
The Open Gate

by Carolyn Sutch Schumacher

Foreword

IN 1895 the Western University of Pennsylvania became a co-educational institution when it admitted two sisters to the college, Stella and Margaret Stein. In that year, this small school in old Allegheny, later to become the University of Pittsburgh, joined a growing number of educational institutions that were opening their doors to women. Typically, in a newly integrated college, the classroom doors were opened, but the extra-curricular organizations continued to be for men only. Participation in honor societies, fraternities, service clubs, and social and professional societies contributed to what progressive educators called "the well rounded person." It was the extra-curricular activities that made a college education more than just course work. Exclusion from these organizations put women at a disadvantage.

In 1940, in preparation for the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the admission of women to the university, the Alumnae Association asked twenty-nine association members to write essays on the various women's organizations at Pitt. The focus was suitable because one measure of the progress Pitt women had made since 1895 was their ability to create their own campus society.

By 1945, the History Committee had received twenty-one historical essays, nineteen on women's organizations in existence in 1945 and two essays on Pitt women's activities during the two World Wars. Several were published in university publications, and all twenty-one were deposited in the University Archives, in manuscript form, in a hand-bound leather volume.¹ Five essays are reprinted here, and

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¹ In 1986, some forty years later, the essays came to light again in the search for material for an exhibit for another Pitt anniversary celebration, the Bicentennial in 1987. The Bicentennial Exhibit on the history of women at Pitt is scheduled to open at the William Pitt Union Gallery in March 1987. All additional source material for this article was found in the University Archives, University of Pittsburgh.

several more are excerpted in the Introduction below, to recount some of the activities of women at Pitt during the fifty-year period 1895 to 1945, and to offer some insights into the expectations and attitudes of American college women in the first half of the twentieth century.

Introduction

By the end of the nineteenth century, Americans in all walks of life were forming a wide variety of organizations: professional societies, social clubs, service and charitable organizations, special-interest associations, ethnic societies, and recreational and athletic clubs. The proliferation of collegiate organizations was part of this national trend, and college women at Pitt were determined to catch up to the men. By 1923, twelve years after the first women's organization was formed, there were forty-five University of Pittsburgh organizations that accepted women. Nineteen were for women only, another seventeen were social sororities, and nine accepted both men and women. At that time men could join forty-nine organizations. Six were exclusively for men, thirty-four were social fraternities, and nine accepted men and women.² The Department of the Dean of Women, established in 1919, was an influential factor in promoting organizations for women.

By 1945, when the fiftieth anniversary articles were written, there were still nineteen organizations for women only, another fourteen national social sororities, and nine groups that accepted both men and women for a total of forty-two organizations available to women. The men had ten exclusive campus groups, plus ten social fraternities, and the nine organizations for both men and women, for a total of twenty-nine organizations for men in 1945. The total number of organizations declined temporarily during World War II.³

2 *The Owl* (Yearbook), University of Pittsburgh, 1923.

3 *The Owl* (Yearbook), University of Pittsburgh, 1945. Few organizations in the university today are single sex. In 1985-86 the *Student Organization Handbook* listed 146 organizations. Excluding social fraternities and sororities, only four were single sex: three were for women only, one for men only. The women's groups were the Women's Choral, Lambda Kappa Sig for women in pharmacy, and Steel City Tigers Soccer Club. The men's group was Men's Glee Club. Three groups, Men's Volleyball, Women in Medicine, and The Society of Women Engineers, had single sex titles, but they stated that they were open to all students. In addition, there were fifteen social sororities and twenty-five social fraternities listed. A number of national social fraternities have integrated membership, but they are among the most reluctant organizations to do so.

Fellowship was an important concern of the many women who started organizations on campus. The Young Women's Christian Association, chartered in 1911, the first women's organization on the Pitt campus, was established just after the university moved from the North Side to Oakland. Deirdre Baird, in her essay "YWCA at Pitt," emphasized the Y's dedication to the spiritual and social needs of women, and she emphasized the importance of the well-rounded student.

Since its founding, the YWCA at Pitt has had as its chief concern the rounded development of women students in the University. . . . The girl who finds pleasure and satisfaction in association with others of similar religious background and experience, the girl who feels shy and lonely in a large urban university, the girl who puts studies before activities and needs an outlet for her ideas in an organization which will not take up too much of her time . . . all find stimulation in the Pitt YWCA.⁴

Women students were also interested in campus politics. Betty Adams Schweppe wrote in "The History of Class Organizations":

From the time women entered the University until the turn of the century, they attended classes but had no part in the organization, planning, or success of campus activities. Their number was so small that they could not effectively organize, so they bided their time until their numbers and abilities could be felt. It was 1912 before the murmur of the feminine voice was heard.⁵

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. . . Men still held all the offices in the aggregate class organizations and dictated the policies of campus behavior. Since the men were grouped together socially by classes, in the fall of 1912 the women, finding a no more workable setup, divided into classes and elected their own officers. . . .

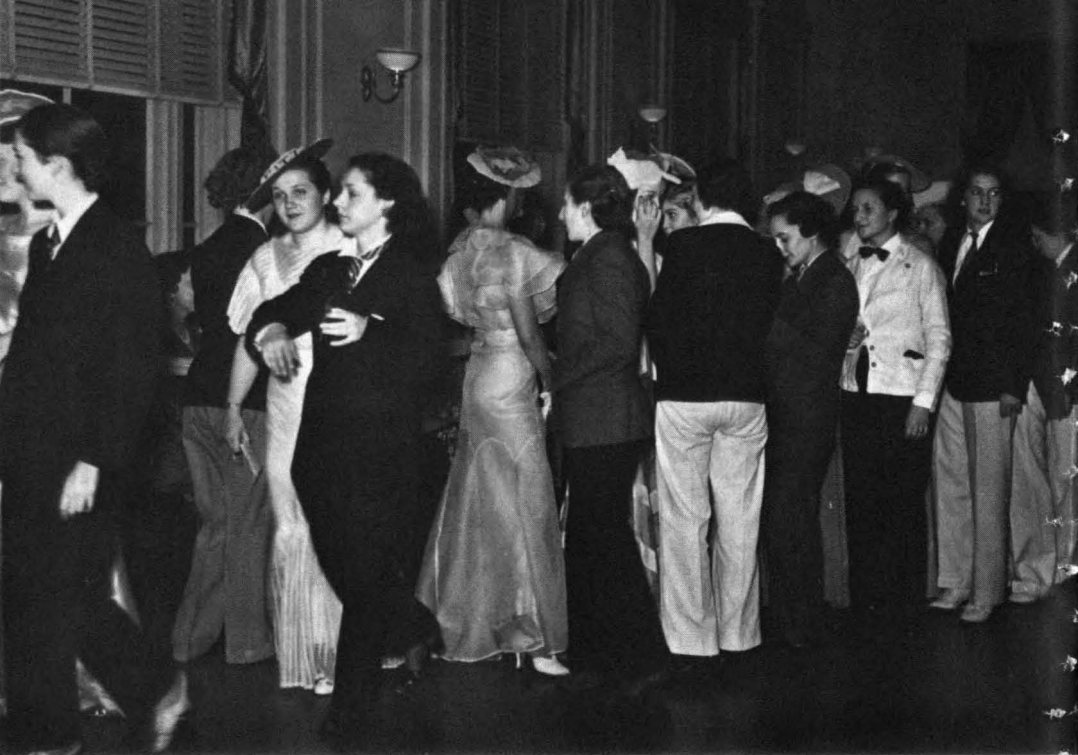
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Two situations prompted the women to separate from the men in political organization. In the decade following their entrance into the University, women had no planned social program; as they grew in number, it became increasingly evident they needed some organized fun to enjoy one another's company and to form mutual friendships. This basic idea was later extended especially to the new student, the Freshman Woman, to make her feel at home in her new surroundings and encourage her to be an active member of the University. This was a radical departure from the masculine philosophy of hazing. Thus a need for a social program and a progressive philosophy on orientation of freshmen gave women their basic reasons for a separate organization from men.

The women's organizations generally shared the belief that hazing (humiliating and meaningless initiations for new students) was an inappropriate welcome for freshmen. Under the tutelage of Thyrsa Amos, the Dean of Women, the concept of mentoring, rather than harassing, became the standard for women.

4 Published in *The Alumni Review*, University of Pittsburgh (Autumn 1945): 7.

5 In 1911, there were 326 women and 1373 men enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh.



At the "Coed Prom," October 7, 1936 (courtesy University Archives, Hillman Library, University of Pittsburgh)

Organizations often assumed a social function, even though their primary purpose was academic or professional. The Women's Athletic Association, first organized in 1919, was dedicated to promoting healthful exercise and fostering an interest in sports. Basketball was the first and only sport available to women then. Under the guidance of the Women's Athletic Association, the program expanded to volleyball, archery, riding, tennis, bowling, badminton, and dancing. The WAA contributed to campus social life by sponsoring dances. The "Coed Prom," started in 1922, was especially interesting for the fact that senior women dressed as men and escorted freshmen women to the dance. A formal dance, the "Bal Mistique," replaced the "Coed Prom" in 1938.

Six of the commemorative essays were about the women's professional organizations. These organizations were dedicated to encouraging women to aspire to the highest level in their field, and their social gatherings provided opportunities to meet other women with similar academic interests. They appear to have combined two functions now called consciousness-raising and networking.

Quax was an early science fraternity organized in 1919 by women in biology. One of their goals was to encourage women to continue to pursue their interest in research.⁶ In her essay about Quax, Edna Higbee reported the results of a 1943 alumnae survey that showed many of their members had indeed gone on to get higher degrees:

From a recent alumnae survey it is apparent that during the years of Quax's active work as a College Honorary, the purpose of the group continues to be fulfilled. From data concerning only 90 of our 300 alumnae, we found that eight to ten per cent of the group hold Ph.D. degrees, twenty to twenty-five per cent have earned either M.A. or M.S. degrees, and four or five per cent have the degree M.D.⁷

Idaka, the club for pre-nursing students, was formed in 1939.⁸ The bylaws stated that its purpose was "to promote social activity and good fellowship among students who are interested in nursing; to acquaint students with the various divisions of the School of Nursing; to promote fellowship between the faculty and administration of the School of Nursing and the students; and to develop and stimulate interest in nursing as a profession for college women." The organization fostered professional status for nurses.

The other four professional organizations leaned toward networking. Phi Delta Gamma, a national fraternity for graduate women in professional schools, was organized at Pitt in 1935. The organization provided contacts with women prominent in professional circles and an opportunity to become acquainted with women pursuing many different fields of graduate work. Phi Chi Theta, the national women's professional fraternity in schools of business administration, was first organized at Pitt in 1920 by women in Evening School economics, accounting, and finance courses. Their goal, as stated by Doris J. Wallace, was "To promote the cause of higher business education and training for all women, to foster high ideals for women in business careers, and to encourage fraternity and cooperation among women preparing for such careers, and to stimulate the spirit of sacrifice and unselfish devotion to the attainment of such ends." The special problems of night school students are discussed in the essay printed below by Ella I. Chalfant on "Pitt Women's Club," another organization in the Evening School.

6 "Quax" was a whimsical name. According to author Edna Higbee, "The pin of the organization was to be a 'Q' standing for the quest of the unknown. When the sample pin came from the jeweler it had a small pearl added as an eye and the tail of the Q looked like feet."

7 The survey form was called "Quax Queries" and the results were published in mimeographed form.

8 "Idaka" is from an American Indian word meaning "to serve."

There were two professional societies for women in the School of Education. Pi Lambda Theta, first organized at Pitt in 1914, fostered professional spirit and the highest standard of scholarship and professional training. Alpha Beta Gamma was a professional club organized in 1939 for women majoring in elementary education. The Greek letters equivalent to "ABC" were considered a fitting choice for aspiring elementary school teachers. Since the majority of elementary education students were women, they decided to make it a women's fraternity. Men were offered unofficial honorary membership. This was a social and professional club, with emphasis on the social. Both education organizations concentrated on meeting people in the field for professional growth.

Many of the 1945 essays mention Heinz House, a one-story wooden structure high on the hill just beyond Alumni Hall. It became the women's building in 1919, the same year it was built, and the year that Thyrsa Amos, the first Dean of Women, was hired. The women's organizations held their dinners, dances, and meetings there in the central room dominated by a large fireplace. The Dean of Women, the YWCA, and other women's organizations had offices there. The reminiscences about "dear old" Heinz House express universal enthusiasm and affection for the building. Photographs of women lounging on the wicker furniture on the front porch looking out over Oakland confirm accounts that it was the most agreeable facility women at the university ever had. In 1942 Heinz House was closed, and all women's activities were moved to the twelfth floor of the Cathedral of Learning.

The following five fifty-year commemorative essays are printed in edited versions: "The Open Gate," the story of the Stein sisters' experience at WUP, written by Barbara Fetterman Moran, Margaret Stein's daughter; "Pitt Women's Club," the organization started by Evening School students, by Ella I. Chalfant; the "Women's Speech Association," whose members frequently went into politics and law, including the author, Judge Genevieve Blatt; "Pitt Women and the First World War," by Marie McSwigan; and "Pitt Women and World War II," by Ruth Lee Dierker. There is a postscript at the end called "An Explanation," written by Dr. Annabelle Livingston McKarahan (signed A. L. McK.), describing the work of the Fifty Year Anniversary Committee.

A complete list of the twenty-one titles and authors appears in the Appendix.

The Open Gate
by Barbara Fetterman Moran

On a beautiful fall morning in 1895, the two sisters, Stella Mathilde Stein and Margaret Stein, waited for a Perrysville Avenue street car, their hearts full of hope and anticipation for the future. This was the day they were to enter the Western University of Pennsylvania. For one hundred and eight years since the original incorporation of that institution as an Academy, no girl had ever been registered as a student. [There were girls admitted to the Academy in classes separate from the boys, but when the Academy became the Western University of Pennsylvania, in 1819, young women were excluded.]

When the two girls had mounted the steep steps of the car and were settled on the plush-covered seats, their conversation eddied around the exciting events of the preceding few days. Just five days before, they had applied to Dr. W. J. Holland, the Chancellor, for admission to the University. The girls believed that the Western University of Pennsylvania offered a curriculum with greater opportunities than those at the only institution of higher education then open to girls in Pittsburgh. The girls had decided that Margaret should act as spokesman. She explained to Chancellor Holland that she and her sister, Stella, both wanted to enroll in the Latin-Scientific Course. Although previous requests from other women had not been approved, Dr. Holland was very receptive to the idea of accepting two girls, sisters, who would pursue the same course. To their delight, he graciously promised to place the request before the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Two days later, their application for admission was approved by the Executive Committee, and the following day they went to Dr. Holland's home and received word that they were accepted.

Shortly after their street car crossed the Ninth Street Bridge the girls' joyous review of events was interrupted by the entrance of several dignified young lads. These were former high school classmates who were now students at the Western University. One friend came to sit beside them. He seemed surprised to see them and said, "Where are you going so early in the morning?" "With you," one sister replied. "I know, you're visiting some of the schools," their high school chum concluded with confidence.

The girls had up to this time told no one of their successful application, and they enjoyed this situation with something that approached the cat-that-swallowed-the-canary attitude.

When their friend got off at the University stop, the two girls followed right along after him. He seemed much surprised, but the surprise was nothing compared to his amazement when the sisters walked with him up the long winding hill from Perrysville Avenue to the doors of the University. He was not alone in his bewilderment, for as students on the portico of the University building caught sight of the girls, the word spread, and by the time they had reached the top of Observatory Hill many had gathered to watch the unusual sight.

The girls proceeded to the Registrar's Office where it was found that the Registrar, Dr. Albert E. Frost, thought there must be some mistake, since he had not yet been informed of their coming. The sisters, however, were soon greeted by Chancellor Holland who personally introduced them to their instructors and fellow-classmates. Teachers and students alike were startled at first to find that two girls with pompadoured hair, wearing dresses with mutton-leg sleeves and hats of the so-called garden variety had been admitted to their hitherto solid masculine ranks.

One of the Pittsburgh papers carried an article in September, 1895, under the heading, "Women Students There Now":

The two young ladies . . . being graduates of the Pittsburgh High School, Academical department, have covered at High School the first year's work of the University's Latin-Scientific course, and for them the course will be but three years. All graduates of the Pittsburgh High School are admitted to the Western University without an examination. This is also done at Vassar, Smith and Wellesley colleges. The men who take the Latin-Scientific course at the University are specially educated for law or medicine. The two sisters do not intend to adopt either profession . . . the two girls' plans now are to prepare themselves for positions as teachers in some of the higher educational institutions.

And thus, because the sisters started in the second year class, Fate so arranged it that they were now members of the ONE class in the University that had voted the year before against having coeds in the school! Each class had taken a poll to get student opinion on the romantic question of whether coeds would be allowed on the campus of the Western University, and the three other classes had voted in favor of admitting girls. Although there has been some discussion through the years to the effect that the Sophomore Class of twenty-eight men made the girls feel unwelcome, the two coeds have always maintained stoutly that they were well received by the boys and were never once made to feel that their presence was resented. Of course, the boys did subject the two coeds to a lot of teasing and they frequently played pranks on them. The student publication called the

girls, "Specimens" . . . then softened the term by adding, "Yes, rare butterflies captured by Dr. Holland to be preserved under glass for the institution."

In these days of overcrowded housing conditions, it is interesting to note that the Western University Catalogue of 1895 informed new students that "Good board with furnished room can be obtained for four dollars and upward per week." Although the first coeds lived at their own home, they recall that some of the finest homes in the neighborhood were opened to the students.

The girls soon settled down to their studies. Classes were opened at 9 A.M. each day with a brief religious service, which the catalogue of the University tells us the students and faculty were required to attend. By a ruling of the Board of Trustees, each member of the faculty officiated in turn as leader of these services. Each class had a monitor who kept a record of the daily attendance at chapel exercises. Recitation periods ended at 4 P.M. The girls were delighted to find that their original reason for wanting to come to the University was well founded. The subjects which formed the Latin-Scientific Course offered them more of their favorite mathematics than they could get in a woman's college. Although members of the faculty occasionally suggested they substitute less complex courses, the girls preferred not to accept any concessions, and took the complete practical training, the same as the men. They became so interested in the subjects offered in other courses they enrolled in some of these classes in addition to their regular Latin-Scientific studies. They considered it a rare privilege to take a course in astronomy under the famous astronomer, James Edward Keeler, who discovered the nature of the Rings of Saturn. They took chemistry under the learned Dr. Francis C. Phillips. They completed all the courses in pure mathematics which were offered at the University, including mathematical chemistry and surveying. They were to be spoken of later by Dr. Daniel Carhart, then dean of the engineering faculty, at a formal gathering of trustees, faculty, and alumni as "the finest mathematicians" he had ever known.

There were, of course, free periods in their daily schedule for which the Chancellor provided the girls with a room, his sanctum sanctorum, in which they might relax and study. Although this room for two coeds in 1895 may now seem very small in comparison to our present day Women's Lounge, it was indeed a fitting forerunner. It was a luxurious room with an open fireplace where gas logs were kept burning in the cool months, and the room's furnishings were com-

portable and in excellent taste. The sisters remember to this day the morning Dr. Holland presented them with two beautiful pictures which he himself had painted. The room was the scene of one of the pranks played by the boys on their sister students. On Hallowe'en, the boys piled the floor high with old catalogues from many schools and colleges. On the very top the boys artfully laid a copy of a special feature booklet published by the *Ladies' Home Journal*. The title printed on it was, fittingly enough, "Girls Who Have Push."

Activities

College students, then, as today, were interested in activities. Their classmates, in a group, asked the coeds to join the Athletic Association. Although football was played, the important events of that day were baseball games and field meets. It was a real excursion each year when the entire student body chartered a special train to Washington, Pa., to attend the W.U.P.—W. & J. baseball game which was followed by a field meet. Of course, the two coeds, along with the professors and members of their families and other girls who were guests of the boys, joined in the festivities.

Stella and Margaret Stein were also asked to become members of the Philomathean Literary Society, in which Stella was later elected to the office of vice president. The University Catalogue described this as ". . . a society which holds weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoons and affords its members practice in declamation, composition, and debate. The rival society is the Irving Literary Society. The *University Courant* is owned and edited by these societies."

Each student who graduated from the Classical, the Latin-Scientific, or the Scientific Course was required to participate in the Annual Oratorical Contest. There was also great interest in music in that day, and many Glee Club and Mandolin Concerts were held.

Although there were not physical educational classes for them, the coeds did not lack for physical exercise. They frequently took long walks around the Perrysville district during their free periods. They recall how impressive it was to stand on the site of the University and see close by the Allegheny Observatory, for which Observatory Hill was named, and not far off, the renowned workshop of John A. Brashear. The girls often walked to town at the end of the day, as did many of the students, down Perrysville Avenue, over the Sixth Street Bridge, and on to the homebound car. They actually felt refreshed by the time they reached home.

In 1896, three more girls were accepted and entered the Freshman Class. They were India Stephenson, Anna M. McKirdy, and Valeria Fetterman.

The lads of the school had indeed a right to feel a little indignant, since each group of girls encroached upon their preserves a little more. For this second year of having sister-students cost the boys what they called their "Swearing room." This was actually their Y.M.C.A. room which was turned over to the girls for their use because a larger study and lounge room was needed. However, the boys maintained their same tolerant attitude, though it may have been a situation which baffled them at times.

The 1897 Anniversary

In the spring of 1897, exercises were held in celebration of the One Hundred Tenth Anniversary of the original incorporation of the institution as an Academy and the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the first University Faculty. Universities all over the nation and many in foreign lands sent representatives to Pittsburgh for the occasion.

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The coeds recall how very interesting and often impressive were the scenes of these three days of celebration. On the first day the Pittsburgh streets were crowded with festive W.U.P. undergraduates making their first appearance in black gowns and mortar-board caps. This garb had been newly-adopted for University use in anticipation of the celebration. The students also gathered at the depots to watch for distinguished visitors whom the early trains were bringing to the city.

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The most colorful exercises of the celebration were perhaps those held in the evening of the second day. This day, which was filled with educational meetings and conferences, numerous parades of school children, and military organizations, was climaxed by the assemblage of all the notables in Carnegie Music Hall to hear an address by Governor Hastings. The *Pittsburgh Post* of the next morning, March 25, 1897, gives us a glimpse of the pageantry of the occasion.

Varsity colors and lace bespangled uniforms vied with each other on the stage of Carnegie Music Hall last night. It was a brilliant, curious scene . . . in the center, Dr. Holland, on his right, Governor Hastings. Back of them the richly bedecked governor's staff, covered with glittering gold, with swords clanking at their sides. On the right and left sat honored guests of the meeting, graduates of almost every college of the country. All wore

academic costume. Their hoods were lined with the colors of the university from which the wearer graduated. The "tiger" of Princeton, the blue of Yale, the crimson of Harvard, and all the others that are so well known, were there.

After the conferring of honorary degrees and several addresses, an informal reception was held in the Carnegie Art Galleries.

On the next evening following the commencement exercises of the Dental, Medical, and Pharmacy Schools, the students went wild with fun and paraded through Pittsburgh and Allegheny in extravagantly fantastic costumes. At least 40,000 enthusiastic on-lookers were said to have lined the flag-decorated avenues to watch the unique show. The Fantastic Parade, organized solely by the students, had its humorous aspects. A number of floats were entered. The students of the engineering department had a float loaded with machinery, castings, and engineering equipment. They had proudly secured a steam tractor to propel this float. However, the tractor gave out in the middle of the Sixth Street Bridge and confusion resulted. All vehicular traffic was detoured until the float could be hauled away by a team of horses.

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[The hydrogen sulfide generator on the chemists' float exploded in front of the Court House.]

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On the occasion of the Medical School commencement, held during the University celebration, it became evident that the coeds' classmates were no longer just tolerant of the girls' presence; they were actually proud of them. When Chancellor Holland during the commencement was telling of the accomplishments of the University and student body, members of the coeds' own class shouted from the balcony, "We have *girls* too!" Chancellor Holland replied, "Yes, we have girls, and they are running away with all the honors!" — which the coeds now hasten to explain, "was an exaggeration, of course."

Trail Blazers

Everything that Stella and Margaret Stein did during their three years at the University was hailed as "the first time women ever did that at WUP." The coeds were frequently called "trail blazers" and "gallant pioneers." Although the Executive Committee and the Chancellor had not considered it as such, some of the newspapers, in the year of the girls' entrance, had called the innovation an "experiment." These same newspapers, however, were to seize upon the girls'

three year record as a sort of feminine counterpart of Horatio Alger stories. The *Pittsburgh Times* for April 22, 1898 had this to say: "WOMEN GET FIRST HONOR."

Margaret and Stella Stein, who were instrumental in having the co-educational feature adopted . . . make such a remarkable record that both are accorded first place. They must choose between themselves who will be valedictorian. . . . The first two young women to graduate from the Western University of Pennsylvania were yesterday notified by Dean Daniel Carhart and Secretary Henry S. Scribner of the college faculty that they had captured first honor and would be expected to deliver the valedictory address. The feat of the young women is considered remarkable, and is said to be without a precedent among the larger colleges and universities. . . . the new students at once sprang to the front in mathematics and all other branches, easily outdistanced the boys, and took many optional studies in addition to the regular course. They led their classes through the three years, and only lately an intense rivalry for first honor developed between the two sisters. (This so-called rivalry has always been strongly disavowed by the coeds.)

They maintained a grade of A throughout their course. It was found that only a slight difference existed between their averages for the entire period. The faculty then determined to give first honor to both and allow the two young women to decide who should deliver the valedictory address at the commencement which takes place at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Hall, June 9.

The granting of first honor to two graduates is unusual and has never been done before by the University authorities. The coming commencement will be unusual in other respects, it being the first time students of all the departments have graduated together. It will be a peculiar honor for the two "coeds."

Graduation

And now that graduation time had arrived for the Class of 1898, the sisters had to decide which one was to give the valedictory. It was decided that to Stella should go the distinction of being the first University Coed to speak at the commencement exercises of the University before a representative Pittsburgh audience, justifying for all time the wisdom of the decision of Chancellor Holland and the Board of Trustees in throwing open the doors of the University to young women.

Despite the fact that caps and gowns were chosen for the commencement, the girls, in truly feminine fashion, could not resist wearing beautiful dresses under their academic gowns — white organdie dresses trimmed with pink rosebuds.

Class Day was a very important part of the Commencement period. One of the outstanding features of the Class Day exercises of 1898, as reported in a current newspaper, was that the exercises were unattended by any outbreak on the part of the undergraduates. It is interesting to read the newspaper's account of this celebration.

Alumni and friends of the institution who anticipated a repetition of the violent assaults of former years were agreeably surprised. Heretofore the students of the junior and sophomore classes made Class Day an occasion of ridiculous farewell to the seniors, and the presence of a squad of policemen was necessary to curb the overflowing spirits of the collegians.

Only to college-bred people and those acquainted with the ins and outs of an educational institution does Class Day appeal to any degree. It is a time when the graduates have a day to themselves, when their blessings and grievances can be aired at will. In fact, it is about the only time in their college course that they can give loose rein to their feelings, and they usually take advantage of the opportunity.

In former years, the sophomores and juniors played all kind of pranks on their graduating comrades, even going to the extremity of exploding fireworks on the stage of the auditorium where the performers held forth. Horns and discordant bells have often been used to disturb the august ceremonies of the class day of the seniors, but yesterday the annual anniversary was devoid of undue excitement.

. . . Miss Margaret Stein was the class prophet. Her prophecy was given from memory. She took the position of a twentieth century woman looking in retrospection on the alumni of the Western University. In fancy, each member of the class was placed in some position in life, and the references made to it were in keeping with the humorous incidents which have happened within the past years.

Presents were given by the class donor to each member of the faculty, accompanied by a recital of the professor's traits or foibles, as known to the students. Every presentation was greeted with rounds of applause and laughter. The newspaper account assures us that, "Everything was done good naturedly and the professors, upon whom were heaped sarcastic remarks in profusion, bore the embarrassing situation in smiles." At the close of the exercises the University yell was given repeatedly . . . "Allegenee, genac, genac; Allegenee, genac, genac; Hoorah, hoorah, WUP."

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At their residence on Fifth Avenue Chancellor and Mrs. Holland gave an informal reception for the graduating classes and for members of the faculty. Among the guests was Assistant Professor John C. Fetterman, who by this time was in earnest attendance upon Margaret. This romance had blossomed following their meeting three years earlier in the chemistry department, when Margaret (who became Mrs. Fetterman) and her sister were pointed out as pleasant and attractive curiosities, but curiosities none the less. In 1901, both Stella and Margaret received the Master's degree from the University. Their brother, Adam Stein, Jr., graduated from the University with honors in 1903. Margaret was loyal to her Alma Mater, as was proven by her rearing the first all-Pitt family. Mr. Fetterman, an alumnus of the University, devoted more than twenty-five years' service to the insti-

tution. During this period he served as head of the department of biology and, from 1910 to 1923, was also the first dean of The College. The three Fetterman children are Pitt graduates. Adam graduated from The College in 1926. He is now serving as a Major with the U.S. Army Ninth Tactical Air Command in Belgium. George H. graduated from The College and in 1929 from the School of Medicine, later receiving the Master's degree in Medicine from the University of Toronto, Canada. He is now Lieutenant Commander, MC-USNR and recently returned from duty in the Southwest Pacific. Barbara graduated in 1932 from The College, receiving her Master's degree in Retail Training the following year.

With the first coeds' graduation, educators and the public alike realized that the coeducational status of the University had been well established. THE GATE WAS WIDE OPEN.

The First Alumnae

In 1900, the first five coeds to graduate formed the Alumnae Association. Stella Stein was elected president, Anna M. McKirdy, vice president, and India Stephenson, secretary. Regular meetings were held for some time, an annual banquet being a part of the program. Several years later when many other graduates had become active in the organization, a tea was held for entering freshmen; thus began the tradition of Freshman Teas at the University.

That the opportunity so meritoriously won by the first two coeds was not wasted is shown by their subsequent records. Stella Stein became a teacher of modern languages and mathematics at South High School. Margaret, before her marriage, was principal of Avalon High School. The two sisters were elected to membership in Sigma Kappa Phi, the national honorary foreign language fraternity.

More important, however, than their individual achievement was their service in opening wide the gates of educational opportunity for thousands of ambitious and talented young women, who each year, by their accomplishments, prove that the opportunity afforded by institutions of higher learning is a rightful part of their heritage.

*Pitt Women's Club
by Ella I. Chalfant*

Since its organization in 1921-22, Pitt Women's Club has taken an active part in the affairs of the Evening Division, and exerted a

wholesome influence on the student body. It is not a staid club, but a growing, alert, current group of women, interested in encouraging its members to complete studies for a degree in the University, and to enjoy pleasant friendships with fellow students.

It has only been known by that name, however, from 1931. The handful of women enrolled in the Evening School of Economics, Accounts, and Finance (as the Evening School was designated then), formed their own social club, back in 1922. They called it the "Twilight Club," probably because of their classroom hours. But, as Dean Amos tactfully pointed out, there were other possible connotations, and at her suggestion the girls looked around for another name, and hit upon "Pitt Business Women's Club." Later on, though, with increasing enrollment of school teachers in evening classes at the University, it seemed advisable to consider dropping the word "Business" from the name of the club to make it more inclusive. In 1928, the matter was referred to the Dean of Women and the Students Relation Committee, but as the proposed name, "Pitt Women's Club," might be confused with a faculty women's organization, the change was not urged. It was revived several years later, and this time a committee appointed from the club membership (representative of its school teachers, nurses, bank and general office employees) carried the project to a successful conclusion.

When this club was first formed, it definitely filled a need for sociability in the Evening Division. Women were in the minority and did not know any of their classmates. The corridors were filled with men during the intermissions, but the girls were too timid to leave their seats and did not even know each other. Some of the more adventurous among them did meet in the hall, and, after they were better acquainted, formed the club. Somehow they managed to hold "Open House" for faculty and students, with dances and parties at Heinz House. Often it was done "on a shoe-string," and many of the guests contributed to make more parties a certainty. As students, both men and women, became acquainted with each other, fraternities were promoted and lasting friendships were made at club-sponsored social affairs. But let's learn more about this from the club's early leaders. Nell McKenry, its very first president (1922) says:

"There was a closer affiliation with the University, *our* University; we were now a part of it, because we knew each other, and had our own club."

The second president, Mabel Grundman, recalls that "men's groups grew also because of association with each other. There was a general

fostering of acquaintanceship which strengthened men's fraternity and women's sorority membership."

And, lest we forget an important point, Ida Neugebaer Schewe, the third president of the club, reminds us that, in addition to fostering loyalty to the University and promoting friendly contacts with other students, "The organization of our club brought immediate recognition to its members on the University campus, besides giving them offices on the Board of the Evening School Association for the first time."

Pitt Women's Club has always encouraged girls to complete their studies for University degrees. For that purpose, a Scholarship Fund was established long ago. Most of the money earned for that fund was through the sale of light refreshments during school hours, and some came from benefit-bridges. Starting from proceeds of candy sales in the Downtown Division, (where patrons helped themselves from the little stand just outside the library and deposited money for their purchases) Pitt Women's Club took charge of refreshments sales on a large scale, when the Evening Division was transferred to the campus. Volunteer students were responsible for certain nights each week, and were faithful in their performance. Many friendly contacts over the lunch counter and at the little tables did much to bring new members into the club, and promoted sociability in the mixed student body. Lots of hard work went into this task, but the treasury grew. The club was able to give *two* \$25.00 scholarships each semester, instead of the *one* \$25.00 scholarship it had advertised. There is a record in the 1936 Minutes Book that a University official had discussed with Pitt Women's Club the probability of their taking over the sale of sandwiches, coffee, etc., on a much larger scale, the University to furnish all necessary equipment. The plan did not materialize, however; still, it is gratifying to know that the club had earned the University's confidence and had been considered for an important cafeteria service. With the end of this food sales earnings, Pitt Women's Club discontinued the two scholarship awards, and has given one \$25.00 scholarship each semester to girls who are eligible.

Many interesting memories of good times in Pitt Women's Club are revived in looking through the records. A favorite pastime during the first few years was the Luncheon Get-togethers of those girls employed in the downtown offices. Once in a while a speaker was invited, but usually the girls preferred spending the all-too-brief lunch hour just talking to each other or planning new activities for the club. Saturday bridge-luncheons were popular. These might be in the Faculty Club, Women's City Club, Congress of Clubs, Kaufmann & Baer's,

or the other department store dining-rooms; several of them were held at the Chatham Hotel Roof Garden. The annual picnic at Arnold School for Boys was always well attended. Benefit bridge parties helped swell the scholarship fund. Under Alma Jordan's leadership, a number of girls formed a dancing class and paid an instructor, to make Heinz House parties the more enjoyable. The tiny Kilbuck Theatre entertained many a group of club members. And one summer Pitt Women's Club had special prices at the Nixon Theatre for stock company productions, starring Ann Harding and Harry Bannister in plays like *Smilin' Through* and *The Nervous Wreck*. Sometimes Dean Amos reviewed current plays at Club meetings. Memorable among these are her interpretations of Galsworthy's *Escape*, and Eugene O'Neill's *Strange Interlude*.

The official badge of Pitt Women's Club is a small gold panther. While Pitt Women's Club is tradition-full, the best known custom is handing to the Club's incoming president the big wooden spoon, symbol of leadership. Just what the inference is might be anybody's guess, although things are always stirring in Pitt Women's Club. Its leaders, every one of them, have taken their job seriously, sharing ideals and enthusiastically contributing to further the usefulness of a worthwhile Evening School organization.

As the club grew, it branched into many activities. One direct outgrowth is the Biography Club, formed to keep alive during the summer months the pleasant contacts of the school year. For some time now, Pitt Women's Club has been divided, at the option of the executive committee, into four departments: music and fine arts, literature and drama, current topics, cultural hobbies. Each department plans and sponsors its individual program, but members of the club may participate in any or all of these departments. Once, when the current topics department brought in the former Mayor McNair for an address, the entire student body was included.

Pitt Women's Club is not ritualistic. It is the only women's organization on the campus which is not selective in its membership, and it is open to all women in evening classes, regardless of the field in which work is being done. Women members of the faculty, the dean of women, wives of faculty members, and alumnae are eligible to membership, in addition to women students registered in the Evening Division of the University.

Sentiment holds some of the older members to the club, but the real power of Pitt Women's Club changes hands with the current student body which makes up its membership and keeps alive its tradition of

service. Several times the suggestion has been made that the club affiliate with one of the larger women's clubs in Pittsburgh to expand its opportunities. But Pitt Women's Club asks no greater opportunity than to shape the ideals of women students and to have an integral part in their social life in the Evening Division. Throughout its Existence, Pitt Women's Club has remained steadfast to the purpose in its original constitution:

"... to foster unity and association among the women of the Evening School . . . and to foster loyalty to the University, as well as active cooperation in its affairs."

Women's Speech Association
by Genevieve Blatt

For the sex which is traditionally known by its loquacity, the women were a surprisingly long time "having their say" at Pitt. There were men's debating teams and there was a men's debating association long before women took any part in the University's public speaking activities. Partly this was due, of course, to the fact that there weren't many women at Pitt in the early days and very few, relatively speaking, until World War I. But, even after women began coming to Pitt in large numbers, it took them some time to gain their place on the campus platform.

Occasionally an outstanding woman speaker was included on one of the debating teams which the men organized. It was not until 1922, however, that the women had a team of their own. That they did can largely be credited to the appearance on campus of Theresa Kahn, affectionately known as "Tessie" to the hundreds of Pitt women who knew her as student and teacher and debate coach during her many years at the University. From Peabody High School, where she had already won many laurels as a public speaker, she came to the Pitt campus anxious to continue her activities along this line but willing, furthermore, to work so that others might also enjoy the benefits of speech activities. She was a member of the first women's inter-collegiate debating teams at Pitt, along with Marie Messer and Teresina Marino, which met the women's team from the University of West Virginia at Carnegie Lecture Hall on March 31, 1922. The question debated was: Resolved, that the United States should recognize the Soviet Government as the de facto government of Russia. Minnie Kelso was the manager of this first women's team.

The women's team was continued in 1923 with Dr. H. A. Wichelns as their coach. In 1924 the women had their first intercollegiate debate away from home, at Goucher College in Baltimore. The first traveling team consisted of Alma Hlavac, Teresina Marino and Theresa Kahn, and they debated the question: Resolved, that the United States should adhere to the permanent court of international justice. Their coach that year was Dr. W. M. Parrish, who was always a loyal supporter and friend of women's debating while he was at the University.

In the spring of 1925, the women engaged in their first "triangular" debate, with teams from the University of West Virginia and George Washington University. Another innovation at that time was the first "no-decision" debate. It proved so popular that it later became the established form of debating on the campus.

In the fall of 1925, after having been graduated with highest honors, Theresa Kahn was appointed the first full-time women's debate coach at the University and a member of the English faculty. For twelve years thereafter, women's debating and speech activities grew and prospered under her devoted and inspirational guidance. She officially organized the Women's Debating Association, the forerunner of the present Women's Speech Association, and thus gave the women who were interested in public speaking an established place on the campus.

While continuing to build the intercollegiate schedule, Miss Kahn inaugurated a new service during her first year as coach. That was extension debating, a plan whereby Pitt teams appeared before various civic organizations throughout the community, presenting both sides of timely questions and conducting open forums after all debates. In this way, the teams gained valuable platform experience, scores of clubs had interesting programs, and the University gained some helpful advertising.

Delta Sigma Rho, national honorary forensic fraternity, admitted the first women members at Pitt in 1926. First women initiates were Miss Kahn, Gertrude Siegel, Bessie Kann, and Catherine Plaster. Every year thereafter outstanding women debaters were invited to membership.

The next innovation came in 1929, when, for the first time in this territory, the Oregon system of debating was tried. In this form of debate, one presentation of its case is made by each side, then one speaker on each side interrogates the other side, and finally each side is permitted to summarize its position. It proved to be very popular with both the debaters and their audiences.

In 1932 the women debaters took their first long trip away from home. A team consisting of Louise Linn, Marjorie Hanson, and Genevieve Blatt, traveled to Swarthmore, Washington, Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, New York, Lewisburg, and State College, debating en route Swarthmore College, George Washington University, Trinity College, University of Richmond, Farmville, Virginia, Teachers College, William and Mary College, New York University, Bucknell University, and Pennsylvania State College. The debate at New York University was the first intercollegiate radio debate in which Pitt women ever engaged, although some intra-squad debates had previously been conducted at the University radio studios.

Another new development in 1932 was the scheduling of a special freshman debate program to give new members more opportunity to practise than they had previously had.

One of the greatest honors to be bestowed upon any woman debater came in the spring of 1932 to Louise Linn, who was elected Senior Queen. She had been manager of the Women's Debating Association for two years, and had then been elected Chief Justice of the Senior Court.

In 1933, for the first time, the University was represented at the national Delta Sigma Rho debate conference, held annually at the University of Wisconsin. It was represented by a women's team consisting of Marjorie Hanson and Genevieve Blatt. Earlier in the season, on the eve of the 1932 Presidential election, a representative of the women's squad had joined a representative of the men's squad in a political symposium, the first ever held in Pittsburgh. Representatives from the University of Virginia and Princeton University, all men, also participated. Representing the women in this event was Genevieve Blatt, then serving her second term as President of the Women's Debating Association.

In 1934, the University chapter of Delta Sigma Rho sponsored a debate conference for colleges in the tri-state district, and Pitt's women debaters took a prominent part in the conference. Genevieve Blatt, who had returned after her graduation to serve as assistant to Miss Kahn, acted as Chairman of the conference and was the recipient of the first Delta Sigma Rho award.

There was a novel innovation the following year, when a Penn State man and a Pitt woman debated another Penn State man and another Pitt woman on the question: Resolved, that the male college graduate earning \$1500 a year should marry at the age of twenty-five. Agnes Calabrese and Marguerite Swank were the Pitt women who engaged in this debate.

Marie Hochmuth, who had been a prominent debater in 1930 and 1931, returned as assistant to Miss Kahn in 1935, when Miss Blatt transferred to the Political Science faculty. This year saw the beginning of Beaux Arts Night, the annual welcome given by women in speech activities to incoming freshmen.

The next year saw another service rendered the University by the women debaters in the publication of two pamphlets, "Helpful Hints to Heads," which was designed to assist presidents and chairmen of women's organizations to do their work more effectively, and "Pitt Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure." Marcella Leyton and Ruth Shapiro, who were President and Vice President, respectively, of the Association that year, were both chosen for the Hall of Fame, where they joined many other leading women debaters of past years, who had found time not only for outstanding debating but also for making additional contributions to the University's varied programs.

In June of 1937, Miss Kahn resigned her position as women's debate coach to be married, and went to live with her husband at the University of Colorado. Her loss was sorely felt. Genevieve Blatt returned again to serve as coach for the year 1937-38.

In 1938, Pitt women participated for the first time in the national "Strawberry Leaf Tournament" held annually at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, South Carolina. A men's team also participated. Representing the Pitt women in this tournament, and winning many honors, were Jeanette Swartz and Leah Hirsch.

The women were again without a coach in the spring of 1938, when Miss Blatt resigned to devote her entire time to the practise of law. She was succeeded, however, by Miss Charlotte McMurray, who had taught public speaking and other subjects in district high schools. Under her guidance, the Freshman Public Speaking unit was organized as a part of the Freshman Unit system. The name of the Women's Debating Association was then changed to the Women's Speech Association, the name by which the group is now known. It was felt that the program had, for many years, included activities which were not, strictly speaking, debate activities, and that the new name would be more appropriate. Increased emphasis was placed by Miss McMurray upon the extension debating program, and over fifty extension debates were scheduled in the 1938-39 season.

The members of the Women's Speech Association were saddened the following year, as were all women on campus, by the illness and untimely death of Dean Amos. They carried on their program, however, as they knew their beloved Dean of Women would have wanted.

In 1941, Miss Ruth Haun came to the University as the first full-time coach and member of the English faculty since Miss Kahn had left. Miss Haun was well and widely known for her work in public speaking and related fields at other Universities. Under her direction, a program has been worked out which puts increased emphasis on campus service and on speech activities besides debating. The inter-collegiate debate schedule has been much curtailed, but fraternity discussion group and extension debates have been encouraged.

The Women's Speech Association has been, just as all other campus activities have been, beset with difficulties since the outbreak of the War. The accelerated program of studies has left students with less time, and frequently with less interest in activities. Travel is virtually impossible for debating teams. Miss Haun has tried to devise a program which will adapt the Women's Speech Association to the needs of the times, for now, more than ever before, women need to be articulate, need to be able to express themselves forcefully and persuasively if they are to play their part in winning the War and building a better world.

It seems a long way from crowded "220 Alumni Hall", which was "home" to so many women debaters for so many years, to the soldier-filled Cathedral of Learning, where the Women's Speech Association now has its headquarters. But, throughout the years since women first debated at Pitt, through the exciting years of decision debates, of long trips, of extension debates, of Beaux Arts nights, of tournaments, and many other activities which hundreds of Pitt women will always remember, the Women's Debating Association, and its successor, the Women's Speech Association, have played important roles on the campus. For many Pitt alumnae, their fondest memories will certainly center about the group which gave them their first training and experience in public speaking.

Pitt Women and the First World War
by Marie McSwigan

Although there were no WACs nor WAVES during the first world war, Pitt women, nevertheless, served in many ways.

They served so well they "amazed" the *Pitt Weekly* as they related in an editorial of February 17, 1917:

We are amazed. While we felt all along that the girls were doing all in

their power to help in the prosecution of the war, we hardly realized they would attempt work that has, in the past, been done by men.

We can justly be proud of the coeds at Pitt. They have not only done their share in the Red Cross work but they have gone still farther and have offered their service to science.

The editorial referred to a news story captioned "Girls Admitted to Radio Course" in the same issue. It stated that electrical engineering, which gave the course, was "overwhelmed with applicants from the fair sex." Fifteen were admitted. "The girls displayed much enthusiasm in the work and showed evidence of rapid progress in the future."

They had gone to war without delay. Three days after its declaration they took part in a mass meeting in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. They and others "as a body rose to their feet to sing 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic,'" the *Pitt Weekly* of April 11 chronicled.

Before closing the meeting Chancellor McCormick made a plea to the girls of the University to offer their aid in the Red Cross work that is being done and to do their share in the practical work in making the University the most efficient unit in any crisis.

Early in November, 1917, the board of deans decided "Women students should be required to give four hours a week to war work and possibly a fifth under the direction of the Department of Military Science and Tactics. One hour a week has been set aside for military drill," the *Weekly* told its readers of November 17.

And so began, for a few at least, "right dress, forward march, parade rest, at ease." However, except for a layout of pictures in the *Pittsburgh Sun*, little seems to have come of the drill. It was shortly disbanded for more practical measures.

The required four hours, called National Service Activities, were supervised by Dr. Luba Robin Goldsmith, women's health director who was given the title of "captain surgeon," the Chancellor's report for January 1, 1918, states. It says further:

The time is divided into one hour each for first aid, nursing, dietetics, and surgical dressings. . . . Practical experience in nursing is made possible by co-operation with hospitals near the University.

The women students might put in the required hours in other fields. Among these were economics for postwar reconstruction, wireless telegraphy, and "educational classes for a discussion of national questions and the development of women's ideals and for the encouragement of simplified dressing and common sense living."

One woman in particular stands out against the red, white, and blue

of Pitt in 1917 and 1918. Mrs. Samuel Black McCormick was president of the University's Red Cross auxiliary and in charge of all women's activities on the campus. As such she was leader of faculty women, faculty wives, and women students under their "captain surgeon." Under her leadership a splendid spirit existed between the younger women and the older ones. The two groups worked smoothly and efficiently. Under her they did a job that could stand against any later record. A room was fitted out in old Mellon Institute. Here the women produced as many as 5,000 surgical dressings a month. Here was headquarters for the University's 1,476 paid Red Cross membership of 1917 and for the \$5,078.71 in donations. Here the women sewed stars onto an eighteen foot service flag that finally registered 4,029 University enlistments.

The flag climaxed Charter Day exercises of 1918 when coeds in middy blouses carried it into the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, where it was presented to the University by Mrs. Charles S. Miller, president of the Women's Association, an event chronicled by Mrs. John K. Miller when Pearl Harbor brought the University another service flag.

Later in the spring of 1918, the flag was carried in a citywide Liberty Loan pageant led by the University band followed by nineteen other bands. Some ninety coeds surrounded the flag and others marched with other service units.

The world war [World War I—Ed.] changed student curricula perhaps more radically than the recent war did. One of the University's contributions was a long list of war-related courses. A month before the declaration of hostilities the department of household arts began teaching emergency cookery, food conservation, canning and preserving, and household physics. War studies became legion until the summer of 1918 brought an institute on War Courses in Home Service conducted by Dr. Francis D. Tyson.

Other courses were given in co-operation with the Red Cross. The School of Education had its own institute for home service and added a program for the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers. The Extension Division, moreover, turned into a little office of war information with its speakers bureau, its package library of current literature, and its visual bureau of slides and "a very inspiring supply of war films."

All the activities of Pitt women during the last days of the German Empire would perhaps fill a volume. This paper attempts only the highlights. University women had their own Liberty Loan committee. It was one of a surprisingly large number of activities. During the summer of 1918 eight girls became "farmerettes" near Glenshaw un-

der the chaperonage of Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Jennings who lived nearby.

Others went into hospitals to relieve overburdened nurses, especially during the influenza epidemic. Still others left school to man drawing boards in engineering offices. The idea of releasing a man for active duty was not new even in those days.

With men drained from the campus, the coeds took over student affairs that had heretofore been purely male. Beryl Pape became the first woman editor of the *Panther* which had a longer war record than did the *Panther* during the second world war. It was published for almost a year before it became a casualty whereas the revived humor magazine lasted only a short time after Pearl Harbor.

Pitt was a military center, then as later. Troops were barracked on the campus and taught in University classrooms. The young women saw their fellow students go to France with the Fifteenth Engineers or with Base Hospital 27. The campus was crowded with men from Indiana and Idaho, from Rhode Island and Oregon. Parties were given for their entertainment and the 1917-18 coed covered many miles in foxtrots, an activity not included in the required four hours of war work.

Pitt Women and World War II
by Ruth Lee McFarland Dierker

The year 1939 found the lands across the sea engaged in warfare. It was inevitable that our beloved land would be drawn into the conflict. The year 1941 found our country doing its part to free humanity from the chains of tyrannical rule; the passing years had brought us to a second World War.

War has always brought with it the need for helpful hands to care for the sick and wounded, and the gentle hands of the women as nurses and Red Cross workers for many years have administered to this need. As in World War I opportunities became even more numerous and varied. Now women were to serve, also, as Wacs and Waves, as Wasps and Spars. They were to take the place of men in the office, on the farm, in the mill. "Rosie the Riveter" became more than a song title, and the "grave yard shift" more than a ghostly reference. Women were to drive trucks and ambulances, to pilot planes, yes, even to build the very parts from which these were to be made. They, too, were to leave home and friends to make ammunition for our men

in the Service. They were to take part in defense work; in their leisure hours to serve as sister, mother and friend in the numerous canteens that sprang up everywhere — and, as always, some were to follow the line of battle, binding up wounds, and administering loving care to those who were sick and suffering.

The women at the University of Pittsburgh were to do their part in these many lines of duty. Two hundred and forty-three Pitt women engaged in active service. It is not possible to write about all of these. However, a few may be mentioned as an example of the Pitt women who served.

There was one who was called "The Angel of Bataan." Small fair-haired Catherine Nau, Col.'19, earned this title as Red Cross Field Director when she was cheered for her courage throughout the siege of Bataan. With scant supplies she ministered to the needs of the men at the gun batteries and won their undying gratitude. Sometime later Catherine was among those who were taken prisoner at Corregidor. It is needless to say that her safe return to this country was a welcome relief to her friends.

Out of the first graduating class of the School of Nursing, Elsie Keasey, Nurs.'41, was to lose her life on the field of action in England.

In the field of aviation Frances Fortune Grimes, Bus.Ad.'37, an outstanding athlete, turned all her energies to aviation, graduating from the primary, secondary and apprentice instructor courses of the Civil Pilot Training Program. Miss Grimes, who served as ground school instructor at the University of West Virginia, at Southeastern University as a representative of Tri-State Airlines, and as a member of the Civil Air Patrol, lost her life in a plane accident.

At home, Janet Hallock, Col.'38, Grad.'40, after applying for Officers Training in the Spars, and studying at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, received her commission as Ensign and was assigned to the 9th Naval District and stationed in Cleveland, Ohio, where she served as assistant personnel officer in charge of 400 enlisted Spars. She said of her work, "In short, anything that contributes to the welfare and morale of the Spars in their barracks, comes within the range of my job. And I am proud of the challenge it presents, because I believe that if ever there were a time when women should share the trials, as well as the privileges, that time is now. If ever there were a time when women had unusual opportunities to serve, this is the time. It is a challenge which not only now, but in years to come, any girl will be proud to have accepted."

Pvt. Madeline Ruth Wischmeyer, Col.'19, Grad.'38, served as one

of the guard of honor as the train bearing the body of the late President Roosevelt travelled through North Carolina.

Mary Ann Cook, Nurs.'43, flight nurse for a transport squadron, received the Bronze Star in air evacuation.

Frances Wills, App.S.S.'43, was one of two Negro Wave officers in the entire Navy.

Captain Marian McKay, Grad.'41, who has been mustered out as a major, spent two years overseas as first aide to General Lee, Chief Director of Supplies for the European Area, serving in Paris. She then returned to the adjutant general's staff and spent five months in occupied territory at Frankfurt, Germany.

At Pitt our alumnae were among the teachers who taught the men in Service. Among these were Dr. Lotte Lohstoeter, Educ.'23, Grad.'30, who received a citation from the government for her excellent work in the teaching of German, and Dr. Helen Bachmann, Educ.'30, Grad.'43, former Alumnae Board member, who, also, taught German.

At the war stamp booth in Kaufmann's Miss Charlotte Truby, Educ.'26, Grad.'28, presided every Monday night for several years, while Miss Mary Fallon, Educ.'36, arranged for hostesses at the Pittsburgh Canteen.

As a volunteer worker, helping the Civil Air Patrol girls at the Pittsburgh Aero Club in Hotel Henry sign up candidates for Civil Pilot Training for the United States Army, Mrs. Venus Shakarian Toner (Mrs. Arthur), Col.'27, who will be remembered as the first Pitt "flying schoolmarm," gave a helping hand. The men interviewed by her were youths from eighteen to twenty-six who for some slight deficiency are not eligible for Aviation Cadet service, and men twenty-seven to thirty-six years of age who wished to become civilian pilots.

Another alumna who had a prominent part in the field of aviation during World War II was Miss Elizabeth Warnock, Educ.'25, flight instructor for Bettis Airport and instructor for CPTP and WTS, pilot training program there for the University of Pittsburgh. Miss Warnock, also, conducted classes in aviation for the University in the Cathedral of Learning and at Shady Side Academy, and was responsible for the organization of the Local Civil Air Patrol and the new project of Air Markings.

Even the Alumnae Association as an organization was to have a part, for the women were to serve as hostesses to the men in the Air Corps Service who were stationed at Pitt. The doors of our lovely Cathedral of Learning had been thrown open to receive enlisted men, who enjoyed the privilege of living in a cathedral while they were in training. Sunday afternoons might have seemed long and lonely if the

women had not decided to offer hospitality to these men and their friends. Under the direction of the office of the Dean of Women, a long table was set at one side of the Commons Room. There, beneath the lofty arches overhead, the pretty table, flower adorned, and sparkling with lovely silver service, radiated the warm hospitable atmosphere that only such a picture can create. Once a month the members of the Alumnae Board returned to the University to pour tea and chat awhile with our soldier guests. Refreshments were furnished by the association under the chairmanship of Mrs. Howard Schweppe, Educ.'39, and all considered it a privilege to render this small service.

So it was that our Pitt women, individually and in groups, did the tasks that were needed in World War II. It would be impossible to list all they did, or even to be sure of naming all who served.

Now in the year of 1946, the war is over. In this brief history much has been left unsaid, but, always, we shall remember that in World War II as well as World War I Pitt women did their part.

An Explanation

In the spring of 1940, at the annual luncheon and business meeting of the Alumnae Association of the University of Pittsburgh, (held in the College Club of Pittsburgh) the presiding officer of the day called attention to the fact that the autumn of the year 1945 would mark the fiftieth anniversary of the matriculation of women at Pitt. Her plea concerning this anniversary was that Pitt Alumnae should mark it in some very special way. After discussion, unanimous agreement was reached that the very special way in which Pitt Alumnae could most suitably and permanently mark this important anniversary of theirs was by having compiled a history of Pitt women for the period the anniversary covered (1895-1945).

Mrs. John H. L. Heintzelman (Valois Carothers), Alumnae historian at that time, was appointed to serve as such for the five year period set for the preparation of the history. She, as historian, and a standing committee chosen by her and authorized by the Alumnae Board to work with her, were to be responsible for the publication.

A major part of the history was to be a sociological study of Pitt women for this fifty year span. A series of questionnaires, prepared under the supervision of Dr. E. C. Elmer, head of the Department of Sociology, were to be mailed to the alumnae of this period.

Dr. John G. Bowman, then Chancellor, was pleased with the plans when they were presented to him by Mrs. Heintzelman and some of

her committee. At his suggestion, the University gave to the Fiftieth Anniversary History Committee the sum of one hundred dollars to help pay the initial costs of the sociological study.

Another important section of the proposed history was to consist of a series of papers telling the story of all the organizations which in any way were concerned with the activities of Pitt women during the years from 1895 to 1945.

However, in the fall of 1944, Mrs. Heintzelman resigned as Alumnae historian. Her husband, a medical doctor back from the Pacific theatre of war, had been assigned to duty in the government hospital at Chelsea, Massachusetts, and Mrs. Heintzelman and the children went there to live with him for the duration of the war.

At Mrs. Heintzelman's suggestion, Annabelle Livingston McKerahan, her co-chairman on the standing committee, was asked by the Alumnae Board to assume Mrs. Heintzelman's work as Alumnae historian. She did so. She was urged to push forward as rapidly as possible the work on the fifty year history.

However, a check by Dr. McKerahan of the questionnaire return for the sociological study revealed that of more than 6,000 questionnaires which had been mailed to Pitt alumnae from June, 1941, to and including the spring of 1944, approximately 900, or only about 15% had been returned. Of these, many were incompletely answered. Informed of this, the Alumnae Board decided by vote to discontinue work on the sociological study.

Further, the papers dealing with the histories of the various women's organizations, although assigned to different writers by the fall of 1941, were, in the main, unwritten by the fall of 1944. By strenuous urging, Dr. McKerahan obtained by March, 1945, seventeen of the twenty-eight papers due.

Another obstacle stood in the way of publishing the proposed anniversary history in the fall of 1945. This was the publication cost. Other than planning to set aside fifty dollars yearly from its funds for each of the years allotted to the preparation of the history, the Alumnae Board had given no further serious consideration to the matter. Confronted with the actual figures furnished by Mr. Wendell Gullion of the University Press at the request of Dr. McKerahan, the Board found itself quite unable financially to go on with the project at this time.

The historical committee, advised by Agnes Lynch Starrett, instructed Dr. McKerahan to continue, whatever the odds, the collection of this fifty year historical material. And, acting within its authority, this same committee recommended the binding into a book of fitting

beauty the manuscripts (in typed form) written to mark the Fifty Year Anniversary of Women at Pitt. A further recommendation provided that the original manuscripts be placed in a slip type box container matching in appearance the bound book of the manuscripts. Finally, both the book and the box containing the manuscripts are to be placed, as suggested by Mrs. Starrett, in the Darlington Library of the University of Pittsburgh, wherein are placed the treasured books and manuscripts of the University.

Note: — Members of the Fifty Year History Committee, most of whom served for a period of five years, were: Agnes Lynch Starrett, advisor; Marie McSwigan, publicity; Helen Pool Rush; Ruth McFarland Dierker; Bernice Storey (Dr. Storey, due to the stress of professional duties, never served on this committee); Margaret Morrissey; Myrl Eakin, Alumnae President, 1944-45; Annabelle Livingston McKarahan, co-chairman; Valois Carothers Heintzelman, historian and chairman of the committee until the autumn of 1944. Eloise Bomhard and Jean Wright McLean were added to the membership of this committee at the September, 1944, Board meeting. Louise Wright, as Alumnae President for the year 1945-46, became also a member of this committee. Annabelle Livingston McKarahan succeeded Valois Carothers Heintzelman as alumnae historian and chairman of the Fifty Year History Committee by Alumnae Board request in the autumn of 1944.

A. L. McK.

Appendix

PAPERS WRITTEN TO RECORD THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF WOMEN AT PITT

Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Alumnae Association, 1945

1. The Open Gate*
Barbara Fetterman Moran
[Published in *Pitt* 22 (Autumn 1945): 34-39 and *Alumni Review* (Autumn 1945): 2-7, 19-20]
2. Intellectual Possibilities and Realizations
Helen Frost Dice
3. Y.W.C.A. at Pitt
Deirdre Baird (under the direction of Edna Todt Batz)
[Published in *Alumni Review* (Autumn 1945): 7]

4. History of Class Organizations
Betty Adams Schweppe
5. The Women's Association of the University of Pittsburgh
Harriet Ralston Curtis
6. Delta Chapter of Pi Lambda Theta (Education)
Katherine Foulke and Committee
7. Mortar Board (Honor Society)
Hermine Ruoff Miller
8. Forty Years of Student Health Service for Women
Auleene Marley Jamison, M.D.
[Published in *Pitt* 23 (Winter 1945/46): 16-19]
9. Women's Athletic Association
Adele Yorio Stark
10. Quax (Science)
Edna Higbee
11. Alpha Beta Gamma (Elementary Education)
Dorothy McMurry
12. Phi Chi Theta (Business, Evening School)
Doris J. Wallace
13. Pitt Women's Club (Evening School)*
Ella I. Chalfant
[Published in *Alumni Review* (Spring 1946): 14-15]
14. Cwens (Sophomore Honor Society)
Joan Bielau Crawford (under the direction of Emily Irvine)
15. Women's Choral
Lotte O. Lohstoeter
[Published in *Pitt* 10 (Winter 1941-42): 33-34]
16. Women's Speech Association*
Genevieve Blatt
17. Phi Theta Phi (Social Fraternity, Downtown Campus)
Jean Ramsay
18. Phi Delta Gamma (Graduate Women)
Betty Succop Cullinan
19. Idaka (Nurses)
Dorothy Rood
20. Pitt Women and the First World War*
Marie McSwigan
21. Pitt Women and World War II*
Ruth Lee McFarland Dierker
22. An Explanation*
A. L. McK. (Annabelle Livingston McKerahan)

*Reprinted