

Me: Hello! Today, students probably assume that college life has always been the same at IC. However, the life of a student on the South Hill Campus is very different from what it used to be when Ithaca College was still downtown. This is the second of two videos exploring the roots of Ithaca College. One again, Dr. Mary Arlin, an alumna and former professor of the Music School, will be joining me in narrating the film. Welcome to another episode of Ithaca College: Then and Now.

Dr. Arlin: In the downtown era, the college did not own dormitories that had been built specifically for that purpose. Instead, the college owned a variety of houses and other buildings that it used to house students. On the corner of Tioga and Buffalo streets was the original Williams Hall, which served as the women's dormitory after the college infirmary moved up East Hill to 2 Willets Place. The dining hall was in part of the downstairs section of the building, though male students had to get food other ways until 1958. Many local restaurants were kind enough to let students run up tabs and pay them in increments when they got money from their parents or from G.I. checks.

Me: Other dormitories were scattered around the city and included the former Martin Institute for Speech Correction at 311 N. Tioga St, which is no longer standing.

Westminster Hall, at 321 N. Tioga Street; Egbert Hall the former home of W. Grant Egbert, since demolished.

Sigma Alpha Iota, now almost completely hidden by foliage

Bert Rogers Lyon, just above Stewart Avenue on E. Buffalo St.

Newman Hall, at 503 E. Buffalo street...

... And its close neighbor Griffis Hall at 504.

The Conservatory Home for Lady students at 312 N. Geneva Street

Hilliard Hall, at 603 East Seneca St, which was an infirmary and then a dormitory.

Delta Phi Zeta, at 504 E. Seneca Street

Phi Delta Pi, also called Banks Hall, at 111 Osmun Place

Cascadilla Hall on Lake Ave

Phi Mu Alpha on Dewitt Place

And Stewart Hall at 204 Stewart Ave.

Dr. Arlin: Students at Ithaca College had few of the amenities students today expect. The buildings were old and often in need of repair, and male students were often on their own when it came to room and board. The men lived in the YMCA across the street from Williams, in fraternity houses, or rented rooms.

Me: Only in 1958, when the college bought the old Ithaca City Hospital on South Quarry Street and the Valentine Dormitory on Valentine Place, did the men have official dormitories. The hospital held the Science Department and some

student rooms until 1975, and the Valentine Dormitory was in the college's possession until 1981, when Emerson Hall opened.

Dr. Arlin: In the 1950s, Ithaca College still practiced the doctrine of *in loco parentis*, which gave the college the same legal rights as the students' parents or guardians. As a result, students' activities were much more carefully monitored. The dormitories had House Mothers, who admitted guests and made sure that the students behaved themselves. Visits by the opposite sex were limited, and female students had curfews and were expected to come to Sunday dinner in their best clothes, with high heels, gloves, and pocket books, in order to be served.

Me: The *Ithacan* still existed back then, but it and the *Cayugan*, the IC yearbook, were housed at 312 E. Buffalo Street. It would be many years before there would be a Journalism major at Ithaca College, and today the *Cayugan* is completely electronic.

Dr. Arlin: Students who were in the mood for adventure could attend the new student orientation and recreation program at Camp Danaca, an outdoor camp located off Danby Road, where they stayed in little cabins and ate together in a mess hall. In addition to various outdoor activities, students would prepare skits to perform for the rest of the camp. Camp Danaca was used by the college starting in 1954, and fell out of use after 1962, when the college was moving to South Hill.

Me: Today, the life of an Ithaca College student bears little resemblance to that of their predecessors. However, the culture and habits of the Downtown Era survive in memory for all members of the IC community to share. If you have any thoughts or experiences from the Downtown Era that you would like to preserve, please post them in the comments section of the video. This has been another episode of Ithaca College: Then and Now. Thanks for watching and see you next time.