HISTORY OF GIRTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL BENDIGO.

" Girton " was founded by Mrs.Aherne and Miss A. Hill (later Mrs. Millward) on the 23rd. April, 1884, at a little house next to the Convent in Barkly Place. Mrs. Aherne came from Stawell, where she had conducted a similar school, bringing seven girls who were the first boarders. These girls were joined by six Bendigo girls, Maggie Connell, Ethel Taylor, Susie Hunter, Louise Hunter, Ada Shum and Eva Abbott. After a week the school moved to No. 1 Hustler's Terrace, the Boarding House remaining in Barkly Place.

In 1886, the school moved to " Lister House ", Rowan Street (now the Northern District School of Nursing). The first year in these premises numbers rose to 102, which was the highest on the roll until 1906. Matriculation was first entered for in 1891, making a decided step in the school's Academic progress.

Mrs. Aherne who received her education in a French Convent, was a wonderful teacher of French and Music. She continued in partnership with Mrs.Millward until she died in 1897. This made the first break in the School's life since its inception. Mrs.Millward then became principal. She was a strict disciplinarian and her influence for good remained a guiding factor in the conduct of the school.

Mrs.Millward was Principal until her death in 1911. During this time a number of girls came from White Hills, the only method of transport being a cab. It was in Mrs.Millward's time that the title of Church of England Grammar School was first used. Two years later, in 1906, the number of pupils on the roll was 116, the highest to date.

After Mrs.Millward's death, Miss Lily McGillivray took charge of " Girton ", until a new headmistress, Miss Walker was appointed in 1912. During Miss Walker's period, the school first played hockey. Miss Walker was followed by Miss Cocks in 1916. It was during this time that the property was acquired in McKenzie Street. Three years after this, Miss Pratt M.A.Dip.Ed. was headmistress. She was followed by Miss Ironsides and later Miss Brownlee.

With the acquisition of the McKenzie Street property, numbers began to rise, and need for more accommodation was evident. School rooms were built, and cubicles for boarders added to the main building.

In 1914 the Old Girtonian's Association was formed. There was a great response to the call for members, about 120 being enrolled. The first President was Miss Gwen Frew (later Mrs.G.Lansell). The association has always been keenly interested in the school and has given financial assistance to the school in many ways, £750 being raised in the first sixteen years. This money was used to found two scholarships - the Aherne -Millward Scholarship and the Old Girtonian's Scholarship. The Melbourne Branch of the O.G.A. was formed in 1931.

In 1922 Miss F.K.M.Dumaresq M.A.BSc. (Melbourne) Teacher's Diploma (London) came to "Girton " as headmistress and continued for twelve years. In 1928, she went to England for twelve months, her place being taken by Miss Edith Mason, an old Girtonian. In 1932 Miss E.A.King M.A. Dip.Ed. took charge of the school, and it was during this time, that the first Jubilee Celebrations took place. The event marked the opening of a fund for the building of an Assembly Hall. The Hall was opened by the late Archbishop Head in 1941, when Miss O.F.Gordon M.A.Dip.Ed. was Headmistress.

When Bishop Riley arrived from England his interest was stimulated by Miss Gordon's enthusiasm and the Council decided to build a new Junior School which was incorporated with the Assembly Hall, making one block. Interest in the school grew to such an extent, that in 1924 the Council decided to improve the whole school property, and re-possess Frew House. This House was given its name in recognition of the great benefits conferred on the school by Mrs. Frew, who bought and presented to the school, the site on which stands the present Junior School and Hall. Necessary work was done, and when Miss S.L.Warren B.A. Dip.Ed (Adelaide) came to the school, boarders took up residence there. Miss Warren took over in difficult years, and proved an able Headmistress. She resigned in 1952, owing to ill health and died in 1953.

Miss d'Helin came as Headmistress in 1952, and still holds that position, and during the last twelve years there has been a tremendous advance in every way.

In 1956 Millward House was purchased, and dedicated on the 28th. June 1960, by the Rt.Rev.R.E.Richards, Millward has accommodation for 21 boarders.

On the 11th.April 1961, the new classrooms and science block was also dedicated by the Lord Bishop.

Herring House was purchased in 1961 and opened and dedicated on the 28th. August by the Lord Bishop. Herring House - named in honour of Archdeacon D. Herring who has been associated with the school for more than 30 years - contains Miss d'Helin's flat together with a fully equipped domestic science, dressmaking and craft rooms.

The oval has been beautified, lawn laid, and at an Arbor day an assortment of trees was planted.

Sport plays a very important part of the school's life, and the girls in 1963 regained the Molly Sandner Tennis Cup and won two District Softball Cups.

Ask Miss d'Helin from Clyde — Head teachership?

Bach Science Master?

1937

1941

2

DANCING

MISS CHRISTINA STUART (20) has won the first Jennie Brenan scholarship awarded by the Victorian Branch of the Royal Academy of Dancing. It will pay her board and tuition for three years at the Royal Academy of Dancing Teachers Training College in England.

Tina began to learn ballet from her mother when ten, but started Highland dancing at four and in 1962 she won the Australian Open Championship in this field.

Tina was educated at Girton and now helps her mother teach the girls ballet there. She is also a final year student at the Conservatorium at Melbourne University.

GUIDING

MISS MERLE BUSH O.B.E. Captain and founder of 1st. Bendigo Guide Company when Guiding began here. Guide and Campcraft trainer. Chief's Diploma. Life member of Victorian Executive Committee of Guiding 1957 - presented with O.B.E. by Queen at Buckingham Palace. At one time State Secretary of Guides.

MOLLY HOFFMEYER Service to Guiding in Bendigo.
EDITH WELLER.

GENERAL

MISS REAY MACKAY: Returned to her home in Bendigo at the end of last year, spent twenty years in Her Majesty's Foreign Service, at Washington, Rome and London. After retiring from the Service, she lived in New York for eight years working for the interests of American Children's Education and Welfare and Appropriate Reading, before re-visiting Europe, where she apent a delightful few weeks with Janette Cohen, travelling through Holland, Germany, Austria and Yugo Slavia.

MRS. CATHERINE SMITH (nee Baker) Was Head Prefect of Girton 1934. She obtained her MA. and Diploma of Social Studies at the University of Melbourne. She has worked in Singapore for eleven years. After this she began teaching in one of the Chinese High Schools and lectured at the Teachers' Training College. At the moment she is working as Executive Officer to the Church of England Social Service Advisory Council in the Diocese of Melbourne. For the past three years she had been working with the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence.

MISS ADA SHUMM. Journalist on staff of Everylady's Journal in 1929.

MISS MARJORIE VAHLAND Physiotherapist. Member of Masseur's Association.

MISS ALICE VAHLAND Literary and Church interests.

MISS ALICE JONES LLB Solicitor in Bendigo. President of A.G.A.for many years. Member of School Council.

MRS. C.W.WOOD (nee Doris Vahland) Founder and was leader of Young Members Department of Mothers' Union in Victoria. Outstanding Church Worker.

ART

INEZ ABBOTT: Artist.

MISS MADGE FREEMAN (Mrs. Basil Davies) has travelled overseas and studied art abroad. She is regarded as a very competent artist. She began her early training at the Bendigo School of Mines, under the Art principal, the late Mr. Arthur Woodward.

A delightful oil painting a " Flower Piece" painted by her is now in the possession of the Bendigo Art Gallery.

MISS MARION JONES an outstanding artist, who spent many years abroad, is now living in Melbourne. She was a pupil of the late Mr. Arthur Woodward at the Bendigo School of Mines, and was awarded a National Gallery travelling scholarship. Her works consist of portraits in oil and pastel, with landscapes chiefly in water colour. ~~She won the National~~ One of her oil paintings is now in the Bendigo Gallery and two at Girton.

MUSIC.

MISS DAGMAR LEVY. Special stucy of Musical Appreciation.

SINGING.

DOROTHY THOMAS (Madame Canberra) Singer.

DOROTHY PENFOLD spent much time at the Royal Acadeny in London and on the continent furthering her studies in singing. She returned to Melbourne where she is still a practising musician specialising as an adjudicator.

PAULINE BINDLEY. Worked with J.C.Williamson Opera Company in many Melbourne productions, also in Milan and Florence.

NURSING

JEAN BISSETT Nurse during the 1914-1918 War.

HARRIET WATSON Stationed at Wansworth Military Hospital during World War 1.

IDA O'DWYER for many years Matron of Caulfield Military Hospital. Joined the services some years before the 1914-18 War. At its outbreak she was on holiday in Java. Receiving a cable asking if she would go to the front she replied " Yes " and left in the first hospital ship, the Kyarra, for Egypt. After a year there she was sent to Nottingham Military Hospital for another year, then on to France where she was in charge of No. 1 Clearing Hospital. She was presented with 2nd.class Royal Red Cross and later with the 1st. class Cross of this Order. At the opening of Australia House in London she was chosen as the nurse from Australia to be presented to King George V and Queen Mary. She had a long chat with the Queen who seemed very interested in Australian affairs. After leaving France she was in charge of a hospital for nurses and when she returned to Australia after the Armstice to the Caulfield Hospital.

TEACHERS

MISS SYLVIA GAASCH (Mrs. Sylvia Grey) of Strathmore is at present teaching needlework and crafts at Pascoe Vale Girls' School. She has gained the experience during her 18 years as a teacher which has enabled her to write her book " Successful Sewing ". She wrote this with the idea of saving her pupils note-writing work. This book, however, won the Home Economics Teachers' Group award of £50, which was instituted to find new ideas for the teaching of Domestic Science. " Successful Sewing" is now being used in several schools as a text book.

MISS GERTRUDE ADAMSON BA. Taught at M.L.C. Then senior French and German at University High School. Later was senior Mistress at Hampton High School.

COUNTESS ETTORE CADORIN (NEE LOVIE (ERNA) MUELLER) the daughter of two of Bendigo's pioneers was born in 1879, twin sister of Ernst Mueller. She went to school at Girton College, Bendigo and matriculated and became a graduate in piano and singing at the Melbourne Conservatorium. She had a fine Contralto voice and took an active part in concerts and operas in Bendigo and Melbourne. Her parents often entertained visiting celebrities at their home including Mark Hamberg the pianist and Czech violinist Jan Kubelik and his wife.

Lovie went abroad with Emily Dyason (Lady Ernest Scott) of Bendigo, where they studied music and singing in Florence, Italy. Later Lovie toured the world for two years with Jan Kubelik appearing in many great opera houses in Europe and once sang for the Czarina of Russia.

Later she married Count Ettore Cadorin, one time professor at the University of Languages, Italy. He was also a famous sculptor knighted by King Umberto of Italy for his statues at the Italian Court.

Some of his statues are at the Bendigo Art Gallery, the most notable being (Venus and Slipper.) Others may be found at Wesley College. The famous lions at Wesley's main gates are his work. Count Cadorin was on a ship which was torpedoed in World War 1 and after his rescue he became a major in the Canadian Army acting as interpreter and liaison officer.

He and Countess Cadorin settled in Santa Barbara, California where he built a magnificent studio and had many pupils. His numerous commissions included a statue of Father Y. Perra which won a prize of 40,000 dollars at the San Francisco Exposition. Countess Cadorin died in Napa, California at the age of 81.