Helen Hoyt reports on life for Williamsport Women at the beginning of the 20th century

By JANET McNEIL

HURLBERT
Spool to the Sun-Gazette

Dec. 11, 1916

Williamsport Women

Women at the beginning of the 20th century

Y. W. C. A. Outlook of Opportunity

Is Greater and Better Than Ever

New Quarters Ample Enough to Meet the Many Social and Educational Demands of the Association as Well as Those for Practical Needs of All Young Women and Girls Who Apply.

This clipping of an article by Helen Hoyt is from the May 22, 1913 edition of the Sun-Gazette.

By JANET McNEIL

HURLBERT
Spool to the Sun-Gazette

Dec. 11, 1916

Williamsport Women

Women at the beginning of the 20th century

Y. W. C. A. Outlook of Opportunity

Is Greater and Better Than Ever

New Quarters Ample Enough to Meet the Many Social and Educational Demands of the Association as Well as Those for Practical Needs of All Young Women and Girls Who Apply.

This clipping of an article by Helen Hoyt is from the May 22, 1913 edition of the Sun-Gazette.

Helen Hoyt reports on life for Williamsport Women at the beginning of the 20th century

After the writing course, Burch returned to Williamsport, and occasionally her social calendar permitted her to contribute to the newspaper. In 1914, she married John R. Dreibor, a very popular science teacher at the high school. The family moved to Denver in 1914.

Looking for news

The column continued until 1917, perhaps with several different authors. We find some of Helen's clips from the YWCA scrapbooks, including one relating to an women's activities and praying the local chapter as one of the best branches of the organization. An article from November 14, 1914, is included in the Home for the Friendless scrapbook; it is titled "Home for the Friendless Annual Dinner, Supper and Donation Day: Freshly Kille Kiddos and the Well-Known Chicken of the YWCA will Have Oyster supper Will Be Served. Home Shelters Many Old Lassies and Children." And the columns were witty and often written in the third person. She would sometimes venture out of her office into the Bulletin, talking about her friends.

Her columns focused on a wide range of topics, the most notable being the opening of the Campfire girl's new home and the boys' domestic science classes at a nearby school. "Helen" loved the theater and interviewed actors, whether they were old or young. She could. She wouldn't miss a performance of "The Reel Pant." The tour, she continued, with "good taste, good comfort and a little bit of the suggestive side of social current."

Societal concerns

"Helen" also wrote about serious topics, such as theROWN of her Sept. 27, 1910, column, "Childbirth: Horrifying Instance of Children Being Born in the most ghastly and surrounded by inhuman."

"She stated, "in our own Williamsport, there are cited daily tragedies of such pathetic and heartrending nature as to throw one into disbelief of their existence."

Pennsylvania railroad at the Park Hotel, she wrote that she was there to join the "new and "smart traveling bags."" She used the "pleasure" of the trip to express her thought on the importance of conventional clothing for women when they are traveling. She reportedly said that women should "have a good time," and she also expressed her support for the women's suffrage movement. When she launched an attack on the male populace that supported custard, she received quite a few letters to discuss the column. Or, she might resist the weather. "The only thing that is the weather...and we are all tied up with it - no one seems to realize that we need something to do in it."

Gossip of the photo-

play and photo-

play people

The Helen Hoyt column changed format in 1917, but it no longer appeared daily. The "Helen Hoyt" column, which had been a popular feature, was discontinued. But it readers learned what was happening in the town and even what was happening around the world.

Janet McNeil Hurlebeet is the director of Library Services, Lycoming College. She completed her graduate work in the Lycoming College Archives program, and is a member of the American Archival and Historical Association.

This clipping of an article by Helen Hoyt is from the Sept. 15, 1911 edition of the Sun-Gazette.