

# The Bennington Weekly

BENNINGTON COLLEGE  
LIBRARY

VOL. 2—NO. 8

Friday, November 2, 1951

10 Cents

## Faculty Read Prose And Poetry In Progress And Published

by Wallace Fowlie

Last year the selections read by the literature faculty, on a comparable occasion, were from works in progress, and this year's selections were partly that and partly work already published. I do not know of any other college or university faculty that could provide such a satisfying evening of literary readings, of such variety and high quality. The labors of teaching and the academic atmosphere usually discourage the creative teacher and writer. Bennington is one of the few places where the teacher is most likely to be the craftsman too, both explicator of an art and practicing artist. The readings we heard last Monday evening were a stimulating experience to the students and to the faculty who listened. They confirmed what we have always believed: that Bennington is much more than a mere college, that it is a center of literary creation where the works, even of the faculty, are listened to and applauded.

Mr. Belitt opened the evening, appropriately, with a poem on "Cricket Hill." One of the poems from his second group, on Biblical characters, has just been printed in the *Sewanee Review* ("Lamentation of Job"). Mr. Kaplan read six poems of great delicacy and technical skill. The one elaborating a tennis metaphor was

perhaps the easiest to follow on a first hearing. *The Salt Garden*, one of the poems read by Mr. Nemerov, has appeared this fall in *The Fifteenth Anniversary Issue of Western Review*. The witty penetrating aphorisms of Mr. Golfing turned Franklin House living room into a French salon. The obvious enjoyment of the audience over these maxims indicates that the genre should be cultivated in this country as well as in France. The last reader was Mrs. Golfing who gave us three passages from a novel she is writing. It was a pleasure to hear this modest un-histrionic reading which permitted us to follow the character delineations and to imagine the large house evoked in the pages read.

Such a performance deserved a larger audience. We hear the phrase, "American values," in this community and are often invited to listen to lecturers on this subject. Such "values" have always been most deeply felt and expressed by the artists. The work we heard at this reading is precisely that kind of work which future lecturers will refer to when they try to interpret our civilization. This privilege we have of hearing this immediate work, done at Bennington, is far greater than the privilege of following a course of lectures about such values.

## Dance Week-end Expected To Be Booming Success

Dance Week-end begins this evening with a hayride from 5:30 until 7:30 p. m. The number of people to go on the hayride unfortunately will be limited. A list with the name of the people who will be going will be posted. The hayride will be followed by a weenie roast in the carriage barn.

COCKTAILS will be served from 5:30 until 6:30 Saturday afternoon in Dewey and Booth living rooms. Highballs and Martinis will be served.

The movie "M", which will be shown in the theatre at 7:30 will be followed by the DANCE in the Carriage Barn at 10:00 p. m. Bob Adams' Band will supply the music. During intermission punch will be served, accompanied by the singing of the Octet.

It is hoped that The Dartmouth Jazz Band will play on Sunday. This, however, is not definite as yet and will be announced.

**Schedules of Activities**  
Friday, 5:30-7:30—HAYRIDE  
Saturday, 5:30-6:30—COCKTAILS  
7:30-10:00—MOVIE  
10:30-1:00—DANCE  
Sunday, to be announced.

## Exec. And Faculty Discuss Problem

Executive Committee met with a group of interested faculty members on October 31 in Leigh living room to discuss community problems. Present at the meeting were Mr. Bloom, Mr. Hanks, Mr. Smith, Mr. Holabird, Mr. Oliver and Mr. Stanbrough.

It was decided that before specific recommendations for action could be made, it was necessary to define and discuss the causes of the unrest. The following were brought up as possible contributing factors to the general discontent:

1. Our attitude is reflecting the attitude of the nation as a whole.
2. As in every day life there is a disparity between our standards and our actions.
3. Outside pressure and opinion, heard and unheard, have made the college more aware of certain inadequacies. The effect of external influence is reflected in the 29% drop in applications from last year.

It was felt that there were definite segments of community life which were being misused and misinterpreted and where clarifications and or specific improvements were necessary. Among the subjects falling into this category were:

1. Freshman Orientation.
2. Lack of campus integration and communication.
3. Confusion as to role of "individual".
4. Channels for student expressions are not clearly defined or utilized correctly. Therefore, since many suggestions are never followed through or are dealt with incompletely, the student is left with a sense of frustration and or futility.

Other questions discussed were:  
1. Problem of class attendance.  
2. Laxity in handing in papers.  
3. The maturity of the students—  
—are incoming students mature enough to be expected to immediately adjust to and understand community values.

## College Faces \$90,000 Deficit Reports Mr. Brockway

### Jobs Available To Typists

by Ruth Maslow

The time of year is rapidly approaching when the campus is consumed by the necessity of obtaining the best possible job plus the largest possible salary and the least number of working hours with which to occupy their time from January 2 to March 7. If one hasn't started pounding the pavement, let her be warned that the time has come to put on walking shoes and a charming but efficient smile and—to put it colloquially-hit the road.

In case of uncertainty about one's chances of getting a job and exactly how many doors that magic word "Bennington" will open, herewith is presented one student's procedures and observations on job hunting.

After writing for appointments, I started out at nine o'clock in the morning of October 23 to sell myself to a few publishing houses and department stores. My first stop was Street and Smith Publications, publishers of *Charm*, *Mademoiselle* and several other well known women's monthly publications. After filling out the

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### 63% Of Boys Tested Are Scholastically Deferred

Sixty-three per cent of the 339,000 students who took the Selective Service College Qualification Tests last Spring and Summer made a score of 70 or better, Major General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, reported.

The criteria for deferment as a student is either a satisfactory rank in class (upper half of the freshman class, upper two-thirds of the sophomore class, upper three-fourths of the junior class). Seniors accepted for admission to a graduate school satisfy the criteria if they stand in the upper half of their classes, or make a score of 75 or better on the test. Students already enrolled in graduate schools may be deferred so long as they remain in good standing. These criteria are guides and the local boards are not bound to follow them.

"We are faced with an emergency that many experts predict will last perhaps 10 to 20 years," General Hershey said. "We must, therefore, think in long-range terms, in developing plans to provide an adequate supply of highly skilled manpower. I believe the country is aware that it is logical, in deferring students in the national interest, to defer those with demonstrated ability, instead of gambling on those with lower capacity."

The 1951 Amendment to the Universal Military Training and Service Act provides that any registrant who was in a deferred classification on June 19, 1951, or who was thereafter placed in a deferred classification shall remain liable for training and service until he reaches the age of 35. Therefore, any registrant deferred now as a student will be required, if physically fit, to serve two years in the armed forces sometime before he becomes 35.

I am glad to comply with a request for a brief statement on our present enrollment and financial outlook. There has been a drop in College enrollment throughout the country, and though the most obvious cause of the drop nationally has been the military raid on college men, various factors have cut into enrollment at a number of women's colleges. Our own drop of about 8 percent is below the national average but has had its impact on a budget that had already shown symptoms of chronic imbalance. We are therefore now under an additional financial strain as are most other small, independent liberal arts colleges.

For a time this year's budgeted deficit was about twice that of the past year, but by a number of economies in non-educational areas and other expedients the deficit has been reduced to 50 percent above last year. For example, the College has sold the Buick and is now getting along with a single part-time driver. Unfortunately, to bring about this economy it was necessary to give up the school trips for faculty children, but the parents have taken the loss with remarkably good spirit. I should add that under the circumstances we have been unable to raise faculty salaries in spite of the serious rise in the cost of living. The deficit now stands at about \$90,000.

Last April the Trustees gave careful consideration to the question of raising fees. Their decision was to make no change in the present charges but to ask parents of students not on scholarship for a voluntary contribution of \$150. The basis for the decision was a reluctance to force students now in College to pay more for their education, but a certainty that many parents would be able and willing to make an additional contribution. So far some \$8,000 can be credited to this appeal, and a number of parents sent part payments with the intention of completing the full contribution when they pay fees for the second term. For these contributions the College is very grateful. As to students on scholarship, we appealed both to them and to their parents to reconsider their requests for reduced tuition and ask for less assistance than last year if that was possible. Parents of freshmen not on scholarship will be invited to make a gift sometime after the end of the first term.

A second source of steady income has been the gifts of Alumnae and they have recently increased their annual goal from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This is considered a very handsome contribution in relation to that made elsewhere in view of the fact that the total number of graduates and former students is very small and the additional fact that our oldest graduates are only in their middle thirties.

A third source has been the organization known as the Associates of Bennington College. The Associates are several hundred friends of the College who have indicated their intention of making contributions ranging from small gifts to as much as \$1,000. We have had good response to this idea, particularly from parents of former and present students, and are expecting again to meet a substantial part of our deficit from this "living endowment."

Finally we shall need some \$30,000 more than we were able to

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## N. S. A. Reaches Financial Quota

The amount collected for the National Student Association from the community this term, totalled \$59.50. This money will pay for our dues to the organization and will cover the expenses of a representative at the regional conference this year. Whatever is left will go toward sending a representative to the meeting of the National Congress next summer.

All current literature on N.S.A., including trips abroad, can be found under the heading of pamphlets in the library. If there is any specific information that cannot be found there, or if there are any questions about N.S.A. that you have... see Fran Dugan in McCullough.

## University of Oslo Opens Summer Session

The University of Oslo will hold its sixth Summer School from June 21 to August 2, 1952, for American and Canadian students who have completed at least their freshman year in any accredited college or university. A special feature of the 1952 session will be an Institute for English-Speaking Teachers similar to the one held in 1951.

The University provides outstanding lecturers and maintains highest educational standards. All classes will be conducted in English and an American Dean of Students is on the administrative staff.

Students may choose courses in four fields: (a) General Survey of Norwegian Culture; (b) The Humanities; (c) Social Studies; (d) Education System of Norway.

## Martha Hill Heads Dance At Julliard

Miss Martha Hill, head of the Dance Department at Bennington, is on leave of absence this year to serve as the Director of the new dance department at the Julliard School of Music. The curriculum of the new department is to give students of dance a comprehensive program of study in the repertoire and techniques of ballet and modern dance plus a program of complementary studies which will give students a grounding in music.

The faculty of the newly organized department under Miss Hill's direction, include: Agnes De Mille, Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, Jerome Robbins, Anthony Tudor, Louis Horst, Ann Hutchinson and Helen Lanfer.

Miss Hill studied dance with Anna Duncan and for two years was a member of Martha Graham's concert dance group.

Associated with the School of Education at New York University, Miss Hill is one of the founders and directors of the New York University-Connecticut College Summer School of Dance and for two years has been on the advisory commission of the School of Performing Arts of New York City.

## Correction

As a result of an error in inserting type, the Sonnet and the first Letter to the Editor in last week's issue of The Bennington Weekly were incorrect. The Sonnet should have been signed by Francis Golfing, and the letter should have been signed by Wellington House.

# The Bennington Weekly

Published by Students of Bennington College

Member  
Intercollegiate Press

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## A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Swan House feels that in view of the various comments and questions concerning our re-enactment of the ancient Hallowe'en ritual that an explanation of the rite is in order.

We would like to stress the fact that in no way did we intend blasphemy against any religious group or individual belief. We offer sincere apologies to all those who through misconception or misunderstanding have been disturbed or puzzled or hurt by our presentation.

Hallowe'en or All Hallow's Eve long antedated Christianity. Purely Druidic in nature it was the yearly night when the dead arose and witches wandered abroad. Witchcraft itself was in early times a crude type of religion involving adoration, sacrifice, and service to the evil spirits. During the sixth and seventh centuries of Britain's Christian conversion such primitive witch rituals incorporated the visible symbolic form of Christianity while maintaining their own pagan beliefs. Attempts were made by Pope Gregory the Great and others to convert the pagan worshippers by allowing much of the ancient cult to remain. The druid temples were transformed by the sprinkling of holy water into churches and early services were a complicated structure of pagan and Christian rites. Such a dualism was in many cases short lived. Many of the converted witches returned to active worship of their original deities while retaining much of the new ritual that had been taught them. Yet so great was their fear of the power of Good that all aspects and forms of the Christian church were reversed. The mass was chanted backwards, the crucifix inverted, the Virgin became a fertility symbol, the devil replaced God and the whole symbology of black and white exchanged. Throughout the ceremony great care was taken never to utter the name of Jesus in the belief that the power of the name alone would banish all evil spirits. For several centuries great rivalry existed between the Christians and the devil-worshippers. To counteract All Hallow's Eve the Christians proclaimed the next day All Saints Day at which time the power of good regained supremacy.

As the influence of the church increased the original meaning and form of All Hallow's Eve was obscured and forgotten. Today we see its remnants only in the traditional witches, black cats, ghosts, general disregard for property and a certain freedom from restraint.

Thus to all, excepting those with a fear of convoking evil spirits, our presentation of the black mass was intended to cause no more than an awareness of the primitive spirit and origin of our celebrated holiday.

Swan House

## MORE OF THE PROBLEM

There is going to be a Community meeting within two weeks. House meetings are next week. We hope that all participating members of the college will take advantage of these times to voice their opinions on the college.

In order to clarify your own opinions of what can be done about these problems, go to your professors, your friends, your student committees, your faculty committees, the Administration. If you want any information on the history of Bennington, go to Mrs. Leslie, who has a complete file of bulletins, articles, and past constitutions of the college. We suggest that students clarify their ideas and put them into the form of resolutions which can be brought up at the house and community meetings.

Perhaps the most important job is to break down ideas, suggestions, and separate general aims and resolutions from specific changes dealing with educational and governmental problems. It would seem to us that primary investigation should be directed to the Community government, the primary realm of student authority. And following that, the

## AUBADE

The standards glisten through the oleander;  
 The cohorts stiffen, ready to deploy.  
 A fine mist rises from Scamander.  
 Their faces hot with longing for Briseis  
 Impatient heroes stamp the plain of Troy.

What husky angel, enemy of bustle,  
 Would keep these active beauties from my view?  
 Let his eyes grow, his wings rustle:  
 The shreds of sleep still tasseling my forehead  
 I walk into your emerald-brinded blue.

By Francis Golfing.

## Aphorisms

by Francis Golfing

H. started out as an assayer of ointments; he wound up as a collector of flies.

Someone asked the surrealist L. "What are you doing these days?" "The same new thing," he replied.

Main cause of contemporary demoralization: the individual is asked to determine between issues about which he cannot be expected to have any strong convictions, both horns of the dilemma being equally unattractive or suspect.

Wasting time we are wasted by it; using time we are used by it: a distinction so nice that the naked eye is not likely to perceive it.

The delightful thing about a true friend is that he will keep promises he has never made.

While the child was asleep, the evil fairy approached the cradle and putting a finger on his forehead conferred her gift. The gift was what you might have expected: belief in the existence of fairies.

I never felt comfortable with him, I always suspected something shady behind his grinning countenance; now he has put on that Halloween mask I can take him at face value.

## Recent Additions To The Library

Bentley, Elizabeth—Out of Bondage.  
 Clemen, W. H.—The Development of Shakespeare's Imagery.  
 Corry, J. A.—Elements of Democratic Government (rev. ed.)  
 Doll, C. G.—Geology of the Mephrema or Quadrangle.  
 Farquharson, A. S. L.—Marcus Aurelius.  
 Flaubert, Gustave—Letters, sel. by Richard Rumbold.  
 Fowler, Phillip—Stratigraphy and Structure of the Castleton Area, Vermont.  
 Garrett, H. E.—Great Experiments in Psychology (3rd ed.)  
 Germany. Auswartiges Amt.—Documents on German Foreign Policy.  
 Policy, Series D (vols. 1 and 2, 1937-1938).  
 Guthrie, W. K. C.—The Greeks and Their Gods.  
 Hegner, W. W.—College Zoology (6th ed.)  
 Jahoda, Marie, and Others—Research Methods in Social Relations, 2 vols.  
 Kennan, G. F.—American Diplomacy, 1900-1950.  
 Lewis, Oscar—Life in a Mexican Village: Tepoztlan Restudied.  
 Mead, F. S.—Handbook of Denominations in the U. S. (Reference).

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more general problems of the Community, which depends upon a continuing system of communication, can be carried out with greater efficiency.

In defining the problem or thing we hope that students will use their own discrimination.

Sue Liebman, Liz Ivory.

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(Continued from Page 2)

Merton, Thomas—The Ascent to Truth.  
Mills, C. W.—White Collar.  
Mills, J. R.—A Study of the Lakes in Northeastern Vermont.  
Mumford, Lewis—The Conduct of Life.  
Nathanson, Jerome—John Dewey. The Statesman's Year-book, 1951 (Reference).  
Thomas, L. V. and Frye, R. N.—The United States and Turkey and Iran.  
Tillyard, E. M. W.—Studies in Milton.  
Trollope, Anthony—Letters, ed. by B. A. Booth.  
U. S. President—The Economic Report of the President, January, 1951.  
White, L. D.—The Jeffersonians.  
Williams, W. C.—Autobiography.  
Wish, Harvey—Society and Thought in America, vol. 1.

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## Concert Attracts Lively Audience

by E. A. Lester

A minor change in program proved a fine idea for last evening's faculty concert in Carriage Barn. Instead of performing the programmed solo piano sonata, Mrs. De Gray joined with Mr. Finckel to play another of the Beethoven 'cello-piano sonatas. The artists played sensitively; the adagio and allegro of the first movement were right in every way. I would have liked a slightly slower tempo in the rondo: for all its energy it had a certain heaviness which might have been eliminated in a more deliberate tempo.

A Mozart Bb sonata played by Miss Pernel and Lionel Nowak opened the program, followed by Mr. Nowak's composition, "Four Pages from a Musical Diary," which was very understandingly interpreted by Claude Frank.

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## Better Than Most

by Jimmie Violin

If it has been your policy to stay away from movies this term, it is time you made an exception, for J. Arthur Rank's version of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* will be at the General Stark Theatre November 4 and 5.

This film comes closer to conveying the true Dickens flavor on the screen than any attempts heretofore, i. e. the American *David Copperfield* or the British *Great Expectations*. It is not of just the Dickens characters that the picture can boast, but the whole atmosphere of 19th century London is brought out as well. The audience is made to feel the immense poverty of the city's slums and the unbalance of wealth which London was undergoing at the time of the industrial revolution. An understanding of these conditions enables one to realize just what makes the Dickens characters what they are—not just screen villains but definite products of the time. This helps to elevate the cast of characters to a level of real depth, giving the film unusual distinction.

John Howard Davies plays Oliver with the proper amount of innocence, wistfulness and determination. The band of pick-pockets with whom Oliver is forced to fraternize, from Fagin to the artful Dodger, are all both amusing and vicious, according to the situation. Alec (what does he look like?) Guinness as Fagin, Robert Newton as Bill Sikes, and Kay Walsh as Nancy, are all thoroughly believable Dickens characters and turn in excellent performances. Francis L. Sullivan is amusingly pompous as the fat and pseudo-sophisticated Mr. Bumble, the superintendent of the poor house in which Oliver starts his harrowing adventures.

The plot moves rapidly, and the excitement and suspense never stop. This, combined with fine acting and camera work, makes *Oliver Twist* a notable screen achievement.

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## Goucher Enrolls Tenth Graders

The first group of girls to enter a top-ranking woman's college in modern times without high school diplomas will begin a unique educational experiment at Goucher College this year. Of the 15 exceptionally talented girls from seven states chosen to study under the experimental acceleration program, none are high school graduates and all are between fifteen and sixteen and a half years old—well below the usual age for admission to college. The program is being conducted by the Ford Foundation for the Advancement of Education to find out whether or not well-qualified girls can speed up the educational process.

The experiment will determine whether these unusually talented young women, as judged by scores made in aptitude and achievement tests, may enter college profitably after the tenth year of school work and pursue a course in integrated general education during the first two years of college. At Goucher they will have the college's usual wide range of choice of liberal courses with selection governed by the individual's progress toward Goucher's educational objectives.

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## Survey Reveals Students' Attitudes Toward Religion

As college students progress in scholastic standing, they apparently reverse their attitudes toward religion, as indicated by a survey conducted by Milton D. Havron of the University of Maryland's psychology department.

Participating in the survey were approximately 600 students, representing all class standings including those doing graduate work. For the purpose of the study, the students were classified as having either predominantly "religious" or "political-economic" attitudes.

The "religious" person is characterized as being acquainted with biblical rules of conduct, is a church-goer, believes in personal salvation, ethical values, and in a final day of judgment.

The "political-economic" person, on the other hand, thinks more objectively, keeps abreast of politics and economic trends, regards Sunday as a day of rest, believes that material welfare is primary to ethical values, and likes pleasure and luxurious living.

Those classed as "religious" were found to attend church at least once a month, while among the "political-economic" group, some admitted not having gone to church in several years and none attended as often as once a month.

## Financial Report

(Continued from Page 1)

raise last year, and it is clear that we shall have to appeal to a number of our friends and supporters for rather substantial gifts beyond their usual annual gifts to us.

Although this was not a part of my assignment, I offer on my own prompting a word about the part students may play in helping us to meet the current financial problem. We have appealed and appeal again now to all students on scholarships to ask for and accept the smallest reduction in tuition they can get along with. We hope all other students will second the appeals that have been or will be made to their parents. We should appreciate the suggestion of persons who believe in the Bennington program and who might be willing to contribute to its maintenance and development.

Finally I should say that neither the Trustees nor the Administration look on the present outlook as critical. It is serious, but by no means beyond solution with the good will and cooperation of everyone concerned. I should say in conclusion that no one proposed any economies that would curtail or dilute our educational offering. The India Conference this term and the projected series on marriage offer evidence of our interest in meeting community needs and demands even against the budgetary argument.

Thomas Brockway,  
Acting President.

## Jobs Available To Typists

(Continued from Page 1)

usual three- or four-page application form, I was ushered in to see Miss Capone, director of personnel. We spent about ten minutes discussing the ins and outs of magazine work and finally arrived at the decision that if I could type fifty words a minute I would get the job. The realization that I'll never attain that speed with my hunt and peck system crushed me so that Miss Capone hadn't the heart to turn me down outright and I was sent to the College Department for further discussion. It was at this point that I found that Bennington has made a name for itself in literary circles and that they love us. According to Miss Winters, Dusty Hutton and Kiriki De Diego among others, have won Street and Smith away from Antioch as a result of these girls' alert cooperation and efficient completion of any job assigned to them. There is a girl from Bennington at Street and Smith every year and the college department is now in the process of choosing the one for this year from the numerous applications with which we've deluged them.

The personnel department of the Hearst Publications served to shrink the swelled head I'd grown at Mademoiselle's. I filled out the four-page form and then waited and waited and waited. About an hour later I was given a speed test and politely told that I was not skilled enough for a secretarial position and that they had nothing else available but that they would keep me in mind for any future openings. As far as my interviewer knew, they had

never hired a Bennington girl and they weren't anxious to break the precedent.

Next came Conde-Nast Publications, a one-page form and a wonderful talk with Miss Campbell, head of personnel. Bennington has done well by Conde-Nast and our biggest booster within the organization is the Art Editor of Glamour who is, herself, a Bennington graduate and had welcomed us as visitors to her studio until her staff grew so large that it became impossible to fit an extra person into the office. Dorothy Miller also contributed to our good reputation by spending last Non-Resident Term doing what Miss Campbell termed a desperately dull job with unflinching patience.

Of all the people I spoke to, I believe Miss Campbell was the most helpful. She suggested that a course in both speed typing and shorthand be given each fall as an extra curricular activity to enable us to pick up skills that would transform us from liabilities to assets and make us of value to the employers we besiege each year.

My last stop was Saks Fifth Avenue where Mr. Lombardi told me that, although they usually are laying people off in January, they do hire two or three Bennington girls because they find us pleasant, cooperative and useful. There is at least one Bennington girl now employed permanently at Saks and the personnel department feels confident that this year's crop of temporary employees will continue the good impression made during previous Non-Resident Terms.

Although the picture is extremely encouraging up to this point, it is impossible to ignore the stack of letters on my desk from employers who have no room for us or who are not interested in creating jobs for what they term a group of useless college girls. The plan for future Non-Resident Terms clearly points to this latter phase of the problem, that of proving to the skeptics that we deserve house room and that we are capable of filling existing vacancies. Perhaps this could be achieved by equipping ourselves with the skills which are in demand—typing and shorthand.



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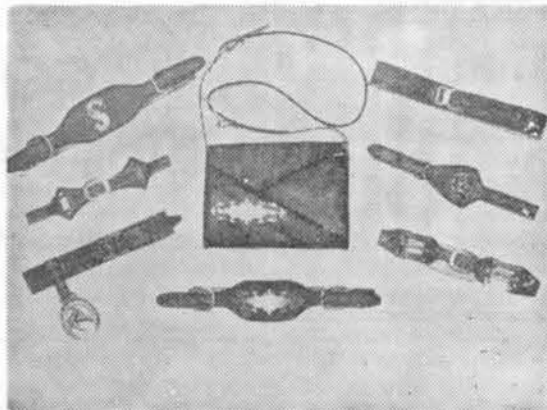
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