

Hyde School Opens Doors To Females

By MILLIE STEWART

BATH — Mary Leslie Hazelton's claim to the distinction of being the only girl to attend otherwise all-male Hyde School here has ended.

In fact precedent was shattered completely when the summer session of school opened.

Hyde School has decided to operate as a boarding school on a coeducational basis and 11 girls already are on hand for summer relaxation prior to the start of classes. Another dozen will be added for the fall sessions.

When the Hyde School opened on the old estate known as Elmhurst in 1966, only one female was enrolled. Miss Hazelton, now 22, attended each of the two opening summer schools and the first school year.

THE DAUGHTER OF Prof. and Mrs. Paul V. Hazelton, Topsham, she became the first girl graduate of Hyde attending as a day student only.

Now things have changed.

A week ago, the contingent of girls arrived for the summer, coming from all corners of the United States, joining 54 boys. This fall, another 12 will join the student body. For the summer the girls are living in the carriage house of the old estate with Mrs. Stephen Rathwell as housemother.

Nothing in the curriculum has been changed to accommodate the girls. They take the same academics as the boys.

They are members of a "watch" unit which participates in group activities, particularly climbing a 15-foot wall, running the cross-country course, crossing beams and going on dory expeditions. The expedition could mean as many as 40 miles of rowing in one to three days along the coast of Maine via the Kennebec, Back, Sasanoa and Sheepscot Rivers. On their return, a debriefing brings the trip and its purpose into clear focus for all.

THROUGH THE GROUP activities, the school believes that students will learn concern for others, responsibility and how to depend on other people. As a result, each individual probably will show much growth and development at the end of the eight-week program.

A school spokesman said Hyde has been planning for coeducation for some time, feeling this year "Hyde is ready for a coed program."

Up until this time, space has been the major factor for the all-male enrollment. "The school was in a growing situation. We couldn't accommodate girls," the spokesman said.

The attitudes of the summer girls are "real good," according to school authorities. "They are very enthusiastic. It is a real pleasure to have them here."

Becky Allen is one girl who is really enjoying herself and experiencing her first trip north of Virginia. A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Becky learned of the school through a friend and has completed her junior year in high school. She has enough credits to graduate from high school and has been accepted at an Alabama college. But she wonders if perhaps she should not wait a year before attending college. Hopefully, her experience at Hyde will help her make up her mind.

BECKY, ELECTED dormitory proctor by her fellow coeds, has climbed the 15 foot wall. "I hated it at first," and looks forward to the dory expedition, although she admits, "I don't even know what a dory is."

In a week at Hyde, she already quotes the school's motto, "Courage to Meet Challenge," finding she is developing a more open mind and can do things she didn't think she could.

Two boys at the summer school, Donovan Farwell of Gig Harbor, Wash., and Al Ouellette of Fort Kent, also like the girls around. They agreed, "There are not enough girls. We would like an equal ratio."

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