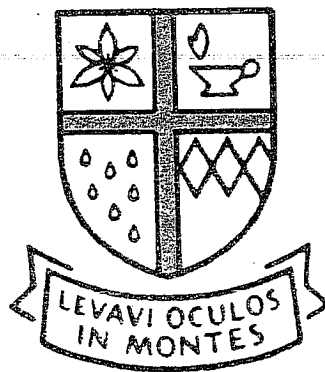

OUR FIRST 100 YEARS

1886-1986



Saint Mary's School
Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains
The White Mountain School

OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

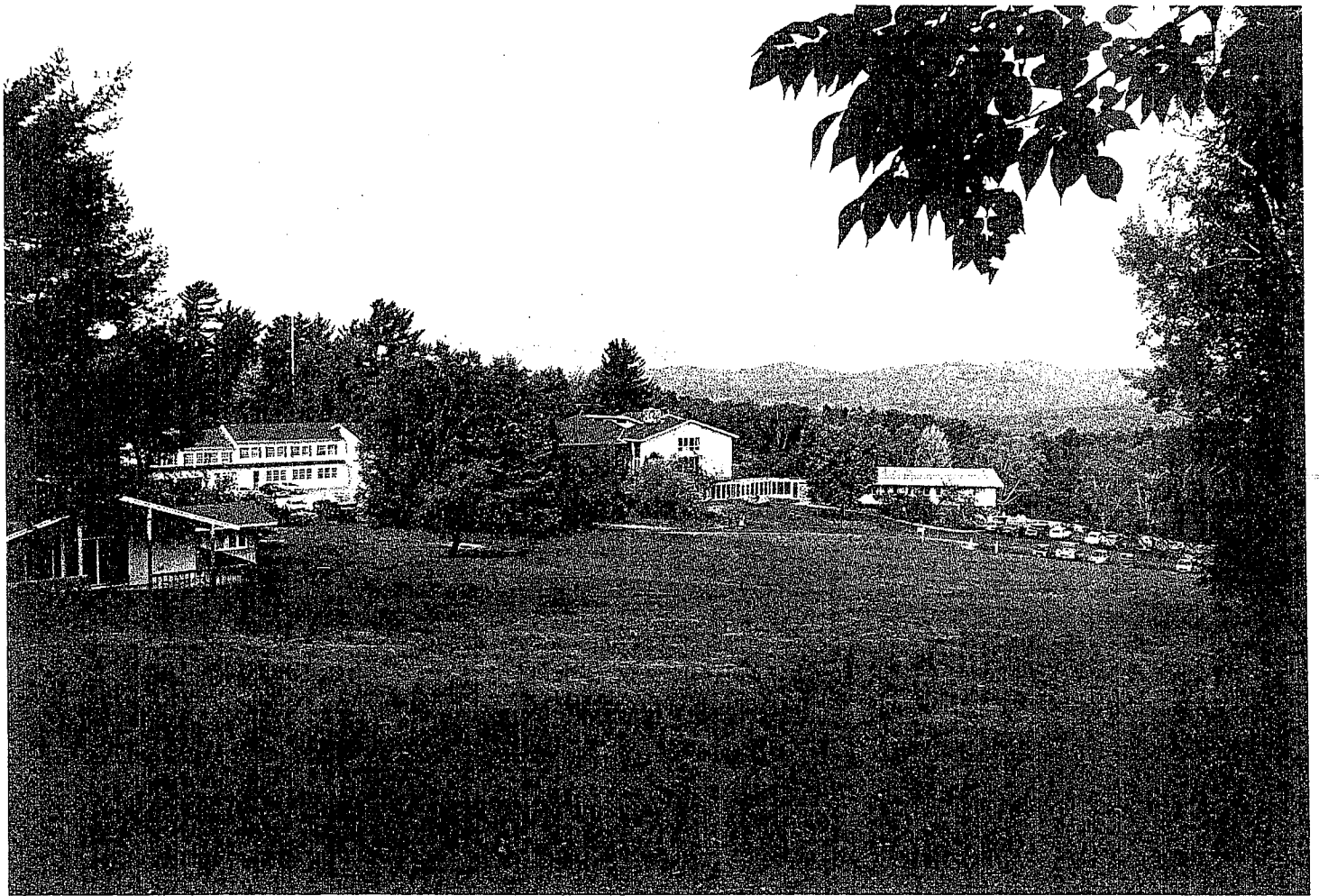
The Centennial History

Table of Contents

I. Three in One	4
II. In the Beginning	6
III. First Principal, Miss Elizabeth M. Gainforth	8
IV. Early Teachers	9
V. Second Principal, Miss Isabel M. Parks	10
VI. Third Principal, Miss Mary E. Ladd	18
VII. Fourth Principal, Mrs. Clinton A. McLane	20
VIII. The Move to the Mountains	23
IX. Fifth Principal, Miss Mary Harley Jenks	38
X. Headmaster John C. McIlwaine	52
XI. The Fire of 1964 and Rebuilding	56
XII. Transition	62
XIII. Headmaster E. Charles Sanborn	70
XIV. Headmaster William F. Patterson	73
XV. Headmaster John R. Hood	78
XVI. Addenda	90

Written and Edited by
Linda Clark McGoldrick '55

Published by The White Mountain School
Littleton, New Hampshire 03561
September 1986



A view of the campus of The White Mountain School as it appeared in 1986.

Dedicated with affection and respect to

Gilbert R. Tanis

of Hanover, New Hampshire

**Since October 1961 he has faithfully served this School
as a Trustee
for twenty-five of our first hundred years.**

**A man of God, a sage, a teacher and a friend.
In countless ways he keeps alive the spirit of the original dream.**

Three In One

How challenging the task to chronicle 100 years in the life of a school! Any school, of course. But our school is three in one — a trinity which has endured for a century.

Remarkably it has survived. Through three name changes. Through three uprootings from city to country to mountain views. Through a ruinous fire. Through financial ups and downs. And through a social crucible which changed an all-girls' church school into a coeducational, college preparatory school emphasizing the outdoor life in God's world.

Our institution began its first century on September 21, 1886, as Saint Mary's School for Girls in a mansion on South Main Street in Concord, New Hampshire. For nearly fifty years it educated young women "under refining Christian influence" through a high school curriculum, and, for an experimental time, even girls and boys in a lower school. Then, in 1935, Saint Mary's moved to the mountains — to reside for a year in the estate of author Ernest Poole on Sugar Hill. In its Fiftieth Anniversary year, Graduation for

the Class of 1936 was held on the terrace of the new, permanent home for Saint Mary's — "Seven Springs," the estate of Eman and Mary Payne Beck overlooking Mount Washington and the Presidential Range. The name changed to Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains.

The Fire of January 3, 1964 destroyed "Seven Springs." Spared from the flames were the illuminated Bible and Mexican silver cross, symbols that the School should not die.

A phoenix in the form of a gleaming, white Main Building arose from the ashes, followed by two new dormitories.

The cauldron of change in the Sixties caused the dramatic evolution of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains into The White Mountain School. Boys entered as day students in 1970 and as boarders in 1972. Coeducation inaugurated a new generation of students. Young men and women have found a home in a vastly different



school from the one which was founded by the Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire, the Rt. Rev. William Woodruff Niles, one hundred years ago.

The constant is this belief: capable young people deserve to be challenged in a small school that develops the body, the mind and the soul in an uplifting environment.

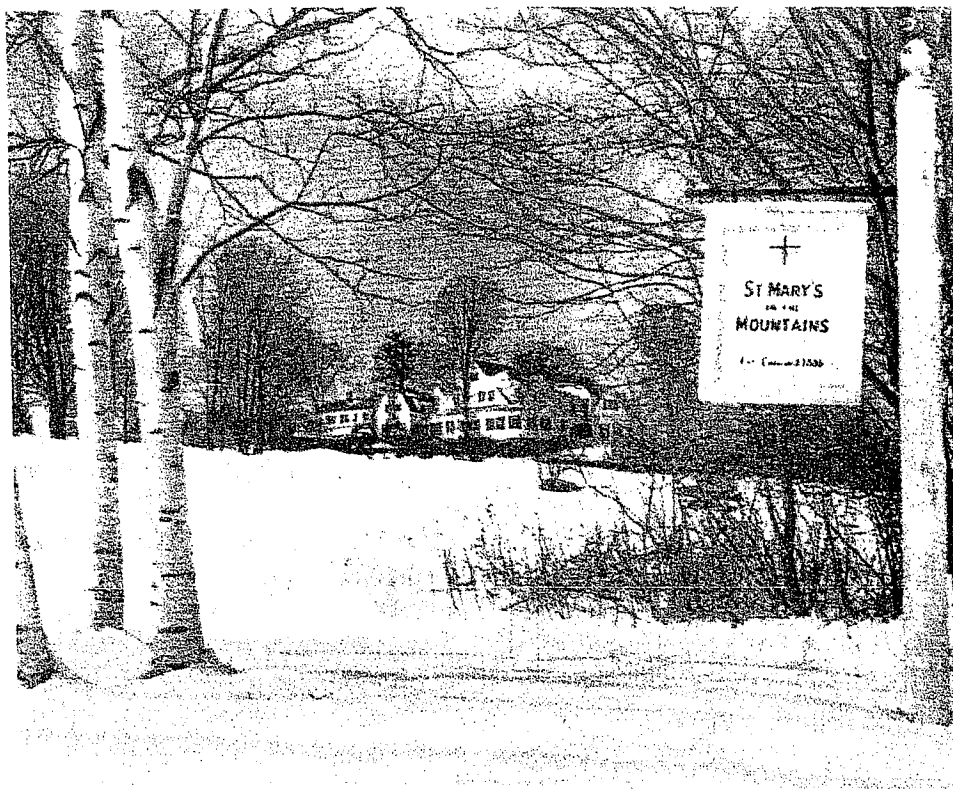
Another is the steadfast dedication of individuals who have caused the School to adapt to change. Their commitment has fostered its growth "from strength to strength."

The unchanging principle has been the caring of older generations for the younger as they search together for the meaning of life. Respect for the individual; an open sharing in service to one another; and a zeal to excel in everything one does — these qualities shine throughout our first century. And in every year of our School's existence, students and teachers discover friendships that last a lifetime.

For a Centennial History, we cannot convey a sense of unity among alumni by centering on one name, one place, one building, one song, one motto, one philosophy or even one faith anymore. But we can tell the story of 100 years through the memories of individuals who have felt themselves a part of a glorious trinity — Saint Mary's School, Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, and The White Mountain School. Even after 100 years our three-in-one School is constantly in the process of becoming.

May God bless its future!

Linda Clark McGoldrick '55
June 1986



1880-1900

**"Education is simply the soul of a society
as it passes from one generation to another."
... G.K. Chesterton**

As with most stories, the tale of our School begins as an idea, a dream, a yearning.

In the early 1880s in Concord, New Hampshire, the Rt. Rev. William Woodruff Niles, a man of prodigious size and energy, served as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. Before becoming Bishop, Dr. Niles had taught Latin and Greek at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. His interest in education had prompted him to found Holderness School for Boys, which opened in 1879. At a time when women were considered intellectually inferior to men, Bishop Niles foresaw "a great and immediate need for a Girls' School of a high order under refining Christian in-

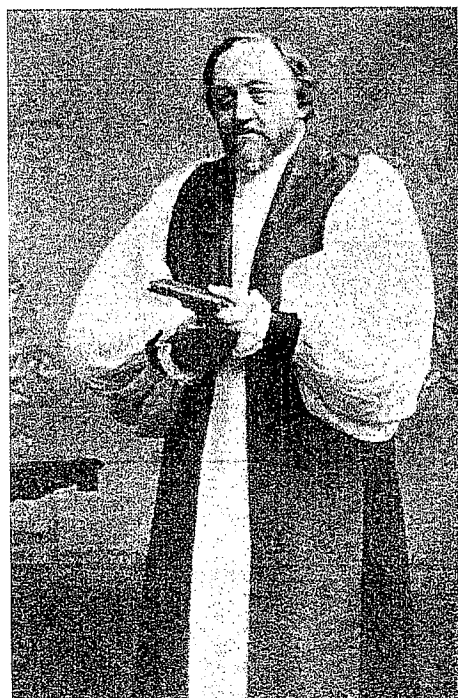
fluence." In a report to the Diocesan Convention of 1882 his practical words promoted the creation of a girls' school "where a thoroughly good education shall be given at no greater charge than is now required for boys at Holderness." (Tuition there was \$350 per year for resident pupils.)

Bishop Niles yearned to start a school where, as historians report, "moral training would be blended with intellectual instruction, and the refining influence of its home life would make gentlewomen of the girls committed to its care."

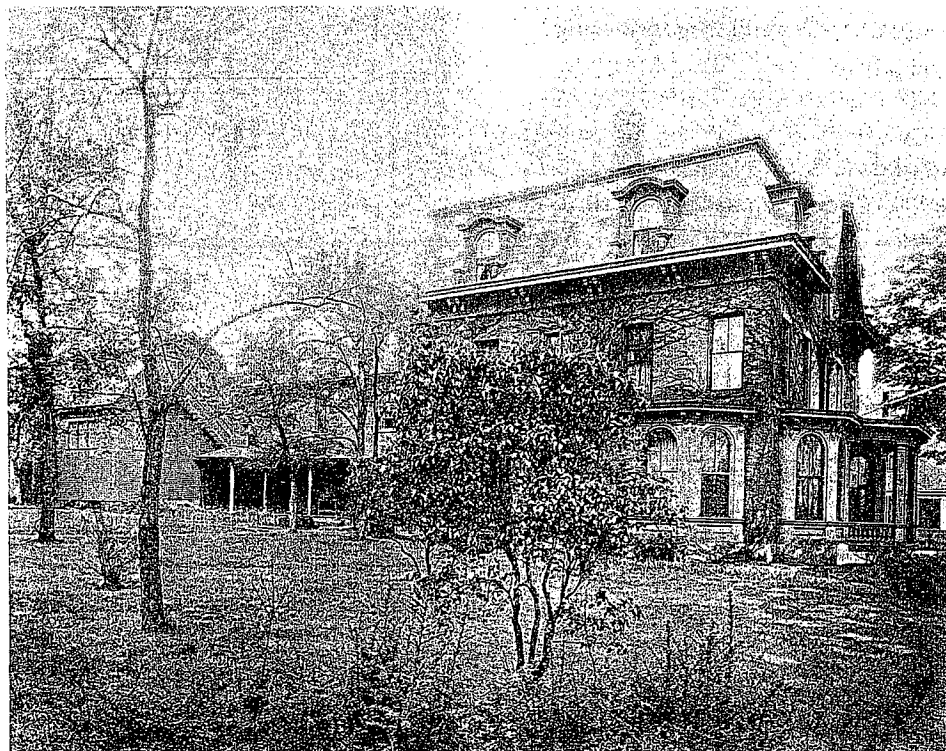
Even for a man as skillful and persevering as Bishop Niles, the task of persuading other men (no women were counted among the founders) to

raise the necessary funds and to find proper housing and staff for a school for girls was a major undertaking. The Laws of New Hampshire 1885 record that a school for girls was incorporated in July of that year. On September 24, 1885, the first board of trustees met at the Bishop's House in Concord. The Bishop was elected President and Edgar F. Woodman, Treasurer.

Then came the question of a proper place for a girls' school. In Penacook? In Tilton? A site in that town was offered as a gift. No. In Concord? Yes! The Bishop could keep a close eye on progress so his dream would achieve reality. After considerable searching, the trustees discovered an ideal spot on the corner of Fayette Street and broad, tree-lined South Main Street, a three-story mansion with a mansard roof built in the best Victorian style. Large rooms; lawns for pleasure and exercise; space for expansion. It could be purchased for \$15,500.



*The Rt. Rev. William Woodruff Niles.
Founder of the School. Bishop of New
Hampshire 1870-1914.*



Saint Mary's School, South Main Street, Concord, N.H. 1886.

Bishop Niles convinced Mrs. A.B.B. Tilton of Tilton to pledge \$20,000 in memory of her daughter. She presented \$10,000 of this gift in the spring of 1886. Before she could give the second \$10,000, she died. Without a will.

During the summer of 1886 residents of Concord rallied to help the Bishop to secure and equip the building. He found a principal and faculty and announced that Saint Mary's School for Girls would open in September. Tuition, room and board would be \$325 per year.

On Saint Matthew's Day, September 21, 1886, eight boarders, fourteen day pupils and six teachers attended a service of Holy Communion at Saint Paul's Church, Concord, celebrated by Bishop Niles. Then they walked back, two by two, to the mansion, climbed the stairs to the school room on the third floor, formerly the Billiard Room, and found their desks. School had begun.



Students of Saint Mary's School, April 25, 1888. The girl wearing a hat seated on the right is Mary Niles, daughter of Bishop Niles, who graduated from the School and became a teacher.



The Music Room in the former Governor Gilmore mansion.



Mary Niles. Harriet Hall.



Bertha Garvin, Class of 1891.

First Principal: Elizabeth M. Gainforth (1886-1900)

The first principal, Miss Elizabeth Montague-Gainforth, was an Englishwoman who had taught in France for so many years that she spoke English with a lilting accent. Her students remember her as a petite woman with a pretty face and fair skin. She was a well-bred person of quiet strength who dressed in regal fashion in full skirts which brushed the floor with a "soft, swishing sound."

During her fifteen years at Saint Mary's she taught French and administered with grace and dignity. One of the young teachers, Miss Mary Baker, a graduate of Smith College who taught English, Latin and Greek, described Miss Montague-Gainforth this way: "She gave the pupils an idea and ideal of deportment and manners, of Christian discipline and Prayer Book training." In deference to New Hampshire customs, this gentlewoman soon simplified her hyphenated name to "Miss Elizabeth M. Gainforth." She served as Principal from 1886 until 1900, staying on as "Lady Warden" until her death in 1901.



Winter on South Main Street, Concord, with views of two buildings belonging to Saint Mary's School for Girls.



Buildings of Saint Mary's School, Concord, Early 1900s.



"The Schoolhouse," south of the Gilmore mansion, purchased by Saint Mary's School in 1907, through gifts received from Miss Susan G. Perkins, sister of Commodore Perkins, of Concord.

Mourning her death, her students who had learned to love her deeply, listened to the reading of her will: "To all the girls who have been and are in the School, to them I leave my hopes that they will build up the School financially and do everything to uphold St. Mary's upon secure foundations into a larger life."

Early Teachers

Dedicated teachers undergird the foundation of any good school. Saint Mary's was blessed by a series of intelligent, selfless women who, as "resident teachers," devoted their lives to their students. A few men teachers each year taught subjects such as German and music. They traveled by horse and buggy from nearby Saint Paul's School or by train from Boston.

Many of the early women teachers were fondly admired and vividly remembered by students in the early years of the 20th century. The stamp of their personalities and the high quality of their instruction shine forth again and again each year as prizes are awarded in their names at Graduation.

Miss Ethel W. Devin "The Devin Prize for Excellence in English"

Miss Devin, a native of Dover, New Hampshire and a Smith graduate, arrived at Saint Mary's in 1897. She taught English, English literature and history for 19 years until 1916 when she found a position at Smith College. Miss Devin was warmly remembered by alumna



Miss Ethel W. Devin, English



Miss Alice C. Humphrey, Greek, Latin, Ancient History.

Ethel Cilley Stone '02, who described her as "very genuine and warm-hearted. She cared for the girls, taught us character and social graces as well as academic subjects."

Miss Alice C. Humphrey "Humphrey Prize for Excellence in Latin"

In 1895 Miss Humphrey of Concord arrived to teach Greek, Latin and ancient history. She also played the organ "with tiny hands" and composed the School Hymn, which for many years was sung at the traditional Closing Day. She taught for 22 years, leaving in 1917.

Miss Helen Heath "The Heath Prize for Excellence in Mathematics"

In the tradition of versatility well-known in private boarding schools, Miss Heath, a teacher of mathematics, arrived in 1903 to help teach French. Later she taught all levels of mathematics and established and equipped the new "chemical laboratory."

Miss Caroline E. Coit For many years, "The Coit Prize in Art"

Miss Coit, from the family of Dr. Henry Augustus Coit, founder of Saint Paul's School, studied at Yale Art School. She taught for thirteen years, 1887 until 1900, when her position was assumed by an alumna, **Bertha Niles**, Class of 1891. Miss Niles, daughter of the founding Bishop, continued as head of the Art Department until her marriage in 1923 to Thomas Hodgson.

Miss Louise Pratt, nicknamed "Bijou," by the students, taught French for twenty years. The French Prize is named, however, for a subsequent language teacher, Miss Goodrich.

Miss Isabel M. Parks, came in 1893 from Littleton, New Hampshire, to teach English, Latin and Greek. She resigned "to enter upon an advanced course of study at Radcliffe." But her history at Saint Mary's did not end there.



Miss Helen Heath, Mathematics.

Second Principal: Miss Isabel M. Parks (1900-1918)

In 1898 Bishop Niles appealed to Miss Parks to return to Saint Mary's School to become Vice-Principal. Miss Gainforth's health was failing. Although Miss Parks held a treasured position teaching English at the Chestnut Hill School in Pennsylvania, the Bishop prevailed upon her "as one interested in New Hampshire and in all for which Saint Mary's was standing" to assist Miss Gainforth and to carry on her work into the new century.

Despite accepting more demanding responsibilities and a lower salary, Miss Parks concurred with Bishop Niles's conviction that she was the right one to lead Saint Mary's. She returned. And for the next twenty-one years she gave full measure to Saint Mary's.

From her experiences as a student at Salem Normal School and Radcliffe and as a teacher at Littleton High School and Chestnut Hill School, Miss Parks improved the curriculum at Saint Mary's. Her efforts in raising the standard of scholarship were rewarded when her graduates were accepted for entrance to Wellesley, Smith and Vassar. She taught Bible, a required course for all.

She also devoted considerable attention to the development of the Domestic Science department at Saint Mary's, which offered courses such as "household chemistry" and "accounting."

Miss Isabel M. Parks has been described by alumnae as devout, pa-

tient, considerate of others, fair, wise and sympathetic. Though some remembered her as aloof, cool and reserved, others spoke of her devotion to the Church and her earnest dedication of her life to Saint Mary's School.



Miss Louise Pratt, "Bijou," French.



Mary Niles and Miss Humphrey.



Around 1916 these teachers and a pupil pose at Saint Mary's School: Miss Ruth Haseltine, teacher of the General Course and ward of Miss Parks; Miss Mary E. Ladd from Lancaster, New Hampshire. A Saint Mary's girl and a Smith graduate, she began teaching at Saint Mary's in 1916 and became its Third Principal in 1919. Bertha Niles, '91 and art teacher; and Josephine Walker, '15.



Miss Isabel M. Parks, Second Principal.



Students at Saint Mary's, circa 1908.



Students at Saint Mary's, circa 1911.

Student Life at Saint Mary's

The formal all-school portraits show serious, contemplative and proper schoolgirls dressed in their Sunday best. Under the photographer's admonition and the stern eye of Miss Parks they didn't step out of line. Of course they showed respect for the older women teachers and the principal. Naturally they held the Bishops, first Bishop Niles, then his successor Bishop Parker, in reverence and awe. Authority was not to be questioned.

A wry example: One alumna, **Gertrude Hambleton Richards '18**, arrived at Saint Mary's mid-year in 1911 because her mother died suddenly and her father sent her away to school. Her English class was taught by Miss Ruth Haseltine, a ward of Miss Parks. Miss Haseltine was teaching a unit on Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. This was the first time Gertrude had ever heard of mythology or the concept of many deities. As a girl of 12 raised an Episcopalian by God-fearing parents, she thought she had entered a frightful, heretical environment. For weeks she dared not ask anybody to clear up her confusion about God and gods! Finally, a timid question to Miss Haseltine solved her dilemma.

Snapshots culled from many scrapbooks belonging to alumnae from the early 20th century reveal that girls could enjoy a relaxed, informal and playful attitude toward life. Girls did giggle and grin. In bloomers and mid-dy blouses they could romp on the back lawn and be frolicsome with the younger women who taught gymnastics and dance.

Mildred Lauder Coombs '14 of Concord recalled playing in the well-designed Gynmasium, built in 1906 as a gift from one of the Trustees, Miss Susan G. Perkins. "We played a rather peculiar game of basketball, three girls here, three there, and three across the way. It wasn't very



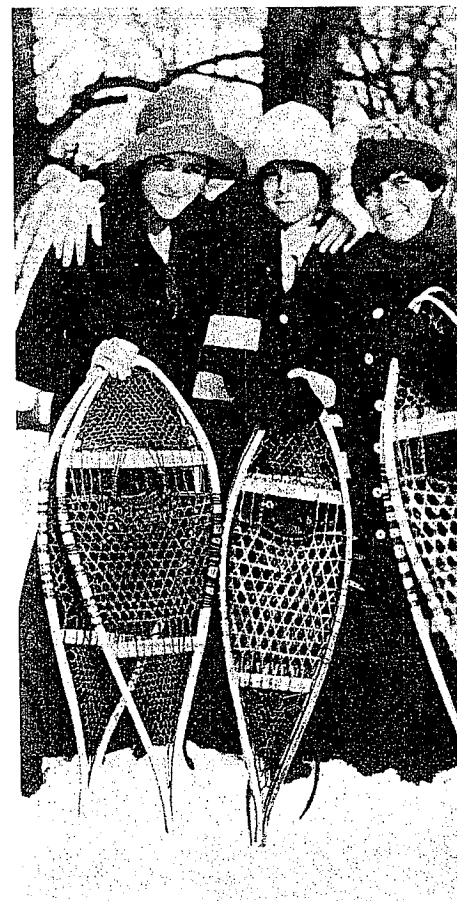
Girls gathered in front of new Gym, built 1906.



Bloomer Girls, 1912.

exciting. You couldn't go over the line. We also were taught 'aesthetic dancing,' a mild form of ballet. I never could get my feet right.

"Most of our exercise came from walking, two by two, in a crocodile. Around the block. Down to Saint Paul's Church and back. At church Sundays we sat on the left-hand side of the transept and blinked at the male choir boys. In the crocodile line walking home, we'd sing the hymn: 'I walked with Him and I talked with Him.' Only we didn't mean Jesus Christ!" said Mrs. Coombs.



Snowshoeing: winter exercise on State Hospital Grounds, Concord, circa 1916.

Contact with boys was extremely limited, recalled **Gertrude Hambleton Richards '18**. Girls were brought up in a much too sheltered and protected environment, she said. Artificiality was the rule in the relationships with young men. Saint Mary's girls were allowed to hold one dance a year. Bishop Parker created a list of eligible, acceptable young men from Concord who could be possible dates. They met the boys at the Parish House, filled in dance cards to exchange partners, had an enjoyable time, bade good-night to the boys there and took a bus back to School. However, right before Graduation she and **Eunice Hidden Clapp '18** snuck out of school during the day and met two boys from Saint Paul's School.

Other daring escapades included learning to smoke cigarettes while sitting secretively on the shelves of the dormer windows on the third floor

overlooking Main Street. The space in the dormer window was just big enough for two, reported wayward alumnae like **Ariel Hambleton Richards '13** and **Emily Heard Dustin '33**. "Although the School was very strict, we were never caught."



Teachers of Gymnastics and Dance, 1910-1916



Gyming, 1913.

Daily Schedule

Ethel Cilley Stone '02 described her daily routine as a day pupil. Girls would arrive at the side entrance of the mansion in time for Morning Prayers around 8:00 a.m. Classes were held until "dinner" around 1:30 p.m. Ethel, who later became a teacher, studied ancient history, British literature, American literature, French, Latin and Bible, which was required. Everyone studied music, art and ballroom dancing. Most took mathematics. German was offered also. Sciences, however, were severely limited.

Mid-morning there was a break, Ethel remembered, for "dog biscuits." If you wanted milk, you could buy a glass for 5¢. Boarders had "dinner" at school; day pupils walked home. Class size ranged between 2 to 5 pupils. "In Latin IV



"A French Play," 1912, starring Ariel Hambleton '13 on left.



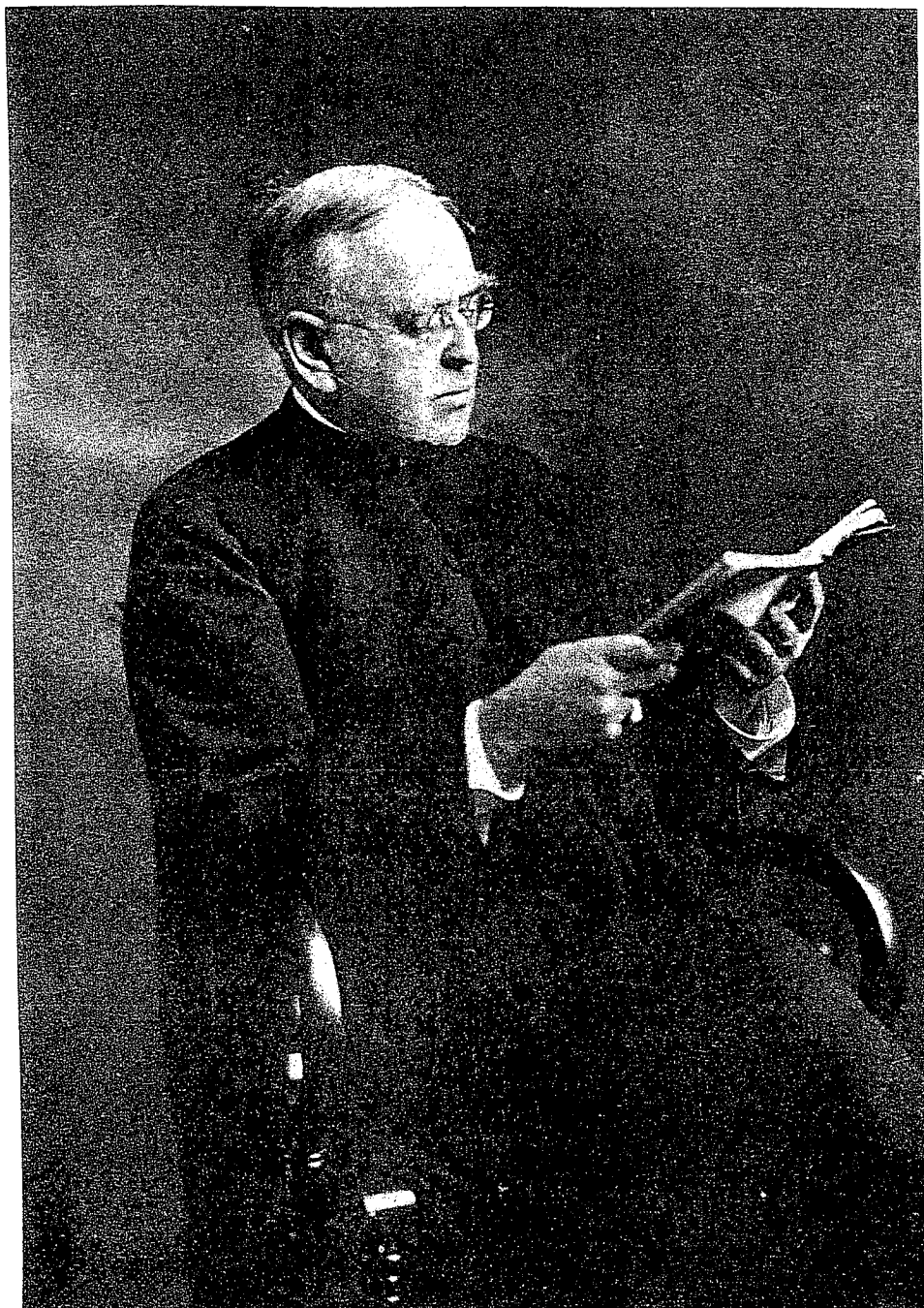
"Love and Tea," a play given at Saint Paul's Parish House by Saint Mary's School for the War Relief Fund, May 19, 1917, starring, l. to r., Rachael Nauss, Isabel Macy, Gertrude Hambleton, Doris Clough, Lois Rowe, Lucy Salt, Marion Payne and Gladys Dean, all students in classes 1917-1920.

there were two of us," she said. "You had to know your lesson! I studied all afternoon and evening, most all the time." Tuition for a day student was \$75 for the year in 1902.

More vivid recollections of Morning Prayers were offered by another day pupil, **Josephine Walker Woodman '15**. Her indelible impression of Saint Mary's was the memory of Morning Prayers attended by Bishop Edward Parker and usually by The Rev. W. Stanley Emery, Rector of Saint Paul's Church and father of two students, **Dorothy Emery Lyford '12** and **Ethel Naunton Emery '15**. "Each day we'd begin with prayers, readings from the Bible, and hymn-singing. There is no substitute for the day-by-day routine of saying the words of our prayers. They stay with you the rest of your life and are most helpful in time of need," said Mrs. Woodman. (Her husband, Edgar F. Woodman, as had his father before him, served as the Treasurer of Saint Mary's Corporation for many years. Her son Timothy W. Woodman served as a Trustee in the 1970s.)

Ariel Hambleton Richards '13 loved being in plays at Saint Mary's School. She acted in both English and French plays. "I was a real ham," she said.

"At Saint Mary's School we were taught three things," reported **Flora Belle Nelson '20**, who was sent to boarding school from a farm in Franconia. "To be a good Christian, to be a good student and to be a good lady." In the last category Flora Belle claimed some frustrations with the lessons. As a country girl she hated gloves and stockings, required wear at Saint Mary's for tea parties in the afternoons. "But when we had tea at Mr. Emery's we could take off one white glove, for which I was grateful because I knew I couldn't handle a cup of tea and cinnamon toast with my gloves on!"



*The Rt. Rev. Edward M. Parker, Fourth Bishop of New Hampshire, 1914-1925. Father of alumna, **Caroline Parker Leavitt, '32**.*

Senior Privileges

From her older sister Ruth '16, Elizabeth Hubbard Seymour '17 had gleaned many a tale about the exciting life at a New Hampshire boarding school called Saint Mary's. She was delighted when her parents decided to send her to SMS for her senior year of high school. She wrote her recollections. "On arriving at Saint Mary's in September 1916, I found that I was to live with two roommates in a large third-floor room in Main. We had a small alcove adjoining our room, also a large closet, which served as a dressing room for 'Pixey,' who preferred not to dress in public!

"Each day we eagerly looked forward to mail, but we were restricted (no doubt wisely) in our correspondence. We might write letters only to persons whose names were on a list approved and signed by our parents and deposited with Miss Parks. Few boys' names were on those lists!

"A Senior had 'special privileges.' We did not have to attend study halls. We were allowed to study in our own rooms unless we failed to keep up our marks. Seniors could go downtown shopping by themselves, or go to the State Library near the Capitol for source books, or go calling on friends in Concord *without an accompanying chaperone*. We cherished this freedom and strove never to abuse it. It proved a real help to me in the spring of 1917, as I was chosen editor of the school magazine, *The Pendulum*. I had to make many trips downtown to the Rumford Press, that famous firm which printed *The Atlantic Monthly*.

"Seniors could walk to Saint Paul's Church on Sundays by themselves. It was a pleasure to walk with Miss Humphrey, our Latin teacher, and sit in her pew. She passed out peppermints during the Sermon to brighten our spirits and to keep whispering schoolgirls quiet.

"Sometimes I used to spend the evening study period in Miss Humphrey's sitting room. We'd read Virgil or Ovid together, and how I did enjoy those hours! She made Latin most delightful. It was like having a private tutor in fourth year Latin.

"In the dining hall we had a French Table, presided over by Mademoiselle Pratt. We could not speak a word of English! Fortunately, Miss Pratt loved to talk in French and related anecdotes and jokes. In the end we learned the sounds of proper French being well-spoken,

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Thou Lord of all, to Thee we come,
In slow processional, to bring
Our offering of earnest prayer,
Our joyous praise to Thee to sing.
Oh may we, in sincerity,
Now consecrate ourselves to Thee.

May all our life within these walls
Be free from selfishness and pride;
Let memories of happy days
Forever in our minds abide:
And may we, in sincerity,
Now consecrate ourselves to Thee.

And when in after life we share
In loving service for Thy name,
May hearts be stronger for the years
Of high endeavor, earnest aim.
Thus may we, in sincerity,
Now consecrate ourselves to Thee.

A. C. H.

The School Hymn composed by teacher, Miss Alice C. Humphrey and sung on Closing Day during her 22 years at Saint Mary's and for many years thereafter.

which attuned our ears to that beautiful language. Mademoiselle made me love French so much, I elected it all four years at Wellesley.

"Our Faculty deserves my tribute. We girls were privileged to be taught by a group of unusually cultured, well-educated and extremely dedicated women . . . who catered to our needs and demands. We were often thoughtless of their comfort or interests; we were not often pleasant. But I have no memory of our teachers having been harsh, unreasonable or unsympathetic. Instead I remember times when they were kindness itself. Very often they were entertaining and fun!

"Once in February when plenty of snow covered the ground, we were all bundled up for a sleigh ride — a winter hayride — on huge sleds. Hot soapstones and buffalo robes kept us warm. We were driven to a Grange Hall in Dunbarton, where a chicken

dinner awaited us. We danced to records, sang and chatted endlessly! Coming home, with the moon overhead, we sang song after song, we were so enthusiastic!

"In the midst of our peaceful, sheltered lives a strange intruder came in April. World War I had reached America. This frightening realization caused us Seniors to grow up a little faster. I studied harder for what I wanted most: Certification to Wellesley College. Soon we enjoyed a lovely Garden Party on the lawn between Main and the Schoolhouse. Next came Baccalaureate Sunday and finally Commencement. On to Wellesley and my girlhood dream was coming true. We were now SMS Alumnae, rejoicing in our goodly heritage. Much of that heritage we are glad and proud to share now with The White Mountain School in Littleton, NH."



Ruth Bradley Woodman, '02, of Concord. Later Mrs. Henry Breckinridge. She studied nursing after graduating from Saint Mary's and became a mountain nurse in Kentucky. She gave her life in World War II in Red Cross work. Her home on No. Main Street, Concord, was used for the Red Cross.



Graduation, Class of 1914.

Third Principal: Miss Mary E. Ladd (1919-1931)

Mary E. Ladd joined the faculty of Saint Mary's in 1916, beginning a career of fifteen years at the school she had attended as a student from Lancaster, New Hampshire. When Miss Isabel Parks resigned for health reasons in 1919, Miss Ladd became the Third Principal.

Two alumnae remember her quite differently.

Terry Niles Smith '27 was the granddaughter of Bishop Niles, who died in 1914 at age 82. As Terry's mother died when Terry was two, Terry was brought up by her aunts, **Mary Niles** and **Bertha Niles**, both Saint Mary's graduates. "Aunt B" was teaching art at the School. Since Terry was a rascal, her aunts decided she should board at Saint Mary's, which she did. She attended for seven years.

One can imagine Miss Ladd's dilemma: how to guide the spirits of a

rambunctious child who bore a legacy of a legendary Bishop and two alumnae, one of whom was on her teaching staff. Terry recalled Miss Ladd as "aloof, austere, quite unsympathetic to my mischievous acts." Once Terry challenged one of her teachers who was reprimanding her by saying, "I am Bishop Niles' granddaughter and you cannot kick me out!" **Terry Niles Smith** succeeded in graduating, however, with the Class of 1927 and went on to study at a prestigious secretarial school in Boston. She became an active and loyal alumna in support of Saint Mary's.

Another alumna who knew Miss Ladd at the end of her tenure, **Emily "Tommy" Heard Dustin '33**, spoke of her as a "very refined woman with high ideals, strict within reason and respected." Under Miss Ladd's leadership, the enrollment in

day students grew while boarding students declined. The overall enrollment hovered between fifty and sixty girls. Miss Ladd also expanded the physical plant of Saint Mary's. A "modern" brick schoolhouse was built in the space between two of the buildings and the original mansion. In 1931 Miss Ladd proudly witnessed the largest senior class graduate and reported to the trustees that the School was free from debt with \$14,000 in the reserve fund and an endowment fund of \$35,000.

However, in the Thirties cars and trucks roared up and down South Main Street. A block away from the School, the auditorium of the Masonic Temple was transformed into a movie theatre. Commercial ventures such as car repair shops opened up across the street from the genteel girls' school. The long-range future looked bleak. Miss Ladd resigned in 1931.



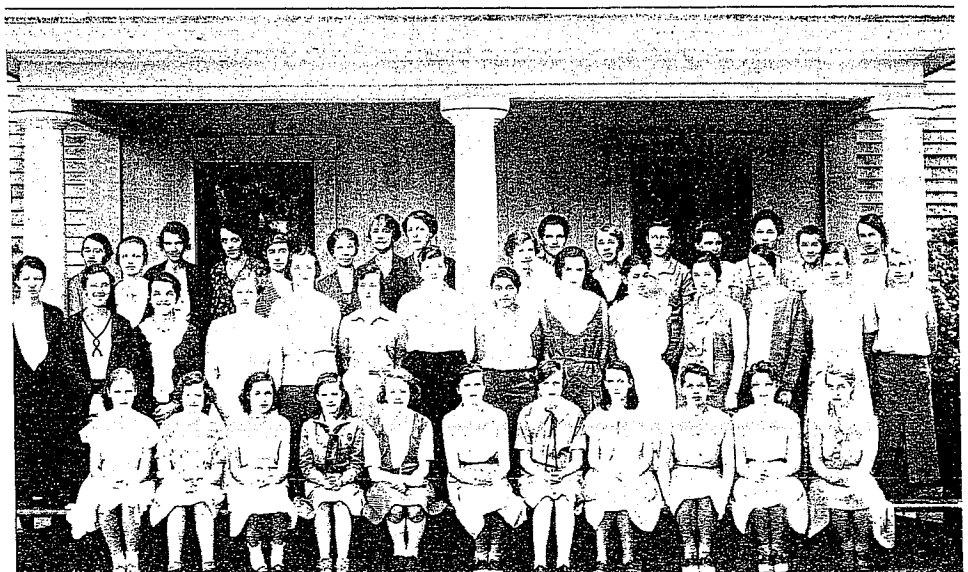
Some of the students at Saint Mary's School, 1921-22. The School was crowding its two buildings and gym on South Main Street in Concord. The trustees were seeking alternative sites, possibly on Ridge Road, Concord, for expansion. In 1923 the house south of the Schoolhouse on South Main Street became available for purchase for \$10,000. Rather than incur the expense of rebuilding at a new site, the trustees voted to purchase the dwelling, called Alumnae House, in 1923.



By 1925 Saint Mary's School had grown to some fifty girls. The Third Principal, Miss **Mary E. Ladd**, is pictured standing on the far left. In this year the beloved Bishop Parker died suddenly. Within two years Mr. Emery also died.



The graduating Class of 1927: l. to r., Terry Niles (granddaughter of the late Bishop Niles) Katherine Macy, Sophie Lay, Marion Tibbetts, Flora Bagley, Helen Davis.



Probably taken circa 1930-1931, Miss Ladd's final year of leadership. She is standing in back row, two to the right of the middle pillar.

Fourth Principal: Dorothy Ellingwood McLane (1931-1944)

"Aunt Dot"

Nicknames are legion at boarding schools. **Emily Heard Dustin '33** earned her lifetime nickname of "Tommy" at Saint Mary's when she played the role of Indian chief, "Tomahawk," in a pageant. Youth shortened the sobriquet to roll off the tongue more smoothly.

When Dorothy Ellingwood McLane (Mrs. Clinton A.), mother of three boys and a girl, took over the reins of Saint Mary's in 1931, she ended a long tradition of having girls use the formal "Miss" as a prefix. Her nickname of "Aunt Dot" typified her vigorous, no-nonsense, crisp style of leadership. Yet the casual name also encouraged girls to feel a sense of comradeship, of belonging to a family, and of having an older and wiser friend in whom they could confide. She lived up to all her nickname implied.

Tommy Dustin quickly discovered, along with her schoolchums in 1931, that "Aunt Dot was a good sport." An athlete and admirer of the natural world, Aunt Dot McLane determined that her girls needed more outdoor activities. When one playful student pulled the fire alarm bell during an afternoon walk around the city block, Aunt Dot McLane added more vigorous team sports to be played on the back lawns. Then she concocted the idea of taking girls off campus to work on a farm, or hike, ski and climb mountains.

"I liked the idea of more sports; I'm an athletic person. But even I wasn't too keen on being taken into the country and made to walk back four or five miles of an afternoon!" stated Tommy Dustin wryly. "I did approve of Aunt Dot's making us do more than we dreamed we could do!"



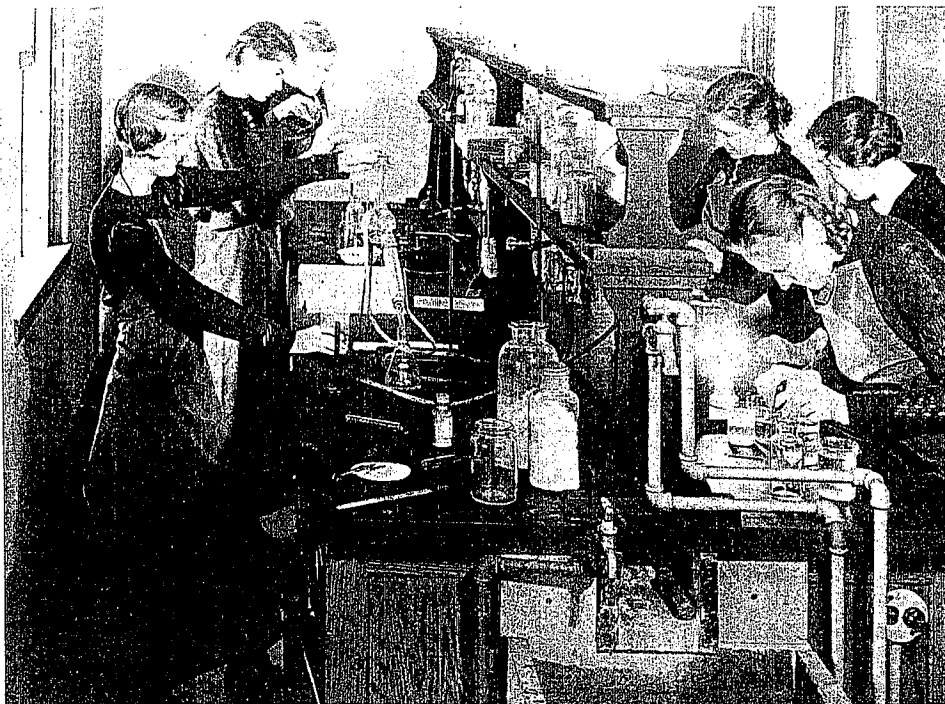
Dorothy Ellingwood McLane, Fourth Principal, Saint Mary's School, Concord, 1932.

Tommy remembered that Aunt Dot initiated the idea of uniforms. These were not to be worn daily but for special occasions such as to church or for social appearances. The uniform consisted of a navy blue skirt and a matching hat with nautical brim. The girls made their own white blouses with a stock tie and wore a navy straight coat for walking. Students didn't like the idea much, but Aunt Dot insisted that socio-economic differences would be disguised by this device. Her uniform was a forerunner of the School Blazer and Ski Parka, both of which Aunt Dot designed for the new era in the history of Saint Mary's School.

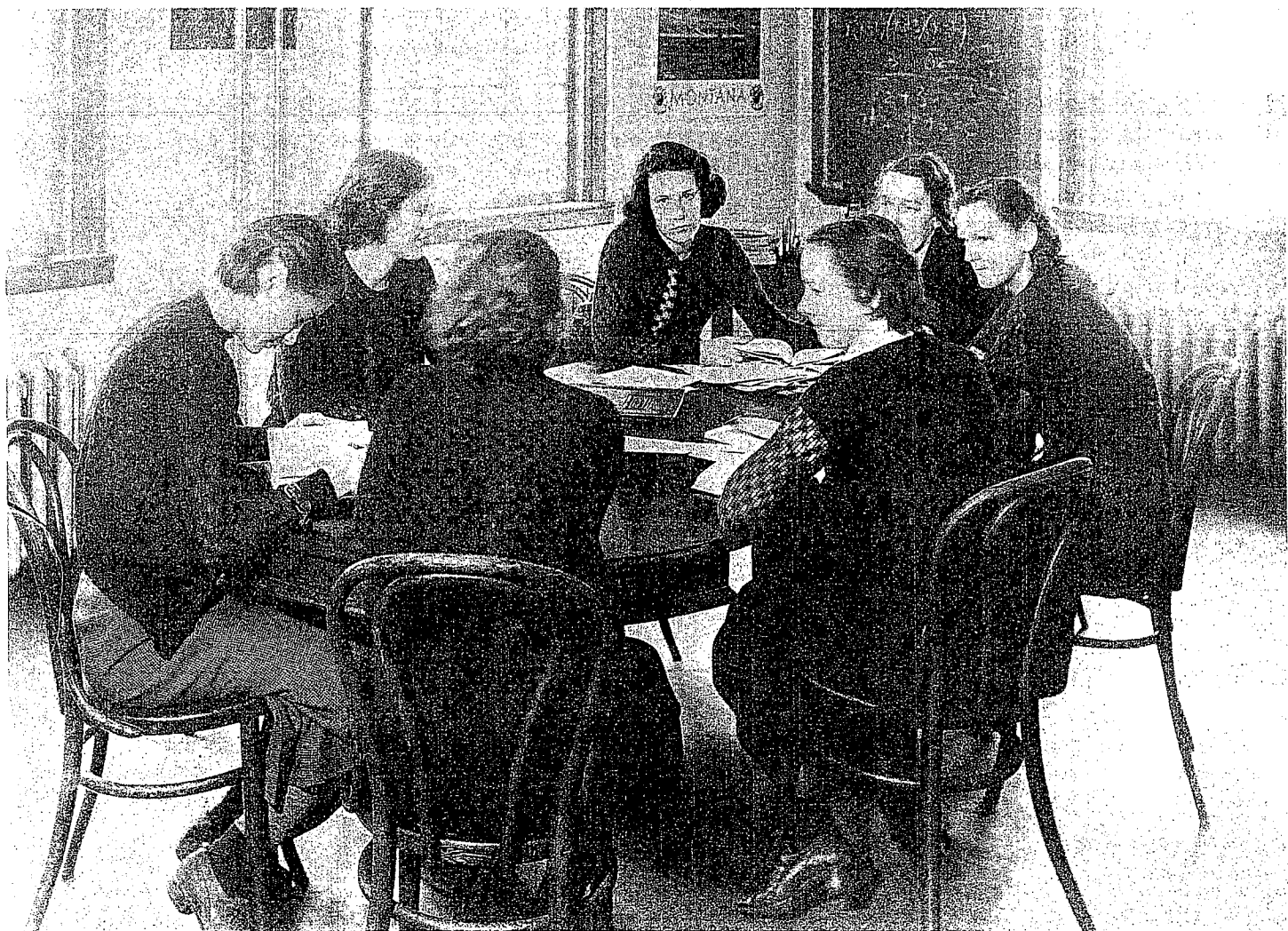
When The Rt. Rev. John T. Dallas, Bishop of New Hampshire, persuaded Mrs. Clinton A. McLane to accept the principalship of Saint Mary's, he and the trustees knew that she had studied physical education at Dr. Sargeant's famous Boston University school. An avid lover of mountains himself, the Bishop probably knew she had surveyed outstanding schools in the Alps in Switzerland and the Black Forest of Germany. But he had no idea what visions she was dreaming for this Diocesan school.



Dorothy E. McLane and the Rt. Rev. John T. Dallas, Bishop of New Hampshire, 1932. Courtesy of Patty McLane Rotch '32.



Saint Mary's School, Chemistry Lab, 1932.



Classroom at Saint Mary's, Concord. 1932.

The Move to the Mountains

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills."

... Psalm 121

After serving Saint Mary's School on the Concord campus for three years, Dorothy E. McLane boldly outlined her plan: 1934-35 would be the School's last year in Concord. She had lifted her eyes unto the hills — and she would move her School to the White Mountains.

A pragmatist, Aunt Dot realized that financial support would be scarce. The Depression affected enrollments adversely. Since Saint Mary's, Concord, had become primarily a day school for the wealthier Concord girls, she could not expect

parents to support a move to the northern sphere of the Granite State. And she and the trustees would be abandoning four buildings and a gymnasium which would be expensive to duplicate elsewhere. However, Aunt Dot was determined to find a place to fill with a small number of boarders and operate for a year until she could locate the best possible permanent site.

In late 1934 she learned she could rent the estate of author Ernest Poole of Sugar Hill for one year. The view looking out to Mount Lafayette and

Cannon Mountain would uplift anyone's spirits! Surely in that setting God would inspire her to find a permanent home for Saint Mary's! She won the moral support of Bishop Dallas. The trustees voted their approval.

On May 24, 1935 Founder's Day, annually observed on the birthday of Bishop William W. Niles, was celebrated for the last time on the Concord campus. After attending a service of Holy Communion at Saint Paul's, "trustees, alumnae, faculty and students enjoyed a program of



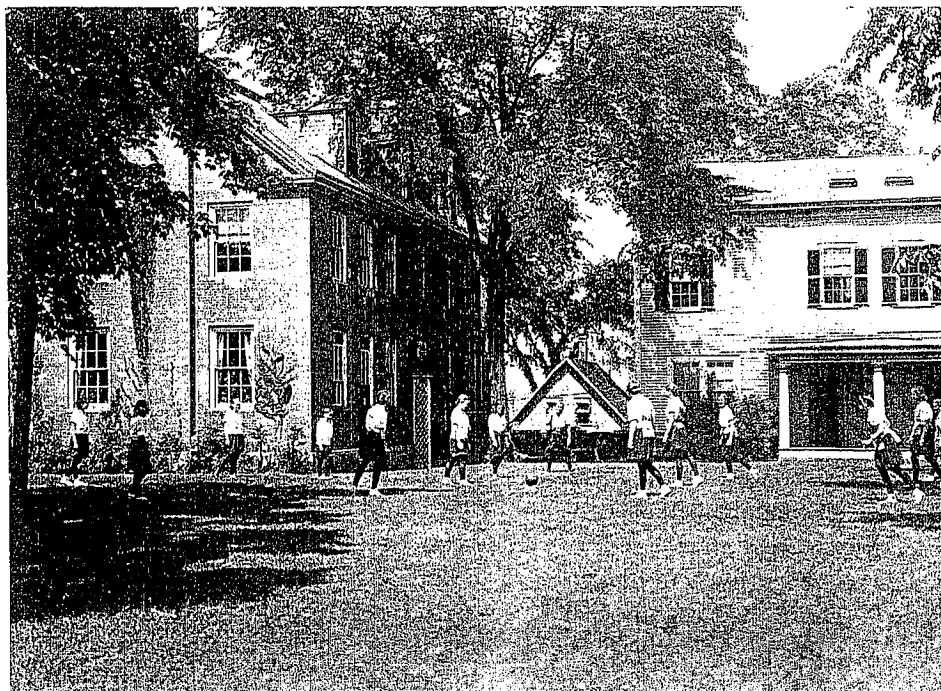
Students gather on the Back Lawns, circa 1933.

music and awarding of prizes on the lawns. The girls sang 'I Waited for the Lord,' from Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*; a Czechoslovakian Dance, and 'The Windmill Song,' from Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Rudigore*." (*Concord Monitor*). Bishop Dallas awarded the traditional prizes — The Bishop's Prize for the highest scholarship, the Devin English Prize, the Humphrey Latin Prize, the Heath Mathematics Prize, the Goodrich French Prize, and many others.

After Graduation in June 1935 Saint Mary's School packed up and left South Main Street, Concord. Portions of the Saint Mary's campus were sold to O.J. Walker for use as a hotel.

In the fall of 1935 Dorothy McLane embarked upon a new adventure, marching at the head of a small band of 14 boarding students and 6 faculty. The Poole estate soon became cramped. But the opportunities afforded by the location on Sugar Hill more than offset the difficulties. When dawn burst clear and golden over Mount Lafayette, Aunt Dot took her girls climbing. Valuable lessons could be learned on mountain trails. Peckett's-on-Sugar-Hill offered the first Austrian ski instructor in America. Aunt Dot signed up the Saint Mary's girls to receive top-notch instruction. With several of her sons at Dartmouth, Aunt Dot relished taking her students to enjoy the Dartmouth Concert Series and, praise be!, to show them off at the Winter Carnival.

A teacher for six years at Saint Mary's who experienced the transition from Concord to the Poole estate, Christine Vaughan Moore, recalled "one day as we drove to Littleton, Mrs. McLane pointed back over the hills to a large estate and said, 'That's the place we ought to have some day,' I never knew whether negotiations were actually



Aunt Dot sparked more team sports on and off campus in 1931-1934.

going on then. But when June came, I was not surprised to find us having our first Commencement as Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains at the newly purchased permanent home for our school."

Aunt Dot had been busy. Her ideal location was the site of "Seven Springs," the estate built by Eman and Mary Payne Beck, located on a hillside looking east and north with a spectacular view of the Presidential Range. Within the township of Bethlehem, the site was actually much nearer to the Littleton railroad station, stores and post office. The original inquiries brought no response from Mr. Beck, a prominent banker-lawyer from Washington, D.C. and Mexico City, Mexico. Suddenly in May Mr. Beck offered his mansion of 40 rooms to the trustees at a very reasonable price. The trustees found the funds to cover the cost from their reserve fund. Perhaps they were encouraged, too, by a recent bequest amounting to \$30,000 from an alumna, **Elizabeth Marshall Page**, Class of 1899.



When Aunt Dot moved Saint Mary's from Concord to the Poole Estate on Sugar Hill for the year 1934-35, one of her devoted followers was teacher Betty Hannah, who later became an author.



In May 1936 the estate known as "Seven Springs" belonging to Eman and Mary Payne Beck with its view of the Presidentials was offered to the trustees of Saint Mary's at a generous price. Fortunately they had the money, prudently saved, in the Reserve Fund.

Aunt Dot proudly invited guests to the Commencement exercises on June 5, 1936. Newspapers of the day recorded the event with handsome photographs of the mansion and the cutline: "The palatial North Country estate of E.L. Beck of Mexico City has been purchased as a new home for Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, Episcopal girls' school which moved from Concord to Sugar Hill last fall. The \$300,000 estate built in 1917 was acquired last week by the trustees and final arrangements were completed before graduation."

Another noted that "**Miss Harriet Hall**, a trustee of Manchester, one of the first to graduate from Saint Mary's School, receiving her diploma in 1888, was honored with the cutting of the golden anniversary birthday cake with its 50 lighted candles."

On the School's 50th Anniversary Saint Mary's enjoyed a renaissance as Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains.

For the occasion Aunt Dot wrote: "Saint Mary's is not beginning again. It is continuing with renewed inspiration the effort to realize the ideal of its founder: namely, that perfect harmony of body, mind and soul which alone constitutes the well-educated person."



"Seven Springs" — a large, white New England house on the outside. On the inside Eman Beck had decorated as if he were living in his beloved Mexico. Alumnae of Saint Mary's recall with delight the Spanish tiles, the Mexican chests, and the pairs of enormous black columns carved with floral designs that flanked the entrance to the Great Hall, the Music Room and the Library.

Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains

Memories of Alumnae of Aunt Dot McLane's Era

The vision and the courage of Dorothy E. McLane in moving the School to the White Mountains have been extolled widely, during her lifetime and after her death on December 15, 1982, three days before her 97th birthday. As an educator and a churchwoman, she was a legend in her own time for her energy, perseverance, enthusiasm and common sense. As a headmistress, she was stern and demanding, creative, fair and kind. Some would say she could be stubborn, outspoken and bossy.

Remembered by many girls as dressed in a ubiquitous black-watch plaid wool coat with a cape flying

back from her shoulders, Aunt Dot exemplified this creed: teach the young; rejoice in Nature; embrace change; love one another and trust in God. For the motto of *her* school (she was born in 1886, the year the School began. She loved it when people believed she had founded the school!) she chose the 121st Psalm.

"Levavi Oculos in Montes."

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills. From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who has made heaven and earth.

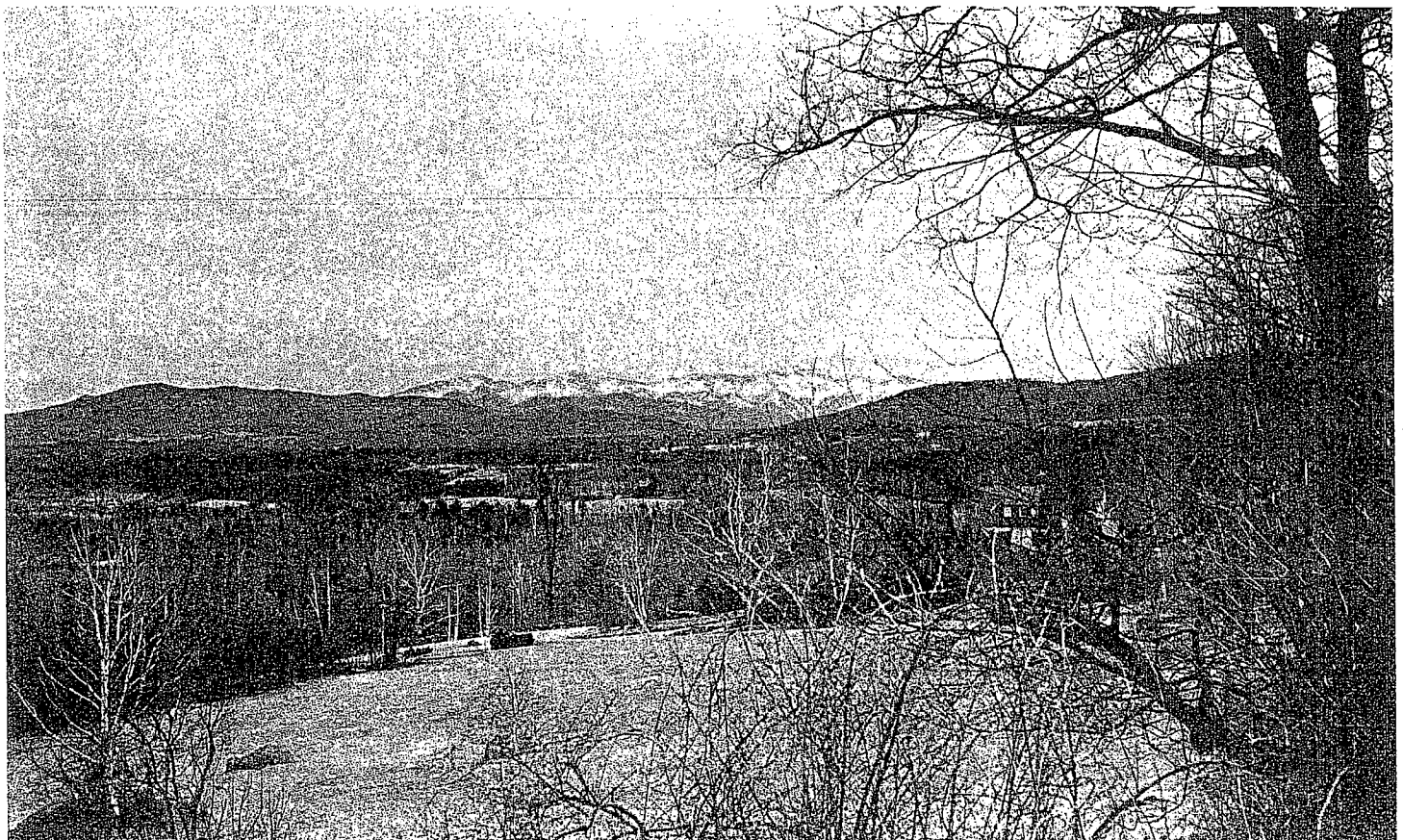
"He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth

Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

"The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

To understand what life during Aunt Dot's era was like at Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, affectionately dubbed "St. Mag's in the Craggs," listen to the stories told by several alumnae.



The view from the balcony of Seven Springs, as seen in 1943.

Harriot "Bunny" Purinton Nutter '43: "To go to school at St. Mary's back in the late 30s and early 40s was to be at school in a large family. The total student body was 40, with a faculty member for each 5 or 6 students, making it quite an intimate experience. You really knew each other well, which sometimes was good, and sometimes not so good. Everything was done as a group."

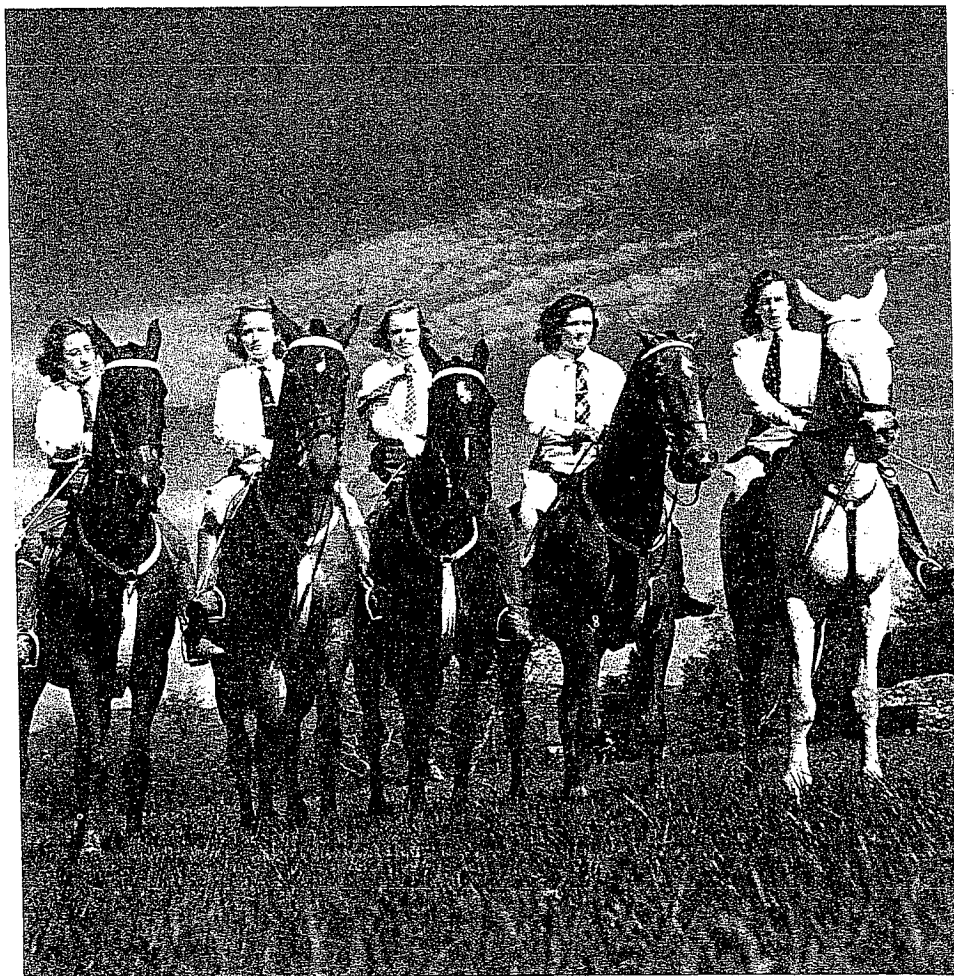
Townley Ann Brooks Graney '41: "Once upon a time in 1938 when I was fifteen, my mother and father drove me in a 1929 Willys-Knight from Long Island to Littleton. We stopped overnight in Williamstown, Massachusetts, when the Great Hurricane struck. (Hurricanes hadn't acquired names back then. This was simply The Hurricane.) By morning roads, bridges, power lines, gas and water mains were all in wrack and ruin. We couldn't get out of town. It was at least three days before we could advance."

"It was quite ten days after the scheduled opening that classes at Saint Mary's began. We were put to work cleaning away debris and otherwise making ourselves useful, but it was a lark for us! The School suffered no serious damage."

"We were a cozy little bunch, 38 to 40 students, six faculty besides A.D. (Aunt Dot) and her secretary; Mr. Priestley, the riding master; Florence and Garfield, who waited table and cleaned house and grounds; and the cook."



In the riding ring on the lawn below the mansion Mr. Priestley, riding master, blows his horn.



In the Spring of 1939 the riding class of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains lines up for review: l. to r., Helen Rotch, Carroll Russell, Ruth LaCroix, "Smoky" Pritchard, and Mitzi Berger.

Teachers

"The Rev. Mr. Holley was our chaplain. He conducted Morning Prayers, taught Sacred Studies, Latin and ancient history. He was notable for never calling a girl by her nickname (I had a time convincing him that I'd been *christened* Townley!) and for his expression, uttered only in rare moments of exasperation, 'My stars and garters, girls!'"

Townley describes other teachers, including Ruth Jackson. "S.M.S. was her first teaching position. We found this out and gave the poor woman a hard time, teasing and playing pranks. But she was a very good teacher and instilled in us a real appreciation of poetry and drama. I still cannot read Robert Frost's 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' without seeing that view down the hill toward the pond in a snowstorm as we saw it one afternoon when she led us through the poem.

"Neal Howard taught math and science — and skiing. He knew nothing about the sport when he came, but he got out on the hill with a book and taught himself. Naturally, we thought this was pretty funny, but the laugh was on us. He had a natural aptitude for it and was soon coaching all of us. 'Osh,' as we called him (French for H) was a lot of fun and very talented. He sent for a telescope from some do-it-yourself place (the school budget didn't have much margin for extras), put it together, mounted it on the terrace and gave astronomy lectures on clear nights.

"Patricia Gildea taught Domestic Science. She was a pretty young woman, very likeable. For square dancing and other parties we had to make our own peasant-style dresses. Each girl had to cook a meal for the class to complete the course. The results were pretty funny. Dorothy Watson taught music. She ran the choir rehearsals, Christmas pageant, recitals and the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, played the piano



Instructor Neal Howard guides students Carroll Russell '40 and Helen Rotch '39 through the marvels of chemistry.

for morning and evening prayers and taught piano. Mr. Priestley, the riding master, was English, a small, dour, lonely guy. He had some impossible ideal of training a championship rider because he certainly kept after us. And to some effect too. I received the shock of my time there when I won a blue ribbon."

Bunny Purinton Nutter chimed in: "Soccer was the fall sport, with calisthenics in the Playroom on rainy days — 'builds up the ski muscles!' October held the delight of Hallowe'en in the cabin by the Pond. Good Saturdays were spent climbing some mountain, from Pinnacle to Artist's Bluff to Lafayette and Moosilauke. We had to work up to climb-

ing Mount Washington. First snow on Mount Washington meant 'time for lisle stockings, girls.'"

Townley Brooks Graney continued: "Our transportation consisted of two extra-long stations wagons and 'the truck,' an ancient pick-up with benches along the side and curtains that let down, driven always by Garfield. When we drove off, whether the weekly trips to church or more exciting ski trips, Aunt Dot always led in her car. And whoever followed A.D. had his work cut out for him, as her free-and-easy ways along the highways and byways of New Hampshire had to be experienced to be believed! Whatever we rode in, wherever we went, we sang!

Hymns, hit parade, oldies, college songs, camping songs, carols, Gilbert and Sullivan — we had quite a repertoire.

"The first event of the fall besides hiking would be a husking bee on Sugar Hill. A huge barn, an immense pile of corn down the middle, benches on either side of it. Shuck the corn, the husks behind you, the corn in bins. If you get a red ear, you can kiss your girl/boy friend. (This would have been a lot more interesting if there'd been more men.) Even the largest pile of corn can't hold out against fifty people. Afterwards there would be cider, homemade doughnuts, cakes and pies and square dancing. I loved it!"

Hiking in the White Mountains

"As the fall season progressed, the mountain hiking became more serious," reported **Townley**. "We called it mountain climbing but today's kids mean something a lot more difficult. We climbed trails and ate our picnic lunches at the top, preferably perched on a cliff edge or outcrop so as to harass the nerves of the more timid teachers. Not A.D. She didn't have any nerves. One year we climbed Mount Washington. It was clear enough to see a glimmer of the Atlantic that day. We'd tally the birds and note our Peterson field guides. People would collect mosses, tea-berry, ferns for terraria or bright leaves to press in the dictionary."



Household Science Class, 1938-39, with Instructor Patricia Gildea.



Sewing Class, same year. Mary Jane Chase and Helen Craig learn from Miss Gildea how to create practical masterpieces on a trusty Singer Sewing Machine.

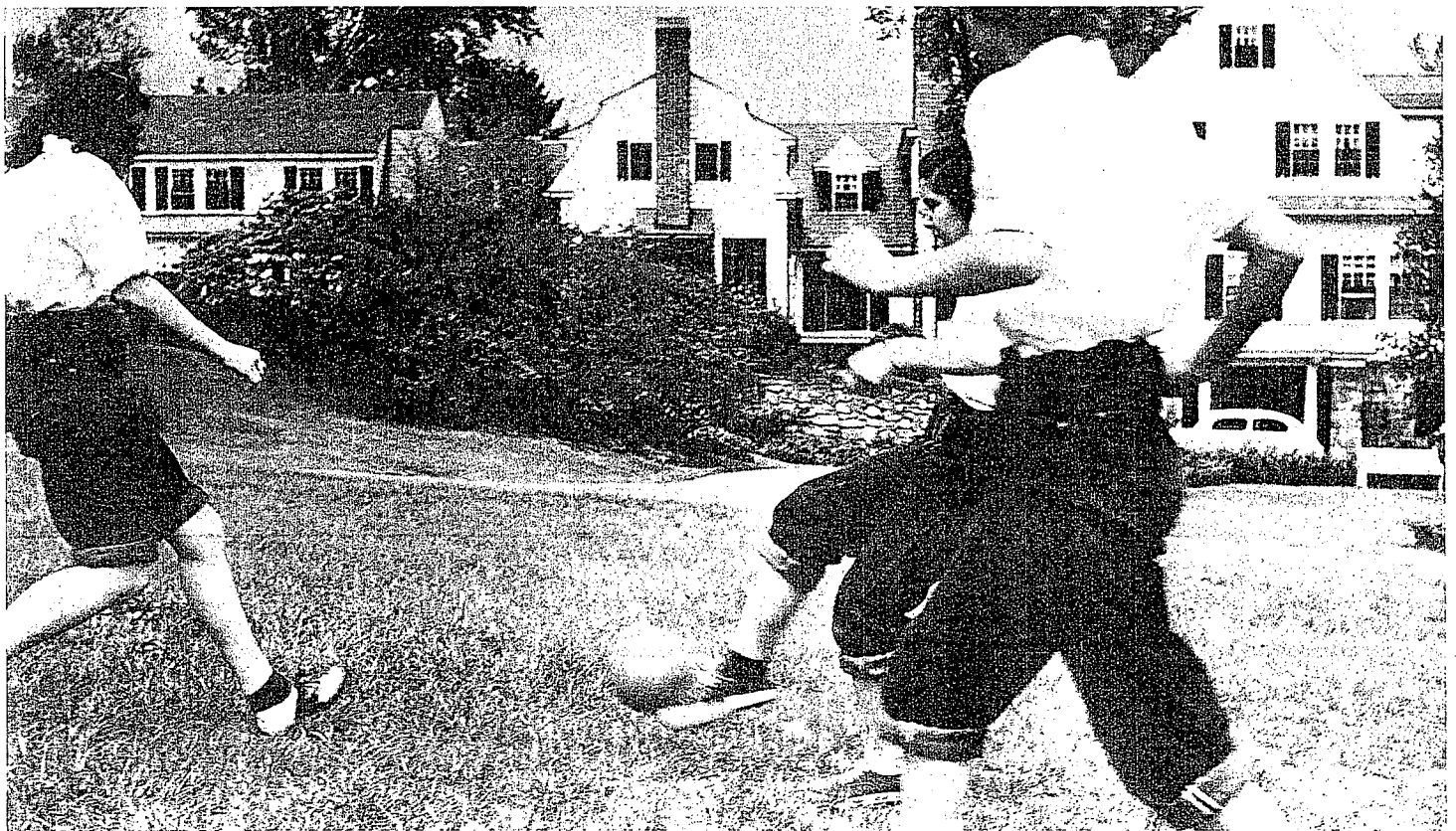
Christmas Pageant and Aunt Dot's Birthday

In December, recalled **Bunny Purinton Nutter** and other alumnae, Saint Mary's girls prepared for the Christmas pageant and for Aunt Dot's birthday, celebrated December 18th. "For weeks we designed surprise decorations. Then we lined the Great Front Staircase in our costumes — Austrian-style dresses with white, laced trimmed aprons — by candlelight to sing Silent Night for Aunt Dot. The Seniors came down last and escorted her into the dining room. She always had pistachio ice cream for her birthday, usually with fudge sauce. The year we all got blazers, we gave her one. Was she ever surprised!"

The Christmas Pageant was a tradition that shines clear in memory of many. Ruth Berry, art teacher from 1939 through 1944, described the pageant this way: "I was completely unprepared for the beauty which unfolded the night of the pageant in the



Hiking, 1940-41 style.



Soccer on the sloping field, a mean feat.



At the summit



SMS girls: Bunny Purinton '43



... Jessie Pennoyer '44



... Gracie Pierce '43 sports the School Blazer.



Aunt Dot's Birthday, December 18, 1943.

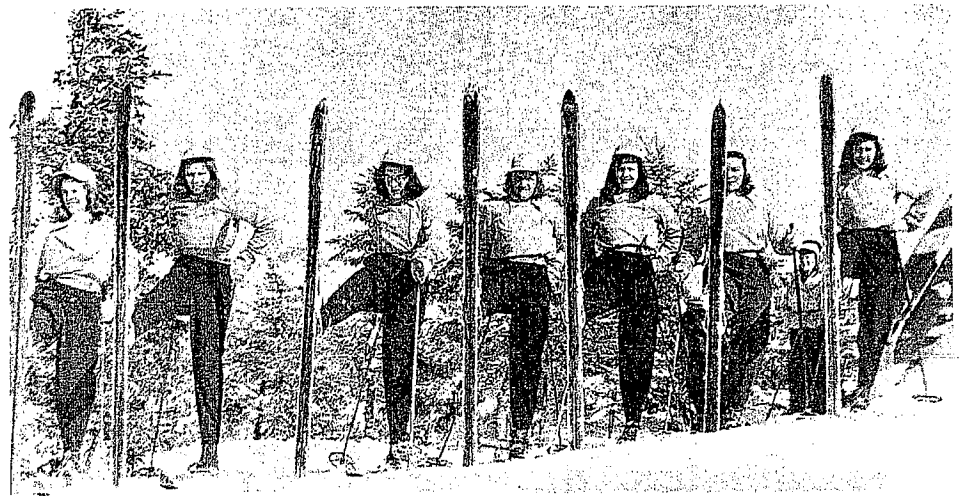
Christmas Pageant (continued)

lovely stone chapel in Bethlehem (Ivie Memorial). From the first Nowell to the last Hosanna, little shivers played tag about me. The walking angels looked their part. It wasn't simply the music that affected me, but what really thrilled me was the dignity, simplicity and sincerity with which the entire performance was carried out. No wonder St. Mary's girls cherish this tradition. In subsequent years the Pageant was given in the Littleton Congregational Church, in our own Episcopal Church, and in the school hall. Though different girls sang the various roles, the beauty of the Christmas Pageant was always the same."

Winter in the White Mountains. Snow comes early and stays late. Ruth Berry described 1943 as the Year of the Big Snow. In November before Thanksgiving, she recalled, 31 inches of powder snow fell, blocking all roads for days. Once, **Bunny Nutter** said, when the whole school was attending the typical Sunday church service and listening to the choir sing in their scarlet robes and white, winged hats, it snowed so hard that the doors of Ivie Memorial Church couldn't be opened to let them out!



The Christmas Pageant, 1943



Skiers on Cannon, 1942



Aunt Dot adored everything Dartmouth. At Saint Mary's she tried to emulate the academics, the outing club, the skiing, the concert series and the famous Winter Carnival. The blue ski parkas with the SMS insignia became a routine sight, as seen here at the 1937 Dartmouth Carnival. Just to look at the Dartmouth men was worth the trip for the girls!

"The majority of us *loved* winter," reported **Bunny Purinton Nutter**, "for this meant SKIING. On our hill, or at Cannon (Holderness boys!), Mt. Eustis, or an interscholastic meet in Hanover or at Cranmore. We always did well in the proficiency tests, though in races we were usually beaten for we raced against the boys' schools too."

Townley Brooks Graney described an anecdote about Aunt Dot and the acclaimed ski instructor, Hannes Schneider. "He had been hired in 1938 to head the Franconia Ski School and A.D. persuaded him and one of his assistants to come over to Saint Mary's twice a week to teach us. He'd come from Austria and ran into trouble when the FBI thought he was a possible spy. There was a hearing in Concord. A.D. went to appear on his behalf as a character witness. As he was enormously popular with us girls, A.D. came back with haloes all over her. Schneider stayed on at Franconia quite a while and became famous."

Mrs. McLane was keenly aware that the location of Saint Mary's near Cannon Mountain was an enviable asset. Every Saturday a crowd of girl skiers dressed in powder blue parkas emblazoned with an SMS emblem thronged the ski trails at Cannon. "The Blue Peril," healthy, good-looking girls who could ski with grace, style and speed — the most memorable publicity any school could have!



"That Saturday was a sparkling day, blue of sky and radiant with sunshine. St. Mary's was climbing up Mt. Washington to Tuckerman's Ravine . . . the cabin loomed in sight and beyond that, the Headwall, rising white toward the heavens . . ." Elizabeth Burr, '41.



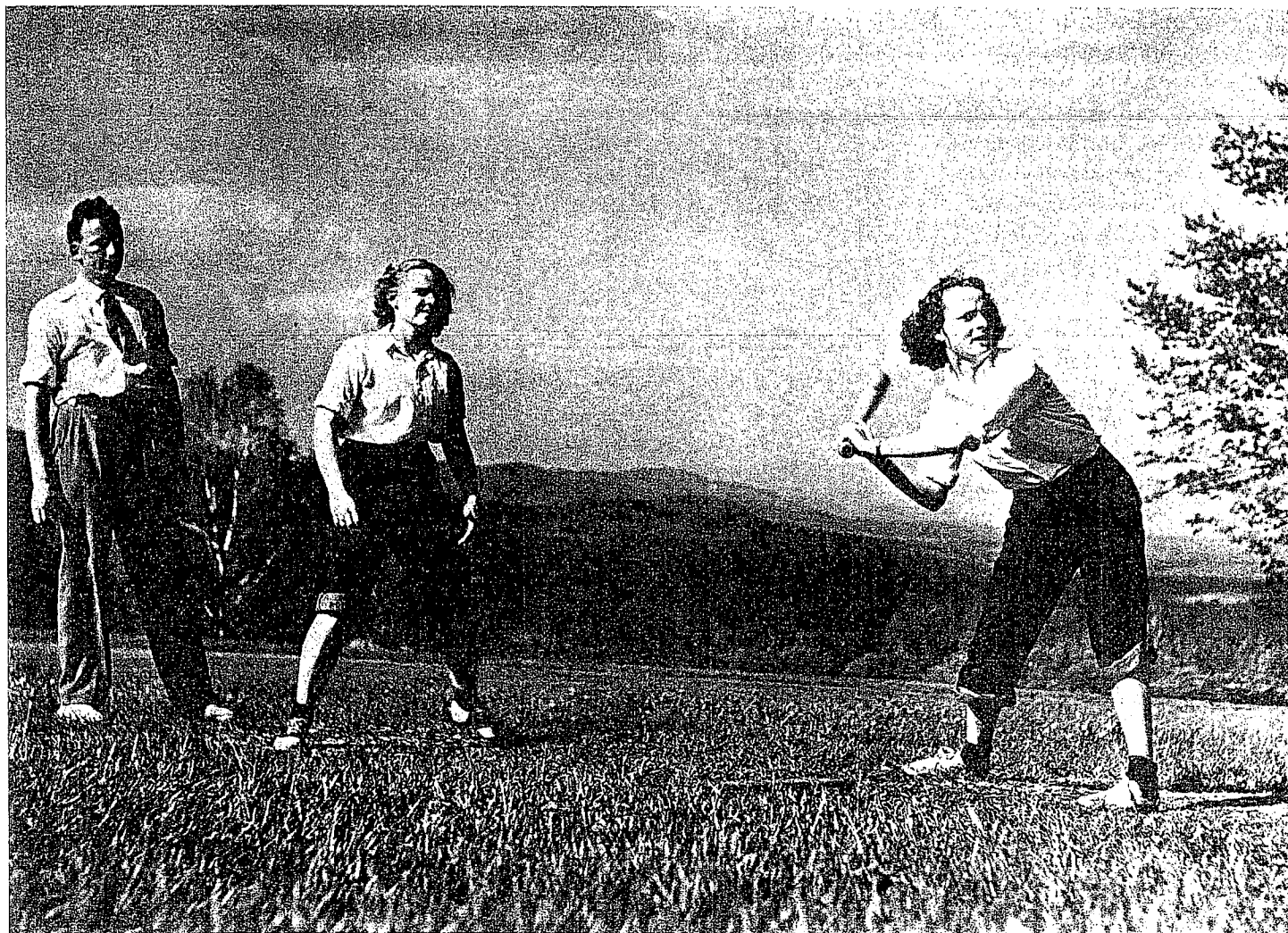
Spring skiing, 1940.

Spring Treats

Spring arrived eventually, and with it, softball season. Aunt Dot took her girls to neighboring maple groves for sugaring-off parties. **Townley Brooks Graney** can still taste the delicacy: "What a treat that was! To eat maple sap congealed on snow until your teeth stuck together and you were glutted with sweetness. Then to eat a good, sharp dill pickle — and start all over again! On another weekend we'd all go to Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Washington. I've seen more beautiful places in my life, but that is one of the top ten. Heck, top three! Two or three girls were allowed to go to the top of the Headwall. The rest of us skied the 'Little Headwall' and admired our betters."



Sugaring Off at the Davis Farm, April 27, 1940.



Play Ball!

The Operetta

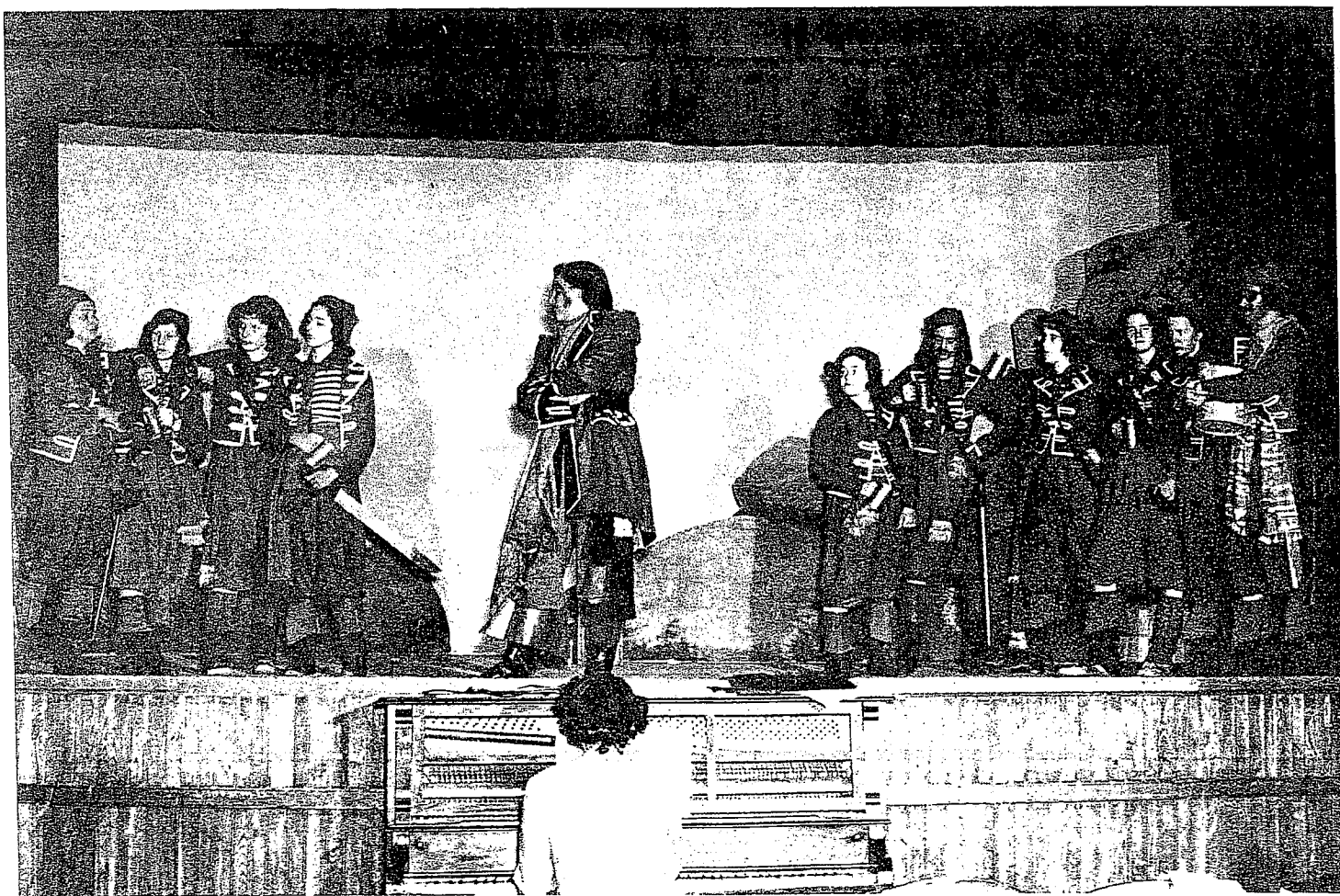
After the Easter Sunrise Service on Sugar Hill and Easter vacation when girls were accustomed to returning home by train (**Mathilde Clark Holmes '43** and **Letitia Clark Sexton '42** would spend 24 hours on the train between Littleton and Baltimore!), rehearsals for the annual Gilbert and Sullivan performance took up every spare minute. *Iolanthe* in '39. *Pinafore* in '40. *Patience* in '41.

One recollection: "Tryouts first. Rehearsals in the Playroom (under the Annex) with windows open and soft breezes blowing in. Evenings listening to recordings. Afternoons

of special practices for the leads, trios, quartets, solos, choruses again. And the scenery, from the first scribbles on paper through endless revisions. Then the stretching of huge sails of canvas, sizing it on the tennis courts, spreading it on the floor to sketch in the design, hoisting it up against the walls, then the actual painting! Finally, the thrilling day of piling scenery, costumes, actresses into the truck and riding down to the Little Opera House. Dress rehearsal. The Great Night itself, the make up, the buzz in the audience, watching

parents and friends through the hole in the curtain, the sudden darkness, the music, electricity in the air. The Show is On.

"The operetta was presented the night before Graduation. Afterwards, at midnight, there was a special prayer service in the Great Hall. Never announced, but open to all who wished to come. It was a simple, sincere service. Mrs. McLane would end the service with a little prayer or poem. And everyone stole off quietly to bed. Such a nice way to begin Graduation Day."



The Gilbert and Sullivan Operetta, "Pirates of Penzance," at the Littleton Opera House — a traditional performance the night before Graduation at Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains.

The War Years

World War II had an impact upon life at Saint Mary's. **Bunny Purinton Nutter** reported, "During the War we moved to All Saints' Church in Littleton to save heating Ivie Memorial. Warm Sundays most of us walked back to school from church in Littleton (yes, we did!) in order to save gas. Other War changes were 'Drill,' when we tried to learn the intricacies of military drill and Aunt Dot marched the entire student body through the raspberry patch! Also, I remember giving up Thanksgiving vacation to save gas, folding bandages for the Red Cross, and becoming a Senior with Senior Privileges like coffee on Sunday morning, only to have coffee disappear from the market."

Newspapers like the **Littleton Courier** featured photographs of Saint Mary's girls on the front page with the notice: "Girls Pitch in for Victory." Aunt Dot formed a Service League for Volunteer Workers for the war effort. The patriotic students found themselves harvesting acres of potatoes at Sel Hannah's farm or sorting bushels of beans at "The Rocks," the neighboring estate owned by J.J. Glessner, to send food to soldiers overseas.

Academics and Religion

Taken for granted amid memories of special times that add luster to school days were two important facets of life at Saint Mary's — academics and religion. Ruth Berry described classes as "those periods of exploration which teachers and girls made into treasure houses of the past." She also stressed that "the religious life of our school was such a natural thing . . . It was not set aside for special moments, it was something contagious in the air. At their own request, girls took Morning Prayers and conducted them with

dignity and sincerity. Every evening after dinner, we gathered in the Music Room to sing hymns and listen to Mrs. McLane as she read or spoke to us and led us in prayer. Each year saw the girls holding their own evening Lenten services and attending Sacred Study groups and Confirmation classes. A religious approach to life was daily shown to us."

Summing Up

Of her five years at SMS, **Bunny Purinton Nutter '43** said: "When all is said and done, the school motto of 'I will lift my eyes up unto the hills' becomes a way of life for most of us who lived it while at Saint Mary's-in-

the-Mountains."

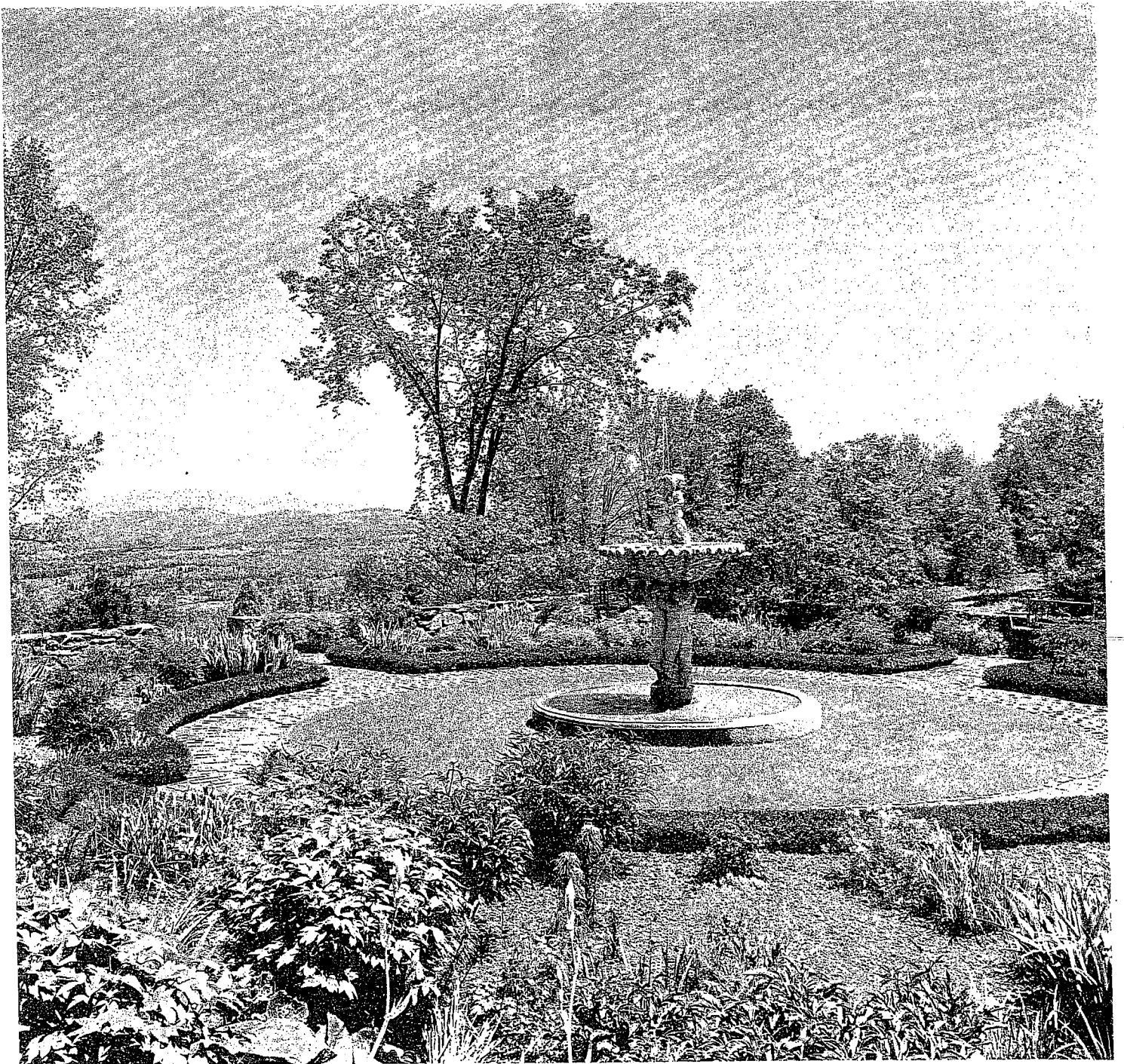
One significant index of Mrs. McLane's success as a leader was the unusually high morale of students during her years.

Aunt Dot had led the School, her School, for thirteen years. The mammoth effort of moving the institution twice and the difficulty of running a school shorthanded "during the War" tired even one as indefatigable as Mrs. McLane.

Mrs. Eliot A. Carter, a long-time trustee from Nashua, said, "Aunt Dot was worn out. She decided to resign." But Dorothy E. McLane could resign in 1944, confident that her decision to move to the mountains had been totally justified.



Aunt Dot designed the scarlet robes and white-winged hats for the Saint Mary's Choir, seen here recessing behind the Crucifer at Ivie Memorial Church, Bethlehem.



The Formal Garden in springtime.

Fifth Principal: Miss Mary Harley Jenks (1944-1959)

In the war-weary days of 1944 Trustee Edith Carter found it "disheartening" to find a replacement for Aunt Dot. "I wrote to the women's colleges to find out what they had to offer. Very discouraging," she reported. "No one compared to Aunt Dot, and we needed a person of high quality to help us march on."

Ultimately Mrs. Carter chanced upon a teacher at the Wheeler School in Providence, R.I. — a woman named Mary Harley Jenks, a highly educated scholar from Berkeley, California. They had tea at the Ritz in Boston. Mrs. Carter sensed that Mary Harley Jenks, if she could be persuaded to take the principalship of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, would assume leadership in a dramatic new way. Yet she would carry forward with conviction the principles and programs of the School well begun by her predecessors.

Miss Jenks accepted the position. During her fifteen years she improved the academic curriculum, expanded the physical plant, increased the enrollment and heightened the national reputation of the School. In 1948 she described the mission of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains in her own succinct style: "This is a church school, a boarding school, a small school and a selective school."

A student who entered Saint Mary's as a new girl along with Miss Jenks in the fall of 1944, **Barbara Lind Lenstrup '46**, remembered that Miss Jenks was at first as shy as she was. Barbara was a Swede trapped in America during the Second World War. Her father sent her to a "safe haven" to a boarding school in the mountains. She recalled "Miss Jenks

had a hard time adjusting to Saint Mary's. The girls, especially the older ones who knew and loved Aunt Dot, kept reminding Miss Jenks that Mrs. McLane had never done things this way or that way. Her first year was difficult. But when she had a chance to develop her own school in 1945-46, Miss Jenks had a more productive year."



Fifth Principal, Miss Mary Harley Jenks, A.B., M.A. began her tenure of fifteen years in the fall of 1944.



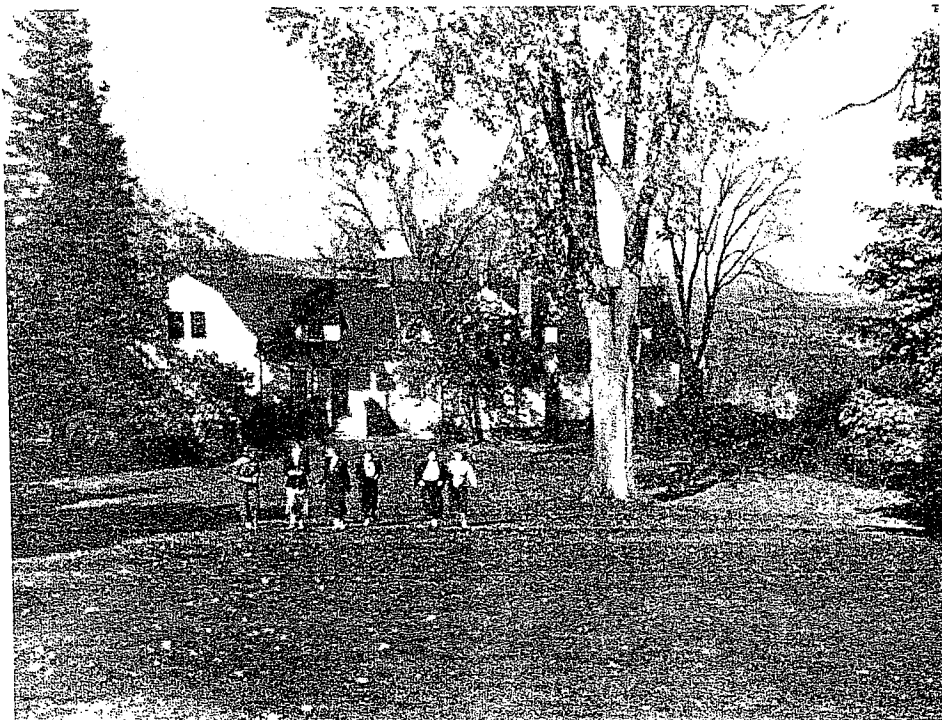
Miss Jenks and members of the Class of 1945.



Vaillant House and Gymnasium, purchased in 1945.



Leisure at Vaillant House.



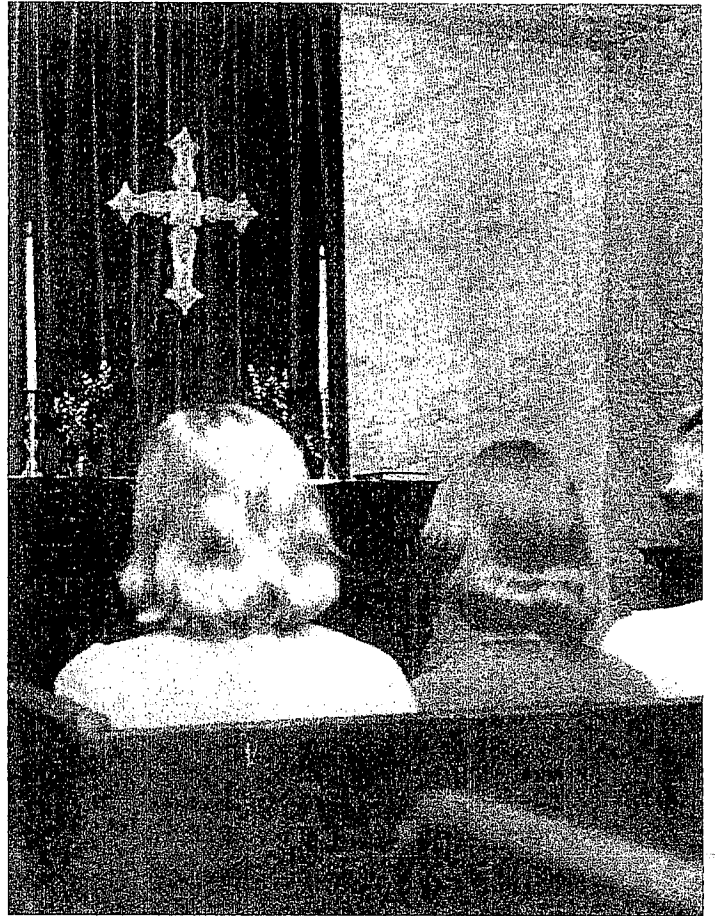
Hill House, purchased in 1947.



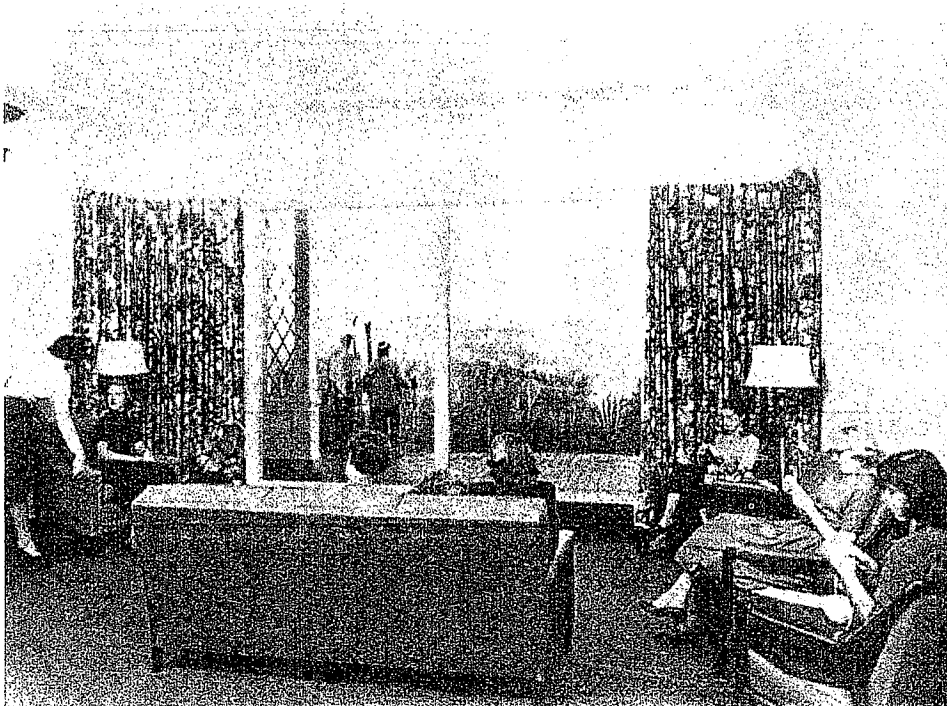
Leisure moments on porch of Hill House.

Right away Miss Jenks realized that the School, housed only in Mr. Beck's forty-room mansion, needed to expand. Forty-two girls squeezed into "Seven Springs." In the fall of 1944 the trustees had rented Vaillant House, which, along with Hill House, was part of the original Beck estate though not purchased in the transaction of 1936. By the next fall, 1945, Miss Jenks convinced the trustees to buy Vaillant and convert it and a stable and cow barn into dwelling space for 15 girls, three teachers and a family. By 1947 Miss Jenks urged the purchase of Hill House, first used for faculty housing, and later expanded to accommodate 13 girls, two women teachers and two men teachers with families.

During the lean War years, maintenance of the mansion and the grounds had been limited. Miss Jenks and the trustees worked assiduously to renovate, refurbish, paint, equip and modernize the gracious mansion. She was probably most proud of two significant alterations accomplished



The Oratory and the Mexican silver cross.



The Great Hall and Terrace, renovated in 1953.



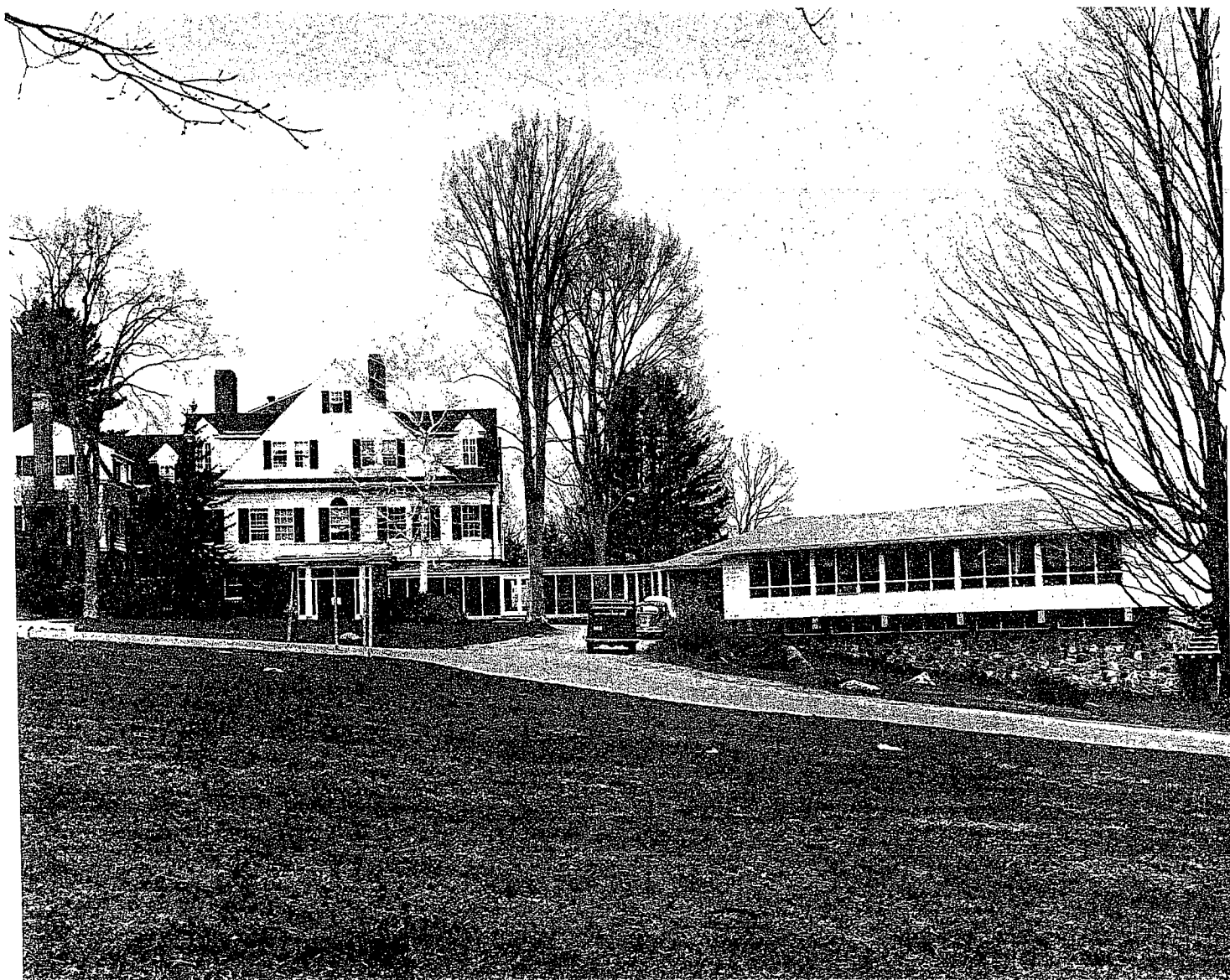
Opposite side of the Great hall, Seven Springs.

in 1953: First, an Oratory, a tiny chapel with pews, an altar, a Madonna-blue wallhanging as a backdrop to the Mexican silver cross, found its life out of cellar corridors and storerooms. Here Holy Communion was celebrated early Wednesday mornings, and girls who wanted a place for private prayer could seek its quietude. Second, a glass wall bordered by handsome draperies brought the outdoors and the magnificent view into the Great Hall and added a light and airy effect to the

School's main livingroom.

Miss Jenks' description of the school as "small" underwent a series of interpretations. Enrollment grew from 40 students in the '40s to 60 girls by 1950. Five years later the enrollment surpassed 70. However, the growth was achieved without sacrificing the family-style nature of the School with emphasis upon individual attention and close, personal relationships between teachers and girls.

More girls meant more pressure on dining room, kitchen, and the infirmary as well as on dormitory space and classrooms. In 1956-57 Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains launched its first major fund-raising campaign. Its success resulted in the construction of a brand-new classroom wing with an all-purpose auditorium complete with stage. And in the Main House kitchen, pantry and dining-rooms had been enlarged and improved.



The Main House, "Seven Springs," after the addition of the new Classroom Wing, 1958-59.

Financial Prudence

Miss Jenks, assisted by her long-time friend and associate, Miss Ruth Willis as business manager, kept careful watch on finances. Tuition increased from \$1000 in 1944 to \$1400 two years later. However, the trustees became accustomed to paying an annual sum out of limited endowment to cover some operating expenses. By 1953 the actual cost of educating a girl hovered at \$1800. Loathe to increase tuition beyond the reach of daughters of church families and others, Miss Jenks instituted a graduated tuition schedule with the top fee at \$1800. On the sliding scale, she reported to the trustees in 1954, 32 girls, or almost half, received some measure of scholarship support.

Increased enrollment afforded to Miss Jenks the opportunity to add new faculty. After World War II ended in 1945 she made a concerted effort to hire returning soldiers and to encourage men and women with families to join her special community on the hill.

Frederic L. Steele (Teacher from 1946-1980)

Science Teacher, Botanist, Author, Friend, "Stainless Steele," "Fearless Fred," and "Our Mr. Chips"

By a stroke of good luck, Mary Harley Jenks persuaded a young soldier who had gone to Exeter and Harvard and liked the mountains to sign on as a science teacher. Indeed, he became the science department, teaching chemistry and biology to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Frederic L. Steele stayed at Saint Mary's for 34 years. He is a beloved institution for many alumni.



Miss Ruth Willis at her post in the business office.

In later years as Commencement Speaker to the Class of 1978, he reflected upon his early days at Saint Mary's: "When I came here in the fall of 1946, the School was different in many ways. You would have found the rules much stricter and probably not to your liking. The enrollment was 50, all girls. We did not have a Classroom Wing until 1958 or 1959. Classes were held in a few small rooms in the Main House. There was a large study hall off the Great Hall with a desk for everyone. All were required to attend when not in class. A teacher supervised with an eagle eye.

"The Science laboratory was a makeshift affair in the basement next to the furnace. The walls were the rough rocks of the foundation of the house and heating pipes ran across the ceiling. The sports facilities were equally simple. There was one sports field with a strong slope. In lacrosse, which all played in the fall, instead of 'left' or 'right' we referred to the 'uphill' or 'downhill' wings. Later



Frederick L. Steele arrived in the fall of 1946 to teach biology and chemistry.

soccer was added on the field above, which also had a pronounced slope. The ski program was conducted on the hill above this field. Students often commented on the absence of ski lifts!

"Social life was carefully regulated. Boys were allowed on campus only at rare intervals. When a dance was offered, there appeared an abundance of faculty chaperones which the students took delight in outwitting, sneaking off in dark corners when the chaperone was otherwise occupied. The Big Event of the year was the Winter Houseparty. As a social experience every girl was required to have a date. For those who didn't happen to know any boy in the area, a supply of blind dates was secured from a neighboring school, such as Holderness, Tilton, New Hampton or KUA. In those days we did not have computer service to insure compatibility. After two days many girls were glad to see their dates depart.

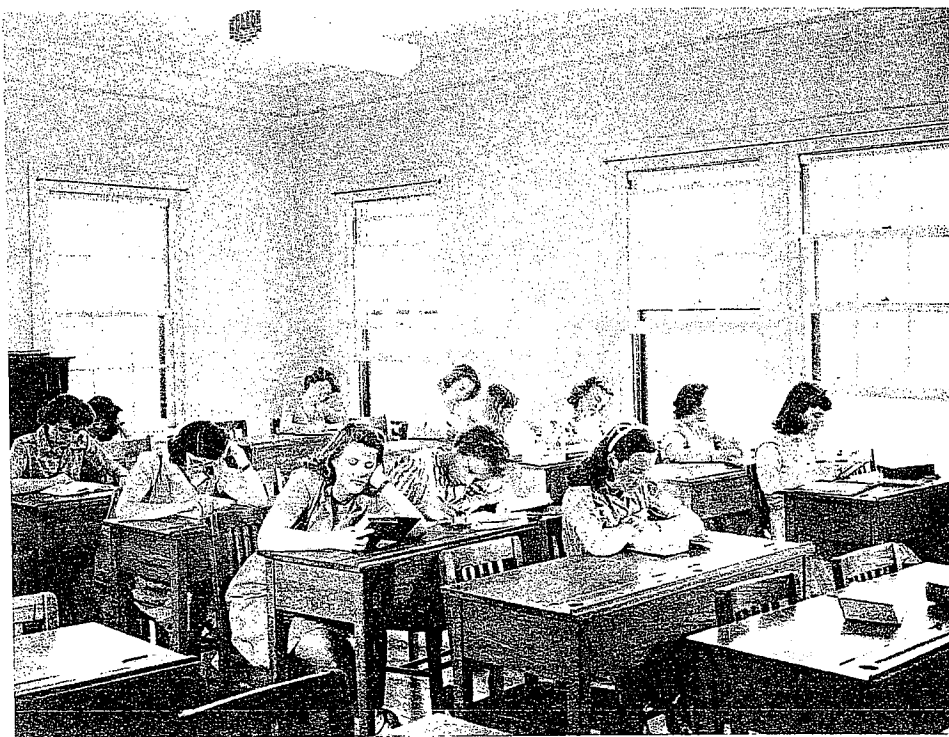
"The class structure was rigid with less variety than now. Everyone was required to study at least two years of Latin and many took more. Science offerings were restricted to biology, for everyone, and chemistry for the college-bound.

"Some traditions have been given up. Others remain. Two are the Christmas Party with a Santa Claus and Commencement with a speaker. I have had the opportunity to participate in both roles, probably more successfully in the former."

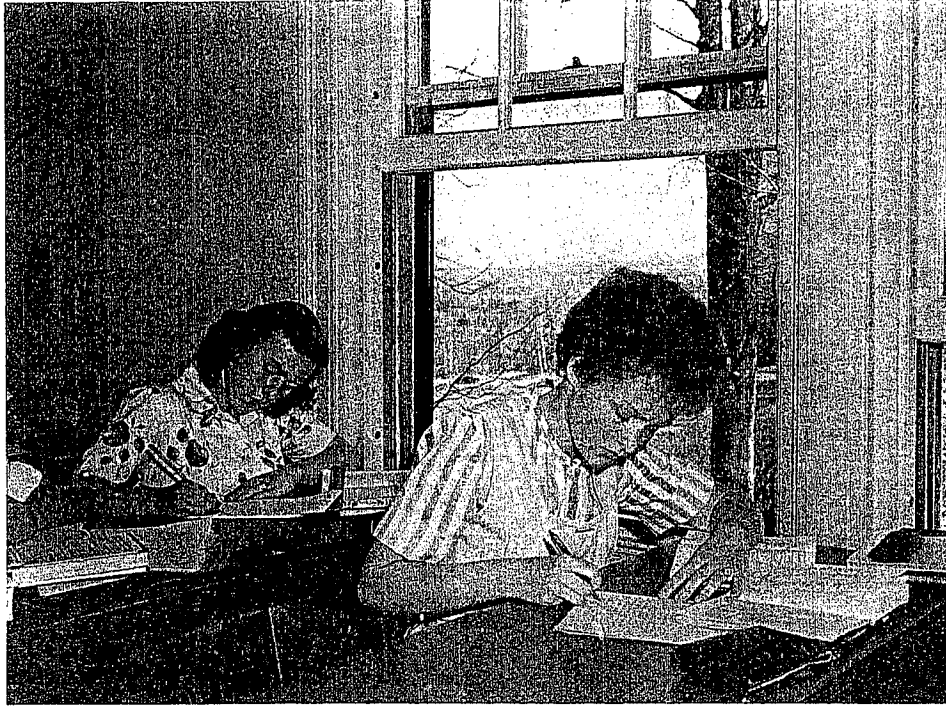
Fred Steele recalled that Mary Harley Jenks, as principal, was a pleasant, precise woman who upheld high standards for herself and for others in her charge. "She carefully thought everything out in advance. She improved the curriculum by creating College Preparatory Course I and II, instead of a college track and a general track for students of differing abilities. She believed that art,



Mr. Steele in the Science Laboratory with chemistry students, l. to r., Sally Parsons, Nancy Beckwith and Mary Jane McGuckin, Class of 1954.



Study Hall in the late Forties and Fifties.



Girls attended study hall when not in class. The teacher supervised with an eagle eye.



Lacrosse on the sloping field.



"The ski program was conducted on the hill. Students often commented on the absence of ski lifts." Frederic L. Steele.

music, dramatics and French were very important. Spanish was for weaker students. And she was very conscientious about getting the seniors into good colleges."

In 1948 Miss Jenks reported one hundred per cent placement of 50 graduates in four-year colleges or junior colleges or schools for specialized training. "Many of the girls who have graduated have gone or will go to Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Wellesley, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Connecticut College, Simmons, Hood, Temple University, Wayne University, Lake Erie College and Mills . . . We have one representative at the School of Horticulture in Ambler, Pennsylvania," she wrote in a letter to the trustees.



Decorating the Study Hall, the Great Hall and the Music Room for the Formal Dance — a highlight of the school year.



Julie Perry '56 obeys the Twelve-Inch Rule while waiting to dance with her date.

Nancy Norwood '57 takes a break for some punch.

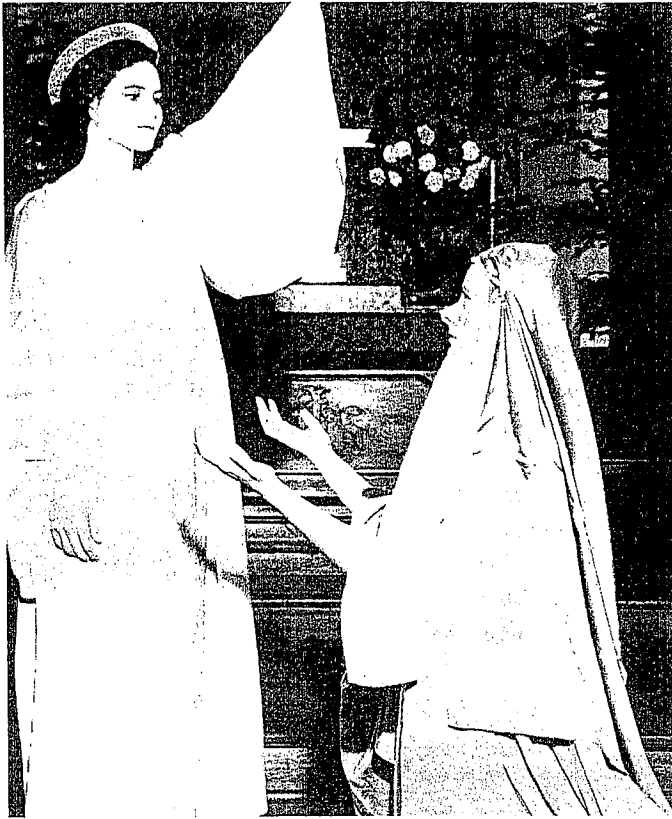


Galen Williams '57 says goodnight to Bob Armknecht from Holderness, who dutifully shakes hands with Miss Jenks at the top of the stairs.

Other Faculty

Fred Steele married Mary Lloyd in 1949 and brought his bride to live in Vaillant House. They added a substantial family dimension to the life of the students, especially when sons Nathaniel, Benjamin and then Edward ("Teddy") were born. During the Fifties Miss Jenks hired other married teachers — Barbara and Leroy Smith, who taught art and served as houseparents in Hill House; Barbara (Chambers) and Warren Geissinger, who sparked the music and drama program with outstanding work in directing the Chorus or Glee Club (to which all students belonged), the Choir (which sang at All Saints' Church, Littleton) and small singing groups.

Yet strong, single women continued to be the mainstay of the faculty for a girls' school. Miss Valborg Hokanson, beloved as "Miss Hokie," taught Latin and geometry for ten years. Miss Ruth Jackson, a woman of remarkable intellectual integrity, taught history and English for fifteen years. Madame Jarina Perl taught French and advanced Latin. Mrs. Constance Walter, mother of a student, joined the staff as English teacher and administrative assistant to Miss Jenks. During her eight years she guided the students who staffed the two school publications, the *Telemark* (newspaper) and the *Pendulum* (yearbook). She was the creator of the Work Program.



In the traditional Saint Mary's Christmas Pageant the Angel Gabriel (Galen Williams '56) announces to the Virgin Mary (Deborah Mack '54) the startling news.



After the Pageant, Saint Mary's girls and faculty enjoy the traditional, formal Christmas Party in the Great Hall. Santa Claus, alias Frederic L. Steele, will soon arrive to distribute homemade gifts created in secret by each student and teacher for one another.



The annual Christmas Pageant held at All Saints' Church, Littleton.



A page from the Pendulum of 1953 captures informal glimpses of faculty, students and staff at Saint Mary's. Left to right, from the top: Miss Ruth Jackson, Miss Ruth Willis; "Miss Willey;" and Mrs. Constance Walter. Next row, l. to r. Angea Sheffield '55 and Miss Valborg Hokanson, "Miss Hokie;" Ernest Chase; a faculty child who looks like a Steele. Third row, l. to r., Frederic L. Steele and Leroy Smith oversee Field Day.



Music teachers par excellence, Warren and Barbara Chambers Geissinger, relax in the Music Room during a school dance.

The History of Work Program

To save the School money and to build character, the Work Program was designed and expanded during the Fifties. The history of self-help at Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains goes back to World War II during which the students, under the guidance of Mrs. Clinton A. McLane, principal, rose to the domestic emergency created by the lack of manpower and volunteered to perform many of the household duties at "Seven Springs." After the War the girls continued to keep dorm rooms clean and served at the table but did not undertake household cleaning, dishwashing or table setting.

Through a gradual evolution, assisted by Mrs. Walter and students serving as "Pioneers," the Work Program grew in importance and in results. The household cleaning was done during a "work period," an hour before lunch each day. Experienced students served as "supervisors" to learn leadership skills and to check on the work of others before the worker left her job. Students could earn "bonuses" for work of high quality, permitting them to enjoy time away from campus or other privileges. Jobs expanded to include the kitchen, the library, even outdoors on tennis courts, lawns and ski trails. The schedule was changed weekly to permit each girl to have as wide an experience as possible.

On the positive side the Work Program built a sense of responsibility and loyalty to the physical environment of the School's community. At other times the Work Program seemed to loom out of proportion to the academic, artistic and athletic purposes of the School. Students, then parents, voiced concern. Ultimately, in 1959, the Work Program played a role in a disagreement between the Board of Trustees and Miss Jenks. To



A catalog of Saint Mary's School in Concord published in the Thirties speaks of the happiness of the day "from the time the maid knocks on the door in the morning . . ." Even Saint Mary's with its emphasis upon simplicity and economy had not then dreamed of a maidless society. The pre-World War II system of paid household help evolved into a steady routine in the Fifties in which girls vacuumed, mopped, swept, set tables, washed dishes, raked leaves — in short, performed tasks to make the School an attractive home.



The Library, a pleasant reading room, though woefully lacking the necessary number of volumes suitable for a college preparatory school. However, Miss Jenks expanded the acquisitions by some two thousand volumes.

the regret of the trustees, Miss Jenks resigned her position along with Miss Willis and several teachers. Miss Jenks and Miss Willis pro-

ceeded to found a coeducational day school in Oakland, California, called The College Preparatory School.

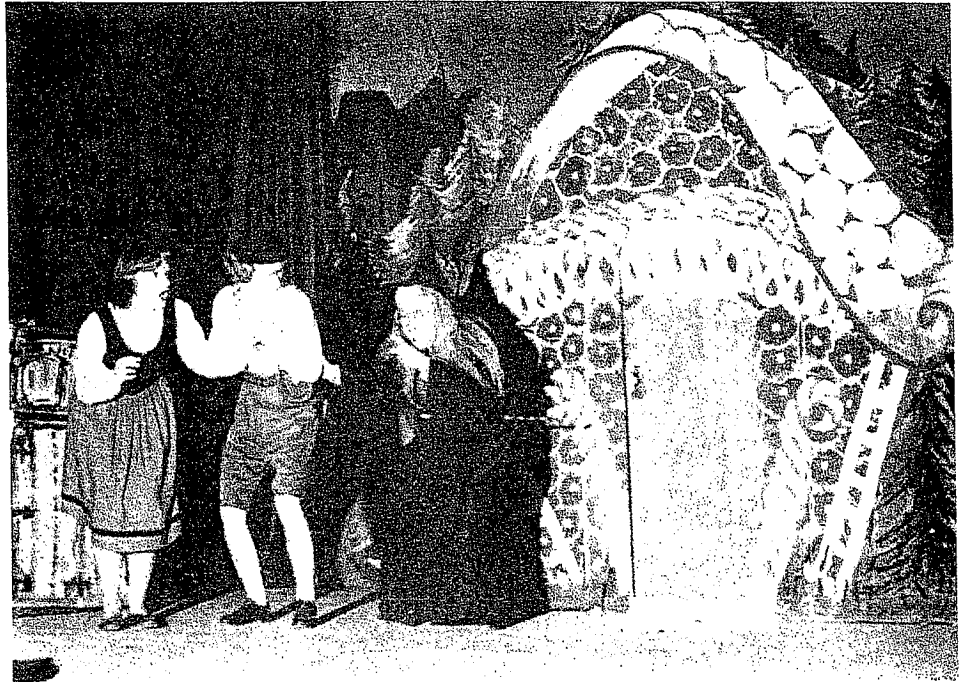
Memories of Alumnae

Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50 was a student at Saint Mary's from 1946 through Graduation 1950. Later she enjoyed seeing her daughter Caryl Taylor attend the school and graduate in the Class of 1978. Janet has served as President of the Alumnae Association for many terms and has been a stalwart Trustee for many years:

"As a new freshman I was assigned the best room: Room 1 above the Great Hall and overlooking the view to Mount Washington. Three of us shared this room with our own bathroom and walk-in closet. My roommates and I fought terribly and loved each other! It was my first time away from home. I was spoiled and used to having my own things.

"I remember in the morning being awakened by classical music piped throughout the Main House. Students took turns choosing the musical selections from the School's record collection in the Music Room." On special days such as first-day-of-vacation the herald would play "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

For Janet, four years at Saint Mary's represented "four years of freedom. Many students thought it was restrictive and had too many rules. For me it was just the opposite. When I did something well, I was noticed and told that. Teachers like Miss Ruth Jackson took an interest in me. Miss Jackson helped me as a mentor as much as a history teacher. She recognized how I was searching for the meaning in my life. She gave me a book of prayers with some of her favorites written in. She encouraged me to go in the summer to a Quaker work camp in Maine. That experience inspired me to go to Earlham College, a Quaker college, after graduating from Saint Mary's."



Music and Drama played important roles in the life of students at Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains in the Fifties.



Memories of Alumnae (continued)

While Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50 was at Saint Mary's, Miss Jenks invited a distinguished guest to be an artist in residence. "I remember the poet Robert Frost coming to visit. He lived at Saint Mary's for about a week. We were encouraged to write in many different ways. Miss Jackson urged him to teach several classes. He sat at the Head Table with Miss Jenks. I had a chance to talk with him and really learned about writing. I remember him embodying the natural qualities of our School. We were all very excited!"

Vivid in the minds of many alumnae of Saint Mary's are the enjoyable times spent rehearsing music and singing — in Chorus and in the Choir, for performance or just plain fun.



Mary Van Vleck '58 recalled, "When I started at Saint Mary's in September 1955 the Old Man of the Mountains was featured on the common postage stamp of the day, a bright green color, costing four or five cents. One stamp was all that I needed to send a letter home.

"I used to enjoy going to Miss Jenks's room for tea most every afternoon after sports and before study hall. Every weekday at four she was hostess to whomever wished to come to her office for tea. We sat around on her chairs or more likely on the floor, all dressed up for formal dinner, sipping tea and enjoying cookies. We would dunk them into our tea when she wasn't looking.

"There was always a strong emphasis on music at Saint Mary's. We started out each day with Morning Prayers that involved hymns and readings. At Evening Prayers at the end of the day we would sing, too. We also had three different singing groups at the School, and by my senior year, I was in all three. The Chorus, the Choir, and the most prestigious, the Carollers, a group of twelve girls.

"When I think back on my years at Saint Mary's, I think quickly about the mountains and the time we spent in the out-of-doors in all seasons. Skiing — both on the hill behind the school and at Cannon. Mountain Days were very special. I can still remember the excitement of Miss Jenks announcing at Morning Prayers that this day was to be Mountain Day! Each girl would hurry to her room to get ready. Some would fly to the kitchen to make lunches for 80 people. We climbed Mount Washington my first fall; Mount Lafayette my second. We took photographs at the top, huddled together in our blue parkas and wool caps, getting as many of us in the picture as possible. Those were days to remember — blue skies, no

classes, out amid some of the most beautiful mountains in the world with some of our best friends."

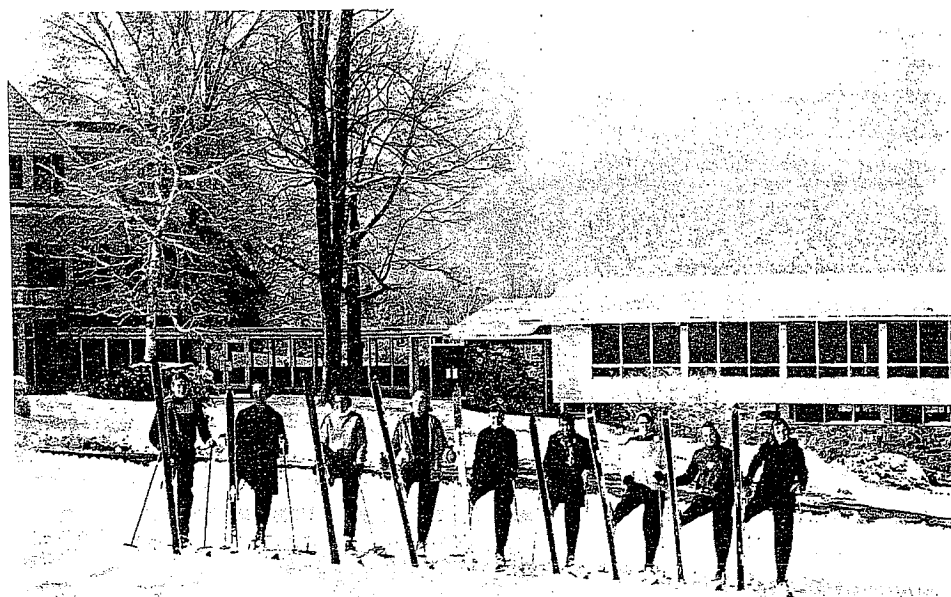
Audrey Houghton Duane '50: "I have an indelible memory of sitting on top of Picnic Hill, waiting to 'get out of Saint Mary's,' willing the day of Graduation to arrive and deliver me to my new life. Yet that standing still in my last year was also a time of great tranquility, a rare time when I knew exactly who I was because the School had given me that identity. I dearly loved the location and will always be nourished by the White Mountains. I formed deep

friendships which were the foundation of my adolescence, and I pursued, in depth, thanks to the size of the School, those academic studies which I loved. . . .

"The day my youngest child of four was born, my parents proclaimed that at last I had a daughter to send to Saint Mary's. However, it is one of my sons, **Tom Hartman '79**, who had his own unique experience at the School now known as The White Mountain School. It is a very special joy for me that we share a love for this School."



Skiing at Cannon Mountain.



Skiers, 1957.

Sixth Leader: Headmaster John C. McIlwaine (1959-1970)

In July 1959 the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Bishop of New Hampshire, sent a telegram to a young French teacher from Saint Paul's School who was vacationing in Oregon with his wife and four children. As President of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Hall had learned that John C. McIlwaine yearned for a headmastership after teaching and coaching at Saint Paul's for ten years. The trustees sought a leader who could bring a family influence to the helm of their rather cloistered girls' school. Would John McIlwaine come East for an interview?

"Shortly after being interviewed, I was offered the job!" reflected John McIlwaine with a chuckle. "I hadn't even seen the school. But when I visited the campus, I liked what I saw. I began work as Headmaster right away, not knowing I would also be the business manager, finish the college placement work, and handle admissions for applications still coming in for the fall.

"Housing for Debbie and our four children, Chip, Penny, Melinda and Sharon, was also a distinct surprise. We lived on the top floor of the Main House. It was somewhat crowded," he recalled.

The trustees decided that now was the time to build a separate home for the Headmaster, one that could also serve for social functions for the School. Trustee Edith Carter's son, John Carter, an architect from Nashua, was selected to design the residence to be in keeping with the white-clapboarded, field stone New England style of the Seven Springs buildings. As he had done with the Classroom Wing, Carter created a modern, forward-looking home adjacent to the Ski Hill. Finished in 1960, the Headmaster's House presaged future building at Saint Mary's.

"I am ever grateful to the Class of 1960," John McIlwaine explained. "Those girls taught me the ropes.

After teaching boys at Saint Paul's, I thought I knew what to expect. I didn't."

"Mr. Mac", as the 83 girls quickly nicknamed him, wrote an article which appeared in the *Reader's Digest* in July 1961, called "My Belles of St. Mary's." In the magazine he recounted this story: "The belles of St. Mary's were full of traditions and insistent upon them. It began to seem that tradition was any event which had taken place at least once before . . . The biggest event of all is the one where the junior girls present the senior girls with their school rings. Since girls all love secrets, the exact date of the presentation is closely guarded. My first year, they sprang it on Talent Night. The door prize, won by a senior, was a cake. When it was cut, it turned out to be filled with class rings.



John C. McIlwaine, B.A., M.A., first Headmaster of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, August 1959.



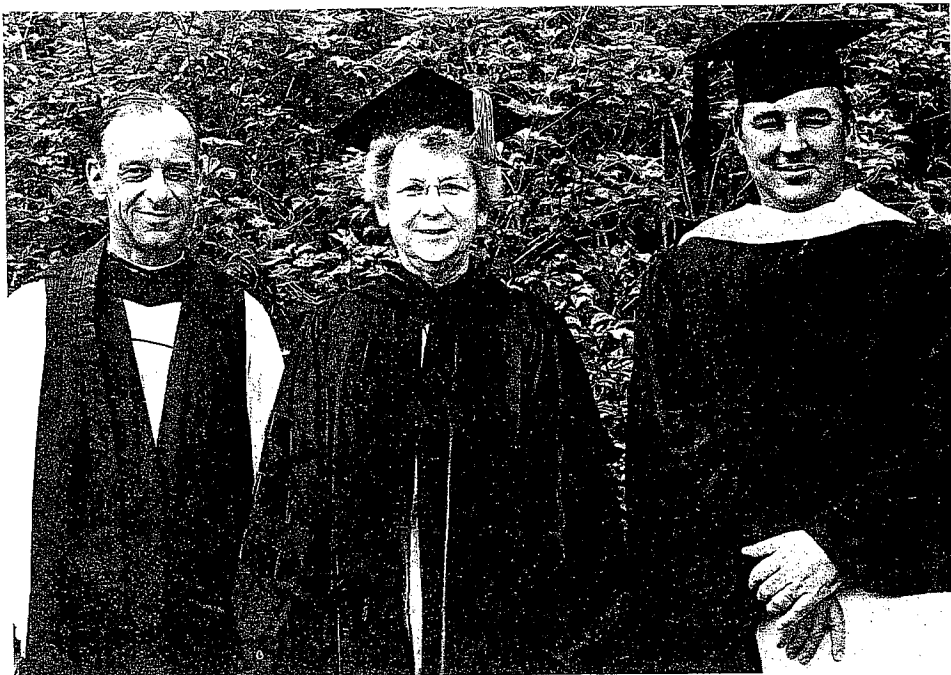
Tea with Headmaster and Mrs. McIlwaine.

"As soon as the girl realized what had happened, she shrieked, 'It's the rings!' Then Niagara. I had been prepared for tears, but nothing like this. First the seniors cried, then the juniors joined in, then the sophomores and the freshmen. The room become a tropical rain forest, while for a happy 10 or 12 minutes there was uncontrolled sobbing."

The McIlwaines made lasting friends among the faculty with whom they worked. John McIlwaine remembered, "I was impressed by the faculty and staff. Ruth Loomis, a fine nurse, was there the whole time I was. Madame Raphael. Hamish and Gerry MacEwan — he taught art. Manzur Zaidi, a fine history teacher. Ginny and Ted Walsh. I admired St. Mary's ministers like Clinton Blake and Bill Dearman. Fortunately, I turned over the business manager's job to Captain Norman Gage. He and his wife and daughter Ann were quite an addition to our School. Fred Steele and I became close friends. I taught him about birds and he taught me about wildflowers."



Deborah McIlwaine stepped into the classroom to teach English in 1962-63. She became head of the English Department and guided the girls in publishing the Telemark and the Pendulum.



At Graduation John C. McIlwaine poses with the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Bishop of New Hampshire, and the guest speaker, Mrs. Mildred McAfee Horton, Jefferson, N.H., former president of Wellesley College and "Captain Mac" of the U.S. WAVES during World War II.



Hamish MacEwan taught art during the Sixties to many talented young women at Saint Mary's.

Headmaster McIlwaine (continued)

An avid ornithologist, an Audubon member, a tennis player and enthusiastic mountain climber, John McIlwaine carried forward the School's commitment to high-quality academics and the outdoor life. Conscious of a growing national awareness of the importance of science in the post-Sputnik world of the Sixties, Mr. McIlwaine, aided by Fred Steele, encouraged the trustees to build a Science Wing. With trustees like Gilbert R. Tanis and alumna Joan Piane Fowler '49 of Hanover at the helm of a fund-raising campaign, the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Saint Mary's was celebrated as students and faculty cheered the addition of new laboratories. Designed by John Carter, the Science Wing ingeniously followed the slope of the hill on which Seven Springs was located. Large glass windows provided more views of the White Mountains as a natural laboratory for students to enjoy and study.

John McIlwaine reminisced: "The thing I remember especially about the School is the skiing at Cannon Mountain. All the girls in blue ski parkas, great advertising. They were excellent skiers! Playing soccer on that tilted field was a novelty, of course. And then Field Day! The Light Blue teams against the Dark Blue teams. Terrific competition and good-hearted spirit!"

All the competition between Lights and Darks throughout the year in various sports culminated in Field Day each spring. Fred Steele recalled that the natural rivalry which grew between the two teams was healthy in an all-girls' school which enjoyed few intermural sporting events. "It did a lot for morale," he reported.

Who determined which girl was a Light or a Dark Blue?

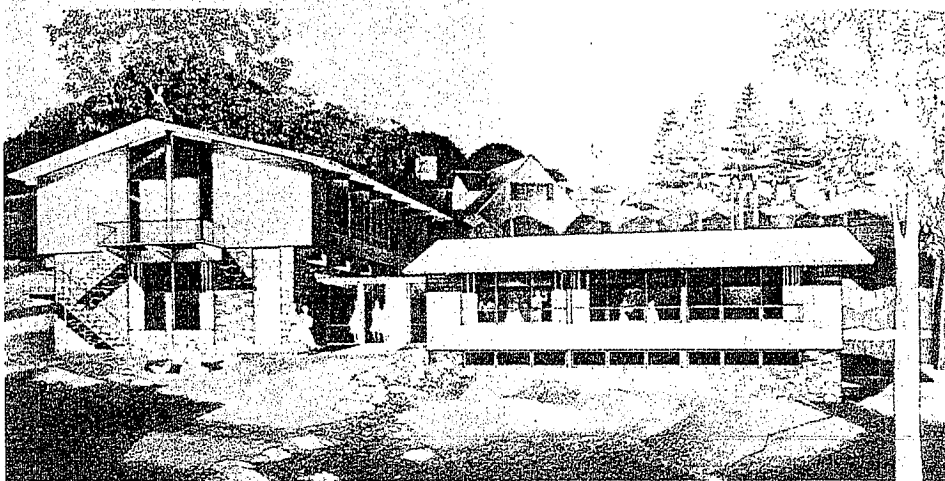
John McIlwaine claimed that Fred Steele was responsible. "He tried to even out the ability of each girl so

that all the best were not on the same team. But the girls would grumble that the opposing team got all the best players, of course."

Field Day began with good-natured rivalry in the race to put colored insignia all around the campus to support the Lights or the Darks. Girls would rush at dawn to run their

team's flag up the flagpole or race to mark "L" or "D" on the boulder. The cherubs in the Garden Fountain sported blue diapers of one shade or another. Then the teams would appear in costumes and perform skits, championing their cause. A variety of contests ensued — sack races, obstacle course, rope climbing, speed

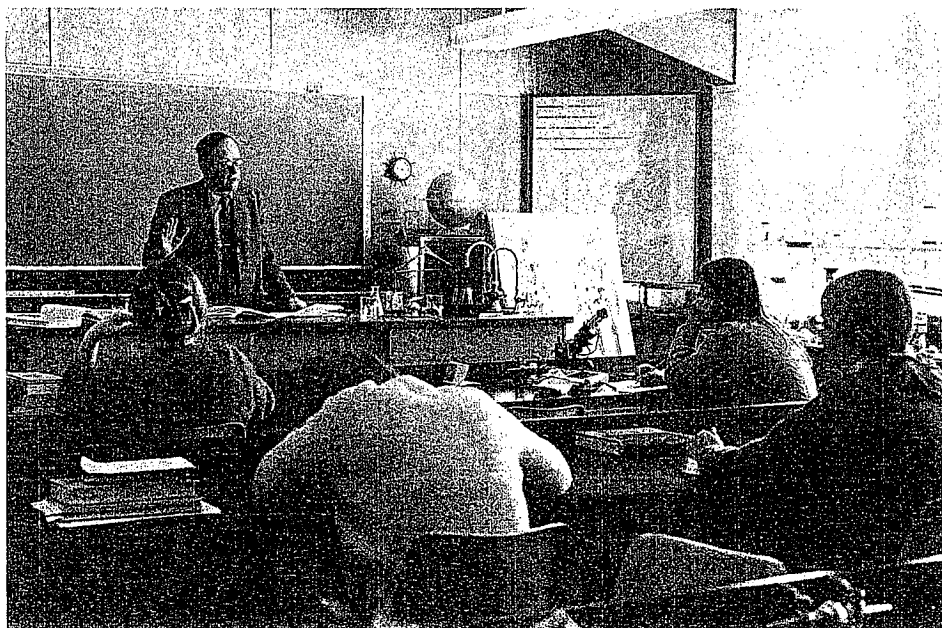
NEW SCIENCE BUILDING



TARGET DATE - JUNE 1962

\$100,000

The Science Wing was built in 1962 in celebration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Saint Mary's.



Frederic L. Steele: at last, spacious and well-equipped laboratories!

races, high and broad jumping. The events ended with a massive tug of war between the Lights and the Darks, and usually a Student-Faculty softball game drove excitement to a fever pitch. After the cook-out, Fred Steele would present the awards amid cheers and boos.

"As the school year draws to a close," wrote the new Headmaster in 1960, "the suspense over getting into college mounts. The senior girls watch the mails anxiously. On the day a girl learns she has been accepted, she comes to dinner wearing her shirt back to front. A happy roar goes up, followed by cheers, speeches, — and, of course, tears . . .

"Commencement would be upon us before I knew it. The Bishop came, the parents came, the girls in their white dresses carrying a single rose sat on the platform looking out to the mountains. Somehow I felt a little sad. It had been a wonderful year.

"The diplomas (and prizes) were handed out. As I got up to signal for dispersal, a senior who was not on the program came forward. I started to tell her to take her place, but she began to read from a scroll. John McIlwaine, the new headmaster, was being made an honorary Belle of St. Mary's by the graduating class. And they were giving me a ring to prove it.

"I took the ring, and, for a few minutes, I had a hard time holding back the tears." (John McIlwaine, "My Belles of St. Mary's," *Reader's Digest*, July 1961.)

After the completion of the Headmaster's House, the Science Wing and the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary in 1962, the trustees, led by Dorothy W. Burroughs of Manchester, and the school community believed that the physical plant was complete. However, they were to face together the greatest tragedy the School had ever experienced.



Field Day — traditional skits to whip the Light Blues and Dark Blues into a frenzy of courage for the ordeal ahead.



The popular sack race at Field Day.



The Winners Are . . .

The Fire of 1964

On January 3, 1964, flames licking one hundred feet into the early morning sky destroyed the Main House, the entire mansion known as "Seven Springs." John McIlwaine remembered: "I woke up early that morning during Christmas vacation smelling smoke. It was 3:00 a.m. I went to the basement of the Headmaster's House, thinking the cause might be the furnace. I couldn't turn on any lights. Looking out of the window, I saw flames roaring up the side of the Main dining room. What a horrifying experience! Ernest Chase, the groundskeeper, had discovered the fire about the same time.

"We called the Bethlehem Fire Department; they called in Littleton and others. It was so cold, they had to bring their own water. Quickly the firemen knew the Main Building was a lost cause, so they wet down the Classroom Wing and the Annex. Fortunately, they were saved!

"Neighbors turned out. Jack Cyr bulldozed the wreckage and capped pipes. E.E. Bigelow, the electrician, came to assist. Faculty wives made sandwiches and hot drinks for the firefighters. The next morning we postponed the opening of school for a week and called an emergency meeting of the board."

Despite this heartbreaking loss, all were thankful that the Fire had occurred during the Christmas holiday so that no one was occupying the Main House and no lives were lost or injuries sustained. Prophetically, the only survivors of the Fire were found in the ashes — the illuminated Rembrandt Bible and the Mexican silver cross from the little Oratory in the basement of "Seven Springs." To many, as Board Chairman Dorothy Burroughs wrote to friends and supporters, this find was interpreted as a reaffirmation of faith in Saint Mary's. An even better school might arise from the ashes.



Before. The tranquil scene last seen on January 2, 1964.

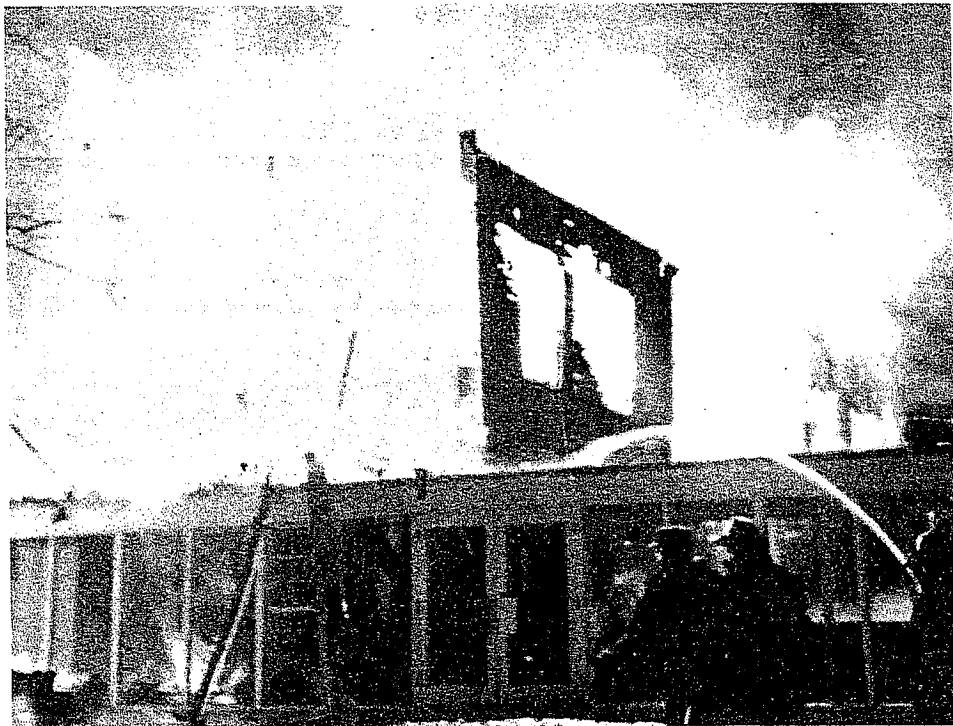


During: John McIlwaine and Ernest Chase discovered the blaze around 4:00 a.m. on January 3, 1964.

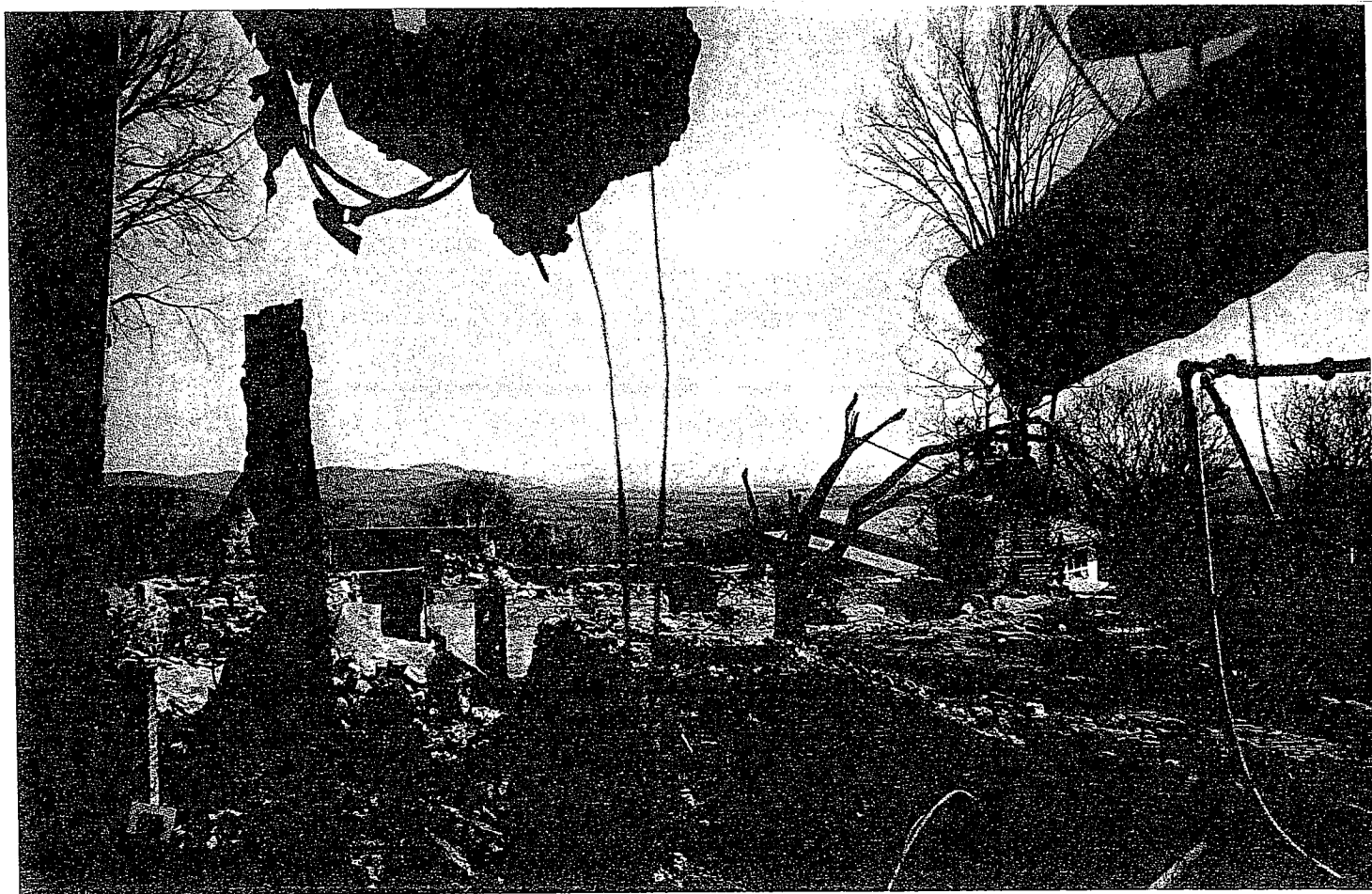
Gil Tanis, trustee, remembered that the Board seriously considered several alternatives to rebuilding. One was to move to Saint Paul's School, Concord, back to the roots of Saint Mary's. Another was to move to Sugar Hill. However, the trustees realized that to do either would be to lose control and identity. The soul of Saint Mary's School would be lost forever.

"It was Bishop Hall who stepped in and said we must stop talking, stop worrying about how get the money. We must make a decision *today* to rebuild and then, trust in the Lord and go get the money. Posey and I again shared the honors (of co-chairing the Rebuilding Campaign)," Gil Tanis said.

Sixty girls went to live at Peckett's on Sugar Hill.



During: Firefighters and neighbors responded in time to save the Annex and the Classroom Wing and Science Wing. The mansion of Seven Springs burned to the ground.



After.

Rebuilding

A campaign to raise \$550,000 was mounted. After designs were drawn by John Carter, construction on a major rebuilding project began. On May 15, 1965, a little over a year after the holocaust, the Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Bishop of New Hampshire, dedicated the new \$250,000 dormitory as the first phase of the million-dollar project. Named for the Dorothy Burroughs, chairman of the board, who had tragically died of cancer after nearly 30 years of dedication to Saint Mary's, Burroughs House would welcome nearly fifty students and several faculty families. The new Main Building would be devoted solely to school activities.

The work continued on the Main Building that summer. When School opened in the fall of 1965, a gleaming, white Main Building greeted the eyes of 96 boarders and 8 day students, a total of 104 girls. John McIlwaine had been busy in admissions, too!

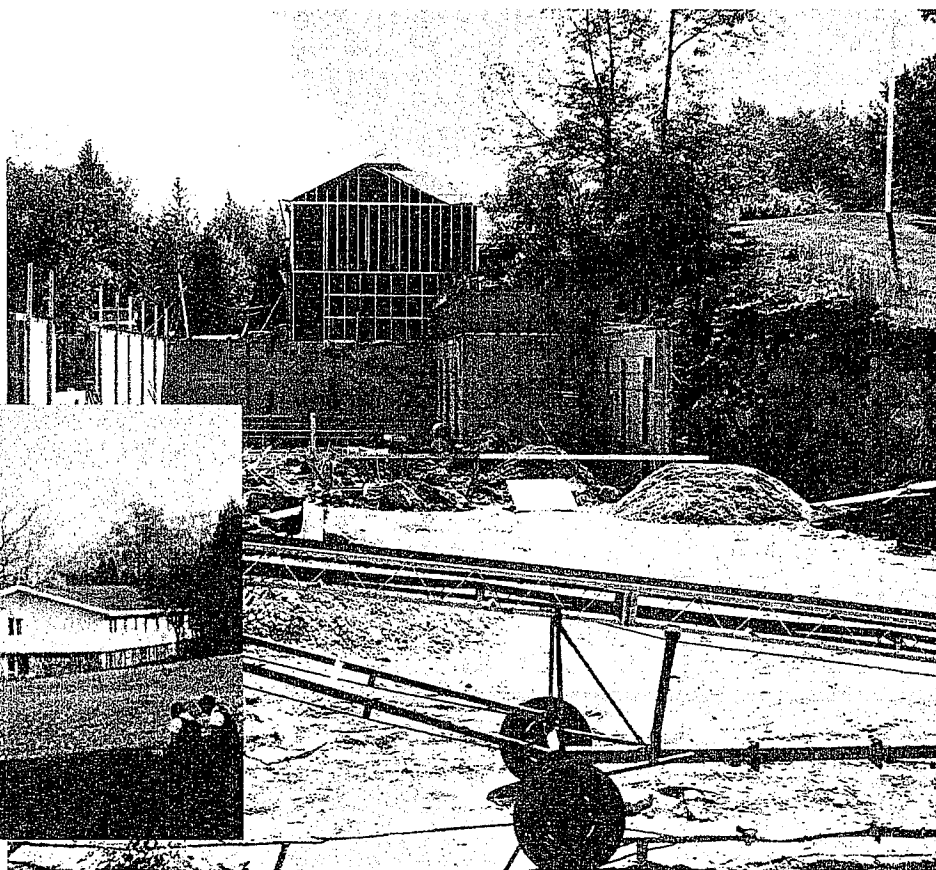
In fact, his work in increasing the enrollment for Saint Mary's was so effective, and the new, modern campus so appealing, that the Trustees decided to build a second new dormitory in 1968. Named Carter House in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Eliot A. Carter of Nashua, faithful benefactors, the new dorm permitted expansion to 110 students.



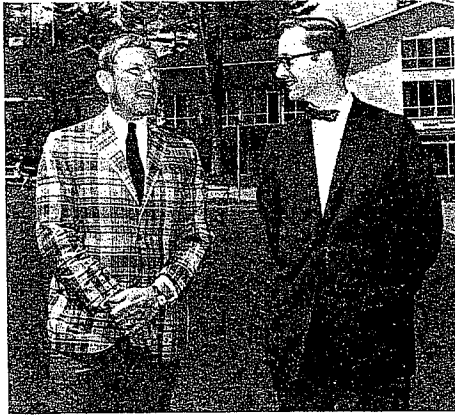
Students lived at Peckett's or the Sunset Hill House on Sugar Hill. Faculty shuttled busloads back and forth to classes on campus and meals at the inns. Lunch was served in the School's Gym.



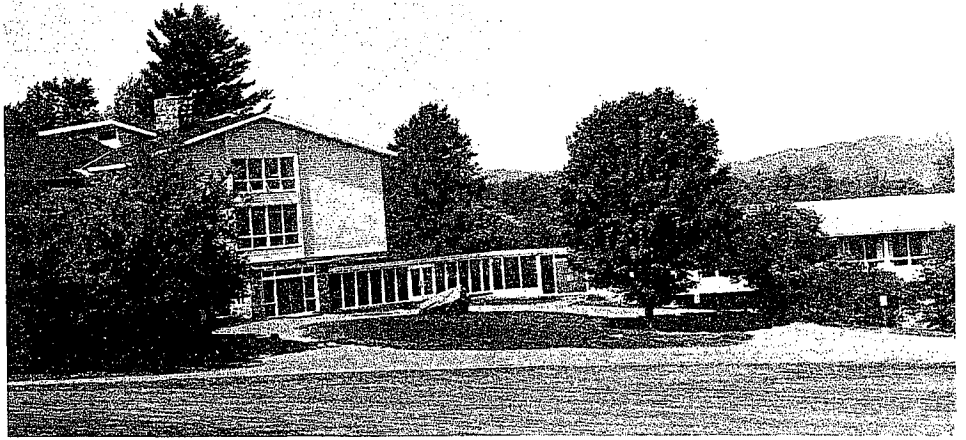
Burroughs House, named for the late Dorothy W. Burroughs, chairman of the Board of Trustees, was dedicated in May 1965.



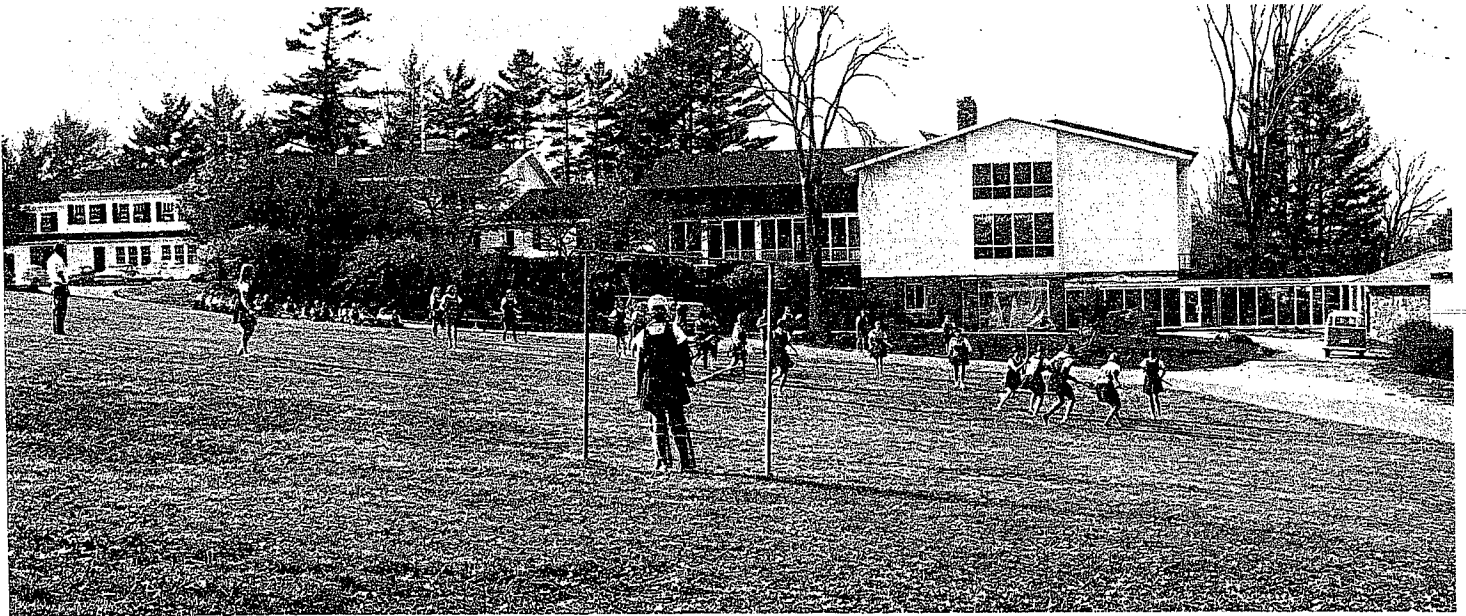
The new Main Building under construction, 1964.



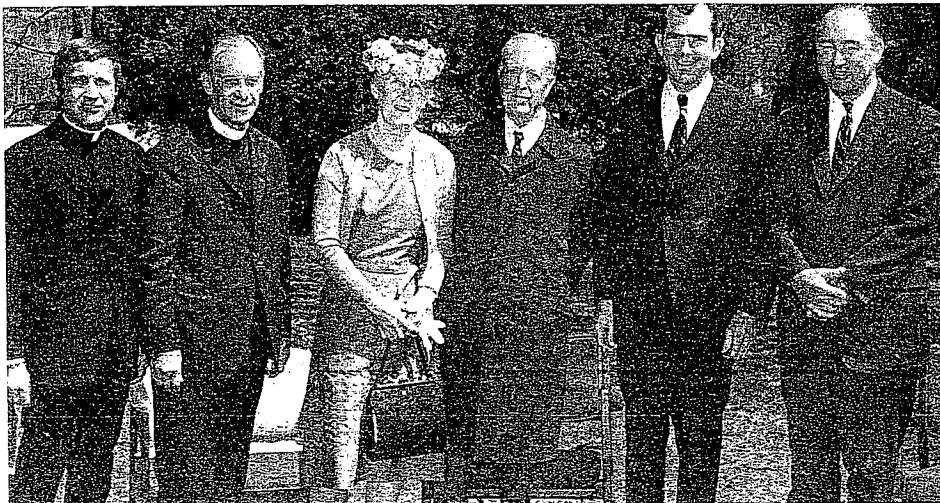
John Carter, architect of Nashua, N.H., confers with his associate in front of the new Main Building, 1965.



A beautiful phoenix has arisen from the ashes.



A lacrosse game in progress as the Main Building nears completion.



Dedication of Carter House, May, 1968: l. to r., The Rev. William Dearman; The Rt. Rev. Charles F. Hall, Bishop of New Hampshire; Mrs. Eliot A. Carter, Trustee; Eliot A. Carter, benefactor; Charles F. Leahy, trustee; and John C. McIlwaine, Headmaster.



Carter House, built in 1968.

The Post Fire Period of the Late Sixties

Enthusiastic about the cohesion that adversity had created among the students and faculty who endured the Fire and the Rebuilding of the campus, John McIlwaine plunged into the years 1965-68 with renewed zeal.

The School was full. The campus pristine. With James S. Barker, a banker of Concord as first treasurer, then chairman of the Board of Trustees, at the helm, and with Gil Tanis and Posey Fowler guiding the fund-raising efforts for the Rebuilding Campaign and continuing the Annual Alumnae and Parents Funds, Saint Mary's appeared to be reasonably secure financially.

Mr. McIlwaine devoted attention to attracting minority students to take advantage of the new A Better Chance scholarship program. He encouraged Virginia T. Walsh, librarian, to move ahead to replenish in the handsome new library the supply of books lost in the Fire. "Then I felt there should be more emphasis on the fine arts. Hamish MacEwan was teaching art, but we needed more music, dance and theater. Bringing in Kiki and Bill Rice was a great addition to the faculty. Under their direction we performed many musicals with Holderness, New Hampton and Tilton. Many girls went on to major in music in college. Music and dance spread to the Chapel. Bill Rice directed wonderful dance masses and musical performances at Ivie Memorial in Bethlehem," he recalled.

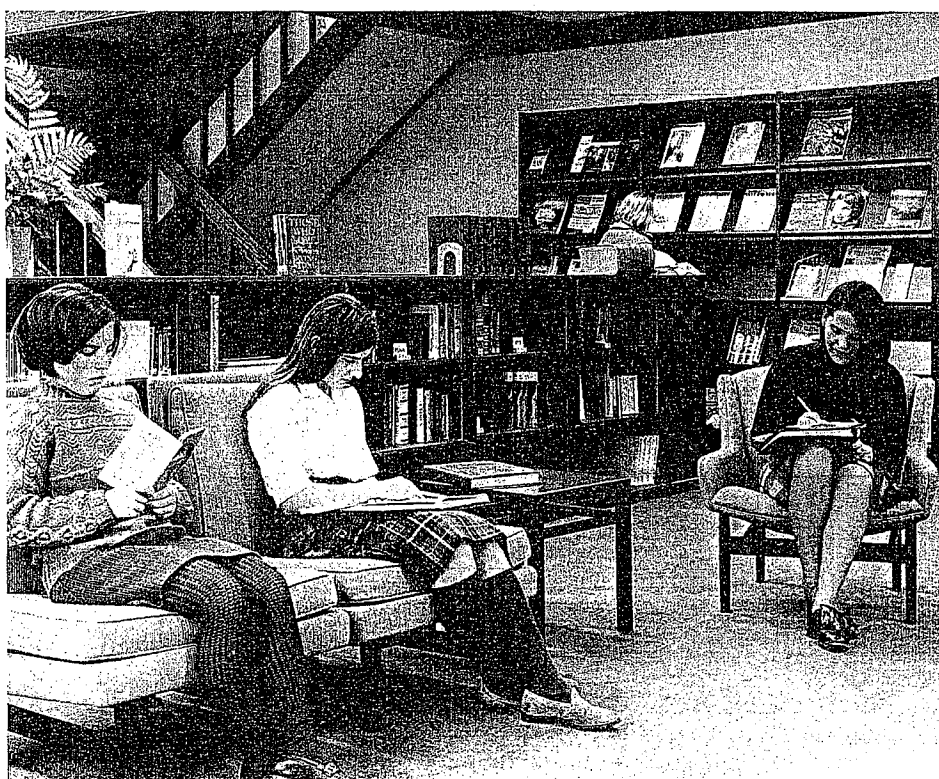
"I was proud of the college entrance record of the girls," he added. "I worked hard to visit colleges all over the East, the mid-West, the Far West, to establish the School's identity. We had seniors accepted to first-rate colleges: Radcliffe, Stanford, Wells, Colby, Middlebury. We had three or four students Phi Beta Kappa at Wellesley: **Alison Barker, Kit**



John C. McIlwaine counsels girls in the new Headmaster's Office.



Virginia T. Walsh, librarian.



The new Library.

Cooke, and others." John McIlwaine also stressed that students were applying to a much wider range of colleges, especially as men's colleges moved toward opening doors to women.

In the midst of success, hints of trouble to come can be found in the Trustees' minutes of the era: "May 1969: Mr. McIlwaine reported the need for 54 new to attain a goal of 115 boarders, 10 day. Enrollment is moving more slowly than in previous years because girls are seeking entrance to coeducational institutions. Charles F. Leahy, a lawyer on the board, spoke to the students on the legal aspects of drug abuse in a talk that was favorably received."

Again, October 1969: "The trustees voted to hold fast to the No Smoking rule . . . Enrollment, 90. Problems, high tuition, tight money. Attrition in the underclasses. A spirit of restlessness among the teenage population of America existed as the nation wrestled with the social protest and rebellion against authority. Mr. Leahy reported on problems in student life viz-a-viz school policies.

"Mr. Leahy questioned the School's identity and mission and cited three major societal changes which were affecting Saint Mary's: a general turning away from institutionalized Christian religion; a trend toward coeducation; the lessening of the attraction of an isolated, country location. He called for a re-evaluation study to be made by the trustees by Spring 1970."



William Rice, music.



Kiki Rice, theater.



The Octet, circa 1967-68.



Musical theater exchange with New Hampton School: "Guys and Dolls," starring Judy Robinson '67.

Transition

At the January 1970 Trustees' meeting enrollment was listed at 87 students. \$40,000 was transferred from the Endowment to meet the School's operating deficit. Mr. Tanis reported that a recent drive for \$30,000 in gifts had resulted only in \$6,500.

At a special meeting in February, the Board accepted with regret the resignation of John C. McIlwaine, who was granted a sabbatical for one year. A committee was appointed to study a coordinate arrangement with Holderness School. Donald Hagerman, Headmaster of Holderness, was appointed Acting Head of Saint Mary's with authority to hire a resident assistant for the Littleton campus.

Things moved swiftly. By May 1970 the Trustees had approved Mr. Hagerman's choice of Arthur Ingraham III, a graduate of Exeter and Harvard, as Assistant Headmaster. But the whirling social changes in the nation were taking a severe toll on the School: enrollment was dropping, the deficit climbing. In a vicious circle the economic measures of cutting back on staff and plant repair adversely affected the School's strengths in academic, athletic and artistic program. The Trustees voted to accept boys as day scholars as of the fall of 1970. In response to a massive questionnaire sent to alumnae, parents, and students, they voted to drop the "Code Book," a listing of rules which had become a source of discontent among the students.

At the October 1970 Trustees' meeting Mr. Ingraham announced that 84 students had enrolled, including six day boys. Tuition and fees: \$3900 for boarders; \$1750 for day students. Social and athletic exchanges with Holderness appealed to the students of both schools, but Mr. Hagerman cautioned that it was too early to tell what the long-range

future relationship between Saint Mary's and Holderness might be.

Mr. Ingraham described the relaxation in rules, in dress code, and in attendance at Chapel, which would no longer be compulsory. "Several trustees expressed unhappiness with the lack of emphasis on the spiritual side of life." They found small comfort in hearing that similar happenings were occurring at Holderness and Saint Paul's.

By spring 1971 Saint Mary's was hemorrhaging. Treasurer Frederic Pilch reported that the deficit for fiscal 1970 and 1971 would be \$118,000, to be covered by advances from the unrestricted Endowment. Endowment funds totaled \$640,000 before the erosion.

On May 19, 1971, the Trustees held a watershed meeting at the Hanover Inn in Hanover, New Hampshire.



Resident Assistant Headmaster of Saint Mary's 1970-71 and Headmaster 1971-72, Arthur Ingraham III.



Donald C. Hagerman, Headmaster of Holderness School for Boys and Acting Head of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, 1970-71, with his wife Ibba.



Boys were accepted as day students as of the Fall of 1970. Six enrolled. Left to right, Alan MacEwan '73; Mary Holloway '73; Laura Haverstick '72; David Dux '74; Teddy Steele '75 and unidentified.



The School becomes coed. Debbie Whittemore '73 and Alan D. MacEwan '73.

Standing in the hallway of the Hanover Inn the morning of May 19, 1971, was Jack B. Middleton, attorney, from Manchester, New Hampshire. He had agreed to become a trustee. His wife, **Ann Dodge Middleton**, was an alumna, Class of 1947. Their daughter **Susan** enjoyed being a student at Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, Class of 1972. Jack Middleton likes to tell the story: "I couldn't believe it! There I was, cooling my heels in the corridor, while the Trustees elected me to their midst for a three-year term. Then, after I entered the meeting, they voted to close the School in a year!"

Mr. Middleton captured the essence of the fateful meeting. However, before the vote, the trustees agonized over financial woes and voiced conflicting opinions about coeducation.

Donald Hagerman resigned as Acting Headmaster. He announced that his Holderness trustees would only consider further cooperation with Saint Mary's IF Saint Mary's would move to the Plymouth campus. Even then Holderness was not sure it would want a girls' school "that would be a financial burden." The Holderness trustees had only just voted to accept girls as day pupils and were not ready to commit to full integration of girls with boys. Mr. Hagerman opposed coeducation fully integrated.

Arthur Ingraham was elected to serve as Headmaster for 1971-72. Even though only 30 definite boarders and seven day students had signed on for the fall, he hoped 10 new applicants would materialize. He believed Saint Mary's could survive on its campus as an all-girls' school.



Alpine Skier Susan Middleton '72, daughter of Jack Middleton, trustee, and Ann Dodge Middleton '47, Manchester, NH.



Amanda Ormondroyd '72, daughter of Mary Jane Chase Ormondroyd '39, skis cross-country around the Biology Trail on campus.



Jenny Cook Lyman instructs Scandanavian student Fanny Platou '72 in winter survival techniques.

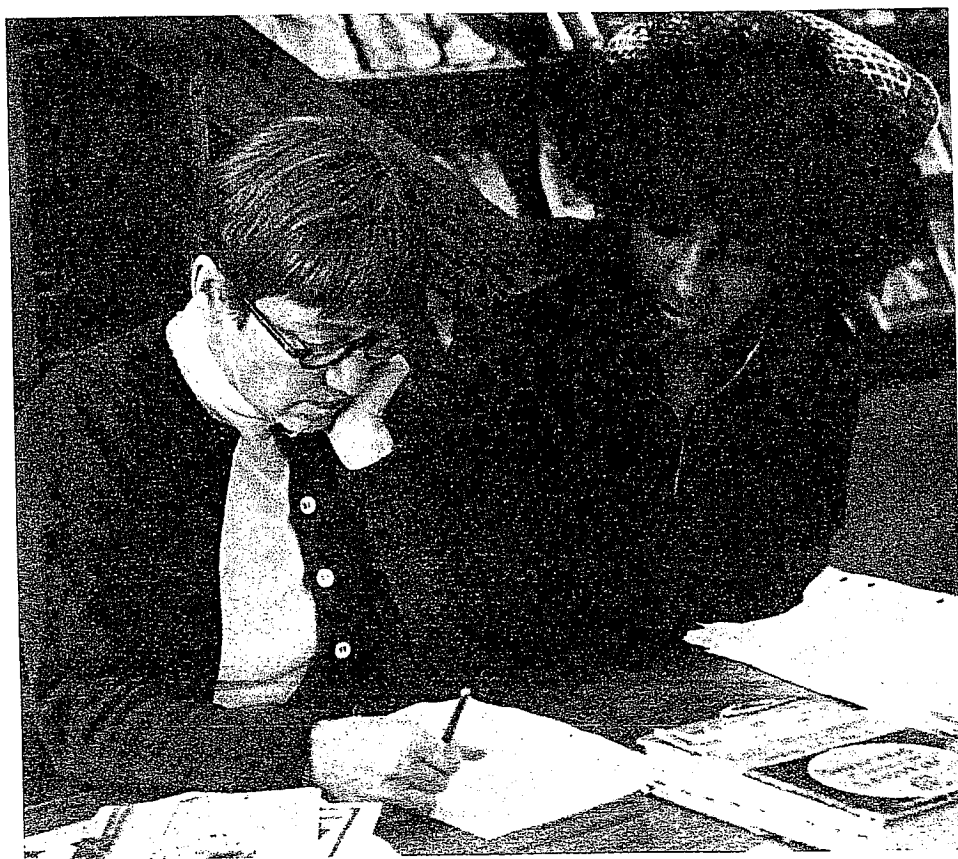
He announced he would "rebuild enrollment by emphasis on the use of the outdoors under good direction." He described reductions in faculty and staff.

Several trustees expressed strong opinions that Saint Mary's could only survive if it accepted full coeducation. Others disagreed.

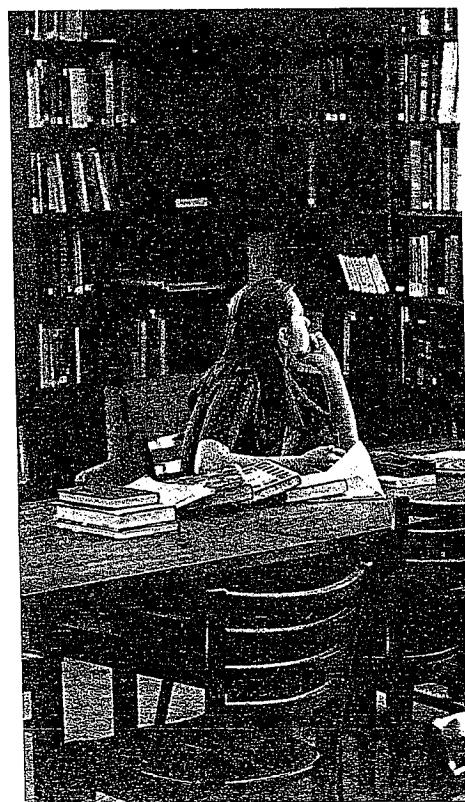
At the end of the day the trustees gave reluctant approval to a plan to operate Saint Mary's for one more year and close or merge by June 1972. At the same time they voted "to commit in principle to educating boys and girls together and to authorize a committee to enter into negotiations to work out a plan by October 1971."



Stefanie Valar '72 and Junie McNair '72 act in a play performed in the Auditorium beneath the Classroom Wing.



Junie McNair '72 listens to suggestions about writing from English teacher Norma K. Logsdon.



Kathryn "Kit" Dustin '73, daughter of Emily Heard Dustin '33, contemplates the future while studying in the Library.

Hope

The telephone wires around New England hummed. In the next few weeks it became apparent that many trustees, present and not present on May 19, regretted the decision to end Saint Mary's life or find a distant bridegroom after one more year of operation.

At meetings in May and June the trustees found inspiration, courage and new hope in the commitment voiced by several alumnae trustees. They were determined that their School would not die. The trick would be to accentuate the positive. Emphasize the incredible strengths Saint Mary's held: new buildings, a spectacular location in the White Mountains; proximity to the ski slopes at Cannon Mountain. Create an innovative plan to involve young people in the outdoors, not simply for recreation, but for academic studies as well. Saint Mary's still held

a half a million dollars in endowment. Carve out some resources to support another rebirth.

On June 3 the full board voted "to change the vote taken on May 19, to embark on a policy of renewed commitment to maintain the School in Littleton, and to create a new program which might include coeducation in some form." They elected new leadership from among the alumnae trustees: Chairman of the Board, **Sylvia A. Dickey '54**; Vice-chairman, **Roberta Waterston Corcoran '55**; and Clerk, **Linda Clark Davis '55**. The trustees also accepted a proposal by the latter to study all possible alternatives for Saint Mary's future and to garner new sources of financial support. Miss Dickey thrust high the torch: "Together we begin the challenge to make Saint Mary's relevant to today's world."



Alumnae Trustees circa 1970-1971 gather near the Headmaster's House, l. to r., Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50; Sylvia A. Dickey '54; Joan Piane Fowler '49; Roberta Waterston Corcoran '55; and, standing, Linda Clark Davis '55.



As part of the New Horizons of the early 1970s students received instruction in rock-climbing. Thomas G. Lyman, director of the outdoor program and English teacher, shows the ropes to Amanda Ormondroyd '72.



David Rinebolt '74 inches across the beam of the Ropes Course as friends Michael Kelley '76 and Cathe Creamer '75 stand ready to assist.

During the critical year 1971-72 the trustees struggled against astonishing odds buoyed by optimism and faith. They made bold decisions.

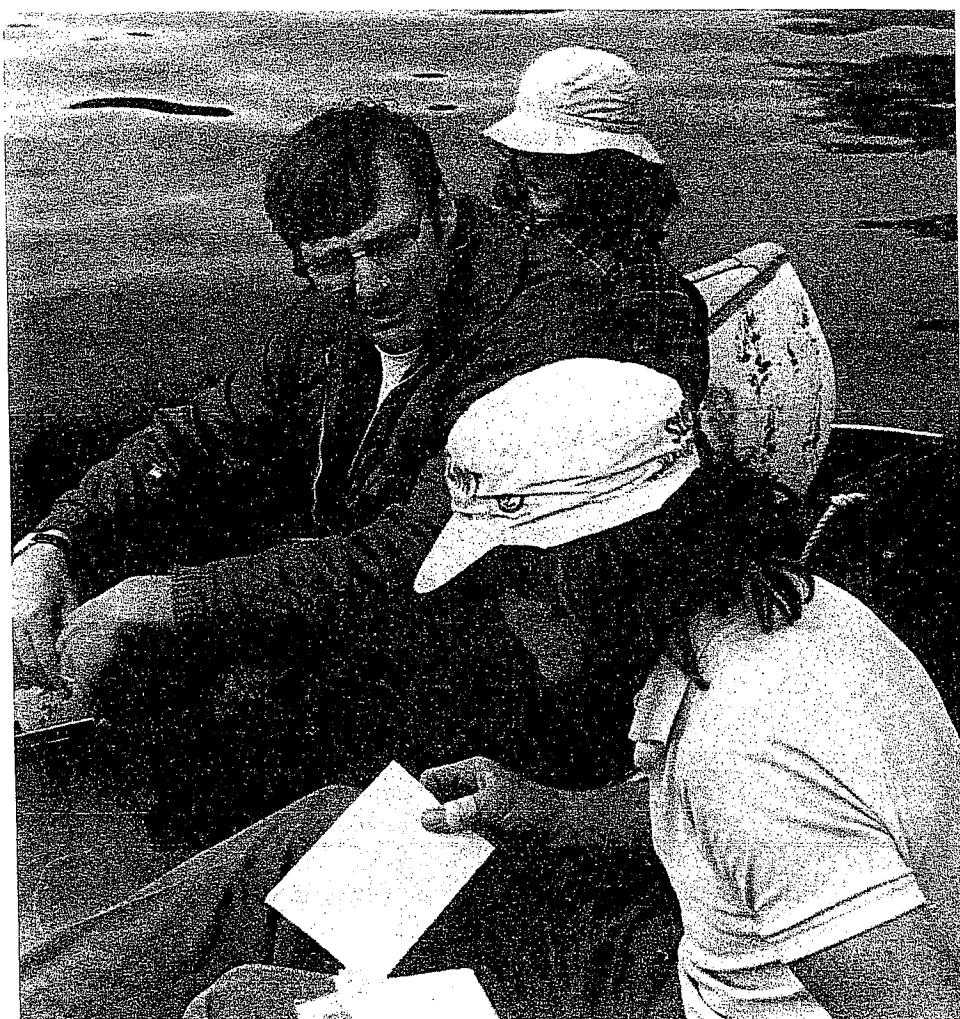
- The School needs more students? Why not more boys? The male day students liked the place and the program. So might young men from further afield. They mandated that full coeducation would begin in the fall of 1972.

- No boy would want to come to a school named for a female saint? Change the name. In January 1972 the trustees voted to add "The White Mountain School" to the existing name.

- No boy would enroll if a school did not offer team sports? Hire a ski coach, a rock climber, a canoeist, a kayaker, and stress "lifetime sports."

- The School needed more money? Publish abroad the glad tidings of rebirth. Request support for "New Horizons." Between 1971 and 1973 a capital campaign succeeded in raising \$247,000 to underwrite coeducation, the name change, the integration of the outdoor life with the academic curriculum, and improved faculty salaries.

- The dream requires a champion? Seek new leadership. In May 1972 a new Headmaster, E. Charles Sanborn, was elected to carry forward the trustees' goals. An innovative educator, Mr. Sanborn arrived with ten years of experience in teaching and in administration earned at the Northfield-Mt. Hermon School. He brought with him his wife Joyce and four young children.



E. Charles Sanborn, Headmaster, confers with two students in the innovative "Man and Rivers" course created by Mr. Sanborn. The team-taught, interdisciplinary course for seniors culminated in a ten-day canoe trip down the Connecticut River to Long Island Sound. Two of the first young men to enroll as boarders were **Keith Ricketson '73** and **John McKinnon '73** (foreground).



Under Chuck Sanborn's leadership, learning was accomplished both in the classroom or study hall . . .



. . . and in the Great Outdoors.

During these few years of turmoil at the trustee level, students and teachers went about the usual business of participating in the full activities of a college preparatory school. Many good things were happening during the transition from an all girls' school, Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, to a coeducational school, The White Mountain School!

Listen to the story of an alumnus, **Alan D. MacEwan '73**, one of the first male day students. A resident of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, Alan followed in the footsteps of his sister **Dorothy MacEwan McPhaul '66**. His brother, **Grant MacEwan '76**, came behind him.

"When I arrived at Saint Mary's that morning in September 1970 for the first meeting in the Great Hall, I was excited. After all, I'd never seen so many cute girls in one place. I was curious to find out how a boy would like attending a girls' school. The excitement did not abate as I sat on the floor by the fireplace with one of my

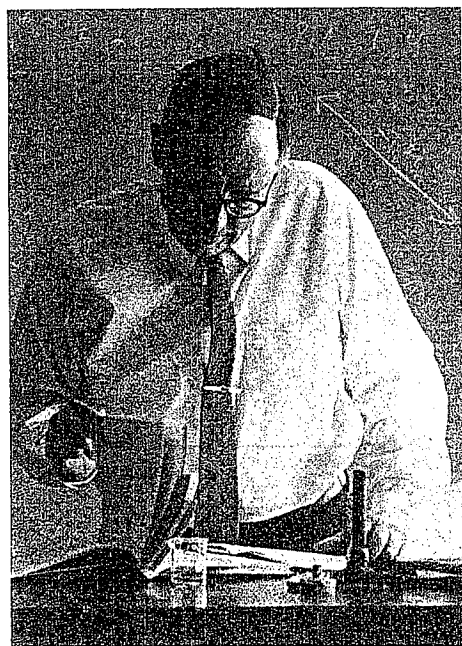
male friends near at least thirty of the most gorgeous girls I'd ever seen.

"Two of these girls, obviously upperclassmen, took the initiative to speak, either out of curiosity or of indignation at having their female bastion invaded. The first question pertained to the maker of my shirt. The questioner was incredulous that a 'hick' had ever heard of the manufacturer. Next I was asked, how old I thought the two of them were. My response was my first big mistake, I guessed 'juniors' and was low by a year. Downhill from there!

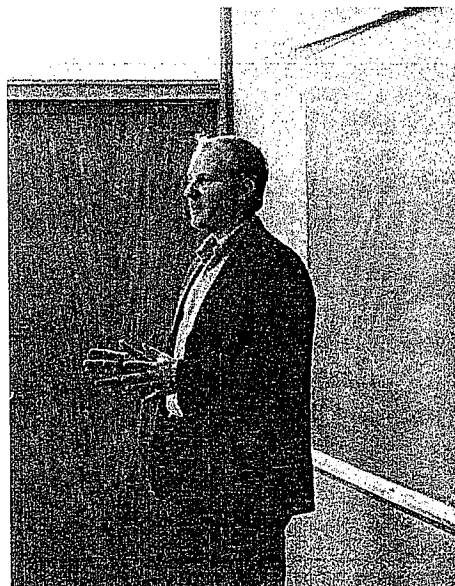
"Boys were required to wear sport coats to classes, but no restrictions were written down regarding trousers. Custom seemed to indicate (it was so logical at the time) that blue jeans were most appropriate when complemented by a tweed jacket. Headmaster Ingraham did not see the wisdom of our logic. He met with the six of us to explain. We unanimously rejected his rationale and wore corduroys the next day.



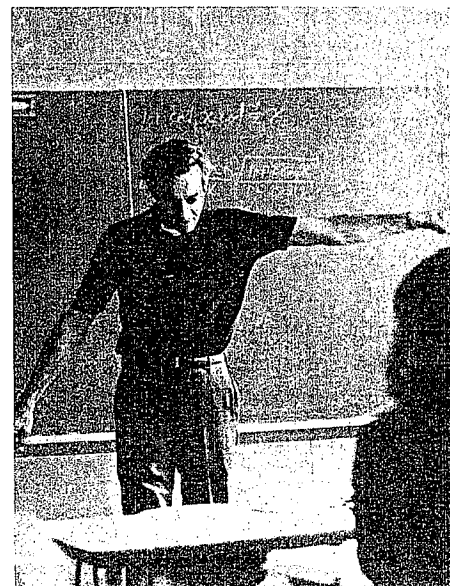
Stern and demanding, but respected by all, was English teacher, Norma K. Logsdon. She also directed plays, led the chorus, and conducted the Reaccreditation Study of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, d/b/a The White Mountain School, for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 1975.



Frederic L. Steele, noted alpine botanist, taught at Saint Mary's, then The White Mountain School, for 34 years, 1946-1980. The Science Prize at Graduation is named in his honor.



Robert T. Whitten, history teacher and soccer coach, in addition to teaching traditional history courses, instituted popular and rigorous courses in Russian and Chinese history. Each student is required to take one course in non-Western history in order to graduate.



Mathematics teacher Richard J. Hayes taught throughout the decade of the 1970s until his death in January 1981. The Mathematics Prize at Graduation is named for Dick Hayes. In his memory each year flowers are planted in the Formal Garden to beautify a place he loved.

"I worked harder than I wanted to while at Saint Mary's. I never arrived unprepared at a class taught by Bea Cressey (Foreign Languages) or Norma Logsdon (English). They were two of the best teachers I have ever had. They required diligence from their students, yet they were eminently likeable and commanded great respect.

"No teacher will ever compare, however, with Fred Steele. Fred was both a great teacher and a great outdoorsman. Fred loved his work, whether calculus or rubus, and that enjoyment always rubbed off. I can't wait for my next chance to get out my weathered copy of *Trees and Shrubs of Northern New England* and shuffle up Mountain Washington right behind Fred, who will happily point out the Latin genus of every subspecies of alpine fauna.

"I will always remember and brag about the incredible outdoor experiences from my Saint Mary's days. Learning how to rock climb, ice climb and kayak gave me self-confidence. No experience quite approaches that of leaning over the edge of a cliff for the first time, about to rappel! I didn't want to go over that first time, but I couldn't wait to do it again!

"By my senior year (1973) the school had considerably increased its male enrollment. Boys' team sports like soccer were better organized, and we were competitive with most of the other schools against whom we played. The student body as a whole became disenchanted with the name 'Saint Mary's' and eventually the new name sounded much more 'coed.' Thus the eventual change to The White Mountain School. What we lost in tradition, we gained by a healthier atmosphere and improved morale.

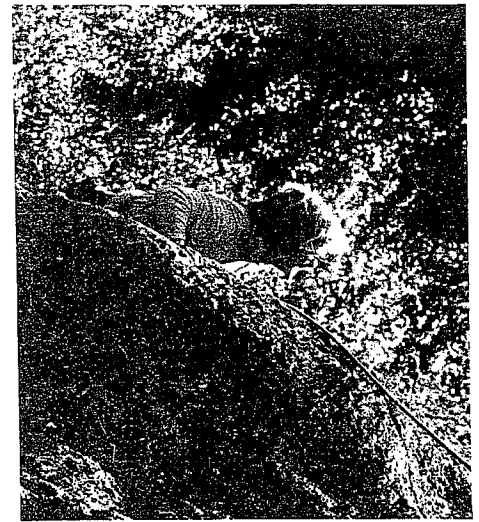
"I looked forward to graduating and going on to Colby College. I felt well-prepared to embark on a new

venture. I credit my zeal to my three years at Saint Mary's. Obviously, the times weren't always great, but nearly all my memories are positive ones, and I don't intend to forget them. I know that I am indebted."

Alan D. MacEwan became an attorney. In May 1986 he was elected to be the first male graduate to become a trustee of The White Mountain School.



Jenny Cook Lyman guided many WMS students to the summits of mountains in New Hampshire, New Mexico, Alaska, and the Far West.



Thomas G. Lyman, acclaimed rock climber and author as well as English teacher, demonstrated maneuvers on Artist's Bluff in Franconia Notch.



Climber Richard Coker of Magee Valley, North Carolina, in 1974-75.



Only One Way! Up! Steve Morris '80 contemplates the route.

Headmaster E. Charles Sanborn (1972-1974)

Director of Long-range Planning (1974-1975)

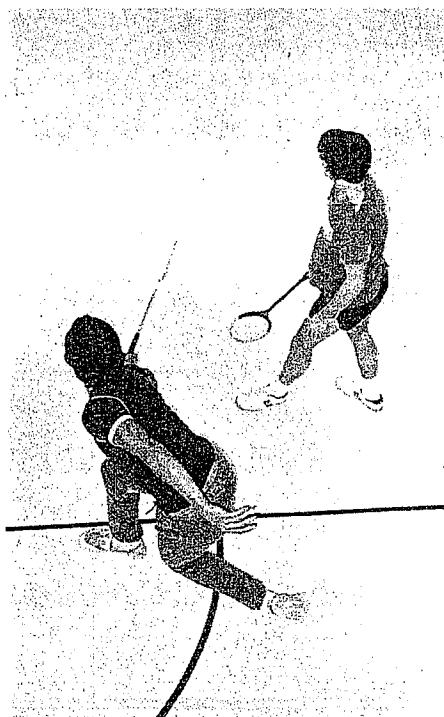
In the summer of 1972 when Chuck Sanborn began his leadership of an old school with a new name, he outlined his mission: "I've been struck by this School's ability in its past to adapt its programs to meet the changing educational needs of young people. It is time again to demonstrate strength and resiliency. The move to coeducation; the adoption of a trimester academic year which permits more flexibility and diversity in the curriculum; a new emphasis upon independent study; new thrusts in interdisciplinary courses; and a fresh emphasis upon the natural environment as a learning resource — these are important ways in which we are moving to meet our new challenge.

"The name change to The White Mountain School identifies us with a location and connotes a vigorous outdoor orientation that is consistent with our educational philosophy. Our size is an asset. In an age of progress, we offer smallness. In an age characterized by impersonal relationships, we offer a caring community. And it's in the coming together of good people, good books, vibrant ideas and the natural environment that true learning can take place in an exciting way!"

Victoria Valar '75, daughter of Franconia skiing instructor Paul Valar and German teacher Paula Valar, joined the student body under Chuck Sanborn's leadership. A strong family connection between the Valars and the School began when Paul Valar taught skiing to girls in Miss Jenks' era. **Stefanie Valar '72** led the way through Saint Mary's, going on to study at Dartmouth. **Vicky** followed, and youngest sister **Christina** tied the light blue-dark blue ribbon more securely by graduating in 1984.



E. Charles Sanborn, Headmaster, awards the coveted Headmaster's Medal to Sarah Jane Peckett '74 at Graduation on June 1, 1974.



The Squash Court, a facility built circa 1974 with the cooperation of interested athletes from the surrounding communities, engages students in fast-paced racquet sports.



Up and over hurdles, literally and figuratively . . .

"My strongest recollection of Saint Mary's when I was little was the Christmas party," **Vicky** reminisced. "What a treat to see the girls coming down the stairway to the Great Hall with their candles and singing 'Silent Night'! I loved Santa and the huge Christmas Tree. I always thought the traditions were so wonderful there. When I became a student in 1972, the size was perfect for me. The faculty was strong, young, energetic. I enjoyed studying under Bill McCollum (English and ski racing); and Tom Lyman and his wife Jenny, who were instrumental in the sciences. I took English with Norma Logsdon and then her son Mark Logsdon. My favorite course was Shakespeare senior year with Tom Lyman. I loved the blend of the humanities and sciences, especially the outdoor environmental sciences.

"Dan Rose, biology teacher, was

very talented. One of our projects was to have a *quadrat*, a section of the campus that was our very own to string off and study every single living thing in that area: soil samples, plants, trees, water, insects.

"In senior year I studied 'Man and Rivers.' We covered every aspect of humans and the river, from the geological standpoint to when and how civilization started and used its resources. We studied, read literature and then culminated the class with a trip. We canoed the Kennebec River in Maine 112 miles from Bangor to the ocean. In two weeks. A special time!

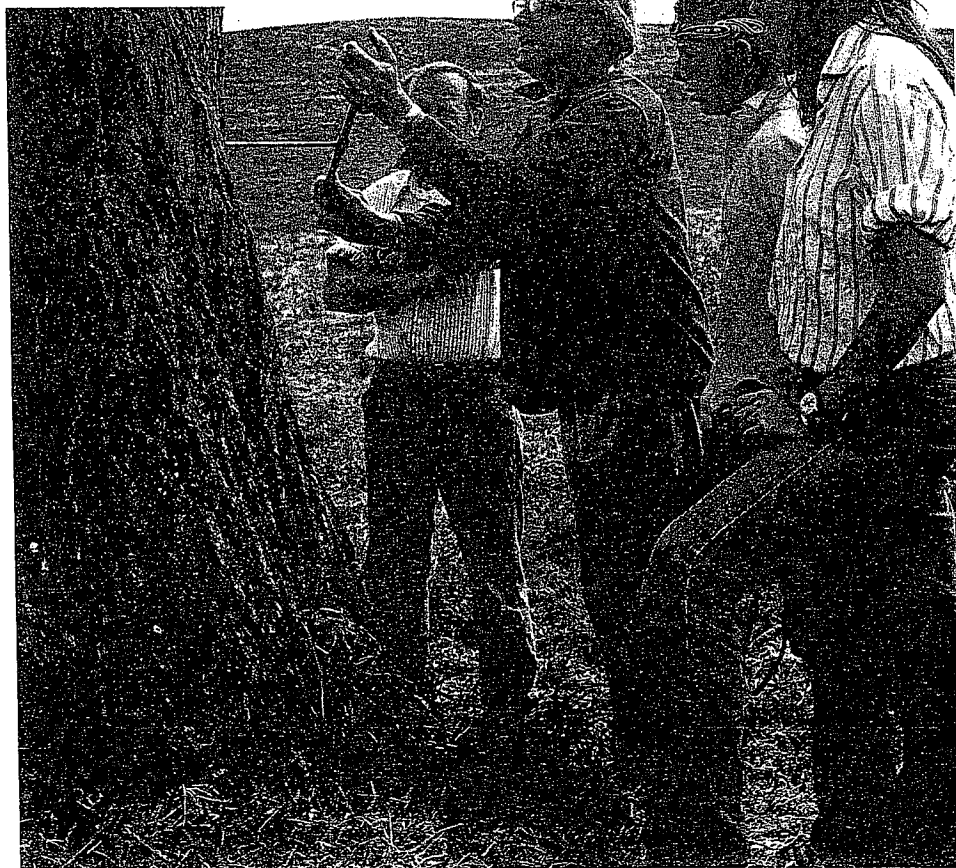
"From this School I went on to Middlebury. Three others in my class also went to Middlebury: **Marilyn White, Gretchen Hund, and Sherill Sanderson.** My sister **Christina '84** also went on from WMS to Middlebury."



The Work Program. Julie Dunn '75.



*Students worked amid exotic plants in the Geodesic Dome Greenhouse, built by **Sam Newsom '74** and outfitted by Dan Rose and science students in the late Seventies.*



Many, varied field trips and the study of quadrats characterized the imaginative teaching of the natural sciences under the direction of Dan Rose.

Headmaster Sanborn (continued)

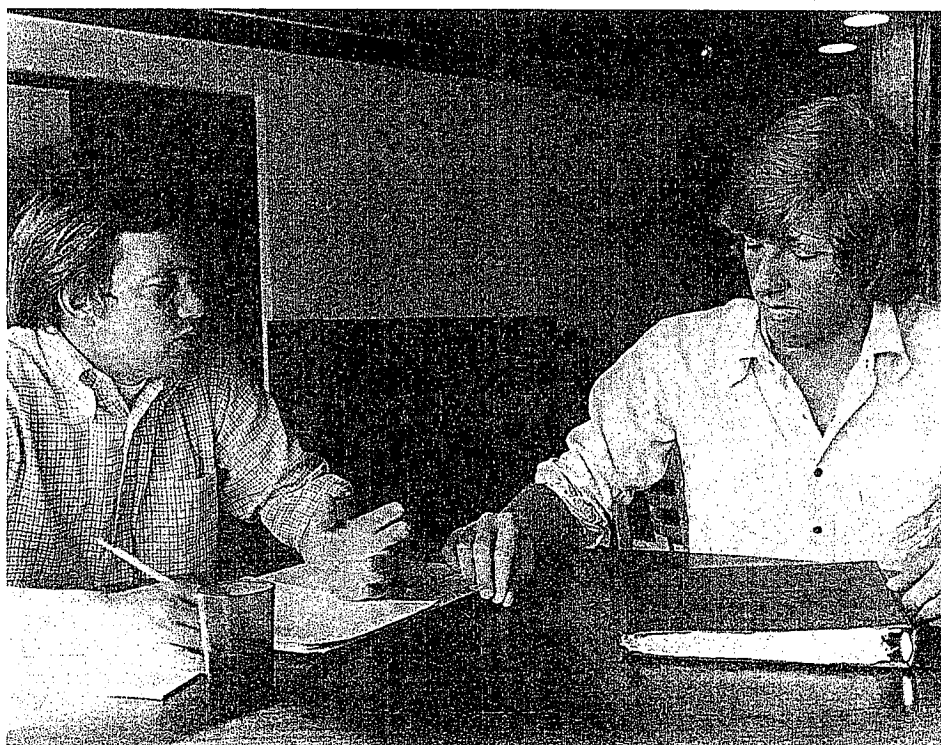
By the year 1973-74 The White Mountain School had regained strength in enrollment when 115 students entered in September. For a small girls' school that, unlike any other girls' school except Concord Academy, had gone coed on its own without merging or coordinating, it seemed remarkable that the ratio of boys to girls had reached parity with a 50-50 balance in two short years of full coeducation. Enrollment continued to expand. In 1974-75 130 students entered in September.

However, changes in social mores and disciplinary codes resulted in more fractious times in student life. The School community wrestled with problems of substance use and abuse unheard of in the Fifties and Sixties. While working hard to help individuals learn from mistakes and grow through them into maturity, Chuck Sanborn found the pressures of dealing with 130 young people limited his family time. He requested the Board of Trustees to reorganize the administration, to appoint his Assistant Headmaster William F. Patterson to be Headmaster as of 1974, and to assign him the task of long-range planning.

During a two-year period The White Mountain School did indeed engage in a major strategic planning study involving people from every constituency: trustees, faculty, students, alumni, parents, friends. And it also underwent an exhaustive self-study leading to Reaccreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Such planning undergirded the next major step, the launching of an ambitious capital campaign to raise \$1 million. After seeing the School safeguarded by the planning he had initiated, Chuck Sanborn resigned to go to Derryfield School, a prominent day school in Manchester.



Graduation, June 1, 1974: l. to r., William F. Patterson, Assistant Headmaster; The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith, Bishop of New Hampshire; Susan N. McLane, legislator from Concord, graduation speaker; and E. Charles Sanborn, Headmaster. Bishop Smith began his service as Bishop in 1973 and led the Board of Trustees as President for thirteen years until his retirement in 1986.



Jonathan Bixby '77, right, receives guidance from ski coach and teacher, Jeff Lathrop, son of Cynthia Taft Lathrop '38.

Headmaster William F. Patterson (1974-1980)

Assistant Headmaster (1973-1974)

A graduate from the University of New Hampshire, a teacher and coach for five years at Stanstead College (Canada) and five more at Northfield-Mt. Hermon School, Bill Patterson took over the reins of The White Mountain School quoting poet Robert Frost. It can be said of his administration: "My object in living is to unite/My avocation and my vocation/As my two eyes make one in sight." ("Two Tramps in Mud Time.")

Under his leadership in partnership with his wife Gabrielle, The White Mountain expanded its physical plant by building two sorely-needed buildings, increased its endowment, introduced computers to the classroom, and improved community or "town-gown" relationships through a Cultural Events Program.

Based upon the planning accomplished in 1975 and 1976, the trustees voted to launch in 1977 a capital fund effort called "The Centers for Growth Campaign." Central to the campaign to raise \$1 million was the construction of an Indoor Recreation Center and a new dormitory. It was Bill Patterson's idea to raise a structure over an existing tennis court and provide students and faculty with a multi-purpose floor under cover from New England's whimsical weather. In the energy crisis of the times when oil prices were zooming skyward and inflation threatened extinction, Bill Patterson and the trustees conceived the plan of erecting a dormitory with two-story solaria facing south toward Cannon and Kinsman Mountains. The dormitory would be an experiment in using passive solar energy and wood fuel to complement oil heat.

Both buildings were dedicated in January 1978. The solar dormitory housing 15 students was named in honor of Dorothy E. McLane, Headmistress Emerita. The central study room looking out upon the Greenhouse was named in honor of Harlan Logan, Trustee Emeritus. Mr. Logan gave wise counsel to The White Mountain School and succeeded in bringing its work to the attention of DeWitt Wallace, founder and publisher of the *Reader's Digest*. Mr. Wallace established the *Reader's Digest* Endowed Scholarship, the annual income of which is used to support outstanding students.



The new Headmaster, William F. Patterson, and his wife Gabrielle meet former Headmistress Dorothy E. McLane, and her daughter Patty McLane Rotch '32, to glean some advice on leading the School.



Bill Patterson rolls up his sleeves, preparing to lead students in canoes on a river trip.



Gabrielle Patterson as College Counselor.

Cultural Events

Our School has a rich history of contributing to the cultural life of the North Country. Although this role was greatly expanded under the Pattersons' leadership, it began in the late Thirties. Its growth was fostered considerably by John McIlwaine during the Sixties with the Littleton Lecture Series.

For the publication of the Town of Littleton's Bicentennial History, Virginia T. Walsh, librarian, wrote a comprehensive article about the School's cultural enrichment since 1934, here excerpted.

"To strengthen relations with the towns, starting in the Thirties, Saint Mary's sponsored lectures in the Littleton High School Auditorium open to all. This series brought, among others, renowned poet Robert Frost to Littleton . . . In 1946 the School invited the community to another reading by Robert Frost and a lecture by Pulitzer-Prize winner Robert Tristram Coffin.

"During the Fifties the Drama Department under the direction of Sarah Vernon Hodges and the Music Department under Warren Geissinger collaborated in presenting such musicals and dramas as Kurt Weill's 'Down in the Valley,' Mozart's 'Magic Flute,' 'Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel,' and Shakespeare's 'As You Like It.' Most were staged at the Littleton Elementary School, now Lakeway School.

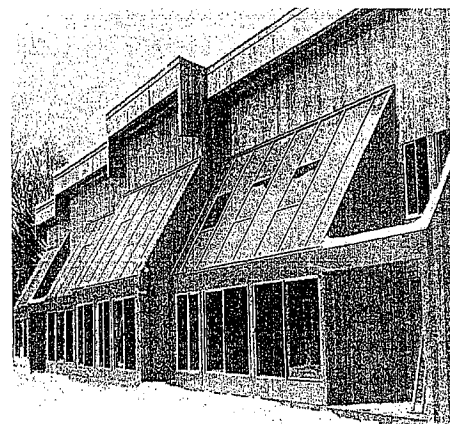
"An event of major significance occurred when Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains gave a new pipe organ to All Saints' Episcopal Church, Littleton. The concert including works by Brahms and Bach given by the School Choir at the dedication was warmly received. Many area residents remember with nostalgia the annual Christmas pageant presented by Saint Mary's at All Saints or Ivie Memorial Church.



The Board of Trustees remains a mainstay of strength and stability for The White Mountain School in all weathers, through all decades. Shown here are the trustees of 1976 under Chairman Sylvia A. Dickey '54. Left to right: William F. Patterson, Headmaster; Dana M. Cotton; Caroline B. McMillan '47, a long-time, former President of the Alumnae Association; Susan R. Bright, Chairman of the Parents' Association and mother of Kathy Bright '77 and Phoebe Bright '79; Stephanie Baute; Gilbert R. Tanis; Roberta Waterston Corcoran '55; Sylvia A. Dickey '54; Robert Whitney, Jr. of Franconia, father of Patty Whitney '66, one of the first day girls to graduate; Sanford D. Elsass; Julie Carter; Frederic Pilch, Treasurer; Martha Ritzman Douglas '63, President of the Alumni Association; Professor Henry B. Prickitt; succeeding Board Chairman Jack B. Middleton; and Harlan Logan.



Frederic L. Steele: In May 1972 fifty members of the School's family gathered to toast Fred and Mary Steele on his 25th Anniversary as a member of the faculty. Described as "Steele, stainless fredericus, a native perennial," Fred was ribbed for his "outstanding characteristics in phylogeny, morphology, ecology, range, habitat-preference and extent of variation in habits." He retorted with anecdotes about the high jinks of a number of alumnae, trustees and friends, all present. In the late 1970s Fred Steele became Director of the Environmental Studies Center at The White Mountain School until his retirement in 1980.



McLane Center, the Solar Dorm, was dedicated in January 1978 in honor of Dorothy E. McLane, Headmistress Emerita.

"John C. McIlwaine and his wife Deborah welcomed the community to the campus to such events as the annual Fall Frolics, Book Fair, and art contests for local children. Mr. McIlwaine also introduced the Fine Arts Series, bringing to Littleton High School such well-known personages as Joy Adamson, zoologist and author of *Born Free* and Ogden Nash, foremost American poet of light verse. In the Sixties the awe-inspiring productions staged by Bill and Kiki Rice included 'Damn Yankees,' 'Pajama Game,' 'Guys and Dolls,' 'Our Town,' and 'The Madwoman of Chaillot' by Giraudoux. One Ephiphany service at Ivie Memorial featured 'The Juggler of Notre Dame,' by Anatole France, adapted by Kiki Rice.

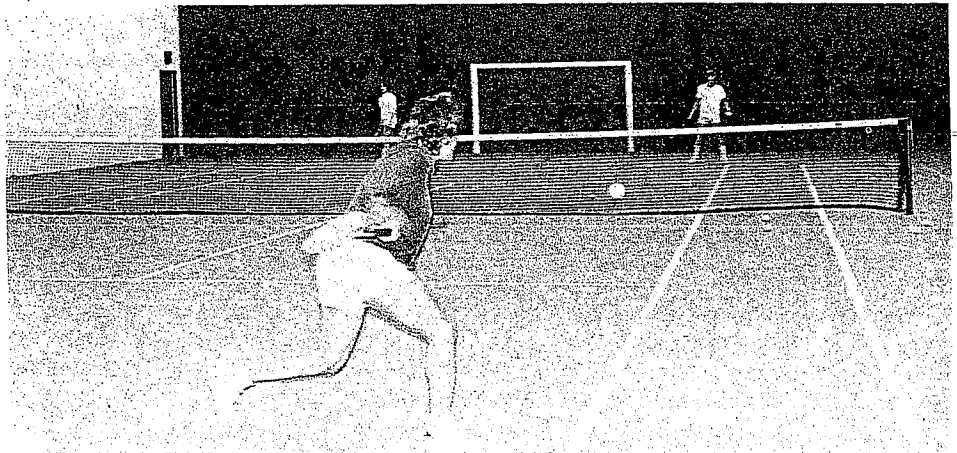
"Local residents were invited to school productions in the Seventies, including 'White Queen, Red Queen,' by Morris and 'Amahl and the Night Visitors,' by Menotti. Both were directed by Norman Logsdon. Concerts by music teacher Mathilde McKinney of Franconia, a former teacher at the Westminster Choir School in Princeton, were always popular.

"By the late Seventies Steve Kelsey, drama coach, and Annie Lebeaux, music teacher, staged creative productions in the newly renovated theater, once the gym. Few will forget 'A Penny Earned,' a musical which Steve had adapted from Moliere's 'The Miser.' Annie composed the music and songs. This play was later produced in New York.

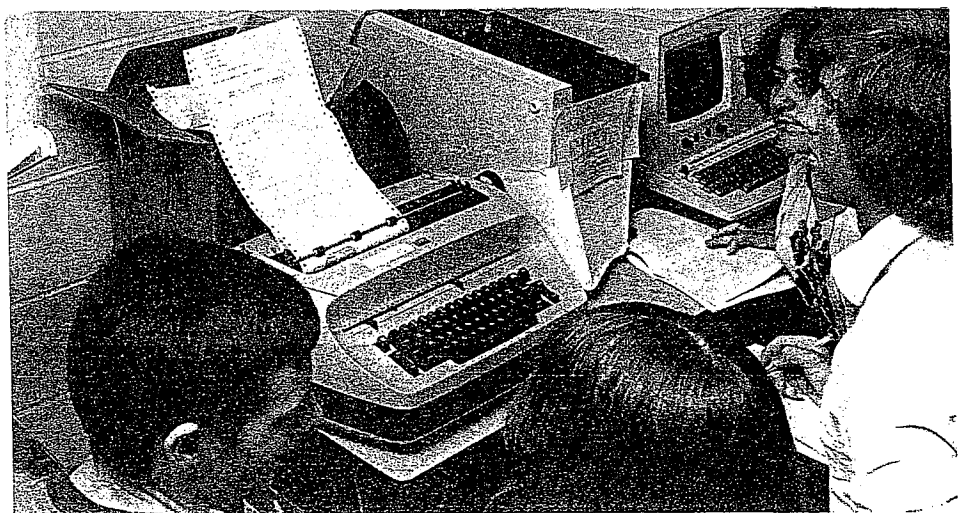
"In September 1976 the Great Hall became the setting for a major art exhibition, 'Nineteenth Century Landscape Paintings of the White Mountains,' with paintings by noted artists Bierstadt, Cropsey, Doughty, Kensett, and Benjamin Champney. Local painter Edward Hill, who resided in Littleton from 1879 to 1900, was also represented.



Students cavort in the Greenhouse of McLane Center: Jennifer Wright, Peter Cartwright, Caroline Cheng, all '80; Nathalie Guiraudet '81.



The Indoor Recreation Center, built in 1978, permitted students and faculty to play tennis and other sports, indifferent to Nature's caprice.



One of the first educational computers installed at The White Mountain School in 1976.

Cultural Events (continued)

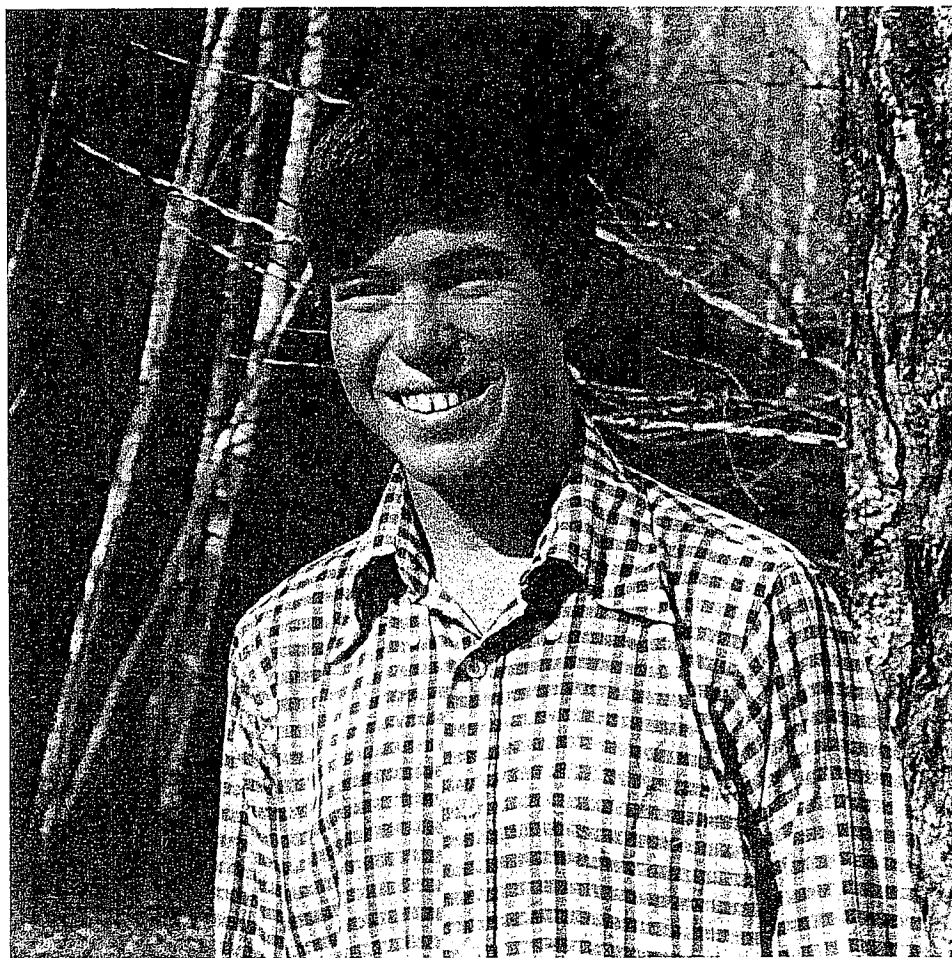
"Two other major art exhibitions followed, 'New England Folk Painters,' and the paintings of two prominent local artists, L. Gerard Paine and Theodora Tilton. William F. Patterson was inspired to increase the awareness in the North Country of The White Mountain School as a resource for culture and education on a continuing basis. The Cultural Events Series was launched, including concerts, lectures, exhibitions. The quality of its annual presentations have been recognized by the N.H. Commission on the Arts, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Musicians such as the Concord String Quartet,

the Apple Hill Chamber Players, and the North Country Chamber Players, for example, appear in concert. In 1978-1979 The White Mountain School held monthly programs on 'China: A Humanistic Look at Her People and Culture.' Highlighting the programs on China was a presentation by duo-pianists **Frances Roots Hadden '28** and her husband Richard. The Haddens performed brilliantly on two Baldwin grand pianos in the Great Hall and synchronized slides of Lu Shan, China and the Yangtze River to Mrs. Hadden's composition, 'Lu Shan Suite.'"

By the close of the Seventies The White Mountain School had made

substantial progress in adapting to changing times and in creating a warm, caring community in which young people could test themselves and grow to new awareness about their world. Yet the ravages of inflation caused increasing costs of educating each student which could not be fully offset by tuition or fundraising. Admissions' work was beleaguered by a declining national birth rate.

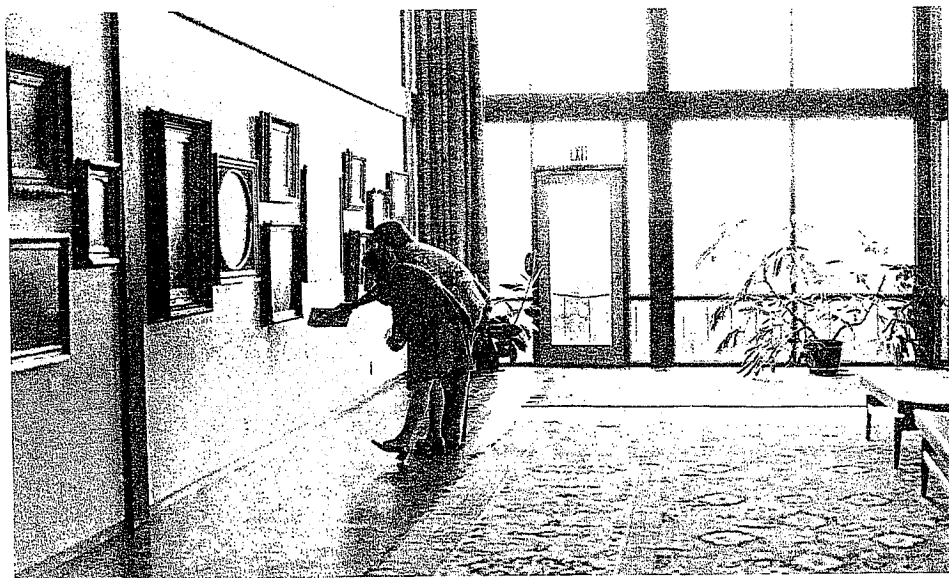
In June 1980 Bill Patterson resigned and became headmaster at the Linden Hill School in Northfield, MA. The trustees chose John R. Hood to carry forward their goals for The White Mountain School during the Eighties.



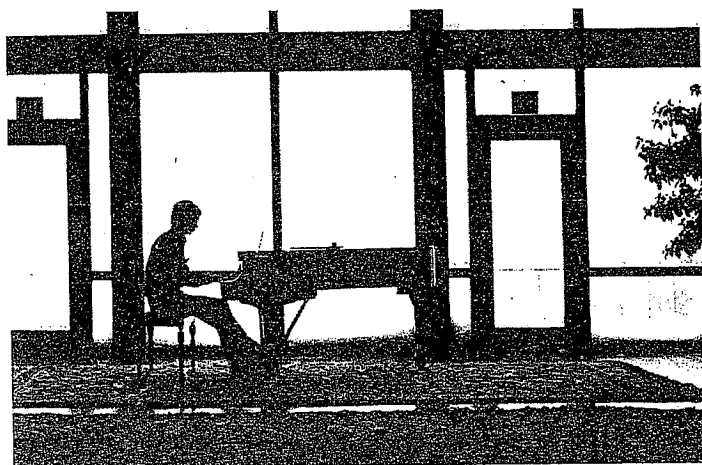
Mitchell Craib '79, one of a number of outstanding students named a Reader's Digest Scholar.



Dedicated saints of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains and The White Mountain School, F. Bingham "Ted" Walsh and Virginia T. Walsh, helpmeet in the Library. Ted and Ginny are the proud parents of four alumni: Penny Walsh '68; Tom Walsh '72, one of the first two male graduates; Christopher Walsh '74; David Walsh '83. The School mourned the loss of Ted on February 4, 1986.



A major art exhibition in 1976, "Nineteenth Century Landscape Paintings of The White Mountains," brought visitors from around New England and presaged continuing efforts by The White Mountain School to bring the arts to the North Country through a Cultural Events Series each year.



The acoustics of the Great Hall and its gracious ambiance provide a memorable backdrop for concerts sponsored by the Cultural Events Series.



Robert Frost, poet, visited the School on three different occasions to read his poems, many of them written during his stay in Franconia at what is now called "The Frost Place." Here, at age 88, he talks to Mrs. William A. Green, Jr. of Littleton, NH.

Headmaster John R. Hood (1980 -)

"One ought everyday at least to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words."

... Goethe

A gentle, compassionate and wise man, John R. Hood arrived at The White Mountain School from Michigan, where he had previously directed the Interlochen Arts Academy. In the fall of 1980 he greeted the 110 students gathered for Convocation with a strong message: "Educating Ourselves — It cannot be easy, but it can be a delight."

He urged the students and their mentors, 22 in number, with these words: "You must aggressively seek knowledge. There is no alternative. You cannot go to an opera, play or concert, or a class, face the wall and expect to learn. A performance, a lecture, a class must be aggressively participatory."

In the spring of 1981 in a regional magazine called *Outlook*, Jack Hood described how his philosophy about participatory education has been implemented into the day-to-day life at The White Mountain School: "After a full morning and early afternoon of college preparatory classes, the students and the faculty both head for the challenges and inspirations of the mountains. One sport five times a week each semester is part of the School's curriculum. Soccer is a popular sport in the fall, as is rock climbing. Every afternoon in the winter busloads of students head for Cannon Mountain to ski. Another large group ski right here on campus where we have some of the finest and most demanding crosscountry trails in the North Country. Hiking, white-water canoeing and kayaking, bicycling and tennis are all part of the spring semester."

"Although the mountains and woods are more spectacular than the classrooms and inextricably linked in the mind with the School, students

do spend more time in classes than dangling from ropes — more hours in the Library than on the ski slopes. They have to.

"In order to graduate a student must have four years of English, three years of math, three of history (including one term of non-Western history), two years of a lab science, two years of a foreign language, and two semesters of fine or performing arts.

"With 120-130 students enrolled each year, we have grown considerably since Aunt Dot moved her fourteen students north from Concord. Yet we are still a school small in size and close in spirit. This small size has several advantages. There is a student-teacher ratio of 6:1. Each student has a faculty advisor to help



Mark Russell guides his student "Took," Somruthai Prassartong-Osoth '83, a girl from Bangkok, Thailand, through the intricacies of English literature.



John R. Hood, Headmaster, and his wife Mary Lou Hood pictured in 1985 after their first five years at the helm of The White Mountain School. The Visiting Team in recommending that the School receive reaccreditation through 1995 commented, "We particularly commend the headmaster and his wife, who set a wonderful tone of caring and support."



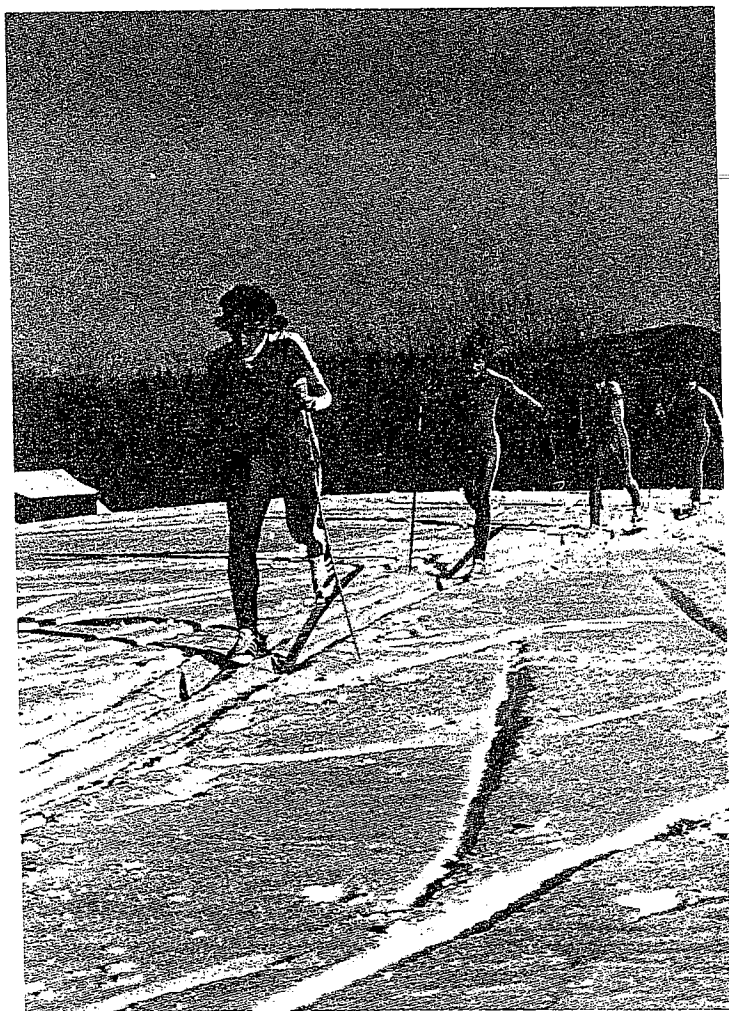
Olga Weekes '82.

him or her choose the right classes, get extra help if needed, and encourage each one to reap the benefits the School has to offer. We have a full-time chaplain and a Core Group of faculty counselors . . .

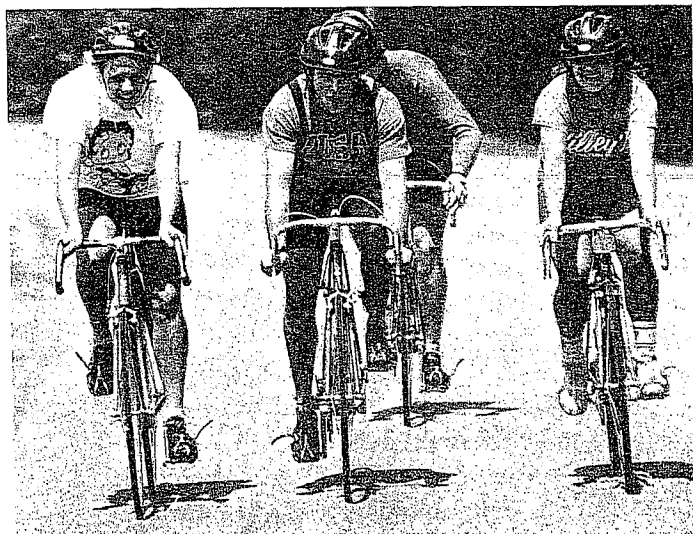
"In addition to his or her academic and sports schedule, each student is required to have a job on campus. Some help in the Library, others serve as a kitchen crew . . . Students are also required to dress for formal dinner three evenings a week: suit coats for the young men, dresses for



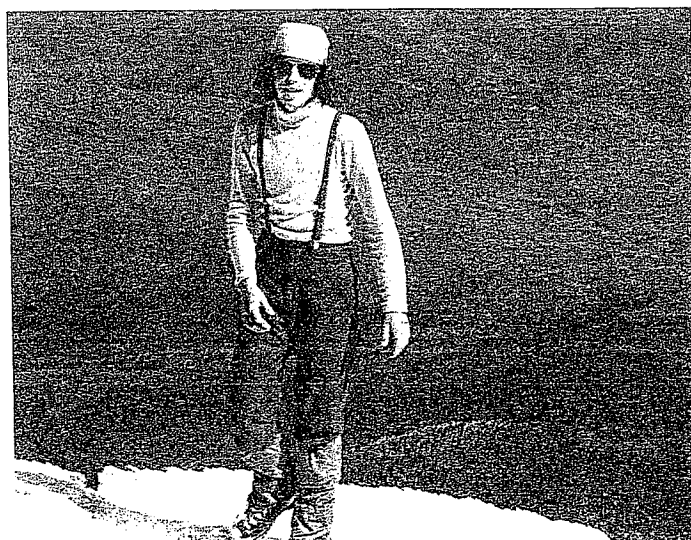
The boys' soccer team sports new uniforms, circa 1979-80.



Cross-country skiing across Edge Field. Larry Altman '82 leads the way.



Bicycling, 1980s.



Brooke Leaf '84, winter climbing.

Headmaster Hood (continued)

the young women. There is nothing so civilizing as hard work followed by dressing for dinner. I approve of both customs enthusiastically.

"The White Mountain School may be small, but I believe our contribution to our area to be a large and significant one, both educationally and economically. Fifteen per cent of our students come from our surrounding towns and each year 25-30 per cent of our students hail from New Hampshire. We employ 50 people full or parttime. We pay close to \$25,000 in property taxes to the town of Bethlehem, and our total operating budget (*Ed. note: with \$1,400,000 in expenditures in fiscal 1986*) boosts many local businesses through goods and services purchased.

Jack Hood summarized his statement about the current status of The White Mountain School in this forward-looking manner: "Gratefully we accept the accumulated wisdom of Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, building upon its deeply religious undergirdings, drawing on its academic excellence, absorbing the mountain atmosphere — all coupled with the youthful vigor and vitality of today's White Mountain School philosophy. Our heritage and our present strengths point to a dynamic future.

"We are ready!"



The Rev. Molly Radley, chaplain, delivered the Commencement Address to the Class of 1984. John J. Glessner, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and John R. Hood, Headmaster, in the background. Gilbert R. Tanis, trustee, remembered Molly Radley saying to him: "We may not educate many who will go on to MIT or Harvard, but the young people we educate here are going to become the backbone of American society."



Graduating senior "Took", Somruthai Prasarttong-Osoth '85 from Bangkok, Thailand, presented a second diploma to alumna Mildred Lauder Coombs '14, making her an honorary member of the Class of 1985. Mrs. Coombs, while a professor of microbiology at Simmons College thirty years ago, had befriended Took's mother when the latter was an exchange student from Bangkok. When Mrs. Van-Li Prasarttong-Osoth desired to send Took to the United States to study as she had, she contacted Mrs. Coombs for advice.

"I knew Took would be warmly welcomed at The White Mountain School and would receive an excellent education," said Mrs. Coombs.



Music instruction: Laurie Hasselman hears the piano lesson of Jessica Morin '83, daughter of Sue Oakes Morin '58.

Building Blocks for the Future

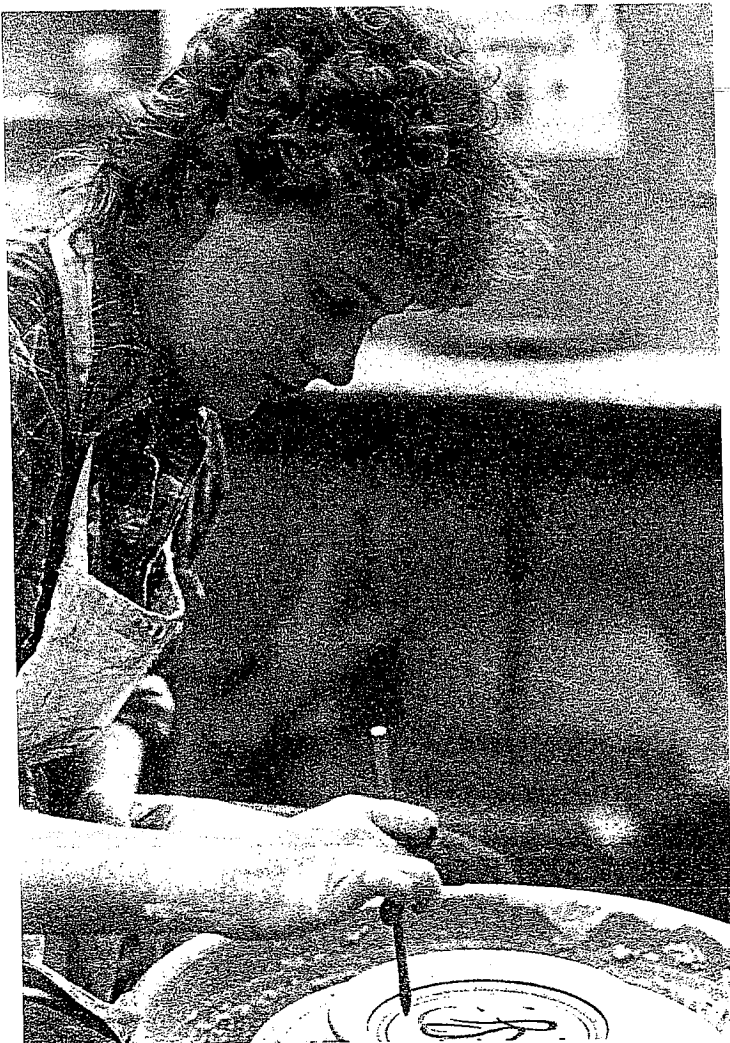
As soon as Jack and Mary Lou Hood took up residence at Dickey House, the Headmaster's House named in honor of former Chairman of the Board and long-time trustee, **Sylvia A. Dickey '54**, they urged the School to begin anew the long-range planning process. So another committee led by trustee **Nancy Norwood Pomerleau '57** met long hours in Manchester, Littleton and Plymouth to forge an ambitious strategy for the next decade. In a herculean effort to discern the destiny of The White Mountain School in a rather clouded crystal ball, the long-range planners produced "A Strategic Plan: 1982-1992," a blueprint for the future.

In doing so, the planners were

reminded of the struggle of a different era in Saint Mary's life. Right after the Fire of 1964, the trustees debated rebuilding or moving to Saint Paul's School — and redefined the purpose of our School. In the minutes of the trustees' meeting in February 1964 the purpose of the School was summarized: "The concept held by a good many of the trustees emerged that Saint Mary's was a comparatively small, homelike school where opportunities for learning would be provided not only for girls of proved academic ability but also for girls who, for one reason or another, needed time and a congenial environment geared to help them realize their latent abilities."



The Strategic Plan calls for greater opportunities for students in the arts. Jane Brill '83 in a student production.



Michelle Kremser '85 in the ceramics studio.



Weaving instructor and art teacher Patricia Ritzo admires the work of Alison Dorsey '85.

The Strategic Plan: 1982-1992

Major recommendations included the goal to improve the three solid underpinnings of the School: academics, athletics and the arts, with more opportunities in the latter area for drama, music and dance. Renewed emphasis upon basic educational skills such as reading, writing and mathematical computation would help the students of the Eighties measure up to college expectations. Computer literacy for all students would be achieved by 1990.

The changing role of women was assessed for its impact upon a small, independent school. Sixty per cent of the mothers of students in independent schools had entered the work force. By 1990 this number would increase to 64 per cent. "While this factor improves chances for the admission of more students (because of

more two-income families)," stated the report, "it poses enormous burdens upon our School for providing a family atmosphere and offering counseling to help students make a successful transition to adulthood." The Long-range Plan recommends greater emphasis on the three fundamental counseling areas: personal and spiritual guidance through the chaplaincy and trained faculty; academic counseling; and college and career counseling.

The Trustees continue to grapple with the dilemma of the place of religion in the life of this School which was founded by the Episcopal Church and continues its affiliation with the Diocese of New Hampshire (Episcopal). The goal is stated clearly: "The White Mountain School will continue to offer opportunities



At Baccalaureate held at All Saints' Church, Littleton, the audience listens to a song performed by Neil Kamman '85, and Adrienne Barbee, and Sarah Dustin, seniors, Class of 1984.



The Graduates of 1985 pose in the Formal Garden on Graduation Day.

which enable a student to grow spiritually with an understanding of our Judeo-Christian culture." We will continue to have a fulltime chaplain in residence, offer optional religious instruction and opportunities for worship. Yet the Church-School Committee wrestles constantly with the lack of religious heritage or training among students and its young faculty and the lack of attendance at Chapel or church. Perhaps as the School enters its second century and greets a new leader, the Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Theuner, the Bishop of New Hampshire elected in 1986, the way to fulfill its heritage as defined by Bishop William Woodruff Niles will become more clear.

Other goals of the Strategic Plan:

1) a return to a 50-50 ratio of boys to girls. In what Miss Ruth Jackson, history teacher in the Fifties, would call "one of the ironies of history," The White Mountain School now attracts a predominance of young men. The ratio in 1986 approaches 3:1.

2) maintenance of the size of the School at 130-150 students.

3) tighter fiscal control through a balanced budget and a plan to build endowment for stabilization. Even with tuition, room and board set at \$11,300 for boarders, \$5,550 for day, (1986-87) the finances totter.

4) for the physical plant and campus, the fulfillment of the recommendations of the professional Master Plan.

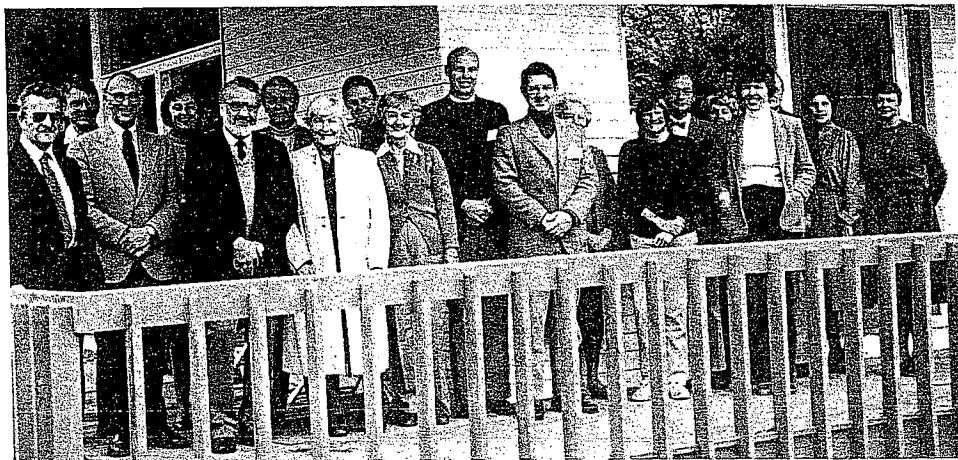
The Master Plan

As soon as the Strategic Plan had been accepted and approved by the Board of Trustees, Jack Hood encouraged the search for an architectural firm to examine all facets of the campus and prepare step-by-step guidelines for its efficient improvement. In October, 1983 Boston architects, Childs, Bertman, Tseckares, and Casendino, submitted

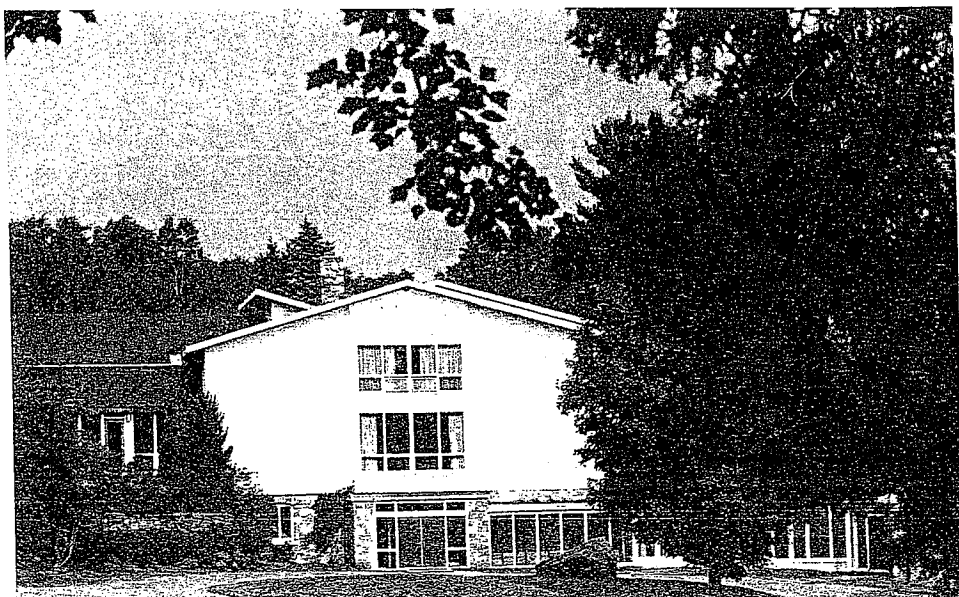
an imaginative though practical plan for reorganizing buildings and traffic flow for greater efficiency and beautifying the campus in keeping with the standards of the former Beck estate.

After all, The School should be proud of its heritage: the landscaping of "Seven Springs," circa 1917, was originally designed by the Olmstead Brothers, one of the famous firms of

the country. (In 1894-95 Frederick Law Olmstead, who designed Central Park in New York City, had landscaped the neighboring estate, "The Rocks," owned by Mr. Beck's relative, John Jacob Glessner from Chicago.) In another "irony of history," leading the School as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the Eighties is John J. Glessner III, the father of John J. Glessner IV, '83.



"To assemble a dynamic, diligent and decisive board of trustees is a difficult task," said Jack Hood to these policy-makers assembled at Dickey House in 1984. "I am fortunate to work with a group such as you." Left to right, Kenneth Grout; Thomas Campion; Robert Whitney, Jr.; Sylvia A. Dickey '54; Jack Hood; Gil Tanis; Paula Valar; Margery Morehouse; Jane Palmer; Christopher Van Curan; Peter Rotch; Edna Glaessel; Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50; Chairman John J. Glessner III; Marcia Marvel; Flora Bullock Ingram '58; (partially visible) The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith, Bishop of NH; Julie Carter and Geraldine Webster Dellenback '53.



A Master Plan in 1984 outlined our dreams for improving the campus and our buildings including the Main Building, library, classrooms, science laboratories, nine dormitories and faculty homes.

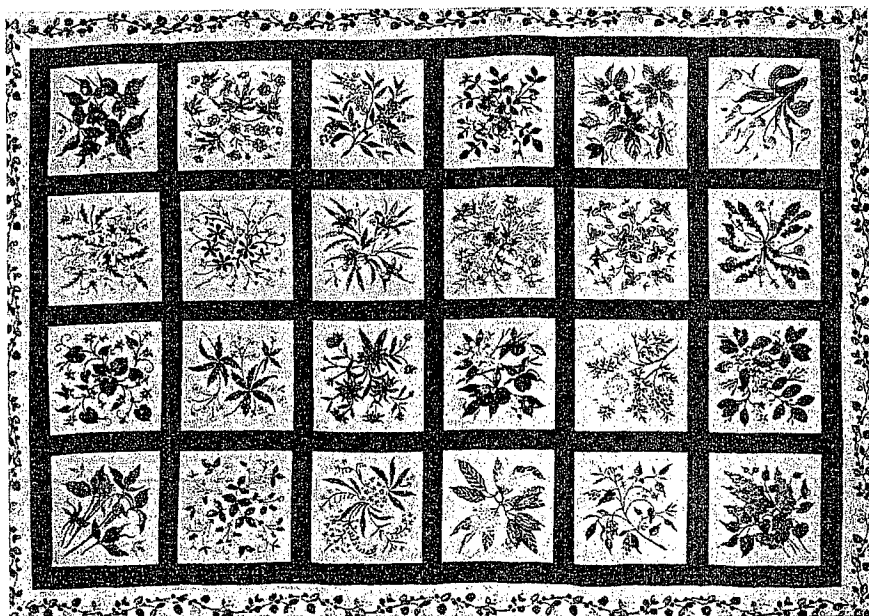
Reaccreditation and Evaluation

Every decade an independent school must scrutinize its entire operation in a self-study and then prepare for a three-day visit by an Evaluation Committee of peers from other private schools. In the process of granting The White Mountain School "continued membership in and accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges" until 1995, the evaluators wrote this overall assessment:

"The committee commends The White Mountain School for meeting the challenges of the last ten years of continuing transition and for developing a positive secondary school community where an enthusiastic student body and an able and energetic faculty are working together to provide an appropriate college preparatory experience.



Catherine Abashian Shepter '80 and her husband Bill were married on the wildflower rug in October 1984.



The Needlepoint Rug of New England Wildflowers was crafted by 24 skilled artisans among alumni, parents, teachers, trustees and friends of The White Mountain School. Designed as a project to benefit the scholarship program, the rug was conceived by Mrs. Ernst Glaessel, trustee, and was organized by two other trustees, Martha Ritzman Douglas, now Johnson '63 and Geraldine Webster Dellenback '53. The panels depict the flower, leaves and fruit of 24 wildflowers selected by Frederic L. Steele, alpine botanist, and described by him in a pamphlet published by the Frederic L. Steele Environmental Resource Center in 1980. Ruffled off at Graduation in June 1980, this priceless heirloom was won by the Abashians of Vestal, New York, parents of Peter Abashian '78 and Catherine Abashian Shepter '80.

"The committee is impressed by the extraordinary energy and commitment of its faculty and the real appreciation that students express for their teachers' endeavors. The White Mountain School is a community of tremendous goodwill."

"A group of students, who might otherwise be alienated by the rigors of college preparation, appear to have developed real satisfactions about themselves and the learning process. Students and faculty alike demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to individual students' needs. We particularly commend the Headmaster and his wife, who set a wonderful tone of caring and support."

While clearly pointing out areas which needed improvement, especially in boosting faculty salaries, in shoring up weaknesses in the financial structure, and in marketing its true self more aggressively, the evaluation team made this recommendation Priority No. 1:

"We were especially impressed by the success of The White Mountain School in three areas:

- 1) in developing a community which, through its programs and highly dedicated young faculty, increases the sense of self-confidence and self-worth in their students;
- 2) in developing an outstanding outdoor and skiing program in which there was strong student participation;
- 3) in developing a successful college preparatory program for a student body diverse in educational backgrounds, abilities and levels of motivation at entrance.

The committee believes that the School should celebrate these achievements, publicize their success, and recognize that few schools can compare with The White Mountain School as to their success in combining these three elements."



"The White Mountain School is a community of tremendous good will." Cortney Phelon '86, who won the coveted Headmaster's Medal at her Graduation as the all-around, ideal White Mountain School student, based upon academic achievement, excellence in citizenship, athletic ability and distinguished leadership, and her friend, Masaki Wakai '85, nicknamed "Miwako."



Close in spirit even after Graduation, alumni Matthew Nieman and Christine Valar '84 congratulate their friends and new graduates, Bruce Plate, Victoria Preston and Ben Lincoln '85.

The Stories of Three Students, 1986 Style

A day student:

David Sheehan, age 17 as he graduated in June 1986, grew up in Franconia, New Hampshire. In his early years he was educated at The Children's House, a Montessori school in Littleton, and at the Center School, an alternative program which his parents, college professors, ran in Franconia. He attended The White Mountain School as a day student for his freshman and sophomore years. Both years he won the Bishop's Prize, the award for the student with the highest scholastic average. For his junior year David traveled with 11 other students on a work-related trip around the United States. As a senior back at The White Mountain School David studied Spanish III, College Algebra, Chemistry, Modern Poetry, and Soviet History.

He was accepted on early decision to Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Why did he select Reed?

"I'm especially interested in philosophy," David replied, "and I heard that Reed has an excellent philosophy department. I'm also interested in physics and I intend to incorporate philosophy and science in anything I do."

David has reveled in rock-climbing for three years at WMS. "I like climbing around Cannon cliffs and Cathedral Ledge in North Conway. I'm pretty confident now. I lead. I do free climbing on my own, soloing without a rope on easy routes. The program here is outstanding. I wouldn't be near where I am now if it hadn't been for the School. Now I'd like to try climbing mountains in the Far West and Mount Hood in the Northwest, too."

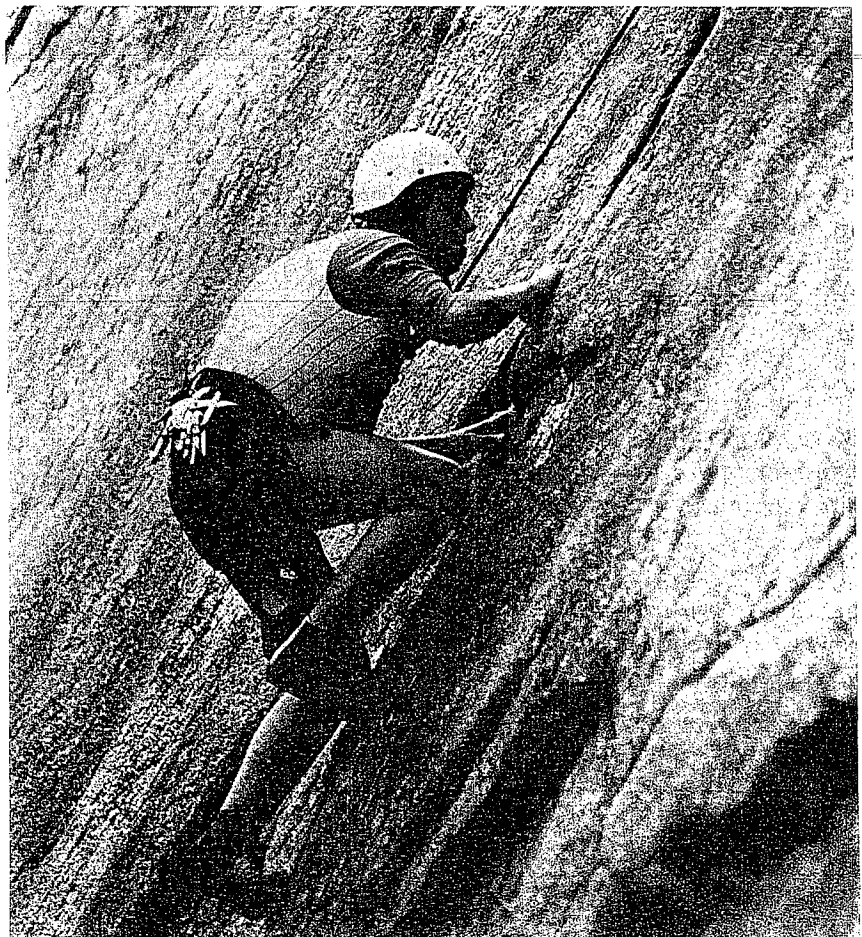
A foreign student:

Robert Carlbo '86 of Swedish nationality was born in Liberia. His mother is Liberian; his father, Swedish. They worked for an oil company jointly owned by the two nations. When Robert was young, he suffered from a crippling leg ailment. A family friend suggested he learn to play tennis for therapy. Determined to conquer the technique, he became exquisitely accurate in hitting the ball with a racquet. "But the point of the game is to get to the ball fast," Robert said. "So I had to learn to run."

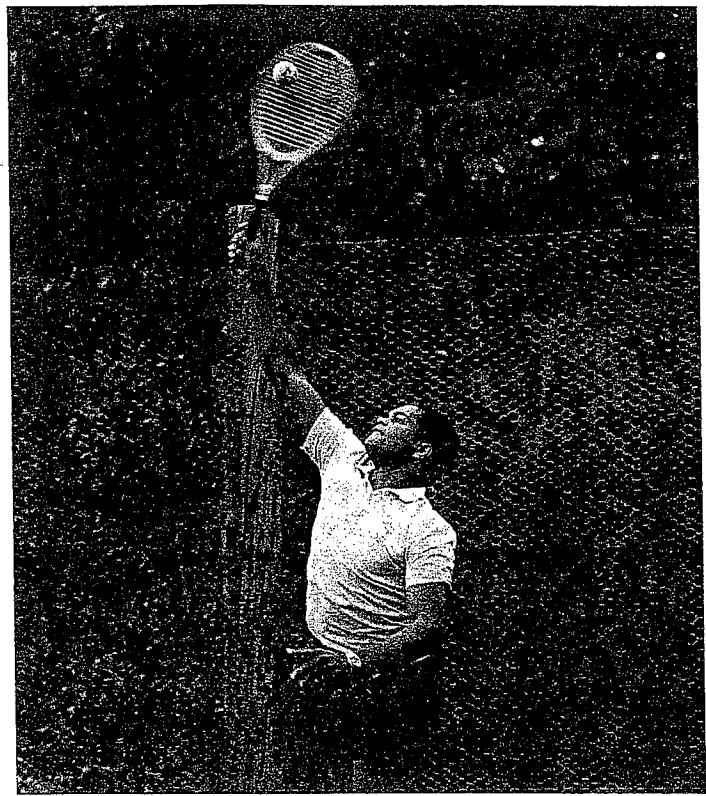
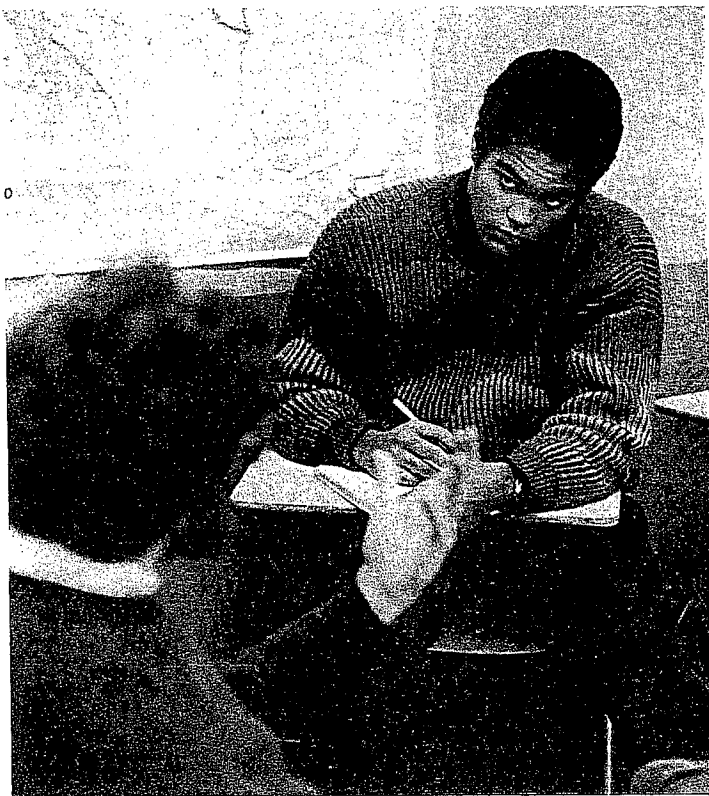
He did. And by the time he was a teenager and living in Sweden, he mastered the game of tennis so well

that he was winning major club championships. His idol: Bjorn Borg.

Knowing there was more to life than tennis even for a champion, Robert Carlbo aimed to come to America for a good education. From an alumna his family learned about The White Mountain School. For three years Robert Carlbo studied at WMS. As a star on the tennis team, Robert never lost a game of tennis, either in practice or in interscholastic competition, in three years. Someday he wants to be one of the top ten tennis players in Sweden. Maybe the world. In the meantime, he plans to enter Pepperdine College in California. "Where the sun always shines!" grinned Robert Carlbo as he left The White Mountain School.



Challenges such as climbing the sheer cliffs of Cannon or Cathedral Ledge build self-confidence that translates into the classroom and beyond, into life, as experienced by students David Sheehan and Carolyn Manley, '86.



Robert Carlbo '86 in the classroom with teacher Jonathan Meisel and on the tennis court.

Carolyn Manley of Milford, New Hampshire, age 18 in 1986, spent two years at The White Mountain School. Of her experience she said, "The White Mountain School was a good choice for me. It allowed me to become more confident in myself. I could explore things I feel strongly about."

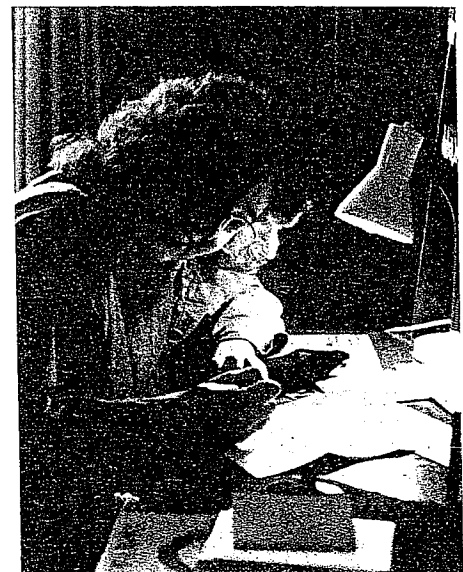
Some of the things she felt strongly about: her academic preparation in classes her senior year: Calculus, Physics, French III, Modern European History, and an English course Carolyn described as "exploring the spirit of adventure through literature."

Of her sports Carolyn said, "I'm not especially athletic. I don't play soccer or team sports, but I enjoy getting out into the mountains." She was a rock-climber both years, one of a group of 6 girls and 10 boys who

were divided into two groups, beginning and advanced. "Rock climbing enables us to build trust in each other. We put our life in another's hands. The course offered a good chance to get to know others on a more intimate basis. For me it was an excellent personal challenge."

Carolyn was singled out for admission to St. Lawrence University as a special "Trustee Scholar." She was also accepted to Middlebury. She chose to enroll at Middlebury.

Another fact to know about Carolyn: She is the great-granddaughter of Dorothy Ellingwood McLane, "Aunt Dot," who moved our School from Concord to the White Mountains. Carolyn graduated in 1986 on the eve of the celebration of a triumphant 100th birthday for "this small school, close in spirit," Saint Mary's School, Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains and The White Mountain School.



Carolyn Manley '86.

In Conclusion

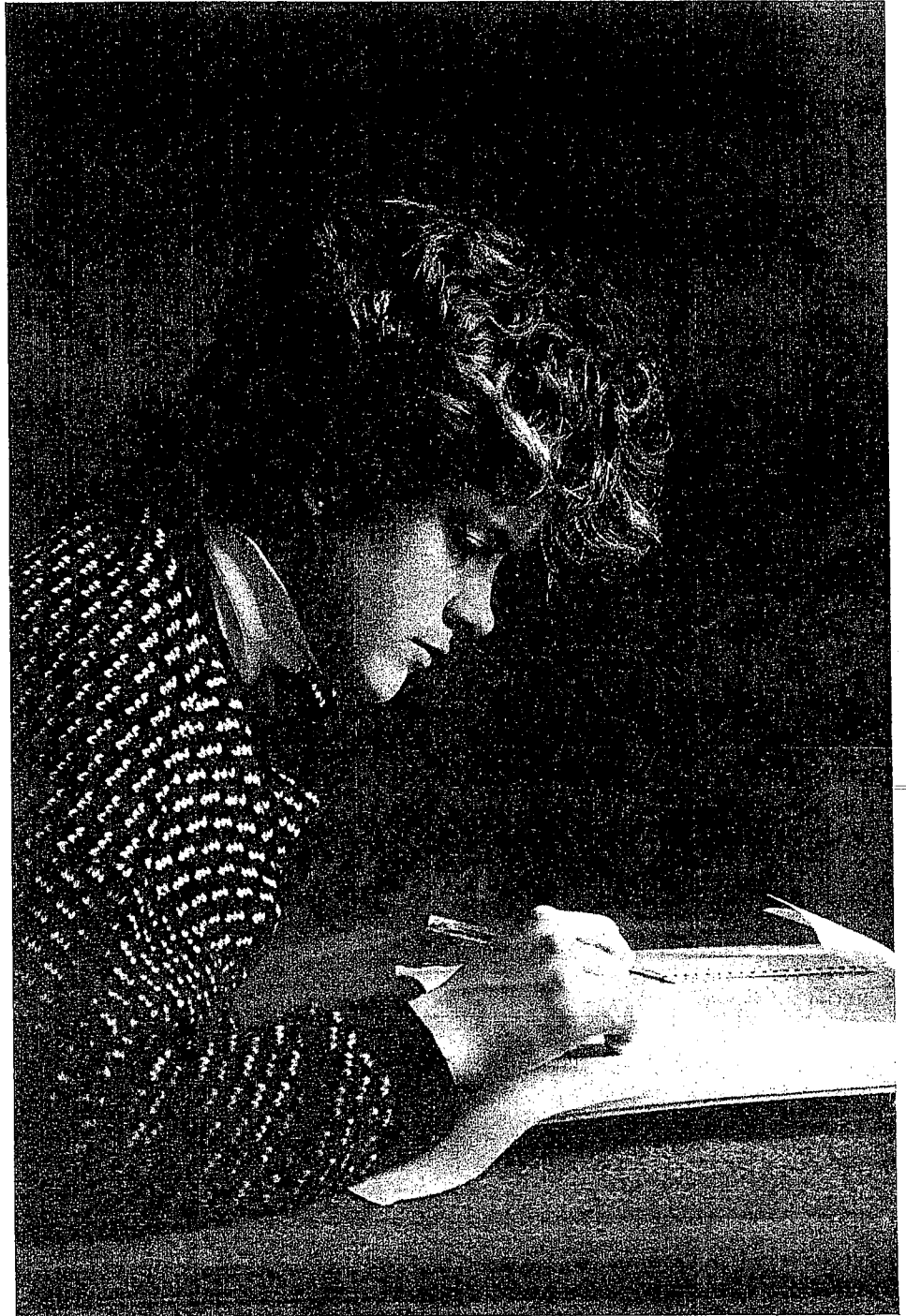
After 100 years this three-in-one School remains firm in its commitment to educate young men and women to be the best they can be. At the end of one century we continue to perceive "a great and immediate need for a . . . School of a high order under refining Christian influence where a thoroughly good education can be given." Given, now, not only to girls, but to a tripartite group of young people: 1) local day pupils like David Sheehan, 2) students from other lands, races and backgrounds like Robert Carlbo, and 3) young women in the Saint Mary's tradition like Carolyn Manley.

If our School is to prosper in its second century, it must keep alive the spirit of the original dream of Bishop William Woodruff Niles. As we cherish our past and rejoice in the present, let us not forget that we have more work to do!

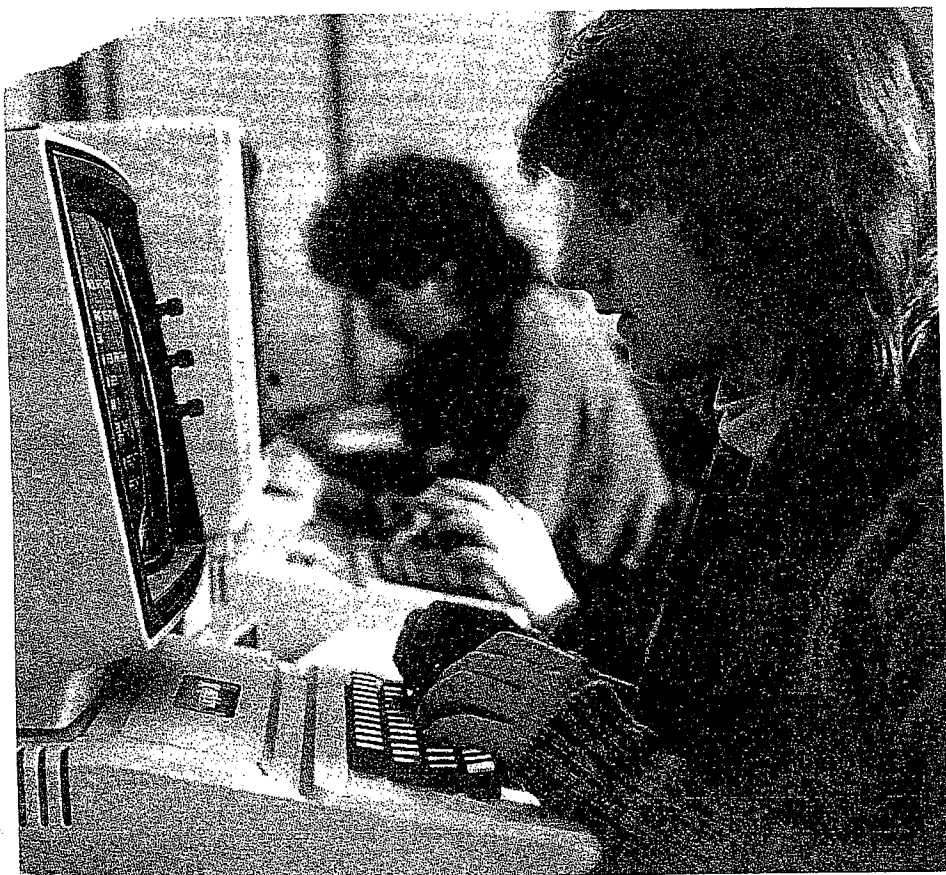
Linda Clark McGoldrick '55
Littleton, NH 1986



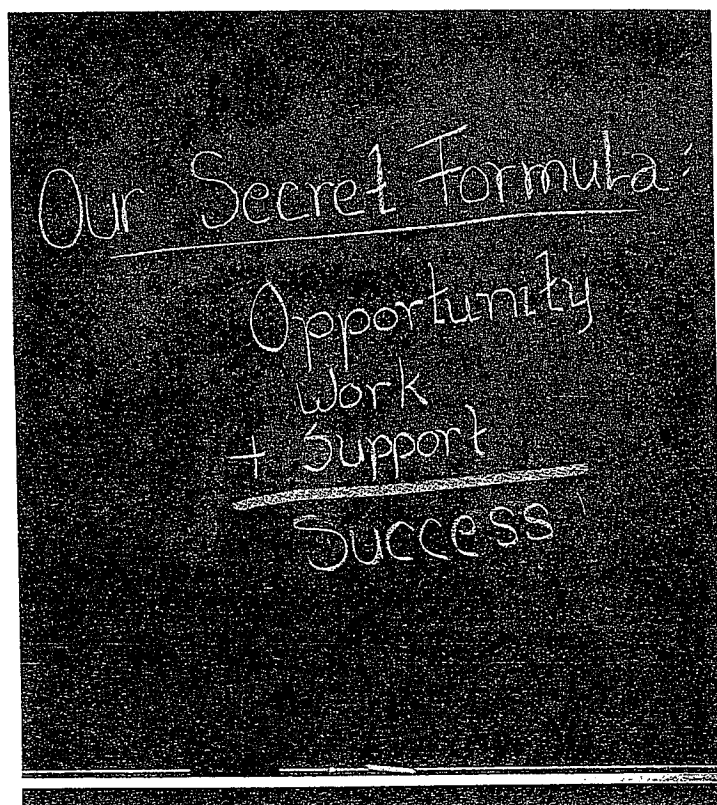
David Budd '86.



Karin Robinson '85.



Jill Notari '85, a day student from Jefferson, New Hampshire, learns to be literate on computers.



The Lesson of a Century.

Addenda

- A. People Interviewed
- B. Bibliography
- C. "Lift Thine Eyes" by Mendelssohn from "Elijah"
- D. "Catch That Dream" by Frances Roots Hadden '28
- E. Patrons
- F. Our Seal and Motto

For many of the photographs in the period of 1984-1986 we thank Hathorn/Olson, Photographers, Inc. of Hanover, New Hampshire.

With Gratitude to These People Who Wrote
About Their Memories or Who Were Interviewed
Between 1972 and 1986 for a Written and Oral
History of our Centennial

Ethel Cilley Stone '02
Dorothy Emery Lyford '12
Ariel Hambleton Richards '13
Mildred Lauder Coombs '14
Josephine Walker Woodman '15
Elizabeth Hubbard Seymour '17
Doris Clough (Dixon, Cullum) Clough '17
Gertrude Hambleton Richards '18
Margaret Mann Newell '19
Flora Belle Nelson '20 (and sister Polly Nelson Simons '11)
Terry Niles Smith '27 (granddaughter of Founder,
The Rt. Rev. William W. Niles, Bishop of New Hampshire)
Emily Heard Dustin '33
Marjorie Haartz Randall '37
Dorothy Ellingwood McLane, Principal 1931-1944
Edith Carter (Mrs. Eliot A.), Trustee*
Ann Townley Brooks Graney '41†
Letitia Clark Sexton '42
Harriot "Bunny" Purinton Nutter '43†
Mathilde Clark Holmes '43
Nancy Dutton Heywood '46
Barbara Lind Lenstrup '46
Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50*
Audrey Houghton Duane '50†
Sylvia A. Dickey '54
Flora Bullock Ingram '58†
Mary Van Vleck '58†
John C. McIlwaine, Headmaster 1959-1970*
Frederic L. Steele, Teacher 1946-1980*
Mary Lloyd Steele, Alumnae Secretary*
Paul and Paula Valar, Parents; Teachers; Trustees*
Gilbert R. Tanis, Trustee 1961-1986*
Martha Ritzman Johnson '63
Margaret Gale '67*
Alan D. MacEwan '73†
Victoria Valar '75*
Wendy A. Davis '82
Heather H. Davis '84
Robert Carlbo '86
David Sheehan '86
Carolyn Manley '86

*Taped interviews on file

†Wrote memoirs

Bibliography

For further information the reader may consult the following source material, listed below in chronological order:

Hodgson, Bertha Niles. (Class of 1891) *The Founding and Development of Saint Mary's School*, New Hampshire Diocesan School for Girls, Concord, New Hampshire, 1986-1935. and *An Account of the Transplanting to be Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains*, 1935-36. (published circa 1944.)

Jenks, Mary Harley. *The Story of a Decade: Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, Principal's Report, 1944-1945*. Printed by the Board of Trustees, Seven Springs, Littleton, New Hampshire. 1955.

Jenks, Mary Harley. "New Occasions Teach New Duties . . ." A reprint from a June issue of *The New Hampshire Churchman*. In 1950s.

Weld, The Rev. Edric A. *Fair Ladies: Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains*, 1986-1962. Published by Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, June 1962.

McIlwaine, John C. as told to James Stewart-Gordon. "My Belles of St. Mary's." *Reader's Digest*. June 1961.

Davis, Linda Clark '55. Summary written for inclusion in *Town History of Bethlehem*, New Hampshire, 1973.

McGoldrick, Linda Clark '55. "The White Mountain School." *Littleton, Crossroads of Northern New Hampshire*. Ed. by Jack Colby. pp. 362-364. Phoenix Press. Canaan, New Hampshire. Published for the Town of Littleton, 1984.

Walsh, Virginia T. "Cultural Contributor." *op. cit.*, pp. 227-228.

Additional sources: The school newspaper: *Telemark*, esp. 1953-1971. The alumni newsletter: *Echoes*, 1972 to 1986. The yearbook: *Pendulum*, 1930 forward. *Alumnae/i Directory*, Centennial Edition. 1986. Minutes of Trustees' meetings on record, 1953-1986. Clippings from the *Concord Monitor* and *The Courier*. Various scrapbooks and photograph albums submitted by alumni.

LIFT THINE EYES

F. Mendelssohn

S Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the moun-tains, whence com-eth whence com-eth whence

A Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the moun-tains, whence com-eth, whence com-eth, whence

B Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes to the moun-tains, whence com-eth, whence com-eth, when

com-eth help. Thy help com-eth from the

com-eth help. Thy help com-eth, com-eth from the Lord, from the

com-eth help. Thy help com-eth from the Lord, from the

Lord the Mak-er of hea-ven and earth. He hath said thy foot

Lord, the Mak-er of hea-ven and earth. He hath said thy

Lord the Mak-er of hea-ven and earth. He hath said thy

Lift Thine Eyes p. 2

20

shall not be mov-ed. Thy Keep-er will nev-er slum-ber, nev-er, will nev-er
 foot shall not be mov-ed. Thy Keep-er will nev-er slum-ber

25

slum-ber, nev-er slum-ber, will nev-er slum-ber Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes
 nev-er, will nev-er, nev-er slum-ber, will nev-er slum-ber. Lift thine eyes, O Lift thine eyes
 nev-er, will nev-er slum-ber will nev-er slum-ber. Lift thine eyes, O lift thine eyes

30

to the moun-tains, whence com-eth, whence com-eth, whence com-eth
 to the moun-tains, whence com-eth, whence com-eth, whence com-eth
 to the moun-tains, whence com-eth whence com-eth

Lift Thine Eyes p. 3

35

help, whence com- eth, whence com- eth, whence com- eth help.

help, whence com- eth, whence com- eth, whence com- eth help.

help, whence com- eth, whence com- eth, whence com- eth help.

"Catch That Dream"

The White Mountain School Centennial Song Words and Music by Frances Roots Hadden A.S.C.A.P. & S.M.S. '28

Chorus: Up-beat! For a new tomorrow!
Up-beat. For today!
CATCH THAT DREAM —
Only a dream away!

Up-beat! From the quiet valley,
Reaching out to the sky,
Lift your eyes to the hills
And the mountains high!

Verse 1: Ours the spirit of old Saint Mary's,
Ours the Concord of yore;
Ours the move to the Mountains'
open door, to more of

Up-beat! For a new tomorrow!
Up-beat. For today!
CATCH THAT DREAM —
Only a dream away! Hey! (Shout - optional)

Hi there, We're coming!
Hi there, below!
Hi there, We're coming
And we're kicking up the snow!
Halfway to heaven
Cannon, We're here!
Up ahead the view is clear! Here all is

Up-beat! From the quiet valley,
Reaching out to the sky,
Lift your eyes to the hills
And the mountains high!

Verse 2: It's o-kay if your life is laughter,
It's o-kay if the're tears;
Ours the way to a future
Free of fears! So here's to

Up-beat! For a new tomorrow!
Up-beat. For today!
CATCH THAT DREAM —
Only a dream away! Hey! (Shout - optional)

Hiking the valley,
Hiking the trail,
Working together
We can never ever fail!
No man's an island;
No-one's alone!
Up ahead the great unknown. Here all is

Up-beat! From the quiet valley,
Reaching out to the sky,
Lift your eyes to the hills
And the mountains high!

Verse 3: Ours the friendship of books and mentors;
Hist'ry taught for today.
Ours the courage to choose Tomorrow's
Way. Today! So,

Up-beat! For a new tomorrow!
Up-beat. For today!
CATCH THAT DREAM —
Only a dream away! Hey! (Shout - optional)

Learning the answers, Learning to live!
Standards of excellence that challenge us to give!
We're not an island. We're not alone.
Up ahead the great unknown. Here all is

Up-beat! From the quiet valley,
Reaching out to the sky,
Lift your eyes to the hills
And the mountains high!

To the mountains high . . .
To the mountains high . . .

White Mountain! (spoken)
White Mountain!
White Mountain!

Hi! (shouted)

CATCH THAT DREAM

THE WHITE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL CENTENNIAL SONGS

Words + Music by
FRANCES ROOTS HADDEN
A.S.C.A.P., S.M.S. '28

Intro: - Ad Lib.

Fast, but easy beat (♩ = 160)

Up-beat! For a new to-mor-row! Up-beat! For to-day!

Catch that dream, - On-ly a dream a-way! _____

Up-beat! From the qui-et val-ley,

Reach-ing out to the sky,

Lift your eyes to the hills and the moun-tains high! _____

(1) Ours the spi-rit of old Saint Ma-ry's; Ours the Con-cord of by-gone;
(2) It's o-key if your life is laugh-ter; It's o-key if there're tears;

(3) Ours the friend-ship of books and men-tors; His-try taught for to-day!

f

Ours the move to the Moun-tains' o - pen door, To more! of
Ours the way to a fu-ture free of fears! So here's to

a tempo mf

Up-beat! For a new to-mor-row! Up-beat! For to-day! Catch that dream, -

a tempo

f *with spirit...*

On-ly a dream a-way! (Optional Shout) Hey! (1) Hi there, We're com-ing! Hi there, be-low!
(2) Hi-king the val-ley, Hi-king the trail,
cresc... (3) *c. spirit* learn-ing the an-swers, Learn-ing to live!

1) Hi there, We're com-ing and we're kick-ing up the snow! Half-way to heav-en, Can-now, we're here!
2) Work-ing to-geth-er, we can nev-er ev-er fail! No man's an is-land; No-one's a-lone!
3) Stan-dards of ex-cel-lence that chal-lenge us to give! * We're not an is-land, We're not a-lone!

* (or repeat:) "No man's an is-land; No-one's a-lone!"

Last time to Coda I (first time only)

1) Up a head the view is clear! here all is up-beat! From the quiet val-ley,
 2.) 3.) up a-head the great un-known! (Last time to Coda) I

Reach-ing out to the sky Lift your eyes to the hills and the moun-tains high!

Coda II (last time only-)

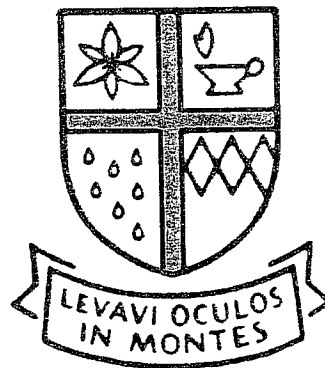
up-beat! From the quiet val-ley, Reach-ing out to the sky, Lift your eyes to the hills and the mountains

high! To the mountains high! To the mountains high! (WHITE MOUNTAIN! WHITE MOUNTAIN!) (shouted) Hi!

Endnotes

We wish to thank these trustees, former trustees and friends who kindly contributed to the publication of our Centennial History in honor of their respected colleague, Gilbert R. Tanis.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Barba
Mr. and Mrs. James S. Barker
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Champion
Mrs. Eliot A. Carter
John and Julie M. Carter
President and Mrs. John Sloan Dickey
Sylvia A. Dickey '54
Harry and Audrey Houghton Duane '50
Richard and Joan Piane Fowler '49
Mrs. C. Lane Goss '24
Mrs. Ernst Glaessel
Mr. and Mrs. Alder T. "Jim" Hatch
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hood
Mr. Alfred H. Howell
William and Flora Bullock Ingram '58
Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Jordan
Charles and Jane Parson Klein '64
Charles F. Leahy
Mr. and Mrs. Laurence G. Leavitt
Paul and Linda Clark McGoldrick '55
Mr. and Mrs. John C. McIlwaine
Jack and Ann Dodge Middleton '47
Mr. and Mrs. Dudley W. Orr
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Palmer
Frederic R. Pilch
Professor and Mrs. Henry B. Prickitt
David F. Putnam
James and Judith Butler Shea '58
Albert and Carroll Russell Sherer '40
The Office of the Bishop:
The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith
The Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Theuner
Janet Lovejoy Taylor '50
Paul and Paula Valar
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Weymouth
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitney, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W. Woodman



1886

Our Seal and Motto

Designed after Saint Mary's School moved to Bethlehem on the outskirts of Littleton and became Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains, the seal symbolizes the five major emphases of our School. In the upper right corner the lamp of knowledge, the light of learning, symbolizes our quest for academic excellence. In the opposite frame is the lily, the flower which is associated in art and tradition with the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of the school. As an ideal, it symbolizes the innocence and purity of youth and stands for the values of honesty and integrity which guide our community.

On the bottom half of the crest are two symbols which typify the environment of our School. Seven circles with watery waves represent the "Seven Springs," which are located on our property and for which the original estate of Eman Beck was named. Our programs in the study of North Country waterways and our use of rivers, lakes and streams for recreation and learning are identified by this symbol. The triangles represent the mountains and valleys of the view from campus which inspires all who know our special place.

The crest is unified by the symbol of the Cross, which has typified over the years the guiding influence of the Protestant Episcopal Church and the Christian faith.

The motto, "Levavi Oculos in Montes," comes from the first line of Psalm 121: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills . . . from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord who has made heaven and earth."

In 1959 Duncan Niles Terry designed and executed two glass panels for the entrance to the Classroom Wing. One panel depicts the New Hampshire state emblem. The other pictures the seal and motto. Mr. Terry is the husband of **Hilda Peterson Terry '28** and the grandson of Bishop William W. Niles, founder of Saint Mary's.