

1958

Where once seven Mitchell daughters grew up on the banks of the Mississippi, today more than 200 "Mitchell girls" study and live on the same site at St. Cloud State college.

Home for today's students is a modern, brick, many-windowed structure--a study in contrasts to the rambling, red house of the gay nineties.

~~XXXX~~ William Bell Mitchell, owner of the nineties dwelling and namesake of the present dormitory, served the then Third State Normal school as resident director for a total of 24 years (1877-1901). Appointed by Governor John S. Pillsbury, he was reappointed by a succession of governors and worked with five different "principals" and presidents--David L. Kiehle, Jerome Allen, Thomas J. Gray,~~XXX~~ James Carhart and George R. Kleberger.

Always a champion of the college here, the local newspaper editor has been described as "one of the major forces in shaping the development of the Normal School at St. Cloud."

An oil painting of the man whose active interest in the college took precedence over even his interests in church, town and state, will be hung in the new dormitory in time for its dedication on October 26. A William von Schlegell portrait, it is a gift of the Mitchells from another old family home--one which faced the site of the new hall until wreckers removed it this year to make way for college expansion.

Mitchell hall, first unit in the new dormitory program on the State college campus, opened its doors this fall to 215 women.

An addition, now being constructed, will bring the capacity of the dorm to 400 by the start of the 1959 school year.

"Actually it is not an addition, but the half of the original building which could not be immediately financed," said Mrs. Anne Stai, director of the dormitory. To Mrs. Stai have fallen the one hundred and one detail jobs of setting up a new ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ residence hall which is comparable to a king-size hotel.

A former director of Shoemaker hall, Mrs. Stai had a hand in the planning of the new dorm, which can be seen in several touches geared to college girl needs--full-length mirrors on each floor, a special storage closet for formals and other items.

Rooms in Mitchell are equipped with built-in wardrobes, dressers, desks, occasional chairs, Hollywood beds and beige drapes. The latter are carried over into the lounges and other rooms, giving the hall a look of continuity from the outside.

Individuality is provided in each room via the bed spreads, rugs, stuffed animals and bulletin boards which are the trademark of the college girl everywhere. Though the furniture is the same, arrangement of the rooms is up to the occupants.

Each floor has a modern lounge complete with TV, piano, filled magazine racks, tables and comfortable chairs. In addition, a compact kitchen unit provides cooking and refrigeration facilities.

The first floor lounge, a light, spacious room opening off the front lobby, is done in modern decor. The room contains blond furniture with beige and green tones in the upholstery, while one wall boasts a raised, walnut-paneled fireplace.

A folding door separates the main lounge from the music room, with its bright chairs and brand new hi-fi set.

In the lobby are public rest rooms and a coat check room in addition to the information desk, director's office and student post office boxes.

The director's apartment on first floor includes a living room, bedroom, bath and cooking unit.

Corridors on each floor contain a utility room, pressing room, linen closet and janitor's service closet.

A passenger elevator will be installed in the dormitory in November.

The Snack Bar--on Mitchell's ground floor--is open to the entire campus and is rapidly becoming an unofficial student center. Red walls oppose floor-to-ceiling windows which overlook the river.

Plans for Mitchell hall (drawn up by Frank W. Jackson and Associates, St. Cloud) were approved by the State Department of Administration and the State College board in June of 1956. Bids were opened the following September, with contracts awarded to Arthur Wahl and Son Construction, Erickson Electric and Sporleders Plumbing, all of St. Cloud. Consulting engineers were G.M. Orr of Minneapolis and Shutte-Meier of St. Paul.

Total cost of the dormitory, which was completed in May 1958, was \$893,709. Furnishings totaled \$44,000.

Construction of the hall's new wing began in July of this year and is estimated at \$552,897.