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Journal Articles

Title

The College Girls' Record

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9kv6w8gn>

Journal

Chronicle of the University of California, 1(2)

Author

Chronicle of the University of California Editors

Publication Date

1998

Peer reviewed

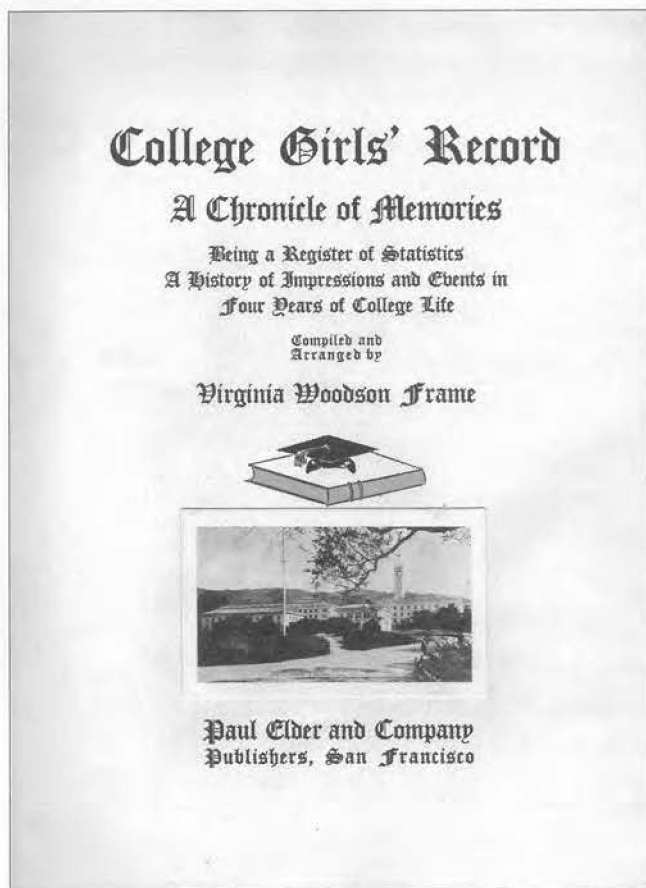
THE COLLEGE GIRLS' RECORD

JULIA S. DUPONT, class of 1925, recorded these first impressions of Cal as an entering freshman in August 1921. Arriving in Berkeley from Stockton, California, she was overwhelmed by crowds, the long waits in line, the regal attitudes of professors and college officials, the “frightful amount” of hills and stairs, and the “agony inexpressable” of entering a classroom. After the first year, however, she concludes, “the university is not such a hopelessly big place, after all.”

Her *College Girls' Record, A Chronicle of Memories*, is one of several student scrapbooks in the University Archives. A wonderful source of insights into the life of women students in the twenties, it lists her classes, professors, and grades; describes her living arrangements and work experiences; tells of friends and picnics, parties, and feasts; and highlights her “red letter days” (being asked to read blue books for her freshman history class) and “grinds” (English themes and Econ term papers).



Julia S. Dupont '25.



Title page of memory book used by freshman Julia Dupont. University Archives.

First Impressions

Date of Arrival *Aug. 13, 1921*

First Acquaintance *Ruth Sherlock
(met her at Aunt Lena's)*

First Impressions

I felt terribly scared, and took at first, but a few days cured me of some of that. There seems to be such an awful multitude of students every where, especially from Telegraph Ave. to Wheeler Hall.

While there are quite a number of pretty girls there, I really expected to find even more in such a cultured crowd. Every now and then I see people whose presence gives me a jolt; they look so un-collegey.

All those people with whom I have come into actual contact seem very nice - with the exception of some of those individuals who examined me in the physical ex.



First Impressions

There are a frightful amount of stairs in this university. One is always climbing up or down some hill or flight of stairs. (If I ever design a university, I shall make it ~~of one~~ ^{of one} story buildings on level ground.)

And waiting - every time you want to see any prof or official, and you have to go thru a lot of red tape for everything, you wait and wait and then wait some more before you get to him, or per- haps only make an appointment for some future waiting.

As I look back on those ^{very} first days I shud- der still. They were awful. - so many, many people who were all strange, such constant having to interview royal officials, the huge and terrible library where everyone looked up and stared at me while I crept around, miserably looking for a seat. (It was a long time before I would take out a book, I was so in fear of getting tangled up in the red tape.) Going into a class room was agony in- expressable. What I should have done without the kind guidance and protection of Nedma, Alice, Myrtle, and Lewis I do not know. - I don't like to think about it.

Ruth Norton Donnelly (1904-1973)

A graduate of the class of 1925, Ruth Norton Donnelly was appointed Berkeley's first supervisor of housing in 1946 and was one of the pioneering women in the field of university student housing. During World War II, fraternity houses previously used by men were available to women. At the close of the war, these houses were returned for use by men, and the university became increasingly concerned about the lack of safe and suitable accommodations for women. Prior to her appointment, the Berkeley campus had only two dormitories: Stern Hall for women (since 1942) and Bowles Hall for men (since 1929); both from gift funding. In 1946, she was a member of a management team which completed the Smyth-Fernwald Residence Halls which provided approximately 476 housing spaces. Funded by the university, the buildings were completed in only four months. From 1959 to 1963, Ruth Donnelly was involved in housing construction projects which increased university-provided housing for single students by approximately 2,500 spaces. This number increased by 120 spaces when Manville Hall for law students was completed in 1967. In the meantime, the number of housing units available for married students more than doubled. In 1947, rental listing service for students, staff and faculty was added to her job. Mrs. Donnelly was adamant that single student housing be called "residence halls" (a living-learning environment), and not "dormitories" (sleeping quarters). Appropriately, in 1968 her title changed, and she was appointed the first dean of Residential Life at Cal.



Freshmen struggling with registration red tape. 1941 *Blue and Gold*.