

Rugged Individuals Wear Short Hair, It Says Here

Short hair, so common among modern college girls, was once not so generally accepted. Back in 1891 the first bobbed-haired girl entered the university where she was thought of as "different."

A conspicuous person in those days, Willa Cather seemed to thrive on this individualism long before she became famous as the author of "My Antonia," "One of Ours," "Death Comes for the Archbishop" and many other books. As a matter of fact, she grew into a very conservative author, with a little regret for her colorful school days.

"BILLY" Cather came to school still a little sorry that she wasn't a boy. The next best thing, as far as she was concerned, was to dress as much as possible like one. Her hair was clipped short and parted sometimes on one side, or worn on other occasions in a pompadour "like a prize-fighter." She wore a box coat with mannish lapels, high collars fastened up under the chin, and a man's shirt even in the days before the fashion of the "shirt-waist."

It was not a fad then. Golf for women had not yet become universal and the excuse of the inconvenience of skirts and long hair on motor and camping trips had not yet been invented. Small cloche-shaped hats of the 1920's were not in fashion then—photographs show the larger "merry widow" type. But Willa Cather wore instead a straw sailor after the type of a man's hat, or in winter, one on the same style, but of different material.

TO MISS CATHER, it was not the style, then, nor the fact that "everybody's doing it." For they weren't. No one else dreamed of doing anything of the sort. But she had always gone in for boy's sports—horseback, and the like and she wanted to dress the part. It was a personal desire that prompted the introduction of such a style of dress.

"Willa followed her own inclinations, anyway," a schoolmate of Miss Cather's said, "and she didn't care much what other folks said or thought. She was always a little eccentric, but as she grew and went through school, her notions seemed to change, and she became more like other girls."

ANOTHER schoolmate spoke of her close-cropped hair, which just showed under the narrow brim of her stiff hat, remarking that she was the only girl in school who had clipped her hair at that time. "During her senior year, she used to curl her hair,

but until then she wore it straight. It was too short to curl."

Both friends remarked that she lived to regret her extreme independence, saying that as she was more in the public eye, she grew less daring."

Her writing was giving her considerable trouble during her University days, for people "pooh-poohed" the work she did. Time and again she told her friend Dr. J. T. Tyndale that she wanted to go home. Her stories, essays and poems are, however, spread over the pages of the "Hesperian Student," a monthly pamphlet-form publication, and of "The Sombrero," the annual of the early days—predecessor of "The Cornhusker."

GREEK was the principal study, and Miss Cather shone in the study of the ancient language. "Billy Cather" had a fondness for writing satire, and, in ridiculing certain ones in university courses, wrote sarcastic parodies on famous works. With Dorothy Canfield, then a teen-age prep student, she wrote several short selections.

During her junior year she was managing editor of the "Hesperian Student," which was at that time made up of miscellanies, locals, and personals about students and faculty, and a page of editorials, with the rest largely given over to the literary department. The first semester, when she was literary editor, many of her first works appear some of them signed with her initials, and some as anonymous ones, which might easily have been written by the editor of the department.

DURING the semester of the managing editorship of "W. Cather" as her name is used on the first sheet of each issue, a new page appeared. It was labeled, "No to Be Read," and was made up of jokes, humorous jingles, and an occasional hit on some faculty member or student.

Near the end of the year appears a poem, which may be a reflection of the masculinity of the staff—for girls were; except for Miss Cather, only literary editors—or may be a reflection of Miss Cather's humor. Perhaps indeed it is an accidental pun:

When you write a merry jest,
Cut it short.
It will be too long at best,
Cut it short.
Life is brief and full of care
Editors don't like to swear
Treat your poem like your hair,
Cut it short.

Union Calendar

LUTHERAN Student Association will meet Tuesday, July 26 at 5:30 at the Lutheran Student House, 1440 Q.

Alice Otterness will speak on "The Significance of Christian Fellowship."

Frank Nicholas (Bull) Adduci sophomore aspirant to the University of Nebraska fullbacking job, is keeping in shape this summer by digging graves for a Chicago cemetery, he reports in a letter to Coach Bill Glassford.

Darwin Salestrom is working as a lifeguard at St. Edward. Salestrom played a guard position in spring football.
Ken Fischer, a quarterback

in construction work, presently engaged in building the Albion hospital.

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