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Mildred has a beau

Part two of
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During the years following the end of World War I, a Willimantic teenager, Mildred Aspinwall, kept a detailed diary and scrapbook of her social



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life. Just who was Mildred? According to the Willimantic city directories, the Aspinwall family left Willimantic for Massachusetts in 1926, so it may be hard to reunite Mildred's recollections with her descendants.

Nevertheless, this unique historical document, consisting of personal entries, dance cards and tickets for sporting events, provides a rare view of the social scene for young people in Willimantic and at the Connecticut Agricultural College in Storrs.

Monday evening, March 21, 1921, was the date for Windham High School's sixth annual Minstrel Show and Dance to be held in the auditorium. Mildred mentioned that George Bartlett directed the show and Bob Rafferty was master of ceremonies. She opened the event by singing a ballad and later performed a popular romantic song called "Why Don't You." However, Mildred stated that she was not infatuated with Rafferty as most of her friends thought but admitted she had been interested in him once.

Mildred had a crush on Bob Webber and hoped to bump into him on a trip to Hartford. He had a red Buick and when a similar car pulled up, she thought it was him. Unfortunately, it was not. The man in the Buick was "not nearly as well built or as tall. Bob

is perfect," she wrote.

Some weeks later, McChesney Eddy took her to Storrs to see the agricultural college's dramatic club perform George M. Cohan's "Hit the Trail Holliday" at the Hawley Armory.

She wrote that it was very nice of him to take her but that she could "never, never like him, because he was too childish and in any case all my thoughts are for Bob Webber."

Dances held in Storrs provided Mildred with many opportunities to meet boyfriends. On April 20, 1921, Henry Beaumont, an agricultural college student, took her to a dance at the Hawley Armory.

She enjoyed the date, but wrote that he was a tiny chap, "really too short for me." Nevertheless, he was a nice enough fellow and was splendid to her.

Oct. 14, 1921 was the date for the senior "Hop" held in the town hall and Mildred was organizing chairman. She fixed up the auditorium with a Stars and Stripes flag and filled the hall with balloons and "let 'em loose" during a dance.

She also sold lollipops and novelty hats and wrote that she had "cleaned up quite a bit on it."

On Nov. 3, 1921, Mildred went to Norwich with Jim Burr, May

Moran, Edna Burgess, Carl Elison and Berth Swanson to watch a football game between the Norwich Free Academy and Windham High School. The Connecticut Agricultural College's class of 1923's mid-year informal dance at the Hawley Armory in Storrs was held at 8 p.m. on Feb. 17, 1922.

Mildred's dance card reveals that she had a busy evening. Of the 20 dances, the majority were fox trots and Mildred had 11 different partners. However, the eighth dance was special because it was with her beloved Bob Webber and she wrote in parentheses, "Light of my Life. Love You."

On Aug. 24, 1922, Mildred and Maria Bruckner rode to Stafford Springs and Rockville in a friend's new car, a Paige Daytona, a three-seat roadster with a 6-liter engine. The third seat pulled out from the side of the car over the near side running board. The automobile was open and she recorded that it was a cold night.

Mildred's diary and scrapbook end abruptly and give no clue as to what became of her. Ed Tollman of Lebanon found the diary at an antiques fair and would love to get it back to those who knew or were related to Mildred.