3-1-1963

Montana State University opens Knowles Hall

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Two hundred and forty girls found a new home in Missoula last week, to the accompaniment of mixed soprano yells of "Whoopee!"

For the record, Montana State University had just opened the doors of Knowles Hall for the first time. This is a shining new dormitory structure, started in 1961, and costing in the neighborhood of a million dollars, being paid for out of rental income and the like.

Through the days of a really tough Montana winter, construction crews had been plodding toward a finished job. Then, about a month ago, cleanup started and for about one whole day, all was in order and calm at Knowles. Came the invasion!

In nothing flat, the building was loaded with upwards of 40,000 pounds of hats, stretch pants, books, cosmetics, coats, ball gowns, socks, tenny-runners, high heels, photos, candy bars, portable flat irons, waving lotion, curl papers, sweaters, assorted toy bears, tigers, cats and dogs, blouses, old magazines, bobby pins, lipsticks, unopened letters and one pair of false eyelashes.

In nothing flat, it was impossible to get a telephone call in or out of the building, because every line was tied up. Every mattress was tested, every chair and couch in the lobby and rec rooms, every shower, water tap and electrical service plug got a workout and the automatic elevator robot nearly had a case of nervous prostration.

It took until curfew, but all was eventually put in order. As night deepened, Knowles Hall was filled with a susurus, a compound of pages being turned in study, a steam iron faintly hissing, slippered feet padding the corridors, a muted gab fest and the occasional "thump" of someone dropping the other shoe. Two hundred and forty girls, hailing from every section of Montana, and 19 outlying states, Canada and Sierra Leon, were calling it a day in their new campus home.
Knowles Hall -- MSU

Captions (for better or for verse!)

1. With bales and bags the students frail,

   (l to r Linda Davidson, Great Falls, Barbara Shenk, Menlo Park, Calif.)

2. Picked up their dorm keys,

   (Shirley Hart, Helena)

3. Checked for mail,

   (l to r Linda Davidson, June Davis, Stephanie Swanberg, all Great Falls)

4. Tried out each shower,

   (Phyllis Peterson, Great Falls)

5. Glanced in each mirror,

   (Karen McLean, Anaconda)

6. Left neat rooms looking somewhat queerer,

7. Made tests of furniture and rug,

   (Jane Bailey, Great Falls, Sharon Lee, Miles City)

8. And found the quarters nice and snug,

   (l to r June Davis, Great Falls, Marla Madison, Golden Valley)

9. Turned on each water tap, and then,

   (l to r Linda Davidson (mirror), June Davis, Stephanie Swanberg,
    Phyllis Peterson, all Great Falls)

10. Went out to scout the scene for men!

    (l to r June Davis, Phyllis Peterson, Linda Davidson, Stephanie Swanberg)