No Mixers or Dates for Granny At L. C. in 1880; Limit on Letters

By Marilyn Memrie

Great-grandmother, wearing her blushed skirt, braided jacket, and feathered bonnet, stepped out of the horse drawn carriage at Lindenwood Female College and onto the campus of St. Charles, Missouri. It was the year 1881 and Fother had paid his daughter’s tuition of $225.00 which included room, board, heat, and gaslight.

There were only 50 boarding students that year, according to the 1880 catalog, source of the information in this story. The administration had no ambition for a school enrollment in the 100’s, few they wished to preserve the family idea, and sought to teach pupils individually, not in platoons.

Mail from the “outside” in this post Civil War period was rare for these 50 young women. All letters, books, periodicals, newspapers, or packages had to be sent and received through the lady principal. Parents were required to forward to the president the names of the parents (not exceeding two) with whom they wished their daughters to correspond. Parents were earnestly requested not to permit much correspondence, as it took time from recreation and reading. If parents wished to send gifts to their daughters, they were to send only standard works of history and poetry, because boxes of sweetmeats sent from home were found to be injurious to health and discipline.

Girls were not allowed to date with men because they were strictly taboos. Young gentlemen callers were not received unless they were near relatives. Parties were unheard of at Lindenwood in the 1880’s. But in addition to the time spent in study, an hour daily was set apart during which the principal read aloud to the young ladies while they engaged in sewing or fancy work.

Lindenwood Female College was not a “finishing” school, though the administration did aim to inculcate refinements of mind and manners. A regular course of lectures upon the requirements of modern etiquette was made a part of school work. All correction of the manners of pupils was made private so that their proper pride was not wounded or their self-respect injured. Dress was simple but neat. Uniform was no place for the display of jewelry and fine dresses. They were out of place at Lindenwood, and in bad taste.

Every young lady was expected to take exercise every day. At that time the physical education department had no facilities for swimming, basketball, or hockey. The gymnasium was supplied with a full apparatus for physical culture. Crank weights, sand bags, windlufs, clubs, flying and traveling rings, and parallel bars. Pupils were required to wear regulation gymnasium suits of the college, consisting of two pieces, a blouse and divided skirt of navy blue flannel.

For dinner, great-grandmother attended no Saturday night mixers nor did she go into St. Louis on a “finishing” tour. The weekends were frequently spent in fishing excursions, hiking, picnics, or similar enjoyments. All shopping had to be done on Saturday and in common with the other teachers.

Now, several generations later, in December of 1980—a young lady at Lindenwood—first finds the rules and regulations much changed from the strict era, during which great-grandmother attended Lindenwood Female College.

Sibley Ghost Prowls

Scared of ghosts? Afraid of spooky tales? If your answer is affirmative, then best you leave campus Sunday night. Why? Because Mrs. Sibley’s ghost will roam again.

Annually on Halloween L. C. girls eagerly await the arrival of the founder of our college as she leaves her grave in the Lindenwood cemetery and returns to Sibley Hall to play the prank if you’re lucky, you’ll be standing outside the doors of Sibley Chapel to witness Mrs. Sibley’s return to the grave.

So you don’t believe in ghosts? Just stick around tomorrow night—see how quickly you can change your mind!

Mu Phi Epsilon Host Nov. 9

Founders Day of Mu Phi Epsilon national professional music sorority, will be celebrated by a program at the theatre Nov. 9, in the Fine Arts Building. Preliminary announcements of the program at the tea will be Beverly Randall, soprano, accompanied by Virginia Morgan; Parry Bartlett, and Row- ney Dysart, soprano, accompanied by Gene Samuel. The entice faculty and administration is invited to attend.

This society was founded Nov. 13, 1903, by Professor Winthrop S. Sterling, dean of the college of music, at Cincinnati, Ohio. All Mu Phi chapters commemorates its founding every year.

The organization sponsors Grade A Song school for underprivileged children in Chicago, Ill. It also offers scholarships to young talented musicians to enable them to complete their music education.

This year’s officers are Carile Samuel, president; Beverly Randall, vice-president; Virginia Morgan, secretary, and Ann Suwyer, treasurer. Miss Gertrude Iloeder, professor of music, is the sponsor.

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What's the Shock Shop

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You are married, and that is Bob in her life and social life is too limited for students who can’t date, said Ruth. Playing bridge and the piano, and laughing with her roommate make up the greatest part of Ruth’s social life.

Bob, who is a graduate of Westminster and an SAE, will be seeing Ruth at Christmas and this summer, but she plans to teach in the elementary schools in Kansas City next year. When asked what she wanted most, Ruth said, “To get my B.S. so I can really work more on my M.S.”

Pat Wilkerson Meisel, who became Mrs. Sept. 1, of this year, says that life is now a “mad series of teaching school, going to school, keeping house, and going to rehearsal, but it’s wonderful!” Pat is a speech and English major with a minor in education. Mr. Meisel, in the head of the drama department at St. Charles High and keeps Pat busy as his practice teacher. Pat is vice-president of Alpha Pi Omegna, national drama fraternity, secretary-treasurer of Pi Alpha Mu, English society. She was president of F.T.A. last year and is still active in F.T.A. and Young Republicans. Her sophomore year was spent as an attendant to the Sweetheart Val-entine Ball.

Pat and Bart met last year when they both had roles in an L.C. play, and they fell in love and the spring they again played together in “The Diary of a Doll’s House,” now in rehearsal. Pat plans to teach speech and drama, following in her husband’s footsteps. “We make a good team

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