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Letter from Mrs. K. Moench

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Logan, Utah, Mar. 21, 1902.

President W. J. Kerr, and Hon. Board of Trustees,

Agricultural College of Utah.

Dear Sir:-

As customary, I take pleasure in submitting to you and the Honorable Board of the Agricultural College of Utah, a report of the Dormitory and its affairs since I took charge of it.

It is with pleasure that the outlook for the Dormitory and its growth, to be more encouraging than it was when I took charge of it. I would not like to dwell at any length upon the subject, but simply make such statements as would show you and the Honorable Board the favorable outlook of the growth of this institution as well as the need of some improvements if such should be possible. When I took charge of the Dormitory, eighteen students took board and room in the same during the first two weeks. This number increased gradually to fortyfive and fifty and more, so it was necessary to open the fourth story. The Board kindly made improvements, and at times every room has been taken and more rooms could have been used if such had been there. At the end of the school year, the number of boarders in the Dormitory varied from thirty to forty. Some students left for different reasons, especially for not being accommodated as to the privilege of private bath rooms, and heating. No serious cases of discipline have occurred except that some students had to be advised to leave the Dormitory for the best of everybody concerned.

The outlook for the future is entirely prosperous and the necessity of a Dormitory in this community has been clearly demonstrated. Whatever your arrangements may be for the future, I would like to mention the
following draw-backs, as to the growth and prosperity of the Dormitory:

First--A heating plant is necessary for two reasons. A.--As a matter of saving, as the expenses for coal and fuel during the past winter for the heating for thirty or more rooms, including kitchen, dining room, and parlor, has been almost enormous, and has taken away every cent which might have been counted as profit. B.--A heating plant is needed on account of danger of fire. During this winter, three times such danger was eminent; once produced by negligence of students, the second time by a broken stove, and the third time by the defective flues on the third floor. For the reason of smoking four rooms had to be put out of use entirely, and several times in other rooms, students had to vacate for a day or two until the smoke of the stoves could be remedied. In my own room, through simply negligence of having papered over the pipe holes, a fire broke out, and if not discovered in time, might have been serious.

Second--I have consulted with the City physician and others who think it necessary to have at least on each floor one room reserved for hospital purposes. During the last six months, I had to vacate my own rooms for seven weeks in order to accommodate a boy who had broken his leg, and could not be transported to the third or fourth floor. While the students of the Dormitory have been freer from diseases than any other year before, yet we had to deal with several cases of Diphtheria and other diseases which compelled us to quarantine such students entirely from the rest.

I have worked as hard and faithfully as I could in order to make the Dormitory a success, and, although discouraged at times at the outlook, I have kept up courage and shall do so in the future. I had to deal with very perplexing questions. First, at times I have been unable to secure sufficient help to assist me, and have been not only matron, but also cook and everything connected with it. I seem to have solved the problem
of help now as I have secured a good cook and sufficient other help, although under great expense. During the winter about six students have earned their living by assisting in the house work. I aim to give such board as will give general satisfaction, and I think I have succeeded in doing so, although I have not been able to earn even wages for my services, except my own little family expenses. I believe I possess the confidence of the students, and, with some changes as to rules and regulations for next year, I have no doubt that the Dormitory will be made a greater success than this year.

As the material result in my favor is very little compared with the hard task of my services during the year, I do not complain as to the results but am more encouraged for next year, if I shall remain in the Dormitory and have your support in the same way as I have enjoyed it in the past. It is for you to decide whether I shall take the dormitory under the same conditions as this year, or whether you prefer to have the financial part managed direct from the college and pay me a salary for my services.

As mentioned, this is open for deliberation and left entirely for you to decide.

Finally I would suggest that rules and regulations be printed to be sent out with each catalogue, so that patrons and students may understand what is expected of them.

I take pleasure to affix a statement of the expenditure from September 1, to April 1, as closely approximated as possible, and verified with my bank account. The expenses during the last six months for fuel, butcher, furniture dealer, help, lights, groceries, and necessary improvements have been close to $3,000. The income during the last six months has not
covered expenses entirely, but when able to collect the outstanding bills, I trust that I can almost balance the expenses with the income. Although, I am afraid that in the end there will be a slight deficiency.

In submitting this report to your Honorable body, I would mention that next year the one in charge of the dormitory will not have to work under such disadvantages as I have this year. As stated above, although the six months have been full of work and perplexities, I am of good courage and leave the settlement for next year entirely in your hands.

Yours very respectfully,

(Mrs. H. Mencel)