

December, 1962

Mrs. Adams,

I am writing things that just pop in my mind and it may not be at all what you want so just discard it if it is not. I imagine Mrs. Weisbaker (Margalene Jones) may be able to give you better information than I can. I am in closing some clippings etc. that I had in an old scrapbook.

As I told you on the phone the way I happened to select B. G. S. N. C. (that was the first name of the College) was that, on account of my father's illness, I was unable to enter College in the fall and had given up the idea of attending College until I received the leaflet announcing the opening of this new College.

I arrived a cold night in January, alone, not knowing anyone and scared to death. My mother had arranged with Mr. Powell to have some one meet me (girls did not ride in taxis alone in those days). Mr. Yarbrough, who was the one and only Secretary and who did a bit of everything, met me at the station. Not all of the girls had arrived and the first people I met were Lucile Cushman and Miss Horne, the domestic

Science teacher. A number of teachers were living the dormitory as it was not filled. We loved them all. There was only one building and it was not completed - at times we had classes out in the sunshine as the heating was not finished. Our classes were so small we almost had private tutors. This was wonderful as we came to know the teachers so well and were so fond of them. We were like a big family. Our library was almost a cubby hole as we had so few books but our teachers were so generous they brought reference books from their own libraries. Mr. Poovee offered me the job of keeping library - 30 min. a day - 15 in early morning and 15 min after school hours. My salary was \$5⁰⁰ a month. The class rooms and chapel were on the first floor and the bed rooms, one room parlor, and dining room on the second floor.

Our first matron was Mrs. Peterson, a jolly, good-natured lady, whom we all loved. I suppose she was too kind because the next year Mrs. Knapp was matron with Miss Gallagher, a teacher in the training school as her assistant. Miss Gallagher was so thorough we believed she could read our thoughts.

The first spring we did not wear uniforms. The town people were wonderful to us. They furnished cars to take us places and were so generous every way. I spent many delightful week-ends in Judge Thomas' home. The faculty did everything they could to make us happy and feel at home. They planned dinners, picnics etc for our entertainment. On one occasion we all hiked out to Jones' Pond. Dr. Powell went along and took ^{the} girls boat riding. on one trip I, with several other girls, were in the boat with him. The pond had a large number of stumps in it and our boat landed on one. Dr. Powell tried every way with his oars to release it but it wouldn't budge. Finally, he suggested we all get in the bottom of the boat. None of us could swim & he was afraid the boat would capsize. one more push with his oars and we were free. He had a keen sense of humor and laughed and said "Girls, did you know each of you were on your knees?"

Our first Christmas we had a beautiful celebration - a real old-fashioned English dinner. We wore costumes & powdered our hair. In closed is our beautiful program. We had

a dais and drank wassail from bowls. A bear head (hand made) was brought in & we marched behind singing old English Carols. It was very authentic.

As for rules we had plenty, tho' not more than some colleges. The second year we had more restrictions as there were more students. We began wearing uniforms which we detested but the argument for them was that it was more democratic - some girls might not be able to dress as well as others etc. Our everyday uniform was a blue serge skirt and white linen ^{shirt} blouse. At first the collar was buttoned at the neck, but after much pleading, we were allowed to turn the collar back provided we didn't open beyond a certain button. For dress (town & church) we wore a navy suit, white blouse, and blue hat. In summer we wore white skirts and white Panama hats. Even so, some girls always managed to look a little bit more glamorous than others.

We were never permitted to date or be seen with boys. However, every Monday (our free day) we went to town and went to Seneca's ice cream parlor for chocolate nut sundae. Strange to say, about the same time a group of boys

would get thirsty and hungry and came in, though we could not talk with them we exchanged sweet glances and smiles. The worst trouble I was ever in was once when the College decided to have a reception and invite the town people (boys too). That night I didn't go to supper as I had rolled my hair up & we were not allowed to go to the dining room like that. As luck would have it, Miss Gallagher gave instructions what the girls could & could not do. I met this young man and after standing around a while we decided to walk on the terrace which was attached to the building, ^{and were frightened} I thought it was strange no one else was out there so we went back in. The next day Miss Gallagher asked me so I thought I would be expelled! We could not correspond with any local boys and with out of town ones only by special permission from home, we had to have special permission from home to visit anyone, in town or out. If we left the campus we had to sign out and tell where we were going. The Freshman and Sub Freshman always had an upperclassman to chaperone - even the Seniors didn't go to town alone. In spite of it all, it was a wonderful experience and we were taught the importance of refinement

and bring a lady.

I hope you were able to locate the Arnold girls who were very fine. I will mention this confidentially so you will understand if they seem unwilling to cooperate. They came to school here that first year because Miss McElreath, their dear friend, was elected English teacher, the second year she was not reelected and they were very bitter - in fact, when they graduated they were still bitter and the last I heard they had never gotten over it. Since their feeling was mostly toward Dr. Power, maybe they feel better about it now.

I know you think I have moved on but I am just reliving memories. I know most of it is very personal and probably won't be any good to you. I hope these old clippings and pictures will help.

Angie Mae Taylor

[Angie Mae Miller, member of 1st graduating class, 1914]

P. S. Please note the fee - \$15⁰⁰ ~~a month~~ board. I was under the impression that at the opening it was \$12⁰⁰ ~~a month~~. I think I mentioned five in a class that was the Senior Class. over

If I have been inaccurate in any of my statements
please forgive me as 50 years is a long time
to remember.