Lindenwood Girls of Century Ago
Wore Woolen Sunbonnets

By Jerry Sandall

One hundred fourteen years ago, Lindenwood College had its beginning in a forest of red-twigged trees overlooking the Missouri River. Inspired by the need of high school education for women in the sparsely settled Southwest, Major George C. Sibley acquired 120 acres in 1857, purchased the 120 acres which one year later became the site for our college.

The first building, erected in 1851, was made of logs hewn from the forest in which it was established. It accommodated 30 or 40 girls who made their arrival by stagecoach from various parts of the state and surrounding country.

The woman, under whose direction the school was conducted for many years, was Mary Eston Sibley. She endeavored her best to help pupils because of her refreshing sense of humor, her indomitable will, and her ingeniosity. She was a brisk and energetic woman who pursued her objectives with such great persistence that her students were prompted to write a humorous song about her. The melody was to the tune of "Aunt Mary's Coming" which sold at Lindenwood for five cents a copy.

She provided indoor and outdoor activities as playing the piano, horseback riding, and scarlet flannel dresses which she bought at a dollar a pair. Mrs. Sibley was a familiar sight in St. Charles as she rode around in her carriage drawn by a gray and white horse. This vehicle was called at Lindenwood, the "Ship of Zion.

When in 1880 the college was deeded by Major and Mrs. Sibley to the Presbytery of St. Louis, funds were raised to build the first addition of the building now known as Sibley Hall. This building was three stories high, had accommodations for 40 boarders, was lighted by gas, and heated by furnaces. Rev. Mr. A. V. C. Sebeneck was secured as president and the college opened with 80 students enrolled.

The Lindenwood girl of the late 19th century was distinguishable not for her knowledge, neck, or2
d ecorous jackets of present days, but for her bonnet of white, woolen or bonnets, lined with pink or blue, or wore. At that time was not in vogue and extravagacy in dress was not the mode. Three calico frocks and two woolen ones for every occasion were the average student's wardrobe.

Rules and regulations were different. Right censorship of the mail was imposed upon the Lindenwood girls of 1860 when all mail was received and answered through the president of the college. Students were allowed to correspond with only two parties and these had to have parental approval. Letters to and from undesirable parties were unceremoniously destroyed. Shopping was attended to by the girls on Saturdays in company of a teacher. Tatting was regarded as not in keeping with Lindenwood ideals and was forbidden. The visits of young men, unless married relatives, could not be received. No pupil was allowed to attend balls, parties, or circuses. Social events of that time seemed to consist of heated debates over such subjects as the practicability for young ladies at school to receive the attentions of young men or "And dancing morally wrong."

The period of years from 1870 to 1891 did not bring about much change in the school, which at that time was headed for a financial crisis. But in 1914, the college began to move forward when Dr. John L. Roemer became president. Per- suaded by Col. James Gay Butler, one of Lindenwood's greatest benefactors, to give up his pulpit, Dr. Roemer came to Lindenwood and under his able executive leadership, in 1927. This school, now called Lindenwood College, then became a standard four-year college and its work placed on a par with that done in the great universities and colleges.

But in spite of the immense changes which have been wrought over a period of 114 years—years which have seen startling changes brought about over all the world—the college still remains essentially true to the purpose for which it was founded—to provide young women a place where they may receive a higher education which will best fit them for their place in society.

What Last Year's Students Are Doing

Wedding bells rang for Barbara Adams this summer when she married Richard Trexler of Louisville, Ky., and for Jacqueline Jopling who became the wife of William Carr of Fort Sumter, N. M.

The University of Wisconsin has claimed three of Lindenwood's last year students, Peggy Dodge, Joan McCulloch, and Florence Velenga. Joan Mauk is attending the College of Public Affairs at Iowa University. Evelyn Wright and Nebraska University has claimed Nancy B.H. Charlotte Ching is remaining in Hawaii to attend the University of Hawaii. Jo Arden Meredith is attending the University of Wisconsin and Marion Stareman of Kentucky State.

Dolores Anderson is teaching English to the high school girls of Austinville, Va. Terrie Larson is doing office work in Sioux Falls, S. D., and Nancy Hopkins is doing social work in Chicago.

House Presidents

The appointment of house-presidents for the dorms has been announced for the year 1940-41.

They are: Ayres Hall, Geraldine Bilton—house president, Sue Riley and Anne Taylor—staff.

Irwin Hall, Mildred Tank—house president, Maxine Lee, secretary-treasurer, Betty Myers, Peggy Kimbro, Betty Burnham—staff.

Sibley Hall, Marion Weitzen—house president, Carol Davenport, secretary-treasurer, Genevieve Sherwin, Betty Lillibridge, Betty Runge, Ruth Dayton, Mary Riggis—staff.

Butler Hall, Margaret Cannon—house president, Mary Sue Tallman—secretary-treasurer, Anna Mae Rahn—Ann Rose Lue Cuhape, Barbara Tenny, Doris Naghlan, Gayla Fletcher—staff.

Nicelles Hall, Bette Gierse—house president, Betty Daniels, Corine Baker, Velma Canfield, Ann Fuerreiras, Marie H. Stumberg, Betty Cobb, Helen L. Paul—staff.

Senior Hall, Evelyn Bradley—house president; Eastlick Hall, Jein Osborn—house presidents.

The house-presidents and their staffs met Tuesday evening, Oct. 14, for a social hour.

Answers to Linden Bark Quiz

1. Cornelia Otis Skinner.
2. Dr. George Frederick Ayres, a former president of Lindenwood.
3. Missouri University's football star.
4. False. Lindenwood is 11 years older than the University of Missouri.
5. A metal.
6. Russia has not revealed its position on the Rome-Tokyo Axis.
7. False.
8. Lord Lothian is England's ambassador to the United States.
10. Both. The motion picture was made from the novel of the same name.

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