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Accolade For Clara Swan

A TRIBUTE

by

PRESIDENT CHESLEY H. HUSSON, SR.

It was more than 30 years ago when I met Clara L. Swan who, at that time, was in the senior class at Brewer High School. She appeared in my office to make plans for entering Husson College in the fall. She mentioned that she was interested in basketball.

This was the beginning of a young lady's history which has developed into one of the most exciting careers ever to evolve from the Husson "family." As the school year approaches its end, this woman, still a girl at heart, will have contributed a quarter of a century of her life to service to the College.

As a student she was named valedictorian of her class. As a basketball player there was no better performer, and the teams on which she played established records. She was one of the first to spend three years at Husson in the new three-year programs. The diploma was not enough for this ambitious young woman and she enrolled at American International College in Massachusetts in search of the baccalaureate degree.

Her teaching career started after graduation from this institution up Dover way, then to Mexico, Maine. When the need arose for a teacher and coach of girls' athletics I thought of Clara and offered her a contract. She came back "home," her training backed up by experience. This was 25 years ago.

In addition to a heavy teaching load, she immediately inaugurated a sports program for the women. Her record as coach of basketball is unequaled anywhere; and at the close of her coaching career, she was honored at a state-wide recognition dinner of sports greats as guest of the Bangor Daily News.

Her energy and dedication were bound to shape a career of unusual proportions. Her moral sense, ever high, sought the best in all her student and faculty contacts. She was destined from the beginning to become a "tradition" at Husson. She was ever searching to make a bigger contribution to the College, and on her "broad" shoulders I placed increasing responsibilities. These she accepted without murmur and her importance intensified in the many facets of her activity on campus.

It was her inspiration to introduce sorority life for the increasing number of women appearing on the scene. From a humble beginning she built a strong local chapter which was to become a national member of Pi Rho Zeta. Husson has two chapters because of the solid groundwork provided by this tireless member of the staff. It was inevitable that she recently became the national president of this sorority, an honor bestowed upon her here in Bangor where she successfully invited the national membership for its annual convention. She thinks big!



CLARA LINCOLN SWAN

As the College grew in size and importance, I had to delegate more and more of the administrative load to those qualified to accept it. The need of a Dean of Faculty sprang into being almost overnight and Clara (she'll always be "Clara" to me) was my choice. I could not have made a better one. She has served in this capacity in an able and competent manner, and, as such, became Chairman of the Faculty Senate.

Her duties have never been limited by the title that was currently hers. Even now, employers call her for help, superintendents question her for student teachers, parents ask her for admission of their sons and daughters, salesmen seek her out for the purchase of their wares, she helps shape the courses of study, she participates in policy making, she travels as agent of the College, she serves on educational panels, she accepts speaking engagements, she is never divorced completely from the many chores that were hers when our school was smaller, and she continually embraces new assignments and responsibilities as they appear. It is impossible for me to capture the quantity of her total contribution to Husson during the past 25 years. As for quality, I can measure and describe it in two words, *solid and superior.*

This brief article, inadequate and incomplete as it is, provides a glimpse of this woman who from the outset, invested her career in the College that she loved as a student. Her heart was involved. She was and is a dedicated person. Her students are her life-blood. Her native intelligence and training were able to cope with the increasing number and size of challenges that kept coming, coming, coming through the years. She never counted the hours. She did the job.

Her contribution has been a tremendous factor in the growth of the College and in its spirit. When the alumni call, they ask for Miss Swan without exception. She has always managed to keep in personal touch with "her" students, and the friendly atmosphere on the hill perpetuates itself by her example and esprit de corps.

It is fitting that we stop for a moment at this 25th milestone in her life and shake her hand. It is proper for us to congratulate her on her achievements as a college instructor and administrator. It is right that we wish her continued good health and even greater challenges ahead.

She has shared with me and the other members of the staff and faculty the dream of a new campus—a new, attractive, completely functional "home" for the College. I want her with me when we walk those new paths and corridors. She has earned this right, and her heart and mind will be needed more than ever when our college moves into new surroundings.

My personal thanks, Clara.

Chief

25 YEARS AT HUSSON

HUSSON DEAN NO. 1



by BILL GEAGAN
Bangor Daily News
October 30, 1960

BANGOR. Clara Lincoln Swan is living proof that the classification, "weaker sex," as applied to the human female, is a worthless and unfair cliché.

The black-eyed, buoyantly alert, and robust Miss Swan is dean of faculty at Bangor's Husson College. She also is first vice president of the corporation, adviser to the Sorority, and a teacher of several subjects including, methods of high school teaching, bookkeeping, and secretarial accounting. In appreciation of her fine record at Husson, the college recently established in honor of Miss Swan, a $250 scholarship for the freshman girl contributing most to the athletic program. It is known as the Clara L. Swan Award.

In addition, Miss Swan is active in the outdoors she loves. It's activity in the environment of woods and water that is responsible for her glowing health, energy and enthusiasm for life, she explains.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing, hiking, camping, swimming and boating she recommends for all women. Plenty of natural sleep and "good plain food," also are on her "must" list for sound health. Her only beverage at all meals and at frequent intervals throughout the day, is cold spring water. "Nothing like it," she says. Coffee and tea are out, and she has never smoked. She frowns on complete retirement for woman or man.

"There is no substitute for outdoors activity and there is no reason why a woman can't enjoy and reap its benefits as well as a man. And I believe that most women can, with sufficient effort, become equally as capable in such activities," the dean enthuses.

She points out, however, that nothing in life can be accomplished with a defeatist attitude. "The positive approach is the thing."

"That was my father's advice to me as a child and I've followed it always. I recommend it to women of all ages in all walks of life."

Clara Swan is truly a woman of the outdoors. Small but suprisingly husky she paddles her own canoe, operates her motorboat, shoulders heavy trail packs, swings gracefully along on snowshoes, builds her outdoor cooking fires and handles an ax with the best of them.

The capable little woman with the cropped, crow-black hair, red flannel shirt, faded blue jeans and moccasins, is a familiar figure around Green Lake—18 miles down the Bar Harbor highway from Bangor.

Her headquarters on the famous Maine salmon lake is a secluded shore camp, reached only by foot or boat, which she owns with her close friend, Mildred Bradford, an accomplished artist and teacher of shorthand at Husson College, who also is an enthusiastic devotee of outdoor living. Fly fishing and trolling at various depths, Clara and Mildred are always high on the list of successful fishermen at the Hancock County lake.

PROFESSIONAL JOB

Deciding last summer that the camp, a large two-story building, needed painting they arranged the rigging, grabbed buckets and brushes and did a surprisingly professional job.

Clara has other accomplishments to her credit too. At her home town high school in Princeton, and later at Brewer High from which she graduated in 1930, she was rated as one of the leading girl athletes in the state. As a guard in basketball she was generally rated as second to none. While at Princeton High, Clara also was outstanding on the boys' baseball team as a very good right-handed pitcher, and a catcher working behind the bat without benefit of protective gear. Making all these even more amazing is the fact that at birth Clara weighed only a pound and a half.

There were no baby incubators then; only the oven of a woodburning cookstove. Clara was only 3 years when her mother died.

Her father, Coburn Swan, ace pitcher for Hebron and Bowdoin baseball teams, taught Clara the value of sports and life in the open. He wanted a boy but got only girls—three of them. Clara, however, made an excellent substitute. And she's still happy and appreciative over his choice.

Clara went from Brewer High School to Husson, majoring in secretarial accounting and turning in an outstanding job at forward on the fine basketball teams for three years. She worked for her bachelor's degree at American International College, Springfield, Massachusetts, and her master's at the University of Maine.

She served as teacher-coach at Mexico High and Foxcroft Academy for five years then joined the faculty at Husson College in the same capacity. That was 22 years ago, Clara grins.

WINS 240 GAMES

Clara again proved her high caliber as a basketball coach by winning 240 games against only 32 losses and 7 ties in 19 years. In 10 of those 19 years her Husson girls won 20 of the 21 scheduled games. And there were also two undefeated seasons in the same fast company.

In addition to teaching and coaching Clara also refereed girls' games in this part of the state for 24 consecutive years. She is still doing it and is a national judge on the Eastern Maine Board.

Clara quit coaching in 1957 for executive work at the college of 588 students. Speaking engagements at high schools in this area also are on her crowded schedule. There is homework too, of course. But somehow she always finds time to enjoy and reap the many benefits of life in the great outdoors—to practice what she preaches.





1927. Student Swan at Brewer High School. Can you find her?



1944-45 Basketball Team. Front row, left to right: Ruth Wormlight, Charlotte Wentworth, Joyce McEachern, Patricia Wright (co-captain), Hazel Day (co-captain), Shirley Wilson. Alice Willey, Sheila Dempsey. Second row: Clara Swan (coach), Frances McDonough, Lurline Taylor (asst. manager), Juanita Reed, Edythe Freeman, Carro Davies, Constance Goulette (mgr.) Catherine White. Mascot—Martyn Vanwart.

1939



Miss Swan and nephew Andy

1943

Traffic Cop: "I'm sorry, Miss, but I've got to tag your car. You know what this means."
Miss Swan: "Certainly. Now I have to chase someboby alse and tag them, and then they're it."

Likes to eat—hot homemade bread
Likes to play—hearts
Likes to relax by—sleeping
Likes to read—all the time
Favorite movie actor—Gary Cooper
Favorite movie actress—Dorothy Lamour
Favorite author—A. J. Cronin
Favorite pasttime—reading

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1963-64

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Row 1: Mary Ames, Ruth Whittier, Clara Swan, Ellen Severence, Beverly Gavone, Rachael Mitchell. Row 2: Cary Murphy, Nancy Hamilton, Jean Murphy.

1958 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS 1954



1953-54. First row: Janet Kinney, Mary Lawrence, Barbara Greeley, Diana Wyman, Ann O'Mara, Barbara Gerrish, Harriet Lunt. Row 2: Joane Woodbury, Thelma Sennett, Thelma Hale, Geraldine Harvey, Clara Swan, Betty Chandler, Janice Gray, Mgr. Virginia Blood. Row 3: Natalie Bryant, Charlene Brown. Irene Hardy, Praticia Libby, Grace Butler, Kathleen Thompson.



1939-40. Miss Swan's first team. Row 1: Virginia Webster, you tell us, Mary Rokel, Ina Anderson, Rose Tuck. Row 2: Arlene G. Vose, Ruth Coombs, Cora Scott, Katherine M. Faulkingham, Coach Clara Swan.

MSC STUDENT SWAN PLAYS BASKETBALL



1932 Miss Swan on Husson Team. Row 1: Sorry!, Miriam A. Stevenson, Miss Swan, Helen B. Gallupe, Sorry! Row 2: Pearl Merrithew, Lillian M. Sucy, Ruebena E. Chase, Nora T. Romsay. Row 3: Philip A. Young, Chesley Husson, Sr.

Clara Swan Third Woman To Join Bangor Daily News Hall of Fame

by
Owen Osborne
Bangor Daily News
January 18, 1964

In a 19-year span of coaching girls' basketball at the Bangor Maine School of Commerce and Husson College, Clara holds the enviable record of 241 victories, 34 losses and 7 tie games.

The News Hall of Fame award was presented for her outstanding coaching record and for other achievements and contributions to athletics.

After graduation from Brewer High School in 1930 as valedictorian of the class where she was a member of the school team 3 years under Coach Lura Hoit, she entered Bangor Maine School of Commerce. She was captain of the basketball team three years as guard and forward and president of the Girls' Athletics Association.

Her first position as coach and teacher was at the Mexico High School during 1933-35 seasons and her team was invited to participate in the tournament at Livermore Falls.

She coached at Foxcroft Academy 3 years and then entered American International College in Springfield, Mass. where she was assistant coach and player.

In the fall of 1939, she joined the faculty at Maine School of Commerce that later became Husson College and began coaching her first year. For the next 19 years, her teams registered one of the all-time great coaching records, the amazing 241-34-7 mark. She had two undefeated seasons in 1954 and 1958.

She retired from coaching because of the many other duties but she has kept an active part in athletics. Clara Swan was a National Judge of women's officials, receiving an honorary rating for ten years' service.

One of the most highly respected and popular teachers in the state, she has given freely of her time and guidance, instruction and assistance to many hundreds of Husson students during the past 19 years and is a faithful fan of the Husson College athletic activities.

"SWANNIE"

"Swannie," how we love ya, how we love ya,
Our dear old "Swannie."
We'd give the world to be
Among the folks at H U S S O N.
"Swannie," how we love ya, how we love ya,
Our dear old "Swannie."
The folks up North will see us no more
When we get off that Husson floor.
(Revised version of "Swannee")

1944

Favorite Saying: Don't you fret nor wowwy
Favorite song: White Christmas
Favorite ambition: To stay at MSC all her life
Favorite Hobby: Basketball and Photography
Favorite recreation: Movies and playing cards

GIRLS' PRACTICE

(1947 Chieftain)

When Swan comes down, we're in the gym
Where she is reigning queen
A whistle blows, we start with vim
Our warming-up routine.
Beneath the basket sits the coach
She's ready with a roar
"Push e'm up there," is her reproach,
And don't miss any more."
"Five minutes rest," the coach allots,
But that is just a jest.
"Each forward take fifteen foul shots,
And do it while you rest!"
We practice hard, the way we should,
Like all teams Swan produces—
We are expected "to make good,
Not to make excuses."

Priscilla Clark

SWAN'S TRADITIONS

MAY FORMAL

In 1939, Epsilon Tau Epsilon sponsored the first May Formal at which the crowning of a May Ball King and Queen began another annual Husson tradition.



Joseph Haverlock 1956
and Miriam Coburn 1954

OPEN HOUSE FOR WOMEN

Open House for Women, sponsored by Epsilon Tau Epsilon Sorority, dates back to the early 1940's. Reflecting Miss Swan's friendliness and warmth, this event is held early in each academic year as a get-acquainted party. Breaking the ice is easy with Miss Swan's favorite game, Poor House!

BOSTON TRIP

For many years, Washington's birthday weekend found Miss Swan and sorority members boarding a bus in the early hours of the morning on their annual trip to "Bean Town". Shopping, eating, movies, and all-round fun were always highlighted by the Ice Follies. In the last couple of years, the sorority has taken to the hills for skiing, skating, and snowshoeing. Miss Swan limits herself to the snowshoes, snow traveler, picture taking and wrestling with surprised and unsuspecting sorority girls.

WATCH TO OUTSTANDING GRADUATING WOMAN

For several years, a gold medal was presented to the outstanding woman in the graduating class. Through the efforts of Miss Swan, the Sorority took over the award presentation of the first of many watches given and to be given through the years. The first recipient was June Hollis, Class of 1952.



EPSILON TAU EPSILON SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1955, ETE Sorority established two $100 memorial scholarships given in the names of Grace Stewart and Ethelyn Williams. These scholarships are given annually to a junior and senior girl enrolled in the Business Education Department.

CAMPING TRIP

Always an avid camper and lover of the outdoors, Miss Swan wished to share this interest with "her girls". Soon after joining the faculty of Husson College, she created what came to be an annual spring camping trip for ETE girls. Hundreds of alumnae have nostalgic memories of the coffee, sunburns, baked beans, and cold swims at Pushaw, Camp Roosevelt, or Green Lake—all of these are a part of Husson College and Miss Swan.

DELTA SIGMA DELTA SORORITY

After the four-year degree program went into effect, Epsilon Tau Epsilon grew very large and it seemed that all offices were held by the four-year students. In order that non-degree sorority members have an opportunity to fill sorority offices and take a more active part in sorority life, Delta Sigma Delta Sorority was established for one and two-year women.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET

The annual Mother-Daughter ETE Sorority Spring Banquet originated in 1957. In the last few years, the banquet has been expanded to the entire family of sorority members. The families can see what the girls are doing as well as meet other sorority families.

REFLECTIONS

CLARA L. SWAN
Brewer High School Valedictorian, 1930
National Honor Society, 1930
Husson College, 1930-1933
Tau Epsilon Scholastic Society, 1933
Mexico High School, Teacher, 1933-1936
Foxcroft Academy, Teacher, 1936
B.S. Degree, American International College, 1939
Instructor, Husson College, 1939
Adviser, Epsilon Tau Epsilon Sorority, 1939
Coach, Girls' Basketball, 1939-1958
Adviser, Women's Athletic Association, 1939
Head, Department of Secretarial Science, 1941-1946
Director, Husson College Summer School, 1941-
Executive Director, Husson College, 1946-1960
Adviser, Epsilon Tau Epsilon Chapter, Pi Rho Zeta International, 1946-
M.Ed., University of Maine, 1951
First Vice President, Husson College, 1950
Academic Dean, Husson College, 1960-
Vice President, Pi Rho Zeta International, 1962
President, Pi Rho Zeta International, 1963
Adviser, Epsilon Delta Alumnae Chapter, Pi Rho Zeta, 1963-
Member of Red Cross Motor Corps, 1940-1944
Member of Bangor Civilian Defense Casualty Post, 1943-1944
Assistant Matron, Queen City Juvenile Grange No. 10, 1943
Regional Membership Chairman, Eastern Business Education Association
Executive Board Member, New England Business Education Association
Finance Committee, National Business Education Association
Member of Maine Teachers Association
Member of Eastern Maine Board of Women's Basketball Officials
Life Member of National Association of Women's Basketball Officials (National Judge)
Member of Altrusa Club, Bangor, Maine
Member of Bangor Executive Club

From:

Husson College
157 Park Street
Bangor, Maine

To:



Clara Lincoln Swan
Cooperative Loyal Sincere

Cooperative — loyal — sincere. Those are highly coveted adjectives but all three are essential to any description of "Swan." She is beloved by the students of MSC because of her interest in them—their troubles, and their families. She holds a special place in the hearts of many. She is cooperative with her associates, loyal to her school, and sincere in her every deed. To her MSC is more than a school; it is a live thing to which she has given her heart. She is proud of Maine School but seems unconscious of the fact that the Maine School of which she is so proud is proud of HER and every student and every teacher joins in the general comment—She's Swell!

1944 Chieftain

Change MSC to Husson College and the same can be said of Miss Swan in 1964.

Miss Swan is very helpful,
Always a cheerful smile.
Her intelligence, kindness, and humor
Make school days really worthwhile.



SWAN BEFORE PI RHO ZETA PRESIDENT

Miss Swan, passing back bookkeeping exams: "All of you, your examination papers remind me of Quebec!"

E. Leavitt, in a curious tone: "Why do you say that?"

Miss Swan: "Because it was built on a bluff!"

1962 FACULTY-SORORITY BASKETBALL GAME!



Kneeling: David Robinson, Wm. Curran, Wm Parker, Madalyn Jordan, Coach Clara Swan, Mary Agnes Arnold. Standing: Nancy Hogan, Ed Lebrun, Thelma Watson, Priscilla Clark, "Bud" Foss, Mildred Bradford, Janice Moody, Ruby Swett, Janet Kinney.