

McNary, Evaline C.  
Director of Residence Halls, 1934-1976  
Tape Index R-4

- I. First impressions of Colorado College on arrival in 1934
  - A. Bemis Hall Kitchen
    1. Very primitive, had an ice box with ice delivered daily
    2. Obsolete coal stove, the 1907 original, had to haul ashes
  - B. Enrollments reduced due to Depression
    1. Only 60 women in residence, occupied 2 floors in Bemis and 1 in McGregor
  - C. Koshare
    1. A drama group which used theater in basement of Bemis
    2. A constant problem for McNary
  - D. Most campus buildings obsolete, with out-of-date plumbing
- II. Description of Residence Hall Management before World War II.
  - A. All women's meals in big dining room in Bemis
    1. Seated at table, quite formal, with student waitresses
    2. Dispensed with sitting down to breakfast her first year
    3. Candlelight and grace at dinner went on until after the war
  - B. Staff arrangements
    1. Small staff: 3 in kitchen with a couple of dishwashers
    2. Student helpers received remission of board and room
    3. Other help got \$30 a month and rooms on campus
    4. McNary also lived in dorm, received a salary of \$1000 a year
  - C. Revival of CC in late 1930's
    1. Summer school reinstated in 1935
    2. Enrollment began to pick up after Davies arrived
    3. Ticknor opened again as dormitory within a couple of years
  - D. Acquisition and rehabilitation of buildings
    1. Montgomery Hall gutted and rebuilt on inside in 1929
      - a. Whole project cost \$50,000, for 26 women
      - b. Front facade changed, roof raised, dormers removed
      - c. Mrs. Taylor gave the sunporch
    2. About 1938 the college began to acquire some smaller houses for dormitories
      - a. Among these was the President's house, named Slocum, and used as women's residence hall
      - b. On spot of current Loomis parking lot, stood the Bartlett, which college purchased, renamed Loomis (1103 Wood), and used as dorm
      - c. CC workmen plastered living room in remodeling this dorm, but the ceiling fell off and ruined the new furniture
    3. Administration building was in Jackson House on Nevada Ave: this had not been the Jackson family home, merely named after trustee Jackson
    4. Former Lambda Chi Alpha house on Nevada renamed Howbert for another trustee
    5. San Rafael Street houses
      - a. Faculty Club had been Ballou house
      - b. Swan home became infirmary
      - c. Miss Bramhall had life tenure in cottage behind houses on San Rafael
      - d. Several of these homes were later razed when the new fraternities were built
      - e. Gregg house on Northwest corner of Tejon and San Rafael was converted as a women's residence hall during the war: had belonged to the Kistle (sp?) family and was renamed for Lucy Phinney Gregg, former dean of women

E. Social policies

1. Social behavior of students in early days under Dean Loomis is documented in files:
  - a. Before dances boys had to line up in quad in front of Bemis
  - b. Girls marched out and they filed two by two two over to Cossitt
  - c. No "raggy" music, and dance ended at 10 p.m.
2. When McNary came, Freshmen had to be in rooms by 8p.m. on week nights, upperclassmen by 10
3. On weekends, deadline was midnight.

F. Men's housing

1. Men lived in Hagerman and then in Jackson House in the late 1930's when the administration building moved to Cutler
2. Benezet dismayed by lack of facilities for men when he came
3. Men had had dining room in Cossitt before McNary came
4. There were dining rooms in fraternity houses
5. In 1930's men ate either in fraternities or on board jobs, as there was no all-campus dining hall for men
6. During war Naval v-12 unit took over fraternities for housing, as well as Hagerman and Jackson
7. Housing for men was clearly marginal; women's housing at least clean and adequate, though never elegant
  - a. When Davies came finances got somewhat better: Montgomery remodeled, bathrooms in Ticknor done over, lots of other touching up

III. Postwar housing in late 1940's

A. McNary left late in Dec. 1941, returned to CC on May 1, 1945

B. College Place houses

1. The dean lived at 16 College Place
2. Mrs. Peabody's house on corner, she willed to college (site of Boettcher Health C.)
3. Dr. Drea's house: bought by college after his wife died
4. Mrs. William Howbert's grandmother's house at 16 College Place
  - a. This was where Dean Hershey lived
  - b. Used as dorm after the war
5. Drea house also used as dorm one year after the war

C. Quonset huts

1. Brought in for married veteran housing
2. Erected on site of old San Luis school (Slocum parking area)
3. Had living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bath
4. Half of cylinder, interior walls corrugated
5. Metal buildings very hot in summer
6. Many dogs, fights, harem-scarem atmosphere

IV. Recollections of President Davies

A. Aggressive, attractive

B. Domestic problems

1. His wife was a terrible problem to him
2. His 2 daughters ran away after he had been here a week

C. He was quite a male chauvinist

1. Only employed women in places where he had to, with one or two exceptions, the nurse at the new infirmary and Martha Lou Lemmon

V. The Infirmary

- A. In late 1930's the WES opened and furnished the infirmary in Swan House on San Rafael St., with bed care for both women and men

- B. This was run by a nurse, with a physician in attendance: a great step forward
- C. Infirmary had been in the north end of McGregor Hall
- D. Before that it had been on the west side of Ticknor, in 4 bedrooms
- E. Before that it had been in room 19 on the third floor of Ticknor, always strictly for women
- F. Nurses
  - 1. Katherine Ryan
  - 2. Before that, Ruth Montgomery, a great asset to the college

V. Recollections of President Gill

- A. One of most upright and honorable men she ever knew
- B. Always stood behind his own people
- C. Once, late for a staff meeting, McNary diplomatically said she thought her watch was wrong, and he replied: "Better get a new watch."
- D. Staff meeting every Wednesday morning at 8
- E. Operated in a manner consistent with his military training, but not rigid
- F. Very devoted to his wife, who was amusing, attractive woman
- G. Excellent administrator, who understood lines of authority, although he didn't always understand the educational process
- H. Many faculty were scornful of him because he didn't have a PhD.
- I. College was very fortunate to have him during the McCarthy era: he was above reproach and stood up to witch hunters
- J. Gill loved dogs and hunting, gave Roger Jordan, residence hall house man, two ducks to raise
- K. Slocum Hall built during Gill's administration

VI. President Benezet

- A. Also fine administrator and remarkably astute man
- B. Loomis was in process of being built when he came. He insisted architect change plans to get more rooms in, a matter of economics
- C. He was extremely conscious of financial problems, as the endowment had been invaded for current expenses
- D. The staff was sorry when he left.

VII. President Worner

- A. Had worked for McNary before the war when he was a student
  - 1. Dishwasher
  - 2. He says she fired him twice, but she doesn't remember
  - 3. Recollections of Betty and George Lindemann are worthwhile
  - 4. Most of her pre-war male employees turned out to be very successful later
- B. As president Worner held out as long as possible against off-campus apartments and coed housing, but pressure became so great he had to do it.

VIII. Residential policies in the 1960's

- A. Mathias Hall opened in 1966
  - 1. Payments on mortgage are \$72,500 a year
  - 2. Students resented that they had to live on campus to support that building
- B. Slocum Hall
  - 1. Built in 1952, enlarged 1958 (west wing)
  - 2. Payments on it were \$37,000
- C. Loomis Hall
  - 1. Annual payments \$42,000
- D. National trend to co-ed dorms
  - 1. Very disagreeable to McNary
  - 2. She feels lack of privacy would bother students
  - 3. Single sex dorms (Bemis, McGregor, Ticknor and Montgomery) are only ones that are always full

4. Good result of open visitation policy: students go to their rooms to neck; formerly staff had to fight this problem in the parlors, but there is no longer smooching in public
5. Young men very hard on the property: damage buildings more than women do

IX. Changes in the lifestyle of students in the 1960's

A. Deplored by Deans of Men and Women

1. Long hair and scrappy look hard to get used to
2. Lack of personal cleanliness also bothersome

B. Drugs

1. Drinking and hard drugs never a severe problem in the dorms
2. But marijuana widespread
3. Pushers were invited to leave the college
4. Inspectors of halls during vacations often found marijuana growing
5. Later, student rights prohibited checking rooms except for safety hazards

C. Due to problems of 60's McNary is exceedingly happy to be returned

1. Thinks, however, that pendulum is swinging back toward more normal lifestyles

X. Summary: Changes between 1934 and 1976 compared

A. Students more used to authority in 1934 and didn't question rules

B. Now you must give them a reason for everything

C. Personnel deans and food service people have a tougher job now

D. Deans of Women

1. Mrs. Fauteaux: best mind
2. Miss Morgan: liveliest
3. Miss Moon: most compassionate and sweetest
  - a. Miss Moon got the brunt of the change, as did Dean Reid
  - b. Both had difficult road to hoe