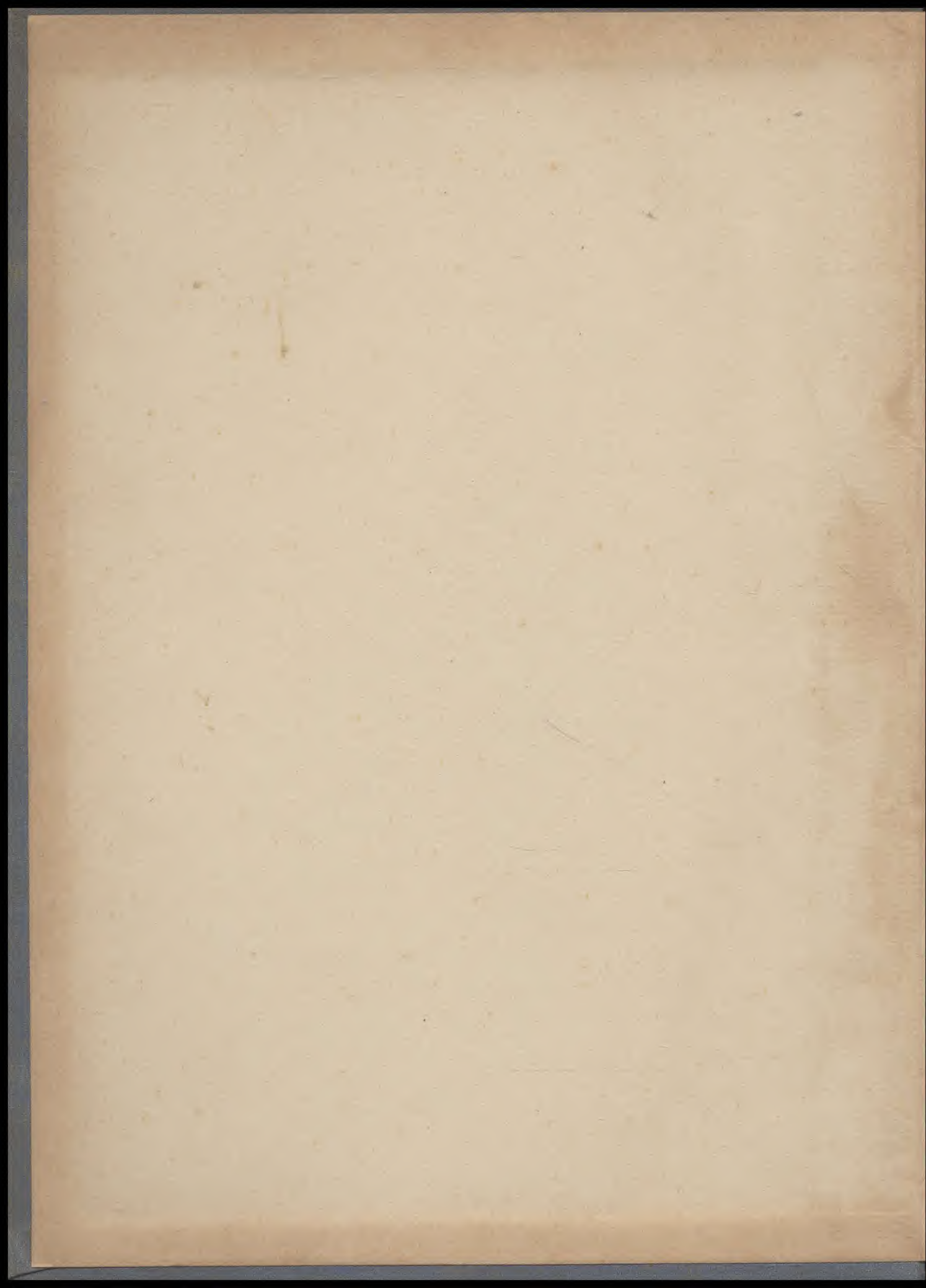
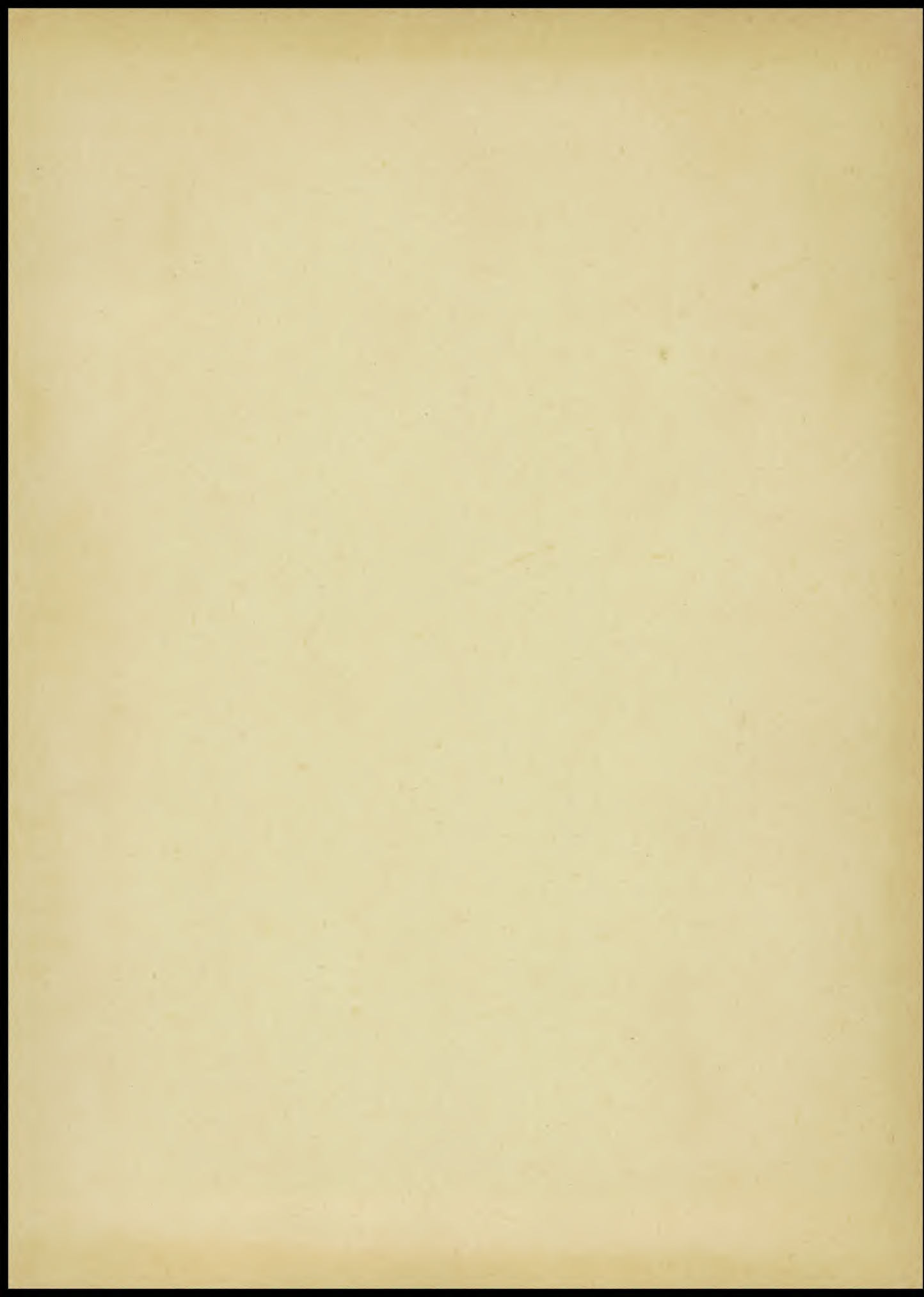
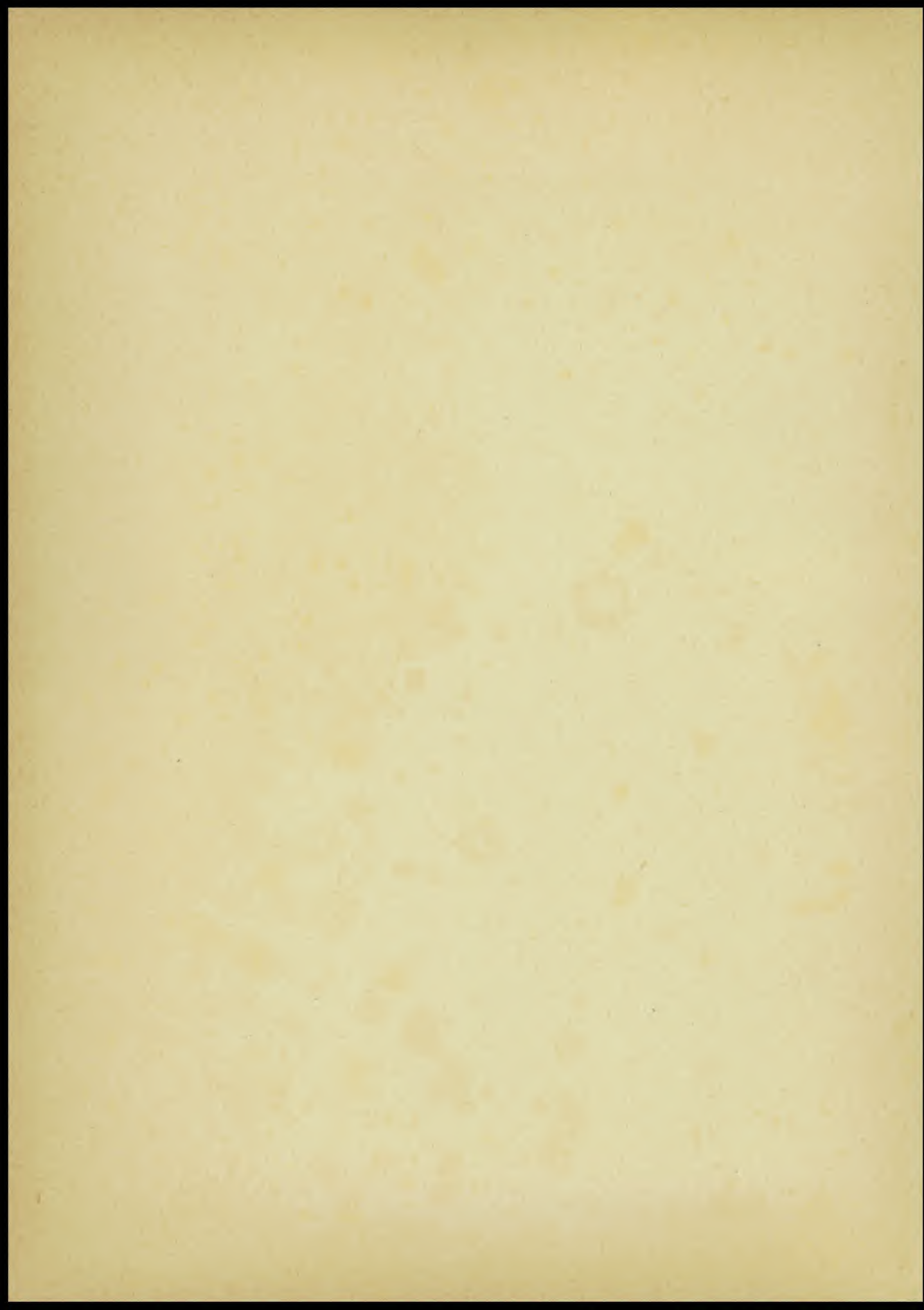


# 1941 BLUE LETTER









*The Blue Letter*

METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL

Metuchen, New Jersey



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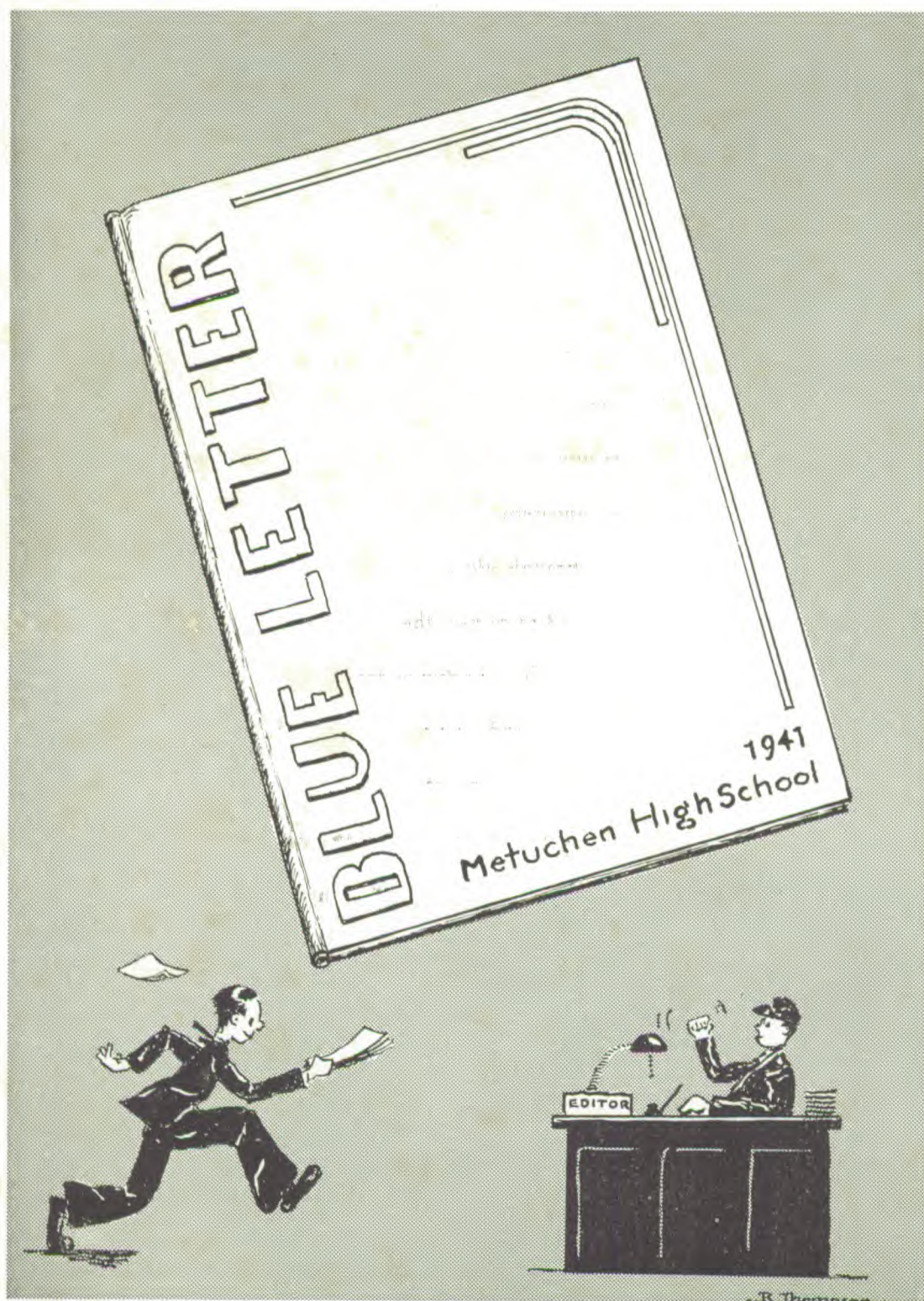
VIRGINIA ELLIS

ISOBEL DE FRATES

GRACE THURSTON

GRACE HARRIS

PUBLISHED BY THE SENIOR CLASS  
METUCHEN HIGH SCHOOL





# *F o r e w o r d*

Too many joys and sadnesses crowd the brief span of life, called youth, to remember all that has ever come to pass . . . How far, far, away the carefree laughter, the mad excitement, and the frantic tears of youth must seem to the aged . . . And it is when the full memory fades, like gay, startling chintz in constant sun, that age finds real conquest . . . For, those who learn to live in the gayer past are younger longer . . . To rekindle the spent, fast dying embers of memory means reincarnation of Life itself . . . And we, in the harder, discouraging days to come, when pain and struggle may become so apparent, must learn to look over pale souvenirs . . . to ramble through old letters, school papers, pennants . . . school songs . . . and of course, the Blue Letter . . . That is good for weary souls . . . It is medicine for the sick at heart . . . all those things we loved and learned to love . . . all those things we, in youth, dreamed of doing when we "grew up" —all just faint memories . . . but written here in this book and in our hearts, forever . . .





## *D e d i c a t i o n*

We know a greater way to dedicate this book to Mr. Elmo Spoerl than to use simple words. We shall dedicate this book keeping in mind the principle that "Uncle Moe" has always taught and, we are sure, has always lived for: spirit.

For if this senior class can live with one another truthful in spirit, then we have dedicated not a book, but our future, to things that "Uncle Moe" has always encouraged . . .

No matter the theme of our work in school — we know well that we do it for educational fellowship. We do it to create new trends of thought — true. But all of school is not reading and writing — but making friends and learning to live with people — and love them.

And this spirit comes from Mr. Spoerl — he taught it for twenty-five years — and — with God's will — twenty-five years more — and in deep, reverent thanks we say to "Uncle Moe" who has taught us how to live — God bless you, Sir —

# Board of Education



MR. SHERWOOD MUNDY, PRESIDENT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

With the world in turmoil, with nations, governments, races and peoples being almost daily destroyed, perhaps forever, what message of hope can be given to those who are graduating from their sheltered school life and now ask the question, "What next?"

It seems certain that one of the most precious advantages offered by our country today is the hope of a future, a future which reasonably may be planned for, hoped for, worked for; a future which has been irretrievably lost to millions of youths in other lands, for whom each day's mere existence is an empty success. Many of them have lost even the last vestige of hope, that hope which the poet tells us springs eternal in the human breast.

For you, however, and for thousands of others like you, who will this year in our country be setting forth more fully into life, there is hope abundant, the security that comes from our country's heritage, from a strong, free people, united to preserve its way of life for you, our youth, our country's hope.

You will be the makers of our country's future, and for you there is the opportunity and duty so to take your place that you may preserve for future graduates that which you have today — the hope of a future.



## IN MEMORIAM



MR. HUGH PRICE

The late Hugh Price, president of the Board of Education for the past year, was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. He attended the Buffalo public schools, and went to the University of Buffalo. At college he received his degree for Doctor of Law, and became a member of the New York Bar Association.

Upon graduation, Mr. Price did public accounting work until the World War came. He served in the United States Army, but did not go overseas.

After the war, Mr. Price received employment with General Ceramics, where he worked until his recent death. He became active in Metuchen life, and although rather austere in appearance, he had a warm heart. During his last days, the thing he fought most for was our beautiful new addition, because he wanted all children to have the best.

Few of the students knew Mr. Price, but those who did, remember him as a valuable friend.

# F A C

J. ALMOND: Trenton State, B.S. Social Science

L. ANKER: Upsala College, A.B.; New York Univ., M.A. German, English

F. ARNOLD: Wesleyan College, A.B.; Rutgers Univ., M.Ed.; Univ. of Wisconsin; Northwestern Univ.; Fairmount State; Mathematics

S. COOKE: Trenton State, B.S.; Rutgers Univ.; Columbia Univ. Librarian

E. CROWELL: Arnold College, B.S.P.E.; Rutgers Univ. Physical Education

M. CUNLIFFE: Rutgers Univ., B.S.; Univ. of Illinois; Michigan State. English

I. DE FRATES: Emerson College, B.A.; Univ. of Pennsylvania; Temple Univ.; Rutgers Univ.; Penn State Univ. English

E. DENNY: Rider College, B.S. in Com. Commercial

V. ELLIS: Trenton State, B.S. General Science

M. FENNESSY: Trenton State, B.S.; Middlesex County Jr. College; Rutgers Univ. Social Studies, English

M. GRAHAM: Trinity College, B.A.; Columbia T.C., M.A. French, World History

L. HAITSCH: Upsala College, B.A.; New York Univ. English

G. HARRIS: Trenton State, B.S. English

G. HARRISON: Lafayette College, B.S.; Columbia Univ., M.A.; Rutgers Univ.; New York Univ. Chemistry, Physics

R. HERB: Lebanon Valley College, B.A.; Rutgers Univ., Ed. M.; Penn State. American History

C. KILLIAN: Univ. of Dubrique, B.A.; Columbia Univ., M.A.; Montclair State; Univ. of Wisconsin. Biology, Chemistry

M. LEIS, Secretary to Mr. Spoerl





# ULTY

H. LAWRENCE: Trenton State, B.S. Commercial

P. NIELSON: Rutgers Univ., B.S.; Columbia T.C., M.A. Science

E. PLATT: Pembroke College, Brown Univ., A.B.; Rutgers Univ. History

F. RICHARDS: Rutgers Univ., B.S. Social Studies

I. ROHRS: N. J. C., A.B. Social Studies

E. SAVILLE: Trenton State, B.S.; Columbia Univ. Music

G. SCHENCK: Rider College, B.C.S. Commercial

P. SCHMIDTCHEN: Rutgers Univ., B.S.; M.Ed. Sociology, Economics

P. SEITZER: Springfield College, B.P.E.; M.Ed.; New York Univ. Physical Education

W. SMITH: Lafayette College, B.S.; Rutgers Univ., M.Ed. Mathematics

V. SPARKES: Mansfield State, Diploma; Rutgers Univ., B.S.; Penn State; Lehigh Univ.; Columbia Univ. Mathematics

M. HILLEY-SWANK: Temple Univ.; Univ. of Pennsylvania; Rutgers Univ. Commercial

G. THURSTON: Montclair State, B.A. Latin, English

A. ZABEL: Trenton State, B.S.; Rutgers Univ. English

I. FENNON: Fitkin Memorial Hospital, R.N.; Rutgers Univ. School Nurse

DR. J. WITMER: Penn College, B.S.; Long Island College Hospital, M.D. School Physician

E. JORLETTE: Administration Secretary





#### EMMA JANE BAILEY

Sarah and Dot . . . mousy stillness . . . speculation in sports . . . dance-time.  
Basketball 4.

#### BETTIE BAUMAN

still water runs deep . . . sunny tresses . . . half smile . . . "Alice Blue" eyes.  
Footlighters 1, 2; Basketball 2, 4; Photography 4; Tumbling 1, 2, 3, 4.

#### GLENN H. BEAGLE

Herculean brawn . . . quiet as his smile . . . ponderous perambulation . . . an armful of books.

#### GLORIA BIEN

a French lady's petiteness . . . palm tree stillness . . . pinlike neatness . . . manners of Post.  
G. A. A. 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Supreme Court 4; Tri-Y 3, 4; Photography 3; French 3.

#### WILLIAM BIRDSALL

fun in chemistry . . . looking at the stars . . . laugh of subtle mildness . . . gentle insinuations.  
Astronomy 3, 4; Senior Play Comm. 4; Blue Letter 4; Student Government 4.

#### MARY ANN BJORNSEN

picture collecting fan . . . honesty, the best policy . . . basketball.  
Basketball 2; Hall Patrol 4; Footlighters 2.

#### PEGGY BOHNSACK

page boy patronizer . . . someone's companion . . . world, here I come.  
Blue Letter 4; Footlighters 1, 2, 3, 4; Photography 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 4; Jr.-Sr. Prom, Comm. 3; Junior Dance Comm. 3.

#### PORTIA BOOKER

dreamy eyes . . . everyone's friend . . . the silence of dawn . . . that understanding look.

#### LEONA BOULIA

"there's something about a soldier" . . . a laugh a day . . . hidden fire . . . lunch-time stenog.  
Foreign Correspondence 3; G. A. A. 3; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4.

#### CECILY BRENNAN

creative flair . . . for-get-me-nots . . . will o' the wisp . . . brooklet.



## WINIFRED CAREY

somebody's stenog . . . gentle as a lamb . . .  
reticent . . . ping-pong.  
Basketball 4; Glee Club 4.

## MAY CARVER

lengthy tresses . . . book worm's protégé . . . moon-  
beam frailty . . . silent as air.  
Library 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 2, 3; Blue Letter 3;  
Hall Patrol 4.

## SAMUEL CHECHE

curls of coal black . . . wild drum solo . . . Barnet  
melodies . . . "Hellos" while on patrol.  
Hall Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4.

## VIRGINIA CHECHE

want ad for height . . . every hair in its place,  
please . . . annexed to silence . . . bandbox.  
French 2; Foreign Correspondence 2; Blue Letter 4;  
Recorder Club 4.

## JEAN CLANCEY

soft winds . . . visions of mirth . . . quick as a  
wink . . . far away dreams.  
Hall Patrol 4; French 3, 4—Secretary 4; Glee Club  
4; Footlighters 3, 4; Tri-Y 3, 4; Blue Letter 4.

## WILLIAM CLAUSEN

that shock of blondness . . . toothpaste ad smile  
. . . icy cokes . . . fresh outdoor fun.  
Basketball 3, 4; Golf 4.

## VIRGINIA COLEMAN

flirting on a blonde scale . . . gingervating . . .  
captivating earrings . . . a honeyed smile.  
Footlighters 1, 2, 3, 4; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Glee Club  
3, 4; German 2, 3; G. A. A. 2, 3; Basketball 2;  
Recorder Club 3; Public Speaking 2; Hall Patrol 4;  
Student Government 4; Astronomy 4.

## NATHANIEL CORNELISON

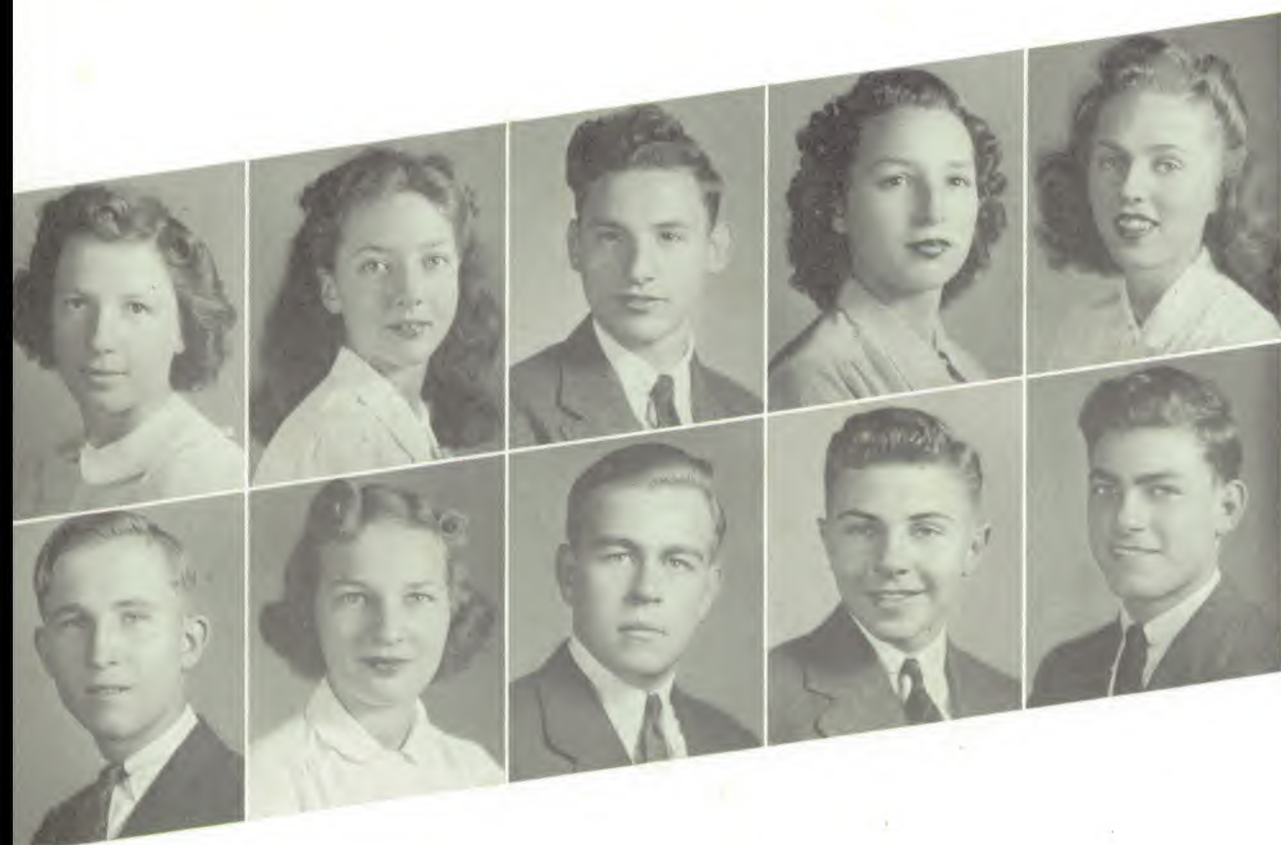
flash of sport coat . . . hysterical laugh . . . fun  
to the limit . . . Betsy.  
Latin 1, 2; Astronomy 4; Blue Letter 4; Orchestra  
3, 4; Football 3, 4; Basketball 4; Hi-Y 3, 4; Varsity  
Club 3, 4; Baseball 1.

## LESLIE CRONK

soft furry camel's hair . . . bright gaudy greens . . .  
smooth, pleasant pipeful . . . unruly molasses hair.  
German 3; Track 4; Recorder Club 3; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4;  
Basketball 2, 3; Blue Letter 4; Astronomy 4.

## REGINALD CROWELL

"Hornet's Nest"—with hornets . . . sticky Guava  
jelly . . . soft Heather . . . black curls . . . Ann.  
Football 3, 4; Varsity Club 3, 4; Glee Club 3, 4;  
Blue Letter 4; Hi-Y 3, 4; Student Government 4;  
Senior Play 4.





#### PATRICIA DANA

chock full o' kindness . . . tricky bracelets . . .  
stand-in for humor . . . true as a pine.  
German 3, 4; French 1, 2; Glee Club 2, 3, 4;  
G. A. A. 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Prom  
Comm. 3; Senior Play Comm. 4; Blue Letter 4;  
Middionettes 1, 2; Hall Patrol 4; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4;  
Fencing 2, 4; Photography 1, 2.

#### VIRGINIA DAVIS

a laugh made of chuckles . . . those eyes of soft  
brown . . . falling snow . . . tintinabulations.  
Latin 2—Secretary; Recorder Club 3—Secretary;  
G. A. A. 2, 4—President 4; Basketball 2, 4.

#### GLORIA DE FILLIPO

smoke curls . . . magazine fingernails . . . feather  
weight . . . winsome.  
Hall Patrol 2; Glee Club 2, 3; Footlighters 2.

#### ROSE DE NAPOLI

dreams of Venice . . . alternating hair styles . . .  
a lilting laugh . . . dark solemnity.  
Footlighters 2.

#### VIOLET DE SANCTIS

sweet peas and violets . . . sea breeze in August  
. . . lashes . . . a friend in need.  
Glee Club 3, 4.

#### QUENTIN DIETZ

dissertations on complications . . . hair that knows  
no comb . . . silvery violin melody . . . a quiet  
ballroom dance.  
Orchestra 1, 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 2, 3, 4; Foot-  
lighters 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 3; Varsity Club 3, 4;  
Tennis 2, 4; Recorder Club 3; French 2, 3; Senior  
Play 4; Astronomy 4; Reviewers 3.

#### DOROTHY DIMLER

those inevitable bangs . . . that swiny walk . . .  
giggles . . . field of daisies.  
Tumbling 1.

#### HELEN DONAHUE

pixie grin . . . sporty . . . mouse concert . . .  
hair trouble.  
French 2; Foreign Correspondence 2; Glee Club  
1, 2, 3; Footlighters 4; Blue Letter 4.

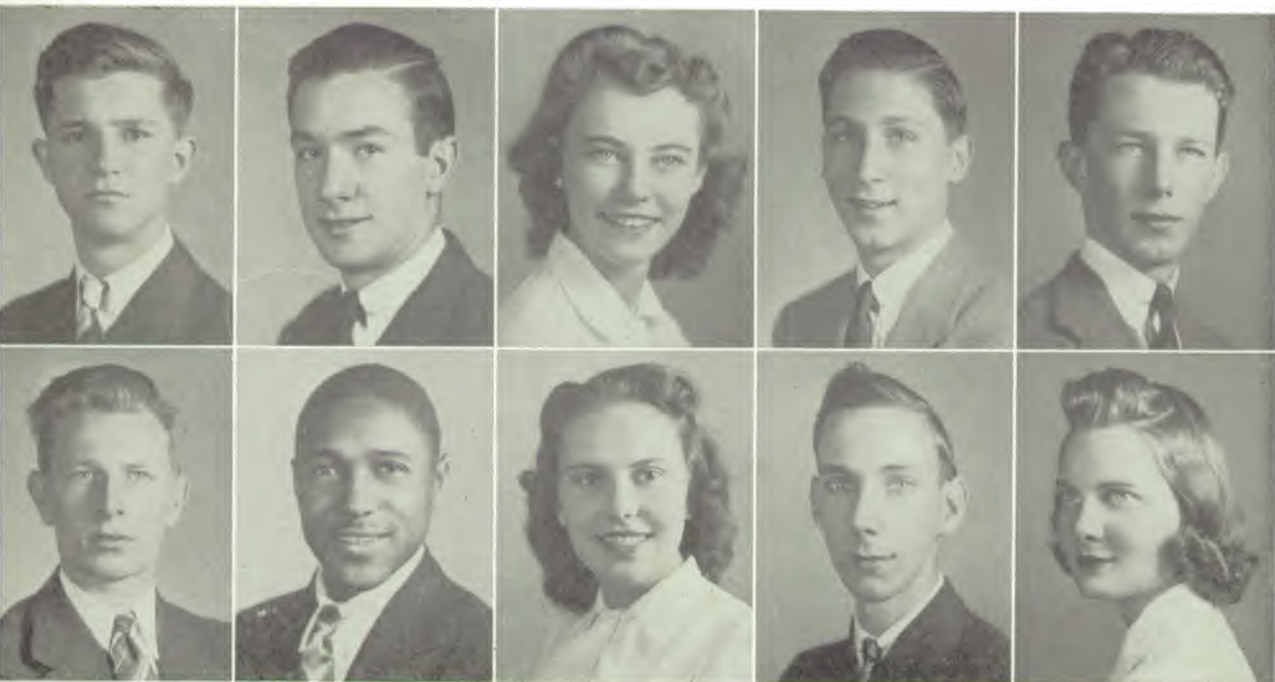
#### HELEN DORSCH

fluff of blonde curls . . . peanuts . . . Ruth and  
Ann . . . good times.  
Basketball 1; Blue Letter 4.

#### DORIS DRAKE

thoughts on a cloud . . . pussyfoot tread . . . bows  
and beaus.  
Footlighters 3, 4; Photography 3, 4.





#### WALTER FEDIRKO

loud, hearty salutations . . . sleeves rolled up for work . . . a ready, haunting smile . . . those strolls to Thomas' Pond.  
Football 3, 4; Track 3, 4.

#### FRANCIS FIERRO

hat with a green band . . . comfortable ride 'round town . . . guffaws for laughter.

#### BEATRICE FISHER

Navy minded maiden . . . ivory keys . . . photographic dreams . . . soft-breeze silence.  
Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 1, 2, 3, 4; Student Government 2, 3.

#### OTTO FISHER

gay, reckless cartoons . . . long creative hands . . . walking rapidly to school . . . "East of the Sun—West of the Moon"  
Hall Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4.

#### WILLIAM FRASER, JR.

tobacco tweeds . . . shining skis . . . Fraser plaid . . . hay fever sneeze.  
Photography 1; Baseball 1; Student Government 1, 4; Hi-Y 3, 4; French 3, 4; Tennis 3, 4; Basketball 3, 4; Surveying Club 4; Varsity Club 4; Blue Letter 4.

#### FRANKLIN FREDERICK

straw colored hair . . . country brawn . . . whist'ling softly . . . awkward smile.  
Baseball 1; Football 3.

#### EDWARD FREEMAN, JR.

lovable Deacon . . . running the half mile . . . laugh full of teeth . . . cheery, happy fun.  
Photography 1, 2; Track 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### JUANITA GAUDET

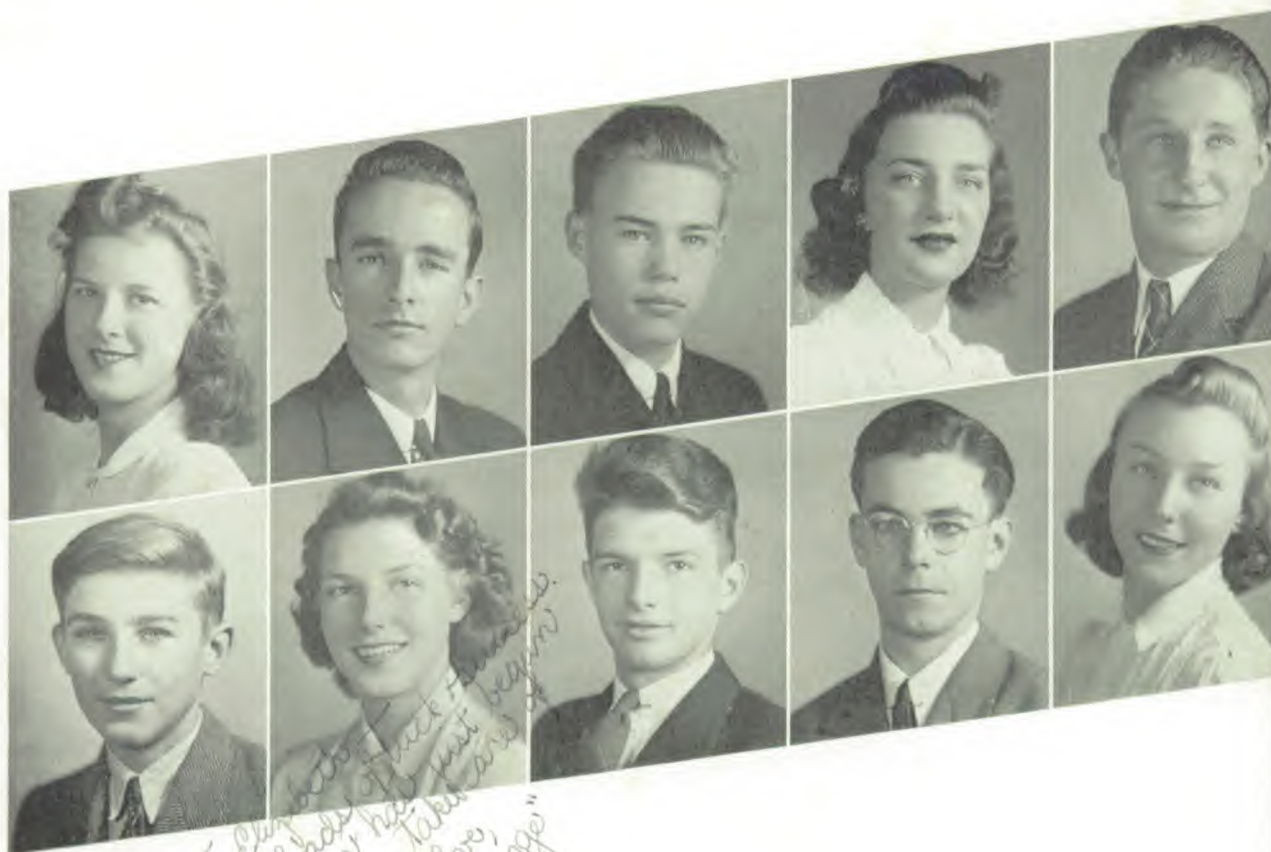
feathery flirtatiousness . . . frolicsome eyes . . . cupid in masquerade . . . come hither quality.  
Footlighters 1, 2, 3, 4; Photography 3; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; French 2; Blue Letter 4; Glee Club 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### CONRAD GEHRUM

Navy blue . . . poster paint . . . fleeting smiles . . . always a pun.  
Blue Letter 4.

#### ANN GERBER

Angora mittens . . . a Debussy dream . . . dinner by candlelight . . . mint crunch ice cream.  
Latin 1; Photography 1, 2; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Cheerleader 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Glee Club 3, 4; Student Government 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Senior Play 4.



#### SOPHIE GRYNIAK

the first musketeer . . . tranquil pools in June . . .  
rock of Gibraltar . . . pink cosmos.  
G. A. A. 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Blue Letter 4;  
Footlighters 4.

#### JOSEPH HALPIN

tall as corn . . . bashful lips . . . black, cool  
eyes . . . blacker hair.

#### ALLEN HANSEN

bushy hair . . . newspaper executive . . . caramel  
complexion . . . thick, full laughter.  
Recorder Club 3, 4; "What's New" 3; Blue Letter 4.

#### JEANNE HERRSTROM

a veil of winding smoke . . . artistic fantasies . . .  
vanilla coca-cola . . . "heard the cutest joke."  
Blue Letter 2, 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Photography  
1, 2; Glee Club 4; French 2; Senior Play Comm. 4;  
Basketball 1; Senior Dance Comm. 4; Astronomy 4.

#### CARL ROGER HOKANSON

golfing under par . . . laugh in every speech . . .  
neat, smooth grooming . . . fun at the "Y".  
Basketball 2, 3, 4; Baseball 1; Tennis 2, 4; Golf 3;  
Varsity Club 3, 4; Football 2.

#### ROBERT HOMANN

slip of sheer excitement . . . tan unruly hair . . .  
yell of "Hi" to each and all . . . working after  
school.

#### MARJORIE HORNE

volcanic laughter . . . impish eyes and grin . . .  
basketball genius . . . of 95's.  
Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Student Government 3; Tri-Y  
3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; G. A. A. 3, 4; Blue Letter  
4; Senior Play Comm. 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### JOHN HOWE

eyes, sad with stories . . . soft smiling talk . . .  
a wander-lust mind . . . quiet as mist.

#### JAMES HUGHES

riding cross town . . . scarf and fedora . . . blue  
expressions . . . a faint, careful smile.  
Blue Letter 4; Football 3; Senior Play Comm. 4;  
Hall Patrol 4.

#### VIRGINIA HUTCHINSON

personality lady . . . vitalizing vigor . . . flippant  
eyebrows . . . that shiny black purse.  
Middionettes 1; French 1, 2; German 3, 4; Or-  
chestra 1, 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Tri-Y 3, 4; Pho-  
tography 1, 2; Fencing 2, 4.



## LE ROY JENSEN

massive Swede . . . blond as sunrise . . . pink,  
blushing face . . . comics in Physics.  
Football 2, 3, 4; Track 2, 3, 4; Astronomy 4;  
French 2, 3; Varsity Club 4.

## HENRY JERZAK

laughable talking . . . that Florida tan . . . in-  
quisitive nature . . . questioning frown.

## ELIZABETH JONES

the three D's . . . rhythmic dancing . . . shrieking  
devilment . . . pastime: drawing.  
Footlighters 2; Glee Club 2, 4; Safety Patrol 2.

## EDWARD KAZMAREK

giddy humor . . . baby talk . . . "Start the Day  
Right" . . . the blushing kid.  
Hall Patrol 1, 2; Safety Patrol 2; Student Govern-  
ment 2; Senior Play Comm. 4; Blue Letter 4.

## RITA KENTOS

non-wrinkable clothes . . . a band-box finesse . . .  
outstanding trinkets . . . fantastic fussiness.  
Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Tumbling 3.

## OLGA KONCUR

life of the party . . . eyes painted with mirth . . .  
joy-maker machine . . . a voice mixed with laughter.  
Glee Club 2, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Blue Letter 4;  
Senior Play Comm. 4; Hall Patrol 3, 4.

## DONALD KOYEN

the cherry coupe . . . a fast set of tennis . . .  
singing in the showers . . . pleasant Point Pleasant.  
Glee Club 2, 3, 4; Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4;  
Photography 1, 2; Basketball 2, 3, 4; Tennis 3, 4;  
Track Manager 1, 2; Varsity Club 3, 4; Class Presi-  
dent 1, 2; Vice-President of School 3; Student  
Government 3, 4; Senior Play 4.

## ALVIN LAWRENCE

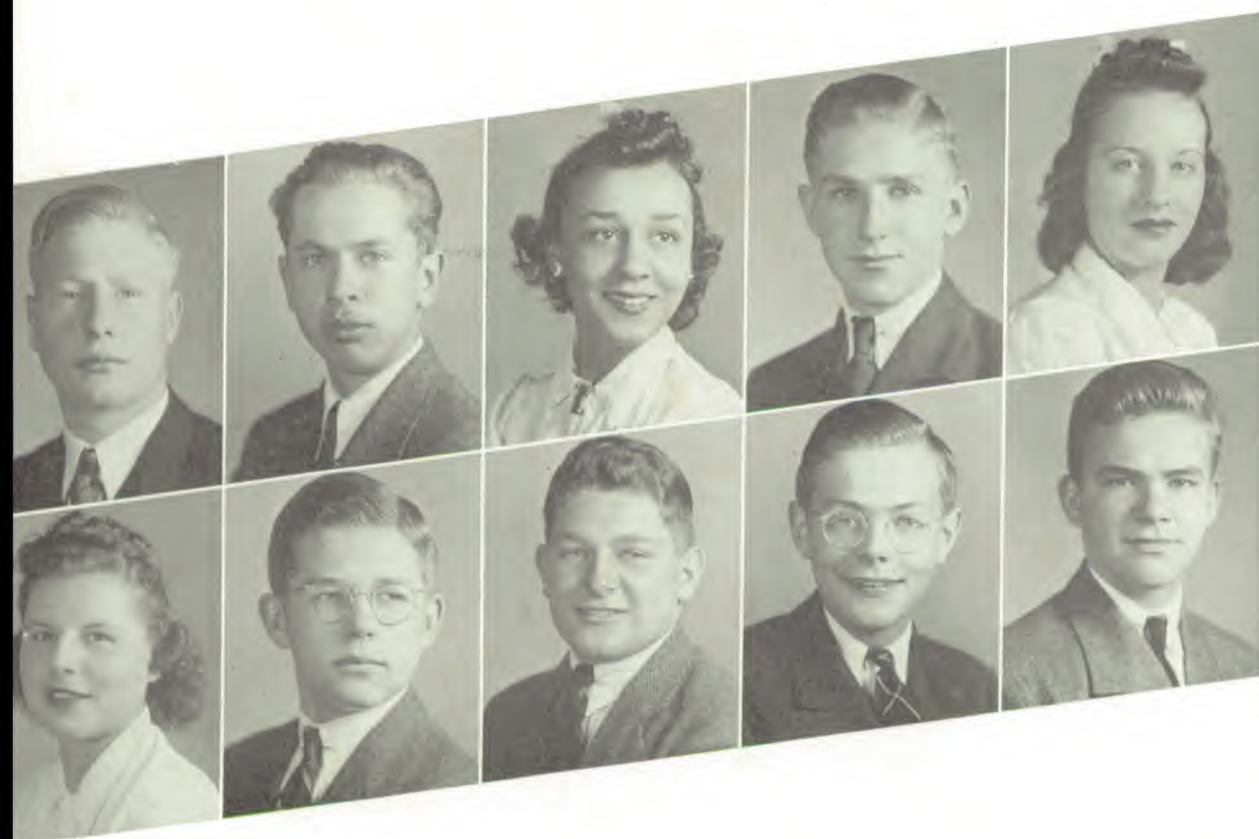
that cupid's face . . . football wizard . . . smile-  
wrinkled eyes . . . lazy as a sunning lizard.  
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 3, 4; Tennis 3, 4;  
Varsity Club 2, 3, 4—President 4.

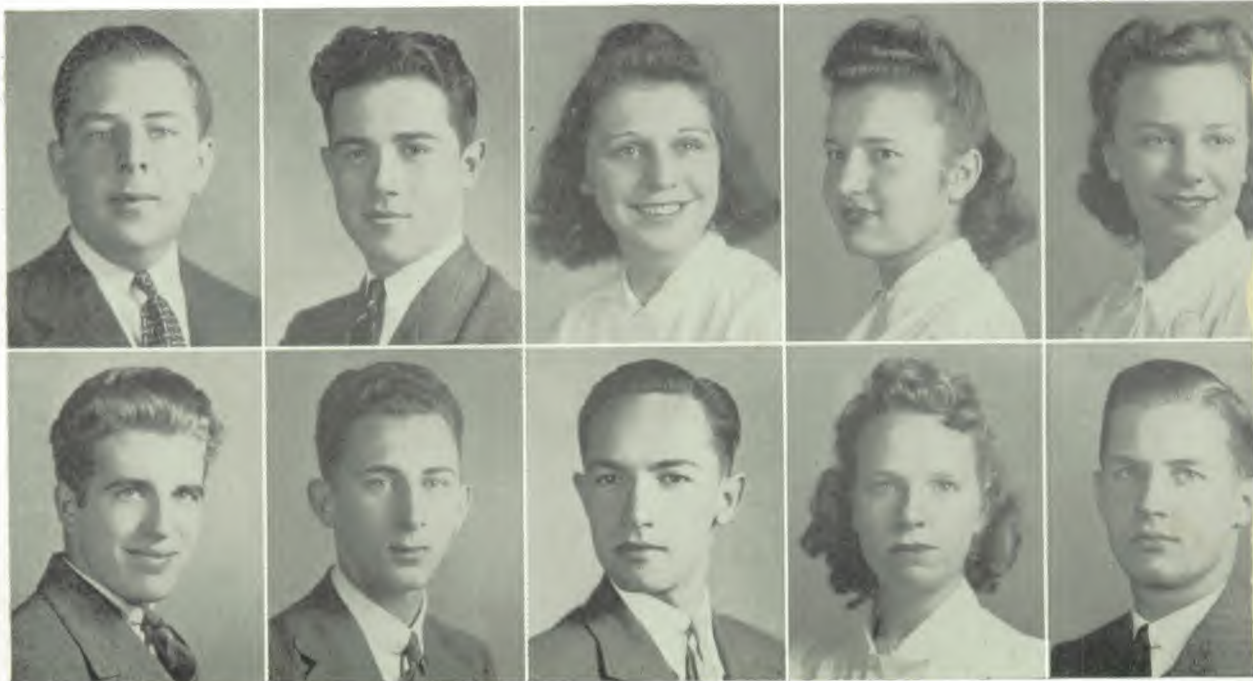
## FRANK LOSEY

plaid ski jacket . . . standing erect . . . boisterous  
remarks . . . chemistry whiz.  
Foreign Correspondence 2; French 3; Latin 2; Hall  
Patrol 4.

## RICHARD MATHIASSEN

day dreaming in classes . . . baby smiles . . . curly  
blondness . . . silly chatter.  
Recorder Club 4.





#### DUNCAN McKEOWN

startling sport clothes . . . carefree laughter . . . hamburgers and root beer . . . those happy remarks. French 3, 4; Library 2; Tennis 1, 2, 3, 4; Photography 1, 2, 3; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Varsity Club 4; Student Government 1, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 3, 4; Senior Play 4.

#### WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN

dark eyes that smile . . . quick burning temper . . . hunting for pheasant . . . a million freckles. Football 4; Tennis 3, 4; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Varsity Club 4; Hall Patrol 3, 4; Student Government 1; Prom Comm. 3.

#### IRENE PARFINUK

bits of quaint poetry . . . big blue eyes . . . some kind of mischief . . . joyous laughter. Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Footlighters 1; Tumbling 1, 2, 3, 4; Baseball 3; Recorder Club 4.

#### NATALIE PAVLUK

gym enthusiast . . . proprietor of rare laughs . . . valuable friendships . . . fun and more fun. Tumbling 3, 4; Basketball 2, 3, 4; Photography 4; Footlighters 3; Hall Patrol 4.

#### VIRGINIA PETERS

pert little lass . . . dream girl in plaids . . . sandy hair . . . merriment. Library 1, 2; Footlighters 1, 2; Photography 2, 3, 4.

#### KARL PETSCH

honey-colored hair . . . mid-June sunshine . . . sweaters in the coldest cold . . . riding Pete's jalopy. Football 3; Varsity Club 3, 4; Hall Patrol 4; Astronomy 4.

#### ANTHONY POLACCO

hale fellow well met . . . "laugh and the world" . . . megaphone "rahs" at games. Track 2; Student Government 3, 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### GEORGE POTASH, JR.

shades of bright blue . . . basketball lord . . . vanilla cone with sprills . . . trig for relaxation. Basketball 2, 3, 4; Track Manager 2, 3, 4; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Varsity Club 3, 4; French 2, 3; Astronomy 4; Hall Patrol 4; Class Vice President 4; Jr.-Sr. Prom Comm. 3.

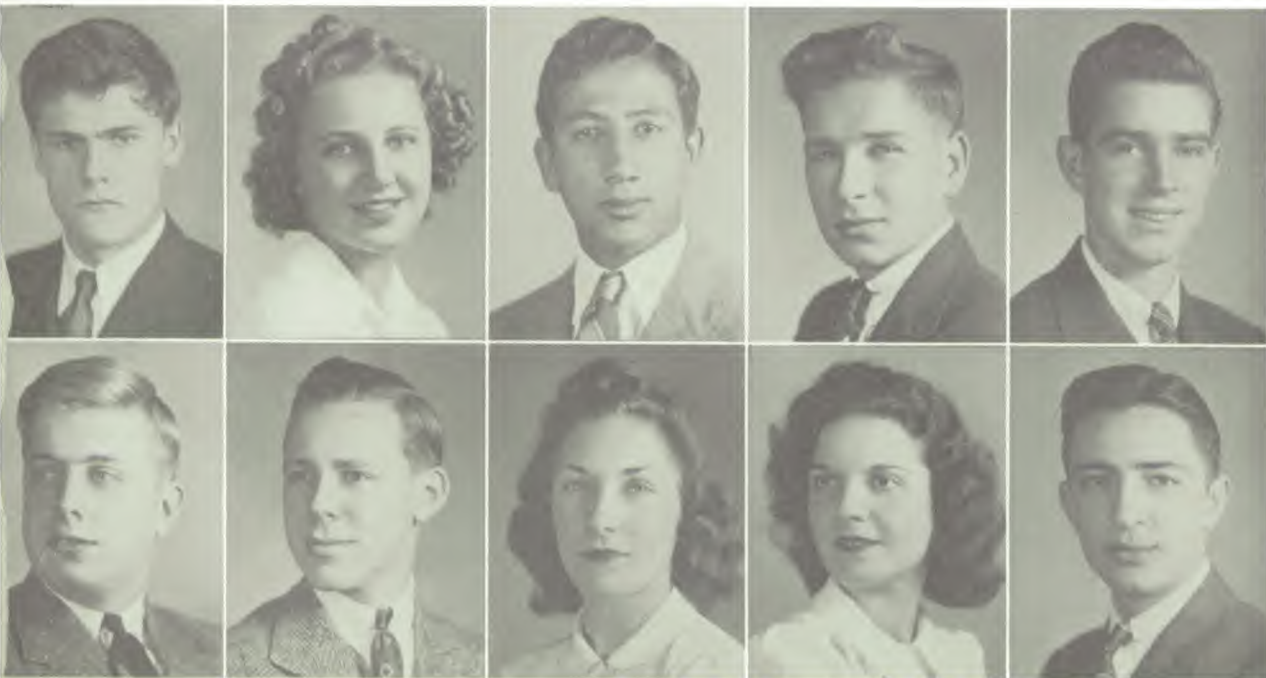
#### ELIZABETH POULSEN

a brow as wide as fair . . . strawberry blonde . . . curly coiffure . . . that dressy look. Recorder Club 3; G. A. A. 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### JOHN POWELL, JR.

cornfield jokes . . . Pepsi-cola . . . perfect politician . . . Hansi. Football 2, 3, 4; Basketball 2, 4—Manager 3; Class President 4; Tennis 2; Golf 3, 4; Library 1, 2; Student Government 2, 3, 4—President 4; Varsity Club 3, 4; Latin 1; Senior Play 4; Glee Club 3, 4.





#### MILTON PRAVDA

Rodin thinker . . . individually quiet . . . eyes that hold fire . . . debates in Soc.

#### JEAN RAFF

stationary curls . . . peek-a-boo shyness . . . ski jump schemer . . . air travel enthusiast.  
German 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Footlighters 4; Blue Letter 4.

#### ENOS RAINFORD

speed in football . . . hangout at Martin's . . . muffled guitar 'neath Hawaiian moon . . . dusk.  
Football 2, 3, 4; Track 3, 4; Varsity Club 2, 3, 4.

#### HOWARD REEDER

drowsing in study . . . gym class fanatic . . . The Iron Hand . . . working downtown.  
Football 1, 3—Manager 4; Astronomy 4; Hall Patrol 4.

#### EDWARD REICK

blocking 'round end . . . his favorite cheerleader . . . varsity letters . . . down to earth.  
Football 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 3, 4; Student Government 4; Class President 4; Varsity Club 3, 4.

#### RODERICK REYNOLDS

Old Spice shaving lotion . . . red shirts . . . azure ties . . . maroon and cream riding.  
Senior Play Comm. 4; Astronomy Club 4; Science 1; Surveying 4.

#### WALTER RISLER

"I hear a rhapsody" . . . glamorous excerpts . . . pineapple coke . . . dancing in blue moonlight.  
Blue Letter 1, 2, 3, 4—Editor-in-Chief 4; Glee Club 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 1, 2, 4; Varsity Club 3, 4; French 1, 2; German 2; Photography 1, 2; Recorder Club 1, 2; Student Government 3; Jr.-Sr. Prom Comm. 3; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Football 1, 2; Tennis 3; Senior Play 4.

#### BETTY RITTHALER

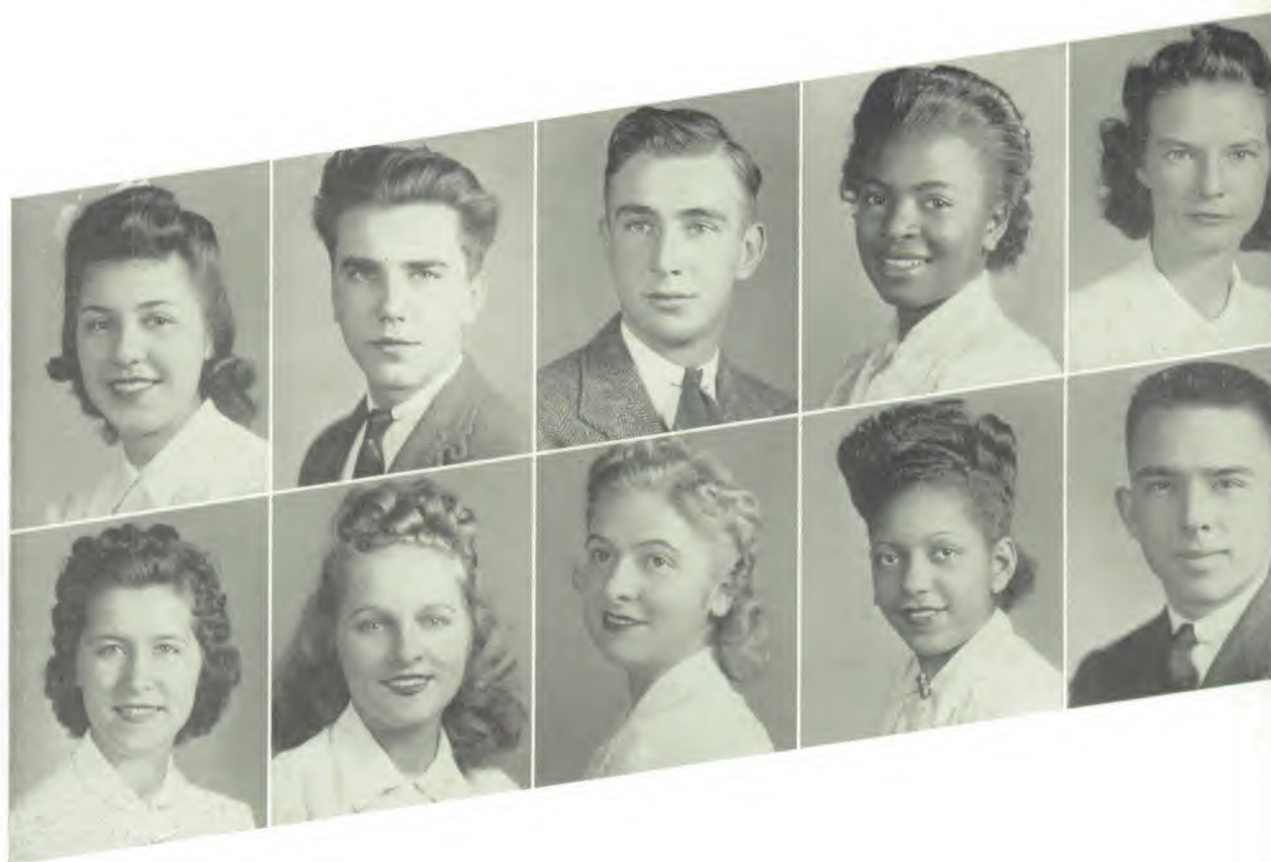
powdery daintiness . . . lacy softness . . . immaculate person . . . quiet moods.  
Glee Club 2; Basketball 4.

#### DOROTHY ROIG

deep purple . . . lively lady . . . fun on skates . . . velveteen.  
Glee Club 3; Basketball 2, 3.

#### FRANCIS SCARPELLI

fuzzy mustache . . . safety patrol . . . crazy plaid shirts . . . right hand man.  
Harmonica Club 1, 2; Safety Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4; Secret Patrol 3, 4; Library 4.



#### MARIE SCARPELLI

musical mistress . . . beckoning smile . . . voice of silver bells . . . delightful in red.  
Glee Club 1, 2, 3, 4; French 2, 3; Foreign Correspondence 2; Reviewers Club 3; Blue Letter 4; Senior Play Comm. 4.

#### PETER SCHKEEPR

sandy hair . . . naive smile . . . soft whistling of song hits . . . a clever humor.  
Track 3.

#### JOSEPH SCHWALJE

the "rhuh" laugh . . . those subtle jokes . . . the Ford limousine . . . pals in Perth Amboy.  
Football 2, 3, 4; Track 3, 4; Student Government 2; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Class Vice President 3; Varsity Club 3, 4; Hall Patrol 2, 3, 4; German 2; Jr.-Sr. Prom Comm. 3; Glee Club 2, 3, 4; Orchestra 2, 3, 4; Surveying 4; Golf 4.

#### VIOLA SCRUGGS

modest as a sparrow . . . solitude and silence . . . that very sweet smile.

#### RUTH SEARLE

sprightly sunshine . . . emerald tinted eyes . . . set chin and clenched fist.  
Basketball 1, 2, 4.

#### LILLIAN SEMENCHUK

the second musketeer . . . reaching for the stars . . . purple tulips . . . fidelity.  
Harmonica Club 1; Basketball 1; Glee Club 3, 4; G.A.A. 1, 2, 3, 4—Secretary 3; Footlighters 4; Blue Letter 4; Senior Play 4; Am. Leg. Oratorical Contest 3.

#### NATALIE SEMENIK

Chinese nails . . . tiny sample of humanity . . . curls piled high . . . eyes wrapped in twinkles.  
Footlighters 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Photography 2.

#### ANN SIEGELHOFER

glamour girl in classes . . . stylish hair comb . . . an ever-lasting sun-tan.  
Tumbling 1; Basketball 2.

#### ANNA SMITH

tricky eyes . . . dyed-in-the-wool jitterbug . . . jack in the box.  
Glee Club 4; Footlighters 2.

#### NATHAN SMITH, JR.

bristles . . . fragrant pipe . . . oh; the Army . . . Virginia.  
Student Government 3, 4; French 3, 4; Tennis 3; Hi-Y 3, 4; Glee Club 3; Blue Letter 4; Football 4.



#### HELEN SORGENTO

quietness is bliss . . . come hither, friends! . . .  
enigmatic smile.  
Blue Letter 4; Photography 2, 3, 4; Footlighters  
1, 2, 3, 4.

#### JAMES SULIMAN

Martin patron . . . saucer eyes . . . evenings at  
Costa's . . . yeah!—Bonhamtown.  
Varsity Club 4.

#### DONALD TAYLOR

the petite convertible . . . dance decorations . . .  
date with Gert . . . lab.  
Football 3, 4; Hall Patrol 4; Astronomy 3; Presi-  
dent 4.

#### BERNADINE TESTA

graceful Grecian profile . . . vivacity personified . . .  
dashing wildly to more fun.  
Glee Club 2, 4; Footlighters 2, 3, 4; German 3, 4;  
Jr.-Sr. Prom Comm. 3; Blue Letter 4; Hall Patrol  
4; Senior Play 4.

#### EUGENIA THARAS

native of New England . . . jovial and friendly . . .  
stand-in for Miss Cornell.  
Glee Club 4; Blue Letter 4; Senior Play Comm. 4.

#### JOHN THOMAS

lime green jacket . . . auburn waves . . . Railway  
dances . . . that blonde.

#### ROBERT THOMPSON

echoes of a trumpet solo . . . fondly eating EVERY-  
THING . . . vague symphonic melodies . . . a  
magical, haunting smile.  
Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Baseball Manager 1; Orchestra  
1, 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 3, 4; Hi-Y 2, 3, 4; Varsity  
Club 2, 3, 4; Hall Patrol 1, 2, 3, 4; Student Gov-  
ernment 1, 2, 3, 4; Senior Prom Comm. 3; Senior  
Play Comm. 4; Surveying 4; Blue Letter 3, 4;  
Photography 1, 2.

#### MARION TKACHUK

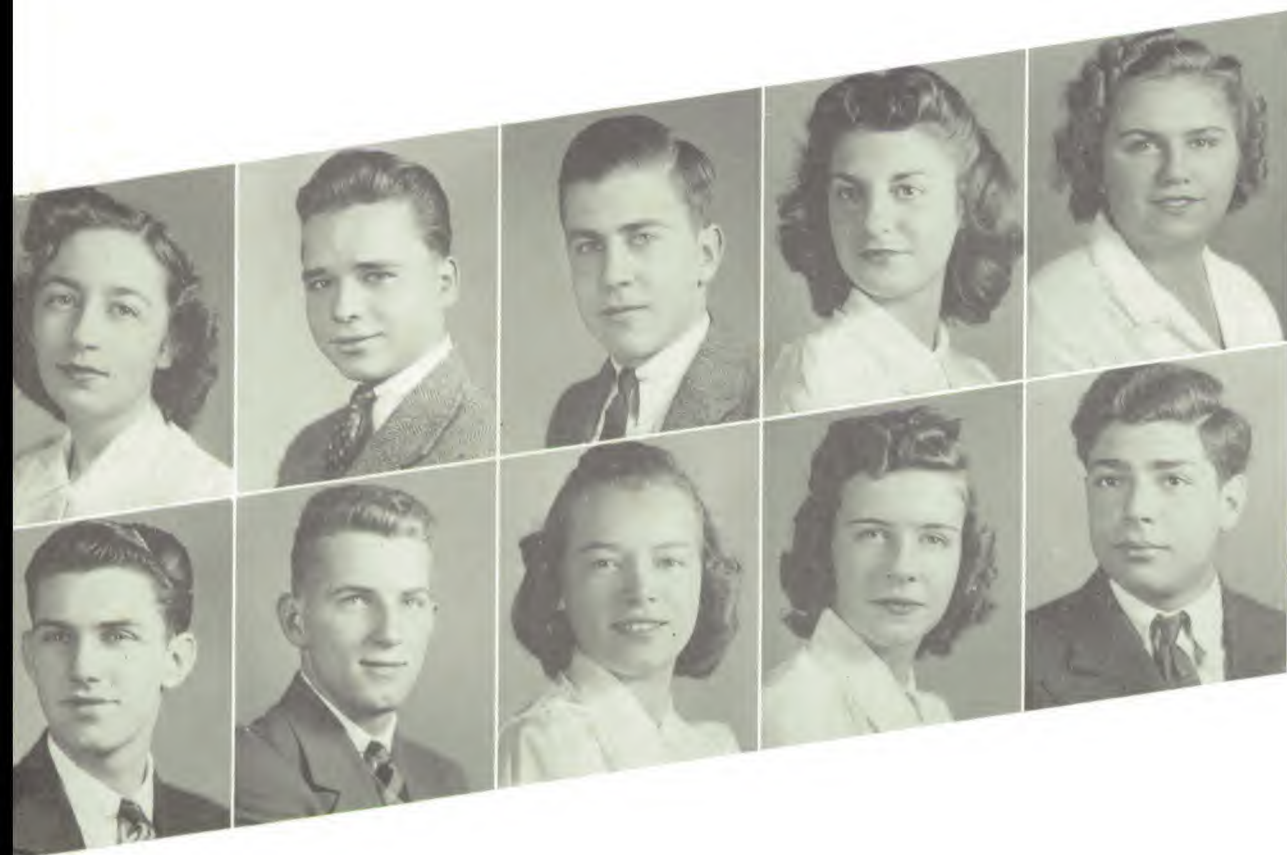
study in sturdiness . . . a jitterbug's delight . . .  
energetic while dancing.  
Basketball 4.

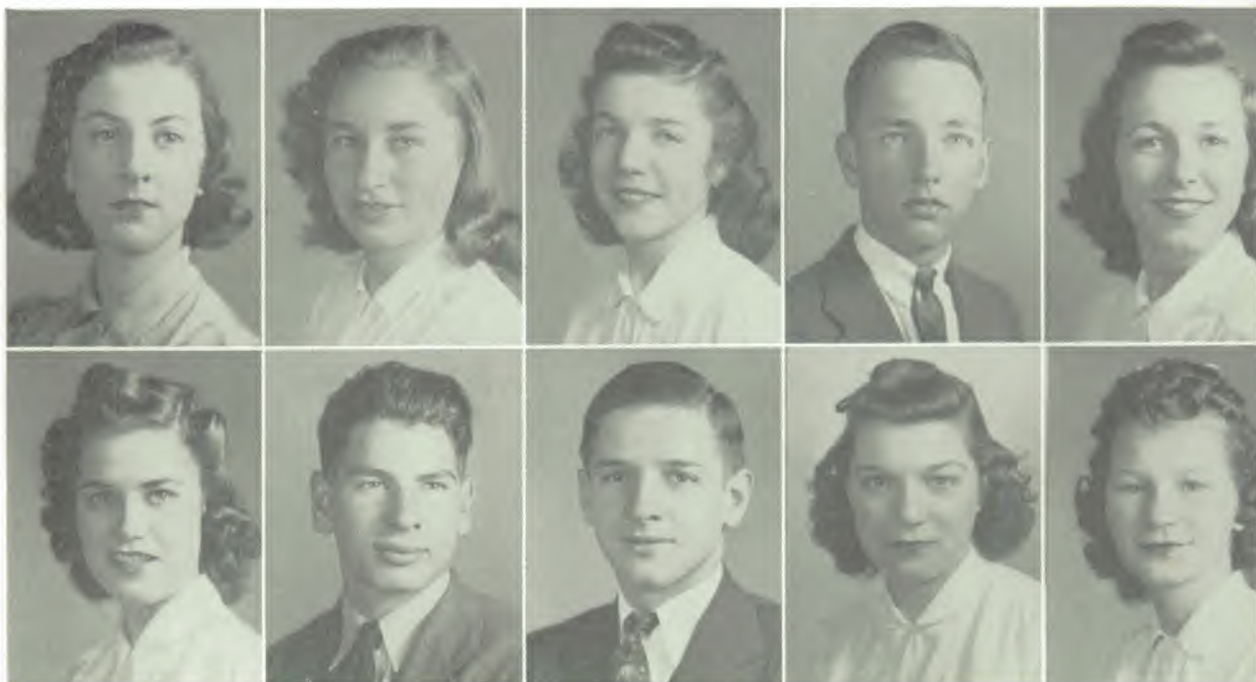
#### JEAN TOMPKINS

willowy softness . . . smart as a whip . . . pictorial  
prettiness . . . fleecy-tone appearance.  
Middionettes 1; Photography 2; Cheerleader 3, 4;  
Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Blue  
Letter 4; Senior Play 4; Student Government 4;  
G.A.A. 1, 2, 3, 4.

#### PATRICK TUFARO

a tossing ocean of jet curls . . . nonchalant smile . . .  
"easy does it" . . . deepest blue eyes.  
Safety Patrol 3, 4.





#### GERTRUDE TYRREL

a "Taylored" appearance . . . dark electrified curls . . . questioning eyebrows.  
Middionettes 1; Foreign Correspondence 2; French 2, 3; Astronomy 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Senior Play Comm. 4.

#### MYRTLE VOLK

a yard's worth of smiles . . . rose-tinted complexion . . . red corduroy . . . gay as a bird.  
Photography 1, 2, 3; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Cheerleader 3, 4; Senior Play 4; Prom Comm. 3; Blue Letter 4.

#### JOAN WALSH

a lackadaisical manner . . . a flash of the hand . . . "My Bill" . . . a mischievous grin.  
Glee Club 3, 4; Tri-Y 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; G.A.A. 3, 4; Prom Comm. 3; Senior Play Comm. 4.

#### CHARLES WARING, JR.

"The Little General" . . . a simple smile . . . that two-tone dream . . . dapper man.  
Tennis 2, 3, 4; Hi-Y 4; French 2, 3; Astronomy 4; Student Government 1, 3, 4; Public Speaking 2; Jr.-Sr. Prom Comm. 3; Surveying 4; Foreign Correspondence 2; Science 1.

#### RUTH WESTCOTT

arching eyebrows . . . white classic hands . . . Heliotrope . . . chestnut hair.  
Photography 1, 2; Latin 1; Middionettes 1; Tri-Y 2, 3, 4; Footlighters 3, 4; Cheerleader 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Prom Comm. 3; G.A.A. 1, 2, 3, 4; Blue Letter 4; Student Government 4; Senior Play 4.

#### EVELYN WHITMAN

seasoned sweetness . . . veiled mist-blue eyes . . . tailored daintiness . . . honeysuckle atmosphere.  
Glee Club 1, 4; Blue Letter 3, 4; Student Government 4; Senior Play Comm. 4.

#### MICHAEL YATSKO

"L'il Abner" . . . chewing gum . . . blue moods . . . machine gun chatter.  
Tennis 3, 4; Basketball 4; Track 4; Hall Patrol 4; Astronomy 4.

#### STEPHEN YELENCISICS

battered gray fedora . . . blazing crimson shirts . . . that pivot shot in basketball . . . Pepsi with lunch.  
Football 2, 3, 4; Co-Captain 4; Basketball 2, 3, 4; Varsity Club 2, 3, 4.

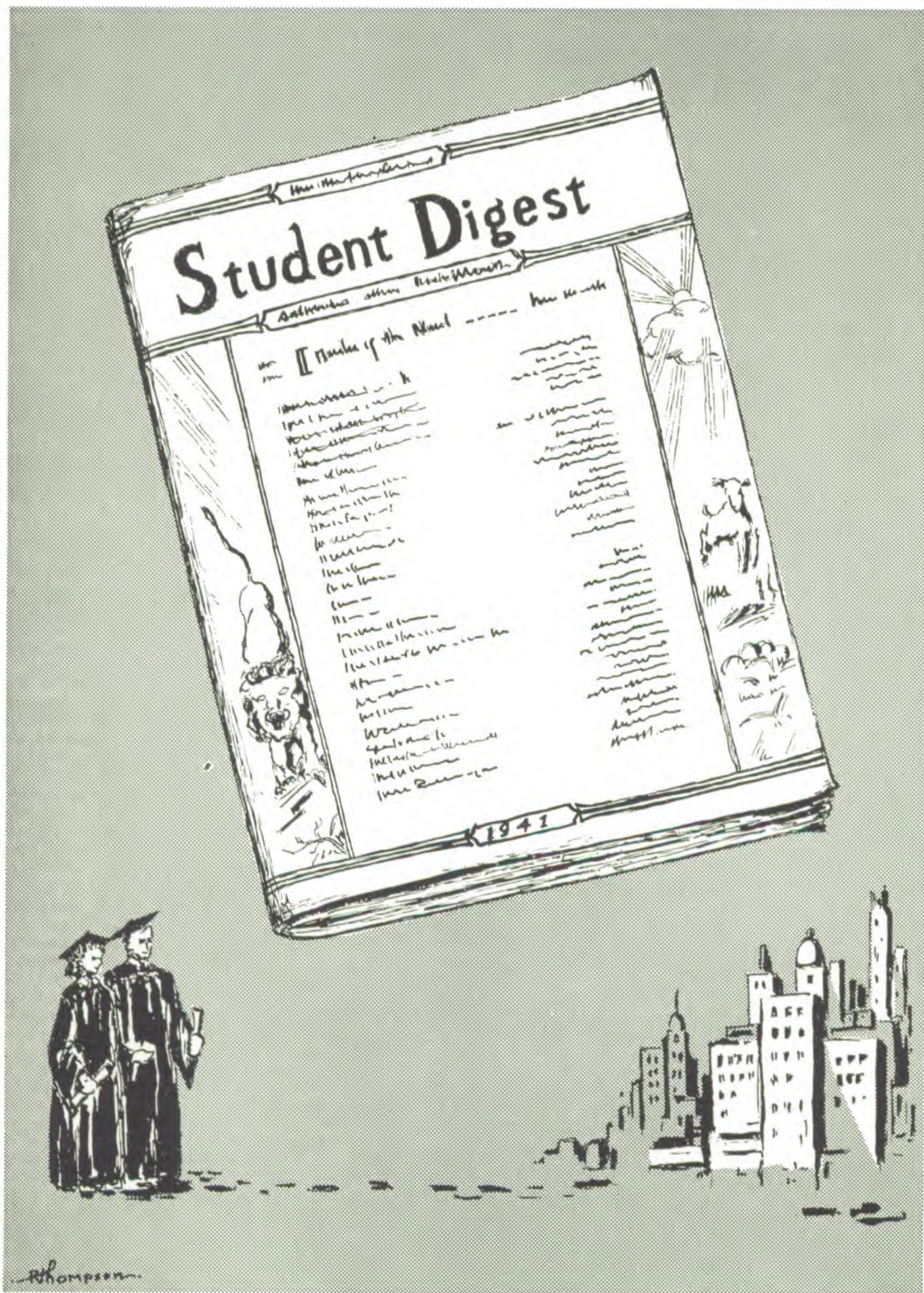
#### OLGA ZACKALUZYNI

the third musketeer . . . "I mean it" laughter . . . that "everything in order" manner.  
G.A.A. 1, 2, 3, 4; Glee Club 4; Footlighters 4; Blue Letter 4; Basketball 1.

#### EMMA ZEPPER

daffodils on a hill-top . . . milk and honey . . . truer friend hath no man.  
French 2; Foreign Correspondence 2; G.A.A. 2, 3, 4; Basketball 2; Recorder Club 3.







## Mr. Spoerl, Educator

In the office of Metuchen High School sits a man behind a desk, his face stern and intelligent. He is known to be firm of purpose, and very few pupils care to be sent to him because of misbehavior. This man is Elmo E. Spoerl, the principal of Metuchen High School, the man who must shoulder the responsibility of the morale and spirit of the school. It is through his diligent efforts that a high standard is maintained; therefore, it is necessary that he be a disciplinarian. This probably is one of the reasons he cannot tolerate deliberate misbehavior. His task is a strenuous one, which does not always follow a smooth path. But you and I know that beneath this forbidding exterior lies a soul 100% for every student he confronts, and beneath that stern mask lies a warm, friendly smile that escapes every now and then to defy its master's seriousness. It shows us his interest in those around him and his fine sense of cordiality and friendliness. To understand more deeply our "Captain" we should trace back the years and follow his steady, faithful ascent to his present position.

To begin our story we might relate that Mr. Spoerl's life is a "mad merry-go-round" as he so realistically puts it, and we can readily understand this because of the many duties he must perform in pleasing parents, students, and fellow citizens. We go back to a time and place when, perhaps, the merry-go-round did not spin quite so madly, to Brooklyn, New York, in the latter years of the last century. It was at a public school that he first decided to be a teacher of arithmetic. However, later, while at Boy's High School, in Brooklyn, he decided to make his goal teacher of mathematics in high school. After graduation Elmo Spoerl ventured to New York University where he enrolled in the School of Education and started with subjects which finally earned for him a B.A. degree. During his regular college course at the university he took an extra subject in Pedagogogy which reaped for him a certificate to teach in New York and New Jersey.

The country was suffering from a slight depression when he was graduated from college and for a few years he had no appointment. Then, when he did accept a position, it was that of teaching the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in New York City.

In September, 1916, Mr. Spoerl came to Metuchen. He was the fourth teacher added to the high school staff. At this early time there was only a supervising principal and no high school nor elementary principal.

In 1918 came his election as assistant to the supervising principal. This position he held in some form or another up to the time of the late supervising principal's resignation. Since that time he has been looked upon as the "senior man" in the administration.

In 1927 came that merited promotion to the principalship of the high school.

In 1930, having meanwhile continued his formal education, he received his M.A. at New York University.

Since he has been principal of the high school the student body has grown from seventy-five to seven hundred and fifty.

Two extensions to the building have been added and the third is under way.

Although he was the fourth addition to the faculty in 1916, Mr. Spoerl no longer does any teaching; instead he has twenty-nine full-time teachers and one part-time, under his supervision.

During the summers of 1929, '30 and '31 Mr. Spoerl taught in the Rutgers University Demonstration School. This position can be held only by the best teachers in the state, and it is indeed an honor to Mr. Spoerl and ourselves to have as our leader one of the selected teachers of this institution.

During Mr. Spoerl's life as an educator in Metuchen, the school has constantly presented many problems. Still, through all the struggle of these problems, he has always retained the incentive to remain here. Today with school life as complex as it is, he faces many more problems. Mr. Spoerl says, "When the time comes that problems do not exist, then I shall resign and go elsewhere. My philosophy is, that it is better to wear out than to rust out." This bit of his own thinking shows the vigor with which he attacks the problems that arise. It shows us that he has the best interests of the students of Metuchen High School at heart. It proves to us that his accomplishments have not been won easily and that his are the qualifications a growing school needs.

In this anniversary year of so faithful a leader, the pupils of Metuchen High School say, "Thank you, Mr. Spoerl, for having served our high school for twenty-five years during which time it has steadily grown and progressed due in a large part to your efforts."



## Mr. Spoerl, Metuchen Citizen

It might be said that Mr. Spoerl leads two lives. Of these, we, the pupils under his guidance, are most familiar with his life in school. We see him daily leading us directly or through the faculty toward higher learning. We think of him as the man who undertakes many of the duties that regularly belong to a supervising principal and are constantly aware of his work in fulfilling them. It is therefore rather startling to realize he can fit into other places as well as he does into his position in the educational system. He has not devoted his time, energy, and ability to education alone, but through the years has been a participant and often a leader in many civic activities.

Mr. Spoerl, though a graduate of New York University, is a member of the Rutgers Chapter of the honorary educational fraternity, Phi Delta Kappa. Rutgers knew him, too, as a teacher for three years in the Rutgers College Summer Demonstration School. He taught, also, for three years in a Sunday School class of the Dutch Reformed Church of Metuchen.

Religion is another field which has profited by his energy. He gave twelve years of active service as treasurer of the church. He was deacon of the church for four years, and financial secretary of the Sunday school for another four years. He and the Reverend Dr. Zimmerman were responsible for placing the graded system of lessons in the Sunday school.

During the World War Mr. Spoerl was an assistant in the draft office and acted in the drive to sell Thrift Stamps. He also served as cost accountant clerk for the Federal Government in the hospital units of the Raritan Arsenal.

Mr. Spoerl worked three times on Red Cross drives, once as chairman. When the depression struck Metuchen he helped with the Block Aid drive. He, together with Mr. F. Meyers, hastened the opening of the Metuchen National Bank following its closing after the Bank Holiday. He served as contact man between the committee and the school children when Metuchen conducted its relief lunches for underfed children.

He has membership in many social organizations which have provided recreation and enjoyment for him and, as in the case of the Delphic Dramatic Association, entertainment for others. He also has been active, by the way, in the Delphic for about six years. He has directed or taken part in about ten three-act plays and seven or eight one-act plays. This year the Delphic celebrated its fiftieth anniversary which was also his second year as president of it. He was a member for one year of the Cantabile Club, a chorus conducted by Mr. Carl Galloway. He held a membership in the Metuchen Rotary for about four years. Since resigning, he has served the Rotary several times as an investigator for its educational fund.

Mr. Spoerl is a well-liked speaker for he has addressed such groups as the Christian Endeavor, Young Men's Christian Association Auxiliary, Rotary (other than as a member), Parent-Teachers Associations (outside of and within Metuchen), and several town mass meetings.

Metuchen is indeed proud and appreciative of Citizen Elmo Spoerl who has given so much of his time and energy to his adopted home-place.

### SPRING NIGHT

Low swept the flowing willows,  
High rang my rapturous heart,  
Clear ran the sparkling waters,  
Sweet sang the lilting lark.

Fast flowed the rolling meadow,  
Soft was my list'ning soul;  
Staunch was the sturdy pine tree,  
Warmed now my heart, once cold . . .

Real was the breath of the Springtime,  
Fast as the beat in my breast,  
Then quiet, the infants of nature,  
As evening put Springtime to rest.

Walter Risler.

## Metuchen, 1916

Suppose we use our imaginations as time machines that will take us into the Metuchen of twenty-five years ago.

Our imagination is a strange device. We don't see it; we don't hear it, but it transfers us into any land, situation or year we choose. This time we are going back into 1916.

Here we are at the railroad station of Metuchen, twenty-five years ago. The station is quite impressive, isn't it? Nice and clean with a wide sweep of lawn and beautiful flower beds. But say! We've been standing here admiring the scenery and haven't even noticed the man standing on the platform. I wonder who he is? You say his name is Elmo Spoerl and he's come to do some work in the schools? Well, we must say he looks capable enough for such a job, striking appearance, alert, young. Oh, look he's going into town. Let's follow him and take a look at the place ourselves.

How different Main Street looks with all the big trees meeting overhead. There is no Commonwealth Bank either, and the National Bank looks like a fairly new building. Look over there near the corner of New and Main Streets. There's a kind of restaurant with tables and chairs in a little garden to one side.

What's that building there on the corner of Highland and Main? Why, it's the Metuchen Theater! Mr. Rumler owns it and Mr. Forgione operates the machine. There isn't a store in sight, just a big empty lot from Hillside Avenue down to the theater. That big old house up on the hill there is the Hillside Inn. It is a broken down old place, isn't it?

Look at the funny old "Toonerville Trolley" coming down the street. Mr. Spoerl is getting on, and if we are following him we had better get on too. We are heading out towards Plainfield Road. What pretty country! There are hardly any houses, just a lot of farmland and woodland.

The conductor's name is Gene O'Hara. When he gets near the end of the line, all the housewives run out with their orders for the store. He takes them into town, delivers them to the various merchants, and finally delivers the filled orders on his return trip.

Have you noticed the funny skirts the women are wearing? They are called "hobble skirts" because they are so tight that the women have to hobble when they try to walk. Those slits on the side come in handy for big steps. The skirts are lifted high enough so the slit will

give more freedom, and the step into the trolley car is no longer impossible.

The hats musn't be forgotten. People in 1941 say hats are crazy, but hats in the past were the craziest you ever saw—great big cartwheels. The bigger the better, and every woman tried to have the best.

Mr. Spoerl seems to be heading towards South Metuchen. We haven't seen that part yet so let's go too. From what we've heard, South Metuchen is still mostly farmland. But here! Look at all these houses! There's Miss Platt's house, and on the other side of the street is where Altorfers live.

Here's our stop. Mr. Spoerl seems to like this neighborhood. Look at the pleased expression on his face. Do you suppose if he stays in Metuchen for any length of time he will pick a house here? This is called the Dinnebiel Section. Well, he is entering a house, so we must leave him. We hope he plans to stay.

As we travel on we find many surprising things. There is no Y.M.C.A.; the library is a small building on Hillside Avenue, and there is no Borough Hall. The Borough Council meets in the back of Robbins Hall, that big red building opposite the National Bank. The Telephone Company has its place up over Borough's Drug Store.

Even with all the different scenes around Metuchen, we sense something familiar in the air. The conversation of the people, the headlines in the paper and the whole atmosphere seem to tell us that war is going on and America is wondering where she stands in the situation.

In the Metuchen Theater, four-minute speakers are engaged to hand out propaganda to the people. We hear, however, that there has been so much talk on patriotism, Americanism, and propaganda that people are ceasing to go to the movies.

Uniforms are more and more prevalent; a re-armament program is in full swing; women are knitting for the soldiers; and everyone is wondering whether we should or should not enter the war and help Britain. The situation is much the same as in 1941.

But here, we had better get back into 1941. Mr. Spoerl is no longer the stranger at the railroad station; on the contrary, he is a well known and admired citizen, and our own beloved principal.



## Franklin School: A Review of Twenty-five Years

When Mr. Spoerl entered Metuchen High School in September, 1916, to teach mathematics, he was the fourth member of the faculty. Mr. Thomas G. Van Kirk was supervising and high school principal.

At this time, the Edgar School and the front part of our present Franklin School comprised all of the school buildings. There was no gymnasium, and the assembly hall was located where the present typing and shorthand rooms are. Franklin School was heated by a circulating hot air system, and the air was driven through flues into the rooms; many of these are still to be seen. The heat was driven up by a large fan, and every time we had rain or some other form of precipitation, the fan pit would fill with water, which had to be removed before school could be opened. Many times Mr. Spoerl and Mr. Van Kirk could be seen bailing out the water from the pit, so that school might start.

The building which now serves as the American Legion home was then a part of the school, and stood at the side of the school near School Street. The Franklin School housed both elementary and high school as it does now.

There was no real library in 1916, except a few books in Mr. Van Kirk's office used for reference. By 1922 the laboratory was located under the present teacher's room; the manual training room was placed under our present room one, and domestic arts was taught in the present kindergarten. The subjects taught in school in 1916 were mathematics, Latin, German, English, history, spelling, general science, chemistry and physics.

Metuchen sponsored an activity to which it can look back very proudly, a debating team. It really became famous around 1920, when all the high school pupils, indeed many of the town's residents, rented buses to hear the team debate out of town. The whole town was really enthused by the team.

The senior classes were small compared to present day ones, and as we look back on them, we find it hard to realize that in 1918 only eleven illustrious seniors left these portals.

By 1922, our faculty had increased to nine, and civics, French, and manual training and domestic arts had been added to the curriculum. The seniors had grown into a class of 26, quite an increase over the previous years. There were no clubs at this time, but some sports were

carried on, including football, boys' basketball and baseball, with Mr. Spoerl as coach, and girls' basketball. The debating team was still going strong, and an operetta was presented by the high school students. One good idea which seemed to further school spirit was a Field Day held once a year. Then all the classes would gather to watch their athletes run, jump, and compete in all sorts of sports, to their great delight. The winner of these contests was a celebrated character, and was sent to New Brunswick to compete in other contests.

In 1923 the faculty was increased to 10, and some subjects were added, including biology and plane geometry. During these years, the custom of hay riding continued with much joviality. These usually were peaceful, but once much excitement was caused when the seniors (as you might know) were almost arrested in Plainfield for disturbing the peace. In 1924 the number of seniors went down to 16, and things around "ye olde institution" remained much the same except that Mr. Spoerl was appointed assistant principal under Mr. Van Kirk. In 1925, the first club in Metuchen High's history was organized, and it was christened the Uke Club. At present we have about thirty clubs in our school. In 1926 came the first dramatic society, the forerunner of our modern Footlighters.

In 1928 our faculty number dropped, and the number of seniors increased. Perhaps the faculty just resigned in mass protest. This year was a turning point in the administration of our school too, because the first student government was organized.

In 1929, the girls started baseball, still continuing with their basketball, too. In the same year the Hi-Y was organized followed shortly afterwards by the Tri-Y.

The faculty plays in '28 and '29 provided plenty of entertainment. The teachers just packed 'em in up at the Forum for two nights straight each year.

During all these years, the high school maintained both a band and an orchestra. Classes were increasing in enrollment, so that by 1937 there were 122 graduates.

In 1932, manual training and domestic science were taken from the curriculum. In 1936, the faculty celebrated Mr. Spoerl's 20th anniversary as a member of the Metuchen school system.

*(Continued on page 45)*



# Talk About the School

## A LETTER — LA VERNE ADAMS

Dear Ann,

At last it's here—the day I've been waiting for so long. My only regret is that you can't be with me to share the joy of this great occasion as we had planned; but you will be with me in spirit. This, I believe, is the turning point of my life, and after next Friday a new world shall unfold before me. It is a great adventure!

Remember the plans we used to make for this day when we were oh, so young? I can still recall the quarrels we had over the color of the gowns we wanted to wear, until we finally decided that all white would make a lovely picture, and we could fairly hear the music playing as we pictured ourselves walking majestically down the aisle.

Ann, remember the year there was an awful blizzard and the snow was so deep that we thought we wouldn't be able to go to school for a week at least? And after the second day, Dad hitched old Nell to the big sleigh and drove us over the snow to school. I can still remember how disappointed we were. We were freshmen then, weren't we?

"Romeo and Juliet"; does that bring back any memories to you? Oh, it does to me, Ann. Commencement night and you played Juliet so beautifully. The whole family was so proud of you even if the balcony did collapse while you were on it.

"Quarantined for chicken pox"; remember that? You were so angry with me because I had chicken pox and we were both quarantined. You said it was all my fault, that we couldn't go to the Sophomore Prom; and our gowns were so lovely. I still have mine. How I teased you when I had recovered and you got them and we were both quarantined again.

We had so much fun, didn't we, rushing through breakfast so we wouldn't be late, dodging Miss Simkins when our Math marks were low, and playing sour notes in the school band.

I remember how red your face got when Terry kissed you right in class! Oh, Ann, you did look funny.

Then last year Joe and Jack took us to the Junior Prom! It was our first case of puppy love and we walked on air for weeks and almost "flunked" exams because of it. How thrilled we were to think that soon we would be members of the Senior Class. Then it happened; you went to New York.

Ann, even if you can't be here I know you'll feel happy for me. My dream has become a reality, and when I walk down the aisle Friday I'll know that you will feel some of the thrill and excitement too. At last—the day, it seems, I've waited for all my life, Ann dear; just think . . . Graduation!

Your loving sister,  
Joan

## SOMETHING ABOUT TABLES

Harry McKeown

You've all heard of tables I suppose. Oh, yes, there are several types of tables and several varieties of each. Now, take for instance time tables, or better yet, let's not, for I am referring to other types of tables. There are the massive tables made of solid oak worth a fortune, which are guarded day and night against misuse of any kind that might put even the smallest pin hole into them. Then, just the opposite is the family heirloom that is set at the far end of the living room and probably would fall apart if anything heavier than a dust cloth descended on it. Another type is just an ordinary table made of wood on which flowers are placed to make everything look positively beautiful.

There is also the dainty tea table with the glass top that can be wheeled around the house. Now, there is really a table; it can be used for almost anything. When one is snoozing, there is nothing that can quite equal it as a footrest

(unless the thing is a footrest and even then I doubt it), and then one of the most important things you mustn't forget is that the dog also likes it for sleeping purposes; many other things it is also useful for, and just in case you forgot, it is sometimes used for serving tea.

The kitchen table is a nice thing to have around, for if Mother isn't using it for making a cake or something else, it makes an excellent place on which to work out one's chemistry experiments. The dining room table, on the other hand, is definitely high society that must be kept in a class of its own. For afternoon bridge parties it is just the thing for the "o-so-delicate" sandwiches to repose on. At least some people call those strange looking objects sandwiches. I, for one, have another unprintable name.

There are many other kinds of tables also; for instance, working tables, stationery tables, stationary tables, folding tables, ping-pong tables, pool tables, tables of contents, and card tables, on which some people actually play cards.



I like poker best—don't you? Or do you prefer contract bridge? Old Maid is a brisk little game too, although it may prove over-exciting for some.

Take my uncle Angus for instance; of course you don't have to and I wouldn't blame you if you didn't, but anyway he was a great enthusiast of Old Maid. One game he played (in

fact, it was the last game), was so long that he and his opponent twice took off two hours for a nap. At the end of the game (Angus won;) his opponent accused him of cheating. So Angus, having to defend the family name, challenged him to a fight. Several hours later Angus ended up on the operating table, which just goes to show you that whatever else this world lacks, it certainly isn't tables.

## JOE'S JALOPY

GERTRUDE TYRRELL

Time: any afternoon after school  
Scene: an old soapbox car

Characters: Joe           Don  
                  Bob           George  
                  Bill          The Spirit of the car

As the play opens, the spirit of the car is heard complaining about the rough treatment it always receives from its customers.

Spirit: "There's the dismissal bell. It's time for those hoodlums to come out and torture me some more. I wonder what I'm in for now."  
(The boys arrive)

Joe: "Well, I certainly hope we don't have any trouble today, fellows."

Bob (jumping on the running-board): "I can still feel the effects of pushing her yesterday. Boy, am I stiff."

George: "I wish Jalopy could understand. I'd give her a piece of my mind."

Spirit: "Go ahead, if you think you can spare it."

Don: "Who said that? Who's trying to get funny?" (The boys look astonished.)

Spirit: "Don't look so bewildered. I'll give you some of my mind first. I've kept quiet long enough. Just one more day of this and I'll collapse. Before I make any complaints I'd like to ask a question. Have I ever said a word when one of you jumped on me like a

wildcat, scratched my body, and squeezed my ribs and piled in so close that you stretched my sides?"

Bill: "Well, no-oo, but you pay us back by stopping all the time."

Spirit (getting excited): "I do get hungry once in a while. I can't be expected to travel at top speed without some stimulant, can I? As for tires, I could use four new ones for Easter."

Joe: "Don't worry Jalopy, we know you're getting old and feeble. You're not to blame."

Spirit: "Old and feeble! Well, you had better hurry and turn me in for a new model, while you can still get a few dollars for me (very agitated). Boo-Hoo, I should think you would have more consideration. And to think how proud you were of me when you bought me. Oh, what a blind fool I've been. All I'm good for is to transport you and your pals to and from school. (Crying wildly.) You'll be sorry when I'm dead and gone. (The boys have tears in their eyes.)

Joe: "I'm very much ashamed. I never thought that a car had any feelings. We'll make it up to you somehow, Jalopy." (The boys settle down very easily, make apologies and drive away singing "There'll be Some Changes Made.")

Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

## AND THEY ASKED ME WHY I LIKED POETRY

And they asked me why I liked poetry.  
Stupid were they, I thought,  
That their hearts and eyes could not see  
The beauty in the lines of verse  
And the emotions here in me.

Aside from them, I thought:  
Poetry—beauteous, mysterious, melodious,  
With its fibrous twining hand,  
That lifts your soul, and lets you into heaven  
And there . . . there you stand.

And they asked me why I liked poetry.  
Blind were they, I thought, that they could not see  
The one answer I withheld from the start,  
For the true reason why I liked poetry  
Was locked up in my heart.

And they asked me why I liked poetry.  
Foolish were they I thought;  
To think that I could reveal  
Those secrets known only to the dreamer,  
While they . . . believed what was real.

"Why?" . . . I questioned, as the air filled with silence  
And their gaze met mine in mutual reverence,  
"Why, you know," I said, "poetry is like a dream.  
It's a man's stairway to heaven on earth  
Or an forgotten scene."

Bernadine Testa

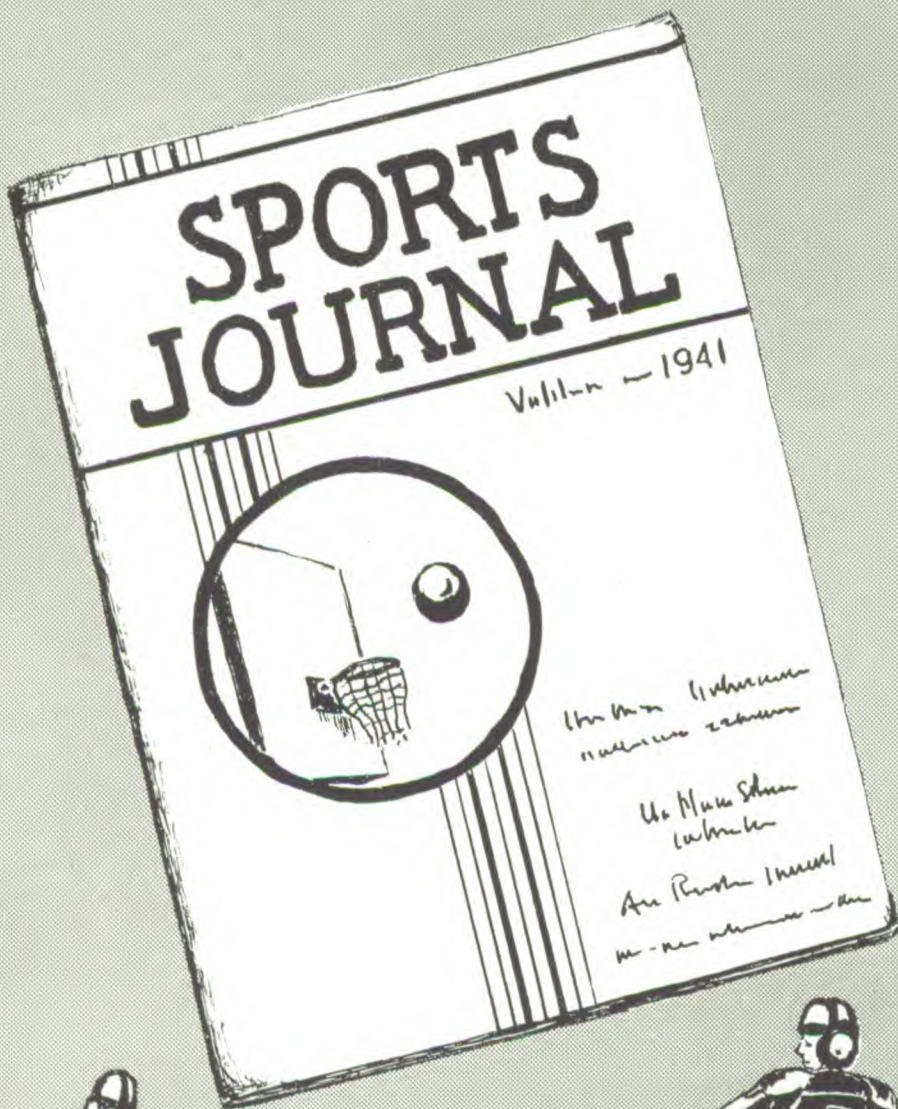
## MY BEST ADVICE TO JUNIORS

- Olga Zack: "Develop school spirit."  
 Rose De Napoli: "Don't miss too much school playing hookey."  
 John Howe: "Stick with Mr. Schmidtchen and go places."  
 Emma Zeffler: "Willingness to cooperate tends to make progress."  
 Nathan Smith: "Do your work but have a good time doing it."  
 Walter Fedirko: "Have the habit of cultivating your learning rather than just covering it."  
 Douglas Waring: "When you become seniors forget your sophistication; the rest of the school dislikes this conceited and aloof air."  
 Allen Hansen: "If in doubt, ask Mr. Herb."  
 Leroy Jensen: "Don't play hookey 'til the swimming's good."  
 Jean Clancey: "A smile takes but little effort but does such a lot of good."  
 Helen Donahue: "Don't get caught chewing gum; teachers don't like it."  
 Reginald Crowell: "Keep plugging; studies become a pleasure the closer you get to mastery."  
 Olga Koncur: "Don't skip classes. It isn't worth all the trouble you get into."  
 Betty Jones: "Avoid any impulses to play hookey and don't incur any debts with the library."  
 Virginia Peters: "From your first day of school learn to like and get along with your teachers."  
 May Carver: "Don't be too sure you know everything."  
 Virginia Coleman: "Do your homework even though there are other things that are more enjoyable."  
 Jack Powell: "Give good support to your athletic teams."  
 Beatrice Fisher: "Get assignments in on time and save yourself some trouble."  
 Eugenia Tharas: "Always have respect for your teachers."  
 Roger Hokanson: "Don't be as conceited as you are now."  
 Virginia Cheche: "Hand in your homework on time."  
 Natalie Semenik: "Don't think that your senior year is all play and no work."  
 Violet de Sanctis: "Fight for a school band."  
 Ireen Parfinuk: "Read the books you report on.  
     Do homework once in a while,  
     Have pity on the Freshman,  
     Always wear a smile."

## WHAT I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER ABOUT M. H. S.

- Helen Donahue: "Mr. Herb's warnings in the hall."  
 Nathan Smith: "Open discussion in Sociology class."  
 Anna Smith: "The four bare walls in the office during detention hour."  
 Bill Fraser: "'Smiley' and Physics class."  
 Jean Raff: "The empty feeling whenever I was called to Mr. Spoerl's office."  
 Jean Tompkins: "The last minute rush to get enough money to pay an orchestra so that we could have a dance."  
 Walter Risler: "Senior class meetings and the dances."  
 Winifred Carey: "What a great group of teachers we had."  
 Joan Walsh: "The Junior Dance, April, 1940."  
 Cecily Brennan: "The tacks put on my seat before 6th period English class."  
 Peggy Bohnsack: "The new addition to the school that was being completed just as we were leaving."  
 Jean Clancey: "Latin Class 1939; a good sense of humor was always present."  
 Bernadine Testa: "The fun I had in being in the Senior Play, 'Campus Quarantine.'"  
 Patricia Dana: "My friend and almost all the seniors' friend, the nurse."  
 Lillian Semenchuk: "I'll never forget Miss DeFrates' help and kindness."  
 Doris Drake: "The long climb to the Typing Room."  
 Olga Koncur: "Those very interesting debates in Mr. Herb's American History class followed by the little arguments."  
 Joe Schwalje: "I shall never forget the friends I made here."  
 Frank Fredericks: "The strict rules and regulations."  
 Walter Fedirko: "The dragging of time in thinking of getting out and the uncontrolled rush of days going out."  
 Ann Siegelhofer: "The many times Mrs. Cunliffe told me to sit in my own seat."  
 Marie Scarpelli: "Mr. Herb's study hall because he really thinks he can make the room so quiet that he can hear a pin drop."  
 Marion Tkachuk: "Mr. Richards saying, 'I want to see you in my office.'"





R. Thompson.





These fellows comprised our Tennis Team under Mr. Graham, coach. We had no Don Budge out on the court, but the fellows did themselves proud with their fine playing during the season.

Miss Platt led this formidable group of golf players out onto the links to show their "stuff" and by their record on the course these boys showed their coach what real golf talent Metuchen has.



## FOOTBALL

Coach Kilian of the Varsity Football squad and Coaches Almond and Harrison of the Jay-vec squad, aided by Johnny Ernst, led our team through a season that wasn't so successful as far as victories go, but was highly successful in other ways. The high-spots of the season occurred when we trounced Thomas Edison High 25-0, and when we tied Dunellen 15-15. Edwin LaForge led our team in scoring and three other boys did the rest of the scoring. Co-captains, Alvin Lawrence and Steve Yelencsics, handed down their crowns to Bart Trokovich and Joe Kohn for the coming year. Bill Thompson, a Sophomore, was elected honorary captain for this year of the Jay-vec squad.

## THE VARSITY CLUB

The Varsity Club under the supervision of Mr. Schmidtchen and the presidency of Alvin Lawrence had a very prosperous year. The club is one of the most popular in the school and is in reality what may be called a "Service club." They originated the idea of having a "Juke-Box" for their dance instead of hiring an orchestra. They also sponsored the purchase of one of the pictures for the new study hall. It is not only for these reasons that it is a popular club, but also because it is made up of all our athletic heroes.

## BASKETBALL AND INTRAMURALS

The Varsity Basketball Squad, under the coaching of Mr. Seitzer, and the Junior Varsity, under the coaching of Mr. Lawrence, both fought hard for the glory of old M.H.S.





this year. Even with such notables as honorary captain Bart Trokovich, Charlie Reick, "Buddy" LaForge, Don Koyen, George Potash, and Bill Fraser, the Varsity was not able to get very far against the height of the opposition. The Varsity won only one game, but that doesn't begin to show how hard our boys tried.

The Junior Varsity attack was paced by Don Wernik (he made over one hundred points during the season), Don Terhune, and honorary captain, Paul Rainford. These, aided by other excellent Jay-vee players, made the best record any Metuchen Jay-vee team has ever made. They won twelve out of the seventeen games they played.

The intramurals showed talent for coming basketball teams, and the race itself between ten different teams and one hundred participants was very hotly contested. Baseball was again part of our intramurals and, though a goodly crop of athletes went out for other sports, there were still quite a few that played baseball. Mr. Schenck again managed the Intramurals and did it with much care. We thank Mr. Schenck for sponsoring these games, for without them the school would lose a lot of the spirit that they have created.

## GOLF

The golf team, coached by Miss Platt, and with Felix Wagner and Ruth Wuest, captain and manager respectively, had a truly amazing season in 1940. Led by these and with the very able help of the other members of the team, the boys from Metuchen came through the season with a perfect record. Our boys ran up a total of 107 points to our opponents' 25. Jack Powell, James Suliman, Donald Breen, and Charles Ribinsky had the best records of all our boys, but the other members of the team also had very good records. In view of the fact that Metuchen has not had a team for several years, the records of these golfers are all the more commendable.

## TENNIS

The tennis team developed very nicely under the able guidance of Mr. Graham last year. The team won four of its matches and dropped the same number. Tom McKeown was captain and Duncan McKeown was manager, aided by Donald Hume as assistant manager. Tom McKeown, Don Koyen, Bob Runyon, and Bill McLaughlin were the most outstanding players on the team. Don Koyen, due to his fine work, was elected captain for the following year and Don Hume was appointed manager.

Don Koyen, though not a spectacular player like some we have had, just goes quietly about his business with a grim determination and when the match is finished you will usually find him the victor. Sophomore Bob Runyon looks like a good prospect for the team also.

## TRACK

Our track team of 1940, led by Bill Thornall, Louis Kraus, and Robert Krog, was a team that a coach usually gets only once in a lifetime. The coach got us some stiff competition but our boys came through with flying colors. In the state meet we tied with Neptune High for first place and we beat other very good material also. The team was managed by Daniel Breen; George Potash was named manager for "41." Thornall broke so many records and received so many awards that it is hard to recall them all. In the Newark Board of Education Meet we tied for second place with Long Branch out of 23 schools and Thornall won the Meritorious Award Trophy for the most outstanding performance. Edward Freeman was named captain for "41" after he completed a most successful season.

## CHEERLEADERS

All through the season of sports the cheerleaders have attempted to give the players the encouragement that they needed. The spectators however, did not support them very well. In spite of these difficulties the cheerleaders experimented with some new cheers in hopes that these would rouse the onlookers out of their stupor.

The squad members were: Varsity Captain Myrtle Volk, Ann Gerber, Jean Tompkins, and Ruth Westcott; Junior Varsity Captain Agnes Smith, Florence Roxbury, Shirley White, and Esther Nielsen. All in all, these did a grand job.

Let's have three cheers for both squads. In their Blue and White uniforms they have set an example for the new squad of cheerleaders; if these girls follow the present example, they can't possibly help but be a success.

## THE TRI-Y

The Tri-Y under the presidency of Marjorie Horne prospered greatly this year. Miss Platt and Miss Crowell were the faculty advisers for the club.



Captain Ed Freeman and Mr. Seitzer led the members of our most honored track team. Even though the boys didn't hit last year's mark they did mighty fine.

Ask anyone around the school what club is one of the most popular and a good many of them will choose the club which harbors these boys. Yes, it's the Varsity Club.





They held their meetings every other Thursday at the local Y.M.C.A. The peppy initiation of the new members of the club was just the beginning of the year for the organization, which helped needy families with baskets at Christmas time, and in other ways. As well as joining forces for smaller activities, the Tri-Y joins with the Hi-Y in the spring of each year to give a dance. These girls served at the annual

Father and Son banquet at the Y.M.C.A. this year, at which time they attempted a rendition of an old favorite song.

## THE HI-Y

The Hi-Y held its meetings every other week at the local "Y" also. Mr. Schmidtchen was the faculty adviser and Reg Crowell was elected president.

A good many of our girls belong to this group generally known around the school as the G.A.A. We all remember the entertainment they gave us during the year.



This group of athletic-minded girls under the supervision of Miss Crowell represent the best in Metuchen girl athletes. They call themselves "The Tumbling Club."



This group of girls' basketball players found a female Hank Lusetti in Marjorie Horne as she paced the girls in scoring. All the girls who participated had a lot of fun under Miss Crowell's guidance.





Reg Crowell, who was president of the Hi-Y, kept the boys wide awake and on their toes. This picture gives you the Who's Who among the members.

This assemblage of girls constitutes our Tri-Y, the sister club to the Hi-Y, both very popular and active clubs, as proven by the large membership.



After initiating their new members they settled down to a normal routine and among the various things they did were these: they served at the Mother and Daughter Banquet and also rendered a vocal selection; they had a party at which time they took the Tri-Y ice skating; they helped sponsor the annual Hi-Y and Tri-Y Dance; and they invited the male faculty of the school to the "Y" where all enjoyed lobby games, bowling, basketball, swimming, and refreshments. The high spot of the evening was the basketball game in which Mr. Seitzer, Mr. Lawrence, Mr.

Arnold, and Mr. Harrison took part. The Hi-Y won the game 86-56, but you should have seen our new star basketball player, Mr. Harrison, jump around the floor and play a superb defensive game.

## GIRLS' SPORTS

The G.A.A., girls' basketball, and the Tumbling Club all thrived very well under the guidance of Miss Crowell. The G.A.A. as is their custom, again put on a show on April 26th for the parents, which consisted of fencing,

dancing, and many other gymnastic activities, and all who saw it were pleased.

The highlight of the girls' basketball season was the game in which Marjorie Horne made a score well up in the sixties to pace her team's attack, and thoroughly trounce the opposition. The Tumbling Club, having a lot of fun, also was very active throughout the entire year. The members of the G.A.A. sold various pins and lapel decorations, and made quite a bit of money for themselves.



R. Thompson





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METUCHEN, N. J.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT  
IN 1951"

What's in the Brightlights:

They've done it again! Risler and Herrstrom open their second successful musical comedy. Folks, it's a hit! It is better known among the fashionable set as "Love on the Rocks," co-starring those famous singing nit wits, Bernadine Testa and Joe Schwalje. Gowns are by Kentos and Fisher, make-up by Siegelhofer, and settings by O. Fisher and C. Gehrum. The music is provided by the swingeroo orchestra of Bob Thompson, featuring Sam Cheche and his drums.

Emma Jane Bailey, Viola Scruggs, and Portia Booker are the boogie woogie vocalists of Deacon Freeman's hep cap five. Special dance numbers are executed by Betty Jones and Anna Smith.

Evelyn Whitman, the protégé of that famous opera star, Marie Scarpelli, is making her debut tonight at Alvin Lawrence's "Sleepy Hollow."

Hints from Hollywood:

The Hollywood heart throb, John Thomas, is receiving so much fan mail since his last picture, "Tide of the Tropics," which co-starred Gloria De Fillipo, that he has acquired a trio of new secretaries, Lillian Semenchuk, Olga Zack, and Sophie Gryniak.

Footnotes in Science:

Dr. John K. Powell, Jr. with his two able assistants, Patricia Dana, and Virginia Coleman, has just placed on the market a sensational new throat lozenge, called "Vitamins." Perfecting a non-irritating cough-mint has been a matter of concern to Dr. Powell for some time now, some say since his high school days.

This experiment was subsidized by those millionaire bankers, Duncan McKeown and Donald Koyen.

The mad scientist Douglas Waring, with his meek but able assistants, Jean Tompkins and Marjorie Horne, has just discovered a colossal new explosive.

The absence of ceiling in the professor's lab has caused it to be changed into a stargazing observatory for Donald Taylor and Gertrude Tyrrell. Karl Petsch and William

(Continued on page 44)



# Hi-LIFE

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(Pictures on page 40 (not in order): Marie Scarpelli, Donald Koyen, Ann Gerber, Ruth Westcott, Jeanne Herrstrom, Jean Tompkins, Juanita Caudet.)



### DID YOU KNOW THAT:

Mr. Spoerl used to coach all the dramatics in our school?

Mr. Spoerl used to be a salesman before coming to teach here?

Mr. Spoerl taught mathematics before becoming principal?

Mr. Spoerl loves roses and has a large garden of them at his home?

Although Mr. Spoerl detests all creamed foods, they must be included in all his meals?

Mr. Spoerl has taught every grade from three to twelve?

Mr. Spoerl's old office used to be a small cubby hole between rooms 13 and 14, which is no longer there?

Mr. Spoerl's first car was a Buick and that he drove it for thirteen years?

Mr. Spoerl taught physical education while teaching mathematics? As there was no gymnasium at the time, in bad weather the classes were held between the aisles of the classrooms, and during good weather they were held outside, where the entrance of the boiler room is now located.

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# SENIOR WILL

We, the Seniors, being of sound and disposing mind, memory, and understanding, do hereby make, publish, and declare, this, our last will and testament in manner and form following: that is to say—

First, we leave Alice Troller, a stenographer's job; Jean Tremblay, summer romances; George Thompson, an inferiority complex; Agnes Smith, a hero to cheer for; Helen Michaels, flowers for her hair; Augusta Martin, file book for her many friends; Ruth MacDonald, sports clothes; Bart Trokovich, a girl for his blushes; George Short, wave set; Charles Pascall, a "steady"; Ronald Beresford, a line; Charlotte Loveland, an alumnus; Leonard More, a loud voice; Alice Lilly, more art work; Barbara Fletcher, short hair; Ralph Gunst, the right to do no work; Helen De Sanctis, a piano; Philomena De Napoli, a girl's nickname; Charles Boyle, a short dancing partner; Walter Beck, a tent; Thomas Barber, a fishing pole; Charles Ribinsky, a golf club; Doris Christofferson, note book paper; Clare Holcombe, foreign correspondents; Irene Hosko, a million friends; Virginia Kashner, letters; Esther Nielsen, an even temper; Lorraine Vollmar, a typewriter; Dorothy De Andrea, an aeroplane; Sarah Spikes, tall partners; Carlotta Brune, a convertible; Elinor Crowell, more "best-seller" books, a boy for every dance; Margaret Haley, a whole gym for herself; Ruth Kistrup, Hazel; Irene Laday, a short walk; Verna Lilly, a temper to fit her red hair; Patricia Long, tall stories; Mona Lowe, "page-boy" hair do; Jane Macklin, sorority pin; Peggy Miller, more of those nice smiles; Betsy Price, action always; Barbara Rock, German laddies; Grace Rule, quick decisions; Hazel Salus, blonde Clark Gable; Florence Thompson, "sweets"; Ann Tompkins, more smiles for that billboard ad; Anna Toth, small things; Mary Uhrin, make-up kit; Tommy Walp, some low marks; Robert Vosseller, a good time at a dance; Betsy Teruli, straight hair; Doris Tate, one hundred people to appreciate her grin; Michael Stofa, a loud speaker; Herbert Springer, a stretcher; Jane Shupe, northern accent; Harriet Scruggs, a little less intelligence; Florence Roxbury, a poke bonnet; John Paffendorf, Chemistry book; Kermit Osborne, black, straight hair; Doris Voorhees, a sister; Raymond Gondola, dye for his red hair; Viola Carey, make-up; James Halpin, more western books; Edward Serenska, perfume; Helen Pravda, a college scholarship;

Ruth Leis, detention from her sister; Edward Kabobik, long legs; Thomas and Edward Gray, brotherly harmony; David Moss, a Shakespearean play; Horace Noll, title of "best-dressed" boy; Ray Morris, a pencil of his own; Dean Miles, chewing gum; William Liebeck, mask for his blushes; Lois Lander, a "Jeff"; Irwin Kornblatt, a toothache; John Jarema, a basketball letter; Donnie Hume and Ruth Kramer, "Only Forever"; Grace Hansen, bows for her hair; Bill Ganss, future income to match his marks; James Forgione, flowers for a senior; Lars Ehnebuske, a new line; Gertrude Diering, German homework; Bill Brunstetter, a solo; Jane Boyle, bobby pins; Ruth Boice, a horse; Doris Birdsall, courage of a lion; George Barabutes, the right to be a singing Romeo; Della Adamitz, kissproof lipstick; Joe Kohn, someone to laugh at his jokes; Elsie Farrell, one thousand books; Olga Gubic, applause for her neatness; Ann Moskowit, jokes for her wit; Dorothy Mundy, crochet hook; Angelina Peper, confidence; Phyllis Thompson, certificate for her handwriting; Frank Risola, a camera; Edward Rozek, military training to make him stand up straight; Eugene Meaney, the presidency; Charles Reick, the right to be a basketball hero; Edward Richards, fishing tackle; Matthew Salomone, friendship with the teachers; Le Roy Smith, to the president, a big hand; Carson Tutt, a nice girl; Irene Hansen, Vogue magazine; Nellie Schyrba, something for her pep; Kay Skrutowski, the right to be teacher's pet; Shirley White, no twin to mix us up; Edith Hicks, something to gossip about; Victoria and Mary Gargano, twin couples; Susan Bilarczyk, a comb; John Brinkman, train whistle; Roy Gibbs, salestalk; Herbert Kolodner, stamp book; Calvin Latham, a girl in every class; Zolton Petersack, a smile; John Sersick, detention room; Norman Sterling, silver?; Gloria Brinkman, boats; Harold Van Duzer, a bicycle; Robert Wickberg, photo club; Elizabeth Deni, nothing—she has everything; Mary Dzuiba, history book; Ruth Elliot, an art course; Theresa Korzeniewski, self-confidence; Ethel Moryan, goose step; Florence Bieler, a noise maker; Angelina Scarpelli, sun-tan face powder; Ruth Feis, homework only once a week; Elizabeth Hatos, the pleasure of walking through the Senior Hall without being stopped; Edna Bitter, a free ticket to every school dance; Robert Allsopp, the chance to be a hero.



# SPEAKING

## The Senior Class

Who would think, to gaze upon such innocent baby faces that their owners would grow to be those fine (?) young people of the class of "41"? The affairs of the notable class were handled by the capable hands of Edward Reick, President; George Potash, Vice-President; Bernadine Testa, Secretary; Virginia Peters, Treasurer.

The senior schedule was full of interesting events, probably the most important being the senior play. If our memory serves us right, the play was "Campus Quarantine." The audience thought it was funny then, but there are a lot of people who are beginning to think "Campus Quarantine" has become a lot more than a comedy in three acts.

We mustn't forget the Senior Dance, held in December on the daring date of Friday the 13th. From this the seniors gaily rushed to other activities, participating in Blue Letter skits, a Forum Club, other clubs, and in any mischief they could find lying around loose.

As this goes to press we find plans for a Senior Play Night to be held some time in Spring. The English classes have their fingers full of splinters from scratching their heads in order to find a good idea for a skit, which will reveal the many aspects of school life.

So you see, you baby faces, you have grown to be outstanding individuals of a *great* class. But who would have thought it?

(Inquisitive readers can find the names of these sweet children on page 37.)





# OF PICTURES . . .

This lad probably considered school life much more seriously than do the M.H.S. pupils of today. No skipping of class or detention hall for him! Are we right, Mr. Spoerl? But we can't help wondering whether behind the intent expressions lay the desire to succumb to spring fever once in a while. Our guess is that these pictures reveal Mr. Spoerl as he must have looked when he was graduated from grammar school, then high school, and finally college.





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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Birdsall have definitely discovered the "little general" mountain climbing on the moon. This may have been due to a little mishap in the mix-up of chemicals.

Bird's-Eye View of Washington:

Among the farmers who appealed to Secretary of Agriculture, Roderick Reynolds, today, were Walter Fedirko, Henry Jerzak, Milton Pravda and Michael Yetsko. They claim that a strange insect called the doodlebug is consuming their "pop-corn" crop.

At a conference in Washington yesterday, the illustrious engineers, Reginald Crowell and William Fraser, presented their plans for the newest type of bomber. Colonel Nathan Smith represented the Army, and Rear Admiral Cornelison, the Navy.

It was disclosed that this new bomber would revolutionize modern warfare.

Around New York:

The star reporter, Quentin Dietz, and his side kick, Leslie Cronk, made a daring rescue last night when they carried three unconscious women from the raging flames of the Hotel Roger Hokanson. The women were later identified by patrolmen Scarpelli and MacLaughlin as Joan Walsh, Myrtle Volk and Jean Clancey, who were attending a P.-T.A. convention.

Dietz and Cronk later modestly told Editor Hansen, "It was nothing; the pleasure was all ours."

Ruth Westcott and Ann Gerber have enlarged their exclusive cooking school edifice for bachelors. The instructors are Gloria Bien, Jean Raff, Virginia Hutchinson, and Winnie Gaudet. The newest additions in the membership of the student body are Frank Losey, George Potash, Ed Reick, Pete Schkepper, Steve Yelencsics and Patrick Tufaro.

A terrific accident on Fifth Avenue has aroused quite some interest. One of those new streamlined Fifth Avenue whizzbuses, operated by Francis Fierro, crashed into the taxi-cab of Joseph Halpin. The only witness was Franklin Frederick. He says definitely that the driver of the bus was flirting with three girls walking down Fifth Avenue.

(Continued on page 54)



# HI-LIFE

## A C T I V I T I E S



During the late '30s great progress was made in all directions until finally it was deemed necessary to add two wings to the building, to house new classrooms, a cafeteria, a new library and study hall, and domestic arts and manual

training rooms. These were planned to be ready for use in September, 1941.

And so as we close this review of our favorite school, we know that its 36 faculty members and 507 students will continue to grow in number and enriching experiences.

# ACTIVITIES



Shortly after school opened in September, the clubs, along with classes, began to organize themselves into great shape. The language clubs, for instance, began their fall activities by acquainting the new members with the country their clubs represented. The French Club, "Le Cercle Francais" by name, invited speakers to tell of France. Parties and trips were planned by the adviser, Mr. Graham, and the president, Peggy La Gattuta.



The German Club, "Der Deutsche Verein," sponsored by Miss Anker, held an interesting party at Christmas, and enjoyed a German dinner at a Newark restaurant in the spring. The dessert luncheon which was held for the Sophomores strived to acquaint the tenth graders with German food and fun. Senior Pat Dana was president.

Science clubs this year were organized for Biology, Astronomy and Junior Science. The Biology club, sponsored by Mr. Kilian and assisted by President Roberta Swords, did a lot toward acquainting the biology students with the art of dissecting. The Astronomy club under the leadership of Mr. Harrison, made trips to the Hayden Planetarium, Rutgers Observatory, and to the WJZ radio station to increase the members' knowledge of the heavens. This club met every Monday night at 8:00 when Donald Taylor, the president, brought the meetings to order. The able Junior Science club has made trips to near-by points of interest with the help of the adviser, Mr. Nielsen, and president, Bob Evans.

The students of this school have been doing a lot of publishing this year through the Blue Letter, "What's New," and the Recorder club. Our "What's New" paper, edited by Jean Pascall and sponsored by Miss Zabel, has published all our athletic events, our day to day activities and examples of student work.

The Hi-School Recorder Club was organized for the purpose of preparing for publication, in the Metuchen Recorder, the news and interesting happenings around the school. Miss Fennesy helped our reporters to obtain their material, assisted by their editor-in-chief, Barbara Peyser.





# THE BLUE LETTER

The staff of the 1941 Blue Letter operated on a strictly business basis, for the everyday work of the staff brought them into contact with definite business codes and practices; they had to raise large sums of money to pay their bills promptly, and they had to learn to meet deadlines and make appointments.

This year the Blue Letter was sponsored by a board of faculty advisers, led by Miss Haitich; Miss De Frates was our business manager, Miss Anker headed the narrative department, Mrs. Ellis, photography, Miss Harris, advertising, and Miss Thurston, layout.

The student members worked hard in the various departments with a minimum of faculty participation; the committee chairmen and the editors did a good deal of individual work, but the staff on a whole helped decide upon theme, structure, pictures, layouts, originality and cover of the book.

This year the staff's Editor-in-Chief was Walter Risler; Associate Editor, Jeanne P. Herrstrom; Student Business Manager, Gertrude Tyrell; Advertising Chairman, Conrad Gehrum; Narrative Chairman, Bernadine Testa; James For-gione, Photo Chairman; and Bob Thompson, Art.

The entire working staff has done its best to produce a good representative book of the school and we are proud to present it to the students and our friends. May we, the staff, extend our deepest appreciation to all who have seen fit to give financial or moral support to our work.







The Middionette club, consisting of girls only and sponsored by Mrs. Cunliffe, have done much good in making clothes for the needy and filling Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

Photography has meant a lot to us in the past year and through the interest of some pupils and Mrs. Ellis, the Photography Club was organized. Robert Wickberg was elected president and has done an excellent job with the advertising of all school activities.

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# A C T I V I T I E S



We welcomed our Out of Town club again, consisting of bus pupils who wished to take part in after school activities. Pat Long, the president, and Miss Harris, the adviser, kept the meetings lively by maintaining interest in helping needy families.

Books, books, books—that's the purpose of the Library Club. Mrs. Cooke and President May Carver kept us interested in books by holding contests and keeping us posted on the latest publications.

# A C T I V I T I E S



In the way of Dramatics this year, the Footlighters gave us the best. Their adviser and coach, Miss De Frates, made meetings interesting by teaching the art of make-up and improving the technique of acting. Just before the Christmas vacation, the club presented Dickens' "Christmas Carol" as an assembly program. The annual Play Night in May was, as usual, a success, and the members also enjoyed a play in New York during the month. Myrtle Volk was president.

The Choral Reading club, under the guidance of Miss Harris, found enjoyment in reading, as a chorus, poems which they re-enacted in the junior assembly.

The Surveying club was delayed slightly in getting started because of the illness of Mr. Smith, the adviser, but in the spring the members did quite a lot of surveying on our own school grounds. The members were twelve senior boys of the trigonometry class.

Just before basketball season closed, there loomed before us a new club, which has not been officially named, but which is referred to as the School Spirit organization. This club was organized for the purpose of increasing school spirit among our pupils. The adviser, Mr. Herb, started this club at the request of certain interested pupils, and with the cooperation of President Bernadine Testa has done a wonderful job. We all predict a great future for this organization.

Yes, the days at Metuchen High School were busy ones this past year, with a school organization to meet every type of interest or hobby.



# STAGE



Picture a sorority house on Saturday night; everyone is going about his whirlwind business when suddenly the house is quarantined for two weeks for chicken-pox! The puritanical housemother is forced to let two college boy waiters remain in the house after she dismissed them. The situation is hilarious enough without the added complications which occur when one of the girls elopes and a college boy masquerades as a nurse. This was all part of the comedy presented by the class of '41 on November fifteenth.

Everyone who saw "Campus Quarantine" remembers the side-aching laughs he emitted when he saw Quentin Dietz and Walter Risler as Ronald Steele and Gordon Dunn loudly snoring on the dining room table with their bare toes protruding from lady-like pajamas during the second act. Nor will the audience soon forget Donald Koyen acting the part of a sweet young nurse with a very girlish voice. Ruth Wescott was Gloria Smith, a Kanna Jamma sorority

girl and niece of the housemother, in love with Gordon Dunn. The meek Doctor Atwell played by Duncan McKeown fell in love with the housemother, Mrs. Smith, played by Jean Tompkins. Ann Gerber as Edythe Rhodes eloped with Jack Powell who was Finlay Carruthers. Bernadine Testa as the plain Deborah Mercer fell in love with a newspaper picture of Howard Ross (Reg Crowell) from a rival school. A real nurse, Lela Dunn, sister of Gordon, played by Lillian Semenchuk, becomes engaged to Elliot Maxim, Finlay's room mate, played by Donald Koyen.

Myrtle Volk as Beryl Shepherd caused all the trouble and ended up engaged to Ronald Steele (Quentin), another waiter in the sorority house.

The cast all agree that they had as many laughs giving the play as the audience did watching it. It was a smash success and the proud seniors found the large profit very useful during the year.

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## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

(Prophecy continued from page 44)

These girls were identified as Natalie Pavluk, Irene Parlinuk, and Marian Tkachuk. No one was injured but the following are suing F. Fierro for damage to property: Glenn Beagle for one bashed-in hat, Cecily Brennan for broken mirror of compact when purse flew open, Winifred Carey for three runs in one stocking, and Enos Rainford for the embarrassment of a rip in the seat of his pants. The only persons to need medical attention were James Suliman and Anthony Polacco who were in the midst of a fist fight when the accident occurred. Patrolmen Homan and Howe took charge of the accident and ordered the ambulance, driven by William Clausen, which came tearing around the corner in a few seconds and almost struck some curious spectators. Detective Mathiasen is charging Fierro with reckless driving, although many others think differently, especially the girls.

Personals from Metuchen:

On Tuesday afternoon Virginia nee Peters entertained the members of the Wedded Bliss Club at a dessert-bridge. Among the guests were Bettie nee Bauman, Mary Ann nee Bjornsen, Peggy nee Bohnsack, Dot nee Dimler, Helen nee Sorgento, and Natalie nee Semenik. The first prize, won by Helen nee Dorsch, was the latest thumb sucking preventive discovered by the child specialist, Eugenia Tharas. The winner of the second prize was Ruth nee Scarle and the booby prize was won by Doris nee Drake.

Swede Jensen's Lubritorium is in the news this week. His three able mechanics, James Hughes, Eddie Kazmarek and Howard Reeder, had the honor of repairing the limousine of that famous dance team, Betty Ritthaler and Dot Roig.

Books News:

May Carver, head librarian of the New York Free Public Library, has announced that Olga Koncur's latest book for secretaries, "Wife and Secretary," has over a hundred people on the waiting list. Those who seem most anxious for it are Elizabeth Poulsen, Violet De Sanctis, Helen Donahue, Rose De Napoli, Emma Zeffler, Virginia Cheche, and Virginia Davis.



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## THE GLEE CLUB

The Glee Club is, perhaps, the most popular club in Metuchen High School. We all feel proud of this organization and our pride is well justified. It is the envy of many high schools.

The group has made great progress in the past year. Mrs. Saville has done wonderful work in blending the voices, and teaching the members to follow her instead of someone in the audience.

The Glee Club is divided into two separate organizations, one for the boys and one for the girls. This past year the Girls' Glee Club met Monday noon, and the Boys' on Wednesday noon. Mrs. Saville had her worries teaching the tenors not to blare out, and the sopranos not to screech on the high notes; however, in spite of all complications, the Glee Club sang beautifully on many occasions.

The main project of the year was earning money for choir robes. The P.T.A. very thoughtfully loaned the Glee Club money and made the robes. Mrs. Tompkins, president of the P.T.A., headed the committee. The Glee Club was duly grateful to the committee for its assistance. The robes are made of royal

blue lineen with tailored white collars. The Glee Club earned all the money for the robes with funds left from last year and the proceeds of a concert in December.

December was the Glee Club's busiest month. It sang at the concert, Christmas assembly, December meeting of the P.T.A. and a program for the benefit of the British War Relief. These performances were a tribute to the hard work of Mrs. Saville.

After the Christmas vacation, the organization began to learn new music. The members sang at the January P.T.A. meeting, and also for two exchange assemblies, Dunellen and Woodbridge.

Several members of the Glee Club are very talented singers. Four were chosen for the All-State Chorus which sang at Atlantic City, and in May they sang at the Eastern Music Educators' Conference. These vocalists are Marie Scarpelli, George Barabutes, William Brunstetter, and David Moss.

Some of the music of the Glee Club will be kept forever on recordings which were made of Marie Scarpelli, George Barabutes, and the combined Glee Clubs.



The orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Saville has taken great strides in the past year. Mrs. Saville deserves a great deal of credit for the work she has done in improving this music medium. It has grown from a group of a few instruments to a well balanced musical organization.

As there was no period in the day set aside for orchestra work this year, the members practiced every Monday and Wednesday noon. The group has learned much in the way of coordination and following the leader. Previously, it was not unusual to hear some instruments finish ahead of or after the conductor. Now Mrs. Saville has taught the orchestra how to play as one unit and the results are much more satisfactory. "The race to the finish" procedure has been definitely eliminated.

The orchestra has turned out some very fine musical performances this year. They played marches for the students as they entered and left the assembly hall on Fridays, and also took part in the concert with the Glee Club in December. The orchestra was present at both exchange assemblies.

Although the orchestra has been steadily improving, we hope to have a bigger and better one next year and a band also.

## FAREWELL FROM THE CLASS OF '41

The year is gone and school is done;

We leave to explore new lands.

We'll strive to conquer until we've won

At home, or on foreign strands.

To you, dear school, we say, "Good-bye,

And thanks for truths you've taught."

May our fount of knowledge never dry;

May we win with the good you've wrought.

Our tasks we're ready to begin

In a world, whose future none can know.

But we'll do our best, whether we lose  
or win;

This our goal, while we live and grow.

—May Carver

## ORCHESTRA





# CLASSES

. . . JUNIORS . . . SOPHOMORES . . . FRESHMEN .



Despite all kinds of competition in the form of extra-curricular activities and the spring measles epidemic, the classes continued well organized and active all year.

The junior class, consisting of 159 members, elected the following officers: President, Le Roy Smith; Vice-President, Bart Trokovich; Secretary, Hazel Salus; and Treasurer, Jane Shupe. To help finance the Junior Dance, a noon dance was held, followed by a cake sale late in January.





The dance, itself, held on Valentine's Day was a huge success, despite stormy weather. The big event of the year, of course, was the Junior-Senior Prom on May 24th.

The sophomore class established a precedent by planning the first sophomore dance in the history of the high school. However, the dance had to be cancelled because of the measles epidemic. The class sponsored a successful Sunset Dance and also produced an outstanding basketball team, the Jay-vees, consisting only of sophomore boys who won more games than any other Jay-vee team at Metuchen. The officers of the class were Robert Runyon, President; Olin Denecke, Vice-President; Mae Evans, Secretary-Treasurer.

The ninth graders, typically named "Freshmen," elected the following boys as officers: Lieutenant-Governor, Ernest Leis; Secretary-Treasurer, Don Wallace. A baseball team was organized with the idea of ascertaining whether enough pupils would be interested in attending their games to warrant a varsity team at Metuchen. The class also de-

cided to express their appreciation of Mr. Spoerl by presenting him with a gift to commemorate his 25th anniversary as a member of the school. A social get-together was planned to close the year's activities.

Our Junior High School, consisting of the seventh and eighth grades, worked in unison and produced excellent Junior Assembly programs.

The seventh grade elected Susan Letson as President, Clayton Tice as Vice-President, and Betty Runyon as Secretary. The eighth grade elected Goodwin Peck as President, Sandra Buchanan as Vice-President, and Bob Hicks as Secretary-Treasurer. Among other activities, the P.T.A. held a Halloween Dance for the seventh, eighth and ninth graders on October 25th. To acquaint our junior high school pupils with the senior high, the former were invited to the exchange assemblies.

Plans were made by the eighth grade for a spring picnic and a trip to New York City.



# HI-LIFE GOES TO A PARTY

Hi-Life goes to the Alumni Dance at Metuchen, N. J., this week, where we shall watch a young couple go through the correct motions of the Metuchen younger set at a social get-together.

Jack Powell, president of the high school, has dated Jeanie Tompkins for the dance . . . First question usually concerns color of the dress (formal) for flower combination . . . Dates at M.H.S. prefer gardenias or camelias . . . cost between \$.75-\$1.50.

Powell calls for Miss Tompkins at a fashionable 9:30 . . . dance starts at 9:00. He waves farewell to date's mother who knows Jack well and they go straight to the dance. He drives.

The couple check coats . . . cloak rooms are run by under classmen who work for the average 10c.-25c tip per couple . . . and Jeanie goes in to powder nose and comb hair . . .

Jeanie is a member of the Cabinet so she must greet guests with the school president on the reception line . . . The music is by the "Merrymen" . . . from nearby Plainfield. Cost \$70 from 9-1 . . . The average cost is \$35-\$45 . . . but this is a larger dance . . .

The decorations are simple . . . in honor of Mr. Spoerl's (principal) 25th anniversary at school . . . and Mrs. Spoerl's birthday.

At Metuchen . . . there are few jitterbugs . . . the couples prefer the slow numbers . . .

Rather inconveniently, Jack Powell unnoticeably broke out with a case of German measles, discovered later that night . . .

After the dance the couple went to a small house party at Bob Thompson's . . . where there was self-entertainment and tons of food and drink . . .

The escort was home about 2:30 . . . average time is 3:00 . . . Fine time had by all . . .





# HI-LIFE AT METUCHEN

Any day, any time of the year, we invite any passerby to accompany us through the halls of Metuchen High School. We might make our first stop room 27 where Jack Powell and his Cabinet would be holding a meeting. Across the hall might be a Senate or Representatives' meeting.

Rushing along, we might be stopped and warned by one of a stern looking group of patrol members, who are stationed throughout the building and the school grounds to keep order.

As we went cruising along to the auditorium, we might see the beaming face of Bernadine Testa fondling a silver loving cup, won after stiff competition in the Poetry Contest at Newark. At that very minute we might hear Joe's car chugging its way down the street if it were early morning or mid afternoon. (Needless to say, before his "streamlined beauty" is able to chug, the senior boys must pile out and push for all they're worth.)

The smell of grease paint might lead us back stage where we should view Miss Zabel and Mary Lou MacDonnell vigorously working to make up the sophisticated seniors for their part in the annual senior play. Dropping in on a noon dance, we should certainly see many couples dancing with expressions on their faces very much like those of Myrt and Jim.

Yes, there's plenty of activity at Metuchen High School and lots of fun.



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## A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

The editors of the Blue Letter wish to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to:

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