



TIRELESS PIONEER ... Constance Applebee

Nancy Tomkins on Constance Applebee, who has died aged 107

Apple of every eye

A pioneer in women's sports at the beginning of the century, Constance Applebee began life in Chigwell, Essex, as a delicate child then lived vigorously into her 107th year. The Apple (as she became universally known) wrote to American friends after her 100th birthday, "I am living alone and attending to the usual housekeeping chores with a little outside help." She still lived alone until her recent death.

Her great work was done in the United States — of which she became a citizen — a long time ago. She retired as director of outdoor sports at Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, in 1929 when she was 56 but she returned annually to coach there and elsewhere and to meet old friends. The last journey home to a house in the New Forest was in January, 1968.

The Apple taught and introduced into the U.S. other sports but field hockey was the game that brought recognition from the highest authorities and made her a legend in her adopted country.

Chance frequently decided the course of her life. It led her into physical education and enrolment in the British College of Physical Education in London and to the Harvard Summer School in 1901. There, a chance discussion about sports in England with Harriet Ballentine, director of athletics at Vassar College, resulted in the improvised game of hockey behind the gymnasium in the Harvard courtyard. Thus field hockey began in the U.S. about 10 years after its introduction to English women.

Other works that would continue even into her 90s engrossed the Apple. Before she left Bryn Mawr, she coached in many parts of the U.S.A. and in 1922 started the summer hockey camp, Camp Tegawitha, in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania at which 1,000 enthusiasts from schools, clubs and colleges registered annually. The ultimate coincidence is that this camp returns this year to directorship by descendants of the Lynch family with whom Miss Applebee negotiated her enterprise 58 years ago.

Her good works flourished on both sides of the Atlantic. She was 66 years old when the second world war started but she became busy with the Red Cross, U.S.O. and church work for the services. In 1940, on her initiative, U.S. hockey players sponsored two regular ambulances and one desert ambulance for the British-American Ambulance Corps.

In her home at the edge of the village of Burley, her organising powers started the Campden Community Club (1946) and later, in her 80th year, a new club room (1953) for which she endowed a library and arranged for residents of a nearby old people's home to use the facilities. There was work for Dr Barnado's, the Princess Elizabeth Hospital in London and St Paul's Church, East Ham; also fund raising for the club.

Dr Nancy Sawin, a former USFHA President, Principal of Sanford School, hockey coach and friend, wrote in 1973, Miss Applebee's centenary year, "The Apple stands alone." It could be her epitaph.

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THE GUARDIAN

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DEATHS

APPLEBEE.—On January 26th, Constance Mary Katherine, aged 107, after a lifetime of devotion to the Greek ideals of freedom, beauty, excellence and the pursuit of truth, she introduced field hockey to the United States in 1901. Funeral service at St. John the Baptist Church, Burley, Hampshire, on Tuesday, February 3rd, at 2.30 p.m., followed by interment. Cut flowers only, please, to C. Leat and Son, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset (0425 72245).

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1981

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DEATHS

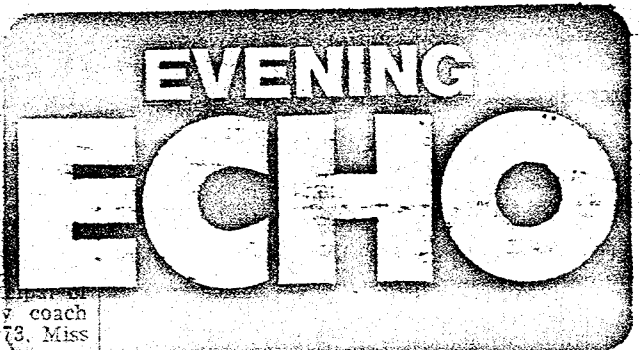
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Family Announcements

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81st Year — No. 21524

BOURNEMOUTH, WED., JAN. 28, 1981 Price 10p

Protests expected at college proposal

Local authorities are expected to make strong protests over government plans to remove polytechnics and higher education colleges from their control, but many will be relieved to have a heavy financial burden lifted. The proposals involve the establishment of a new national body responsible for allocating government funds **Page 5**

Rates rise: A GLC rate increase of 17.6 per cent means that inner London rate rises will range from 20 to 70 per cent **4**

Madrid: East and West fail to find neutral ground on disarmament **6**

Havana: Cuba is preparing its people to defend the revolution against a Reagan assault **7**

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 8, 11; La crème de la crème, 23, 24; Personal, 8, 26; Residential property, 23

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Letters: On criminal attempts, from Professor J. A. Andrews and others; nationality, from Mr Ian Martin, and Mr D. H. Paulin

Leading articles: Unemployment; West German Government; One pound coin **Features, pages 9, 14**

Bernard Levin at the Royal Academy; Ian Murray on Algeria's new outlook; Marcel Berthoin on the danger of trial on TV; Alan Hamilton's London Diary; **Obituary, pages 16**

Miss Constance Applebee, Mr Jack Knights **Arts, page 11**

Shéridan Morley interviews Judy Campbell, who opens in the Young Vic *Pygmalion* tonight; A. L. Rowse reviews *The First of the Tudors* **Sport, pages 12, 13**

Football: West Ham lose two-goal lead in League Cup; **Cricket:** India force draw with Australia; **Snooker:** Steve Davies beaten in first round of Masters event

Business News, pages 17-22

Stock Markets: Equities maintained their recent rally spurred on by hopes of a fall in interest rates and gilts returned to favour with rises of £1. The FT index closed 5.5 higher at 467.4

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OBITUARY

MISS CONSTANCE APPLEBEE

Pioneer in women's hockey

Miss Constance Applebee, who introduced women's field hockey into the United States in 1901, has died in Hampshire, at the age of 107.

Born on June 4, 1873, at Chigwell, Essex, Miss Applebee was delicate. She did not go to school but was taught Greek by a neighbour and was encouraged to go on with her studies. Primarily to improve her health, she became interested in physical education and eventually trained at the British College of Physical Education in London where she gained a diploma.

In the summer of 1901 this dynamic young woman went to Harvard University, United States, for a year's course in "track" to study under Dr Dudley Sargent. She proved a star pupil. One rainy afternoon Miss Applebee, the director of physical education of Vassar College, Dr Sargent and Dr Tait Mackenzie were discussing the merits of American and English women athletes. Miss Applebee suggested field hockey as a measure, and was amazed to find that none of her companions understood or knew of the sport.

The next afternoon Miss Applebee produced the first women's hockey game in the United States, played with a collection of ice hockey and shinty sticks, an indoor baseball and chalk lines in a concrete yard outside Harvard University gymnasium.

She remained in the United States and in 1904 was appointed director of outdoor sports at Bryn Mawr College, a post she held until 1928. In

1923 she established a hockey camp at Mt Pocono, Pennsylvania, and brought out coaches from England. This arrangement still exists today.

She was a woman of great purpose whom no situation defeated. On the occasion of a visit of the Queen of the Belgians in 1919 to Bryn Mawr the demonstration game of hockey put on for the royal visitor began late as the light was fading. The ball was soon lost and a crisis loomed, but "the Apple" rushed onto the field. "You silly asses," she cried, "lift your great feet and play! Act as if you had the ball."

Until 1965 Miss Applebee divided her time between England and the United States. In 1976, aged 94, she attended the International Federation of Women's Hockey Association conference and tournament in West Germany and was appointed an honorary life member (overseas) of the All-England Women's Hockey Association.

She was also interested in elderly people, and among the many charities she supported were clubs and homes for the elderly. She had a strong belief in Christian day to day living and the lessons of give and take, working with others, initiative, concentration, endurance, sportsmanship, friendship, fun and fitness.

For the past five or six years she lived alone, getting about her house and garden in an electric chair. She talked with a strong voice, and almost up to the end took an interest in what was going on in the world, though her sight was failing. She was a truly remarkable woman.

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THE EVENING NEWS

Prominent hockey leaders at funeral

Prominent people in the world of hockey attended the funeral last week of Miss Constance Applebee, of Burley, who died at the age of 107.

Miss Applebee introduced women's hockey in America in 1901 and in her lifetime saw the sport spread from coast to coast with the rapid rise of American teams in world class.

She was born in Essex and crossed the Atlantic at the age of 28 and quickly rose to become one of the foremost figures in American higher education.

Her early career was mainly associated with Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, later developing close ties with another prestigious university, the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

Simultaneously, she founded a summer camp for teaching young hockey players, importing from Britain the best coaches she could find.

With other admirers of the game, she founded the United States Field Hockey Association — an organisation which still administers the sport.

The funeral at St. John the Baptist Church, Burley, was attended by leaders of field hockey in Hampshire and other parts of England, as well as seven Americans who flew over for the funeral.

The Americans included three former presidents of the U.S. Field Hockey Association, among them Dr. Nancy Swain, who read one of Miss Applebee's favourite passages from the Bible.

Among the mourners were some of the nurses who cared for Miss Applebee during her long illness.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Burley, the Rev. W. F. Shail, who said Miss Applebee had the rare knack of inspiring young people to play the game well, without the overriding concern for winning.

The vicar read a telegram from Mr. John Greer, president of the Field Hockey Association of America.

Mr. Greer said Miss Applebee's introduction of women's hockey in the States had led indirectly to the founding of the sport for men in that country.

The American flag was draped over the coffin and was afterwards presented to Miss Anne Delano, of Bryn Mawr College, America.

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FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY, 1981

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THE BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE

Applebee Wins Award Of Merit

The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) has selected Constance M. K. "The Apple" Applebee to receive its 1980 Award of Merit.

Miss Applebee taught hockey at William and Mary with the late Martha Barksdale. Now 106, she lives in the small village of Burley in Hampshire, England.

Affectionately known as "The Apple," Miss Applebee introduced the sport of field hockey in the United

States. Among the many trophies she treasures at her home, "The Withies," on the edge of the New Forest, is a set of Jefferson cups, each with a William and Mary coat of arms, which was a gift from friends of the College.

She demonstrated the game of field hockey at Harvard in 1901 and introduced field hockey at Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley and Radcliffe. In 1922 she organized the United States Field Hockey Association.