

**Are you curious about the Trinity experience through the years?
Come with us as we time-travel decade by decade.**

**The Way We Were
(A Herstory of Trinity College of Vermont)
By Peggy McCluskey '60
and Carol Lyons Muller '68**

As we are getting ready to turn our calendars to 2025, it is a good time to step back and learn about the first Catholic women's college in Vermont. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Trinity College, we will highlight the people and backstories of those involved. We will deliver interesting facts and anecdotes by order of decade as we lead up to Reunion 2025. We will celebrate the gift of the Trinity spirit that has spread throughout Vermont, New England and at least 49 of our 50 states where alums have lived and flourished.

Imagine, if you will, the time before Google searches, cell phones, the internet, word processors and faxes. All paper correspondence was typed or handwritten. Telephones were fixtures on desks, and not every household had a phone. Messages were delivered via notepad. Files were sheets of paper held in cardboard folders and stored in metal cabinets. Double and triple copies of documents were done with carbon copies or a "mimeo" machine. "Snail mail" was the only mail apart from telegrams. Correspondence simply moved at a much slower pace than we expect today. Lost items needed to be rewritten. Managing a business or, in this case, establishing a college from the ground up, was a task that would challenge the organizational skills of anyone today; imagine the constant vigilance and drive it required to bring Trinity College to life in 1925.

The students were different too. Wide eyed girls, some never this far from their homes, arrived wearing gloves and hats. There was a dress code back then which no responsible mother allowed her sweet daughter to ignore. Many of the early Trinitarians were planning to join or had already joined the Sisters of Mercy, but not all. Many young women were the first of their families to attend college and much was expected of them. They carried their parents' hopes for a better future for a daughter; something all parents wanted then as they do now. There was an attitude of gratitude for the opportunity as well as the determination to succeed. An educated daughter would improve the prospects for her own family as well as the extended family. The women arrived with a single suitcase and a dream. Trinity College was their pathway to that dream. The Sisters, too,

recognized the responsibility that these parents had handed them; the Sisters would be guardians. The parents trusted Trinity College to keep their daughters safe. The Sisters took that obligation seriously.

Let's take a slow stroll through the "her" story of Trinity College. We will use the yearbooks, personal anecdotes, inputs from interested parties and newspaper clippings to remind us of the way we were. Let's honor those girls, ladies, and women who gave us the college that we are privileged to call our own.

Each monthly publication of our 'her-story' will explore a new decade of the College. Next month, learn about the decade of 'the twenties'. This installment will highlight the birth of Trinity College of Vermont as well as introduce the early students and some of their own stories.