Alumna Recounts Haunting, Ghostly Tradition

By Audrey McAnulty Jennings ('33)

Among the many accomplishments of our beloved founder, was her expertise at the pipe organ. We all looked forward to Mary Sibley's ghost returning to play the Sibley Chapel Organ each All Hallow's Eve. This recital was anticipated all over campus and all windows were open for the event.

I was a pipe organ major in the music department at Lindenwood from 1929 to 1933 and I am proud to confess that I was the medium through which Mary Sibley's ghost entertained us during those years.

Each All Hallow's Eve, Mother Wenger, Sibley Hall's house mother, knocked on my door at precisely 11:30 p.m. The 10:30 "lights out" rule was strictly enforced so the campus was totally darkened! Even now I can hear the familiar shuffling of her house slippers as she proceeded down the hall to the door of my room on the second floor.

One light knock and there she stood, finger at her lips and the flashlight in her hand to guide us down the steps, past Dean Gibson's apartment to the chapel and the stage where the huge Kelgen pipe organ console stood waiting for Mother Wenger, Mary Sibley and me.

The Chapel windows had been opened for the benefit of all the expectant ears in the five dormitories nearby. I climbed on the bench and opened the hymnbook to the marked page. As Mother Wenger aimed the flashlight on the hymnbook, the strains of "Nearer My God to Thee" rang out. The organ was opened to full power--motto fortissimo and the mighty paean resounded across the campus.

The metamorphosis had taken place and Mary Sibley was home! Students of Lindenwood--next Halloween--open your windows at midnight and tune in to Mrs. Sibley's high-flying frequency. I always do and always will.