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MERIAM MEGAPHONE

a newsletter from the Meriam Library at California State University, Chico

REMEMBERING BIDWELL MANSION



Bidwell Hall Girls Organization, circa 1930.



Chico State College students in Bidwell Hall, circa 1930.



Girls from Bidwell Hall, 1927.

In 1922, four years after Annie Bidwell's death, Bidwell Mansion was converted into Chico State's women's dormitory. Known as Bidwell Hall at the time, it became the home to 30 "Chico State Teachers College" students. For \$35 a month, students were given breakfast and dinner, a cot, table, and chair.

During the first year, women had to share one bathroom with a large tub and single toilet. While the converted mansion had numerous bedrooms, the dormitory residents would set their cots on the mansion's balconies, crawling in and out of windows to accomplish the task. Whether to avoid the heat or the odoriferous penumbra of the stuffed bird collection, the balconies provided a pleasant respite from both.

In the early years, there were strict rules about recreation time outside the residence, with women having to sign a logbook to enter and exit the dorm. The doors were promptly locked at curfew.

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