with her beau until 10:15 Friday night, 8 p.m. Sunday, and 9 p.m. during the week. Gentlemen needed written permission from the College President to accompany ladies beyond the building doors.

It was strictly tabu in those days for young ladies to communicate by voice or note out of windows or by rapping on the steam pipes. (That was when both coeds and men shared the same dormitory—Old Main.) Rules, then were faculty-made and the present luxury of Atherton, Simmons, and McElwain Halls, with a telephone in every room, was unheard of.

In 1883 studying was strictly regulated by the faculty. Young ladies could not study in the parlor, visit or receive visits in the parlor or elsewhere during study hours. No coeds could study in the rooms of other coeds.

Violations of these rules were treated like absences from recitations or public exercises. If a young lady met visitors or communicated via window or steam pipes, she received 50 censure marks and an official admonition from the Lady Principal, who also notified her parents. A second offense placed the culprit on probation.

With the advent of the nineties, Penn State followed the trend toward gaiety and at certain times and at specially designated and appropriately chaperoned places, students were permitted to dance.

It wasn't until 1923 that seniors could walk off campus during the week and all coeds could walk in town unchaperoned Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings.

In these days, dating for liter-

## Coeds Regulate Activities Through Own Governing Body

Women's Student Government Association is the coeds' "own" organization. It is composed of all women students enrolled at the College, and serves as their governing and regulating body.

WSGA was originated in 1915 because the College Administration felt that coeds should have the responsibility of running their part of campus life. Up to that time, the government of women students was in charge of the faculty. In 1920 a House of Representatives and Senate succeeded the first WSGA council.

## WSGA Asks Participation

Greetings to all new women students.

On behalf of W.S.G.A. we wish to welcome you to the Pennsylvania State College. You will probably have suggestions which will be valuable to the organization, so do not hesitate to tell us. Enter into activities enthusiastically. We are relying upon you to strengthen the spirit of unity and the sense of responsibility existing among the students.

Janet Lyons, W.S.G.A. President

## Coeds Welcome At White Hall

that was built just for coeds, not only for their classes, but for their spare time as well. This low, red-brick structure at the southeast end of the campus houses the women's physical education and recreation classes and is known to all as White Hall.

Built in 1938, Mary Beaver White Hall offers facilities for the physical education classes during school hours as well as equipment and rooms for recreational clubs. A large gymnasium in the center of the building contains enough room for three basketball games to be played at one time. This room is also used for badminton and indoor tennis.

**Rhythm Room**  
To the left of the gym is the rhythm room where classes in rhythmic fundamentals, modern dance and square dance are taught. Beside this room is the playroom which is open to students at all times. At the other end of the building is a large class room and body mechanics room.

The 135,000 gallon swimming pool, 75 feet long and from 3 to 10 feet deep, is open to coeds for plunge hours where they may swim to recorded music.

**Bowling Alleys**  
White Hall offers women students two bowling alleys, a shuffleboard deck, a squash court, indoor rifle range and a fencing room.

Also housed in the building are the offices of the women's physical education department, a large lounge, and the meeting rooms of the Women's Student Government Association and the Women's Recreation Association.

Open from 8 a. m. to 9 p. m. every day except Sunday, White Hall offers the women a great opportunity in recreation and physical education.

ary society meetings, a very popular extra-curricular activity, was as fashionable as current big weekends.

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### NO WOMEN ON THESPIANS

Thespians, campus musical organization, did not admit women until 1926. However there was one exception—during the World War I man-power shortage, women were cast in the March 1918 show, "It Pays to Advertise."

This somber explanation appeared on the program:

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

There are 19 national women's fraternities on campus.