

Murray, Constance Postelthwaite
Class of 1932, Alumni Trustee 1954-57
Greiner, Isabel Postelthwaite,
Class of 1925
R-21

I. Early memories of their father, W. W. Postelthwaite, treasurer of Colorado College from 1911-1940.

A. His association with General Palmer.

1. In 1897 he became General Palmer's secretary.
2. When Palmer had an accident, Mr. Postelthwaite was even more closely associated with him.
3. Postelthwaite went every day on his horse over the mesa or on a street car to Colorado City where the carriage from Glen Eyrie would pick him up.
 - a. There were white rocks to mark the road over the mesa.
 - b. This road ran up where Cache la Poudre Street is now, up towards Mesa Road, past Hagerman Hall.

B. Mrs Greiner was born when the family lived on East Cache la Poudre Street.

1. They then moved to Wood Avenue.
2. Their grandmother had lived in the house on Cache la Poudre with her sister. Then when their father married their mother, the grandmother moved out.
3. They had a Chinese man, Yi, who did the cooking and cleaning.
 - a. He was fired because their mother thought he dampened the clothes by spitting on them. That wasn't how he really did it.
 - b. He also insisted on keeping a black cap on Isabel and their mother didn't approve of that.

C. Mrs. Murray was born when they lived on Wood Avenue. They sold it in 1942 or 1943

II. General Palmer

A. His death

1. Mrs. Greiner was 5 years old and remembers her parents going to the funeral.
 - a. She asked them if they had a good time, for that's what she thought she should ask.

B. He had Christmas parties for the children of all his employees.

1. The first movie Mrs. Greiner ever saw was at one of these Christmas parties.
2. There was always a beautiful tree.
3. There was quite a number of children.

C. His appearance

1. Her impression of him is that of a figure in a chair---an invalid.

D. How did General Palmer come to hire Mr. Postelthwaite in the first place?

1. It was through their grandfather who was associated with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

III. Memories of President [William S.] Slocum

A. He was a portly, very dignified person.

B. Mrs. Slocum always wore huge hats.

C. President and Mrs. Slocum always had "yummy" receptions for graduation on the lawn in front of the President's house.

IV. President [Clyde A.] Dunniway

A. He was tall.

B. He had Christmas parties for the faculty and they had a daughter who continued the tradition for many years.

V. Mr. Postelthwaite's interest in archaeology

- A. He had a friend who was in the archaeology department at the University of New Mexico. That's how he became interested.
- B. He went to New Mexico on his vacations.
- C. He was a good friend of Dr. Hewett [well-known archaeologist].
- D. The first year he took lots of equipment, snake-bite medicine, etc. "As the years went on he took less and less of these things."
- E. He always fussed about the food they had to eat (goat meat) when on these digs.
- F. He had no formal education in archaeology.
- G. He collected sacks full of sherds and Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Greiner were occupied for years matching them together and reconstructing the pots.
- H. When he found his first peice, he dickered with a woman for her water pot.
- I. In 1940, he retired as treasurer of the college and became director of the museum in Palmer Hall.
 1. When he retired he found out that he wasn't on the rolls for the pension fund so he had to stay on the faculty in order to receive the retirement pension.
 2. He revived the museum.

VII. Mr. Postelthwaite's later years

- A. He kept busy writing papers for the Round Table Club.
- B. "Indians seemed to take most of his time."
- C. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church.

VIII. Mrs. Greiner's and Mrs. Murray's association with C. C.

- A. Mrs. Greiner was an Art major, class of '25.
 1. What did the art department consist of in those days?
 - a. Charlotte Leaming had a studio in the second floor of Perkins Hall and taught the art courses.
 - b. There were a number of students taking art courses.
 - i. Some of them only took art appreciation and didn't paint.
 - c. There were some Chinese students who were good.
 - d. There were 10-12 students in the art department.
 - e. Mrs. Greiner answered the phone for the Art and Music departments.
 - f. There were nude models.
 - g. They had design courses and graphic arts.
 - h. It was all taught by Charlotte Leaming.
- B. Charlotte Leaming
 1. She was "typically uninhibited"
 2. She was a great person.
 3. She started painting a portrait of the two sisters but it took her so long, they got older and older, and she never finished it.
 4. After they left C. C. Charlotte and her sister Susan had an art school in Pueblo.
 5. Susan had a stroke and they closed the school shortly thereafter.
- C. After that, the C. C. art department petered out and the Broadmoor Art Academy took over.
 1. It was located in the garden of the first Penrose house.
- D. The social life of the college
 1. Mrs. Greiner wasn't in a literary society because she wasn't taking the regular college course.
 2. Fraternities used to have dances at their houses
 - a. There was usually an orchestra.
 - b. They began at 7:00 and ended at 11:00.
 - c. Sometimes they were formal but usually not.

- d. They always had dance programs.
- e. The dances were always chaperoned by a faculty couple.
- f. There were often "subscription dances" in town. All the fraternities would get dates and you payed \$1.00 per couple for a dance program.

IX. There was a horse on campus.

- A. His name was Joe.
- B. He plowed snow in the winter.
- C. During the war (World War I) when corn was grown on campus he plowed the rows of corn.
 1. In WWII they plowed up the campus for the victory garden.
- D. Joe lived in the basement of Cossitt.
- E. There was also a campus dog.
 1. His name was Dean.
 2. He lived between Cossitt and Hagerman Halls.
 3. "He was a real nice mongrel."
 4. When he died he was buried with a headstone North of Hagerman Hall.

X. As children, the Postelthwaite sisters ate at Cossitt Hall with other faculty families.

- A. At first there were two women, Louisa Blovelt and Hazel West, who ran the dining room.
- B. This was the only place for men students to eat.
- C. The women students ate at Bemis.
 1. In Bemis there was a "head table" on a raised platform where seniors and the dean of women ate.

XI. Flaming 20s at Colorado College.

- A. Mrs. Murray didn't date too much.
- B. There were always sorority and fraternity dances and formals at the end of the year.
- C. Drinking on campus.
 1. Mrs Murray doesn't remember much drinking until her Senior year. Then there was quite a bit.
 - a. During this time she learned how to make bathtub gin.
- D. Bathtub Gin
 1. You used Juniper berries.
 2. One gallon of alcohol would make ten gallons of gin.
 3. They made it in large quantities and stored it in bottles.
 4. Mrs. Greiner's husband supplied them with alcohol.
 - a. He had to get it through a bootlegger.
 - b. Everyone had their own bootlegger. When they were children the bootlegger came to the back door.
 - i. People didn't usually get arrested for patronizing a bootlegger.
 - ii. They also bought wine from the bootleggers.

XII. Sorority life on campus.

- A. Mrs. Murray had an important role in creating the first sorority.
 1. Lucy Esmiol was very prominent in getting the Kappas to come in.
 2. Mrs Feautaux [dean of women] and a faculty group decided they could have Kappas, Thetas and Delta Gammas.

3. When Mrs. Murray was a freshman, Lucille Lennox, who was a Gamma Phi at Denver University initiated a freshman organization .
 - a. It was to become Gamma Phi when sororities came in.
 - b. This club, Crescent Club, was a two year club and while you were in it you were a pledge to one of the Literary societies.
 - c. When the sororities came in, girls had already pledged a literary society so joined the corresponding sorority. So Mrs. Lennox had to start anew with freshmen and finally started Gamma Phi Beta sorority.
- B. Sorority houses.
 1. The Kappa house was the original Literary Society house.
 - a. The Kappas later added on to it.
 2. The Contemporary literary society became Theta, Minerva became Delta Gamma and Hypatia became Kappa.
 - a. Contemporary used the observatory for its house.
 - b. Hypatia had its own house.
 - c. Minerva had a clubhouse next to the observatory.
- C. Opposition to the formation of sororities.
 1. They didn't want them to be residential houses.

XII. Mrs. Murray was a Latin major at C. C.

- A. Who were the Latin professors?
 1. Miss [Elinor Dorothy] Breeze
 2. Mrs. [E. N.] Bartlett
 3. Dr. [Charles C.] Mierow was the president of the College and had formerly taught classics but taught no classes while he was president.
- B. Mrs. Murray studied Greek for two years with Miss Breeze.
- C. Other memorable professors.
 1. Amanda Ellis
 2. Herbie Mierow
 3. Mr. Knapp
 4. Mr. Rose.
- D. Description of Amanda Ellis
 1. She wore big hats and little shoes.
 2. She always looked a little top heavy
 3. Mrs. Murray always enjoyed her classes.
 4. She was impressed with her own ideas.

XIII. Mrs. Greiner met her husband, Perry Greiner, at C. C.

- A. He was a Phi Delta Theta.
- B. They married five years after they graduated so he could first finish paying C. C. for his education.
- C. Most students had to work to pay their expenses.
 1. At first, Mr. Greiner tended furnaces.
 2. Then he was manager of the dining room in Cossitt.
 - a. There was a football table in the dining room.
 - b. Sometimes they got pretty raucous.

XIV. What role did athletics play at C. C.

- A. Football was most popular.
- B. Basketball was also popular.
- C. There were often dances at the fraternity houses after the games.
 1. The football players always managed to come.
- D. Homecoming.
 1. There were floats and parades, pep rallies, bon fires, etc.

XV. Social events

- A. Walking up to Bruin Inn.
- B. Sometimes the fraternities had dances up there.
- C. They went to the end of the street car line (Stratton Park) and walked the rest of the way--- about a one hour hike. They then came down in the dark with flash-lights.
- D. Very few students had cars in those days.
 1. They usually used the street cars to go to movies.
- E. They went to "Tea Dances" at the Broadmoor
 1. They cost 75 cents per person.
 2. They were served tea and cakes.
 3. There was an orchestra to dance to.

XVI. Descriptions of other professors.

- A. Mr. [Lewis M.] Knapp, English professor.
 1. "He was a most interesting man but he was a typical college professor," i. e. absent minded.
- B. Mr. [Milton S.] Rose, English professor.
 1. "He was a very quiet little man and most boring."
 2. He had a very soft voice.
 3. Mrs. Murray thought she was getting away with reading during his class, but he lowered her grade because of it.
- C. Freshman requirements were a math course, an English course, a history course and a language course.
- D. Mr. Gordon Parker, math professor.
 1. He tutored Mrs. Murray independently because she struggled with math.

XVII. Some of the other students were almost scared of Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Greiner because their father was often gruff about people paying their bills.

- A. They didn't have to pay tuition because their father worked for C. C.
- B. Some girls "hashed" for meals, i.e. worked in the dining halls.
- C. Their father hired girls to help in the Palmer Hall Museum (Clerical work).
 1. Lorna Dorlac
 2. Beth Ritter Koons
 3. Margaret Killian
- D. The library employed both men and women students to work at the desk or do stack work.
- E. The faculty members didn't have secretaries.
- F. The president had a secretary .
- G. Some girls corrected papers for teachers.

XVIII. The tenure of President [Charles C.] Mierow.

- A. C. C. had financial troubles but no one really worried about the college's survival.
- B. The construction of Shove Chapel
 1. When it was being built they could go up into the tower where the clock is and get a beautiful view of the campus.
 2. It was very carefully and very well-built---"Almost with loving labor."
 3. The architecture was well-researched and authentically done.

4. Mrs. Murray's class was the first class to have their graduation in Shove.
5. They opened it for chapel services once a week.
6. The dedication
 - a. Mr. Shove came to C. C. for the dedication.

XIX. Mrs. Murray's trusteeship

- A. She became a trustee just as President [Louis T.] Benezet was being hired.
 1. A man came out from California whose business was to find people for job openings.
 - a. His premise was that no matter how good a person is, he shouldn't be president for more than seven years. You hire someone based on what you need at the time you're hiring.
 - b. He was one of the people responsible for hiring Benezet.
- B. What were the needs of the College at that point?
 1. They needed someone with a good business head, and someone who could do promotional work.
- C. While she was a trustee, one of the other trustees insisted that they revise the precedent of dipping into the endowment fund for current expenses which occurred during the depression when Mr. Postelthwaite was treasurer.
 1. This man never forgave the college for letting that happen. "But it was either do that or close the doors of the college."
 2. Mrs. Murray had never known that her father had done that until it came up when she was a trustee.
- D. First impressions of Benezet
 1. He was a very able person.
 2. He spoke particularly well.
 3. He was very forthright.
 4. He seemed to know what the college needed.
- E. The period of hiring Benezet was a very interesting time to be on the board.
 1. General Gill had done his best, although it was hard to reconcile his military attitude with the presidency of a college.
 2. Benezet gave the college the shot in the arm that it needed.

XX. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Greiner were acquainted with all the Colorado College Presidents since Slocum.

- A. Slocum was the most outstanding because of his early influence.
- B. Benezet was stronger and more forceful but Slocum was also great for his time.