

## Bennington College

### To Student Guides:

There is a certain amount of information about the College which a student guide should have on the tip of her tongue. When a student is employed for the purpose of showing visitors around the campus, giving them perhaps the only impression which they will ever have of Bennington, she should be able to answer some of the more elementary questions put to her.

The following list of miscellaneous facts is based on the random inquiries made by visitors. Some of them are unimportant and uninteresting. The most important questions, and the least often asked, are not listed. They can only be answered by each guide's general understanding of the College, and often for such questions, the visitor should be referred to the proper person in the College.

If guides have been asked questions which they have found hard to answer, it would be a help to the office to be informed of these questions.

### Beginning of the College

In 1923 a group of people in Old Bennington, led by Dr. Booth, met to discuss the possibility of starting a college for women in Bennington. A series of conferences followed in New York and in Bennington, attended by 500 educators, school and college heads, parents, etc. Out of this group came the decision to try on the college level the methods and aims already practiced by the better "progressive" schools.

The Board of Trustees was formed, and the Charter secured, in 1925. Robert D. Leigh was elected president in 1928 and started preparing educational plans.

College opened in 1932. This is the eighth year of the college.

### Buildings and grounds

Architects for the early buildings were Ames and Dodge, Boston; for Fairview and the prospective Theatre, Van der Gracht and Kilham, New York.

The original size of the property was 140 acres. It is now 350 acres. The original tract was given to the College by the heirs of Mrs. Frederick Jennings, and the rest was bought last year.



Tuition,  
Costs, etc.

The College has an endowment of only \$150,000. It operates mainly on the tuitions received. It is one of the few colleges in the country which operates on this plan. It is also one of the few colleges in which students on full tuition pay the whole cost of their education. In most other colleges there are endowments which permit a lower tuition for all students, so that even those without any scholarship or reduction often pay no more than half of what it costs to teach them. It is, however, one of Bennington's policies that those who can pay should do so. The College always balanced its budget and has no debts. The buildings and equipment are gifts from friends and foundations. The budget is one half-million dollars.

Tuition is \$1000, Room and Board \$650, Health Fee \$25, Total \$1675. There are no extras; i.e. additional charges for music, art, dancing lessons, etc.

The percentage of students receiving reduced tuition is approximately 35%. Tuition reductions are granted on the basis of need as well as on the basis of scholarship, personality, character, etc. Most other colleges grant them on the basis of scholastic ability as measured by competitive examinations.

Admission

Requirements: successful completion of high school is the minimum requirement. Failure in one field of school work does not disqualify the applicant provided that this lack is compensated for by outstanding ability in other fields.

Evidence on which decisions concerning applicants are made: (1) a personal interview; (2) school records indicating grades, range of interest, purpose, ability to take initiative and do independent work; (3) standard scholastic aptitude test and reading test.

Applications should be made at least a year before planning to enter; it is essential to make them before April 1st. Applications made after this date will be considered for the reserve list only. The order in which applications are received is not a determining factor in any other respect.

Roughly, one out of four applicants is accepted.

School of  
the Arts

The college has no summer school. For the past five years there has been a separate School of the Dance, which went to Mills College last summer for its sixth and now last year. Beginning with the summer of 1940, a new school of the Arts will be in operation, which will incorporate the School of the Dance. The Bennington School of the Arts will function as a separate autonomous unit as the School of the Dance has done in the past, but it will be more closely related to the College in its program.

Miscellaneous  
figures

No. of students: there is a limited enrollment of 250, which is the number the college has built to accommodate.

No. of faculty: about 55, about 12 of whom are part-tims. About 60% men, 40% women.

No. of student car owners: 20% to 25%

No. of volumes in the library: 19,000. Additions are being made at the rate of 2000 a year.