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Lindenwood: Home of an Education Made to Be Used

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LINDENWOOD

Home of an Education
Made to Be Used

BY PAUL PATTON FARIS

Home of an Education Made to Be Used

"NO SIR! No parlor for this building. I have several parlors at home—and they are all kept shut up tight."

It was the resonant voice of Colonel James Gay Butler, wealthy merchant of St. Louis, discussing plans for a new dormitory for Lindenwood College at St. Charles. "Have all the living rooms you want, but use them, use them!"

Wherefore it was that when Butler Hall was dedicated, February of last year, no stately parlor was to be found in any of the three stories, but on the first floor there was a resort of pure delight, the "students' living room," an airy, sunny apartment, filled with easy chairs and inviting sofas, low writing desks and broad tables. Through the months since, it has been a room whose comfort stretches a joyous hand outside into the spacious corridors and beckons knowingly to young women, weary after a day of study. And the invitation is abundantly heeded; the students flock to their own "living room," an apartment which very definitely is "used." But nowhere, upstairs or down, from north end to south, is a room that is "kept shut up tight," for Butler Hall is every whit a home to be lived in.

Illustrative of all Colonel Butler's connection with Lindenwood is this illuminating detail of his practical, sane, and farseeing planning for Butler Hall. When the merchant began to take special note of this educational center for young women the college possessed the foundations of a notable institution. An honorable history, an honoring body of alumnae, a spacious and beautiful campus, an excellent location and intimate Presbyterian affiliation—all were the heritage of Lindenwood. Presbyterians in many states, numerous in St. Louis, were friends to the college and it was a protege of the synod of Missouri. Only a few miles from the metropolis of the southwest was its location; thirty-four acres of wood and hill were its campus; and many leading women of the southwest were its proud graduates. From its founding in 1831 by Major and Mrs. George C. Sibley, Lindenwood had led a continuous life of honor and of service for Presbyterian womanhood.

St. Louis Philanthropist Identifies Himself With the College

Recognizing this attractive and sure foundation Colonel Butler and friends of Lindenwood College associated with him began to see a vision. They beheld clearly that it was possible to build at St. Charles a notable center of Presbyterian education for the west, a rallying point for all Presbyterian young people preparing for a vocation—for a profession, business, art or for homemaking. And on this foundation the trustees, led by Colonel Butler and the new president, Dr. John L. Roemer, during two years already have laid an imposing educational structure, featured by the erection of new buildings, extension of clientele, and enlargement of student body, as well as by a strengthening

Lindenwood

BY PAUL PATTON FARIS

of the course of instruction—always and insistently with emphasis on the value of education as a preparation for efficient and happy living.

A peculiar Providence, operating at the dawn of Lindenwood's new era, cemented into a remarkable group three men of differing gifts but of a common affection—the future of this institution of noble history. In the neighboring city, Dr. Samuel J. Niccolls was nearing the fiftieth anniversary of his pastorate of the influential Second Presbyterian church and the thirty-fifth of his trusteeship at Lindenwood. Colonel Butler, successful manufacturer and member of the same church, was respected widely as a man of consecrated means and a friend to thousands of blind, diseased and distressed of the metropolis. The third member of the triumvirate, Dr. John L. Roemer, was discovered by Colonel Butler in the pastorate of Tyler Place Presbyterian church and effectively called

room" for Lindenwood patrons and friends. In each dormitory room of the second and third floors are running cold and hot water with tub and shower baths, easy of access. The aim of the builder of this structure is that of the entire institution, to make a real home for the students, a house in which to live and grow, not simply to "go to school."

The new students arrived. It seemed that the west's young women with their parents were assured of Lindenwood's offering exactly the training required and desired; as soon as enlarged accommodations were announced they applied for admittance. So

passed the year 1914-1915, with increased attendance, with broadened curriculum, strengthened faculty and a far flinging throughout the southwest of the enviable reputation of Lindenwood.

Then came portents of deluge. With the opening of the new

term in the autumn of 1915, Colonel Butler was present at the reception of the band of young women returning from summer vacation, or for the first time walking beneath the lindens of Butler Way and seeking the hospitable doors of Butler Hall. To the hospitality there was a limit, however. "All taken!" was the brief but definite reply Secretary Olive A. Rauch made to one appealing mother. Again, "Sorry, but every room is occupied," she reluctantly announced; and the message was repeated until

a score of girls had been turned away disconsolate.

"What's this? No room for those young women?" demanded the interested Colonel Butler. "But the new dormitory—"

"Full to the topmost room," came the rejoinder. "Butler Hall is full, the rejuvenated Sibley has no vacant rooms, and though we have furnished extra quarters wherever we could, we are compelled to turn applicants away. Our attendance this year is larger than ever before; yet still they come."

Demand for a Larger Lindenwood Must Be Heeded

Quick of decision and broad of vision, the merchant philanthropist was not tardy in finding a solution for the problem. If the young women of the west were so decidedly in need of a larger Lindenwood, a larger Lindenwood there must be.

Here again appeared an illustration of the eternal fitness of circumstances, already marked in the coming together of the three-partner company of educators. It was determined to turn the need of the college into a signal honor to a St. Louis clergyman whom the entire Presbyterian Church delights to honor. Dimming the sunshine of that 1915 opening day had been the shadow cast by the passing of Dr. Samuel J. Niccolls, Lindenwood's comrade and mainstay for nearly two score years. From the late seventies the college had known the capable friendship of Dr. Niccolls, who had been already for more than a decade the pastor of Second church, St. Louis, and who was a person of

Colonel James Gay Butler



Dr. Samuel J. Niccolls



Niccolls Memorial Hall

from his signally successful work there to direct the destinies of the Lindenwood that was to be. Not easy was the task of divorcing Dr. Roemer from his people at Tyler Place, among whom his indefatigable zeal, potent initiative and vigorous personality had revolutionized the activities of the congregation; but in the end they sur-rendered.

Usability Finds Emphasis in All Dormitory Furnishings

Accommodation for the destined increase of young women students was an early consideration of the three-men combination; for the oldest building, Sibley Hall, was evidently outgrown. Nor was sufficient relief afforded by the erection of Jubilee Hall, built in 1907 to commemorate the seventy-fifth birthday of the college, by several wealthy friends of the institution, including John A. Holmes, Mrs. William L. McMillan, Andrew Carnegie and Lindenwood's steadfast supporter, Colonel Butler. In the emergency again Colonel Butler drew on his wellused resources and at his own cost erected a handsome edifice which became "Butler Hall," the finest dormitory for women in the southwest.

It is Butler Hall, dedicated in 1915, which contains the significantly named "students' living room," to which reference has been made. The same regard for usability there manifested is shown in other features of this building, such as the "teachers' social room" (like the "students' living room," furnished by Mrs. Butler) and "Butler guest

note as the youngest man ever chosen moderator of the General Assembly, elected several years before. Through several college administrations, Dr. Niccolls had been energetic and efficient in molding the policies of the institution, first as trustee, then as president of the board, aiding in its months of crisis, stimulating its supporters, resourceful in its every emergency. To many alumnae and other tested standbys, indeed, Lindenwood to a large degree and in a very true sense, had consisted of several parts—its president, faculty and graduates; a fraction its trustees; and the larger remainder, Dr. Samuel J. Niccolls.

To Colonel Butler the opportunity seemed unexcelled. "We must have another dormitory; we must honor the Nestor of Lindenwood's patrons," ran his conclusions. "Therefore, we shall build the Niccolls Memorial Hall, and at one stroke meet the double need." Characteristic was his next step. Because the need was immediate, the philanthropist announced that he himself would build Niccolls Memorial Hall.

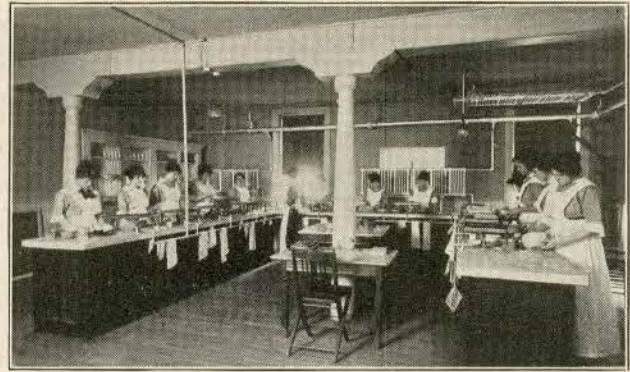
A few weeks ago the contract was signed. Early in the next autumn term there will be ready for the occupancy of another band of young women handsome Niccolls Hall. In considering plans for the new structure, Colonel Butler—now Dr. Niccolls' successor as president of the trustees—has seemed to omit nothing which could contribute to the comfort or well being of its occupants, with the result that the completed building will be among the best adapted to its requirements among all college dormitories of the United States. A distinctive feature is to be an impressive entrance loggia, crowned with a sun parlor—one kind of parlor, let it be prophesied, which will be used. A stirring appeal to the 131 new students who are to live in Niccolls Hall will be the distinguished homelikeness of its architecture, its furnishings and its atmosphere.

Even building Niccolls Hall does not exhaust the planned for improvements to be made on Lindenwood campus, however. Including all additions to the college plant already completed, contracted for, or definitely determined on, the grand total of expenditures on the hill top beneath the elms and lindens in the two years since Dr. Roemer became president is a quarter of a million dollars. An addition must be erected to the already spacious dining hall, filled three times a day with the laughter and conversation of wholesome young womanhood. To the central heating plant, too, from which steam pipes radiate over the hill, there is to be built a very necessary annex.

From north to south of "College Avenue," in fact, the building of Niccolls Memorial Hall means changes, readjustments, and improvements. On the day I roamed the campus a neat cottage to the westward drew my gaze. Perched high on stilt-like temporary

supports, the low building had the aspect of standing on tiptoe, as though from a superior height to peer over its surroundings at the unimagined changes being wrought under its eyes. "Yes, the Gamma Sorority House has to move," confirmed President Roemer. "To make room for Niccolls Hall the cottage is about to take a journey on rollers straightaway across the campus to the far corner, and there join its sister, the Sigma Sorority, to form number two of 'Sorority Row.'"

A few yards behind the down-gazing cottage there showed, graywhite against the green lawn, a cement floor, suggestive of a platform for huge cannon, strangely wandered from the distant seacoast. It was the deserted floor of the president's garage. "There it goes, down the hill," Dr. Roemer pointed to a frame building rolling slowly down the slope to a new location nearer the valley. His garage had been in the path of dormitory progress, so it was shunted to make



Domestic Science Laboratory

throned in beauty on the crest of the hills overlooking the tawny waters of the Missouri river, its buildings new and old gaze serenely over the quaint homes of the city of St. Charles, and across the valleys and the heights toward the Mississippi. Still farther on, though only seventeen miles away—and that distance spanned by interurban and railway lines—lies the Missouri metropolis, St. Louis, south of the confluence of the two mighty streams.

It is this joining of the rivers that points attention to the distant homes of Lindenwood's young women, for even the most remote regions laved by the waters of the rivers and of their more important tributaries, contain towns and cities from which the students come. Idaho, at the head of the Missouri, Missouri at its mouth, Illinois between the Mississippi and the Ohio, Arkansas and Texas, touched by the Red river, and states as far east as New York itself, are included in the seventeen commonwealths to which Lindenwood girls go at the end of the school year and from which they return at its rebeginning. Already the new Lindenwood is becoming a rallying point for young women of Presbyterian families throughout the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries and even beyond.

Parents of girls are not content, however, to know that the college to which they plan to send their daughters is strategically and beautifully situated, equipped with comfortable dormitories and directed by men and women of vigor and vision. They desire to know that the education it proffers is worth while. Here also Lindenwood meets the test. The college is accredited by the University of Missouri, Michigan University, Smith College for Women and the best colleges and universities east and west. A testimonial to the high scholarship of the institution is the fact that the University of Chicago has recently specifically contracted to receive students of Lindenwood into classes equivalent to those for which they were prepared at



A Girl's Room

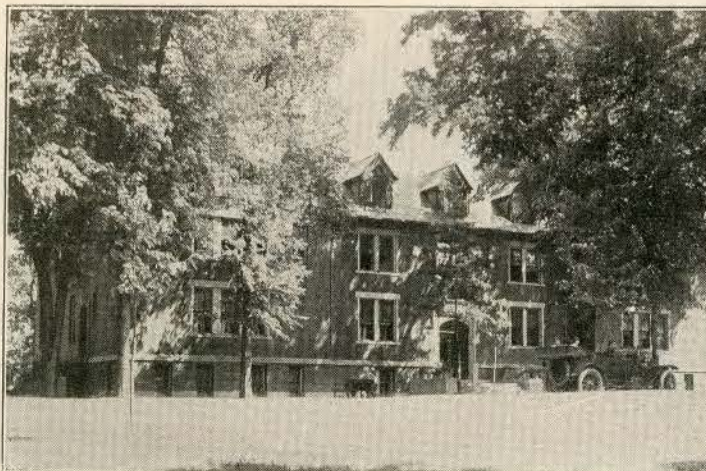
room for the future home of western Presbyterian young women.

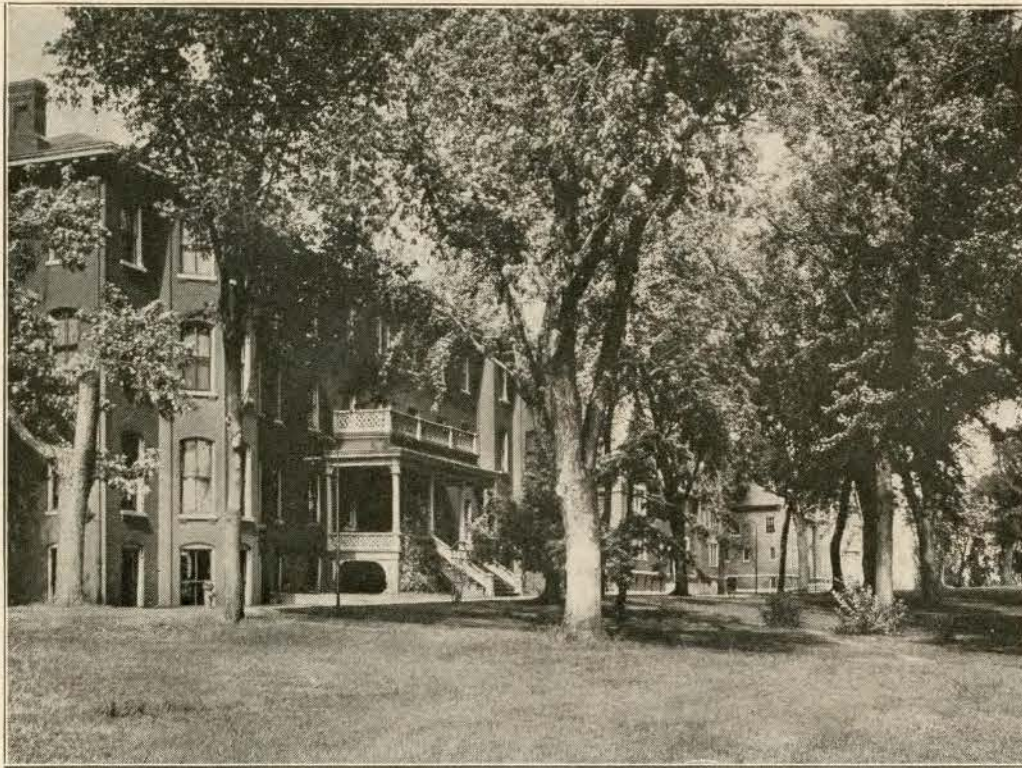
With this response to need, Lindenwood College begins its career as the headquarters of education for girls and young women of the Mississippi valley and contiguous states, a career which seems destined within a brief span of years to give Lindenwood a clear title to be known as "the Wellesley of the West," the name by which Colonel Butler has already christened it.

To the wide appeal of the institution its present enrollment is vivid witness. En-

Jubilee Hall

Butler Hall





Sibley Hall Looking North Down College Avenue

St. Charles; and thus the university joins the other leading institutions of the country in recognizing the value of the work of the Wellesley of the West. Even so, President Roemer and the trustees are not content to rest on past attainments, for constant endeavor is made to raise the Lindenwood standard, reinforce the faculty, and place the reputation of the college for thorough work beyond the clutch of cavil.

The Lindenwood Ideal — Exactly the Education Each Student Needs

Everywhere on the St. Charles campus are signs that even scholarship is not enough to satisfy the directors of the college's destiny, and that the practical value of an education, mental, spiritual, cultural, is given highest rating. The Lindenwood ideal is to make the young women committed to its care thoroughly fitted for life in all its demands, so that they can labor with both hands and brain to win themselves a niche in that hall dedicated to the honor of women made famous by worthy achievement. A student at Lindenwood is not simply one of a large body of young women; she is an individual, with individual capacities, needs and peculiarities, and as such an individual she is studied, trained and safeguarded. Every effort is exerted to give her not an education but the education which she, and she only, requires.

Future housewives are made at Lindenwood. Who could easily fail to make a homelike home who has learned the intricacies of heating and ventilation, food economics, digestion of food and its relation to

life, invalid cooking, marketing, principles of bed making and the keeping of household accounts? Yet these are only a few of the courses covered in the Department of Home Economics.

If teaching is likely to mark the career of a graduate of St. Charles, her adequate preparation is given well-planned promotion. Psychology and the theory of teaching, school administration, ethics, logic, physical training for teachers, playground work—these are considered in their minutiae under trained specialists. Is it a wonder that the graduates of the Department of Education are freely granted a three years' certificate permitting them to teach in graded schools throughout Missouri?

Significant of the consistent attitude of Lindenwood to the practical results of an education is its library. In that sunny room in Sibley Hall which is lined with book shelves, there will be found no volume un-

used and unusable. "This must be used" appears to be the slogan of the Lindenwood library, as it is of the "students' living room" made notable by Colonel Butler's insistence. The well ordered shelves contain only a few thousand books but those few gather little dust; those few are used—consulted, read, digested. The library is under the direction of Miss Sarah M. Findley, a librarian expert from Simmons College, Boston.

Cultural studies possess the same touch of the practical and thorough. And these are made eminent by the excelling courses in music, both instrumental and vocal. Here, too, one greets the pervasive Butler influence, but the person now is not the philanthropist, but his wife, for whom is named "Margaret Hall," "one of the best conservatories of music in the southwest." Located at the entrance of "Butler Way" this three-story building contains commodious rooms, admirably adapted to its dedicated uses. Here are the "voice laboratories" of Professor Walter R. Gerak a recent acquisition to the faculty, distinguished pupil of D'Aubigne, Shriglia, DeReszke and Frank King Clark; the violin rooms distinguished by the remarkable work of Miss Agnes Gray, a violin instructor of note; the several halls in which pupils of the piano are trained by Miss Edna Hanna, dean of the conservatory, and her able assistants—Miss Ariel Gross and Miss Catherine Sutherland; with other departments devoted to musical education, including the theory and history of music.

Oratory, Pipe Organ Instruction, Voice Training—All Are Here

Here, also, is the studio of Miss Mildred Fontaine, in which students of expression acquire grace of movement and pureness of tone, for use either in professional ways or as a source of personal enjoyment. It is in this studio that much of the preparation has been made for the creditable presentation of plays and of the May Day pageants that have won so signal success in recent years. For pipe organ work, however, the students must retrace their way up the wooded slope to Sibley Hall, where a fine pipe organ has been placed in the chapel and where Professor George Cibulka is instructor.

Down the westward incline of the hill, not far from where the rolling garage is likely to come to rest, is a small building almost swallowed by the immensity of the stately structures nearby, and even dwarfed by the modest proportions of Science Hall, but with a reason for being that is all its own. It is the "art pottery" in which is burned dainty china decorated in designs conventional and otherwise, by aspiring students of art, directed by Miss Alice Linnemann, teacher. Such pupils, whether intent on freehand drawing, work in oil or water colors, or making charcoal casts, study under an instructor

President John L. Roemer



Gymnasium and Drawing Classes



The New Swimming Pool



whose aim is a genuine grounding in the power of observation, in the art of appreciation, and in technical execution. Again sounds the Lindenwood practical note; not a mere smattering of culture is sought, but the student is to be thoroughly trained in mind and eye and hand. The beautiful art room in Jubilee Hall is a real joy to visit.

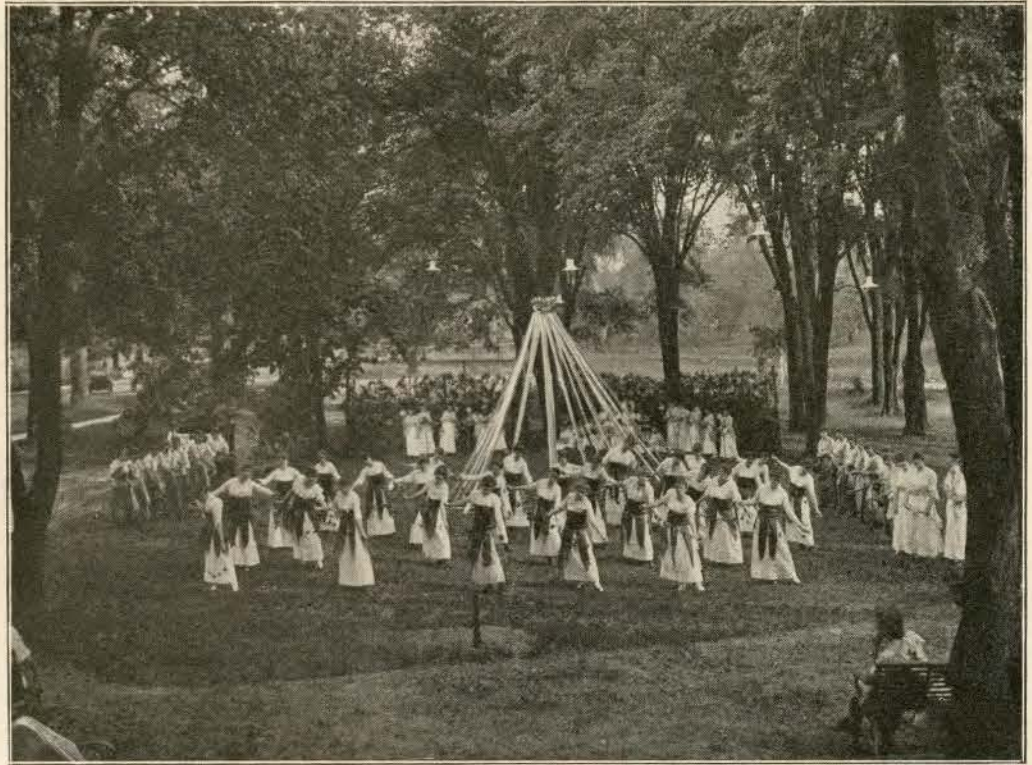
At Lindenwood there is no radical tendency to nervous and physical breakdowns induced by over-study and under-exercise. When Lindenwood insists on a practical education it lays determined emphasis on the necessity of sound bodies for sane and trained souls. One might almost leap to the conclusion that the ozone of the elevated campus in itself ought to preserve the health of the college students; but President Roemer and his faculty take no chances. On admission to the school every young woman is subject to a careful physical examination, and every day she is trained in the care of her body by Miss Francis Haire of the department of Physical Education. Associated with the college is Dr. Emmet P. North of St. Louis, a consulting oculist, Dr. B. Kurt Stumberg, the college physician lives not far from the campus, and college fees include the cost of ordinary medical supervision. In case of illness a spacious suite of hospital rooms is open to the patient, who is cared for day and night by a graduate nurse. Miss Childs believes in prevention above cure, however, for once in every week she gives to all the young women a heart to heart talk on health preservation.

The Natatorium in itself is a health preservative—the gift of Colonel Butler. This inclosed pool is forty feet long, with a maximum depth of nine feet, containing 36,000 gallons of tepid water, and provided with diving boards, cable, trolley, galvanized ladder and granite showers. In fact, the equipment is plainly complete, even to a rest room with sanitary couch and to an electric hair dryer. Who except one who knows would suppose that girls need more watching than boys around the swimming pool? Yet the authorities at Lindenwood find the young women of the institution become so interested in swimming contests — and incidentally so expert—that constant oversight is needed to keep them from carelessness and danger. "When it comes to swimming, girls will take far more chances than boys," says President Roemer. Wherefore constant oversight is afforded. No effort is omitted to develop the physical powers of students, and to guard from dangers incident

to the process. Of the large new gymnasium and its exercises, voluntary and required, the same story is told. Calisthenics, basketball, track work, and tennis are compulsory or permitted not for form's sake but for completing the well

Not confined to the wide sweeping campus, however, is the institution's provision for the physical well being of its students. The surrounding country, hill-adorned and captivating, lures the young women to long cross country walks and also to occasional profitable camping trips under the oversight of members of the faculty. Almost any time in spring or autumn the neighboring woods and green-lined valleys are likely to receive a visit from a band of students intent on scientific research among flowers, plants and trees, students who thus gain even more benefit than they can readily understand.

This, then, is a part of the story of Lindenwood, a college that gives an education not to be laid away behind closed doors, but to be used, culture that is practical, usable and satisfying. It is a part of the story of a college linked inseparably with the names of Samuel J. Niccolls and James Gay Butler, and an institution dear to the affections of the friends who minister to it with gifts through annuities and scholarships, and with their hearty sympathies and their fervent prayers. It is a part of the story of a college looming large as the future center of education for the young women of the great plain of the west.



May Day Exercises



Mrs. James Gay Butler and Margaret Hall

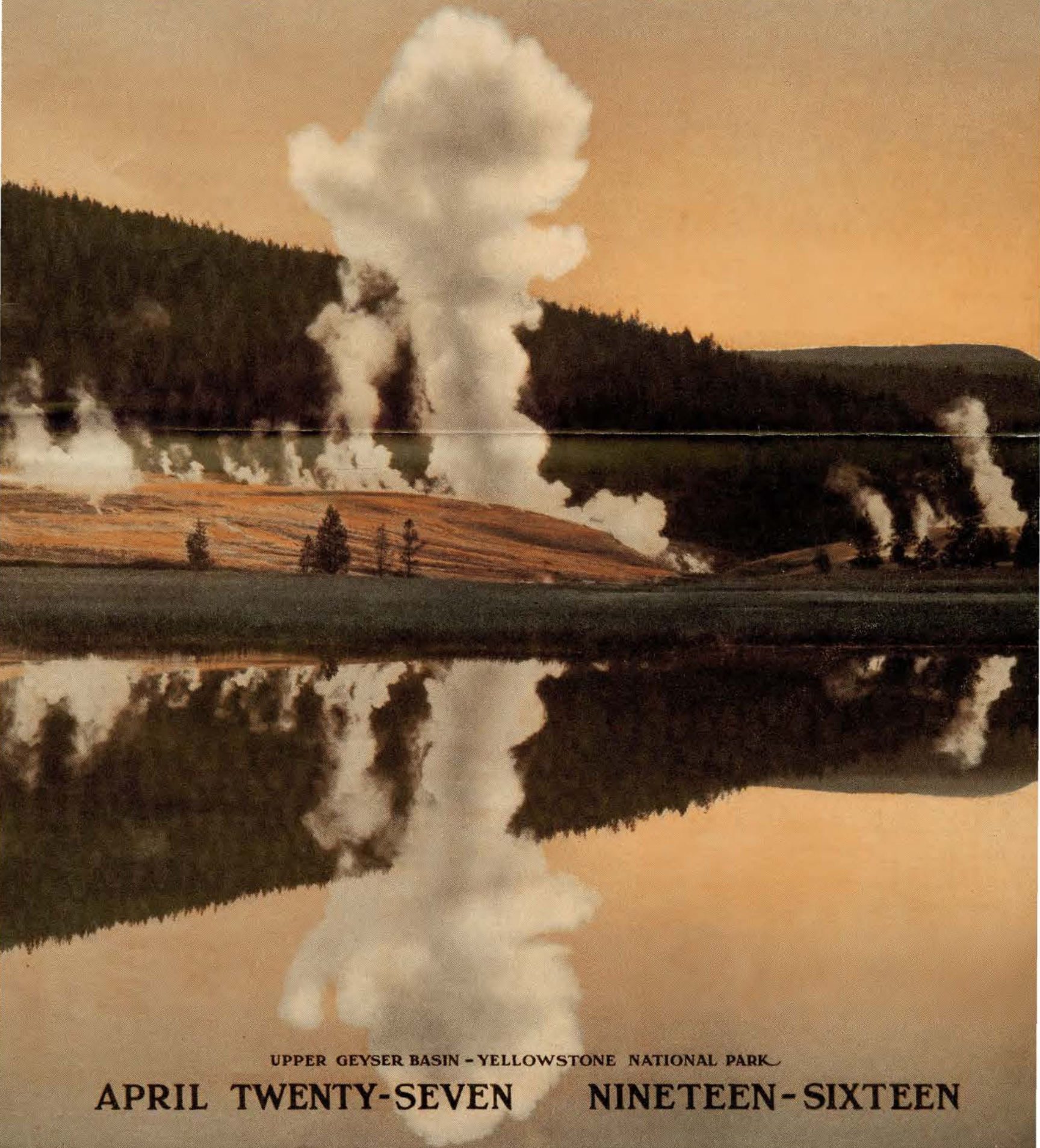


rounded education of the young women who make their home at Lindenwood. The four tennis courts and the volley ball courts are in constant use in reasonably good weather.

Play Given by Students in the Course of Expression



The CONTINENT



UPPER GEYSER BASIN - YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

APRIL TWENTY-SEVEN NINETEEN-SIXTEEN