

ALICE HAMILTON BELDING

Alice Belding's name still vividly recalls to those who knew her an imaginative person full of energy, truly generous, and with a contagious enthusiasm for all sports.

Born in Poughkeepsie in 1886, Miss Belding received her A.B. degree from Vassar in 1907 and her training in Physical Education at the Sergent School the following year. In 1908, she went to Randolph-Macon College where she served as Professor of Physical Education, Chairman of the Department, and also as Counsellor of Women. In 1926, she returned to Vassar as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Education. In 1937, she retired and spent her recent years at Wellfleet on Cape Cod.

Miss Belding was largely responsible for the design of Kenyon Hall. During a semester's leave, she visited new gymnasiums throughout the country; then worked with the Trustees and architect to plan Kenyon to meet the needs not only of the Department but also of recreational sports for students and their guests, a new idea at that time. If not the first, Kenyon was certainly one of the earliest of women's gymnasiums to provide dressing rooms for men, and shoes and equipment for their use. This was enough of an innovation for the New York Herald Tribune to quote her: "In mixed recreation the college again approximates the condition of society - - - men like women who are in sympathy with their sports interests." Kenyon provided not only facilities for men, but also an opportunity for Miss Belding to extend the departmental program to include more of the individual sports which students could continue to enjoy after college - bowling, squash, badminton. She started "Faculty Eights" in Kenyon, and for many years had the faculty competing in badminton for a Trophy she presented. As Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Eastern Association of Physical Education for College Women, she was able to extend her influence beyond Vassar, and after her retirement elected to honorary membership in the Association.

Miss Belding's extracurricular activities, too, were not confined to the campus. In Poughkeepsie in 1933, she organized a series of lectures for the unemployed in cooperation with the Mayor's Committee; she was closely associated with Lincoln Center, giving full-time to this work during 1937-38; in Wellfleet, where she directed a summer camp from 1913-1925, she later organized a summer recreation program and was instrumental in establishing "Wellfleet Associates" to develop better relations between the townspeople and summer residents.

ALICE HAMILTON BELDING (Continued)

A popular teacher arousing interest in her field event among the most nonathletic; an athlete whose baseball throw record remained unbroken for many years; a friend and colleague sharing her boundless energy and lively imagination; a citizen continuously working to improve conditions and relations among

people, Alice Belding throughout her life gave generously of herself to family, to student, to friend, to college, and to community.

Ruth Ellis

Elizabeth Richey

Mary Sague

Elizabeth Drouilhet